Abstract

This present research entitled “The Ailing Aliens in Bharati Mukherjee’s Select Novels” focuses on the problems that immigrants face in their new land of promise. The thesis study has attempted to portray the depth of sufferings, the immigrants undergo in Western countries, with a particular focus on Bharati Mukherjee’s four novels – *The Tiger’s Daughter, Wife, Jasmine,* and *Desirable Daughters*. For this purpose the thesis has been divided into five chapters – “Introduction,” “The Sense of Alienation,” “The Struggle for Assimilation,” “The Effects of Multiculturalism,” and “Summation.” The introductory part, introduces Bharati Mukherjee as an established voice of the Indian diaspora. It also focuses on the various aspects of postcolonial literature and the chief characteristics of diasporic writing such as identity crisis, multiculturalism, hybridity, and feminism. The brief life sketch of Bharati Mukherjee is then discussed so as to establish how her personal experiences as an immigrant influence her writing and characterization. The second chapter entitled “The Sense of Alienation” discusses two of the four selected novels – *The Tiger’s Daughter* and *Wife*, discusses the diasporic issues of the alienated protagonists. The protagonists of *The Tiger’s Daughter* and the protagonist of *Wife* are discussed as alienated from the society in which they live. While Dimple the protagonist of *Wife* suffers alienation
in another country, the protagonist of *The Tiger’s Daughter*, Tara Cartwright suffers alienation in her own country. The third chapter “The Struggles for Assimilation” presents an analysis of the life of the protagonists of *Jasmine* and *Desirable Daughters* and intensity of the struggle they undergo in the course of their assimilation into the multicultural America. She portrays paradoxically the Eastern culture where the heroines were born and bred and the Western culture in which they experience a new life. The immigrants carry the original cultures with them and simultaneously must change to survive in the new world. The fourth chapter “The Effects of Multiculturalism” discusses the effects and the impact of multiculturalism on the diaporians’ lives. The protagonists of the selected four novels –Tara Bannerjee Cartwright, Dimple, Jasmine, and Tara Chatterjee – suffer the cross-cultural confrontation in a multicultural society. The last chapter “Summation” presents an overall view of the research design along with the findings.