Abstract

The present study is an attempt to read the selected works of the Indian writer, Pankaj Mishra and the Franco-Czech writer, Milan Kundera in the light of an eclectic approach which aims to find the relationship between the phenomenon of globalization and these works while exploring the motif of globality in them. The study focuses on the works titled, The Romantics, Butter Chicken in Ludhiana: Travels in Small Town India, The Joke, and The Unbearable Lightness of Being respectively. The main purpose of this research is to conduct a unified and comprehensive study on the relationship among globalization, globality and the abovementioned works of Pankaj Mishra and Milan Kundera. The underlying assumption is that the selected works (like many other works of literature which have excellence of form and expression) bear the brilliant structural features of permanency and universality, thus they are automatically considered as global masterpieces with great readership. This can also denote that Mishra and Kundera implement certain policies and utilize specific elements in their works to make them more global. The major terms and principles applied to these works are: globalization, globality, and eclectic approach.

The theory in the title refers to the probable existence of a relation among globality, globalization and the selected texts. The globality in the title, signifies the end-state of globalization; it is considered as a hypothetical condition in which the process of globalization is complete or nearly so. Hence, in this study globality is what comes next after literary globalization or more exactly what comes after the globalization of the selected texts, indeed. The eclectic approach in the title, refers to the examination of the selected texts through a combination of multiple theories, styles and ideas. Distinguishing intra-textual and extra-textual features of the texts under study is done through this approach.

The terms Globalization and Globality have been considered as hotly-debated buzzwords in academia for about two decades. During previous and present centuries, these terms have been at the center of attention in many debates relevant to literature and literary studies, as well. Consequently, the literary dimension of globalization and the representation of the existence of a literature of globalization and globalization of literature as foreshadowed in the selected texts of Mishra and Kundera are
Concentrated upon in this research. As an effort to find out more about the nature of
the narratives of globalization and also the way certain works of literature go globe-
trotting, this research tries to provide its readers with the reflections of diverse
globalization themes within the selected texts and also to verify the realities of
globalization through a literary form such as novel (and travel novel). Moreover,
through examining these literary works, it becomes clearer how literature and literary
studies are developed into a platform for evoking, supporting and interpreting literary
concepts within the realm of globalization.

In order to understand the nature of the relationship between globalization and
the selected text more systematically, here it has been attempted to scrutinize and
explore these works of literature structurally. The methodology of the study is
established on the basis of one major standard, i.e. an eclectic approach besides a
complementary theoretical framework. The eclectic approach contains a number of
theories, styles and ideas. It is exerted as a practical tool for implementing the pattern
(based on the theoretical framework) on the selected works of the two writers. This
means that in order to explore the motif of globality in the selected works of Mishra
and Kundera, the selected texts are examined by distinguishing their intra-textual and
extra-textual features as within the eclectic approach. For the intra-textual scan, the
focus has been on the textual characteristics such as the motifs, themes, characters,
tones, images, narrations and so on. Accordingly, by inspecting such structural
literary elements, this study tends to consider the relevance of globalization within
these literary works. Moreover, by analyzing the extra-textual distinctiveness, the
present study has examined the characteristics of the context in which the given texts
are located such as the reception of the text, the influence of the text and the
popularity of the text as far as possible. This, in turn, has helped the researcher to
discern the location of these texts within the larger domain of globalization. Most
fundamental to the theoretical framework, is the spectrum which contains some of the
ideas, concepts, disciplines and theories proposed by three contemporary scholars:
Ernst Grabovszki, Shashi Deshpande, and Nico Israel. The theoretical framework is
shaped through these scholars’ relevant contributions on the context of relationship
between literature and globalization. In order to keep the unity of the assessments
throughout the survey, within this framework each relevant concept or theory from
these three pundits has taken its appropriate level of significance in relation to each
text. Accordingly, the selected texts have been scrutinized, quite separately, by the prism made through this spectrum. It is noteworthy to mention that, corresponding to the same methodology, there exist an additional multi-layer assessment of the selected texts as observed particularly through the theoretical framework.

This study consists of six chapters. Chapter one, Introduction, provides some introductory statements about the nature and rationale of the study, a detailed account of the objectives, scope and the significance of the research as well as the methodology and the key concepts around which the research revolves. Also a brief review of literature is presented in this chapter. Chapter two, Globalization and Literature, consists of four main parts. The first part, Globalization, deals with the definitions, history and developments of globalization and globality. Part two deals with the social and cultural aspects of globalization through a detailed history and review of literature. In the third part, globalization and its relationship with literature and literary studies are dealt with. The fourth part of this chapter deals with the theoretical framework made from Grabovszki-Deshpande-Israel’s contributions on global literature and its relevant institutions and the methodology for approaching the selected texts. Chapter three, Pankaj Mishra and His World, consists of two main parts. After Pankaj Mishra’s biography and his contribution to the field of writing and literature, first his novel, The Romantics and then his travelogue, Butter Chicken in Ludhiana: Travels in Small Town India are analyzed through the eclectic approach. For the study of intra-textual features of The Romantics, elements including Setting, Plot, Narrator, Point of view, Theme, and Characterization are discussed. Focusing on the extra-textual characteristics of the novel, the feedbacks and reactions about The Romantics are explained next. The same procedure of analyzing intra-textual features is performed for Butter Chicken in Ludhiana: Travels in Small Town India. For analyzing this travel novel, parameters like Genre, Itinerary and Setting, Narration and Narrator, and Characterization are of main concern here. This chapter ends with the analysis of the extra-textual characteristics of the travelogue. Chapter four, Milan Kundera and His World, also consists of two major parts. After a review on Kundera’s biography and literary career, his selected novels are analyzed. Focusing on the intra-textual features of The Joke, the researcher discusses some formal elements such as Structure, Plot and Setting, Narration, Narrator and Characterization, and Themes. For the extra-textual part of the analysis, the literary significance and
reception of the text, and its influence and popularity are discussed. Similar intra-textual features are traced and reviewed in the next part of this chapter which deals with the novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. In the discussion about the extra-textual features of the novel, the researcher explains about the context in which the book is located and feedbacks and reactions about the novel. Chapter five, **Assessment**, presents an in-depth evaluation of the interaction of the main theory of the research and the texts after applying the eclectic approach and also after observing the selected texts through the prism. It is attempted here to highlight more practically the existence of the affiliation of globalization and literature as manifested in the selected works of the study. Here the selected works of Pankaj Mishra and Milan Kundera are separately observed from a closer perspective. Chapter six, **Conclusions**, deals with the results and conclusions of the study. After applying the main approach onto the selected texts and after looking through the prism, the following conclusions are observed:

1. The selected texts can be considered as narratives of globalization, of course in different degrees for the two writers. It is shown that while Pankaj Mishra’s selected works mainly convey globalization as being thematized within the text, Milan Kundera’s selected novels do not show direct or explicit signs of the phenomenon of globalization. Accordingly, the theory of the existence of a relation between globality, globalization and the selected texts also converges here.

2. Both writers observe certain prescriptions or formulas which, in turn, shape a greater readership for their works and eventually provide them more globality. Kundera and Mishra, avail themselves of the four mediums of mass media, literary institutions, English language, and translation for expanding the capacity of their readership.

3. The province of challenges in literary globalization is mostly a zone of diligence and rivalry; the main concern here is about a speculation of *survival of the fittest*. This means that both Kundera and Mishra take part in a sort of competition – with many other competing writers from all over the world. In this great contest, they present their works which bear certain high qualities of form and expression.

4. The presence of Milan Kundera and Pankaj Mishra in the scene of global literature proves that the center/periphery model for the study of globalization in the economic, political or social sphere is not essentially applicable to literary dimension of globalization.