Bharati Mukherjee
(27/07/1940 – 28/01/2017)
Abstract of the study

Present research attempts to analyze postcolonial perspective in the works of Diaspora writer, Bharati Mukherjee. This study focuses on self-identity, cultural conflict and hybridity in the selected novels. This research study includes Chapter (I): Introduction, Chapter (II): A Theoretical framework, Chapter (III): Postcolonial interpretation of self-identity in Bharati Mukherjee’s selected Novels, Chapter (IV): Analysis and interpretation of cultural conflicts presented in the selected novels, Chapter (V): Analysis and interpretation of the elements of hybridity in the novels of Bharati Mukherjee, chapter (VI): Conclusion.

The first chapter in the thesis gives us bird’s eye view analysis and explanation of the background and development of Indian Writing in English Literature especially the contribution of feminist writers in the post colonial period. This chapter focuses on the statement of the problem. The researcher has explained the aims and objectives of the research. She has also explained the significance of her research. It also deals with the methodology how to go about achieving the desired hypothesis in the thesis. In the conclusions the chapter focuses on the selected novels of Bharati Mukherjee.

The second chapter covers the very theoretic along of critical aspects of the thesis. It further covers the development of post-colonial globalization in India. It also focuses on the feminist perspective to look this very pivotal aspect of literature in various dimensions. The historical development of post-colonialism is highlighted with a view to achieve her proposed goal. The characteristic of the society and literature at large in modern period compels the novelists to change their perspective towards this complex issue.

The rest of the chapters are centered on the self-identity crisis cultural conflicts and hybridity in the selected novels of Bharati Mukherjee. Here, the thesis covers the various aspects of the personalities of the protagonists which put them in the catastrophic condition the clash between East and West. The following novels are taken into consideration to achieve the aim

The study makes use of postcolonialism as the primary theoretical framework to engage in textual and discourse analysis as the different elements of the study requires.
The study also partially employs cultural materialism to consider the capitalist society inhabited by the depicted subjectivities. An effort was undertaken to understand how the Bengali subject, once displaced will react to and be acted upon by the new culture and how will his conditioning be affected or will he be reconditioned to internalise a different set of values? The diaspora retains elements of the culture of origin, but remakes them entirely. The researcher has done a survey of post colonialism and feminism in Bharati Mukherjee’s selected novels.

The first chapter is an Introduction. The aim is to study the characters that exist in this space and have internalised the ethos of the culture they were raised in, yet they have to deal with the palimpsest of their culture of origin. This gives rise to the interesting question about identity and the condition of a postcolonial subject in a neo-colonial world and significance of theme is how do subjects evolve within an alien culture with their double consciousness that is inextricably grounded in the palimpsest of the culture of their origin? In this chapter biographical sketches of Bharati Mukherjee and summary of her selected novels has discussed.

The second chapter is entitled ‘A Theoretical Framework’. The history and background of postcolonial feminist perspective and its effect and development are discussed. Also, its relationship with literature is investigated. A study, review and analysis of postcolonial feminist perspective and modern women diaspora writers in 20th in general with special reference to the works of Bharati Mukherjee. In definition and background of postcolonial and its effect and development on particularly Bharati Mukherjee’s work is traced and discussed. Post colonialism and its key terms are focused also the ideology of postcolonial critics has been interpreted.

The Third chapter is: Postcolonial Interpretation of self-identity in Bharati Mukherjee’s Selected Novels. The researcher attempts to study and analyses the elements of self–identity in Mukherjee’s novels such as: Jasmin, Wife, Leave it to Me, The Tiger’s Daughter and Miss New India. In this chapter also focused on the definition of identity and transformation that is reflected in the novels of Bharati Mukherjee.

The fourth chapter is: Analysis and Interpretation of Cultural Conflicts Presented in the Selected Novels. The conflict between the West and the East or between Novelty and Tradition is a perennial theme in Indo-Anglian fiction has been discussed. The researcher attempts to interpret the conflicts between religion and rationality,
traditional and modernity spirituality and materialism in the third world country as well in the western country.

The fifth chapter is Analysis and Interpretation of the elements of hybridity in the novels of Bharati Mukherjee. This chapter focuses on the portrayal of the immigrant woman’s assimilation with the modern world and the handling of the past space time becomes salient features of Bharati Mukherjee’s novels. Generally, her novels symbolize the past space time as a circumscribing space that must be neglected into (re)construction the term identity. Mukherjee’s narratives usually make use of dialectical framework of space time such as that they at once aid in creating Orientalist hierarchies of the West’s superiority over the East and at the same time endeavour to destroy such Orientalist binaries. As a result of that, several critics insolently sneer at Mukherjee’s novels for depicting India and America as indispensible entities and several other critics argue against these charges by highlighting the metaphors of change incorporated into the novels to annihilate essentialist binaries.

The sixth chapter is: Conclusion. The study undertaken in this thesis is the cross cultural perspectives in the selected novels of Bharati Mukherjee. Since she is one of the prominent expatriate Indian writers in America whose literary endeavuor is to put across a complex, cross-cultural consciousness, and who has a strong bonding with two diverse cultures and traditions. She mainly focuses on displacement, cultural estrangement, survival, and adaptability which remain recurrent themes in her novels and whose own biographical detail seeps across India, Canada and USA. The thesis analyzes and interprets critically the novels of Bharati Mukherjee based on the theme of expatriation, migration, banishment, alienation and assimilation, along with theories advocated by the post-colonial critics like Homi Bhabha such as hybridity, translation and third space. The selected novels are replete with all these major postcolonial concepts. The protagonist’s journey to their motherland and alien land are the focal points in all the novels.

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