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Topic: Interrogating Identity, History and Culture: An Analysis of Select Contemporary Texts of South Asian Diaspora in England

Key Words: Identity, Culture, Gender, Diaspora, England, South Asia etc.

Findings

The present research work has been divided into six chapters including **Introduction** and **Conclusion**. The first chapter is **Introduction**. It briefly lays out the representation of South Asian diaspora in England. It reflects various aspects about South Asia and diaspora. It puts forth an overview about the select texts—major issues and problems. It illustrates how the concept of multiculturalism, alienation, identity crisis and sense of dislocation emerges as a major challenge in South Asian diasporic fictions—especially in Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi writings. It engages with the notions of homeland and hostland. It highlights multifarious paradigms of cultures and locations. It introduces the structure of entire thesis by highlighting the major aspects of all chapters. The second chapter explores the **theoretical and methodological** frameworks. It critically examines the concept of ‘diaspora’, its meaning, history and representation in literary texts. It investigates the changing definitions of diaspora in the context of recent studies. It attempts to theorize the concept of diaspora from the perspectives of ‘old’ and ‘new’. The third core chapter has been titled as **Identity and Migration**. It tries to conceptualize the concept of identity and migration in the select texts. It attempts to explore identity crisis, assimilation and integration of South Asian diaspora in England. It traces how the first and second generations of diaspora like Daljit, Mr Kumar and Meena in *Anita and Me* (1996) recognize their identity among the people of other cultures. It traces the fact how British native people have been seen by South Asian diaspora in their country. It explores the idea of home, family, friendship, betrayal, love, education, job, gender and cultural differences. It puts forth the identity crisis of Meena in the multicultural society of London and her friendship with her English neighbour—Anita. Various diasporic characters have been analysed to put forth the impact of migration on their root identity. It grapples with the process of reconstruction of identity in foreign locations. It lays out how diasporas become hybrid living between the two different worlds—South Asia and England. The fourth core chapter has been titled as **Culture and Location**. It is a textual analysis of Moshin Hamid’s *Exit West*, Kamila Shamsie’s *Home Fire*, Meera Syal’s *Anita and Me*, Neel Mukherjee’s *A State of Freedom* and Monica Ali’s *Brick Lane*. It observes the process of cultural hybridization of immigrants in the contact zone. It briefly tries to explore the concept of culture, location and hybridity. The literary representation of culture and location has been explored in details and highlights the problems of South Asian diaspora, their identity and condition in the multicultural location of London. It observes the problem of language and communication faced by diaspora in the strange cultural environment of London—especially by Nazneen and Meena. It is observed that they live in two different worlds at the same time—English in England and South Asian environment at home. It

examines the socio-political and psychological oppression of immigrants in hostland. It projects the socio-political-economic condition of the location of London. It observes the problems of women diaspora, war victims, dislocated and refugee crisis.

The fifth core chapter is **History and Gender**. It has analysed Meera Syal's *Anita and Me* (1996), Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* (2003) and Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire* (2017). History has been analysed from postcolonial perspectives. Gender and identity have been examined through the lens of cultural studies and anthropological perspectives. It puts forth the nexus of Western and Eastern cultural and political conflicts. It observes the cultural subjugation, domestic life of diasporic women and patriarchal structure of South Asian communities. It highlights the transforming sexual identities of diasporic women in the liberal environment of London. It investigates select texts of South Asian women writers in England. It engages with the identity crisis of immigrant women in the multicultural world of London. It observes ethnicity, race, language and educational issues of immigrant women. The select writers have discussed the multifarious changing international policies related to diasporas. They have vindicated for equality, liberty and social harmony in both homeland and hostland. It quite explicitly traces the representation of women characters—their identity, history and education in adopted land. It highlights how these South Asian women have deconstructed their old and traditional images by developing their own selves in foreign locations—especially Nazneen in *Brick Lane* (2003) and Isma in *Home Fire* (2017). The final chapter of this research is **conclusion**. It sums up all the findings related to identity, history, culture, gender, multiculturalism, identity crisis and sense of exile. It lays out all the significant observation about select writers and texts. It outcrops new avenues for further research.