

MARRIAGE ACROSS CULTURES IN THE WRITING OF SUNETRA GUPTA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NOVEL *MEMORIES OF RAIN*

Shaikh Hajarat Ibrahim

Research Student in English
Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Solapur University,
Solapur

Abstract:

In diasporic's writing, diasporic authors mostly discuss how people's lives swing between memories of their native countries and their new homes. The migrant goes through a constant conflict between freedom and the old world's conventions on mental and emotional level and the world's attractions. When it comes to existential rootedness, alienation, dislocation, nostalgia, and identity search. When the characters are feeling down, they reflect on their home lives. The enjoyable memories of their previous lives It gives them a feeling of fulfilment. A well-known author from the Indian diaspora, Sunetra Gupta, describes the situation of immigrants. through her female lead characters. This chapter makes an effort to analyse the issues faced by Moni, the protagonist in the novel Memories of Rain.

Keywords: diaspora, Sunetra, homeland, immigrates, etc.

Higher Education &
Research Society

MARRIAGE ACROSS CULTURES IN THE WRITING OF SUNETRA GUPTA, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE NOVEL *MEMORIES OF RAIN*

- Shaikh Hajarat Ibrahim

Introduction

The dispersion of a population from their native country is referred to as “diaspora” from the Greek word for “scattering”. Therefore, a straightforward definition of diaspora literature would be writings produced by authors who reside outside of their country of origin. The phrase identifies the particular geographic origins of a work.

The concept of a homeland, the location from which the displacement takes place, and accounts of arduous travels made due to economic need are all part of diaspora literature. Basically, a diaspora is an exiled minority group. The very thought and longing for belongingness forms the core to search for the original root. The notion of home is not restricted to a bounded space and territory. This home place is the “root” from where people get dispersed and to which they long to return. Migration and diaspora generate “the desire for home” (Davies 113).

The contemporary Indian diaspora’s writers can be split into two groups. One category includes people who have lived in India for a period of time and brought back their cultural belongings from abroad. Those who were raised outside of India constitute the other group. They merely envisioned their own nation. From the outside, it appeared to be an odd place where they began. The first batch of authors actually had whereas individuals in the second category found themselves uprooted. There were displacements. Both teams of authors have produced a substantial amount of English literature. When these authors portrayed characters who were immigrants, they explored the issues of cultural assimilation, assimilation, displacement, and alienation in their cultural adaptation.

About the Novel

Sunetra Gupta is the author of the English-language novel *Memories of Rain*. The book was given the Sahitya Academy Award in 1996. This was Gupta's first novel, and it was initially published in 1992.

The termination of the marriage between Moni, a young woman from Calcutta, and Anthony, the Englishman who married her and brought her to London ten years prior, is the subject of the deep, introspective novel *Memories of Rain*. When her brother brought Anthony into their home during the height of a rainstorm and flood, Moni had never met him before. The passion they previously shared is the subject of the song "*Memories of Rain*."

In *Memories of Rain*, Sunetra Gupta brings together Anthony and Moni, two young people from different worlds, in *Memories of Rain*, a Rainstorm in Calcutta in 1978. Anthony, an Englishman, is in town conducting research on Bengali theater. He is really clever and creative. Moni, an English major, sees England as a mosaic of the romantic images she has read about in her textbooks. She has so far lived in isolation and is well-versed in customary cultural behavior. They fall in love, marry, and start a family in London.

When Moni gets to "cold" London, she is let down. Due to the cultural clash, their marriage suffers from infidelity and lack of communication. She had to endure partialities and treachery by the husband who had been so charmed by her beauty. She is reminded of her friend Sharmila's words that,

"What is it like to sleep with a white man" (Sunetra Gupta, *Memories of Rain* 22)

Moni thinks she needs to return to that lost time and place in order to start her search for her own identity. She still has a personality. She explores her thoughts in an effort to revive the causes of her current issue as well as her old self, which Anthony crushed and paralyzed. She hopes to solve her present problem by reuniting with the past. Making matters worse, Anna develops a close friendship with Anthony and Moni's child and starts annoying Moni constantly.

Anna persuades the youngster that her tooth would grow into a tooth tree if it were buried. She delivers a pomegranate with seeds that are hidden behind fleshy, delicious gums as evidence. Moni is reminded of the grandmother's advice to her in Calcutta as she assists the youngster in burying the tooth.

[...] Her grandmother had, many years ago, in the stony patch of land beside the verandah of the Ballygunge home, for rats to carry away, and with the rat's blessing, sharp rodent teeth would sprout upon your tiny gum, her grandmother had explained, touching the tender gap between her teeth with a horny finger, they had knelt by the stairs to the veranda, scratching in the hard soil, and years later, where the area was cemented over, playing a miniature hopscotch, she would think of her many teeth that lay trapped under the hard cement, had the rats ever found them (Sunetra Gupta, *Memories of Rain* 154)

Moni's roots are deeply linked with the foundation of her family, as evidenced by the image of the numerous teeth that were caught beneath the dense earth. In reflecting on her adolescent romantic fantasies, Moni separates from the present. She revives her sense of the Calcutta house as her own particular space. Her imagination once again serves as her haven after a long period of time. During her teenage years, she would close her ears to the early noises, the cryptic cries of the street vendors, and the forceful slapping of wet garments on the bathroom floor in order to immerse herself in the dense nets of her fantasies. She creates herself in the fanciful world of fantasy.

In the novel "*Memories of Rain*," Bengali melodies by Tagore are used to illustrate Moni's cultural and linguistic alienation in England. Tagore's songs allow her troubled passion and terrible ideas to be revealed. She dedicates her poems, her sorrow, and her very existence to Tagore, who to her is a living God and the perfect adored. In actuality, her world's beat was determined by his music. The works of Tagore have a significant influence on feelings and fantasies. For Moni, Tagore is her religion. Anthony, her husband, anticipates that she would translate Tagore's songs into English so that he could understand the tone of her song.

Moni supplies Anthony with her frenzied "torrent of anecdotes" based on memories of Calcutta when she decides to move to London. She uses literal translations of Bengali proverbs to describe her experiences in Calcutta, such as "picked snake gourd," which means "dead," and

“moon of a moonless night,” which means “someone we do not see often or with weird local beliefs.”

Conclusion

Thus to conclude, the novel *Memories of Rain*, focuses on the Diaspora. This book chronicles the marriage of an Indian girl and an Englishman, partially through the events of one weekend and partially through flashbacks. As a result of the cultural clash, their relationship has suffered from betrayal and miscommunication.

Moni’s choice to leave England with her child is an effort to find relief from the psychological and emotional pain that her unfaithful husband has given her. She utilizes it as a means of resistance since she won’t submit to Antony’s misogyny, prejudice, and disloyalty. He was unable to comprehend the pain she was feeling inside as a result of being uprooted, feeling lost, and missing her beloved Calcutta.

With extraordinary compassion, Sunetra Gupta writes about the terrible demise of their union. Women from the diaspora, like Moni, devote themselves to noble endeavours in an effort to reconstruct both their own lives and the lives of their children. They also devote themselves to noble endeavours in an effort to reconstruct both their own lives and society at large.

Works Cited:

- Boyce-Davies, Carole. *Black Women, Writing and Identity: Migrations of the Subject*. Routledge, 2002.
- www.google.com/search?q=diasporic+writing&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.35i39i362l3j46i39i199i362i465j35i39i362l4.8172687j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8. Accessed 14 Sept. 2022.
- Gupta, Sunetra. *Memories of Rain*. Grove P, 1992.
- Journal JETIR Follow UGC CARE List, UGC-CARE Journal, Ugc Care, Ugc Care Approved List, Ugc Approved Journal, Ugc Care Journal, UGC-CARE, UGC Approved UGC CARE, UGC-CARE, UGC Approved List of Research Journal, Ugc Approved Journal, Research Journal, www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1811978.pdf.
- "Memories of Rain." Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia, Wikimedia Foundation, Inc, 13 May 2022, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memories_of_Rain. Accessed 14 Sept. 2022.