Chapter 3

EXILE AND CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS: A STUDY OF ANITA DESAI’S *BYE-BYE BLACKBIRD*
The Indian women novelists in English have enriched Indian literature and flourished tradition. Anita Desai is one of the leading writers in the modern English literature. Alan Lightman rightly points out, “She is a novelist of human psyche and approaches her subjects quietly and delicately. She is one of the world’s most distinguished novelists in English” (1).

Bye-Bye Blackbird has been selected for this study because this work is a unique as it is a vivid and elegant narration. It is a classified prose and it has rightly described the lives of the outsiders seeking to improve a new identity in an alien society depicting cross cultural relations in a diasporic society. Devendra Kohali and M.M. Jain have rightly observes, “The importance of Desai’s art lies not only in her ability to pursue these various strands but also in the skill with which she evokes the very nuances of a consciousness engaged in the process of re-counseling these landscapes” (61). It is the best example of identity crisis on one hand and the East-West encounter on the other hand.

The storyline is also not an exception to this. Here the author has actually expressed the feelings of diasporic society and described it in a skillful manner. Further, it has been rightly noted that literature in its many forms and facets plays an important part in the author’s novels. Many of her characters are keen readers, and allow themselves consciously or unconsciously to be influenced in their
actions and attitudes by what they read. Truly enough, these characters have become vehicle of her feelings and expressions. Jayasheela and A. Bhagyalakshmipropound:

…based on the theme of immigration of native Indians to England and it has still its bearing on the cultural relationship of these two nations. There is bound to be the clash of ideas, traditions, and social systems where opposite cultures collide and create confusions. The theme of immigration and consequent alienation of characters concerned has been the subject matter of choice for many Indo-Anglian artists. But what differentiates Mrs Desai from others in the same sphere is her capacity to turn such experiences into the monument of living art. It is the simple rendering of emotions of Indians who face abnormal situation in living and partly living every moment of life on an alien soil (22).

The novel deals with inner problems of immigrants. Local English society considers Indians as Blackbirds. Nath puts, “The novel describes the superiority complex of the people of England who uses the epithet the ‘blackbird’ to the Indians” (234). It contains issues of isolation, alienations, identity crisis and accommodation. Indians have migrated to different countries of Asian; Pacific states as a labor to work in plantation and mines. The diasporic community is complex with complicated problems of exile.

It is also noted that according to Bhiku Parekh, “The Indian Diaspora is one of the most representing half a dozen religions…seven different regions of India…nearly a dozen castes” (12). Once British were our masters. The relation between Britain and India is master and slave. British arrived in India in seventeenth century and left in mid twentieth century. Indians have mixed feeling for British.

It is truth that Indians have mixed feeling for English society and English people. But for the Westerners, India is known for innumerable Gods, Goddesses, Maharajas and snake charmers. Sohere, the novel depicts the problems of acculturation. It is significant in its theme and objective, evaluation of immigrants’ confrontations in the alien land. Bhatnagar rightly observes, “Of all my novels Bye-Bye Blackbird is most rooted in experience and the lowest literary in derivation” (173). It
is a unique contribution in the field of fictions, because it has reflected cross cultural conflicts. The East-West encounter can also be witnessed in this novel. The careful observations made by the author are based on objective and faithful observations made by the novelist. “Desai’s characters are not projected as representative of ahomogeneous category, they testify to the heterogeneity of female experience and the need to recognize the situations of all frames of oppression as well as all modes of resistance”(Nath 23).She has carefully noted here experiences in India and London through her characters and plots evolved in this novel.

The writer’s sole effort is to reveal the cross cultural relations through her narrative themes and character in an effective manner. Her abilities can be truly explained through her novels.

Taken together, all the novels can be seen to operate in the limited but turbulent spaces that are created when the inner realities and landscapes of the individual are out of harmony with external realities and landscapes (Nath 234).

It is also a clear reflection of such realities explained by the author. Set against England’s green and grisly landscape, enigmatic and attractive to some depressing and nauseating to others, it is a story of everyday heroism against subtle oppression, crumbling traditions and homesickness.

On this basis, the novel has become a unique reflection of east west encounter reflecting cross cultural relations of immigrants.VasantShahane has reflected the style of Desai’s novels effectively. According to him:

Anita Desai’s art of fiction may be compared in my view with the artist’s endeavor to create a montage in an aesthetic form. Montage may be defined as the art or the process of making a composite picture by bringing together different pictures into a single composition, or art form, and arranging them in an aesthetic sequence so that they form a blended whole with a distinct identity of its own (173).

In the novel, this style can be seen where developing the theme effectively.
Indian immigrants in foreign countries have tried to protect their own cultural identity in food, dress as well as the entertainment methods. The careful observations made by the novelist can be rightly described in this work. She has tried to develop this novel as a mirror of their day to day life. The cross cultural conflicts have been depicted by her on the canvas of public life in London. The social milieu and cultural ethos reflected by her can be clearly seen in this novel.

The novel is an authentic study of man-woman relationship in diasporic society. The cultural encounters can also be observed through this novel. It is intimately and closely related to her own experiences. Here, it has become a realistic and objective reflection of facts narrated by her. Thus, these faithful reflections are a true manifestation of facts described by her in this work. Her novels are basically reflecting cultural conflicts. These novels prominently revealed the East-West encounters as well as cross cultural situations brought due to colonial political system.

Desai’s novels seems preeminently a novel about east west encounter and the traumas of cross cultural adjustments, the anger, shame, and frustrations of characters re-enact the colonial experience of both, the erstwhile oppressor and the oppressed, and their struggle to break through experience of both, the erstwhile oppressor and the oppressed, and their struggle to break through cultural realities brought by the colonial conditions. Her style of treating these problems can be well appreciated because she had described all these processes minutely. The micro reflections of these feelings are unique and significant.

The novel is a portrayal of cross cultural relationship. The heroine of the novel Sarah stands between the poles-India and England. She is a weak but possess steady voice, she becomes a victim of psychic and social alienation, yet signifying the twentieth century man’s attempt to forget a historical situations, which he did nothing to create and could do little to alter. This novel portrays Indians and Englishmen in England with their problems both physical and psychological. Adit, an Indian is married to Sarah an English girl. Both of them suffer from problems such as the loss of identity, alienation and humiliation largely on account of racial and cultural prejudices. Adit is an Indian who lives in England. He reconciles to his stay in England even though he suffers humiliations ungrudgingly and he inwardly identifies
himself with Indian. Apart from this, he obviously longs for Indian friends, activities, religious festivals, food, dress, music and culture.

The close observation made by the author can be very well illustrated on the basis of the description made in the novel. The discourse analysis of the content can be made and minute details can be noted to describe various dimensions of cross cultural conflicts depicted by the author. The writer’s brilliant style and method of narration must be appreciated by pin pointing her painstaking efforts to make objective and graphic portrayal of social life. The socio-cultural realities expressed in the novel are typical reflections of distance society which falls within cultural alienation and they fell isolated in the social system.

Sarah is English wife finds by habits. She is gathering from outside and suggestions that she is not liked by her own countrymen for having married an Indian. Adit and Sarah love each other even though their language and culture continue to differ. Sarah cooks Indian curry without developing a taste for it while Adit has none for some British items of food. Sarah’s cat does not please Adit. Sarah does not like Indian music nor can she understand and appreciate Indian jokes and conversations which Adit enjoys a great deal. Initially, Dev is misfit in England, discriminated everywhere; he cannot get accustomed to the silence and emptiness of the city. Towards the end of the novel, things entirely change. Adit begins to be nostalgic for India and gradually gets disenchanted with England. The outbreak of India-Pakistan war becomes a turning point in his life and he decides to return back to India, while Dev who had difficulty in adjusting in England in the beginning, begins to settle down there for his higher education. His struggle has been reflected in the novel effectively by the novelist. The socio-cultural realities around him have been addressed by him effectively.

Thus, a close textual analysis reveals decisive influence of the socio-cultural, historical and economic factors on the ultimate destiny of the characters in the novel. It would be over simplification to say that characters are merely passive products of their culture. The novel deals with alienation of an English lady Sarah married to Adit an immigrant from India. In the novel Adit faces economic crises due to which he could not come back to India immediately after his marriage. As a
result Sarah bows down her head of committing a mistake of marrying an Indian in her own society. She is treated as an out caste while in her own land. Adit in spite of his adjustments-compromises he makes under given circumstances, behaves at time like a typical Indian male whereas Sarah in spite of being a women from so called advanced west is quiet meek and submissive. While, Adit and Dev has choice to opt for their natural conditions, their true circumstances-Sarah has no choice she surrenders to the decision of her husband. In seeking her own self Adit is totally unaware of the loss of self that his decision implies for Sarah. once again Desai draws our attention to the annihilation of self that marriage involves for a female-a theme that she picks up in her novel (Dhaliwal5).

The problem of immigrants is arch stone of this novel. The intricate problems faced by immigrants have been drawn and described by the author effectively. The novelist’s social observations and depiction of cultural dynamics can be very well studied here. All these aspects have been studied in this research work, keeping in view the role played by Markandaya, Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri. All these observations can be made in a comparative perspective.

The novel depicts the plight of Indian immigrants in London. The title of the novel refers to England’s bidding farewell to an Indian ‘Black Bird.’ It has three parts, ‘Arrival,’ ‘Discovery’ and ‘Recognition and departure.’ Dev arrives in England for higher studies, stays with Adit and Sarah. He is perturbed when he finds Indians humiliated in both public and private places. In the second part, they become changed person and begin to feel the charm of the country. In part three, Adit once comfortably settled in England becomes then home sick for it and Dev stays on there. Artistically speaking this novel is rather weak. There is a good deal of light hearted comedy in it. The author portrays well the conflict of the immigrants who cannot save their cultural roots and makes an effort to strike new roots in alien territory and eventually becomes alienated. The novel is basically concerned with immigrants abroad, their experience of alienation, loneliness and nostalgia for their past life in India. From sociological point of view the central problem with which the novel deals with is the problem of marital maladjustment which is one of the basic aspects which
has been tackled by the author. In this chapter different dimensions of the cross cultural relationship have been carefully examined.

The life and work of a literary figure can be studied on the basis of the available sources. The literature is a mirror of society and it reveals the social experience stated by the author. Here the life sketch of a literary writer can be drawn in order to understand the different dimensions of the author’s work in a significant manner. “Marriage becomes part of your personality and your life” she said. “If I had a child, I’d have to break out of it and be sweet. But as writer and a daughter of writer mother I am trying to understand late and anger” (Misra 45).

Anita Mazumdar Desai (born 24 June 1937) is an Indian novelist and the Emerita John E. Burchard Professor of Humanities at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As a writer, she has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times; she received a SahityaAkademi Award in 1978 for her novel Fire on the Mountain, from the SahityaAkademi, India’s National Academy of Letters; she won the British Guardian Prize for The Village by the Sea. She grew up speaking German at home and Bengali, Urdu, Hindi and English outside the house. However, she did not visit Germany until later in life as an adult. She first learned to read and write in English at school and as a result English became her ‘literary language.’ She began to write in English at the age of seven and published her first story at the age of nine.

Desai was a student at Queen Mary’s Higher Secondary School in Delhi and received her BA in English literature in 1957 from the Miranda House of the University of Delhi. The following year, she married Ashvin Desai, the director of a computer software company and author of the book Between Eternities: Ideas on Life and The Cosmos. They have four children, including Booker Prize-winning novelist Kiran Desai. Her children were taken to Thul, near Alibagh, for weekends, where Desai set her novel The Village by the Sea. For that work, she won the 1983 Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize, a once-in-a-lifetime book award judged by a panel of British children’s writers.

Desai published her first novel, Cry, The Peacock, in 1963. She considers Clear Light of Day (1980) her most autobiographical work as it is set during her coming of age and also in the same neighborhood in which she grew up. In 1984 she
published *In Custody* is about an Urdu poet in his declining days which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. In 1993, she became a creative writing teacher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her novel, *The Zigzag Way*, set in 20th-century Mexico, appeared in 2004 and her latest collection of short stories, *The Artist of Disappearance* was published in 2011.

In 1993, her novel *In Custody* was adapted by Merchant Ivory Productions into an English film by the same name, directed by Ismail Merchant, with a screenplay by Shahrukh Husain. It won the 1994 President of India Gold Medal for Best Picture and stars Shashi Kapoor, Shabana Azmi and Om Puri.


Literary writing is a medium of reflecting social and cultural life of the human being in the country or the world. The influence of the West on Indian culture is inevitable through the staying together of natives with foreign citizen. Due to the Western education as well as adoption of their life style the Indian people come closer to the colonial social system. Due to the marriages and exchange of life style, the immigrant in London has to develop a new life style which has been described by
Indian women writers like Desai. She has depicted the miserable situation due to exile. Further it leads to cultural encounter on alien land.

Desai in her interview has explained various aspects of social life. It is this schizophrenia or creative madness which enables both Dev and Adit, in different ways to understand the basic problem of how to exist in alien society and yet maintain one’s individuality rather than suffering from a lack of society and a lack of belonging. In this interview, Desai has further noted that exile has never been my theme. She further expressed that her one theme subject in this novel is now people cope with society, alien or not alien, without losing their sense of self identity and self-worth. Truly she has manifested basic ideas about cross cultural conflict and coexistence in the diasporic society.

The novel is a sheer picture of uprooted life of immigrants and their racial problems on the alien land. It is an authentic image of the insulted and isolated immigrants in the Western countries. It is the intimacy of immigrants towards their motherland after realizing humiliation. The story revolves around Adit Sen, his English wife Sarah and his friend Dev. As Dev arrives on the greenery of England for taking higher education. The author has depicted the most humiliated and traumatic experiences through the life of these major voices of novel. It is a preeminent writing of expatriate and their frustration. This study has concentrated on the trauma of exile, cross cultural as the anger, nostalgia, hatred, the colonial mentality, erstwhile oppressor and oppressed, cross cultural marriage and life. As Sarah is the eminent woman character that is a golden mean between two heterogeneous cultures. She is weak, beautiful but having a consolidating attitude of sturdy personality. She is become the victim of social alienation in her own land.

The attraction of the immigrants towards their home land has been interpreted by the novelist. A careful and critical study of the novel has been well illustrated through the discourse analysis made here in research work. The Indian women writers have tackled various problems in the Commonwealth countries. When immigrants stay and try to get assimilated with the social and cultural life of the alien land, after some time they develop attraction towards their homeland. They remember their past life and culture. Though in the Western countries, they feel materially elevated but they feel culturally aliened from homeland. The affinity of these immigrants
towards local culture is natural because they feel isolated and away from their homeland. The most of Indian women writers in the post-independence period have new life style and pattern in Commonwealth literature because of their minute observation and explorations of the socio cultural life both in India and England. Therefore the novel is also a unique example of this process which can be authenticated by various examples. The immigrants feel love and affection towards the homeland because they are closely balanced through cultural values, ideals as well as fairs and festivals. In their own country, they do not understand their value but when they go outside the world they feel affectionate about their past culture. Adit suddenly began to talk to Sarah about the peacocks in the Indian jungles. It is nothing but the inner attachment of Adit with India which has expressed with the sudden explosion of thoughts. His inner self longs for India; psychologically he becomes weak and home sick.

Adit searches Indian girl in the personalizing personality of Sarah. It clears that Adit is true Indian by heart and loves India. “You are like Bengali girl” he told her Bengali women are like the reserved quiet. “May be you were one in your previous life” (74). From the above lines it feels that Adithas tried to find out Indian girl in Sarah. It means he longs and loves India.

Adit gets pain after realizing his marginal status in English society with the feeling of immigrant. He has become conscious about his identity and understand his marginal status in English society, it gives pain to him then he became frustrated. That is well depicted by Desai in the novel. “You think too much of your food here” From above lines it seems that he longs for Indian food. Adit becomes more nostalgic in London after getting trauma of exile in the form of insult; humiliation. It realizes his status in adopted land. He longs food and Indian art.

That hilsa fish baked inside green banana leaves that will of rice flavored with saffron and sprinkled with nuts and raisins, that clay pot full of paish made with date palm jiggery worked in the creamiest milk till it was thick and soft and bibbling ... (178).

It feels that Adit longs for India.“He longed with pair to see the fireworks and oil lamps of a Diwali night again to join in a Holi romp of flying colored water, and
powder and leaping to the music of drums” (180). Here it seems that Adit thinks about India. He becomes homesick and wants to return to India. This is a horrible psychological nostalgia towards homeland it happens due to his marginal status and humiliation by local society.

The mind of Adit renders in Indian life he thinks about Indian life and longs for Indian culture and life. “He talked of the buffalos in the yard of the pigeons that were kept on the rooftop of the Puja season in Calcutta when prayers were conducted in the house every evening” (179). Desai has pointed out many ideals pin pointing about the cultural life of their homeland. He became nostalgic as the result of humiliation and insult by local English society.

In a foreign country, the immigrants feel that they are uprooted and they are cut from their culture the immigrants do not find much interest in the western cultural way of life, which is away from them. The warm affection and value based Indian culture is remembered by them and thus they feel away from it.

Usha Bandeexpresses, “search of cultural identity is a major thrust of Anita Desai” (127). In the novel, it has been pointed, “Thereis suspicion and doubt in her mind if Adit would help her to emerge out of her alienation, if he would be able to lift her and to transport her to a land where she would regain warmth and A personality” (255). The language of the novelist also reveals her attraction towards Indian culture and home land.

Language for Anita Desai is not merely a question of technique or formal aesthetics. A recurrent theme in her fiction, language appears an ambivalent social force, promoting a politics of difference or alternatively, enabling connectivity and cultural border crossings”(Bharat 23).

After crossing borders, she again reveals attachment towards motherland through her characters. It has been observed that the novelist’s own trans-cultural background gave her access, in childhood to several languages. Further it has been rightly observed that “At home they spoke Hindi and German, while in school, the medium of instruction was English. In spite of her mixed parentage, she claims that she did not
experience a conflict of identities, having “lived in India, a home where cultures combined rather than clashed” (Ball and Kanaganayakam 41).

Equally in writing Desai has also expressed attraction towards homeland. The novel is the best example regarding nostalgia towards home land. Through the character of Adit, she has made this vocal. The example can be cited as “With great precision and brilliance, Adit the chief protagonist is weighing the merits and demerits of this foreign land, but at the close of the novel he comes up with a conclusion when his English self was receiving and fading and dying that to achieve their real self and to have a ‘real life.’

The psychological problems encountered by the immigrants are so disastrous that sometimes they lose grip and confidence in life. The feelings of loneliness and alienation penetrate deeper into the inner soul, by allowing all sorts of depressive thoughts enter into the mind. The people who are incapable of expressing their suppressed feelings led them up in their own hearts, sometimes are led to burst out by having an emotional breakdown which will be very fatal. One cannot serve two masters. By catering to the needs of the family in social set up they settle in a foreign country for the sake of a financial settlement. But they never have the feelings of contentment or bliss. Human hearts always crave for affection and long for solace and consolation. The search for identity is a crucial problem faced by the immigrants who always feel “at loss”. It is the feelings of dejection, desolation, and despair experienced by the affected individual which at many times end up in a total breakdown. When the hearts feel crushed by the tragic happenings, the mind asks so many questions. The recollection of the past leads the heart to ponder deep into the bliss of the past (Umarani and Anamica 2).

There are many twists and turns in the novel, but it is due to humiliation the writer’s brilliance and imagination is clearly reflected in her conscious writings. It is true that affection towards mother land is an important character of novel. Her characters reveal sympathy towards motherland. This transmission towards home land is a unique character of this novel. InderNathKheremarks, “Using irony as a mode of
perception and aesthetic representation, Desai does not offer any simplistic solution/resolution to the highly complex double net of the immigrant experience’’(7). Nostalgia towards home land is one of the processes of immigrant’s double net experience. The love and affection towards motherland is a natural process and it is an interesting phenomenon that Indian immigrants are affectionate towards their home land. The novelist has rightly depicted this.

It has been rightly observed that the chapter of Adit is closed, the circle of his migration complete from India to England and again to India. But here is Dev another emigrant who had come to England to pursue higher studies, always criticizing Britain and Britishers who would laugh at Adit about his love for England, found himself enticed by its did not took admission and college charm and declares that the streets of London are and education so rich that he cannot possibly cut it short by entering the stuffy halls of some ancient college. It has been further observed that though in the beginning he was fully determined that he would not stay in England where he has to bear all the insults and tell vehemently to Adit. “I would not live in a country where I was insulted and unwanted” (17). These examples amply illustrate nostalgia towards home land depicted by the novelist in her classic novel.

Thus all these aspects of Indian culture create awareness among the nonresident Indian. Their minds are deeply rooted in the ethno cultural processes and they are felt about the existence of their cultural roots.

In the diasporic society, immigrants have to face many psychological problems. There are tense situations due to the insults made by the white elite class towards them. Further they feel embarrassed when they make serious comments.

In the diasporic society, when immigrants stay in foreign country they have to face many psychological problems. They become a target of malice and hatred. Further they are not treated local society as the part of society. They are not given respected position. Further, they are insulted. In the social and cultural life the local communities solely look at them as a burden and they never lose any opportunity to insult and damage them. In spite of the hard work and dedication and tremendous devotion to their work, they are looked down as a secondary citizen. The ego of these
citizens is intense and they feel casketed. Their psychological conjecture is well described by the novelist.

In the 20th century English literature, some of the writers like Rudyard Kipling, E.M. Forster, Bharati Mukherjee, Toni Morrison and Farhana Sheikh have depicted psychological problems of immigrants. SumitraKurkreti puts:

Anita Desai who dives deep in the unconscious and sub conscious psyche of the expatriates and reveals their nausea, nostalgia and longingness to their native land. Her depiction of characters and situation is not one sided and her protagonists seem to be cherishing a strange love hate relationship with the land of their adoption(43).

Thus it can be illustrated by quoting some examples from the novel itself.

The dialogue between Dev and Adit explains their psychological helplessness as noted below:

“That boy at the bus stop –he called us wogs.
You heard him” “I did not”

“Adit, I saw you turn, I saw your face. You can
Take that –from a school boy.”

“It is best to ignore those who don’t deserve
ones’ notice (162).

Sarah is the woman protagonist who faces psychological problems on her own land as she gets married with immigrant other hand. She becomes the subject of satire in her society as she marries with Adit an Indian immigrant as she lives life of exile in her own land and society. She is not strong but becomes the victim of alienation in her own society due to marriage with Indian immigrant Adit, who reconciles and accepts humiliations of local society.

Sarah’s alienation deals with psychological disturbance as she gets married with Indian. She does not want to disclose her relationship in her society. She feels
like immigrant in England by marrying an Indian immigrant. She becomes the victim of loneliness and loses her own identity in her own soil. She experiences a horrible kind of alienation. She realises her anguish “anguish, it seemed him of loneliness and then it became absurd to call her by his own name … disappear” (46). She became immigrant as married to an immigrant so she is reluctant to visit her local society’s family friends. It is nothing but the identity crisis due to marriage with expatriate. There is close relation between exile and identity. “When she was not playing there she was nobody in her face was mask her body only a custom” (47). She has lost her identity with psychological pain, disturbance. Her plight is more horrible and painful than Adit. But it is not depicted in the novel due to excess of love and longingness. Adit becomes nostalgic at the “ferocity of his growing nostalgic broke that ….that had silenced him for so long and he began to tell Sarah of this nostalgia that had become an illness an ache” (178).

It seems to clear that the psychological condition of Adit is horrible; he becomes nostalgic with utter psychological pains in his heart. Psychological pain leads to long for home soil and after longingness, he becomes nostalgic and after nostalgic immigrant realizes his rootless status and after rootless he has not any identity so this process is psychologically painful to search for identity and roots.

Desai has presented her views, “The book I enjoyed writing most their (immigrants) schizophrenia one while I was with him then and continued to tease me which I returned to India. I wrote it in an effort to understand the split psychology, the double loyalties of the immigrants” (Gupta194). It seems that the shattering conditions of immigrants. Immigrants understand green landscape of London, but psychological pain, contains suffering, shattered identity with rootless life.

Laugh, Goon, that’s all you people do, you lazy immigrants. God. You should go mad-mad when even schoolboys can call you names on the streets, when you find them the London docks have three kinds of lavatories-ladies, gents and Asiatics. But what did you do? You laughed (19).

Indians are humiliated and insulted in England.
Here are many images symbolizing the disparate, deserted, and isolated life of people. It is true that the present novel forms an interface, a common bond. Here imagery is primarily used to capture and crystallise a wide range of experiences. It lends clarity and vividness to the situation she describes, events she documents and characters she delineate. Most of the images are used so sharply condensed.

The psyche of immigrants is reflected in a systematic manner. It has been rightly observed, “Most immigrants remained close to each other trying to maintain separateness from local community and retaining their sense of identity” (Pandey 30). They have to face various difficulties during their living in adopted land their position is sub status and no belonging. Adit always thinks that an immigrant could not live a normal life in alienation. “Why does everything have to come to this …that we are Indian and I your country and therefore we have all got a special way different from normal people” (183). A local society has not intimated with immigrants their identity is limited with Indian immigrants, when Adit asked his friend Samar that “Do not you get fed up too Samar?” (183)

Desai has graphically painted psychological problems of immigrants in an effective manner. She has succeeded in drawing attention towards their psychological problems through the characters, plots, as well as episodes she has narrated in the novel.

Anita Desai usually used the theme of expatriation in most of her words. She evokes the right atmosphere through the rich mental images characteristic of her style and the use of symbols. Anita Desai has turned novel into a serious intellectual endeavour rather than an object of mere entertainment. In her hands, novel is a mature, evolved and creative genre fit for expressing somber and reflective thoughts. The psychological issue in her character’s life affairs the dimensions of existential agony because it is rooted in the existential loneliness that tarnishes her being and makes it impossible for her to find meaning in banal existence.

Emigration of the individual is a tenacious idea in Desai’s novels. The sensitive human being suffers from a sense of alienation who could
reach the intensity of an existential despondency. She reveals the existential attributes of man in society. She examines a man in action in order to reveal his hidden intentions behind the reality of conscious mind. Desai’s novel brings forth some ingenious presumptions of her creativity. They leave an impression on the reader that Desai’s art moves from strength to strength, proliferate in wit, humor and creative abundance (Suman Singh24)

Human relations are essential element in literature. Poonam Joshi rightly observes:

Human relation is the core of all literature. The theme of human relationship also gives twist in the novels. It can be depicted in a more comprehensive way in a literature of any form. A writer’s greatness can be known in the treatment of human relations. The description of human relationship in profundity and diversity shows the geniuses of the writer” (103).

In order to understand these facts there is a need to relate the human values traced by the writer which is clearly reflected in this work.

Every classic work in literature is based on human values and harmony. Humanity is essence of literature in general and novel in particular. “One of the achievements of the modern critical mind is the willingness to problematize the seemingly empirical. Seeing, hearing, etc. are no longer acknowledged as the neutral modes of sensory perception that they were once thought to be in realistic/mimetic approaches to art and literature, they are rather primary modes of interpretation” (Kohali 44). Human relationship can be interpreted by making careful observations of social environment depicted by the writer. About Desai’s social environment Brijraj Singh monitors, “Desai’s world may be small, but it is a world through which the same winds blow as sweep through the whole of the sub continent” (190). She has depicted social diasporic problems of south Asian people, when they migrate to Europe. Poonam Joshi rightly says:

The roles of women in literature are quite extensive in range. Time and again women were often portrayed as secondary characters to the
superior men who carried the story line along, while the females simply offered a sustaining role in the middle of the act(1).

Indian women writers have turned the wheel and tried to uphold the status of Indian women. The women writers understand human relations very well and they revealed universal values. It has been rightly observed, “She has portrayed the complications between man and women relationship. She has tried to search the psychological aspects of the protagonists” (Joshi 2). Desai has touched feelings of her characters in diasporic society. Her deep reflections on humanity have been appreciated by critics. About human relationship in the novel, it has been observed that, “Dev’s experience in England makes him neurotic because he is unable to attach meaning to his experience. He is aware of this state of chaos and confusion in him caused by the outside pressure” (Wandrekar 152). Humanity and self-respect are important aspects of Desai’s work.

In her novels she highlights the fact that without this sense of dignity and sanctity of the self, existential awakening of the self remains vulnerable and the inner space can once again become contaminated” (Dalmia 13).

About human relations in her novels it has been pointed that she has been, “a sensitive and delineator of human situations in her fictional creations. Her characters are participants in different situations in novels and are not mere wooden figures; rather they have been endowed with living human attributes which lend individualism to their personalities” (Joshi 25-26).

The novel is also not an exception to this.

The study of Desai’s novels amply testifies the phenomenon in an effective and coherent manner. Some of the issues can be examined on the basis of dialogues and conversations in the novel. Life is nothing but network of human relationship both in the homeland and outside the country. The family as a nucleus and social fabric in any system is woven by smooth human relations. The creative writer tries to reflect these intricate relations through the theme and characters chosen for
narration. The feelings of sympathy, love, hatred and malice as well as cooperation belongingness and strong of feelings do appear on the spectrum of these novels in a better way.

Desai being an expert literary world she has all the abilities to attract these issues carefully and minutely. The novel has pin pointed and brought to light many hidden aspects of human relationship in an effective way. The sociological analysis of all these aspects further revealed many more complex issues and problems in nutshell. These have been carefully studied here in this research work. Rootlessness is a basic character of diasporic study. They became “immigrant” due to their shifting from one country to the other, one society to the other and one culture to the other, which has been reflected by the novelist.

Reflecting rootlessness is an important character of Indian women writers because they have observed these kinds of feelings in their own settings. Having rich experience, in public life in foreign countries Anita Desai had grasped these problems effectively. Poonam Joshi observes:

Anita Desai is a modern writer because she knows how to deal with new themes. She has mainly dealt with the existentialist theme related to alienation caused by mechanization, urbanization, changing values, depersonalization, dis-organization, self-misgivings, delusions, rootlessness, discontent, psychology and maladjustment” (222-23).

Even after a long stay the immigrants feel rootless in foreign land, because they are cut off from their ethnic culture.

The immigrants are away from their motherland and they feel isolated. This has been described as feeling of rootlessness. The Western socio-political environment is artificial and they feel embraced in this environment. The feeling of rootlessness then becomes prominent. There are many services, issues related to this phenomenon. The feeling of rootlessness can be very well studied and examined. An immigrant feels lonely in aliened land and he is away both from his homeland and the cultural cradle of the new Western land. He is in between these two and feels much deprived from his own ethnic culture. The rootlessness is cultural and spiritual.
The novel is full of cultural shifts, alienation and rootlessness. Dev and Adit changes in their behaviour due to rootlessness are sharply presented in the novel. The novel ends with shocking dialogue as narrated below:

Here no one can love or understand me,

Oh what hard luck stories they all hand me.

Make my bed and light the light,

I’ll arrive late together

Blackbird, bye bye(230).

Rootlessness is a message of the novel drawn after the author’s realistic experiences. The immigrants when they are outside the country, they are culturally uprooted and they feel unhappy over their alienation. Immigrants of first generation have their own problems. However, the second generation faces many more problems regarding their stay, marriages as well as their standard of living and cultural norms of life.

Immigrants in the Western culture have many complex problems but their progeny further faces more problems. All the problems of the next generation have been reflected by the women writers in their novels. The novel is not exception to this phenomenon. It has been pointed that disturbed by the situation of racist bias, Dev experiences his new environment through several contrasting but revealing moods. He turns contemptuous and cynical about his surroundings. But he views the Battersea power station with strange fascination, like an idolater catching sight of a renowned shrine. The images that help him to repossess his cultural identity and sustain him through the ordeal of being an immigrant. He feels intellectual affinity with the British architecture, museums and the art galleries.

A close study of Anita Desai’s novels reveals that her characters have had peculiar childhood. They are not able to adjust their former life with the later life. Maya and Monisha and even Sita, Nanda Kaul and Bim are haunted by their past and that is the reason of their intricate relationship. They are the victims of filial bondage(Joshi 227).
Desai has tried to set link between the past and present generation by presenting their problems of existence. Thus progeny of immigrants covering past and present generation have been depicted in the novel.

Desai has ably covered issues of both the generations by covering many issues related to immigrants’ problems. Human nature is complex. Every race feels its pride and superiority in their performance. This has been evidenced through their past history and their traditional conservative values. All these prejudices lead towards racism. In the Western and highly developed countries, the feeling of racism is prominent while people who feel themselves much higher and they insult blacks and look down them. The feeling of racial supremacy is seen in family, society and national life also.

Racial superiority of English society has been depicted in the novel. Dev has noticed prejudices of English mentality therefore it is a kind of racial hatred which is stated by Prasad as:

In England he sees that when the Indian group meets together the Englishmen laugh, jeer and taunt making remarks about their community and – Their conversation is always full of communal and provincial prejudices. They often make fun of Punjabi eating habits, the accents of Bengali, and the intellectual limitations of Biharis(235).

It seems that it is inter racial conflicts of human world that created due to migration.

Hatred for blacks is the problem of immigrants. Everywhere immigrants are humiliated. Dev regrets that in the following manner:

I am only asking to be allowed to enjoy. Though materially well developed, these citizens are backward in their mind set and they feel themselves in ivory tower of the super strata of the society. The western style of racism keeps them on the top of the social triangle which is elite. Due to neglect and insult, the immigrants feel alone. The loneliness is well described by Anita Desai in her novel Bye-Bye Blackbird. Poonam Joshi has observed that “Maya, Monisha, Sita, Nanda Kaul, Bim, Sarah thirst for lack of restrictions. They are placed
counter to the large dominance in a hostile environment, where they are at the receiving end of those forces of revolution that compel them to move from here to there. These forces social, economic, political or psychological have made a definite sway in the basics of society, community, family and even distinctive personality. It is due to these forces the people are forced to migrate from village to city and from one country to another” (Joshi 232).

This has led to displacement. Due to racial hatred, they feel insulted in the social system, which leads to loneliness. The feeling of loneliness is clearly reflected in the novel when Adit returns for a short visit to India his symbols of Indian culture. When he says:

> When I have a whole month of leave saved up, I will go. My mother will cook hilsa fish wrapped in banana leaves for me. My sisters will dress Sarah in saris and gold ornaments. I will lie in bed till ten every morning and sit up half the night listening to the Shehnai and sitar (55)

In order to counter the feeling of loneliness, the fully conscious Adit is visiting India to enjoy Indian food and music. Due to racism the immigrant Indians have to face many problems Dev, who wants to join England for higher studies is frustrated after witnessing racial insults and in anguish of racial tensions seems to shatter his initial vision and enthusiasm and he says, “I would not live in a country where I was insulted and unwanted” (18). Inder Singh rightly points out:

> Desai does not privilege one discourse over the other, and both anglophiliac and Anglophobic responses of the Indian immigrants in England are valued in her schizophrenic creative imagination. However, she seems to suggest that the immigrants should try to cope with their alienation and cultural displacement through various strategies of replacement and repossession, they should face the challenge of their situation with courage and dignity and they should make genuine attempts to integrate with the society of their adoption (8).
Thus Desai has rightly pointed the problem of racism and loneliness faced by Indian in the country like UK. Their isolation and their harassment in the alien social system have been reflected in this work.

Thus, the feeling of racism is reflected through this novel. In the colonial system, there are many problems of malice and hatred and these can be studied on the basis of the discourse analysis make here in this novel. All these aspects can be rightly observed here to pin point many complex issues.

The immigrants being away from their homeland are isolated and they feel alone. Their critical and isolated life is well depicted by the novelist. The following aspects are very significant in this regard. According to Poonam Joshi, “There is vast difference between western and Indian social system and values. In Indian culture human relations are given more importance and that is what the novelists get more themes” (103). The metamorphosis of immigrants’ feelings can be examined only on the basis of the understanding of this social system. T.D. Bruntonexpresses, “Indian society has always been a group society, the atomization of the west is still foreign. Thus even individual dreams bend to have a broad social content, and one life reflects another” (201-02). Brunton further observes, “These conflicts are reenacted on million forms in modern India. The novelist can thus draw upon certain situations, essentially individual which yet have almost the archetypal power of parable” (201-202). Desai has tried to reveal these aspects through her novels. Her effort is to draw a pride of social system in India and England and to compare them in the angle of immigrants’ life style. Meenakshi Mukherjee rightly expresses about human relationship in India English fiction that,

The Indian English novelist has sometimes attempted to solve the problem of heterogenous audience by choosing themes and situations that have more or less the same validity all over the country. These recognizably Indian themes are not many in number because there is a great deal of religion variation in social structure, values, customs and problems in different parts of India” (26).

Desai’s every effort to draw attention towards the disparities in this system effectively. Meenakshi Mukherjee has further observed that,
The man women relationship in which the man’s role is dynamic and the women’s passive is a pattern that goes very deep into the Indian ethos. This ideal is so much part of the Indian mind that an Indian reader never pauses to wonder whether the numerous novels that portrays this relationship and present the woman as the symbol of purity and goodness draw their material from real life, or merely follow a literary convention (105-06).

The perfect understanding of social problems is a key factor in the success of Desai’s portrayal.

ShashiKhanna observes about husband-wife relationship as, “We hardly get glimpse of the delights and exultations of mutual, reciprocated love, instead we meet with the agonies, the headaches and the shocks of embittered man women relations” (27-28). These social facts can be examined and evaluated by examining different facts rightly. Desai has succeeded in this process. Sarah has been shown coming out of frustration and her anxiety helps her to come out of the situation. In the novel,she has explained it as to say good bye to her “English self, there is a firm hope that she will come to life in India, it would be a new a different personality”(255).This illustrates how the author is able to explain different facts effectively.

The novel depicts the life of immigrants or an alien land. All characters have been changing according to circumstances of life. Adit, his friend, Dev and Saraha wife of Adit have been depicted on the backdrop of diasporic society. Every character has been charged and formal itself completely changed. Adit loves English life and England from the bottom of his heart. “I do, I love it here, I am so happy here, I hardly notice the few drawbacks” (20). It seems that Adit has love for England and its life style, he declares himself Englishman:“I’m never here, I like going the local for a pint on my way to Sarah, I like wearing good tweed on a foggy November day, I like the covet garden, opera house….I like the girls here….I like...I like thatched cottages and British history and reading the letters in the times” (20). At this juncture, it seems that Adit loves and imitates adopted land. Even he becomes English by mind and heart. Three times his friend Dev who came to England for future higher education teases him as “Like being called a wog, like choosing between three kinds of lavatories…” (20)
It depicts the discrimination of immigrants in England but although Adit wants to live in England and assimilate culture. “I like the pubs, I like the freedom a man has here, economic freedom, social freedom” (20). This manifests love of Adit for adopted land. But after insulting by local society, Adit has been changed. There is metamorphosis of his character. He feels lonely in adopted land. He understands his life and futile status in society. Then the endless journey has been started to find out self-identity in the alien land. After realizing this he thinks to return to India and at least he has taken decision to return to his land and decides to live true, respectable life. “I can’t live here anymore. Our lives here-they have been so unreal, don’t you feel it? Little India in London. All our records and lamb carries and sing songs, it’s all so unreal. It has no reality at all. We just pretend all the time” (198). From above lines it feels that now Adit understands the true situation of immigrant on the alien land. His life is artificial and futile in adopted land.

At the last his condition and situation changes: “Sarah you know, I have loved England, but it was only pretense, Sally now it has to be the real thing. I must go. You will come” (198). It interprets the reality of immigrants in adopted society. Immigrants are remain outsider and marginal and lives rootless life. So character of Adit changes with his own experiences, humiliations and discrimination in England. At last he decides to return to England with his wife Sarah.

Sarah has problems due to his Indian husband; local society does not accept her marriage with Indian man. So she feels neglected, insulted in England. At last, she also decides to return to India with her husband Adit “Oh I will” she cried “of course I will” (198). Dev criticizes Adit for his English love, accepts life on the alien land and assimilates all this to survive on this adopted land. So it is a green changed in the character of Dev. “Look at that role bush-I have never in my life seen so many roses on one bush and the colors” (151). Dev praise in his ps English life and name so it is a kind of change personality.

The author describes human characters with beauty and grace. Adit has opined about Sarah that “You are like a Bengali girl, reserved, quiet. May be you were one in your previous life. But you are improving on it. You are so much prettier” (69). Desai’s efforts are based on explaining this inner meaning. Sarah says to Adit “To have Emma Moffit with her was merely like having a mirror in the room” (70).
These icons are deeply rooted in the Indian mind and psyche. Desai has closely observed these social processes and she has successfully drawn her images through these facts.

In the process of living together the Eastern and the western countries come together and then there arises a fusion of cross-cultural relationship which has been studied here. The cross-cultural relationship leads to social interaction, explosion and turmoil’s which have been narrated by novelists like Desai, who has herself confessed that “This has brought two separate stands into my life. My roots are divided because of the Indian soil on which I grew and European culture which I inherited from my mother” (24). The cultural interaction in the immigrants mind is clearly reflected in this vision.

A critical study of these relationships can be very well explained in a critical manner. The cross-cultural relationship has been matter of cordial exchange for some time and a matter of struggle and conflicts to some other. Many times the second problem is more visible. The novel has portrayed the socio-cultural problems between east and west leading to conflict and cohesion. About her characters, Desai has rightly pointed that “I am interested in characters who are not average but have retreated, or been driven into some extremity of despair and so turned against, or made a stand against, the general current” (1). This illustrates her social outlook when she develops various themes based on cross-cultural relations. The entire process of social and cultural span of life is very well depicted in this novel and the author has portrayed the inner currents and cross currents of this conflict effectively. The critical examination of all these angles can lead to the understanding of these cross cultural relationship effectively. The entire process is visible and vivid in the novel and there is a need to evaluate these cross-cultural relations in the changing scenario of modern world. The critical study of all these aspects can be very well illustrated through various examples in the novel. The discourse analysis can be made on the basis of the characters in the novel. The cross-cultural relationship between east and west has been very well depicted by the writer through her writings. She many times raises questions when she feels that Indian pride is hurt. She has questioned that “If she is ashamed of having an Indian husband, why did she go and marry him?” (4) Sarah has been created in the form of an ideal wife. The novelist has presented that “She could not tell what
effect the smaller refusal or contradiction might have on him. Rather she would sacrifice anything at all, in order to maintain, however, superficially, a semblance of order and discipline in her house in her relationship with him. His whole personality seems to her to have cracked apart, if she allowed this chaos to reflect upon their marriage, she knew its fragments would not remain jangling together but would scatter drift and crumble” (200). This is a good example how Indian values have been cherished by Desai from the matrix of foreign culture. V. Brinda Shree points out, “The above study of the novel shows that even though socially Sarah is not very happy because of racial prejudice and alienation from her people yet as a wife she very sensibly takes care of things” (254). Thus cross-cultural relation is an important aspect of Desai’s novels and social life. Thus, she has vividly depicted many events and occasions which illustrated different facts through clear cut and well defined examples. The good and ideal in both the cases has been described by her and further some conflicting issues have also been narrated.

Every society and nation is based on certain values and identity which the east and west found together in a social setting the identity crisis is but natural. Desai has tried to reflect these crises through her novel. It is said that communication is an interaction of symbols. In the family life or social life, when both the cultural synthesis came together, the struggle and conflict is but natural. The work has very well illustrated the feeling of isolation as well as identity crisis. The writer has very well used different symbols for reflecting these conflicts. The identity crisis is reflected through symbols and events. All these symbols can be unfolded to explain this identity crisis. A close and clear cut evaluation of facts can help to explore different hidden messages through these symbols. The identity crisis in the novel is clearly reflected through its narrations and its dialogues. The micro aspects can be carefully observed in this systematic study. The identity crisis is depicted through meaningful symbols and events. The major currents in the system have been absorbed and reflected in this novel. Thus, the novel is a unique creation of the symbol and ‘blackbird’ is having an Indian contest.

UshaBande has thrown light on the life of women depicted by Desai. She has opines, “This kind of perfect unison in love is lacking in Sarah Adit relations. Sarah
makes no positive effort to connect herself to India. It is a culture she willingly adopts, but with it she cannot assimilate” (125).

Further, it would be interesting to study these cultural aspects. The identity crisis is of varied nature. Sarah vacillates between her two selves, public and private. Herself image of perfect English vein needs preservation in public. Privately, she does not dislike India or Indians. Once she shuts herself up in the cozy intimacy of her home, she is self-confident, composed and happy. She says to Adit, “To have Emma Moffit with her was merely like having a mirror in the room” (45). This observation shocks him because there is apparently no resemblance between the two. Emma’s obsession with India, where her English fiancé had died long back, has a distinctly eccentric quality of its own than Sarah’s shy concern for India and Indians. She believes that if Adit had not married her or if he were to desert her, she might become an eccentric like Emma. These are not light hearted passing remarks, meant to tease her husband. They display her sense of insecurity. These aspects clearly reveal that the identity crisis is main described by Desai in various forms.

Sarah loses her own identity in her own land and becomes the object of surprise and satire in her own society as she has married with Adit, an Indian. Sarah suffers and becomes miserably with shedding her own name and identity. She faces alienation in her own society and gets humiliated and insulted. She lives in extreme loneliness. “If she’s that ashamed of having an Indian husband” (39). She became double humiliated in her own land.

After humiliation and discrimination, he unconsciously longs for homeland. “It was as though she had chosen to be cast out of her home, her background and would not be drawn back to it, not even by her husband” (148). He secretly longs for Indian land, food, traditions, music, and friends. Adit feels himself outsider and stranger in England and realizes his alienation from local society. “A stranger, a new belonger.” (109). This is a realistic situation of Sarah and her loneliness. Adit has accepted all ethics of English society but thinks consciously with different things of life. “I am a man of parts, many parts” said Adit modestly (150). Above lines are the epitome of his identity less life and inner frustration of immigrants on the land of other society. Further it seems that identity and personality is the result of migration and displacement. It is the in between status of a human being. It is well depicted by the
author in the novel. Once he loved London, after insulting he has recognized his status. “He simply could not recognize this workday, weary London as his once golden Mecca” (176).

Adit searches himself in the alien land, but he finds him nowhere. He has visited all his favourite places and pubs opera houses. “In each … hunted out by the black sensation of not belonging” (176). His condition becomes haunted and terrible his personality turns into zero. “Adit sat collapsed in a chair, a drink in his hand, staring at a TV set that he had not switched on his eyes dead in his immobile head” (184). Landscape and nature of the Eastern and the Western is contrast and opposite.

It is conflict of values, ideas and way of life referred with symbolic images as well. The careful and critical study of the theme of the novel, the author has ably tried to reveal the immigrants problems in the England. They are put to difficulty in number of ways. One way, they feel isolated and uprooted and they are insulted by the elite class. The racial tendency and many other related factors are responsible for this identity crisis. There is a need to oversee all these issues carefully. The entire process can be closely observed on the basis of discourse analysis to reveal the crisis.

The novel is a unique example of this process. The minute and careful study of dialogues can be seen and observed in this part to pinpoint the identity crisis in the diasporic society in London. The immigrants felt complex situation due to such crisis prevailing on various levels.

Indian women writers have very well illustrated and described east west encounter through their novels. Their efforts to describe these conflicts are not apparent but they are based on grass root relations. When the citizens of the Eastern study in the Western setting, their experiences are quite different. The cultural encounter, claim of values and ideas are very well reflected through their novels written by Indian women writers. All these aspects amply testify this phenomenon in a systematic manner. The different dimensions of the East-West encounter are very well reflected in this novel. Inder Nath Kher explains:

Through its setting and characterization, Anita Desai’s BBB delineates the nature of the immigrant experience, highlighting the hopes and fears aspirations and frustrations of its chief protagonists. Dev and Adit
as well as their social, cultural and racial displacement which is inherent in the situation/condition of Indian immigrants in England(1).

Thus, the East-West encounter is the major theme of the novel. “The feeling of utter hopelessness bordering on despair and destruction is absent in the novel, for Sarah, although she is not very sociable is involved in some kind of job outside her home” (Barucha, 171).

Apart from this, Adit is also plays the vital role in the narrative. He performs his duty promptly. But unfortunately there are many things that happened in his life:

Adit is a victim of homesick. He realizes that his weakness for England and decides to go back to India. Adit is conscious of his racial inferiority. He tries to dominate his wife He is a representative of male dominated society in India. Adit, with a happy job, family, English wife is well settled in his adopted country. But at the end of the novel he decides to leave England. When Sarah decides to visit to India. India is a different cultural background and environment. But she is confident of her decision. It is certain that India’s all-embracing and assimilating nature that can give a sense of relief from the sense of alienation-with which Sarah experienced in her own country. Adit occasionally, shows sincerity in his behavior towards his wife. At the outset Adit says that English wives are quite manageable. This remark by Adit shows a negative attitude. He loves England because it is a land of opportunity. He hates India because of the laziness of the bureaucratic system, work culture population and poverty (Khobragade2).

Desai has tried to present the East-West encounter on the canvas of social and cultural life of Indian dynamics society living in London. She has tried to present the cultural conflicts through the social milieu and cultural ethos. All these dimensions provide us a new spectrum of the diasporic study. The discourse analysis is made here can illustrate different dimensions in an effective manner. The East-West encounter is narrated by the writer is based on cultural exchanges and their comments on the life style of the two cultures. Thus in her world, the novelist has clearly reflected east west
encounter through her characters, stories and themes. The analysis of the novel can amply testify the above phenomenon in a right manner. All these aspects have been illustrated here in this part of the research work. The facts have been brought to light effectively here. Adit does not like cat. But Sarah likes her pet in home. So there is a cultural clash Sarah and Adit is a couple of interracial between these two persons of paradoxical cultures.

Sarah gave him a sharp look and said exasperatedly “You don’t go in for pets much in India do you? I don’t think I could live in a house without pets some hour” (51). “They are dirty” Adit growled. “But you have your Landscape and nature of Eastern and Western is contrast and opposite.” Fields of tall, ripe hay and wheat and burley, swaying and murmuring in the breeze luxuriantly green and golden. No spark of dust, no patch of earth, no sign of blight for mile upon mile upon gracious, rolling mile” (124). From above lines it seems that England is prosperous with nature’s gift. “They crossed the greenest corner of the world, the sweetest and freshest” (124). Dev comments on Indian as “Talk of Indians being copy cats” (125). The life of Londoners is different than Indian. But all Londoners’ life is alike as Sarah observes and delineates exactness “I should think ninety out of every hundred people here lives exactly alike. Every evening they watch the same programs on the telly, every Friday night they go to the local for a pint, every Sunday have roust beef for lunch, every whittles and bank holiday steam down to the sea like lemmings” (125).

The storyline puts forward paradoxical objects and life of England and India which is quite realistic.

These would be miles and miles of desert instead there would be trees without fruit or even leaves. The cattle would be starved their skeletons lying around the rocks, vultures wheeling in the sky and sun, sun, sun (127).

Desai has preserved the East and the West scaling as above:

Nothing ever goes right … there is famine or flood, there is drought or epidemic always. Here the rains falls so softly and evenly, never too much and never too short. The sun is mild. The earth is fertile. The
rivers are full, the birds are plump, the beasts are fought. Everything so wealthy, so luxuriant so fortunate (127).

Discrimination is the fate of immigrant on the alien land. Dev, Adit, Sarah, and all other friends visit Sarah’s parental home that time family hates all these people. Sarah’s humanity considers them lower and interior.“She knew there was no place for Bella either in this green southern land or in her mother’s drawing room.” (128). Suman, Bella, Jabir, Mala, Adit and his friends arrive RoscommonJames family for weekend at countryside. All these immigrants are dissimilated at the same time they have seen rural England, prosperity and gift of nature to land.

Ideology of the East and the West is paradoxically, lifestyle and food habits are different even landscape and nature is paradoxical. “Fields of all, ripe hat and wheat …..miles” (124). Adit and Sarah talks about India “Have not you heart about our bullock carts and naked fakirs jostling with the buses and trams on the streets, etcetera?” (46-47) It evinces the description of the Eastern India with its specialty.

The Diaspora of Indian community is also not exempted from being a victim of the sense of loneliness. Since Indian independence, UK has been a prime destination for migrant Indians. The earliest of such communities constituted either of Anglophiles, whose purpose of migration has been to experience the pristine beauty of England, or of Anglophobes, who migrate to take the proverbial-postcolonial revenge. In England both these types of migrant Indians are pressed together and marked as-the others. This sense of otherness is sometimes due to blatant racism and sometimes it comes out from the individual’s own inner needs. It is such a situation when both the Anglophobe and the Anglophile find themselves in the same boat that their distinctions diminish as their purposes dilute. Purposeless, they find themselves lonely (Pawan Kumar and Nazir Ahmad Reshi 37).

Adit narrates particular picture of India to Sarah. “Bottle of rosy and violet altars” “The ivory elephants and subtly flavored tea and tingling pickles” (45). So Sarah creates a sweet imaginary of India in her mind. “Sarah constructed the India in her imagination in silence and solitude and she therefore enjoyed” (45). Dev explores
London with his own sensibility with Indian mind and the Western vision. He wanders in Laurel Lane that time he comments:

“a place of shut doors and curtained windows” (57).

“He does not hear his neighbors...their relations, their quarrels; their children are all kept behind closed doors” (58)

But in India the social life is contrast to the Western life:

I know their taste in music by the sound of their radio, I’d know the age of child by the sound of its haunting. I’d know it the older children were studying for examinations by the sound of lessons being recited. I know what food they ate by the smells of their working. I’d know which men quarreled with their wives, which mother beat their daughters everything. If I lived on a road like in Calcutta” (58).

It seems two contrast ways of life, the Eastern, the Indian and the Western that is London. Everything behind curtain is the style of the Western life and everything is open or common is the mentality of Indian people. So these ideologies clash here in the form of life style. It is well delineated by the author with her realistic writing in the novel. “Here everyone is a stranger and lives in hiding, they live silently and invisibly. It would happen nowhere in India” (Wandrekar58).

Two contrast things again depicted in this novel as:

Let history turn the tables now. Let Indian traders come to England, Sikhs and Sindhies with their ....Let us replace Latin and Greek with the study of Sanskrit, classic and Punjabi swear words no ones. cook steams any more or bangersand mash. Let us feed them on chilly pickles tandoori chicken andrassum. Let us British women take to the graceful Sari and all British men to the nobledhoti (63).

English people are not as self-conscious as they are supposed to be. They are really quite unselfconscious when it comes to things like the unlike Indians, who are not in the least bit self-conscious about their persons but very much so in their relationships.
DevAdit speaks about Indian married couple as, “Married ones are not in the park, they are at home quarrelling” (68). That time reply has been given“In India too much goes or in the dark” (68). So, these Indian continent and island clash in two form of east west conflict, confrontation with alien culture and views, problems of inter personal, socio cultural, that is clash between the East and the West.

It seems that there is a cultural clash between two individuals who are husband and wife from different social and cultural settingsnever husband and wife. Sarah compares sacred cow with cat and does not understand difference between two animals. Sarah fears Indian sweets. Even she dreaded to meet Mrs. Singh.

It has rightly been maintained that in the novel, “the tension between the local and the immigrant blackbird involves issues of alienation and accommodation that the immigrant has to confront in an alien and yet familiar world(Sharma4).

All above stated objects are Indian, bangles and sweets. The entire process can be studied with suitable examples and illustrations. The significant contribution made by Desai lies in her clear cut understanding of the problem. She has a good grasp of the problem due to her stay in European countries. As she came from multi linguistic and multi-cultural family, her rich experiences have been reflected. Dev when he visits house of Sarah reflects, “There is something about your house that makes one dream golden dreams, Sarah” (177). Thus these comments reveal appreciations of cultural realities. Old generation from the English society does not accept Indian and Asian. Dev and Adit are reclining on the lawn after lunch “having neatly stepped on theme old Mrs. Simpson in her brown tweed skirt taking her spaniel for a run muttered aloud littered with Asian. Must set Richard to move out of Clatham it is impossible now” (18). The applied and empirical approach of the author is based on her clear understanding of facts and figures. Her characters, their dialogues and interrelations also clearly show the east west encounter. According to Dhaliwal: “thus a close textual analysis reveals decisive influence of the socio cultural historical and economic factors on the ultimate destiny of the characters in the novel. It would over simplification to say that characters are merely passive products of their culture” (4) Thus, the novelist has depicted east west encounter through her novels and characters the present novel is not exception to this.
Ironically, notwithstanding all his appraisal… He realizes that England can provide him neither of these (liberty, individualism) wherever he goes, he becomes a victim of racial discrimination and apartheid and is constantly regarded as … a second grade citizen … an intruder (Kukreti, 45-50).

After globalization the socio-economic and cultural frame has changed. Desai is well aware about current situation around her. According to J.P. Tripathy:

Anita Desai, like some masters of fiction, manages to raise the action and the plot above timeliness and transitory ephemerally, and yet at the same time, gives the impression of timeliness also. She achieves this by memory flash backs, and the device of stream of consciousness probing into past, present and the future (20).

Thus, she has rightly reflected current issues related to struggle of humanity in high tones. The immigrants when they shift to a new land they feel alien and they cannot adjust with the political social system of the land. On this background, it is clear that the novel is based on current events analyzed by the writer.

*Bye-Bye, Blackbird* is the story of many Asians who seek out greener pastures in the western world. Fed up with the state of things in their country, they move out into foreign shores only to be disillusioned at the cold reception they get there. It does not matter whether one is an Indian or a Pakistani or a Bangladeshi – all are grouped together as Asiatic and looked down upon as they make their cities dirty and polluted. The novel is the story of Adit and Dev, two immigrants to London. Adit comes from a well-to-do educated Bengali family in Calcutta. He does try to find a job in his native place but the nature of his clerical job with all its dinginess, unpunctuality and slowness puts him off. He gets back to London and marries an English girl Sarah and incorporates all English manners and values in himself. The latest immigrant is Dev, his friend who has gone there to study at the London School of Economics and is appalled to see the way the Asians are treated with no one even protesting. Hereon, there is a reversal of roles.
and situations. Adit prepares to come back home with his wife whereas Dev reconciles with the demeaning situation and comes to terms with the alluringly bright side of London. Sarah also creditably, pushes her English identity into the background and willingly gets ready to be assimilated into the new culture (SapanNarzary 157).

It can be noted on the basis of this novel: The novel has portrayed the free and liberal society in UK. The civic life in London has been described and the norms and etiquettes of the social life have been described. In the British family life, the human relationships are artificial and Indian family life they are inherently and closely related. The material prosperity of the Western culture is very well explained in the novel. The kaleidoscopic variety of Indian cultural life is missing in European system wide gap prevails in Indian and European style. The richness of Indian cultural life has been reflected.

On the canvas of time and space, the author has tried to describe the changing political, social, economic and cultural content in dynamic study. The totally new approach has been taken by the writer.

Thus Anita Desai has brought to focus the exile, self-alienation and torturous estrangement experienced by Adit, Dev and Sarah in ‘Bye-Bye Blackbird’. The uprooted individuals Adit, Dev and Sarah have constant identity crises and suffer from cultural and social alienation throughout the novel. This paper has tried to present the growth of the Estrangement Literature from its humble beginnings to its status in the present day with special reference to Anita Desai’s novel Bye-Bye Blackbird. It is an authentic study of human relationship bedeviled by cultural encounters. Of all the novels of Desai this is one of the most intimately related to her own experiences. She accepts, Bye-Bye Blackbird is the closest of all my books to actuality – practically everything in it is drawn directly from my experience of living with Indian immigrants in London.” The novel captures the confusions and conflicts of another set of alienated persons. It has rightly been maintained that in the novel “the tension between the local and the immigrant blackbird involves issues of estrangement and
accommodation that the immigrant has to confront in an alien and yet familiar world (Diwekar33).

The novel is a unique creation which has described on the landscape of cultural social system.

It is a mirror of social relationship. One way, it has reflected cross cultural conflicts and on the other way it has pinpointed feeling of isolation and loneliness. The cultural ruthlessness is a unique problem which has been tackled by the writer in a minute way.

There are many complex issues and problems tackled by the writer in her novel on the canvas of diasporic study. Desai’s storyline is systematic and it has covered many dimensions of diasporic study, which has undergone many changes. The Western societies have ably developed material progress of high water mark but they lack in many ways. They are lagging behind in spiritual awakening development in arts, music and poetry as well. The socio-economic realities further make the issue more complex. The religious and cultural norms in both the cultures also different from each other. Hence, the novelist has advocated the immigrants’ case through her fiction. She has reflected their distinct problems in the western socio-cultural setting. The critical study shows that there are many limitations to the problem. The sociological analysis of the themes and issues revealed that the two cultures of the East and the West confront each other. They sometimes encounter and some other times they try to cope up with each other. The significant tradition of living depends on changes in the behavioral pattern of life. The attraction of the Western life and culture is of complex nature. One way, it puts rosy pictures and on another way, it leads towards the bitter reality of the public life. The last part of the novel reveals this fact. Thus, the affection, love and attraction towards homeland are a constant and continuous phenomenon. The study of different aspects in the instant novel under study has provided new dimension of public life in the cities. The Indians living in those cities have to change according to the circumstances there, but still they often remember their past, their sociological life, art and culture as well as music which they are enjoying in the material life there. The dilemma of immigrants’ ideological frame is very well described by the writer through her novel under study, which is her unique craftsmanship.
As a result, in the present chapter, cross-cultural relationship is reflected. The title of the novel is a unique symbol which describes for the Indian or the Eastern citizens. The problems of immigrants, social-cultural isolation have been very well tackled. The different dimensions of cross cultural conflicts have been carefully studied here. Especially, issues like nostalgia for home land, psychological problems of immigrants, human relationship, rootlessness of immigrants, racism and loneliness, metamorphosis of their characters, identity crisis, and the East-West conflict are explained here briefly. All these aspects are noted and narrated and they led to understand the problems more effectively. As a result, the chapter succeeds to throw light on immigrant Indians.

Literature being a mirror of society reveals various currents and cross currents which appear on social forum. In this chapter, various aspects of cross cultural relations are examined and illustrated. The entire phenomenon was based on new critical approaches to look at the problems. The new approach has tried to understand the complex issues in a smooth and easy way. Desai’s novel under study has received a tremendous height of excellence. Her brilliant explorations and accurate observations amply testify the theme effectively. In the next chapter, cross cultural conflict in Bharati Mukherjee’s novel *Jasmine* will be discussed.

**Works Cited:**


---. *Bye-Bye Blackbird*. Delhi: Orient Paperbacks, 1985. Print (All subsequent textual references are taken from this edition and their respective page numbers within parenthesis at the end of the each quote).


