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The Conflict of Diasporic Identity: A Study of Monica Ali's "Brick Lane" And Mohsin Hamid's "The Reluctant"

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Abstract

The Identity is very important issues in Postcolonial studies. This is not the problem of 20th and 21st centuries. It was present in Shakespeare age too. It was Othello who suffered from identity crisis in Venice among white people. He was other and outsider for the venetians. He felt alienation too among White People. These feelings are present in the 21st century in the characters of Changes, Nazneen Chanu, Shahana, Tariq and other characters of *Brick Lane* and *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. The characters of first generation immigrate to the western cultures in order to give reality to their dreams. They feel discrimination there. That culture does not accept them as their own. They remain outsider and other in those cultures. Foreign cultures do not accept them until they eliminate their or completely. Nazneen accepts the situation and adopts the western culture and integrate in that society. But other characters, in reaction to humiliation and discrimination face in those societies, return to their own roots, and identities. Both novels deal with

the issues of identity and hybridist in detail. England is already an imperial state but America has also assumed the status of neo-imperialism and behaves like master of every one. It interferes in every developing country's internal matters. The people of developing cultures want to identify themselves. Their quest for identity is everyone's struggle who lives in these countries. . This research explores the issues of hybridist and identity in the contexts of American and Pakistani, and British and Bangladeshi interaction through the analysis of the novels in the light of postcolonial critical approach signal identity.

Keywords: Diapsoric, conflict, study, cultures etc

Many people from under developing countries leave their homes and homelands and travel to developed countries in search of better livelihood, better living style or for better personal

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growth. Reason can be any but time comes when such diasporas people become conscious about their identities, cultures and roots.

The concept of identity is a burning issue in different fields of knowledge. Each subject e.g. Psychology, Anthropology, Sociology, Politics, Linguistics etc. attaches the distinctive opinion to this term. Focus of this study is the implication of the term in the context of post-colonial theory. Question of identity becomes in vogue especially after the independence movements of colonial states in 20th century. Postcolonial is a term used for an era when colonies achieved freedom from European colonization. The term concerns the effects of colonialism on cultures and communities. Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin state in *The Empire Writes Back* (1989) that "more than three- quarters of the people living of the world today have had their lives shaped by the experience of colonialism (p.1). Though there was a political change, many nations got independence and no more they are colonies, but culturally and economically, many dilemma and crisis came up on the surface, they were still in confusion about their culture and identity. This appearance of national and ethnic identity dilemmas and endurance in previous- present gap is "defined and redefined after the collapse of the Empire,

the continuous movement between margin and centre, the interpretation and reinterpretation of common history" (Sharma, 2015).

In fact, colonialism was not only a power control but it was a cultural control by the colonizer, in which still colonized people tied to. The struggle of the colonized subjects for their cultural identity and the social formation of the Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Fiffin argue," all post-colonial societies are still subject in one way or another to overt or subtle forms of neo-colonial domination, and independence has not solved this problem"(1989, p. 2).In general, the postcolonial atmosphere and situation is overwhelmed with the tensions of struggling of newly independent states to achieve their cultural, political, psychological identification. Thus, the major themes in the works written in the postcolonial period have been the fragmentation and identity crisis experienced by the once colonized peoples and the important impacts of colonialism on the indigenous.

Hamid shows that America has assumed the status of neo-colonial power, on the contrary, Pakistan is an independent state, but its economies depend on developed states like America. People of Pakistan are crazy about America. They want to obey look like an Americans, as

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America is their land of dreams, on the other hand, America does not have confidence in Pakistan. Especially event has widened this gap of distrust in between two countries. This clash is truly a clash between the Eastern and the Western identities which is represented in post-colonial studies. This prospective of identity crisis is presented by M0hsin Hamid in his *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

Migration is a global phenomenon which means that there are migrant writings in almost all countries in the world. Migrant literature originated in the twentieth century following the migration movements of Europeans, Asians and Mexicans to North America, people coming from former colonies to Europe and movements of guest workers, exiles and refugees after the two World Wars. Migrant writings also focus on the search for identity because immigrants usually feel rootless and nostalgic when they try to become members of a new group. Since most immigrants are obliged to become bicultural and bilingual in order to be accepted, the main purpose of migrant literature is to elaborate on the process of acculturation, integration and identity formation.

Conclusion

Identity crisis and hybridity are the two most important and complex issues of post-colonial literature. Identity

differentiates one person to another. Sometimes, to be different becomes a problem for a person especially one who is immigrant. If immigrant belongs to the third world and a Muslim, then it becomes difficult to settle in western world and feel at home there. 9/11 trauma has made it more complicated to have ground to stand on. Identity confronts crisis when immigrants feel alienated and different in host society. Feeling of homelessness and alienation forces these people to identify them in new culture. This needs to get assimilation with native people and culture to have the feelings of at home. This assimilation opens the door of financial solutions for them and mentally makes them satisfied. Feeling of homelessness is eliminated by getting mix with foreign culture. But sometimes immigrants themselves revolt against their decision of hybridity and decide to come back to their homes.

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