

**THE USE OF IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF
THE CIRCLE OF REASON NOVEL BY AMITAV GHOSH**

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ABSTRACT

*The English language has got worldwide importance, which has transplanted the language around the world. Within new geographical contexts, the language has extended local functions and meanings through its contact with the local languages resulting in hybridization and emergence of new varieties like Indian English. Language plays different roles on different occasions in accordance with the requirement of the speaker. Indians use English as a means of communication with a mixed group of interlocutors. They are the potentials usually observed in dialectal behaviour in the speech of bilingual or multilingual speakers. The present research paper researchers indicate the use of important aspects of Ghosh's novel *The Circle of Reasons* (1986).*

Key Words: *Bilingual, Multilingual, Sociolinguistic and Dialect, Aspects of Novels*

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Introduction:

The Circle of Reason (1986) is a debut and picaresque novel of Amitav Ghosh. The novel is a journey from *Satwa* (purity) to *Rajas* (passion) and to *Tamas* (darkness). The central character, Alu should have gone from *Tamas* to *Satwa*. The protagonist of this novel is Alu (Nachiketa Bose), an orphan adopted by his elder uncle (Balaram Bose), a teacher in a small village of Lalpukur in Eastern India. Balaram's passion with rationalism has slipped into a fanatic study of phrenology. After assessing Alu's head, he has apprenticed him as a weaver, where he shortly outshines even his master. Balaram has a feud with the corrupt chief of the village, Bhudeb Roy, which eventually results in the bombing of his home. Alu, the only survivor and a suspect in the bombing, flees from Lalpukur in India to Al-Ghazira in Egypt and then to a small town in the northeastern edge of Algerian Sahara, closely followed by a young Indian policeman, Jyoti Das. Alu meets along the way a group of characters. The journey goes on and on searching of newer horizons, unformed hopes and ideas. Hope is their only asset. It is like chasing a phantom that ultimately vanishes into the thin air.

Use of Setting in Amitav Ghosh's Novel *the Circle of Reason* (1986):

The novel describing the journey of the protagonist Nachiketa Bose (Alu), a Bengali orphan from the obscure village of Lalpukur to Calcutta, Kerala, the Middle East and Al-Ghazira.

Characterization use in Amitav Ghosh's Novel *the Circle of Reason* (1986):

The novel, *The Circle of Reason* (1986) opens with the arrival of the eight year boy, Nachiketa in Balaram and Toru-debi's life, in Lalpukur village. The orphaned child of Balaram's brother is immediately nicknamed Alu since his extra-ordinary head.

Another important character in the novel is *Balaram*, a rationalist and a believer in science and reason. Balaram acts in a very irrational way. His favourite hobby is studying heads, phrenology which is no longer considered a science. His interest in the book *Life of Pasteur* (1923) and develops a sense of cleanliness with the use of carbolic acid and the Rationalists' society is what Ghosh terms 'a Pasteurized Cosmos'. Whereas Toru-debi is an amorous of the sewing machine and her skill of tailoring blouses.

Balaram's friend Dantu, a rationalist is very minutely portrayed by the author. But Dantu's saintly look is deceptive. In the guise of a saint he is a politician.

Balaram's neighbor and later on his enemy is Bhudeb Roy. Gopal, Balaram's friend, a lawyer.

Shombhu Debnath a skillful weaver and Alu's teacher is a strong man with self-respect. Rakhal, Shombhu Debnath's son and Maya's brother, is a man of dream and aspiration.

Alu encounters a cast of characters in *Mariamamma* (the boat which carries all to Al-Ghazira) are Sajjan, Hajji Musa, Rakesh, Professor Samuel, Kulfi, Karthamma and Zindi at- Tiffahaas various and as colourful as the descriptions with which the author adorns them.

Zindi's character is fully developed by the author. She first came as a young and buxom beauty. Hajj Fahmy an elderly man in Ras cared for her. She treats all strangers warmly.

The other interesting parallel is the one between the various informers. Bhudab Roy, Jeevanbhai, Farid Mian and even Mast Ram are all informers. All information is grist to the mill of manipulation and Jeevanbhai even employs Nury to provide him with information.

From Jeevanbhai's grand scheme to Mast Ram's petty attempts all are instances of these informers' efforts at contextualization.

The police officers that Jyoti Das visits, Dubey and Lal are full of beans and career minded. But both have domestic problems. And both complain of chaos. There is another interesting parallel in the novel, the one between Mast Ram and Jyoti Das. Both are harbingers of destruction, both causes fires, both lose in love. And both love the same woman, Kulfi. Kulfi, a widow is a tragic character of the novel. She dies of a heart attack and is buried like a Hindu woman in the sand of Sahara.

The only character, who have accompanies Alu in his journey through the three parts of the novel, Jyoti Das. Officially he is in charge of the sedition case against Alu and is in his pursuit. But personally he is in pursuit of birds. His trip to Mahe is justified by 'the possibility of seeing a paradise fly catcher' (p.151). A possible trip to Al-Ghazira is worth contemplating because it is 'a whole new world of birds' (p.166). And when Mrs. Verma finds him, he has suffered a heat stroke looking for a vulture. He decides to go with Alu and Zindi to Tangier to see a sky teeming with birds: 'The whole sky will be migrating over Tangier now' (p.421). He is migrating too, to Dusseldorf. And in the end, in an almost epiphany moment he sees a whole school of dolphins, and a sky full of birds and he is finally 'at peace' (p.423). The Bird Man is migrating to begin a new life and for him as for Alu, 'Hope is the beginning' (p.423).

Use of Plot Construction in Amitav Ghosh's Novel *The Circle of Reason* (1986):

The novel is ostensibly a bildungsroman. It incorporates elements of the picaresque novel, the novel of ideas, the thriller or detective novel with Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jyoti Das, trailing the alleged extremist, Alu, through several continents and the Hindu epic. The linear narrative techniques of the text are thereby set against a multi-voiced, self-consciously cyclical structure.

The Circle of Reason (1986) is the Most Significant Novel:

The Circle of Reason (1986) is the most significant novel by Amitav Ghosh deals with the modern man's problem of alienation, migration and the existential crisis in life. Divided into three different sections called Satva: Reason, Rajas: Passion and Tamas: Death. The novel symbolically deals with three phases of human life. Satva symbolizes the search of wisdom, Rajas symbolizes the life of passion and Tamas stands for darkness and destruction.

The Circle of Reason (1986) is a Novel of Thought:

There is no conventional development of plot or character. Instead of dealing with one particular character like R.K.Narayan's *The Guide (1958)*, a story of Raju or Mulkraj Anand's *Untouchable (1935)*, a story of Bakha, this novel is a story of entire humanity. All character belong to the world. Like Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales (1387)* the novel describes all characters with visual details and successfully creates a picturesque effect on the reader's mind. Though the characters in the novel are not subtle and complex, they are an epitome of human suffering and pain. In the novel everyone has a story to tell the story of their untold sufferings. The characters in the novel do not fall into the conventional categories of round and flat characters or types and individual characters, either. They are descriptive characters. Ghosh's power of imagination and his keen sense of observation are beautifully revealed in his art of characterization. Here we have a doctor, a professor, a scientist, a salesman, weavers, a merchant, a lawyer and housewives. Like Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales(1387)*, 'Here is God's plenty'.

Use of Languages in the *Circle of Reason* :

Amitav Ghosh practices hybrid languages in his novel. He uses Arabic, Bengali and Hindi code-mixed and code-switched words and phrases. It is very interesting to note that the different characters of the novel make use of code-mixing and code-switching with the help of a variety of expressions from the aforesaid languages. The following table explicates the

use of different language expressions used by the varied characters of the novel while doing code-mixing and code-switching.

Sr. No.	Names of Languages from which the Expressions are Borrowed for Code-mixing and Code-switching	Names of Characters who Use the Expressions
1.	Bengali	Alu, Balaram babu, Toru-debi, Nondar-ma, Bhudeb babu, Bolai da, Shombhu Debnath, Maya, Rakhal, Kulfi, Jyoti Das and Mrs. Verma
2.	Hindi	Alu, Bolai da, Zindi, Kulfi, Rakesh, Prof. Samuel, Jai Lal, Jeevanbhai Patel, waiter, Dr. Mishra and Mrs. Verma
3.	Arabic	Alu, Zindi, Jeevanbhai Patel, Hajj Fahmy, Ismail, Abu Fahl and Zaghloul
4.	French	Dr. Mishra
5.	Hebrew	Zindi

Languages from which the Expressions are Borrowed and Characters who Use them for Code-mixing and Code-switching in *The Circle of Reason* (1986)

Conclusion:

Thus, Amitav Ghosh has use various important aspects in his novel *The Circle of Reason* (1986). He has a propensity for using different expressions from different languages. Ghosh's thorough knowledge of how language functions in society are reflected in the different ways the characters are made to use varied language expressions in his novel the *The Circle of Reason* (1986). In *The Circle of Reason* (1986) Ghosh has very skillfully interwoven different cultures such as the Indian, South Asian, North African and the Middle Eastern with the use of code-mixing and code-switching.

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