

MULTICULTURALISM AS PORTRAYED IN KIRAN DESAI'S INHERITANCE OF LOSS

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Abstract

This thesis analyses multiculturalism and post colonialism India and its reflection in Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006). The bachelor thesis firstly deals with concepts of postcolonialism and multiculturalism and subsequently demonstrates a gradual influence and impact of the British Empire in India. This thesis aims to describe various multicultural clashes in the selected books, confront them with reality in independent India and analyze them. The thesis depicts the consequences of the impact of the British rule both on India and on a life of main protagonists in the selected books. The sensitive socio-political issues concerning hybridity, insurgency, colonization, intercultural communication, identity crisis, solitude, multiculturalism, scarcity, ethnic discrimination, social realism, and search for home also find expression within the ambit of her novels. Her first novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* (1998) has presented different perspectives of life. In her second, Man Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006) she has analyzed several current issues of modern civilization.

Keywords: post colonialism, independent India, discrimination, social realism, .etc

The success of these novels was enormous because they describe postcolonial reality after the decline of the British Empire and deal with problems of colonization. Their masterpieces still contribute to current discussions relating to the problems of the East and the West. On top of that, these novels leave a forgotten impression on reader's minds all over the world. An introduction to a history of colonization will show us the purposes of the British colonization of India which reflected in Indian people's behavior, religion, culture, literature, opinions and finally in the loss of their identity. Influenced by European manners, the situation since India gained independence led to people's schizophrenic perception and confusion in their own country. The purpose of the first part is to declare a gradual rise of the British Empire.

Secondly, I deal with the importance of multicultural clashes in the chosen pieces of literature. The fact that their novels are written in the English language only declares the influence. The main motive of their books is an intention to capture the postcolonial reality in India and multicultural clashes appearing after independence. I intend to confront the reality and consequences of the loss of British rule with the hard life of the main protagonists in selected books.

In this multicultural conflict, Biju works in a restaurant called Brittany. He washes the dishes with one gentleman in the kitchen and listens to his swearing. “These white people!. Shit! But at least this country is better than in England. At least they have some hypocrisy here. They believe they are good people and you get some relief. There they shout at you openly on the street, ‘Go back to where you came from.’” He tells Biju that he learned a phrase by which responded to their insults.

The following multicultural conflict describes the events connected with the Muslim league. The main causes of the conflict were struggles between Muslims and Hindus. The Muslim league was created as an opposition to the Indian National Congress. Despite Congress being an organization standing up for the interests of India as a whole, Muslims felt both lacks of proper education and representation in government. The leader of the Muslim League, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, managed to unify various Islamic organizations in majority Muslim's provinces "under the umbrella of the Muslim League.

Whereas the idea of a separate state, emerged in the 1930s, did not meet with a large response, the voices calling for the creation of Pakistan became topical in early 1940s "The Muslim League insisted on its separateness from the Hindu-dominated Congress, as the voice of a ‘nation within a nation.’” These struggles finally resulted in "partition of the British Indian Empire into the nations of India and Pakistan. Partition seemed preferable to civil war.”

The first multicultural conflict in Desai's novel takes place in 1986, in Kalimpong, high in the northeastern Himalayas. The main characters living here are the judge, the cook, and Sai. Desai introduces her characters as they live their difficult lives in the background of continuing fights. At the beginning of the story, it is rumored that the insurrection in the hills changed into resistance movement stockpiling men and guns.

Biju knew the reasoning he should keep by his side.” The visitors of the restaurant were not only Americans but also Indian businessmen eating steaks. He held them in scorn and they knew that but they didn't care about it. Biju thought that “one should not give up one's religion, the principles of one's parents and their parents before them. No, no matter what. You had to live according to something. You had to find your dignity.”

In this multicultural conflict, Biju decides to hold on to his Hindu religion and this time it is him who quit his job. He decides to look for a job in which they don't cook with beef.

He finally finds a job in the Gandhi Café but it seems that the conflicts appear everywhere. He is now confronted with hypocrisy as Desai demonstrates it when describing Biju's employer. The relationship between Sai and the cook is another multicultural conflict. Sai spends plenty of time with the cook but both of them are aware of the fact that their social status is different. After the incident in Cho Oyu, the cook's hut is ransacked by the police. Sai witnesses thoughtless attitude of the police towards the cook.

"Here they felt comfortable unleashing their scorn, and they overturned his narrow bed, left his few belongings in a heap. Follower of multicultural perspectives character, Biju (the cook's soon), his disenchantment with the American dream, and his deplorable living conditions in America is also a very important section of this novel. In his first letter, Biju Writes: "Respected Pitaji no needs to worry. Everything is fine. The Manager has offered me a full-time waiter position. Uniform and food will be given by them. Angriest Khana only, no Indian food and the owner is not from India, He is from America itself."

The revolution was threatening the personal joys of Sai, a minor girl. The cook tried to remind Sai that the capabilities of Gyan were not bright. Sai is affected by Gyan, who gets involved in the ethnic, Nepali revolution. It is observed often that love takes place amidst unequal partners. The result of this love also is unequal.

Their bash-up adds to her loneliness too. The extremist rebellion has dented their kinship and spurted out the repressed differences. Both Sai and Gyan suddenly start becoming aware of the class of each other. The turmoil of the public agitation seems to unearth many truths about the characters. The revolution acts symbolic here.

As a post-colonial novelist, Desai has depicted losses not only at the personal level but also in the larger ambit of the society. The seventeenth chapter of the novel pictures the poverty-stricken tribal's of Zanzibar. Poverty itself is a great loss of life. The natives of poor nations are also at a loss as they inherit poverty and ill-treatment in another country. The cook is badly treated by the Judge only because he is poor

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