

A CRITICAL STUDY ON WOMEN'S VOICES IN BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S "JASMINE" AND "WIFE"

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Abstract

In the last few decades, the voice of women has undergone a significant change in the works of Indian women who write in English. These adjustments prompt challenges to and inquiries about the dominance of men in all spheres of life. Female characters were shown by women writers like Bharati Mukherjee in a variety of ways, from the typical meek, unselfish, to incompatible, and battling for their individuality. They were determined to avoid becoming sufferers of the patriarchal society. The current study examines Bharati Mukherjee's primary female characters in the books *Wife and Jasmine*, as well as they mirror contemporary women's struggles. They delve deeply into the damaged psyches of immigrant that are torn between their natural traditional beliefs inherited from their families and their infatuation with the east american life style chosen from such liberal society. It also depicts many stages of suffering experienced by refugee women at various times of their lives.

Keywords: *transformation, Female repression, man dominance, Upland impact*

INTRODUCTION

Women writers of India are very at ease with expressing their autonomous identities through a distinctive literary aroma. Every aspect of their lives has disregarded their patience, obedience, and delicacy, which has made them very determined to keep their identities a secret. They made their feminine confessions as a result of the patriarchal society's suppression of ideals. The themes of repression, identity, resistance, and other topics have been extensively explored by female writers both in India and abroad. Their main topics are a reflection of their annoyance and dissatisfaction with the myriad societal issues that they encounter in society as a whole. They speak up boldly and forcefully against the major issues they face that are covered up by customs and traditions. In their novels, the female characters overcame obstacles and made an effort to create the female subjectivity globally. Based on these discussions, the researcher chose Bharati Mukherjee to illustrate how women actually fare in Indian society. Mukherjee overcame obstacles posed by a male-dominated culture. Mukherjee's female characters are typically drawn from metropolitan middle class and lower social classes. The tension in immigrant society between tradition and modernization. is the main focus of the characters. As a migratory writer, Mukherjee encounters a variety of obstacles and problems brought on by males who are not part of her social circle.

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Literature depicts the worldly image from a variety of perspectives. The name “literature” comes from Latin. Literature is most usually used to refer to creative works of art, including poetry, theatre, fiction, nonfiction, and sometimes visual art, film. Literature embodies a language’s or people’s culture and tradition. Bharati Mukherjee was an Indian American writer and professor who were born in Calcutta on July 27, 1940. She is a well-known feminist writer and novelist whose works primarily address key women’s issues. She wrote several novels and short story collections. She writes about cultural shifts and alienation in the immigrant experience in her works. She is the recipient of the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction.

Bharati Mukherjee excels at delicately illuminating the nuanced complexities of interpersonal connections. The core works of her reveal the women battle, grief for individuality, and resistance to misuse in an unequal world. She resided in Canada, the USA, and even India. She has the chance to hear several fragmentary voices of women while she is visiting these nations. The voices of diaspora women in Canada and the USA are heard differently in her novels *Jasmine and Wife*. Through the main characters’ suffering, such as Dimple and Jasmine, Mukherjee hopes to paint a vivid women’s’ picture that are subject to enlightening expectations and are unable to live lives without charge of such limitations. The issues of the society that she addressed are crucial to the metropolis. Studying her female characters reveals that they not only overcame male dominance’s suppression, but also that they left the kitchen’s four walls to face the obstacles that life had thrown at them. On the one hand, her women characters exhibit the ideal organization and perceptions of their identities, and they reinvent themselves through an original with a spatial perspective the issues.

In the modern novel *Jasmine*, a young Indian woman living in America struggles to integrate herself into the culture in order to endure multiple identity changes. She also wants to know who she is. She has been looking for her identity since she was a young child. When she was made a widow, she wasn’t prepared to absorb the information.

“Lifetime ago, under a banyan tree in the village of hasnpur,
An astrologer cupped his ears his satellite dish to the stars
And foretold my widowhood and exile .I was only seven the,

Fast and venturesome, scabrous armed from leaves and thorns.” (*Jasmine*3)

The novel *Jasmine* creates a gendered identity that obliterated the conceit and egotism of men. The depiction of the character *Jasmine* was of rural Indian ladies in a little village called Hasnpur fifty years ago, when societal limitations held them captive. *Jasmine*, the female lead, tells her experience while pregnant and a widow for 24 years. Her entire life demonstrates the disputed elapsed time between her Panjabi birth and adulthood in America. This character’s biographical sketch tells the story of her journey through five various events, including Three romantic relationships, one rape, two murders, and one suicide. As one reads the book, they will see that the female characters’ attitudes shift frequently, such as when *Jyoti* becomes *Jasmine*, *Jazzy* becomes *Jazzy*, *Jase* becomes *Jase*, and *Jane* becomes *Jase*. Similar to how her life moves from Hasnpur to Fowlers, Florida to Flushing, New York, New Yark to Manhattan, etc. Her tale begins in a little Indian town and travels to Europe and America. In order to create she feels her life is unstable, It is run and ruled by a rigorous, patriarchal, father-and-son-dominated Indian middle class culture, the novelist wishes to periodically express her sentiments and emotions through the circumstances and characters. *Jyoti*, a renamed *Jasmine*, is one of the identities she uses to demonstrate attitudes around women. She fell in love with *Prakash*, a contemporary American man, thanks to the effect of her English education. He initially urged her to pursue English Education while using a new identity and starting a new life.

“He wanted to break down the *Jyoti* as I’d been in Hasnapur and make me a new kind of city woman. To break off the past, he gave me a new name; *Jasmine*....*Jyoti*, *Jasmine*: I shuttled between identities”. (*Jasmine*- 77)

Jyoti, who rose from a poor rural girl to become the wife of a United States traditionalist husband, expectations as being free, honest, and open-minded? Though due to her unfortunate situation, she loses all of her fantasies and is sent back to India as a widow. The major factor raising her voice is India's strict and strong traditions around bereaved women or the requirement that she live the life of her former American-born spouse. The two dissimilar worlds of nativity and immigrant might be used to track the two cultural conflicts. She fulfils her husband's wishes and comes back to America in pursuit of a better life. She begins her second life with Taylor, an academic, and transforms into Jane, Bud's. When she relocates to Florida, she recalls all of her uprooting, dislocation, and battle for a powerful, unvarying voice. She makes an effort to forge her own new universe with fresh perspectives and ideals, disregarding her previous existence. Her new cultural voices, as well as her new goals and routines, are in perfect harmony. Due of her relationships with males, this transformation has a big impact on her life. She keeps changing her identity, going from Jasmine to Jane to now Jase. Mukherjees recounts this change as a happy and upbeat trip to New York. She expresses there in unambiguous terms her capacity to change with the times;

"I wanted to become a person they thought they saw: humorous, intelligent,
Refined, and affectionate. Not illegal, not murderer not widowed, raped,
Destitute, and fearful." (Jasmine- 171)

Jasmine next encounters Lillian Gordon, with whom she stays to start her integration process by teaching her how to become American. As a "sign of her admission into and adoption of American society, which she welcomes enthusiastically," Lillian gives her the short name "Jazzy." After that, she relocates to Hushing, New York, where she lives with a traditional Indian family. Jasmine quickly feels trapped in this house's immobility because it is utterly cut off from everything American. She forges yet another identity based on a new understanding of herself with Taylor, his wife Wylie, and their daughter Duff. Although Jasmine invents a new persona for each circumstance, her past selves are never truly forgotten. They appear at specific points in the transcript and increase the tension, which causes Jasmine to develop a new, distinct personality from all of the earlier ones.

Jasmine begins to improve in the English language while living with the Hayes, giving her the ability to advance American society. Taylor starts to address her as "Jase," implying that she has no influence over the development of her new identity. Jasmine also discovers her racial identity for the first time in the Hayes household as a result of Taylor and his friends' attempts to connect her with the South Asian community after realizing she was from that region. Jasmine moves around a lot in quest of a distinct identity. She emphasizes the complicated identity of a female in banishes as she draws to a close.

Dimple, the protagonist of the book "Wife," goes above and beyond the expectations of a wife. The protagonist is introduced in the book's start, which also maintains the mocking tone. She marries Amit Basu, who is visiting the United States of America. She is anticipated to behave as the ideal Indian wife, remain at home, and maintain the home for the husband. Her annoyance is increasingly increased by the situation. According to feminist viewpoints, she objects to be the better half of the Basu family and opposes the role of wife.

Whatever the case, her marriage keeps her self-character at a safe distance. She pursues self-awareness and the accomplishment of her passion. Basu continues in a unlike way. She must be a patient and understanding spouse for him. Therefore, Dimple abhors Basu's behaviour. Even merely to fulfill his sexual urges, he needs her. at last, in the name of anguish, she murders Amit as a show of self-freedom before killing herself. As she rejects the language that has been used to socially and ideologically interpret her identity up to this point by fitting her thoughts and desires as a woman, her conduct liberates her in this way.

CONCLUSION

As a result, the two distinct characters, Jasmine and Dimple, each have had an individual voice raised in opposition to oppression and exploitation as cultural and social restraints. In real-time tones, the novelists methodically addressed sensitive themes in the guise of female characters in society. These due women vital characters of the novels had harsh feelings in the loss both of them son, displacement, estrangement, then struggle for their same tones. Whereas, women tried their hardest to acclimatise to life in the Western world in order to overcome the obstacles in women's lives and they succeeded.

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