

Representations of Multiple Identities in Middle-Class Society: A Comparative Literary Analysis of Aravind Adiga and Amitav Ghosh

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Abstract: *Literature explores the philosophical movements and ideas of the developing society. It gives a detailed account of human life based on desire and emotion. The concept of literature changes over time as well. Literature has an overwhelming approach in twenty first century which means to connect the world literature with each other. Contemporary literature plays constructive role in the lives of individual and middle class society, and allows us to understand the representation of Multiple Identities in the Middle Class Society and cultural change at particular time. Amitav Ghosh belongs to the new generations of writers who overthrow the dependency of colonial power and create own identity in the society in the world of literature in English. He established himself as one of the most leading writers of his generation. His fiction and non - fiction appeals representation of Multiple Identities in the Middle Class Society issues with philosophical representation and presents innovative ideas and narrative techniques in his writing. Ghosh experiments to reconstruct the public history of Indian subcontinent. His experiences discuss the various issues of contemporary India and it is the aim of this novel. Aravind Adiga's fiction and non - fiction centered on India, covers almost every aspect of representation of Multiple Identities in the Middle Class Society life of nation. He raises the modern issues like spiritual subjugation and violence with women, terrorism, gambling, etc. He focuses on the psychological issues like quest for identity, dislocation, alienation, loneliness, frustration, fear and so on. The current representation of Multiple Identities in the Middle Class Society taboos are a theme of his various works.*

Keywords: Contemporary literature, Multiple Identities, Middle Class Society, psychological issues

1. Introduction

The issue of identity, which has always occupied human imagination in its various ramifications, remains a hugely disputed academic topic. The older assumptions of identity as something fixed and definite is somewhat obsolete in our times, for identity is now looked upon as fluid and ever - inchoate. Moreover the global interconnectedness intensified by the unprecedented revolution in ICT (Information Communication Technology) in recent times has resulted in the break - down of borders and barriers among various nations. No wonder that in the context of intensified communication what constitutes identity is worth exploring. The importance of identity as a theoretical concept can be seen from the way it has come to be studied in various academic fields like sociology and politico - cultural studies. This can also be gathered from how identity figures as a major trope in contemporary literary discourses. In her 'Introduction' to Identity and Difference, Kathryn Woodward says: This Paper is about identity because identity matters, both in terms of social and political concerns within the contemporary world and within academic discourses where identity has been seen as conceptually important in offering explanations of social and cultural changes¹ (1). It has sometimes been argued that we become concerned with identity only when we encounter its disintegration. Mercer suggests that identity becomes an issue only when it is in —crisis, when something assumed to be fixed, coherent and stable is displaced by the experience of doubt and uncertainty.

Other cognate terms are employed to address the eternal philosophical problems of permanence amidst fluidity and unity in the midst of diversity with the rise of race, class, and gender as the —holy trinity of literary criticism and cultural

studies, the issue of identity has assumed centrality in academic discourses. Rather than glorifying their collective identity in a larger community, people prefer to organize themselves on the basis of their difference² on issues like gender, race, ethnicity etc. As these people have started asserting their difference and demanded social recognition of it, one finds the emergence of identity - centered politics, which gradually has become too strong to be overlooked. In the ordinary older sense of the term, 'identity refers to the name or any such recognition tag by which a person is known to others. This name embodies the identity of the person. But apart from offering certain personal information like family line, mere name cannot capture the identity of a person. The essence of one's _true being escapes, as Tagore has shown in poem of Gitanjali, He whom I enclose with my name is Weeping in this dungeon. I am ever Busy building this wall all around; and As this wall goes up into the sky day By day I lose sight of my true being in Its dark shadow. I take pride in this great wall, and I Plaster it with dust and sand lest a least Hole should be left in this name; and For all the care I take I lose sight of My true being middle class society.

Profile of the Amitav Ghosh

Amitav Ghosh is a versatile writer and well - known figure in the contemporary English literature. He is an Indian - born writer popular for his innovative and complex narrative techniques to probe the issues of nation and individual's identity; specifically the people belong to India and Southeast Asia. His wide range of fiction and non - fiction deals with the identity crises at different levels in the epic form of travel and diaspora, history and past memories, political conflict and communal violence, love and loss, life and death. Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society

Ghosh belongs to a new breed of Indian writers that has changed the way of representing the Orient. His fiction and non-fiction are based on the characters, traditions and dichotomies of his native land and extend beyond boundaries towards the Middle East and England. His discourse of work exposes the cross-cultural ties between colonized and colonizer as well as India and neighboring nations. It is worthy to call him as a cosmopolitan writer as he traveled overseas extensively and interact with many identities. The interaction produced the collision of language, culture, dislocation and exile of lives in Southeast Asia or elsewhere. Both his fiction and non-fiction cross the boundaries and provide transnational understanding of self. He is one of the new generations of cosmopolitan Indian novelist writing in English whose fiction is a restless narrative motion with the central characters, travelers and diasporic exiles. He treats political boundaries and conceptual boundaries as permeable fictions to be constantly transgressed. His debut novel *The Circle of Reason* (1986) and *The Shadow Lines* (1988) have been compared with the novels of expatriate novelist Salman Rushdie for central themes of migrant sensibility. Some critics also commented on his style of narrative writing which is highly similar to Indian and Arabic folktales.

Amitav Ghosh: As a Successful Journalist

Amitav Ghosh is not only the world famous Indian-Bengali novelist but also well-known for his work in journalism. During his Master Degree at Delhi he began his career as a part-time journalist through engaging himself in reporting and editorial work of *The Indian Express* newspaper. Journalism has been very part of his life. It needs a lot of stamina to look for the stories to explore in his writings. He always says, 'Journalism requires a lot of effort'. He started his career in journalism to experience the closest thing to a literary career and to learn a great deal from his time as a journalist. He admits: Before I was an anthropologist I was a journalist, and that is very much a part of the way I write. I pay close attention to what is happening around me.

Ghosh's writings based on reality, he wrote for many publications such as *The Hindu*, *The New Yorker* and *Granta*. He is a great writer of journalistic pieces on travel. In his childhood and later he traveled to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran, Egypt, and United Kingdom. This traveling is always connected with his fictional work with a close link. *Incendiary Circumstances: A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Times* (2006) is a collection of essays from different locations around the world for various magazines. It covers the past two decades of his experience as a journalist. His fiction and non-fiction are very worthy for reading and useful to study the peaceful coexistence and humanitarian appeal to different class, race, caste, creed, religion and habitat. His works include sketches, memories and revisiting of past and present which gives new vision to social, political and historical aspects.

Amitav Ghosh: As a Noble Writer

Indian writing in English emerged as a new horizon on the canvas of the world literature after the post-colonial era. The expert writers like Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Shashi Tharoor, Vikram Seth, Ram Chandra Guha, Kiran Desai, Arundhati Roy and number of authors presented the hidden, suppressed and neglected part of history and socio-politics.

Their writing are questioning to the world about various issues of their identities and their past, present and future. They changed the dimension of writing and developed a world beyond boundaries of caste, religion, race, color, creed, diaspora, community, region, state and nation.

He started literary writing during school days with the contribution of fiction and poetry to *The Doon School Weekly* and magazine *History Time* with association of Ram Chandra Guha. During his master's degree he started job as a reporter and editor in *The Indian Express* at the same time he continued his literary writing. His debut novel, *The Circle of Reason* was published in 1986. The novel is divided into three parts which represent the phases of protagonist's life which also run parallel to the concepts of 'reason, passion and death'. The novel focused on the leading character who is suspected of being a terrorist and his journey from India to Africa, a Bengali villager who travelled to Egyptian town, an outpost in the Algerian Sahara. The coincidences and connections are similarly found in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*. The fable elements and picaresque fiction depict the post-colonial quality of migration and marginalization with the inter-textual nature and colonial factors. Playwright Hanif Kureishi remarks:

Ghosh's style is multi-dimensional, ironic, a mixture of the bizarre and the ordinary, but that while the pot swills with life and parts of the stew are delicious, it is not cooked all the way through. His second novel, *The Shadow Lines* published in 1988 deals with the issues of inventing past and exposing the partition of India and the aftermath of departure of British colonizer from India. The story is moving around Calcutta, London and Dhaka. The anonymous narrator tells the whole story of different characters experienced in their lives. It is a sweeping history of two intertwined families, Indian and British, and raises the question on the boundaries between individuals and nations. Maria Couto remarked: Ghosh has found his own distinctive voice - polished and profound, and deemed the work a compelling novel wistful in its tone, assured in its achieved vision.

The novel not only presents the Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society upheavals but also the emotional trauma of complicity, betrayal, love, guilt, and mystery in structural narrative style. The narrator's development with his eccentric uncle Tridib, his grandmother Tha'mma, cousin Ila, Price and May all these characters raising different issues of socio-politics and identity crisis. The novel exposes the brutal part of partition, the victims, migrants, riots, communal strife, rapes and lost lives.

Ghosh's third novel, *The Calcutta Chromosome: A Novel of Fevers, Delirium and Discovery* was published in 1995. It is his first science-fiction and a medical thriller, set in future and moving around the few characters to offer a different history of discovery of a parasite of malaria carrier of a certain species of mosquito. Murgan uncovers the truth behind the discovery of Ronald Ross on malaria. The novel has significance to understand the disease; it is reclaimed and redefined through Indian terms.

Amitav Ghosh's Achievements.

Amitav Ghosh's fiction - non - fiction works are recognized internationally for which he got so many national and international awards. He received France's Prix Medic award for *The Circle of Reason* in 1990; it is one of the France's chief literary award. His milestone *The Shadow Lines* received two prestigious Indian awards, The Sahitya Akademi and Anand Puruskar in 1990. *In An Antique Land* received New York Times Notable Book of the Year in 1993. In 1999 he received nomination for American Society of Magazine Editors Award for *Countdown*. In 1997, Arthur C. Clarke award for science fiction was presented to him for *The Calcutta Chromosome: A Novel of Fevers, Delirium and Discovery*. He won Pushcart Prize in 1999 for an essay 'The March of the Novel through History; The Testimony of My Grandfather's Bookcase'. His notable work *The Glass Palace* received Grand Prize for Fiction at Frankfurt in 2001. The same novel was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Prize in 2001 but he withdrew from nomination race because of the objection on the term 'Commonwealth' and inequality in the rule of the English language requirement.

Ghosh's novel *The Hungry Tide* won the Crossword Book Award, it was major Indian award for the best novel of the year in January 2005 and the same novel was shortlisted for the Kiriya Prize, San Francisco in 2006. Ghosh was awarded with the Grinzane Cavour Award at Turin, Italy in 2007 for his lifetime achievement. His next novel *The Sea of Poppies* was finalized for the Man Booker Prize in 2008. He received India Piazza Golden Quill Award for the best novel, British Book Design and Production Award and the same novel is a co - winner of the Vodafone Crossword Book Award in 2009.

In 2010, Queens College, New York and the Sorbonne University, Paris awarded him with the honorary doctorates for his academic contribution. In the same year he won the Israel's prestigious Dan David Prize together with Margaret Atwood for this contribution to reworking of the great tradition of the Western novel in transnational terms. The Jury praised his work and states: Ghosh's work provides a transnational understanding... produced by the collision of languages and cultures; displacement and exile - lives torn between, India, Burma, England, and elsewhere; psychological turmoil of colonial rule and postcolonial dispossession; a globe wrecked by two wars and their ancillary bloodshed.

Thammasa's travel to Dhaka gives her new identity because of passport and visa though her place of birth mentioned that she is native of Dhaka but post - partition makes her immigrant and her coming home become arriving in foreign country. Her nostalgia about Dhaka, her birthplace, childhood memories and roots but the nation and boundaries create partition on the surface and mind of Indians. She feels alien in her own land with a new identity as a foreigner. Such ironical situation is compared with a widow daughter who visits her father's home. It exposes the contradiction of native and foreign identities. The partition of Bengal creates paradoxical situation among native Bengali people who migrate to India. Such massive migration of Bengalis changes their identity. Their home - land becomes abroad and going becomes coming, and their quest for identity always makes confusion

among the migrant. The novel divides into two sections "*Going Away and Coming Home*" exposes the post - colonial situation for the immigrant and it is challenging to understand their identity. Thammasa thinks that partition is the cause for dislocation and destitution of her family. She faces problems while going through the procedure of immigration papers. This complication to reach her homeland exposes the idea of physical and psychological gap. The phantom space creates shadow line on the mind of every migrant and imposes the idea of nation whereas India stands for unity in diversity, the diversity in nature, culture, history, society, religion and language imposed over immigrated communities. However the barbed wire fencing LOC, passports and visa create much psychological border.

Amitav Ghosh, in his fiction, uses history to bring out the voices that have been pushed into oblivion and unveils a better perception of history beyond the capabilities of historians. By narrating historical events over a period of time, Ghosh brings out the impact of public events on private life. In *The Shadow Lines*, he revisits the past, breaks the conventional history and presents the real truth of history bringing out a totally different dimension through his narration. Each of his characters is a representation of millions of citizens. The narration of historical event paves way for representation of individuals who are affected by historical riots and partition. Ghosh also focuses the impact of riot and partition that results in the migration of people to the land of insecurity, and he presents this from the perception of ordinary people.

Nature and Human Relationship in Middle class Society.

Amitav Ghosh chooses to situate his novel in the tide country, the novel raises voice on various issue like ecology, climate change, environmental problems, man - animal encounters, corruption of bureaucracy, etc. Sundarbans, where sea and land change their face twice in a day, is wide spread area of mangroves as locally named sundari trees where jungle grows quickly on land but the tidal surge wash over island to recreate another. It is an archipelago of island known as tide country made up of islands, mangrove jungle, rivers, creeks, sandbars, channels and habitat of flora and fauna like tigers, crocodiles, snakes, dolphins, and humans. It is the place where rivers, sea, land, humans, flora and fauna co - exist. Sometimes nature is kind and benevolent but suddenly changes into disastrous, chaotic and havoc.

The novel centers on the outsiders visits to the tide country, Piya and Kanai, and their interaction with the inhabitant of tide country. They explore that the life of Sundarbans is isolated and surrounded with deaths from tigers, crocodiles, and other predators. The beauty of Sundarbans is harsh and vengeful, this makes human habitat with full of struggle and difficult task always under the fear of death. The inhabitants are facing the starvation and calamities due to salty water which made the land infertile. Their fight for hunger drove them into fishing, hunting and honey collecting which affected the natural balance of Sundarbans. The over use of natural resources creates the ecological disaster and disturb the life of human beings, and flora and fauna of Sundarbans. The life in tide country is full of human and nature conflicts, uncertain and unsure, and equally struggle to survive in the hostile environment.

Community and Communal Strife

Amitav Ghosh, one of the foremost writers in Indian writing in English who presents the global changes, multi - cultural community and cosmopolitanism. His novels including *The Hungry Tide* portray the darker side of India and its socio - politics. The novel presents the agony of inhabitants of tide country who are refugees, lower castes Hindus, illiterate and oppressed. The harsh realities of Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society life in the Sundarbans exposed through the novel.

The Hungry Tide deals with various issues like history of Sundarbans, subalterns, socio - politics, migration, colonialism, communal strife as well as communal harmony, myths and folklores of the tide country. Ghosh focus on the consequences of the partition on religious ground with the demand for separate Muslim country results the worse for the Hindus and Muslims relationship. The Bengal split into two parts West Bengal, a Hindu majority province and East Bengal, Muslim majority province and a half of Pakistan, later become Bangladesh.

The partition was accompanied by the mass migration of millions of Hindus from their ancestral land in East Pakistan to West Bengal, India and the Muslims from India to East Pakistan later Bangladesh. The peaceful co - existence in history suddenly changed into violent bloodshed. The birth of Hindustan and Pakistan in 1947, and the second wave of partition of Bangladesh in 1971, religiously and politically separate nation felt the barbarity of riots on both sides of borders. The Punjab witnessed the partition riots between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims and in Bengal riots between Hindus and Muslims. He shows the consequences of the partition on life of people through his attempt of retell the history:

Profile of Aravind Adiga

The 21st Century literature is the age of young and enthusiastic writers in English literature. These modern marvels are capable to present truthful and unconventional image of society to readers beyond the national boundaries. The revolutionary writers including Amitav Ghosh and Aravind Adiga have dealt with the basic issues pertaining to creative and critical change in the Indian writing in English like post - colonialism, multi - culturalism, nativism, and socio - politics in the middle class society. The beginning of new generation writers marks the rebellion against the traditionally set of history and sociopolitics. The awakening of the masses reflects the notions of changing society and indicates revolt against the factors solely responsible for socio - cultural and economic changes. Aravind Adiga, one of the most creative writers of modern Indian writers in English who took challenges of contemporary world like financial extortion, social marginalization, political upheavals and spiritual subjugation of the powerless. He presents the darker side of shining India behind the screen of economic, political, infrastructural and technological development of India. He sheds light on the tragic deprivation of rural and urban poor class against the propagandist scene of a happy, peaceful and successful globalized India. He convinces the readers that there are two Indias within a India, two countries in one: 'an India of Light, and an India of Darkness'. The image of modern India is a glory of some tiny class and created a

metaphor of successful and shining India, and hides the black images of shining India from world. Cristina Mendes clarified the concept of two Indias and remarks: The India of Light is that of wealth, technology and knowledge, while the India of Darkness (where the majority of Indians live) is that of misery, destitution and illiteracy.

Career: As a Successful Journalist

Aravind Adiga a world famous novelist and well - known journalist started his career as a financial journalist intern at Financial Times. He published pieces on the stock market and investment, and interviewed luminaries. He also wrote literary reviews, one of the famous reviews on Oscar and Lucinda written by previous Booker Prize winner Peter Carey which appeared in *The Second Circle*, an online literary review. Then, he was hired by Times Magazine and served as a South Asia correspondent for three years, and quit Times Magazine to work as a freelance. During his freelancer period, he wrote his masterpiece and the Man Booker Prize winning book *The White Tiger*.

Aravind Adiga: As a Noble Writer

The Post - colonial era brings us a new generation of writers and their new ideas to the world literature. Aravind Adiga is one of them who wrote multi - layered, exotic, mysterious, colorful fiction and non - fiction. His writing includes the socio - political, economic, religious and cultural issues of modern India, and raises voice on the India's seventy five year old democracy. He shows disparity of society in rural and urban parts of India that create huge gap between the poor and the rich, lower class and middle class society and upper class. He handled every theme cleverly like corruption, poverty, politics and age - old social norms that are responsible for disharmony in contemporary society. He established himself on the literary arena of Indian English literature. His fictions are transforming from traditional society to modern version of Indian society. He tries to highlight the current issues of Indian society and globalization, modern development of India making in various aspects. He conveys a message to tackle the current issues in a serious manner. Raj Chengappa focuses on the issues: There are big issues to tackle; put the economy back on the growth path, ensure that there is enough food, clothing, drinking water, shelter, healthcare and education facilities for those have not, take steps to ensure the nation against external and internal threat and keep our citizen safe, be generous and kind to the weak and needy and tough and unsparing to the wicked and the crooked

Aravind Adiga's Achievements

Aravind Adiga's fictional and non - fictional works are recognized worldwide for which he received many national and international awards for his contribution to literature and journalism. He has written many reviews and novels, short stories that made him popular among the public masses. His debut novel *The White Tiger* published in 2008 and nominated for The Man Booker Prize with Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Sea of Poppies* was finalized for the Man Booker Prize in 2008. First time two Indian novelists were shortlisted for The Man Boor Prize and Adiga's novel. Overtook Ghosh's novel in the competition, and won the Man Booker Prize for his debut novel. He was the fourth Indian -born author to win the prize after Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy and Kiran Desai. More than 200, 000 million copies of his

debut novel *The White Tiger* are sold. In 2009, it was announced that the novel would be adapted to screen but the film was not made for some years. In 2021, the film was released under the same title *The White Tiger*. The film was directed by Ramin Bahrani and casting stars include Adarsh Gaurav as Balram/ Ashok Sharma, Raj Kumar Rao as Ashok Shah, Balram's master and Priyanka Chopra as Pinki Shah, Ashok's wife. The film was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay at the 93 Academy Awards. In 2009, he received many awards and prizes for his debut novel including Trubidy Show Listeners Choice Book of the Year award, John Liewellyn - Rhys Memorial Prize, Commonwealth Writers Prize (South East Asia and South Pacific Region, Best Book) and British Book Awards Author of the Year. In 2021, His latest novel *Amnesty* was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. Though he has been shortlisted for many literary achievements, many awards and honors are waiting for him but his contribution to literature and freelance makes him worthy.

The White Tiger: A Study of Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society

Perspectives Aravind Adiga's debut novel *The White Tiger* published in 2008, won the 40th Man Booker Prize of the year. The novel deals with the Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society structure and relationship to shape the various aspects of country. The characters are drawn from the various walks of the social paradigm to discuss in detail and are compared with other literary characters of Salman Rushdie, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai etc. These characters clearly depict the popularity of the text as well as the intriguing nature of the characters. Adiga condemns through his writings various evils and ill nature of Indian society and provides the scenario of the malpractices in the World's largest democracy, and second largest populated society. The novel is a social criticism highlighting the problems of poverty and misery of nation and its religious conflicts, Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society upheavals presented in the form of humor and irony. The chapter attempts the detailed analysis of the Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society interventions of Adiga's blazingly *The White Tiger*. The novel deals with the dark humorous perspective of Indian class and caste system, and its struggle in a globalized world. The story exposes the globalized India in the voice of Balram Halwai, a protagonist and the retrospective narrator of the novel. Balram's journey begins with Delhi, the capital of India and politics where he works as a driver to rich landlord Ashok and his wife Pinky madam and then Bangalore, the capital of IT sector where he flees after killing his master, Ashok and stealing his money. He transcends his sweet maker caste and launches his own taxi service, *White Tiger Technology Drivers*, and proves himself as a successful entrepreneur. The novel examines the Representation of multiple identities in the middle class society issues of caste, religion, corruption, crime and poverty of India. Adiga brings him out of the traditional frame of protagonist and makes him a strange amalgamation of a hero, villain, antagonist, rebel and a victim of destiny. Indeed, he is a protagonist of New Age; Adiga reveals the inspiration of Balram in his interview:

Structure of the Novel

The White Tiger is an Orwellian satire on the contemporary Indian society. Adiga brilliantly uses epistolary and flashback

techniques to present the life story of central character, Balram. The protagonist is a poor villager, servant, philosopher, entrepreneur and murderer of his master. Adiga uses an effective narrative technique to reveal Balram's life story. The whole story is in narrative form through the witty letters to the Chinese Premier which reveals his personal views on cosmopolitan cities and global India. These letters warn him not to be become fooled by imaginary picture that dirty politicians might paint to show him the life in India. He believes himself a social entrepreneur who pen picture the realistic picture to understand life in India through his life story. These aspects of Partition - how families were divided, how friendships endured across borders, how people coped with the trauma, how they rebuilt their lives. . . trauma shaped their lives, and indeed the cities and towns and villages they settled in - find little reflection in written history.⁴⁹

Ghosh exposes the aspect of subaltern history with references the sexual exploitation and harassment of women refugees. During partition riots Muslim communalist targeted Hindu women, firstly raped then killed brutally. Whereas in Sundarbans, the upper caste people like Dilip exploits poor women and throws into the death valley of prostitution as Kusum's mother sold in brothel by Dilip. The Police are forced to refugees to leave Morichjhapi and keep them starved as well as the men were arrested and the young women were treated wrongly. The police cordon raped the helpless women at random and finally threw them after killing. Nilima declaims: The men who came to evict refugee settler from the island had taken away a group of women by force, they were used and then thrown into the rivers so that they would be washed away by the tides.

Ross Mallick writes about the police who hire Muslim thugs to assist them because Muslims would be less merciful to the plight of refugees, specially the lower caste Hindus. The deaths during the eviction remain unsolved mystery, the casualties numbered in hundreds and following reports in the press. No enquiry commission is conducted to find the culprits, as the refugees are marginalized the same way massacre of Morichjhapi marginalized from the history. Adiga successfully builds up the climax and covers the journey of Balram which begins with a loyal servant of Laxmangarh and ends with successful entrepreneur in Bangalore. The simplicity, humor and boldness create the caustic sarcasm and scathing irony. The novel revolves around metaphors of darkness as well as light. The darkness stands for village life and the light represents the great cities of colorful dreams. Balram asserts: Like all good stories, mine begins far away from Bangalore. You see, I am in the light now, but I was born and raised in Darkness.¹⁰ Aravind Adiga sets the novel in three different parts of India, Laxmangarh, a village in Bihar, Delhi, capital city and political center of India and Bangalore, a cosmopolitan city, and IT hub. The novel is divided into eight parts including with the seven nights on which Balram Halwai alias *White Tiger* alias Ashok Sharma writes a letter to the Chinese Premier, Wen Jiabao. The half of the novel centers on the poor class and their pathetic condition, and imposed poverty by landlords. The story takes turn when Balram gets a job as a driver of one of landlords and his entry in the political capital, Delhi. He hangs between the two opposite worlds of darkness and light. He changed the scene that the rich are always rich and the poor

always remain poor through a little dishonesty and corruption that lead towards the success and power. The novel is a journey of different contrasting worlds which focus on the class conflict, poverty and globalized India. Adiga justified his criticism with an interview to Stuart Jeffries, he admits: At a time when India is going through great changes and with China is likely to inherit the world from the west, it is important that writers like me try to highlight the brutal injustice of society. It is not an attack on the country but, it is about the great process of self - examination. That's what writers like Flaubert, Balzac, Dickens did in the Nineteenth century and as a result, England and France are better societies. That's what I am trying to do

Comparative & contrast of Aravind Adiga and Amitav Ghosh:

The issue of multiple identities in the middle class society has been rigorously pursued by Amitav Ghosh in his fictional works. In each of his novels Ghosh has explored the possible link between multiple identities in the middle class society formation. This dissertation traces the trajectory of Ghosh's notions of the representation of multiple identities in the middle class society a selected work Ghosh. The thesis attempts to explore Ghosh's views on the problematics of identity formation by an in - depth study of the responses of the characters in situations which call for assertion and reformulation of their identity. Ghosh's novels urge upon the deconstruction of any monolithic discourse of identity minus which the multidimensionality of identity cannot be recognized. Ghosh's novels no doubt centre round various multiple identities in the middle class society discourses, but the abiding concern of his novels seems to be multiple identities in the middle class society, for it figures in various forms and manifestations in all of his fictional works. This dissertation has investigated how Ghosh explores the relative value of multiple identities in the middle class society, the problematics of identity formation both in the colonial and postcolonial times. In every novel he measures the authenticity and validity of the conventional determinants of identity and suggests that the achievement of identity presupposes a realization of the inadequacy of identity markers. No wonder he emphasizes the need for middle class society, because without placing one's self in a particular socio - cultural perspective one cannot comprehend which of his myriad affiliations prevails at the moment. So identity according to Ghosh is context - specific but the context is only an external condition of middle class society, for identity is to be achieved by conscious positioning of the self in a particular context. In other words any categorization of the self in terms of religion, ethnicity, caste, race etc. would appear just as an external label having little to do with what one really is. In other words the social categorization defines the person in concern, but one must realize that this designation is not only one of the multiple identity categories one belongs to, but one may like to go beyond the social label. Ghosh's novels project identity as flexible, fluid, multi - faceted and as something that is in the process of its constant re - formulation. The thesis tries to show that Ghosh has always attempted to question the essentialist notion of identity, because for him, identity is not merely something that is fixed, close, and final. His fictional output underlines the plurality of affiliations of individual and also shows that individuals can engage consciously with the

multiple identities in the middle class positions thrust upon them.

2. Conclusion

As a writer, Amitav Ghosh is highly influenced by the various incidents that took place in the Indian subcontinent. In addition to stories the image of changing Indian socio - politics cast a deep shadow on his mind. He blended reality with fiction and made argument on different cultural, perspectives in Indian English fiction, with special reference to the selected issues of India. While travelling different places specially the historical background of India, he discusses the history of the place, culture and nature with a creative and fictional outlook to add beauty to the explanation. The interface between fiction and socio - politics is a rich budding for him to take the issues of nationalism and nation identity in his novels. Amitav Ghosh's novels are thematically concerned with the issues of representing the recent Indian history. He employs the literary genre of realistic fiction that offers imitations of history in the form of nationalist perspective. He reconstructs history by using the realist mode of narrative themes such as historical events, partition, communal riots, East - West encounter, etc. to recuperate and rewrite nationalist history of India. By bringing them back through his fictional narratives, he exposes the conniving manner in which the reality of past is deliberately erased from the nationalistic history. This is a part of subaltern past which has no place in nation's mainstream history.

Aravind Adiga, winner of the prestigious Man Booker Prize, depicts characters from grassroots and working for cosmopolitanism. He is interested in cultural and perspectives in Indian English fiction, with special reference to the selected studies and the form and function of a rapidly globalizing post - colonial world. He discovered new and more complex identities reflecting the post - colonial India after the attainment of independence and its strong relation to globalization. The globalization enforces perspectives in Indian English fiction, with special reference to the selected and

Aravind Adiga portrays realistic and painful image of modern India through exposing the anxieties of oppressed. His novels mirror the capability and incapability of characters to overcome the adversities and cruel realities of perspectives in Indian English fiction, with special reference to the selected India. The people affected on the basis of social discrimination, cultural and political marginalization in the Indian context of such oppressive forces are considered for research. It studied at the perspectives in Indian English fiction, with special reference to the selected implications and underpinnings of the representation of marginalization in the medium of fiction. It is fictional narration creating pressure on social concern through the limitations and pitfalls of such intervening reformative zeal to throw light on these issues.

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