ABSTRACT

Immigration is not a recent phenomenon. Human society and civilization have evolved from a nomadic culture into a stable one rooted at a location. Dislocations and relocations have been the continuous processes from the ancient times till today. In the era of globalization, with multinational capitalism creating a new social order, the voluntary migrations and displacements have become worldwide phenomena. These movements have given rise to diasporic communities of different cultural and geographical backgrounds. Hence, multicultural situations are encountered in all parts of the world now. For the diasporic communities of different backgrounds their memory, history and cultural beliefs are the important factors that determine their identities. But dislocations, even when voluntary, always have a traumatic side to it, due to the process of acculturation in an alien society. The diasporic studies raise a lot of issues pertaining to the process of acculturation, their assimilation into or differences with the host country and their rights and privileges in their new location. The study of the literary texts on diaspora, therefore, calls for multidisciplinary perspective in research.

This dissertation aims at analyzing the fiction produced by the expatriate Parsee writers of the Indian subcontinent: Bapsi Sidhwa, Rohinton Mistry and Boman Desai. These Parsee writers of the South Asian origin have emigrated to Canada and USA in the latter half of the twentieth century. Their works offer several possibilities seen from the multicultural point of view. The fiction of these Parsee diasporic writers examines the problem of migration, relocation and changing identities from a vantage point of distance gained by insider’s view of their own community and an outsider’s view from the host country. These novels demonstrate how individual and collective/group identities get constructed and redefined against changing multinational contexts.