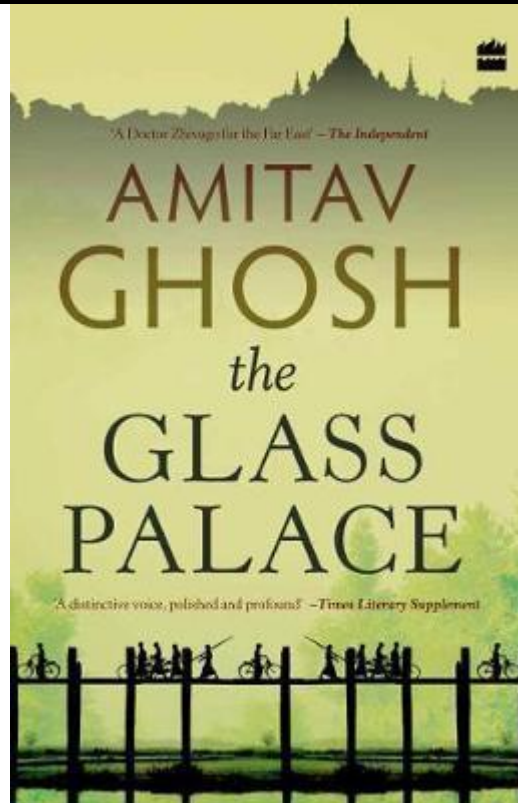


Literature of Diaspora - Amitav Ghosh Selected Novels

K. Annapurany and R. Sathyapriya, Research Scholar



Abstract

Diasporic writing occupies a place of great significance between countries and cultures. Diasporic writing mostly become a response to the lost homes and to issues such as Dislocation, Nostalgia, Discrimination, survival, Cultural change and identity. Dislocation is one of the first feelings that haunt the diasporic community. When diasporic people find themselves dislocated from the home society they are upset mentally and strive to remember and locate themselves in a nostalgic past.

Keywords: Amitav Ghosh, Diaspora, Alienation, Migration, Dislocation, cultural displacement, gender discrimination

Introduction

The term *Diaspora* was derived from the Greek word *diaspeiro* which means “I Scatter”. This original meaning was began to develop when the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek. The term *Diaspora* carries a sense of displacement the population finds itself for whatever reason separated from its national territory, and people have a hope, desire, to return to their homeland. The literature of the Indian diaspora contains an important place in postcolonial literature. The famous diasporic writers like V.S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie, Rohinton Mistry, Bharati Mukherjee, Amitav Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, Anita Desai, M.G. Vassanji, Shyam Selvadurai, Kiran Desai, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Kamala Markandaya, Amit Chaudri, and many were contributed more for the Indian Diasporic literature. Amitav Ghosh holds a great part in the diasporic writing. All his novels explores the life and sufferings of Indian diaspora and recollects the nostalgic past. There are several factors which are the reasons for the dislocation of the community for their home country to the foreign land.

Diasporic Touch in the Novels of Amitav Ghosh

Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta and grew up in India, Bangladesh, Srilanka. He studied in Delhi, Oxford and Alexandria. His novels are *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In An Antique Land*, *Dancing In Cambodia*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *The Hungry Tide*, and *Sea of Poppies*, *The Ibis Trilogy*. *The Circle of Reason* was awarded in 1990. *The Shadow Lines* won Sahitya Akademi award and Ananda Puraskar award. *The Calcutta Chromosome* won the Arthur C. Clarke award for 1997 and *The Glass Palace* won the International e-Book Award in 2001. *The Hungry Tide* was awarded the crossword Book Prize in 2005.

The Shadow Lines

The Shadow Lines by Amitav Ghosh explores the political and economic growth of India through the lives of two families Bengali and English. This novel captures perspective of time and events that bring people together and hold them apart. The novel has an unnamed narrator relating the story of his experience and his uncle Tridib’s experiences. Tridib is consider to be the protagonist of the novel. Ghosh novel is a useful resource to study the both the challenges of diaspora as well as the strategies of negotiation. The politics of negotiation determines the multi-layered spectrum of responses to the diasporic space, and varied parameters exist in order to study these negotiations. In this novel Ghosh explains the sufferings of Tridib through the unnamed narrator. The distance draws him even closer and the homeland is elevated to a higher pedestal. He uses personal stories to shed light on the social, political and historical The Characters keep turning back to the homeland-its sacredness, rituals, culture, and thus adopt various families symbols to help them freeze the image of the homeland in their being. This novel is considered to be a successful novel which stands for its powerful imagination. Both Tridib and narrator are good with their dominant imagination.

Strength and Frailty of Human Constructions

Ghosh’s narrative highlights both the strength and frailty of human constructions of space, location, and time, wherein humans create nationalism, national, regional, and personal identities. The Social constrictions of his society made the narrator stays with a platonic relationship. Another interaction Ghosh focuses on is that of the narrator's relationship with another male Tridib. This story focuses on the love between the Indian and the English. As the

narrator goes on in his personal narrative many historic events in India's history are revealed. It interweaves facts, friction. The difficult relationship with colonial culture. The need for independence. The search for identity. The novel deals with the concerns of our period. It is a continuous narrative which replicates the pattern of violence not only for 1964 but also for 21st Century. And the novel is enthusiastic. This tribal instinct has been magnified beyond all measures resulting in political and economic activities. Thus nationalism which had and which has great uses can become the greatest obstacle to world unity and world peace. The author has held the extreme form of nationalism responsible for many a problem these days.

Sense of Displacement

The Circle of Reason was published in 1986. It is considered to be a picaresque novel. It explains the Adventures of Alu a weaver from a small village near Calcutta. This novel has a Diasporic theme of Sense of Displacement, self-identity, migration, alienation, quest for home, rootlessness. The Diasporic theory about psychological journey of an individual. The idea of diasporic sensibility is to be found in the ambivalent, transitory, culturally attached. The condition of migration is seen as a state of undetermined. In this novel all the characters serve the purpose of highlighting the nature of experience of a migrant was characterized by the element of alienation. The same themes are mentioned in another novel of his *The Glass Palace*.

The Glass Palace

It was published in 2000. This novel explains the three generations of the family. It is considered to be the historical novel. This story is about a Character named Rajkumar, and his sufferings and longings of his homeland.

In *Glass Palace* Ghosh explores the predicament of migrants. The novel includes the sufferings of the last King of Burma. In this novel Rajkumar expressed his longing to return home. Rajkumar character reveals the great diasporic sensibility. Ghosh explains the main theme of alienation and migration in all his novels. Most often the first generation of a diasporic community face loneliness and alienation in the new country and they do not mingle with others in the settle society. Even if they try to blend with the other community people, most of the time they find it difficult as they find that they are discriminated. The diasporic writers are often preoccupied with the element of nostalgia as they seek to locate themselves in new cultures. There is an element of creativity present in the diasporic writings. The cultural displacement, alienation, dislocation, migrations are the major concept of the diasporic writers.

Conclusion

Ghosh was a prolific Indian Bengali writer belongs to the Diasporic community. All his novels influenced by the effect of loneliness. The immigration and alienation as a fact holds a great place in Diasporic writings. All his novels explore the sense of nostalgia. The haunting effect of losing homeland is considered to be the main aspect of diasporic writings. The dislocation in the characters explains the great sense of diasporic sufferings.

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K. Annapurany
Assistant Professor
PG& Research Department of English
Krishnasamy College of Science, Arts & Management for Women
Cuddalore
Tamilnadu
India
essouradjane75@gmail.com

R. Sathyapriya, Research Scholar
PG & Research Department of English
Krishnasamy College of Science, Arts & Management for Women
Cuddalore
Tamilnadu
India
sathyarulkumaran@gmail.com