Chapter - 9

Summing Up

‘Self’ is concerned with the personality, whereas ‘Identity’ is concerned with society. Identity is transmitted towards social relation, role of the ‘self’ and social groups. In other words, ‘Self’ and ‘identities’ are correlated with each other. Daphna comments –

‘Self and identity researchers have long believed that the self is both a product of situations and a shaper of behaviour in situation.’[Oyserman, Daphna and Elmore, Kristen.: 2012: 70]

‘Self’ and ‘identities’ play an important role in maintaining one’s personality. They have an effect on the behaviour of oneself. The concept of self is broadly discussed in the psychological science. Daphna Oyserman defines ‘Self’ –

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'In common discourse, the term ‘self’ often refers to a warm sense or warm feeling that something is “about me” or “about us”. Reflecting oneself is both a common activity and a mental feat. It requires that there is an ‘I’ that can consider an object that is “me”.[Ibid: 71]

The term, ‘I’ refers to oneself. It is the psychological phenomena that point out towards one. The development of ‘I’ regards warm feeling about ‘me’. Daphna comments on it –

‘Erikson used the term identity in ways synonymous with what others have termed self-concept. However, the term identity can also be conceptualized as a way of making sense of some aspect or part of self-concept’. [Ibid: 73]

Cultural identity or feeling belongs to part of the self-conception and self awareness. It also deals with nationality, customs, religious conviction, community, age group and any kind of social group. It has its own unique tradition. In this way, cultural identity is both characteristic of the individual and the culturally identical group that has its members who shares the same cultural identity.

Various modern cultural studies and social theories have investigated cultural identity. In recent decades, a new form of identification has emerged which puts forth the understanding of the individual as a whole directs towards cultural identification. As a historical reservoir, culture is an important factor emerged in modern era.

The present thesis unfolds the discussion on the findings as regards the ‘self’ and cultural identities of the protagonist in the fiction of the selected novels. The First chapter attempts a brief survey of literature. It discusses the growth of the fiction in the literary era. The development of fiction is comprehensively discussed from the ancient time to the present. The fiction is a modern literary form. But, its root founds in the womb of old literatures. The ancient Greek was the source of literature and art. Gradually, the form got the new form instead of romance. Novel is the best instrument of fiction to produce the human experiences in the fictitious manner. Novel in the old time is a part of prose. It was never measured as a separate form of the literature. Hence, very less development took place in the old English literature. The seeds of the novel can be found in the works like Lyly’s Euphues or John Bunyan’s Pilgrim Progress. The chapter also records the development of Novel as a genre form. It also
deals with the growth of fiction in Indian context. The present chapter evokes the development of fiction in pre independence and post independence era of India. The major trends in Indian fiction discussed in the present chapter. The chapter deals with theme of identity reflected in the Indian English fiction.

The Second Chapter fully concentrates on the famous Indian women authors, Manju Kapur and Jhumpa Lahiri. After 1990’s, the major change appeared in the Indian English literature. The Indian literature especially after independence goes through various trends. Mulk Raj Anand, R. K. Narayan and Raja Rao establish the milestone in the literature. Their writings concentrated on the social inequality, sufferings of the downtrodden society. The journey continues with the writers like Salman Rushdie, V. S. Naipaul, Chaman Nahal and Khushwant Singh.

But, after 1990’s, the globalization took place and the new trend was emerged. It voiced about the sufferings of woman. Before this decade, many woman authors elegantly described the predicament of woman through their works of art. The authors like Arundhati Roy, Shobha De, Ruth Prawar Jhabwala and many more painstakingly contributed for the development of woman writing. The effect of this appeared in the last decade of the nineteenth century. The new subject about the woman’s suffrage i.e. ‘migrated women’ is evoked by many woman authors. Among them, the two towering figures appeared. They are Manju Kapur and Jhumpa Lahiri. The state of women is described by them. Jhumpa Lahiri and Manju Kapur articulate the condition of Indian woman in various contexts. On the horizon of the literature Manju Kapur and Jhumpa Lahiri issues the new subject about the emancipation of Indian woman in the patriarchal society.

Manju Kapur was born on 25th October 1948. She was brought up in the prosperous family. She was working as a lecturer in Miranda House, New Delhi. Because of this, she intimately observed the young women and her sufferings. The effect of this is that the central character in her fiction is a young woman from different social class. She is embodied as a new woman who struggles against the evil social customs. She also tries to break the tradition of silence.

Her first novel, Difficult Daughters is a fervent example of anguish of women who is torn between the two different forces. It is the story of Virmati, a common
woman who tries to break the restraints of old tradition and customs. Her writing continues with the same theme in her next novel *A Married Woman*. The novel creates sensation after publishing. It is the new subject that proficiently handles by Manju Kapur. Astha is a protagonist of this novel. The Novelist taunts to handle the lesbian relationship of Indian woman in this novel. It is the story of a common woman who sacrifices her dreams for the sake of her family. Her next novel *Home* is simply a depiction of breaking joint family. Manju Kapur never forgets to elaborate the woman in the joint family who sacrifices her dreams for the sake of her family. Nisha is young protagonist in this novel. She represents the middle class woman who has the sole duty to serve male. Manju Kapur minutely unfolds the character of Nina throughout the novel. The new theme was appeared in her next novel *The Immigrant*. Manju Kapur through the character of Nina explains the dilemma of migrated Indian woman. Nina is a representative of immigrant woman who tries to ground the relationship of homeland and foreign land. Her pursuit for identity intensely describes by the novelist throughout the novel. Thus Manju Kapur tries to unfold the anguish of Indian woman in different situation and social class. *Custody* performs the theme of divorce and separation of an a couple. It dealt with the effect of modern civilization. Manju Kapur manages to draw an evil effect of nuclear family.

Jhumpa Lahiri is another Indian born woman author who boldly explains the sufferings of migrated Indian woman. Jhumpa Lahiri was born in 1967 at London. She was the daughter of the Bengali Immigrant. This immigrant impact reflected in her writing. Her first literary work *Interpreter of Maladies* is a collection of short stories. Each story contains the self and cultural quest of the character. Jhumpa Lahiri propagates the self and cultural quest of each protagonist in the present collection. The protagonist like Mr. Pirzada, Boori Ma, and Mrs. Sen crave for their self identity. The characters like Sanjeev and Twinkle are culturally alienated. They strive to establish a bond between foreign and native culture. The novel vividly describes the plight of every protagonist in the lenses of identity and culture. Her second novel, *The Namesake* [2003] became much popular. It is the story of a boy name, Gogol, who hates his name. Actually, he hates his native culture which his parents followed throughout their lives. He has been always called Confused Deshi. He suffocates in this situation. He never finds his own identity in the foreign crowd. He confused about the culture. He never decides about a particular culture. He is culturally confused.
Besides this, Jhumpa Lahiri never forgets to reveal the troubles of woman in the foreign land.

Her next work of art is also a collection of short stories. *Unaccustomed Earth* [2008] is a collection of eight stories. It is a collection of those stories which vividly explores the destiny of each character, and also unexpected ending. Thus, the works of Manju Kapur and Jhumpa Lahiri defines the identity and cultural quest of every character. They vividly elaborate the struggle of protagonist and unfold every layer of their personality with effective words.

**The Third Chapter** is *Difficult Daughters*. It is much celebrated work of Manju Kapur. The story of Virmati is narrated by her own daughter, Ida. The novelist adeptly manages the past and present in the novel. Ida, a divorced girl tries to recollect the memory of her mother. She informs that her mother is a bold and aggressive woman who fought against the evil customs of the society. Her mother is in search of her own identity in conventional Indian society. Virmati was brought up in the traditional Indian family. She is engaged in the household duties. She lost her identity in the family responsibility. The Novelist through Virmati exposes the reality of Indian woman in the family. She is simply a puppet in the hand of male. Virmati had always told by her mother that the marriage is the ultimate fate of woman.

But, Virmati wished to study further, rather than marriage and giving birth to children. Her family rejects her wish. Even, her mother has never supported her. Virmati’s mother, Kasturi, also suffocates between her feelings and family responsibilities. The novelist, through these women characters, exposes the reality of Indian society. The women in the customary Indian family never recollect their identity. She is daughter, sister, wife and mother of someone. They have no self identity. And if she tried to establish her own identity the society never accepts it.

After the denial of the marriage proposal, her condition gets critical. The novelist profoundly delivers the issue of woman inadequacy. She defines that the position of degraded due to dependability. She has no right to take her own decision. The male supremacy creates hurdle in their lives. Virmati never decides to choose her love or further education. But disappointed with her love, Virmati makes an attempt
of suicide. The family is stunned with the behaviour of Virmati. But, no one understands her condition.

Her family neglects her. Even when her father died, her mother blames her about it. Virmati never meets her father at his last moment also. The Novelist raises the question that what was the mistake of Virmati? She takes her own decision of her own. The author tries to express that the women have no rights to take their own decision. They are made for only obeying orders. Thus, the novelist describes that Virmati searches her own identity in the conventional Indian society. She strives to break the shackles of old customs. But, her life is filled with misery. The author portrays the character of Virmati as a common Indian woman. The writer also manages the two struggles – the freedom struggle of nation and Virmati. It shows that woman in the traditional family suffocates in patriarchal society. She craves for her own identity.

**The Fourth Chapter** is *A Married Woman*. It is the new attempt of Manju Kapur to handle the lesbian relationship. It is boldly expressed by author about such types of relationship. Astha is a middle class woman at Delhi. Her father and mother have vision about their new house. They also worry about the perfect suitor for their lovable daughter. But, Astha is not ready to have an arranged marriage. Actually, she is attracted towards her neighbour and maintains a physical relationship. The effect of this is that her father dies due to a massive heart attack. A widowed mother is more worried about her daughter and ultimately she selects a perfect suitor for Astha. But, no one asks about the interest of Astha. The family thinks that the marriage is the ultimate destiny of a girl.

It shows that in the family, women are helpless. Even, she never chooses her life partner. It is decided by her family and she should obey it. Astha is a housewife. Actually, she has a wish about the job. But, it should be decided by her husband. She never has a choice to choose it. Her husband Hemant is busy in his business. He has not enough time for Astha. Meanwhile Astha joins the school where she meets Peepilika. She engages with Peepilika with a social works. Actually, they are suffered with a identical crises. It creates a bond between them. She loves the company of Peepilika. The Novelist here demonstrates that Astha actually searches a support. Her husband is busy in the business and hence she finds the support in Peepilika.

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The Novelist states that the lesbian relationship is never accepted in the traditional Indian society. Actually, the society never gives the free space for woman. Peepilika’s husband died and hence she also searches of a partner to cease her pain and suffering. The author try to elaborate that after marriage the duty of a woman is to only serve in the family. She should obey her husband and giving birth to children. She has no identity of self. She should be a wife, a daughter in law and mother. She has no choice to live her own. Hence, Astha finds her support in Peepilika rather than her husband. Even her own children never consider her. For searching her own identity, Astha makes relationship with Peepilika. For society, it is an unaccepted thing of lesbian relationship, but for Astha it is the only support where she revealed her emotion.

This is the new subject emerged by Manju Kapur. The novel is not obscene or queer. The author tries to interpret the strain of relationship in the family. The woman is always considered by her family. She always obeys her husband. But, she does not have her own identity. She should work like a machine without hope and emotion.

The Fifth Chapter, The Immigrant is about emotion of a migrated Indian. The novel shows the variety of Manju Kapur’s literary taste. She tries to elaborate the various dimension and suffering of woman. Her other novels also puts focus on the struggle of woman for her own identity. The present chapter deals with the quest of identity of an Indian immigrant. The novel also describes the quest of male identity in the foreign country. Like her other novel, the novelist shows the suffering of arranged marriage. Nina, a female protagonist of the novel, wishes to spend her life according to her. But, her family informed that the girl is the responsibility of parents till marriage, Nina should obey her parents and get marry soon.

The male protagonist of the novel, Ananda also suffers with the identity crises. He is a dentist and practices in Canada after the death of his parents. But, he has horrible experience at Canada. His own uncle leaves him alone in the foreign country. He misses his parents who always support him in a difficult situation. Nina’s parent thinks that Ananda is a good suitor for Nina. The families meet and the marriage is decided. Nina actually worried about her parent when she gets marry. She even thinks of herself about her new life in foreign country. The marriage took place and Nina leaves India and prepare for new country. The author here describes that how an
Indian married girl adjusts her in foreign country. The novel reveals the struggle of Indian couple.

The novelist with various instances elaborates how Nina and Ananda struggle in the foreign country. They try to adjust their lives according to the foreign lifestyle. When Ananda left home, Nina is alone at the house. She lives like a lifeless object in the house. The festivals are also celebrated according to the foreign trends. The couple suffers to search of their own identity in the foreign society. They are culturally misplaced. The problem takes place in the married life also. After a year they have no children. Ananda has no friend to reveal the truth of infertility. He hides it from Nina also. The strain between the relationship of Ananda and Nina is caused by infertility. Meanwhile Nina wishes to have further education. Ananda expresses that her degree in Canada is worthless. But Nina tried to break the silence and aloofness. Eventually, she takes an admission in library course, where her first love affair takes place. Actually, it was the worst experience of Nina in foreign country. Ananda is desperate about his married life. He understands that the married relationship between him and Nina is in drastic condition. Nina tries to overcome from this situation. Both of them try to survive their marriage. The Novelist with this tries to show that how the immigrant has struggle for their identities in the foreign world. They struggle to set establishment in native and foreign country.

The Sixth Chapter has different mood of writing of Manju Kapur. Home is considered as her best work. It is about the joint family of Banwari Lal. The author again moves towards the suffering of woman in middle class family. The novelist talks about the struggles of identity of three women in three different generations. Nisha is the protagonist of the novel. Her mother, Sona suffers a lot. She has carried a stigma of no child for many years. Nisha brings happiness in her life. But, from the birth, she suffers a lot. According to horoscope, she is Mangali. The family thinks that it is hard to marry a Mangali girl. It has exposed that how a misery of a girl child starts at the time of the birth. The novelist illuminates the suffrage of woman in joint family. The woman sacrifices her dream for the sake of her family. Nisha grows in the company of her brother. But, she has throbbing experience when her cousin Vicky humiliates her. She is frightened by this strange experience. Then, Nisha lives with her masi, Rupa, a childless woman. Rupa takes care of Nisha like her own child. But
soon Nisha again moves to her own house. The marriage of Vicky takes place in the 
house. Appearing with the new daughter in law, the quarrel takes place about the 
space. Everyone in Banwari Lal family wants their own share in the house. Nisha is 
also a problem for the family. She is Mangali and her destiny creates suffering for her 
parents.

Nisha thinks about the further education. Actually, her mother thinks that 
more education will make her more arrogant. It will create more problems for the 
family. The traditional Indian society neglects the girl’s education. Eventually, Nisha 
is admitted in the college. This is the firm time when she is free from the family 
responsibility. The author tries to express that how a girl in Indian society struggles 
for the education. The marriage takes place in the family and now the family thinks 
about the separation. Sona is desperate about their share. The author shows how in a 
joint family, the relations are maintained on the basis of profit and loss. The fear of 
Sona is true and Nisha falls in love with a boy from low class. The family gets angry. 
No one understands the feeling of Nisha. In her house, she lives like confined life. Her 
family is now desperate about her marriage. But, her Mangali Kundali makes trouble 
for the family. Nisha contemplates that besides waiting for a proposal she should start 
boutique.

Sona is against this decision. She thinks that girl should not make business. It 
is for men only. It shows that her own mother is bound with the old custom to obey 
her master. But Nisha’s father supports her and he gives some money for that. The 
business of Nisha prospers well but her family worried about her marriage. Nisha’s 
brother Raju gets married and new daughter in law arrives. Pooja misbehaves with 
Nisha. It shows that how an unmarried girl suffocates in the house. Nisha tries to 
establish her own identity in the business field. But, for this she struggles a lot to 
convince. Eventually, a proposal arrives for Nisha. Both families decide court 
marriage. She meditates that Arvind; her life partner may bring happiness in her life. 
The marriage completed and Nisha is now a complete woman.

But, her husband is not much interested in her business. He is desperate that 
Nisha should leave the business and spent much time in the household duties. But, 
Nisha thinks that this business gives her new identity. For the sake of the family she 
leaves the business. She is a complete woman a wife, a mother, and a daughter in law.
The Novelist defines that this is the destiny of a girl. Her life is around with her husband. No one thinks about her emotion and feeling. Thus, Nisha is a representative of modern woman who is still confined in the tradition and male dominancy.

**The Seventh Chapter** is a collection of short stories by Jhumpa Lahiri. *Interpreter of Maladies* is a distinguished collection of various themes. The protagonist of each story commences the cultural and self-identity issues. The story *The Temporary Matter* dealt with the Indian couple in the foreign country. Shoba and Shukumar prepare about the electricity shutdown at night. The couple recently loses their child by miscarriage. The writer compares the darkness in the night with the grief of the couple. They are stunned in darkness. The darkness also spreads in their life. The writer creatively associates the situation of the couple. In the foreign country, the couple is alone. They are probing their individualities in the foreign land.

The next story deals with an immigrant, Mr. Pirzada. The story discusses cultural hybridity. It is the story of Bangladeshi immigrant Mr. Pirzada. The narrator of this short story is Lilila. She is fascinated to watch Mr. Pirzada. His appearance and manner of speaking is liked her. He always visits her house for dinner. When her father and Mr. Pirzada argue on the different political and social issues of India, she is surprised with the argument of Mr. Pirzada. Lilila comes to know that Mr. Pirzada is worried about his family in Dacca. The war like situation is drifted on the capital of Bangladesh. The writer elaborates the pain of partition. Actually, Lilila is unaware about the history of India. The writer states the dilemma of Mr. Pirzada. The novelist shows the identity crises of the immigrant. The immigrant who quests for their identity in the foreign country was described by Jhumpa Lahiri.

The story ‘Interpreter of Maladies’ explores cultural difference. The key component of the present story is cultural displacement. Mr. Kapasi is a common Indian who interprets the maladies of people. But, he never interprets his own suffrage. The story explores the emotional situation of Mr. Kapasi. The writer skillfully unfolds the pain of the protagonist who just lost his child because of illness. The story broadcasts the cultural hybridity of the modern world.

‘A Real Durwan’ is another phenomenal story in the series of short stories. Boori Ma, an aged old woman comforts herself with tales of her previous riches. Her
wretched situation is expressed with various instances. The writer skillfully manages the emotion of Boori Ma. Agony and glory are delicately observed in the story. She lives with her past memories. The writer expresses the behaviour of the people. The society which is habitual with her past story evacuates her from the society. The writer through the character of Boori Ma describes the quest for self identity.

The story ‘Sexy’ reflexes gender and racial confusion. The author explores the serious topic of gender and race. Miranda, the main character has an affair with Dev, an older, married Indian man. She is attracted towards the personality of Dev. The writer tries to explore the struggle of Miranda for her independent identity. She is impressed by Dev. She never thinks about herself. Ultimately, she realizes her place. Hence, she gets apart from Dev. The protagonist of the story dealt with her own distress.

‘Mrs. Sen’ is another story in this collection reflects the Indian woman in foreign country. Mrs. Sen, a babysitter, always dreams about her native country. She has not adjusted herself in the foreign country. Her husband engages in the job. He never thinks her situation. Mrs. Sen gets happy when she got letters from India. The writer explain that how Mrs. Sen struggles to adjust herself in the unknown country. She actually fails to make her own identity in the foreign land. She weeps in private when she reads letters. The story explains the nuclear culture of foreign countries. The small child, Elliot gives inspiration to her and she left her babysitting job. The story delicately unfolds the pain of Mrs. Sen who searches her identity in the foreign country.

‘This Blessed House’ reflects the struggle of newly married couple Sanjeeve and Twinkle. The writer handles the new topic about the religious discrimination. The writer explains the strain in the relationship of newly married couple. The writer explains the cultural suffocation of the Indian couple. The story reflects struggle between tradition and practical life. The writer describes the psyche of the immigrated couple who hurts their marriage. The failure of the expectation and culturally misplaced situation is described in the story. The loneliness of the immigrated couple is an outcome of breakdown in the communication. The writer explains the suffering of the Indian couple who tries to coup up their lives in the foreign country. The
dominant attitude of Sanjeeve suppresses the identity of Twinkle. It also reflects in the story of their struggle of adjusting identity.

Bibi Haldar is the story of suffering of woman. The story explores the sexuality and covetousness in the relationship. Bibi Haldar is a common Indian woman who dreams about marriage. The story explores the pain of a woman who captivate in her own house. The story expressed the practicality of modern life. Bibi Haldar desires about the marriage but her destiny threw her in to the dungeon of social cruelty. The writer explains the destitute situation of Haldar who tries to search her identity in the society. The society never thinks about Haldar. She considers inferior for the conservative society who thinks about the woman as non living thing. Bibi Haldar actually, desires about love and care but her own relatives lock her in the room and take her advantage. Jhumpa Lahiri explains the troubles of woman who tries to retain her identity in the society.

The final story of Interpreter of Maladies, ‘The Third and Final Continent’ emphasizes the immigrant experience in America. The story narrates by a Bengali immigrant. He lives in America but he never finds himself suitable in the foreign country. The story is about a common man who thinks about the present and dreams about the future in the foreign land. The story also unfolds the distressed situation of the narrator. He dreams about his childhood and youth time. The story narrates the struggle of the protagonist and his agony of adjustment. Like the other stories, this story also explores the struggle of the immigrant who tries to search himself in the unknown crowd. The writer expresses the dilemma of the protagonist who tries to adjust his life in the foreign country. In this story, the narrator attracts towards the daughter of his house mistress. At the end of the story, they get married. But, he never finds himself in the foreign land. The narrator of this story does not consider himself as an American. The writer puts forth the emotional situation of immigrant who tries to sustain their identity in the foreign land.

The Eighth Chapter is a famous novel of Jhumpa Lahiri The Namesake. Jhumpa Lahiri celebrates the theme of migrated Indian couple, Ashima and Ashok who tries to establish a bond between native and foreign culture. The story is about the couple who migrate from India and now they struggles to adjust their life according to situation. Ashima’s exile experience in a foreign country shows the
suffering of common Indian woman. Jhumpa Lahiri briskly maintains the expression of Ashima. She thinks about India where she surrounded by many people in her family. But, here in a strange land, she is completely alone. Now, Ashima is in hospital. Ashok is alone to take cares of her. Ashima is nostalgic with the memory of her parents. The novelist expresses the marriage of Ashok and Ashima. The novelist expresses the first experience of a newly married couple in the foreign land. Then the novel shift on a newly born baby. Actually, it is the happiest moment for the couple, but Ashima and Ashok worries about the newly born baby boy.

The couple has another problem. The hospital asks them to enter the name of child. Ashima says it should be decide by his grant parents. But in foreign land there is no naming ceremony. Then Ashok decides his name Gogol. Ashima is nervous that a newly born baby has its name without naming ceremony. Ashima thinks that the suffering and aloofness is felt from last few months by her. Now, her child is destined for it forever. Ashima thinks about the naming ceremony of Gogol. In Bengal, the name giving is an important ritual. As those two are the migrants from India, they are in confused state, whether they stick to the tradition or to follow the new trends and culture of foreign country. The novelist describes the condition of a migrant Indian who thinks that their new generation should follow the Indian tradition. Ashima is a typical Indian woman who never complains. She dissolves her wishes in family responsibility. Ashima deeply feels the hollowness of the relations in the foreign country. Ashok also realizes that Ashima suffocates in the foreign land. Ashima misses her family. In the face of her child, she tries to find the family.

Ashok and Ashima then decide to follow the Bengali custom. They prepare the naming ceremony. It shows that how they are desperate about their culture. They think that their new generation should acquaint with great tradition. The death of her father creates deep impact on her. Jhumpa Lahiri also expresses the mourning ceremony in Ashima’s family. Ashima is desperate that Gogol should follow the Indian tradition. Ashima is pregnant and this time they have girl child. They already decide the name of girl baby. In a foreign country now couple is alone. They have only memory of their relatives. Now, Ashoke and Ashima cannot present their grief. They silently express their sorrow. It shows how they suffer with the awful loneliness.
The family visits Bengal in vacation. Ashima thinks that this may establish the bond for her children to Indian culture.

Gogol is now grown up and he hesitates to use his strange name. he cannot found his name anywhere like his friends name. Among his all friends he is different because he has a different name. Again the family visits Calcutta. On one hand Ashoke and Ashima happy in the company of their own relative which they always miss in the America, but on the other hand Gogol and Sonia cannot adjust themselves in the companies of relatives.

However, Gogol decides to change his name. He makes a decision to use the new name ‘Nikhil instead of Gogol. The name Gogol is uneasy to him hence he decides to change his name. But in America he still remains as Gogol. Meanwhile, he accompanies with Maxine. He actually wants to get rid from the solitude life. When he visits Maxine’s family, he experiences the difference between his family and Maxine’s family.

The heart throbbing instance takes place for Ashima after the death of her husband. Ashima is distressed with this instance. This time Gogol gives support to her mother. He is realized the importance of his father Though Gogol never worries about his aloofness but Ashima; she worried about isolation of Gogol. She wishes about the settlement of Gogol. Now Ashima thinks that in the absence of his father, Gogol should take the responsibility. Now Gogol loves the company of Moushumi. She also spent a lonely life in the foreign place. The marriage took place but it does not sustain for a long time. Moushumi have an affair with her companion. Gogol is frustrated with it. Though they are husband and wife, they live isolated life. The discovery of her conspiracy makes Gogol nervous. He then remembers his parents. He discovers the history of his name and sufferings of his parents. In brief, Jhumpa Lahiri in this novel elaborates the two generations – the first tries to adjust and the other tries to sustain.
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