

Cultural Alienation and Identity Crises in Anita Desai's Bye-Bye Black Bird

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Abstract

The quest for identity and alienation are the central concerns of Anita Desai's works. She has tendency to look into every aspect of a person's life. In her book Bye Bye Blackbird, Anita Desai explores the lives of Indian immigrants in England before to 1964, the year in which England fundamentally altered its immigration laws. Particularly Indians flying to England are the Blackbirds. The world of three people who are limited by their identities is explored in Bye Bye Blackbird, along with how they must discover who they really are. Three characters -- Adit, Sarah, and Dev takes Centre stage in the story. Adit and Sarah have a greater attraction to India following their terrible events in England, and the narrative exposes their true crises as they struggle to create their own lives in a foreign place. Dev, who had first expressed some sort of hatred towards England, has since come to regard it as his home. This paper critically examines the loss of identity and cultural alienation with reference to the Novel "Bye- Bye Black Bird".

Keywords: Immigration, Alienation, Identity Crisis, Displacement.

Post-Colonialism

Priests had Bibles and we had lands before the British arrived, but with Post-Colonialism, shifted over way around. They traded Bibles and land. The four runners of Post-Colonialism, according to Edward and Spivak and Homi J. Bhabha are the religion evolved into an ideological tool to control people's mind by employing eight hands including political, social, economic, etc. The Post-Colonial era runs from 1947 to 2000. It was labelled neo-colonialism after 2000. Decolonising the minds of the colonised, deconstructing the notion of Nationhood, Subverting the notion of hegemony language over regional language, and Regionalising the nation are the four fundamental concepts to grasp the concept of post colonialism.

Usually, a person's race and language define who they are. They claim that the identification has been altered. We achieved language independence, which has given us political freedom. We are English people's slaves. To change everything, they used to change the language. According to "R. Parthasarathy", the poem "home and exile" made a statement regarding language.

The poem "Catherine Maya" portrays Indians as barbarians who lack Civilised lifestyles. According to "Homi J. Bhabha", a nation is nothing more than a constructed than Myth. Ancient and modern narration are the two types of storytelling utilised to create a nation. The history that results from these narrations. Cultural anthropology and sociology are related to narration. Mythological stories were the subject of ancient narration, political, social and cultural narratives are the subjects of modern narration. These

stories collectively define a nation. For instance, we celebrate our nation's independence and republic days only to prove or to keep it fresh in our memories.

The sense of Nationhood is injected through shifting nationalities, which are then exploited to fabricate actual or imagined enemies. We may have different ideologies viewpoints, and nations, yet we once imitated western culture. This is one idea of Nationhood. The other is that we are in the East and were colonised by the west. Language has evolved into an ideological instrument, whereas for any race, language is the only source of identification. After colonialism, we are biologically half native and half colonised; we are completely westernised.

Homi J. Bhabha Said:

"A Real decolonised mind should come out both ambivalence and transcend and get naturalized".

Self-conflict

He tries to be one among the colonies who once suppressed him but gradually he understand that whether happens he will remain as the "other" among those colonizers. Dev on the other hand entered England with a hatred, as it suppressed his homeland for a long period. But gradually he falls in to the attire of Adit who left is for his homeland. Dev gradually try to believe that he could be one among those and thus the sad reality awaits him. The dream is different for each character but it's truly connected to their homeland and its memories.

Adit comfortably employed in London, marries Sarah. Something oriental in her attracts him. He tries to fit with the immigrants who formerly oppressed him, but he quickly realises that he will always be the "other" among them. Dev on the other hand, came to England with an issue because it had long suppressed his country. But with the time, he begins to dress like Adit, who left for his native country. Dev progressively tries to accept the possibility that he might be one of them, and the depressing truth is waiting for him.

Each character's fantasy is unique, but it is inextricably linked to their home country and their memories of it. Adit marries Sarah while having a comfortable job in London. He finds something exotic about her. One must reconstruct themselves in order to fit themselves into a new setting. He has to put with and adjust. At first, he seems to be a passionate fan of England. He immigrated for his own personal reasons. He had trouble recognising the shortcomings of the English system. India represented everything negative to him.

Multicultural in bye - bye black bird:

One of the unavoidable characteristics of post colonialism is multiculturalism. A person becomes hybridised when they are focused to negative between two things, two realities, and frequently two cultures. This causes them to experience "double vision" Or "double consciousness, "which ultimately results in a loss of identity. The hybridity has hurt Sarah and Adit. Adit is constantly being reminded of his homeland, which forces him to alter his perception of it. When, he was lying in India, he never made an effort to understand the truth meaning of love for one's country, but today he is aware of what it means to be at home.

A culture cannot be forced upon someone who is born into to it; it is ingrained in him like the oxygen he breathes. Only when comes across an alien community and realises the difference between "native culture" and "host culture" does the value of one's nation and culture come under attack. Adit's identity lies in a grey area, or what Bhabha refers to as the "Third Space" (Location of culture 37). When Adit called Sarah one evening and invited her to meet in the city, the situation took a big shift. When he returned to their flat, he told her that he was having trouble with it. It informs you. It's a great deal for me. It's time for it to all end. There needs to be a shift.

Whether English or India, she had no concern; all that mattered was its sincerity and truth(38) and she pondered with much anguish if she would ever permitted to leave the stage, leave the theatre, and enter the real world. The two cultures are being adjusted by Sarah in separate watertight containers. Adit, on the other hand, who was initially charmed by England, begins to yearn for his native country. He was viewed as a second-class citizen in England due to prejudice, identity loss, and a sense of being trapped between two countries.

Even in his period of fascination with England, he never lost site of how beautiful his own country was; on the occasion of Adit and Sarah's wedding anniversary, he requested that Sarah wear a saree and make charchari. They were both stuck between two worlds, one that attracted them and the other that they were never prepare to live behind. Finally making his way back to India, Adit joined by Sarah, who fled her country in search of a brighter future? They both don't don't want to have an American Born confused Desi child who is destined to live a double life.

Sarah devotes herself to her spouse and tries the various threads together in the narrative. Although she must deal with issues on the lengthy flight from England to India due to her pregnancy, she enjoys the thought of being Adit's bride. She married him expecting to share the best of mind and spirit, but she forgoes her feminine wants and accepts her fate like a traditional Indian bride. For the spouse and being a mother, she flees her home nation. Adit considers the benefits and drawbacks of living abroad, but at the book's end he comes to the conclusion that as his English identity was disappearing, he was dying to become his true self and to live as an Indian.

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