

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MULTICULTURALISM AND ASPECTS OF GLOBALISATION IN KIRAN DESAI'S *INHERITANCE OF LOSS*

Sumathi, R* and Midhun Leo James

Department of English, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore – 641 029, Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

Indian English Literature pertains to the body of work by writers from India, who pen strictly in the English language and whose native or co-native language could be one of the numerous regional and indigenous language of India. English literature in India is also intimately linked with the works of associates of the Indian Diaspora. Among other writers, Kiran Desai is one of the most renowned writers in the Indian English Literature. With Kiran Desai, a literary tradition is reborn. One of the major themes in the novel is multiculturalism. Multiculturalism relates to communities containing multiple cultures. The term is used in two broad ways, either descriptively or normatively. As a descriptive term it usually refers to the simple fact of cultural diversity. It is generally applied to the demographic make-up of a specific place, sometimes at the organizational level, eg: school, businesses, cities, or nations. As a normative term, it refers to ideologies or policies that promote this diversity or its institutionalization. In this sense, multiculturalism is a society at ease with the rich tapestry of human life and the desire amongst people to express their own identity in the manner they see as fit. Such ideologies or policies vary widely, including country to country. Another major theme in the novel is globalization, which is a process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, and other aspects of culture. Advances in transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its posterity the Internet, are major factors in globalization, generating further interdependence of economic and cultural activities. The term globalization has been increasing use since the mid-1980s and especially since the mid-1990s. The term *globalization* is derived from the word *globalize*, which refers to the emergence of an international network of social and economic systems. This paper attempts to analyze Kiran Desai's novel *The Inheritance of Loss* to bring out the various aspects of multicultural clashes and globalization.

Keywords: Diaspora, Globalisation, Multiculturalism, Post-Colonialism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indian English Literature is an open stage to depict the profitable pearls of Indian Writing in English. From being a particular and excellent, India saw new type of Indian culture and voice is advancing and turning out as a result of works in English in which India banter consistently. Since pre - Independence time, Indian Writers - artists, authors, writers, and dramatists and so forth have been making earth shattering and significant commitments to world writing, the previous couple of years have seen a sudden development of Indian English Writing in the worldwide market. Indian English writing bear on to the made excellence of the scholars of India, who writes in English dialect and whose local dialect could be one of the various territorial dialect of India. Indian English writing is likewise profoundly interconnected with crafted by partners of the Indian diaspora, in particular with individuals like Kiran Desai, Salman Rushdie, who were born in India yet by and presently live somewhere else.

Indian English Literature has accomplished an autonomous status on the planet Literature.

Wide scopes of subjects are managed inside Indian Writing in English. India's significant commitment to world writing is because of the inventive abstract works produced by Indian scholars also, authors in English. Their works mulled over and thought on different scope of issues like patriotism, flexibility battle, social authenticity, singular cognizance and so on. English has gained an uncommon benefit and fame in India particularly among the upper and the working classes. It is progressively being utilized by essayists to offer shape to the clashing difficulties and issues that defy the human mind.

2. MULTICULTURALISM IN *THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS*

Kiran Desai's *Inheritance of Loss* mainly underlines multiculturalism. Multiculturalism has been legitimate arrangement in a few western countries. Since 1970s, for reasons that differed from nation to nation, including the way that a large number of the colossal urban areas of the western world are progressively made of a mosaic of societies. Another significant topic in the novel is globalization, which is a procedure of universal mix emerging from the exchange of world perspectives, items, and different parts of culture.

The Inheritance of Loss is set in Kalimpong, a peninsular augmentation of India into the border of Nepal, Tibet and Bhutan. Kiran Desai's second book concerns about what she calls the enormous anxiety of being foreigner. The novel makes Kiran Desai as a standout amongst the most discerning authors. Her novel moves between a few universes at a practically amazing velocity from the mist filled universe of Kalimpong to the dingy basement of New York, where she portrays with sincerity and sympathy the hidden universe of stow ways and illegal work. It incorporates a few periods too, while being set in the 1980s; it likewise recounts an account of life under the shadow of colonial rule. It is additionally about how individuals live in a similar milieu, bound by great relations and sick feeling; the book talks about alienation and fellowship at the same time. She enlightens the pain of outcast and the ambiguities of post-colonialism with a woven artwork of bright characters: a disillusioned old judge; Sai, his sixteen-year orphaned granddaughter; a talkative cook; and cook's child Biju. The book straightforwardly says the life and individuals of various conditions of India and in addition the multicultural conflicts between various nations.

The first multicultural clash in Desai's novel happens in 1986, in Kalimpong, high in the northern Himalayas. In the beginning of the story, it is rumored that the insurrection in the hills changed into resistance movement stockpiling men and guns. "It was the Indian-Nepalese this time, fed up with being treated like the minority in a place where they were the majority. They wanted their own country, or at least their own state, in which to manage their own affairs. Here, where India blurred into Bhutan and Sikkim... it had been always a messy map"(1).

The fundamental characters living here are the judge, the cook and Sai. Desai presents her characters as they experience their troublesome lives out of sight of proceeding with battles. One can see that Desai depicts the mortification and powerlessness of their characters against forceful conduct. They are automatically associated with the battles over the illustration outskirts. The conflict shows up between the two societies of Hindus and Nepalese and it unmistakably announces the way that violence and injustice play are skillfully disguised under misrepresentations of liberty and public interests.

Multicultural clash which develops through the depiction of Biju's life, partitioned into discrete

circumstance. Biju is an Indian based American. He cleared out India with a fantasy of having better life in America. For the second time, he applies for a tourist visa and this time he is really successful and he gets it. One of the applicants, also asking for a visa, says Biju: "you are the luckiest boy in the whole world..."(1). One can see from this situation that no matter what sort of job it is, no matter what money they have to pay, no matter if they are cheated, their expectations of better life in the United States are so big that they are willing to do anything.

From the historic perspective, Indians moved to the United States from different reasons. A considerable lot of them cleared out to think about in colleges; many were disappointed with political circumstance in India or searching for better openings for work as there were significantly higher livelihoods in the United States. Another huge factor poverty; the migrants looked to help their families from abroad.

After arriving at New York Biju's life faces a series of challenges. He just enters the alienated world as a migrant, as an exile. "Above, the restaurant was French, but below in the kitchen it was Mexican and Indian." (1)

In this circumstance, one can see that Desai brings up the contempt amongst Indian and Muslims. These two don't much try to become acquainted with each other. Rather they rather receive prejudice and mentalities of their fathers. This demonstrates characters are capable neither basically think without anyone else assessment.

Another point of this multicultural clash is to demonstrate a place of ladies in India. Their part changed quickly midst of history but it remained as one of the important in the society. This conflict demonstrates Desai's expectation to portray the remorseless reality of ladies in India. Her obligation is to act as per the profoundly established conventions. Another extensively talked about issue in a few multicultural clashes is religion. The author deliberately portrays the showdown with various religious gatherings to bring up the genuine reasons out of sight. By means of the characters underline the way that as opposed to attempting to coordinate with each other, individuals manages viewpoints like whose God is better, who my kids should hate, and who need to battle with. Such religious holds keeps down an improvement of the nation and besides it makes pressure among individuals which at last outcomes in brutality and

murdering. This is additionally firmly associated with regional battles.

Another regular element in the novel is an effort of the characters to carry on in English way. In any case, the character judge obviously exhibits the outcomes of such behavior. They stay caught in their psyches and as time passes by they discover that they totally lose their feeling of personality. The main route how to exist is to imagine that they are another person. Be that as it may, they can't escape from themselves. The part of ladies is the main viewpoint the author depicts in an unexpected way. Kiran Desai is normally significantly more interested by this issue.

The characters in Desai's book experience the ill effects of absence of certainty. They are totally resigned with destiny and don't invest sufficient effort to change their hopeless circumstance. The characters do not think from their own perspective and joins the majority with what they think and how they expect them to be. It likewise fills in as dreary rest of Biju's adventure to America and Jemu's trip to England are demonstration of that general concept. At last at that point Desai's portrayal of these immigrants significantly shows her feeling of the underside of globalization with in her novel.

3. THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GLOBALISATION

The creator communicates her misery on the way that parallels exist inside the limits of home culture additionally, giving a larger number of offices to foreigners than to Indians it is the projection of the mediocrity soaked up through years of colonization and in addition inside the mind of transients of our own nation. She concedes that treating individuals from a rich nation well and individuals from poor nation seriously.

The Inheritance of Loss delineates in its many points of interest the tragedies of the Third World nations simply got freedom from colonialism. The fundamental topic of the novel additionally gives off an impression of being the impact of the European powers in India and how Indians are haunted by the Colonization strategies. These impacts have mistreated and corrupted India. Her fiction is set in the modern day India and the stories described to portray the crumple of the established order because of the political unrest. Desai tries to deliver the issues of poverty and clues that globalization isn't a simple answer for the issues of the caught individuals of the lower social stratus.

Kiran Desai's second novel *The Inheritance of Loss* handles the about all influential waiting impacts of colonialism on two classes of South Asian individuals the individuals who endeavor to leave India and the individuals who stay in India. In her account Desai deftly carries amongst First and Third universes enlightening the torment of outcast stand up to their impacting interest. The country battles itself with the ambiguities of Post Colonialism and the blinding desire for a superior life where one individual's riches imply another's destitution. Through the characters Kiran Desai muses about her conceptualized status of India in the present globalized world which has been compacted with the rebellion of movement. Multiculturalism envelops a scope of perspectives about the ramifications of developing cultural diversity. It bears every cultural communities, or, all the more extensively, all individuals, a similar social opportunities for self-articulation, correspondence, status and achievement. Distinctly societies in this way should be ensured and reinforced, especially when they have a place with minority or defenseless groups. Multiculturalists trust that diversity is attractive and ought to be commended as it is of an incentive to society at large.

The Inheritance of Loss captures a wide area like difference in nations, the present situation and the past, ethnic differences, religious views and social environment etc. The novel, set in India, demonstrates the ace craftsmanship of Kiran Desai in depicting an extensive variety of characters. It straightforwardly says the life and individuals of various conditions of India and additionally of various nationalities. Sai's life is a case for unity in decent variety. *The Inheritance of Loss* presents individuals who have faith in various religions and displaying different food habits. Distinction in dialect likewise adds to the decent variety of the novel. Additional attraction of this novel is though this novel is set in English many Hindi words are additionally observed and which create added beauty to this novel. The characters portrayed by Desai read books which are deeply rooted in multiculturalism and are different in the treatment of topic. Jemubhai goes with Tophams Law of Property, ICP – Indian Criminal Procedure, Indian Penal Code and other evidence act and other similar interests. The geology likewise displays contrast.

Biju's development really advances around New York are another striking case of the disparities that exist amongst westerners and non-westerners nationals and settlers the individuals

who profits by globalization and the individuals who don't. Biju's activity of conveying General Tso's Chicken and Szechuan wings to city inhabitants has him. "On a bicycle with the delivery bag on his handle bars a tremulous figure between heaving buses regurgitating taxis"(1)

The Inheritance of Loss by Kiran Desai draws a picture regarding the contrast in various aspects of life. Be that as it may, the gray had pervaded inside. The novel as it does in Cho Oyu, diffusing the borders and all noted divisions. In the other words some kinds of unity, can be found even the novel carries out diversity in the novel. Character legislative issues reinforce the aggregate personality and regular encounters of individuals in a general public. It sees the person as inserted in a specific social, social, institutional or ideological setting. A pride in one's way of life gives individuals a feeling of chronicled and social rootedness. Also, conversely, a frail or broke feeling of personality leaves individuals feeling isolated and befuddled. Multiculturalists acknowledge that individuals can have numerous personalities and different loyalties. For example, they can have steadfastness to their nation of origin and furthermore to the nation of their settlement.

Desai affirms that ethnicity and racial preferences are a general marvel and globalization can't manage the cost of any huge consolation. Kiran Desai presents the mind-boggling feeling of humiliation experienced by ethnic gatherings that arrive at the worldwide town of America to secure a superior future. Through the unresponsiveness of the life of Biju, she displays the status of unlawful immigrants and the sentiment of alienation frequently experienced by expatriates. Kiran Desai acknowledges that the underestimated groups are two way sufferers since they think that its hard to look for spaces in the worldwide society and also re alienated from the focuses of their own cultural identity. Each of the characters in the novel has the effect of globalization even the neighbors as well.

Kiran Desai, a certain and a skilled author, is rich with points of interest and displaying a beautiful picture of multicultural conflicts and the different parts of globalization. Desai's books are loaded with intelligence and unpretentious parallels. It is both funny and intensely tragic, however for the most part optimistic. The extremely egalitarian ideas of multiculturalism neglect to remain constant practically speaking in light of the unbalanced connection between one cultural group and the others relationship which

safeguards the dichotomies amongst centres and edges. India and America may have pushed the multiculturalist's areas of identity political issues with a utopian vision of regarding all the distinction yet Desai deconstruct and destabilize this thought by demonstrating the logical inconsistency between multicultural ideologies and practices. She likewise implies that globalization isn't a simple solution for the issues of the caught individuals of the lower social stratus.

4. CONCLUSION

Multiculturalism and globalization are the normal topics of post-colonial writers. These are taken as giant and ambiguous ideas that should have meaning. *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai, a confident and a talented writer, is rich with details and presenting a picturesque of multicultural clashes and the various aspects of globalization. Desai's novels are full of wisdom and subtle parallels. It is both funny and bitterly sad, but generally optimistic. Never preachy, never predictable, Desai's scope is broad, looking at the consequences of large cultural and political forces for both people and individuals. She illustrates her themes without making moral judgments about her characters. Her writing is liquid and beautiful with delightful turns of phrases. The very egalitarian notions of multiculturalism fail to hold true in practice because of the lopsided relationship between one cultural group and the others relationship which preserves the dichotomies between centers and margins. India and America may have advocated the multiculturalist's locations of identity politics with a utopian vision of respecting all the difference but Desai deconstruct and destabilize this idea by showing the contradiction between multicultural ideologies and practices. She also hints that globalization is not an easy solution to the problems of the trapped people of the lower social stratus. Pankaj Mishra says,

In fact, Desai's novel seems to argue that such multiculturalism, confined to the Western metropolis and academe, doesn't begin to address the causes of extremism and violence in the modern world. Nor, it suggests, can economic globalization become a route to prosperity for the downtrodden (2)

REFERENCES

1. Desai, Kiran, (2006). *The Inheritance of Loss*. New Delhi: Penguin.
2. Mishra, Pankaj, (2015). Review: *The Inheritance of Loss*. The New York Times. 9 Feb. 2009. web. 27 Dec. 2015.