

THE NATURE OF MY BELONGINGNESS: READING INDO CANADIAN DIASPORIC SENSIBILITIES IN THE NOVELS OF ROHINTON MISTRY

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Abstract

In the Indo Canadian Diaspora a person's heritage is fully or grown partially Indian are referred an Indo Canadian. This diasporas includes children of migrated people or a person who has Canadian citizenship. The Canadian Government ruled that India called the first nation which gives more and more migrants to the nation. Most of the Indians in the Canada are socially middle class people. The most amounts of the people are Sikhs, who migrated to Canada so early. The people who migrated to Canada have their belonging sense towards their mother country. Though they are very happy and enjoy luxurious life outside motherland but always feel to see their own nation, which is very close to their heart. The word diaspora means scattering of dispersion, is a scattered population which has a common origin in a small geographical area, encyclopedia writes. It can also refer the movement of population, which has some religion, origin, cast from its original homeland. In the study of diasporas many a time it is forced diaspora but somewhere the Indo – Canadian diaspora is not a forced or tortured dispora. Writer feels their belongingness is very much correct thinking. In the diaspora a large scale of people migrate from original country of their origin to other countries either voluntarily or due to economic or political compulsion. The purpose of this paper is to study indo Canadian literature from the diasporic point of view. While studying diaspora these are the important characteristics of diasporic literature, displacement, multicultural identities, utopia, hybridity , historical understanding, In-between identity , identity Crisis , cultural dilemma , cultural belongingness etc.

Keywords: diasporas, migrated, Canadian diaspora, displacement

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In the Indo Canadian Diaspora a person's heritage is fully or grown partially Indian are referred an Indo Canadian. This diasporas includes children of migrated people or a person who has Canadian citizenship. The Canadian Government ruled that India called the first nation which gives more and more migrants to the nation. Most of the Indians in the Canada are socially middle class people. The most amounts of the people are Sikhs, who migrated to Canada so early. The people who migrated to Canada have their belonging sense towards their mother country. Though they are very happy and enjoy luxurious life outside motherland but always feel to see their own nation, which is very close to their heart. The word diaspora means scattering of dispersion, is a scattered population which has a common origin in a small geographical area, encyclopedia writes. It can also refer the movement of population, which has some religion, origin, cast from its original homeland. In the study of diasporas many a time it is forced diaspora but somewhere the Indo – Canadian diaspora is not a forced or tortured dispora. Writer feels their belongingness is very much correct thinking. In the diaspora a large scale of people migrate from original country of their origin to other countries either voluntarily or due to economic or political compulsion.

The purpose of this paper is to study indo Canadian literature from the diasporic point of view. While studying diaspora these are the important characteristics of diasporic literature, displacement, multicultural identities, utopia, hybridity , historical understanding, In-between identity , identity Crisis , cultural dilemma , cultural belongingness etc. Diaspora writing occupies a place of great significance between countries and cultural theories, are generated and positions defined in order to construct new identities which further negotiate boundaries and confines that relate to different temporary and spatial metaphor. Diaspora possesses an ambiguous status of being both a refugee and an ambassador. The two roles being different, the diasporic writer attempt at doing justice to both. As a refugee, he seeks security and protection

and as an ambassador projects his own culture and help enhances its comprehensibility. Diasporic literature also helps countries to bring out strategic partnership based on prosperity, security and commitment to freedom and peace.

The History of the Indian diaspora divided into three phases, based on the reasons of their movements. The first phase of migration has started by the end of the nineteenth century, during the British colonization. Many undedicated people left their homeland for the British colonies to work as indentured laborers in sugar plantations and in railroad construction. The second phase of migration occurred in the mid twentieth century when educated people went to the developed nations to experience independence and for economic development. The third phase of migration took place by the end of the nineteenth century, and in the beginning of the twenty first century. This time people's movement to the developed nations is far the sake of education and employment.

Indo Canadian Diaspora -

In the study of Diaspora, we can understand that the Indian – Canadian diaspora started so early. The Indian people migrated to Canada for various reasons feels the diaspora. Indian migrated to Canada for various reasons, but most important thing is for labour. Now Canada country officially refers Indian as first nations. Though all the feature of diasporic writing are not available in to the indo Canadian literature but writing focus on their home country, and writer talks about settled country . The Indo Canadian community started around the beginning of 20th century. The pioneer were men, mostly Sikhs from Punjab. Indian Sikhs started small business in to the Canada . The Sikhs, who had seen Canada, recommended the new world to fellow Sikh people who were in a position to venture out and seek new fortunes. Indo Canadian diaspora creates wonderful roots to the people who migrate. Both feel that they are at their time in both the country.

Van Der Veer says, “the theme of belonging opposes rootedness to up rootedness establishment to marginality. The theme of longing harps on the desire for change and movement but related this to the enigma of arrival, which brings a similar desire to return to what one has left.

The wider diaspora accumulates the exile displacement, expatriotism, assimilation, dislocation, relocation. The prime focus of this research paper is to see Rohinton Mistry's literally works see the feature of diasporic literature. Though he went to Canada for the better future but his entire writing is about India or Indian subcontinent. Such type of all expatriate writers goes away from own nation but, going very close to their own nation by writing. Rohinton Mistry belongs to Parsi community so has a double displacement.

Such a long journey (1991) Mistry's first novel won many literary awards. The novel is set in 1971 during the time of the India Pakistan war. The protagonist of the novel is not a typical hero but a simple man. Gustad Noble is shown a bank clerk and family man a vulnerable figure whose world is always affected by the Chinese war. His daughter illness and his son's refusal to go to college are events that we are encouraged to read sympathetically in 'Such A Long Journey'. Many critics argue that 'Such A Long Journey' deals with the marginalization of Parsi community.

The novel is different in the writing because it made up of a series of reverie. The reality of people is exist below the surface of character. It shows the consciousness and finds expression when the character reminisces. The prominent character Gustad Noble always nostalgic and reveals the desire that are unachieved or unfulfilled liner on the border of his consciousness. His expressions are revealed through the mythical mode blending with realism. When protagonist's daughter was unwell he visits many places in the Mumbai like mount marry, Haji Ali. The novel also reveals his deep concern for the Parsis in India and for the development of India in post colonial. It would be right to say such a long journey acts as a window to the Parsi world to its readers. If you see the prominent character his relation with other character and the problem which he had to face due to the involvement of his friend in government scan is the subplot of the novel.

Next in the line Family Matters is also excellent examples of indo Canadian diaspora. Nilufer Bharucha said, Family Matters is a quintessential Bombay book –very much diasporic discourse where from the bird's eye view provided by the twenty first century and the wide angle secured by the locations of Canada, Mistry has viewed life in Bombay in the 1990s - - - - shattered dreams of immigration also haunt the pages of Family Matters.

This wonderful works of art reveals the best features of diaspora, besides speaks about Parsi community. Rohinton Mistry shows the Parsi community of their loneliness in regard to culture and origin through the dreams of Nariman Vakeel. He shows the sufferer of life. The Professor Nariman Vakeel is very happy in his life but with the old age everything is changed, his two step children are totally careless for him. When is Ankle fractures due to fall, nobody is ready to take care of him. Many critic argues that his forces migration from his step children to his own daughter is migration like Iranian to India. At the initial years Parsi felt to stay in India is easy but later realizes it is difficult and they moved to go to western courtiers. Mr Vakeel is in the hope of good life with daughter but always ill-treated by his son in law. The migration of Parsi community from India to western countries is depicted through the dream of Yazeed. Who dreams to fly the west in search of money and peace of mind. The portrayal of man on the cover page of the novel, who is looking towards the vastness of the sea, with his back to the reader conveys the feeling of caution, security, assimilation and calmness. The novel exhibits the memory of moving into the past and the elements of nostalgic life that comes to the surface of the novel. It shows sense of belongingness and the crisis of up rootedness.

Same critic says his situation was like a kinglier into the novel. We can say that the Family Matters really complete a cycle of belongingness of diasporic writers, who are historically double displaced. The concept belongingness reveals the matter of becoming as well as being. This beingness much to relate to the past and future. This belongingness always in the constant change. In case of the diasporic writers it becomes more complicated as cultural memories, deference's of languages, of attitude, thinking and histories of interfere. In the diasporic writing people recall their memories to write the evidence of life. Mistry has overcome the difficulties of human relation between people with deferent cultural identities. It is Mistry's art of balancing the mythical and realistic mode of his writing. To this balancing art Hall says:-

Far from being internally fixed in same essentialized past, is subject to the continuous 'play' of history culture and power. Far from being grounded is mere 'recovery' of past, which is waiting to be found and which when found will secure our sense of ourselves into eternity, identities are the names we give to the different ways we are positioned by, and position our selves within , the narratives of the pass (Hall -23)

A Fine Balance is again an example of balancing the critical life. The novel shows the integrity, dignity and invincibility of human mind character retain the collection memory vision or myth of their marginalized group its traumas, suffering and struggle and collecting share the effort of balancing their lives in their defferent specific ways. A lot of Indianess is presented in to the novel. All the characters are from poor background or backward classes. The lives of four main characters namely Dina Ishvar, Om and Maneck are interwoven. They try to fight with problems but fail to maintain a fine balance. The novel is wonderful example of social reality in India. Mistry portals Hindu culture, which is not an important ethnographic account of Indian society. He says stark injustices are inherent in the practice of caste. The inhumanity of untouchability is severely criticized as a contributing to an erosion of meaning in the lives of Dukhi like Narayan Ishvar and Om.

Mistrys another achievement 'Tales from Firozsha Baag' deals with the writing of the immigrants experience. Writer develops his theme from his past experience in India and his immigrant experience in Canada. His nostalgic mood of reminiscence mark the pages as Mistry recalls and relives his childhood and adolescent years in the Parsi baag. The protagonist in the 'Squalter', 'Lend me your Light and 'Swimming Lesson' are so typical that they went to west to earn the money. These tells reveals the psychological consequences of diaspora. Mistry writes the experience from India to Canada and diasporic trauma of belonging to minority group. In India as well as in Canada. Here we could say that due to migration the cultural spaces of two apparently diverse nations India and Canada are brought together through immigration. All the protagonist are in search of identity, they have feeling of dislocation, alienation, isolation and unhappiness in the foreign land. There are many characters who try to become Canadian so they erase their real identity. In the stories character feels love hate association that exists between the land and immigrants. They always feel exiled and estranged in the adopted land. They become exile both at home and abroad. Character represents those Indian emigrants who desire to become completely Canadian, seems quite willing to forget their ethnic past to efface their native roots and immerse themselves totally in western culture. It is observed that all the protagonist of the stories feel so alien and feel identity less. The feelings of guilt corrected with this voluntarily migration are important in these stories. The stories reflect the failure to adopt the new identity and to cope with the conflict of lives in the Canadian Diaspora. Many of them are hanging between hope and disillusion. The migrated characters are not happy at all because they

are away from their own culture besides totally alien for new culture. Mistry represents the experience of migrants where breaking relationship and desperate livelihood co exist. He feels that, he is both native and foreign, who occupies the between world position. Mistry speak through the mouthpiece that Canadian would be interested in reading about their country through the eyes of an emigrants. It is the reality that the immigrants always stay foreigners only.

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