

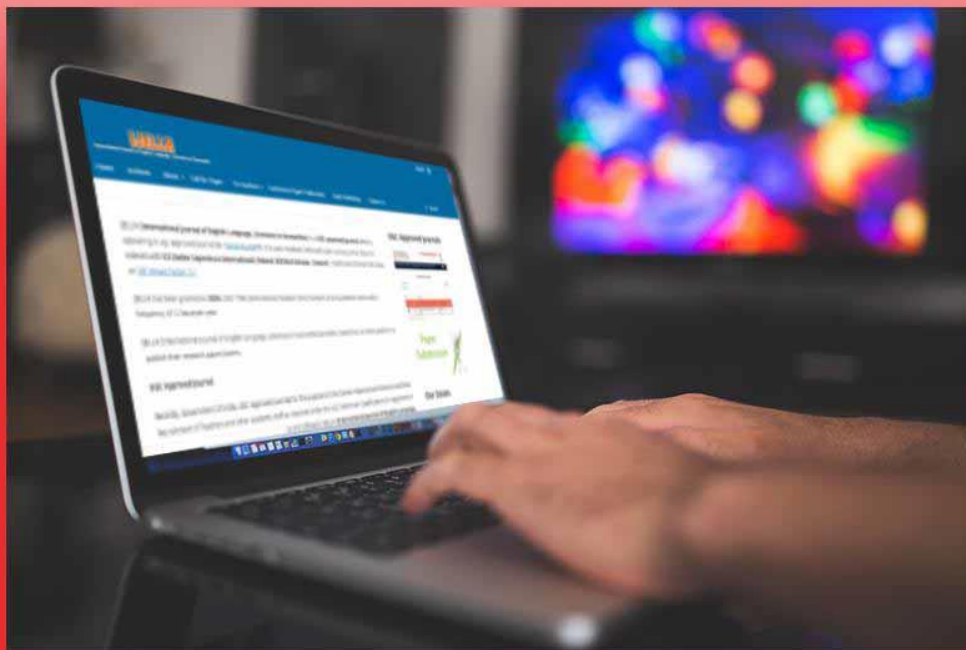
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### Post Colonial Dilemma in Kiran Desai's Novel "The Inheritance Of Loss"

#### Abstract

The research paper sheds light on the problems, difficulties and hurdles faced by the migrant people to the different parts of the world. The novel "the Inheritance of Loss" written by Kiran Desai. She is a diasporic writer. Basically diasporic writers are those who are not living in their birthplace countries but still connect with their birthplace through their writings. So the foremost concerns of the diasporic literature is to explore the problems of displaced people, their exile, and the consequences.

Keyword: Colonial, Inheritance, Dilemma.

Relocation and uprooting from homeland is an agonizing, tormenting, and heartbreaking process. This brings a lot of changes in the lives of people who migrate from their actual place. The emotional trauma and distress they experience while leaving their homeland.

Abraham describes this dilemma depicting characters from the novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*. Though many characters are immigrant still the situation and circumstances are different for them living in the same situation. The characters are the victims of the circumstances, but the time they realize they are heartbroken, miserable, frustrated and exhausted. They already have developed the sense of anger, distrust, irritation and disbelief. So this research paper focuses on the experiences of some of the characters in the novel. The story revolves around Jemubhai Patel; the Judge; and Biju, the son of the cook and is the main character of the novel. The book makes out the point that the true happiness comes with dignity and identity not with material wealth and comforts that we long for.

In his research, Abraham mentions that Kiran Desai is a diasporic writer of Indian origin. Kiran Desai's characters are though fictional but portrayed as if they are real and gone through real tough times in their lives. The insight through all these characters seem real and authentic. The novel and the research focusses on the struggles and trauma faced by the immigrants who settle in US uprooting from India.

According to Mr. Panavelil, Indian writings have achieved a considerable recognition worldwide especially after the Salman Rushdie's *Midnight Children* Publication. Rushdie is also considered as diasporic writer.

This research paper studies the postcolonial diasporic fiction. The story is set against the backdrop of exotic, colorful and mysterious surroundings of Kalimpong and the agitation of Gorkhaland in the north eastern hills of Darjeeling, borders of Nepal.

In the words of Mr. Panavelil himself writes in a research that *“Caught between two worlds these characters negotiate a new social space’ caught between two cultures and often languages, the writer negotiates a new literary space. They are all haunted by the questions posed by an immigrant: Who am I? Where do I belong? It is clear from this cast of uprooted characters that a sense of loneliness and alienation, said to be an integral part of the diasporic condition, is at the core of the novel. They are displaced individuals who struggle to find a space out of place, away from their homelands”*.

A sense of alienation, distrust, and loneliness develop in the minds of immigrants as per Mr. Panavelil’s view. This is the one aspect of life in the minds of immigrants. The positive aspect is that it opens new arenas, opportunities and windows for new life. This distancing from the motherland creates more love towards one’s own country and make them nostalgic when they come across their country’s cultural events and objects.

The research also sheds the light on the lives of those who go back and forth from their motherlands like the Judge’s character of the novel. Ultimately, it’s a mixed feeling living abroad for your bread and butter facing new challenges, fighting for identity in the alien world.

As per Mr. Penavelil in the research paper, *“All the characters in Inheritance of Loss suffer from a sense loss and ambivalence that eventually leads them to question their identity. Jemubhai Patel, the former judge, is an embittered person and he often lives in the past. In a flashback, we learn that when he was a young man, he was sent to Cambridge by his family to study law. But, in England, he was ridiculed for his accent. Young English girls held their nose as he passed insisting he reeked of curry-this rejection fuelled in his soul, a shame and dislike for his heritage, his culture and the color of his skin”*.

Conclusion: Mr. Penavelil picked up each character to show the dilemma faced by immigrants. He also explains the other positive side of immigrations which provides new dimensions and innumerable opportunities to the migrating people of hope and better life expectancy. This research also represents well the importance of nostalgia and memory which play an important role in the lives of migrating people. Their heart beats for their motherland and crave to come back to experience all the love and respect. Mr. Penavelil also depicts the term hybridity, which is an important concept in the postcolonial theory. On the whole this research is a detailed manuscript on diasporic writers, people living in different countries leaving their homeland, their dilemmas, their hopes, and their love for homeland.

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