

## Language, Culture and Identity in the novel Mahashweta by Sudha Murty

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### **Abstract:**

A successful woman is one who can lay a solid foundation with the bricks thrown at her by others. In India, women's status and identity have evolved over the last several million years. Human beings in the contemporary period have transformed their culture, which encompasses their beliefs, customs, and values, as well as their actions. Rather of expressing one's affection, language has become only a means of communication. In today's world, identity is really crucial. This paper examines the novel Mahashweta and demonstrates the importance of language, culture, and identity in one's life.

**Keywords:** Language, Culture and Identity, communication etc

Sudha Murty was born in the North Karnataka district of Haveri in 1950. She earned her MTech in computer science and became the first female engineer at Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company. She is now the chairwoman of the Infosys Foundation. Dollar bahu, Gently falls on Bakula, House of Cards, Wise and Otherwise are her novels. She is well-known in Kannada as well as English. She has appeared in Marathi and Kannada films. R.K. Narayan Award, Padmasri Award, C.R. Patil Award, and Attimabbe Award were all given to her. The majority of her books are about women and their concerns. Sudha Murty's writings have always emphasised simplicity. She consistently expresses the concept of living a meaningful life in the simplest of words.

In Mahashweta, the protagonist Anupama, who is destitute but beautiful, meets gorgeous and wealthy Anand. Both of them fell in love. Anand persuaded Radhakka, his mother, to marry Anupama. She agrees to marry Anand after her father tries to persuade her otherwise. "Like Rohini to Chandra, like Lakshmi to Narayana, She is to him," she says (Murty33). "My Anand is the greatest diamond, others weigh me down" (36). The writer employed rhetorical language to enhance both the characters' love and the people's aesthetic sense.

Anand moved to England for further studies after two months. "Till death do us part," he said Anupama before leaving. (38) "Anu, I am giving you my heart today; please keep it safe" (36). Anupama had naively trusted his statements. Later, she was told to stop

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studying because it was against their culture. She quickly accepted this irrational society and remained in the opulent prison. Anupama began to feel out of place in her own home. Her only solace came from Anand's phone calls and letters. "If only I had wings, I'd fly away to him," she thought (43).

A hot coal dropped on Anupama's feet during Lakshmi Pooja, causing little white patches to emerge. She confirmed the diagnosis of Leukoderma with her doctor. She didn't tell anyone because she was afraid. Radhakka discovered the disease one day and summoned her to her father's house. Anupama's father tries to stomp on Radhakka's feet, but Anupama stops him by claiming she never cheated anyone. Even in the most trying of circumstances, she retained her rich culture, as well as the dignity and respect of her parents. Radhakka, on the other hand, failed in her culture.

Her own family members turned her down. Her own family member said things like "Bad omen and Rejected wife" (131). Anupama's step-sisters' nuptials were called off multiple times because of her. Her father and she wrote a lot of letters to Anand. "Anand, please come and take me out of this agony," Anupama pleaded in her letter (145), but she received no response. She realised that Anand was the only one who knew what would happen to her. Anand, on the other hand, did not respond to any of their letters. She didn't even speak poorly of her mother in law's family members because she was an Indian girl who wanted to safeguard her culture.

Her father, too, began to feel sorry for Anupama. She felt as if she were a lone traveller on a long and winding road. When she considers suicide, she considers what people will say if she succeeds. No one will feel sorry for her. Not even her own family members, including her adoring Anand, could help her. "A lady wants her spouse to adore her in whatever society, land, or race" (144).

Anupama's husband, on the other hand, values his passion over her affection. She had finally realised the actual Anand, who was enamoured with her beauty rather than her. When he spoke to her, she realised his statements were not true. According to Indian tradition, a married lady should not remove her mangalsuthra before her husband's death. If that was taken away, she was regarded as a cultureless lady.

A woman recently stated on the neyanaana chat programme that she removed her mangalsuthra after she discovered her husband's true face. There are many other Anupamas out there who have been abandoned by their spouses. Women should be protected by culture. Until culture protects them, everyone respects and follows it. If culture isn't protecting individuals, there's nothing wrong with going against it. Anupama moved to

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Bombay with greater courage and optimism, as urged by her friend Sumithra, to live a quiet life.

According to the world, the only thing that cannot be changed is change. Anupama enjoyed a bit of variety in her life. She lives with Sumithra until she finds work. She believed that God would provide for her, and that with the assistance of her education, she would be able to live the rest of her life happily. she doesn't want to be a burden to her pal.

As a result, she accepts the position of clerk. Sumithra's spouse is attempting to misbehave with her at this moment. But she manages to get away from his ruse. Our culture taught us to respect visitors as if they were God. The author demonstrates how our culture was decimated both then and now. Despite the fact that her spouse abandoned her, she steadfastly adheres to her culture and custom, unlike other people who are dissatisfied with their good fortune. She moved to her friend Dolly's place to stay after a while and joined college as a lecturer. She gives her hard-earned money to her family, who did not even help her during her difficult times. She had never yelled at anyone before in any situation.

She was involved in an accident one day, and Dr. Anand treated her. They become fast friends. Vasanth proposed to her, but she declined. She is free to marry again. No one will be able to stop her. However, she made the decision not to remarry. Her marital decision had proven the proverb "once bitten, twice shy." They both resolved to be friends indefinitely. She gradually discovered her true self. Soon after, she directed a well-known play in a well-known Tata theatre with the help of her students, and she became well-known throughout Bombay. She was first identified as the daughter of a poor school teacher, and then by the wife of a doctor. But now she'd figured out who she was. The latter phoney persona taught her about true identity and provided her a reason to survive in this world.

When Anand learns his mother's true colour, he finally realises his error.

When he told his mother about his sister's affair before to her marriage, she was unconcerned and counselled him not to take the situation so seriously. He was really taken aback. He compared his sister to Anupama, believing that despite coming from a poor background, Anupama was a culturally immaculate and error-free lady. Her sister, who grew up in a wealthy family, eventually lost her culture. He assumed Anupama had been sent back to her house with no explanation. He returned later to meet Anupama. Anand's apology was earnest, but it was like rain after the grass had dried up.

Anand made several attempts to persuade Anupama to return to his life. Anupama had stayed silent and calm up until this point. However, when he requested her to rejoin his life, she bombarded him with questions for the first time. She reminded him that a burned seed will not grow into a tree and that "saying the right thing at the right time" is what makes a conversation memorable (146). His mother, she claimed, had sent her back to her

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home because his son disliked the ugly toy. Anand fell silent for a moment. Anupama went on to say something more. "Love isn't a commodity that can be purchased after being put to the test. It isn't something that can be purchased after consulting with others. It isn't available for purchase on the open market (6). She stated that this was true even in Bombay.

He requested her return into his life after hearing all of this again. Anupama, on the other hand, who is interested in culture, teaches some fundamental culture before answering his inquiries.

“You were worried about your unborn daughters’ future, i am also somebody’s daughter; did you worry about my future? Had I known your attitude toward life, I would have told you to marry somebody else. Suppose you had got Leukoderma, do you think that I would have left you for some other man? A marriage is a lifelong commitment; for better or worse, till death do us part. Wasn’t that what you said to me before you left for England? Even though you are a Doctor, you only know how to treat a disease, not tend to a patient’s emotional needs (147).

The writer clearly brought out how language, culture, and identity play a crucial role in one's life in this novel Mahashweta, through the character Anupama. Anupama was initially depressed and heartbroken. When she realises the reality, she begins to stand up for herself.

She maintains her good culture, politeness in language, and establishes identity by toiling hard throughout the narrative. This novel has a significant impact on people's lives, particularly those stricken by Leukoderma. At the end of the book, there is a true-life incident account. The story revolves around a man who married the same Leucoderma-affected female whom he had previously rejected following their engagement. A basic language, culture, and identity can make a huge difference in a person's life. This book stands out as the best example.

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