
Pico Iyer (1957-) is a postmodern traveller and one of the most celebrated diasporic travel writers in the contemporary era. He is a thoughtful observer and an astute analyst of the New World and all its recent developments. His travelogues highlight the transition that is happening throughout the world owing to cultural exchanges and cultural cross-pollination. It also discusses the modern notions of home, nation and nationality. As the writer is a social critic, his concern is strengthening the connection between his travel pieces and the present-day social realities. The travelogues that the researcher has chosen for the present study reflect this sensibility in the author.

The present investigation focuses on the three major themes such as Travel, Transition and Transnationality. The dissertation comprises five chapters of which the introductory one focuses its attention on the origin and the growth of the Literature
of Travel. It also makes a comprehensive study on the predecessors of Pico Iyer who have contributed immensely towards the growth of the travel writing genre.

The second chapter, Travel, traces the origin of travel and it offers an enchanting account of Pico Iyer’s itineraries in the Asian countries such as Bali, Tibet, Nepal, China, The Philippines, Burma, Hong Kong, India, Thailand and Japan.

The third chapter is Transition. It explores the present-day culture in Asia and the lifestyles of the Asians. The chapter exposes the tremendous transformations in Asia owing to the arrival of the Westerners in the Asiatic countries, and also the impact of globalisation on the lives of the Asians.

The fourth chapter is titled as Transnationality. It analyses how the influences of the large-scale migrations and travel have transformed people psychologically to redefine the stereotyped convictions and the traditional concepts of home, nation and nationality. The chapter catches the fast spreading sense of transnationalism and transnationality among individuals today with the rise of global community and the emergence of transcultural landscapes.

The fifth chapter, Summation, sums up all the previous arguments in the thesis. Pico Iyer’s literary contribution is valuable and everlasting. His writings are a realistic account of the postmodern condition. The postmodern practice nurtured by Pico Iyer’s predecessors retains its inexhaustible interest in the hands of the diasporic travel writer Pico Iyer.