

Diasporic Voices: The Challenges of Identify

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Abstract: *This article is intended to retell the voices of the diasporic authors, who commonly undergo the variegated experiences, to say, the best and the bitterest in the foreign soils, viz, the countries they live in; by homing away from their home land, either to eke out lives or to live more presumptuous lives but still reeling in the old memories, which have been haunting them and popping up in the minds by the recurring instigation of the reminisces and the powerful emotions unforgettably indeed, as well, the diaspora certainly comprises both the voluntary scattering and the involuntary dispersion, the former one pertains to the Jewish community in the world; whereas the latter one, embodies the remainder of the groups, who wittingly wish to go and live in other countries whether the pleasure or pain would await them.*

Keywords: Variegated Experiences, diaspora, challenges, bitterest, homing away, reminisces, dispersion, wittingly, inter- generational conflicts and nostalgia.

1. Diaspora

The term "Diaspora" is derived from the Greek verb 'Diospeiro', which means 'scattering' or 'spreading' or it graphically means being separated from the conventional and the ancestral homeland at the expense of their traditions and the sundry bonds of the soil. First and foremost thing, which we have to focus on is on the remarkable diasporic communities, as part of my analysis, a few such populations, I would like to bring to light for the benefit of the interesting and avid readership in the society; and as per the preceding reference, we have the following the paramount dispersed groups such as Jewish; Flavius Josephus says about the dispersion of Jews that in A.D, 64, he was twenty-six, Josephus sailed to Rome on a mission to secure the release of some Jewish priests who were imprisoned there after the Roman government Felix had sent them to Nero for trial on some insignificant offence. (Flavius 8)

Greek; Indian; Mexican; Chinese diasporas and many such to be mentioned truly. In 1594, we find the oldest use of the word 'Diaspora' in John Stockwood's translation of Lambert Daneau's commentary on 'The Twelve Prophets'. William Safran in an article, which was published in 1991, beautifully distinguishes the diasporas from the migrant communities saying that the diasporas consciously recount their home land by regarding ancestral home land as their true and the permanent home, in which they have the truest happiness. Robin Cohen says that diasporic group could leave its homeland and assimilate deeply into the host cultures consciously or unconsciously. Rogers Brubaker considers the orientation to a real or imagined 'homeland' as an authoritative source of value, identity and loyalty.

The diverse populations, which have been scattered due to ineffable slavery, scorching penury, dangerous perils, the cruel persecution, unavoidable conflicts or joyous willingness to go abroad, but still who are deeply and unforgettably acquainted with their home lands, would like enthusiastically write about their home land or the experiences of the present foreign land in which they live now.

2. Challenges of Diaspora

It is very apparent that English diasporic writers around the globe have indeed contributed significantly to literature, ventilating their ideas through their strenuous works, that reflect their experiences of migration, displacement, identity, and belongingness. Salman Rushdie, who was an Indian born, British- American novelist, and who was knighted in 2007 for his services in literature, wrote numerous significant works such as *Midnight Children* in 1981 and *Jospeh Anton: A Memoir*. His works deeply delve into the complexities of diverse cultures; the influence of colonialism and migration unfolding the diasporic challenges. Another most significant writer, V. S Naipaul, who was a Trinidadian- born British writer, has profoundly penned both fictional and nonfictional writings and one of his crucial works is *A House for Mr. Biswas* in 1961 and he received the most prestigious, Nobel Prize for literature in 2001. His novels perspicuously expound on the theme of alienation in the world, which consists of 'Diasporic trait' and all his characters really embody the cultural identity and displacement and the aches that result due to the challenges aforementioned.

One of the foremost diasporic writers in the world is **Samuel Selvon**, who was a Trinidadian and later on, moved to London. His novel *The Lonely Londoners*, which is about the working class 'black people', craftily details the life of West Indians in post- World War II in London, wherein the immigrants sensibly consider the centre of the world it's conflicts. And the novel follows a limited number of characters of the 'Windrush generation', all of them 'coloureds' through their daily lives in the capital. The unifying central character of Trinidad, a man called Moses Aloetta, a veteran émigré who, even after more than ten years in London, has still not achieved anything of note and whose homesickness increases as he gets older as he is unhappy, which symbolically speaks about the challenges of one confronts in a land unknown in any diaspora globally.

Diana J. Gabaldon, who is an American author is the best-known *Outlander series* and the historical fiction and fantasy. Gabaldon's 'Outlander' series features a protagonist, who travels between 18th-century Scotland and the 20th century,

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vividly and enthusiastically exploring themes of love, loyalty, and the complexities and the challenges of diaspora. Suzanna Arundhati Roy, who is an Indian author, who is the best known for her novel, *The God of Small Things* in 1997 and she is an enthusiastic advocate for the poor and needy in the cases of human rights and the environmental causes. Her works indeed highlight the complex socio-political issues in India and beyond, examining the power dynamics and the inequalities in the society. She writes as if she is away from home, while actually being there. The feeling of despair surrounding colonialism and westernization is clear in her works. This is the reason, she is considered to be a diasporic writer. Kiran Desai, who is an Indian-born American author, best known for *The Inheritance of Loss*, proved to be an established diasporic writer of Indian origin. In her fictional works, She characterises Indians as protagonists. Her novels represent Indian immigrants who struggle to settle in an alien country usually America. Publishers weekly opinions regarding Desai that Stunning. . . alternately comical and contemplative . . . [Desai] deftly shuttles between first and third worlds, illuminating the pain of exile, the ambiguities of post-colonialism and the blinding desire for a “better life (Desai 1)2

Rohinton Mistry, who is an Indian—born Canadian writer, received the prestigious Neustadt International Prize for literature in 2012 and he belongs to Parsi Zoroastrian religious minority. His first novel, *Such a Long Journey* in 1991, has brought him the national and the international acclaim and his second novel, *A Fine Balance* (1995), specifically concerns the four people from Bombay who struggle with the family and the work against the backdrop of the political unrest in India during the mid-1970s. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who is a Nigerian novelist, poet and essayist wrote her her famous work, known as *We should all be feminists* in 2024 and the way she deeply explores the experiences of Nigerians both at home and abroad, grappling with the issues of identity and societal expectations is highly commendable.

Zadie Smith, who is an English novelist, wrote her first novel known as *White Teeth*, in 2000, which focuses on the later lives of two wartime friends- the Bangladesh’ Samad Iqbal and the Englishman, Archie Jones- and their families in London and the novel clearly centres on Britain's relationship with immigrants from the British Commonwealth. Her works zeroes in on themes like multiculturalism, race and urban life and glaringly depict the intricacies of the multicultural societies.

Hanif Kureishi, who is a British Pakistani playwright and novelist is the best known for his novel *The Buddha of Suburbia*, and whose works clearly enunciate the themes of cultural and sexual identity, as well as the tensions arising from the cultural clashes and the generational differences in the immigrant families. Khaled Hosseini, who is an Afghanistan- American novelist and whose debut novel *The Kite Runner*, has enlightened the global audience about the people and culture Afghanistan. *The Kite Runner* is about father- son relationship charmingly emphasising the familial aspects of the narrative and in which is contained the themes of guilt and redemption. A pivotal scene that portray an act of sexual assault inflicted upon Amir's friend Hassan, which

Amir miserably fails to prevent, and which finally ends their friendship is very highlighting. His novels concentrate on the characters grappling with the impact of political turmoil and conflict in Afghanistan.

Monica Ali, who was a Bangladeshi writer, moved to England and lived in Bolton, in the northwest of England. The mid-1970s wave of immigration from Asian countries to England comprised mostly poor people searching for better lives and fleeing unrest in their home countries. Ali and her family witnessed the rise in popularity of the National Front, an anti-immigration, right-wing party that intensely fueled racism and terrible tensions within the communities as well as within Ali's own extended family. Her famous novel, *Brick Lane* speaks about Nazneen, after, whose arranged marriage to Chanu, a man twenty years older, is taken to London, leaving her home and heart in the Bangladeshi village where she was born and the writer autobiographically says that her new world is full of mysteries. As a good Muslim girl, Nazneen struggles not to why the certain things happen but humbly submit to Fate and totally devotes herself to her husband and daughters. Yet to her amazement, she begins an affair with a handsome young radical, and her erotic awakening throws her old certainties into chaos. Ali's novels are the superb depictions of the experiences of South Asian immigrants in Western societies

Sir Kazuo Ishiguro, who was a Japanese- British novelist was awarded Nobel Prize for literature in 2017. One of the famous citations by Swedish Academy on Ishiguro is Ishiguro as a writer in his novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with world. His first two novels are *A Pale View of Hills* and *An Artist of the Floating World*, which greatly speak about Japanese identity and their mournful tone and his themes include loneliness, and the human condition the depictions of the characters, who strugglingly grapple with their pasts and search for belonging. Caryl Phillips, who was a kittiitian-British novelist is best known for his novel, *The Final Passage*. At the age of 22, he visited St. Kitts for the first time, which journey, in fact, provided the inspiration for the first novel. Phillips' works span the different historical periods and the geographical locations, exploring the legacy of colonialism, the African diaspora, and the complexities of racial identity.

Edwidge Danticat, who is a Haitian- American novelist and a short writer, write her first novel *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, which was published in 1994. The novel is written in a first person narrative. The narrator, Sophie Caco, relates her direct experiences and impressions from age 12 until she is in her twenties. And Sophie is the product of a violent rape and is raised by her loving aunt in a village near Port-au-Prince for 12 years. At this point, Sophie is unexpectedly summoned by her mother, who lives in Brooklyn having gained asylum and immigrated to the United States. Living with her mother in New York. Her themes broadly highlight Haitian culture and in which we can clearly see Haitian diaspora experience, portraying the struggles and triumphs of Haitian immigrants living in the United States and the Caribbean. Amy Ruth Tan, who is an American author is best known for her novel, *The Joy Luck Club* in 1989, which focuses on the four Chinese immigrant families in San Francisco, who start a club known

as ‘The Joy Luck Club’, playing the Chinese game of mahjong for money while feasting on a variety of foods. Structurally, the novel is divided into four major sections, with two sections focusing on the stories of the mothers and two sections on the stories of the daughters. Tan's novels profoundly delve into the complexities of Chinese-American immigrant experiences, exploring themes of cultural assimilation and the quest for self-discovery.

Ngugi Wa Thiong’ o, who is a Kenyan author and known as East Africa’s leading novelist. “Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language” in African Literature in 1986, is a famous essay arguing for African writers' expression in their native languages rather than European languages, in order to renounce lingering colonial ties and to build authentic African literature. His debut novel, *Weep Not, Child*, in 1964 is the first novel in English to be published by a writer from East Africa. The novel deals with the Mau Mau Uprising, which is ‘Mau Mau rebellious war in the British Kenyan colony or Kenyan Emergency. Ngūgĩ’s writings expound on the impact of colonialism on African societies, advocating for the decolonisation of language and the restoration and liberation of indigenous cultures by any means.

3. Conclusion

The writers, whom I have discussed, have significantly made the foundational contributions by knitting together the prominent narratives that strikingly reflect the diverse experiences of diasporic communities, as well, by shedding truer light on the challenges, triumphs, and complexities of living between cultures and the complexities of identity in a global village, moreover, their paramount themes incorporated in their writings are identity, exile, cultural clash, magical realism, post colonialism, religion, Scottish diaspora, social justice, caste, globalisation, environmentalism, poverty, discrimination, the corrupting influence of society, cultural hybridity, Afghan culture, friendship and family, Chinese-American identity, mother-daughter relationships, cultural heritage, intergenerational conflict and they are also teemed with many such manifold themes certainly!

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