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❧ CONTENTS OF ENGLISH PART - IV ❧

S.No.	Title & Author	Page
13	The Zoo Story: An Explosion of Hollow Men in a Commercial World Shaikh Gulab Yusuf	60-63
14	A Study of Contribution of the Indian Women Writers in English Literature Sadawarte Savita Prabhakar	64-68
15	High Impact of Communication Skills in Upswing of Print and Electronic Media Mr. Mannaa Yahya Ali Al-Saeedi Dr. Rajpalsingh S. Chikhalikar	69-72
16	Adverse Effects of Globalization in Bharati Mukherjee's Novel ' Wife' Dr. Milind Mane	73-76
17	Contribution of Indian Women's in Olympic Games Prof. Manisha Jaikrishan Waghmare	77-83
18	Understanding Patriarchy in Vijay Tendulkar's Kamala Ms. Manisha Kale	84-87
19	Problem of distancing, Communication Gap and Disharmony in Relationships in Mohan Rakesh's "Soil Beneath the Sole" Dr. Lingampalle G. L.	88-90
20	The Glass Palace: A Pathetic journey of Displacement and Hybridity Dr. Mahesh R. Waghmare	91-93
21	Women Empowerment Challenges Dr. Lekhika Umaji Meshram	94-98
22	Representation of Oppression in Alice Childress' Wine in the Wilderness Dr. Tabassum M. Inamdar	99-103
23	Racism and Struggle for Assimilation in America: A Special Study of a Korean American Novel, Native Speaker Ratnamala Ratan Pagare	104-109

16. Adverse Effects of Globalization in Bharati Mukherjee's Novel 'Wife'

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Migration is a natural process in the history of progression of a human being. But it was limited within the area, state or a country as they were collecting food, shelter and better atmosphere. They had to shift from place to place for resources which were limited in a particular area. So it was enforced to them during those days. The invention of agriculture made him stable for centuries even he had build permanent habitation and boundaries for his continent and countries and total land and even seas are divided. He had developed his own language, culture, tradition, rituals, food habits etc. which differentiate him from his neighbouring countries in small scale and continents at a large. The limits of boundaries became stiff in the course of time. Intrusion, industrialization, globalization are the terms which came orderly and made possible to enter in each other's country forcefully, commercially or for better prospect. Tourism is also another term in this connection. In Globalization which is accepted during modern age as a new economic policy, migration and immigration became frequent. In the post modern era increase in the means of communication it has become a common practice to migrate or to immigrate from country to country. It has always said that world has become 'a global village' a term coined by Marshall McLuhan. It has been 'shrunk' by modern advances in communication. Internet, media, international business and embassies affected globalization. Globalization in the world has taken roots over the years leading to connection of different countries and different nationalities across.

A leading novelist in Indian writing in English Bharati Mukherjee's Indian heroines face a lot of problems due to being migrated and immigrated to the USA. Her heroines are an autobiographical outcome of her own psyche, problems and her observation as well. The paper aims to study the adverse effects of globalization and migration in one of her famous novels *Wife*.

A heroine of this novel is an average looking young girl of twenty who has an arrange marriage to Amit Basu, an engineer, instead of marrying a neurosurgeon as she had dreamed

about. They migrate to the United States and being exposed to oriental cultural experience a cultural crisis. As frustration becomes expressed as abuse, the tale turns to tragedy with the murder of her husband Amit. Mukherjee depicts the mental breakdown of a weak-minded young woman who cannot cope with the traumatic experience of immigration for the structured society of India to the liberated society of New York City. Globalization created competition among brands resulted advertisements. Handsome models and heroes from magazines and newspaper advertisement started to attract and provide 'dreams' to middle class people, which became part and parcel of their life. The same happens with Dimple. Before her marriage she carves an imaginary picture of her would be husband on her mind. She visualises, "Male faces, cricket stars, young cabinet ministers, hero from the novels. Her heart grew vulnerable and paper thin, transparent and butterflies' wing". (12) Imagination and truth are binary things, being unable to understand this Dimple never cope with her husband of flesh and blood. Attractive homes from advertisement spell bounded her and the unattractive and small apartment of her husband create negative impact on her psyche. She complains it to her friend and mother. Frustration leads her to destruction. Initiation of international companies create an imaginary picture of luxurious life, financial security, stable life, attractive better prospect, free society, openness, medical facilities, quality education etc. of foreign countries. On the other hand, the bizarre truth of his/her own country like over population, rigid social customs, troublesome caste system, stereotypes of society, limitations, unhealthy competition and atmosphere etc. creates attraction to migrate foreign countries. Minakshi Tilekar aptly observes the difference between western and eastern culture in her article:

In the eyes of Orientals, Occidental culture is more rational and superior which is characterized by logical thinking, tolerance, progress, modernism, independence and peace. However, Occidentals believe that Orientals are primitive, black, savage, violent, fanatic, underdeveloped, traditional and conservative. This had created a permanent rival relation of superiority-inferiority complex between the Occidental and Orientals. Thus, the Orientals become the victims of western ideologies and philosophies, which conceive Europe as a symbol of supremacy of power and civilization. (quoted in Jadhav, Lawande, Mothe (ed) 2010.201)

Globalization create the picture of supremacy of European culture over Asian. Dimple is the victim of the same. She expects the same she had bound her conceptions of happiness with her would be life America before and after her marriage. She hastily chooses Amit just because

of her is going to seek his future in America. After her marriage she eagerly waits to go to her dream land and when finally she shifts to America it doesn't create any problem they are sharing an Indian home of her husband's friend. After some days her shifting to another apartment creates a lot of problem for her as she was unable to communicate in English she stick up to home alone for all time. Her husband is always busy with his job. Her twenty four hours exposure to television, advertisement, criminal based serials obsessed her mind she surpasses the extreme level that she becomes unable to differentiate between reality and imagination. She forgets her *smaskara* that husband is next to god, she takes extreme step to kill her husband.

Her migration to America makes her to expose to American culture. Dimple is attracted to American culture and at the same time goes away from Amit psychologically. The American culture haunts her totally Amit is a good looking and confident man but fails to match her dream figure, which is made up of romantic ideas of Bollywood heroes, advertisement model and novel heroes. Dimple is not much beautiful. Being flexible, her morality changes easily with time. Her values are based on material standards. Her extra-marital relationship with Milt Glasser is out of her inferiority complex, which confines her to the flat and abolishes her liberty. To show that she is going to adopt the American culture she herself initiates Milt to seduce. Her hatred for Amit is so intense that she is not even ashamed of her illicit relations with Milt. To hide her guilt; she plans to kill Amit. It is also out of her unquenched thirst, to her winning Milt is a great victory. But her unreal expectations lead her to frustration. The victory seems meaningless to her. M.Rajeshwar aptly observes her guilty conscious:

In this light, her seduction of Milt, her landlady's brother, in her bedroom, can be interpreted as a desperate attempt by her diseased psyche to preserve her and stop her further deterioration. Freud has held that when there is a pathological masochistic configuration in a person the ethical consideration concerning sex is drowned so that the person indulging in these 'sinful' acts can be subsequently chastised by the conscience. And Dimple is hungry for that kind of punishment

(quoted in Dhawan [ed.] 1996:97).

The influence of excessive violence that is being shown over American Television inspires her. It gives her a feeling that one can get away with crime with much ease. She has to face alone, because of her going away from Sen's and other Indians among the totally American neighbours. The lack of support system in the form of friends, relatives and even from her

husband ruins her. Amit's failure to understand the psychological turmoil of Dimple also plays an important role in destroys their relationship. Dimple's problem is the loss of culture and loss of identity; it is rather her quest for identity. Had it not been for this, she would have committed suicide. But infact, she murders Amit in the style of a T.V. character which is not very uncommon in America. Kalpana Wandrekar observes her transformation:

from sanity to insanity is authentic and pathetic. In keeping with modern trends Bharati Mukherjee explores the psychological recess of an immigrant in such a systematic way that wife becomes more a clinical study than mere fiction

(quoted in JIWE 1996:76).

Her neurosis is because of her state of being rootless. Some critics deny that Dimple is a case study of rootlessness or facing immigrant's problem. F. A. Inamdar remarks:

Dimple is a psychic study of an abnormal woman. She has nothing to do with the problem of immigrants. Therefore, she angers her husband by making fun of his dress, spilling curry on his shirt front. She goes to the extent of condemning the gifts he brings for her. Her abnormality reaches the climax when she skips her way to abortion

(quoted in Awasthi[ed.] 1993:69).

Though she is not homesick, her love for India might be deep in her subconscious mind (her dream to come back from America and settle in India) but at every stage the hub-dub of American culture overcomes her and contradiction in American and Indian culture destroys her.

All the problems she faced up to her are one can say are the adverse effects of globalization.

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