

Treatment of Life Amitab Ghosh's Fiction: A Critical Study

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***Abstract:** Amitab Ghosh's treatment of life is something different from other novelists. He applies his inner intuition to look at the events and incidents that regulate the thought of the man which gives the real shape of his action and the action controls the entire life. One needs introspective approach to go through the works of Ghosh which has been done in this paper.*

Keywords: Life Amitab Ghosh, Fiction

The novels and short stories of Amitav Ghosh, the Indian Diaspora writer, focus on Indian culture and tradition. Mainly he deals with the issues of poverty, the problems of refugee, issues of development and the squalor of trafficking in flesh and so on and so forth. Ghosh has the capacity to move his readers through the pain of emotion.

Hungry Tide, one of the important fictions of Ghosh, deals with the relationship of nature with men. The very title of the novel has a symbolic significance which is about hunger and tide. In the sea beach of West Bengal Ghosh looks at the sea and sees the waves which are converted into tides and ebbs. The imagery renders enough indications how life moves up and down just like the waves in the sea. If one thinks deeply about the natural phenomena in the seas he will find that sea is related with life and its activities Just like tide and web-one follows after another. Human life travels in the same direction witnessing scenes of pathos and sorrows. While struggling with the nature of life human being travels from one place to the other in search of food and employment but everywhere he faces life so hard and pathetic man enters into a rat race competition of getting his desired things. He does not hesitate to stoop low even achieving his dreams. Again Ghosh goes on narrating the communal riots, violence and war-time crisis in Calcutta in *The shadow Lines*. In this novel, the novelist deals with history, sociology and anthropology to portray a realistic picture of Calcutta City, how it is gripped with multifaceted problems due to the Indo-Pak war in 1965. The phrase shadow line is very symbolic which means the international boundary that divides the East Pakistan and India. East Pakistan, the present day Bangladesh is the habitat of Bengali speaking people practicing Bengali culture. But this artificial line which is termed as shadow line by the novelist cannot divide the people, their culture and their

attachment with each other. In this novel the diasporic treatment of Ghosh is clearly exhibited and his and his nostalgic state for his native place always flashes in his mind. Though he in a foreign country his mind is in Calcutta and its culture. The basic culture of the Bengali's is the We- feeling and they all are united with the thread of Bengali culture. In case there are any problems with the people of Dhaka the people of Calcutta get shocked and vice versa. Through the treatment of history Amitav Ghosh shows his fertile culture which teaches him how to live a meaningful life embracing others in a bond of brotherhood and utterly rejecting violence. The philosophy of the novelist is that love breeds love and violence begets violence. At the end of *The shadow Lines* Tridib is murdered while trying to rescue a foreign lady. But Ghosh says this is not the death or murder rather it is a sacrifice to the life of a woman. Tridib, who is a real hero in this novel has been symbolised as a martyr who is great by virtue of his sacrifice for the sake of others. The Bengali culture is the culture of heroes because the heroes live for others and not for themselves. The great Indian heroes like Aurobindo, Vivekananda, Tagore and Deshabandhu Chittaranjan who hail from Bengal are great souls and widely respected for their contribution to their mother land. And sacrificed their pleasure and leisure which were amply available at their feet. Amitav Ghosh takes his readers to a great height to understand the holistic culture to keep them away from bloodshed and violence that spread hatred among people. Amitav Ghosh adopts a novel technique while narrating the story through an unnamed narrator. This unnamed individual is an important character and the spoke person of the cultural history of Bengal. He narrates about different characters and episodes from different perspectives. He lets the readers enter the fictional world of Ghosh. Meenakshi

Mukherjee in her *Maps and Mirrors in The Shadow Line* (2000), finds the narrators consciousness "as a porous pace that absorbs other's lives and other experiences until their colours leak into each other to reveal a pattern...the narrator remains not only the large lucid reflection but also agentive site where random shards memory of realigned towards some measure of coherence" (260).

The unnamed narrator scientifically narrates the historical events of London in 1939 which he recollects from the memories of Tridib. He learns from Tridib how to streamline his imagination to weave stories taking the historical matters which could unite the readers with their culture. Tridib teaches the unnamed narrator in case a man is uprooted from his culture he is lost and there will be a question on his identity.

Here the teaching skill of Tridib is experimented in the mentor who is rappidley matured from a child to a full-fledged man going through the principles paved by the teacher. Ghosh wants to tell that mental socio psychological and sexual growth is possible through a teaching learning process which is seen in case of the unnamed narrator by the help of Tridib.

It is to say that these discussed novels of Amitav Ghosh may be different in Plot construction, theme and structure but the spirit of Bengali culture and history is the common matter which is focussed in Calcutta. Whatever Ghosh writes how is within Bengal, Calcutta and its history. The novelist is much interested in sociology anthropology and history which he which he knowingly or unknowingly employs in his novel

Works Cited

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----- *The Shadow Lines*. New Delhi: Harper Collins Publication

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