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English Literature

A LITERATURE REVIEW ON 'JASMINE' BY BHARATI MUKHERJEE

KEY WORDS: Diaspora, Multiculturalism, Identity Crisis, Cross- Cultural Conflict.

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ABSTRACT

The well-known Indian Diaspora author of English literature, Bharathi Mukherjee, is the author of 8 novels and 2 collections of short stories. In particular, Indian Diaspora emerges with compelling intensity as little more than a cultural icon in the realm of modern literature, with the writings of Bharati Mukherjee. The novel *Jasmine*, written by Bharati Mukherjee in 1989, tells the tale of a young Punjabi lady who struggles with cultural conflict and identity issues. The narrative depicts Jasmine's quest for her real and unbroken identity as well as the changes she goes through in a cheerful and upbeat manner. As a result, it turns into a story of moral strength of the protagonist. It depicts her battle with issues linked to her sexuality, racial identity, nationality, and culture in addition to the typical hurdles that any young person encounters. The life of Jasmine from India (Punjab), her immigration to the United States of America, and her battle to identify herself are depicted in this novel, there are several research articles that have been published on the novel *Jasmine*. This research article provides a literature review on those articles.

The review focuses on how Bharati Mukherjee's female heroine struggles through numerous problems and search for truth and identity, ultimately empowering herself in the process and rebuilding her selfhood and redefinition of identity. The subsequent literature review makes an effort to explain and justify the objective of the study.

In the research article by Raj.A(2021) in "Multiculturalist Aspect in Bharathi Mukherjee's *Jasmine* and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *arranged marriage*" presents about the uniqueness of the writing styles of Indian diaspora writers like Anita Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, Meena Alexander, Kiran Desai especially about the Bharathi Mukherjee and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. This article mainly focuses on the Multiculturalism influences in the novels of *Jasmine* and *arranged marriage*. Likewise In the article titled "The Cultural and Psychological Emancipation of an Immigrant Woman in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*" by Tamilarasan.P (2017) examines the concept of the novel *Jasmine* which deals with both the gradual cultural and psychological metamorphosis of a woman in her persistence in overcoming obstacles, and her assimilation of an alien society in order to forge her own identity. This article also describes Mukherjee's existence of an immigrant life is undoubtedly portrayed in a series of different incarnations through the protagonist *Jasmine*.

Similarly, in the research article by Puri.C (2014) "The Postcolonial Diaspora: Cross-Cultural Conflicts in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*" examines the postcolonial theories that deal with diaspora and hybridity. These texts deal with issues caused by a fluid group who are neither in home or outside, which creates a transnational space. The migrants engage in a perpetual psychological struggle as they oscillate between the allures of home as well as the outside world.

Shrawat.A. (2014) in his research article titled "ISSUES OF IDENTITY AND CONFLICT BETWEEN PRESENT AND PAST VALUES: A STUDY OF BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S *JASMINE*" examines Mukherjee's work *Jasmine*, in which the main character struggles to live a respectable and independent life despite superstitions and feudal customs. The protagonist's drive to succeed in spite of all the obstacles in her path is demonstrated in the narrative.

According to yet another scholarly work of Kota.M.V. (2016) titled, "Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*: Decolonizing Text or Postcolonial *Jane Eyre*?" exploring Mukherjee's postcolonial work *Jasmine* portrays the changing racial politics through migrant journey of *Jyoti*, a young Indian girl who deeply believes in the diverse culture of the migrant narratives.

Through *Jyoti*'s shifting identities over the course of her life, Mukherjee creates an overall postcolonial theory narrative of an immigrant, dismantling the myth of the immigrant by utilising the liminality of *Jyoti*'s identity. In addition, Gosavi.U.M (2015) in the work titled "Violence in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* (1989) and *Wife* (1975): A Comparative Study" explores the subject of violence as it pertains to *Jasmine*, the protagonist and Dimple Dasgupta, the main character in the novels *Jasmine* and *Wife*. This article also examines Dimple's delusion, melancholy, and ultimately tragic choice to kill her husband as a result of being stuck between two very different worlds.

In the opinions of Silvest. R.R. and Rajaraman.K (2015), in their research article titled, "Chitra Banerjee's *The Mistress of Spices* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* -A Comparative Study" discusses the conflicts that arise as a result of these transformations of oneself and outlines the associated paradoxical over-tones that resulted out of the creation of a diasporic recognition. *Jasmine*'s environment shapes how she forms her identity, and as she moves between temporal and physical locations. *Jasmine* feels compelled to resolve these opposing viewpoints in order to prevent a psychological battle within her. Every time *Jasmine* encounters conflicting self-perceptions, she fully reinvents her identity and creates a new self as a method of resolving the issue. Further more, Hazenson.L (2010) through his research paper entitled "The maximalist transformation of the female immigrant identity in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* and *The Holder of the World*", **primarily focuses on social critique. By giving various characters equal weight and weaving together multiple tales so that they are intimately connected to one another, Mukherjee has stated that her books aim to imitate the magnificent paintings. In a similar study by the same researcher under the title "BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE: CULTURAL CONFLICT AND QUEST FOR IDENTITY"** sheds new light on the issues of identity and cultural conflicts between the hegemony of the western males and immigrant women.

In the study conducted by Aarthi. A. and Latha. N. (2022) titled "The Quest For Female Identity In Bharati Mukherjee's Novel *Jasmine*" explores as they attempt to identify, Bharati Mukherjee's protagonist experience self-division, estrangement, and sometimes even lunacy. Compared to male characters, she puts more work into developing female characters. Satirical techniques are regularly used in her narrative style, article mainly focus on the female protagonist of the novel *Jasmine*, whose transition into *Jyoti-Jasmine-Jazzy-Jase-Jane* frees her from her deforming background and

provides her voice. In his article "Reinventing the Self in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*", Sharma.R.D. (2015) examines how Jasmine battles to reinvent a cohesive self throughout her life as a result of her ongoing efforts to blend in with the foreign culture and environment. Ravichandran. M. and Deivasigamani. T. (2013) through the research article "Reflections of Female Sufferings in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine and Wife*" examines the feminine sorrows of the protagonists in Bharati Mukherjee's novels *Jasmine and Wife*. In Mukherjee's *Jasmine*, an Indian woman's life is chronicled from her infancy and early years in a small Indian hamlet to her immigration to the United States and, ultimately, to her and what she means to be an American Dream. Through these titular characters in *Jasmine* namely Jyoti, Jase, Jazzy and Jane the protagonist moves from one circumstance to another reincarnating a higher-order being until she eventually appears to have been discovered a safe haven to rest and respire. In this research paper by Queiroz H.N. (2011) in "DESIRABLE RELATIONS: DIASPORA AND GENDER RELATIONS IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE AND DESIRABLE DAUGHTERS" the researcher underscores the response to the liberal and so-called feminist concepts. The researcher explores the precarious position of women characters' stuck in the immigrant culture in their host-land. As their migratory stories are influenced by concerns of gender, class, caste, education, and are linked to the kinds of transgressions, displacements both at and away from their homes.

Reddy. N.K. (2018) in "Aspects of Enculturation and Acculturation in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine: An Appraisal*" investigates the function of literature from a global perspective, exposing readers or lovers of literature to global perceptions and cultural variations, with a focus on the aspects of enculturation and acculturation in Indian English fiction, with particular reference to the projection of the same in Bharati Mukherjee's fictional world, particularly *Jasmine*.

Urmila, P in her article titled "MIGRATION AND TRANSFORMATION IN BHARATHI MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE" analyses, a restrained woman's attempts to escape the challenges in her home country and her migration to the United States in search of peace and harmony. However, in her pursuit, she encounters obstacles and ends-up admiring their culture. The protagonist wishes to create a new life that encompasses her own growth. In this article "Cultural Assimilation in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*" by Kalyanasundaram. R. and Sangeetha. M. (2021) the researchers analyze the novel *Jasmine* of Bharathi Mukherjee, in which she makes direct or indirect comparisons between women's life in India and America and also about the cultural assimilation.

Kathoon A.S. Uthamapalayam T.D. Nadu T. and Siddiq S.A. (2022), published an article titled "Cross- Cultural Conflicts in Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine*" in which, Due to a lack of emotional stability and sustainability, the main characters eventually engage in self-destruction. Mukherjee aims to understand the various forms of cross-cultural tensions via a series of experiences which the lead character of the novel undertakes throughout her trip from India (Punjab) to USA (California).

In this research article by JHANSI. N. and SUBRAMANIAN. A. "PLIGHT OF WOMEN IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE" examines the despicable condition of the female character in Mukherjee's novel *Jasmine*. While reading the novel, one can feel *Jasmine's* mental suffering and grief. She has never been able to free herself from the anguish and tossing of fate. The fate of the women is in their hands, and Bharati Mukherjee has masterfully depicted the physical and psychological anguish of women in her novel.

It is evident that from the above Literature review that the

novel *Jasmine* by Bharati Mukherjee has been extensively researched on different socio-political, thematic, psychological, cross-cultural, trans-national, feministic gender related grounds. However, it is also fairly apparent that a very little inroads or enquiry has been made on the theme of 'Diasporic Conflict on Home' so far. Hence the present research under takes to examine the vicissitudes of the thematic ramification of 'Diasporic Conflict on Home'.

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