



SEARCH FOR HOME IN THE NOVEL 'THE MAGIC SEEDS' BY V. S. NAIPAUL

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ABSTRACT

Diaspora is a physical journey from one country to another country. It is an acquisition of the other culture as well as the host culture which brings gradual dilemma and a sense of rootlessness in the migrant people. So diaspora is a journey of identity and culture through time and space. This state of diaspora is the condition in which longings and yearnings of the migrants are expressed. Thus literature of diaspora is not only a physical journey but also a psychological journey – a dilemma between homeland and new settlement i.e. new nations. This paper is an attempt to analyse the Diasporic sensibilities in the novel Magic Seeds written by V.S. Naipaul.

INTRODUCTION

The Diaspora writers chronicle their experiences of being dislocated through their narrative works. Mostly in Indian Diaspora writers, there is an intimate psychological feeling of being Indian and possessing the social values of Indian heritage. In the words of Homi Bhabha the condition of migrants - “The migrant is seen as the critical participant- observer into his/her own condition, enabling powerful insights to be made into the insider-outsider dichotomy and the real lived experiences of migration.” (King et.al 8)



Migration dislocates a person from his/her homeland physically but psychologically they cherish old memories and culture of their native land. It is rightly said by Vijay Laxmi, "Memory, invented or real, helps the writer escape the confines of conformity and creates new literature- a hybrid literature, which does not conform to any one tradition or culture but creates a new world."

Diaspora Literature

The diaspora literature reflects change in social, political and cultural realities while retaining a connection to a common cultural heritage. Mishra says, "the hyphen-Indo-Americans, Indian-Americans, Hindu –Americans, Muslim-Britons- signals the desire to enter into some kind of generic taxonomy and yet at the same time retain, through the hyphen, the problematic situating of the self as simultaneously belonging 'here' and 'there'. (185) Diasporic literature also helps in creating good will, a cordial relationship and in spreading values, virtues and universal peace.

Review of literature

Singh, Bijender (2013) has explored in his article that V.S. Naipaul's works, more or less, are nothing but a struggle for self, a fight for right and a voice against suppression and exploitation. He has described Naipaul as one who has stashed his legacy inside him and poured it in the form of brilliant works where house has more significance than only a place as Gerhard Stilz contends, "A house is a place in space but also in society" (Gerhard Stilz 47).

Pal, Ghan Shyam (2016) has described in his research paper that Naipaul's works provide a large influence of Indian life and culture and this background gives the multiple experience of a marginalised culture of Naipaul. Pal has explored that the protagonist of the novel 'The Magic Seeds' – Willie keeps looking for his roots everywhere during his entire life and described him as a representative of the fragmented cultures and displaced populations. There seems to be no magic and no miracle in the life of Willie Chandran.

V. S. Naipaul: A diaspora writer

Shri Vidiathar Surajprasad Naipaul is the second Nobel laureate (2001) from Indian origin after Rabindranath Tagore (1913). He was born in Trinidad on 17th August 1932 as the eldest son of second generation Indian. V.S. Naipaul's writings replicate the current concern with the porosity of cultural boundaries – the post modern individual. The characters in his novels cross from within and beyond its borders. They do not dwell in distinct cultures but travel in cultural spaces that flow across borders. Naipaul has focused the psyche of his protagonist to



lay bare the impact of this displacement on the minds of the characters. Naipaul portrays the trauma of cultural dislocation, disorientation and displacement suffered by the millions of people in the post colonial era. His characters suffer from the trauma and try to come out of it without losing hope which is the driving force of life. His journey across the world and works show Naipaul's abiding interest in the ways in which changes can be and are being wrought in understanding of the world.

Outline of Magic Seeds

The novel *Magic Seeds* is a sequence novel of *Half A Pie* by V.S. Naipaul written in 2004. The protagonist of both the novel is same i.e. Willie Chandra. When the novel *Half a Pie* ends, the novel *Magic Seeds* opens. In *Half a Pie*, Willie is in the quest of good life. In the *Magic Seeds* also, we find Willie Chandra uprooted from his own culture. In the beginning of the novel *Magic Seeds*, Willie was living with his sister Sarojini in Berlin where he feels relaxed after having faced suffocating life in Africa. With the advice of Sarojini, he decides to go to India to join a revolution that will prove tragically elusive. When Willie is captured and put in jail, Sarojini makes arrangement for his release. After that incident, Willie tries to settle down again in London. Till the end of the novel, Willie tries to search for his home which is the heart of the novel *Magic Seeds*.

Search for Home in *Magic Seeds*

V. S. Naipaul's writings replicate the current concern with the transparency of cultural boundaries – the post modern individual. All the characters in his novels cross from within and beyond its borders. They do not belong to distinct cultures but travel in cultural spaces that flow across borders. Naipaul has focused on the psyche of his protagonist to lay bare the impact of this displacement on the minds of the characters. With this Naipaul has portrayed the trauma of cultural dislocation, disorientation and displacement suffered by the millions of people in the post colonial era. His characters suffer from the trauma and try to come out of it without losing hope through magic seeds which is the driving force of life. His journey across the world and works show Naipaul's steadfast interest in the ways in which changes can be and are being wrought in understanding of the world.

The *Magic Seeds* begins and ends with the search for home which is reflected through all the attempts of Willie throughout his life. The description of bus station, dock, airport and hotel in novel present an image of a homeless status of Willie. Willie said, "It is the one thing I have worked all my life: not being at home anywhere, but looking at home." (74)



Home is the smallest group unit in the society which is the first place where people can feel a sense of belonging. For Willie, a house is not only an external shelter from the wind and rain, it is more like a place to live and a symbol of dignity. So the major concern is whether he has a house of his own or lie in his own bed. This represents the house as the symbol of a sense of belongingness of an individual.

When Willie was young, he had a resistance of his home so the feeling of home didn't take root in his heart. It was the lack of parents' love which resulted in the loss of home, and thus, the loss of a sense of belongingness. Throughout the novel, we have seen that Willie lives his life according to other people's suggestions. He never plans his life and thinks about how to live, which makes the matter worse. In 'Magic Seeds', Willie expressed his longing to find a hope for himself. Throughout his life, he searched for his motif and his goal i.e. his home. Willie said, "It is the one thing I have worked at all my life, not being at home anywhere, but looking at home." (p. 74). Thus, novels like 'Magic Seeds' provide us an opportunity to think about the problem of a sense of belonging.

CONCLUSION:

Thus, this paper attempts to show representation of diaspora identity in V. S. Naipaul's *Magic Seeds*. This paper attempts to relate how this work is stuffed with the theme of identity as the chief protagonist of the novel hankers after to find a place for them in the world to assert their identities. His mind split between two contradictory cultures existing in that time. The paper attempts to analyse the different strands of identity to make the work more comprehensive. It has been examined how the protagonist of the novel tries to claim his place in the world that is full of challenges in his real life. The study proves that the diasporic communities represented in the novels are heterogeneous and it is therefore difficult to homogenize them. The novel ends with the hope for a good life/home. Life begins with hope. Though Willie travel to many countries and suffer a lot with so many experiences, they have a positive key of hope to begin their new life.

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