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Cultural Hegemony in Soniah Kamal's *An Isolated Incident*

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By

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Letter of Recommendation

Mr. Shiba Raj Pandey has completed his thesis entitled, "Cultural Hegemony in Soniah Kamal's *An Isolated Incident*" under my supervision. He carried out his research work from September 2017 to August 2018. I hereby recommended this thesis be submitted for via voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled Cultural Hegemony in Soniah Kamal's *An Isolated Incident* submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Shiba Raj Pandey, has been approved by undersigned members of the research committee.

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Abstract

Soniah Kamal's An Isolated Incident is a story of Kashmiri Muslim family where native culture is hegemonized by Indian and Pakistani culture. Both the countries India and Pakistan claim the land of Kashmir as their own land. However, people like Zari are forced to suffer from the sense of loss and cultural crisis. She wants to live a peaceful life, enjoys her culture, and speaks Kashmiri language but her wish is never fulfilled because of hegemonic policy of India and Pakistan. Economic, politics and war are the way of India and Pakistan regarding to the implementation of cultural hegemony in Kashmir. Kamal presents the hegemonic condition of characters who have lost their cultural norms and values in native land. Zari experiences Indian and Pakistani cultures are dominant in Kashmir and her political infighting. Pakistani hegemony appears by military and religious dominance. Such way they are hegemonized by Indian and Pakistani culture. Through these characters novelist emphasizes the ideas of aristocracy by highlighting the affect of cultural hegemony in Kashmir. India and Pakistan keep on propagating and infuriating to attain their hegemony in Kashmir. And they impose their own ideology in society because domination is often taken out by means of constant.

Key Words: Hegemony, Culture, Ideology, Recall, Aristocracy

The present study examines Soniah Kamal's *An Isolated Incident* from Antonio Gramsci's theoretical perspective of cultural hegemony. It explores the Indian and Pakistani domination of the Kashmiri culture because the two powerful South Asian countries India and Pakistan have an ever-increasing inclination to control the culturally rich Kashmir. As a result, the Kashmiri society falls into the grip of a perennial conflict between the two rival nations in the region. The protagonist of the novel, Zari escapes to the United States from the war-ridden Kashmir, a society she is deeply rooted in. In the US, she experiences cultural shock since she realizes that she does not fit into the open western society. Furthermore, Kashmir society ultimately turns into war-ridden zone. Kamal's female protagonist, therefore, not only suffers from the Indian and Pakistani domination in Kashmir but also confronts the internal crisis. This research work explores the female protagonist's sufferings and anxieties of the internal and external influences. Zari is compelled to live in America because of devastating tragedy in her home town Kashmir. Her instability to move makes her the bearer of cultural hegemony.

India and Pakistan both believe that they have a rightful claim to Kashmir. Kashmiri themselves are divided between being pro-India, pro-Pakistan and waiting to be independent from both countries. But the political autonomy of India and Pakistan destroy the Kashmir and imposed the hegemonic control over Kashmir. Due to the large scale India and Pakistan troops in Kashmir the local people, public and private lives are heavily controlled and regulated.

Gramsci's ideologies talk, the supremacy of one culture over another weak culture where the ruling classes imposes their power over ruled class and the native old culture is restricted from its originality. Events such as political domination, war, values, education system and ideology are the broad elements that can be seen in

Kamal's *An Isolated Incident*. The novel captures the predicament of Kashmiri people whose values and ideologies are sidelined by India and Pakistani War 1965.

India and Pakistan are deeply polarized for their own interest but not for Kashmir's interest. As the both nations are trying to further their own strategic interest in Kashmir, they make religion a tool for dividing it. India considers the conflict as a Pakistani proxy war whereas for Pakistan it as an indigenous quest for self determination. Such way both countries take Kashmir as an object of hegemony to impose their supremacy of powers to subjugate the land of Kashmir.

Gradually India and Pakistan are increasing their soldier in Kashmir on the name of religion but increasing of soldier in Kashmir makes it a new war zone. It shows that they do not want to save Kashmir. They just want to grip and hegemonize over Kashmir. By giving such evidences Kamal clearly wants to focus that Kashmir is hegemonized by India and Pakistan through war, religion, language, culture and administration. They use various ways to dominate culturally rich Kashmir and influence Kashmiri societies with their values, perceptions and beliefs. Eventually this belief becomes societal norms and dominant ideologies. They try to justify the political, social and economic status quo as an inevitable part of Kashmiri society.

Such a concept is taught to subordinate people to rule in the name of values. Elite groups create the religious lens and fill in the mind with false hope in Kashmiri people. Gramsci argues in his "A Great and Terrible World" that false truth is spread by different ideologies and education system (72). Psychologically Kashmiri class is prepared to be ruled by false hope of Indian and Pakistani religion.

In the novel, Muslims and Hindus are blaming each other as a separator of Kashmir. But both countries India and Pakistan claim themselves as a savior of Kashmir. They buy modern weapon and supply them in Kashmir for the sake of

religion. Such activities bring fragment between Kashmiri and force them into war so that India and Pakistan rule them easily. It concludes that religion is manmade ideology that is created for capturing other people.

After political crisis of India and Pakistan, Kashmir gets trapped in military domination. People fall in political turmoil. Then the political turbulence struggle for various kinds of foresight of other social movements and cultural reason. People of Kashmir are forced to adopt new culture in their own native land because of India and Pakistani's mission. Due to the mission, Kashmiri have to leave the native land or adopt the new culture without it there is no guarantee of life.

People who stayed in Kashmir are in challenged condition because of Indian and Pakistani norms, values and cultures. And people who escaped from Kashmir they are also in challenge condition because of new culture. As a result, they are automatically hegemonized by new culture. Kashmir lacks peace, stability, and freedom. Dishonesty, strikes and political mal-practice frustrate the Kashmiri people. So the people are seeking new save zone for livelihood as a result they again hegemonize by others. Zari feels that Kashmiri are weak and Kashmiri separatists are powerful:

The people, the army, the paramilitary, the border security force, the central reserve police force the special operation group, that special title given to the freedom fighters who had turned themselves into the Indian government who, in turn designed them spies. All these armed forces totaled over half a million. Half million men whose job it was to capture no more than a few thousand insurgents. (7)

By using arms power India and Pakistan separated Kashmir for their personal benefits. Both the countries never serve the Kashmiri people's interest. They just want

to rule over the Kashmir on their own will, for that they use soft weapon: ideology, education system, language, politics, administration and so on. Due to Indian and Pakistani military surgery Kashmir is primarily divided into three parts such as India occupied Kashmir, Pakistan occupied Kashmir and war zone Kashmir. In this way Kashmiri people have lost their real national identities

India and Pakistani military power has destroyed Kashmir and two powerful countries use their immense resources to control Kashmir according to their will. As a result the India and Pakistan hegemonic constitutes is a serious problem of Kashmir. It could be argued that hegemony become almighty through every social phenomenon. As we know that war has always supported to winner and imposing their ideologies to loser. And the powerful culture legacies that continuities exist from the days of history.

Kamal's *An Isolated Incident* exposes the real lived condition of Kashmiri people. It shows that scenario of Kashmir where native land lacks peace, stability and choice for solid life. War and dishonesty appear in such an extent form that even the royal people seem unsafe. Strikes, endless violence, gun sound frustrate the people.

The situation of immigrants in a new society makes their life difficult because of culture divisions. Their dream for peace and security has never been materialized because of racial prejudice and differences. Quite contrary, it is unfortunate that the situation becomes too critical as Kamal shows in her novel. Numerous critics have interpreted *An Isolated Incident* from multiple perspectives. Many criticisms shed light over issues like cultural dislocation diasporic situation, cultural collision and trauma. Khaled Hosseini the author of *The Kite Runner* writes:

Sonia Kamal has written a riveting and deeply engaging novel about

the longstanding turmoil in Kashmir and the multi generational impact of the conflict on one ordinary family. With remarkable poise and elegant, precise prose, Kamal explores identity and exile, hope and disillusionment, and the myriad fault lines in the lives of the people living in the shadow of war. (2)

In this line of argument Hosseini unfolds Kashmiri haunting memories and emotions that present glimpse of realities in Kashmir and Kashmiri are compelled to leave their homeland. The sense of dislocation, loss and anxiety become dominant in Kashmiri life

Sense of longing and belonging towards homeland, cultural confusion lacks their root culture. Moreover, the sense of dislocation loss and anxiety becomes dominant in Kashmiri life. Similarly, Shikha Malviya comment on cover page:

An Isolated Incident is a searing exploration of identity belonging and the many meanings of home in our global world. A bitter sweet love story that traverses continents and cultures, it grips that reader in it's myriad shades of loss longing and redemption. With deep, psychological insight and prose that wraps around you softly like a pashmina Shawl! Soniah Kamal has written a hauntingly beautiful novel and heart.(1)

Shikha Malaviya argues that human beings move place to place in search for opportunities in their lives but there is no place like homeland so people loose their identity.

Time and again Kashmiri past memories haunt them. It captures the psychology of the people and situation of immigrant and their situation of lack. Wasio Ali Khan posted:

Be it, Pakistan Afghanistan or America the author has clearly made

effort to make the description as realistic as possible. From Zari's encounter with Indian army men to cultural shock. In America all have been incorporated effortlessly in the narrative. Not just the physical aspect but also philosophical psychological, cultural and geopolitical elements strongly enhance the story. (27)

He describes the novel from the point of cultural crisis and general trauma. All characters in the novel are facing traumatic events differently because they have to face each and every pain that is given by India-Pakistan and freedom fighter. Khagal Kalam argues in Intellectual Post:

The novel liberally was Kashmiri colloquial terms, making conversations rather personal and warm. Cultural identifies in terms of Kashmiri food customs, games, greetings are what keep the novel bound together as a unified narrative even as it traverse thought vastly different geographic spaces. The keeners to affiliate to common roots to draw the source of existence from there is evident in both the centered characters, even as others characters snap their past for they see future. (25)

He argues that it is a memoir where individual incidents are collected and those individual experiences represent the wounded situation of Kashmiri. How they are staying in Kashmir with violence, conflict and war? For the survival many Kashmiri are escaped from it and staying in abroad. But abroad could not give them peace and satisfy because they are out of Kashmir but Kashmir is not out from them. So it brings cultural crisis and anxiety in Kashmiri native people.

The traumatic story of Zari makes her to lose her family due to the political and social stigmas Kashmiri culture is in crisis and foreign culture commanding it. Writer herself is not stayed in Kashmir so whole novel is influence of cultural crisis

and globalization. As these critics analyze the movement as a fact of travelling and border crossing the racial and cultural identities. The process of moving from native place to abroad that gives the birth to diasporic situation. As a result persons are suffering from displacement and dislocation.

In this way the novel is analyzed from different perspectives, still the issue of cultural hegemony is untouched. The present research will study the novel *An Isolated Incident* on the light of cultural Marxist theory based on Gramsci's view the concept forces us to analyze. Regarding the hegemonic domination of India and Pakistan's culture later American.

Since 1947 India and Pakistan are fighting in the name of Kashmir. They want to capture the Kashmir by the military force and are destroying Kashmir day by day. Many children and youths are killed at home. Nobody wants to come outside curfew, never ending crisis, gunpowder, bomb and others war's equipments are seen everywhere. So the beautiful valley Kashmir is defined by supremacy of gun and political separation. It shows that powerful culture attacks over the marginalized culture and starts to rule on them:

The strict curfew, on account of a shootout between the police and some militants the week before had been finally lifted this morning, everyone was out and about for the sheer thrill of being able to leave the confines of their homes. The girls' trip to the Boulevard, however, had purpose. Kiran here on her annual holiday from Dubai where she had moved to after marriage, had come to purchase presents from a particular gift shop.(13)

Both countries tell that they are using military power on Kashmir to save Kashmiri native culture but they are focusing local people to adopt the alien culture and leave

the Kashmiri culture. The apex of war makes Kashmiri force to migrant from native culture. It is the matter of challenge for Kashmiri because in abroad their culture does not work. In the country they are unable to stay peacefully and they have to adopt India and Pakistani rules. People who are staying in Kashmir they couldn't enjoy their native culture because of India and Pakistans' war. They sidelined the Kashmiri language, culture, and system. So, Kashmiri language is hegemonized by India and Pakistani.

India and Pakistan are well known that by using force nobody can perfectly dominate influence or hegemonize so they create discourse to rule them as Foucault argues:

Ways of constituting knowledge together with the social practices, forms of subjectivity and power relation which in here in such knowledge's and relations between them. Discourses are more than ways of thinking and producing meaning. They constitute the 'nature' of the body unconscious and conscious mind and emotional life of this subject they seek to govern. (35)

To capture Kashmir, both countries have launched their ideology, education system, administration and constitution in Kashmir. These are their soft weapon to control it. The powerful culture uses soft weapon to attack the powerless culture. At first they create ideology and apply it in education system. They psychologically prepared the people to adopt the alien culture which make them easy to rule. In the name of democracy ruling class fill all their ideologies to subordinate people. It makes them leader. And on the name of constitution again marginalized people are dominated. Through constitution those dominated people follow all types of rule and regulation and they are taught that high class people are here because to rule over them. Their

culture has not any values in entire world so they have to accept it.

This system of hegemony is created to support the secure of position for leading class people according to their will and consent of marginalized group. This consent is achieved predominately through the systematic coherent. The supremacy of social groups presented itself in different ways as domination, as intellectual and moral leadership. Such social groups dominate the antagonists who are against of them. If poor people are out of track or do not support supremacy they use armed force to silent them.

As Gramsci has echoed, "hegemony implies situation where an 'historic bloc' of ruling class factions exercise social authority and leadership over the subordinate classes through a combination of force and more importantly consent" (175). Elite groups go through the intellectual and exercise the leadership before winning the governmental power. For that they take the help of mass media and discourse to rule subordinate people. After wining governmental power ruling class people start to rule subordinate people and they urged that with the will of subordinate people this government is construct such way they create truth. Likewise in the novel, India and Pakistan reconstructing the Kashmir according to their need and benefit and lower class people believe that they are poor or ruled because of their coil.

The events that happening in Kashmir presents superiority of India and Pakistan. Kamal declares exercise of power and domination over masses and individual as an inheritance:

Before the troubles began, the Boulevard had been tourist heaven and Zariand her friends used to spend long hours playing game of guessing a tourist's country. Now they guessed which region in India and soldier came from, a deduction at times simply a matter of puzzling together

headwear, complexion, and facial hair. Before the trouble begun Kashmir had been the film industry's prime destination for shooting romantic songs. (14)

Now due to trouble, Kashmir could not think about free life. In the name of culture a many people give-up their lives because they are persuaded as culture is their identity and matters of concern. The term culture in Kashmir is used by those elite groups as a weapon of fraction and rule as like India and Pakistan. In 1947 they fragment the Kashmir in the name of liberty and start to rule upon it in the name of democracy.

Through the text Kamal sees the definition of culture is created by elite group they give its definition according to their favor. It does not mean war, weapon and gun. Gun never understands the important of mutual understanding and peace. War always makes people hegomonized and identity less "We are not opportunist or nomads" (29). It explains that though Kashmiri have their own values, history and identity. They want to celebrate their own culture but interest of India and Pakistan makes them homeless they are forced to leave their country.

This research unveils the position of Kashmir in the hegemonic culture where Kashmiri culture is objectified by the India and Pakistan culture. The characters of novel are celebrating indigenouse culture but their culture is suddenly attacked. And bourgeois always secure their position in high level and in any cost. Zari's grand pa says, "Indian government's counter insurgency payroll, and some neither for nor against, just that is felt good to be powerful, thanks to the gun in the hand" (28). There is nothing to fear but fear itself so the gun's fear controls the people. According to Gramsci the constitution of people cultural believes and ideology is explaining by bourgeois that it is the will of subordinate people to be ruled by us. So lower class people have to believe in our ruling system. Because elite culture is superior it makes

all people advanced and lower class is ordered to left old nasty culture and follows the elite culture.

India wants to hegemony and gets mastery upon Kashmir. But to hegemony is a great thing that cannot easily be achieved by military unit but by through mass media, education system signs and the knowledge. They are the tools of hegemonic power that helps to elite group to rule and side line to oppose group.

The scenario of present Kashmir explains that it lacks peace, stability and criminal war. Crime and dishonesty floats upon such an extent form nobody knows who will come home alive at evening at home. Zari sees "The gangly intruder warned them not to cause any trouble and locked them all inside the bedroom" (25) not only subordinate people even the native elite also have some situation like poor. In hegemonic condition marginalized power cannot be powerful.

For power some person rise as leaders from marginalized and those leaders have to follow the elite system of government. Finally that marginalized people suffer from their leader who now changes themselves as a bourgeois. For example Mr. Zoon pushed his spectacles up his nose. "There are two types of men who continue living in unsafe locales: the poverty stricken and the royalty stricken"(46). By the help of handful people elite group start to rule. They create such a situation that old culture is uncivilized which make them only wild not prosperous, to be advanced they have to follow elite culture.

Endless violence, strikes and political circumstances frustrate people and compelled to leave all their identities. They have to wait for other order to stay in their home. Schools suffer from never ending protest, students go to school but class often remains leisure. Time and again the news comes very violently, as gang rape, murder, and bomb. The media also spread such news as a headline by supporting some

particular one.

After many years of Kashmir devastating Kashmiri are able to raise a level of voices, however they are not happy. Fragmentation of Kashmir lacks unity social relation, culture and language. They are longing their root, culture and language but Kashmir culture is imposed by India and Pakistani. War isolates people from their native land but it makes difficult to adopt foreign culture. Slowly and silently elite groups create ideology and use it in education system to capture it. The way in which they taught in school generally subscribe to and welcome the alien culture.

We know that beyond school student surrounded by various use of written language or especially in public place such as hotel, hospital, shops etc. In Kashmir schools are important institutions to enact linguistic hegemonic. Persuading either interior minorities and dominated to Kashmir. Through ideology and education system they prove that Kashmiri language has lack of value ideological and economic inferiority and belittlement. Bourgeois claim that their language is linked to a hierarchy of ideological that creates success and pleasure. So through language Kashmir is imposed by alien culture they are not allowed to use native language at office. Every parliamentary committee uses Hindi and English so it is compelled to native people to learn alien language and teach their children per reading.

Gramsci tells the constitution of people cultural believes and ideology is explains by ruling class because through ideologies they want to rule over the lower class. They made lower class to believe and follow the bourgeois. In this respect the instruments of Kamal for showing the domination. India and Pakistan differently they represent as the bourgeois and Kashmir as a have not.

Due to war Kashmir was on the trap of India and Pakistani and their culture is sidelined. Elite group controlled not only through the violence, politics and economic

concern but also through ideology in which the values of the high class becomes common values of all. Thus, a consensus culture develops in which the working classes identify their own good with good of bourgeois and help to maintain the status quo rather than revolution. For Gramsci:

Permeations throughout the society of an entire system of values attitudes, belief and morality that has the effect as supporting the status quo in power relations, hegemony, in the sense might be defined as an 'organizing principle' that is diffused by the process of socialization into every area of daily life. (qtd. in Boggs 399)

These statements clarify that hegemonic power means consent to be governed and working class given consent with power and they are always dominated by capitalist. Elite group rules to lower class by organizing various principle and they create such environment that old culture makes them poor. People are uncivilized. Lower class suffers because of their culture so they have to left and support to elite one. By supporting elite groups, poor class will have same position like ruled class.

Both countries India and Pakistan are nicely fitting the frame of democracy to rule Kashmir. They are making state machinery to run boldly and imposing irrationalism in an every parliamentarian way involving actively police, army, courts, media, civil society education etc. It is reshaping and reinterpreting of Kashmir according to India and Pakistani will. All the institutions and their actions for defending what can be called willing of hegemony or tumbling democracy.

Both common sense are using for sake of Kashmir it is because they try to give the Kashmiri people a kind of trust that free Kashmir could not work for Kashmiri. It is very difficult to survive so Kashmiri are rich and advanced if they follow the India and Pakistani culture.

The problem of cultural hegemony is one of the burning issues of present world. Because of labour, language war capital and educational system. The identity as such is forever questioned and crisis. In the character Zari is forced to leave her native culture. She is staying in America where she has to adopt American language and culture English language seems very superior to native in Kashmir and America. It shows that gradually English language hegemonize to other.

In America, Zari has nothing to lose or she loses everything what she has when Billy argues that people who are staying in foreign they forget their own home land. In the reply Zari argues:

She had a family in Kashmir, she spoke the language fluently she thought in it, she dreams her favorite is Kashmir. He could say he was not Kashmir? You could take them man out of the country but not the country out of the man and they certainly were not all America. (274)

It gives glimpse of reality with who are staying in America. People fear to live in Kashmir. It is badly affected due to the occupation and militancy. It also portrays that freedom struggle is affected the normal life. The shams of dream and the loss of love make difficult in getting back to a normal life after devastating trauma. So psychologically characters of novel are suffered from haunting memories and yearnings for that are advanced. Lost culture contiguously questioned their culture and ideology. Although migrated people have luxurious life in America but they are unable to achieve their root culture.

People who are in Kashmir they are also losing their culture because Kashmir is already hegemonized by foreign and its rest culture is almost sidelined by Indian and Pakistan from Kashmir. However, the perception regarding the America is so much rooted to the colonial subjects that the native country becomes in difficult.

Kashmiri people have to leave Kashmir thinking that they will be happy in foreign. But ground reality is that abroad makes them to remember their culture time and again.

Novel talks about fragment and colonial theme and it peels back the headline of the global now with nuance and beauty to explore the enduring human issue of love war migrant and fortitude which attempted foreground the wounded state of Kashmir. Providing a meaningful answer to the question of why and how people or state hegemonized by elite groups.

The research investigates the issue which has not only maintain the homeland and cultural identity but also created negotiated such identity under the different circumstances in the multilingual and multicultural societies. In such a scenario the world is highly ruled by the concept and practice of globalization where local communities are hegemonized by foreign culture. It is process of the world becoming a single place and rapidly increasing the globalization. It reflects a changing organization of worldwide at the same time social and cultural relation with a country is break down and people lack their purity. For their identity they may choose the violent path. For the sake of Kashmir Zari's grand pa told for family

I am leaving for Kashmir, to fight for its freedom. I am a Nabi, I cannot help it it's in my blood-wish luck. Don't be made at me. I mean I am sorry but it is my life and I can live as want . . . I . . . love you . . . Kashmir? Freedom? The world whirled before Zari. (202)

After separating India and Pakistan Kashmir lost its identity both countries divided it and rule according to their will. They never tried to understand the emotion and feelings of Kashmiri people. The freedom fighter of Kashmir is going to against India and Pakistan. To control freedom fighter both nations combat on Kashmir and give them torture.

No single day has passed without army, war, gun powder and violence in it. Due to such military policy of India and Pakistani, Kashmiri have to leave Kashmir for their survival. Abroad also not save them because they again have to lost their identities, language and tradition and hegemonized by foreign culture. In novel, Billy who has already been hegemonized tries to search his own culture. Zari who is the bearer of Kashmiri culture in America, tries to adopt American culture. She has so painful memories of Kashmir. Her raped body has becomes the object for war. All the parties claim themselves as the savior of Kashmir but they have done politics with Zari's wounded condition and want to trap the whole Kashmir civilization under the hegemony.

Billy has a peaceful life but he wants to know the truth about his real root that he has been kept away from his parents. His grandfather is the member of freedom fighter of Kashmir he was killed by unknown people due to fear of that his family escaped from Kashmir and settled in America. The characters in the novel are fighting for their identity but they themselves are losing their originality. It seems the characters are agent of hegemony because their experience in novel is affected by hegemony. So that Kashmiri are not totally free to develop and celebrate their culture openly according to their will. It is very difficult to migrant people to adopt the foreign culture:

The Mens' Mashmir blow that bruised Zari with loss and longing. She found herself saying softly in English" please if you don't mind. Please do not speak me to in Kashmir when they turned off the highway and on to double lane road without any medians, Zari was astonished to see no one running in the red light. No one using walls or hedge as public toilet. There was no litter, no beggars. (85)

As characters in the novel are originally from Kashmir stayed in America. They are linking between two cultures. Their own culture is marginalized in America because of American culture and immigrants policy and they have no any way to celebrate Kashmiri culture. Even in home also they use English as communication. English language has the quality of superior and Kashmiri language lost its reality. Character in the novel have to live between two cultures their own and aliens one. Their pure identity has not meaningful in America. It shows American culture hegemonies to Kashmiri. The text argues that hegemony is tendency of power which not only makes people forcedly to submit but also effects and influences all sectors of social, cultural and economic sector.

Even common sense of people shaped and diversion by the dominant cultural ideologies. As Antonio Gramsci has noted, "The old world is dying and the new world struggle to be born, now the time of monster" (311). It argues that globalization increase the rate of cultural amalgamation which makes frustrated and sense of displacement that keep unhappy.

Zari, the protagonist is the broken girl trying to establish in America but her memories hunt her time and again. She is not happy in abroad. The things or experience she bears in an America makes her recall his Kashmir. Now she comes to contact with foreign culture. For her survival she has to learn foreign culture. And her own culture is sidelined in America. Even people who are in Kashmir also do not want to learn native language because that native language is not fruitful in Kashmir. Their school, hospital, office and admiration use Hindi in IOK and Urdu in POK and original Kashmiri language is about to lost. But they long their native culture and pretend to learn American culture. So, they are hegemonized and bearer of globalization which makes their identity is in crisis:

He kept thinking of the Kashmiri contingent; of humans everywhere without homes to seek refuge in, to escape to and that it was his safety net of country that had allowed him his escape. His safety net of country which had rendered life precarious for so many others. Something had changed within him his heart had either hardened towards the world or else it had softened towards himself. (373)

It explains that a man cannot exist without a proper identity. Identity gives meanings to one's life. If someone identity is in shadow, existence is also in shadow.

Uncertainty and critical turn such is the situation of characters in the novel. Zari the main character has already left her original culture and failed to adopt new one. She feels displaced and encounters the cultural lack. For her culture she wander place to place but every where she found her culture is dominated by alien culture. People in abroad dominated by foreign culture. For their own identity they have to do struggle live in anxiety and frustration. But ultimately their culture is already marginalized and people who run after the own identity they themselves hegmeonized.

So it is not only difficult to adjust to the foreign country in a new environment socially and culturally diversified locations but also they are greatly affected by host country and culture and they lost their purity. *The work of art in the age of mechanical reproduction* themes that how the purity lost for Benjamin:

The aura is dead and it exists in an improbable and mystical space. But in the making of our own myths therein lies an aesthetic interpretation of those reproductive images; there is a temporal world that is there for you where you do not truly participate. The objects consume man at the same time man consumes it. Mass consumption revels in this consequence of the loss of the aura. (39)

It argues that native culture is dead instead of it we found new culture and our identity is seeking a new kind of conceptual linkage between the two elements of problems.

Zari, who lived in America for many years but she is not absolutely American because she has some experience of Kashmiri and as Benjamin's she is not pure Kashmiri "Anyone can learn a language" she will say, "But that doesn't make you Kashmir"(400). Her linkage between two culture makes her not an American nor a Kashmiri because she lost her Kashmiri culture and fail to adopt completely American.

The relationship of the individual personality and the ensemble of social and cultural features gave different group and their different character. The relationship of the society has always been problematic. People who migrated in different country for various purposes like education employ, security and so on are the medium of newness in culture. Though they found some security but their language, culture and identity is hegemonized there is no any standard of their identity. Surpassing importance ideology, values, freedom equality of individual hegemonized them in native land.

Zari searches her cultural identity to fill the lacks but cultures are never unitary in themselves. People who want freedom or liberty or who revolt against political system and cultural change, they themselves are seen as the bearers of globalization so the nature of people who identify the people with the true national culture will be unpleased. Now the people have the habit of multiple recognition and they construct their culture national to modern western forms of information technology, language dress and so on.

Hegemony is a tendency of power that makes people forcibly to submit and it influences all aspects of life. The social political cultural and economic horizons are

impacted so that the common sense of people is shaped and molded by this dominant ideology as it increases the rate of dependent in every sector. Like Kashmir has not any right to do trade with foreigner they are totally depend on India and Pakistani policy and constitution. Even their language and life style also collapsed by India and Pakistani.

The research come to point that the identity is the challenging subject it is impossible to found pure own locality in entire world, in terms of cultural study. Central character Zari does not want to leave her home land though she loses all of her house member in a bomb blast; and even becomes a victim of rape and bullet. Death toll surrounds her from everywhere that the whole valley is in the quest of safe place. They have anxiety about their native culture. As story moves onwards slowly and gradually, Zari is forced to forget her culture. She is hegemonized by American cultures and languages. As Foucault argues *In Discipline and Punish*:

We should admit rather that power produces knowledge (and not simply by encoring it because it serves power or by applying it because it is useful); that power and knowledge directly imply one another, that there is no power relation without the correlative constitution of a field of knowledge, the process and struggles that traverse it and of which is made up, that determines the forms and possible domain of knowledge. (27)

To clarify, knowledge and language are governed by power relation according to them which people are positioned in hierarchies of knower. When story goes on, Zari doesn't want to tell her story to other because she was filled by such knowledge that she has to shame with her raped situation. After Kashmir crisis Zari was gangly raped and her parents were killed. The question is not coming who had rapped? For what purpose her parents were killed. But the question is that; who will marry the Zari?

Who accept Zari as a wife? People give sympathy to Zari in the society instead of investing the criminal. But in America getting marry is not a huge matter either girl may be raped or virgin. So according to place the knowledge and truth is different. Zari has done code marriage which is not allowed in Muslim family in Kashmir.

The characters in the novel are carrying the global norms, but their local culture is about to pass way since the globalization is the mixture of culture which gives the new unique culture. Many events in novel show the globalization as follows:

This was technically true because- her host family in America-were distant relatives. The man an orthopedic surgeon was originally from Kashmir the woman a pediatrician was originally from Pakistan and their three children had been born and brought up in America. (38)

In such situation the role of globalization, and the impact of migration create the situation of multicultural, multiracial and which crave the way for cultural hegemony. It shows that globalization is normal thing in cultural study. But slowly and gradually with the power of elite culture, local culture diminishes from the society.

Globalization is such a process where individual lives and local cultures are hegemonized by economic and political forces that operate worldwide. It is the process of the world the becoming a single place. It reflects a changing organization of worldwide.

Social relations where the nation has begun to have a decreasing importance as individuals as communities gain access globally. Widespread knowledge and culture affected by social stigma. Kashmiri think that behind Kashmir there is a lot of opportunity where people can easily spend their life and they think that Kashmir is the unsafe place where there is no guarantee of life because the valley is fully in war. People who has left native land for satisfaction they get frustrated because it is very

difficult to live in alien culture.

Zari a nervous raped girl who has faces many casualties in Kashmir and she has lost everything in Kashmir. She recalls a lot about the past. In America she has nothing to lose or she loses everything what she has when argues that people who are staying in foreign they left their identity, culture and homeland. In reply Bill notices: She had a family in Kashmir, she spoke the language fluently, and he thought in it, she dream in it, his favorite food is Kashmir. He could she say he was not Kashmiri? You could take the man out of the country but not the country out of the man. (274)

It gives a glimpse of reality with who are staying in America. People fear to live in Kashmir. It is badly affected due to the occupation and militancy. It also portrays that the freedom struggle is affected the normal life. So psychologically characters of novel are suffered from haunting and yearnings for a lost home that continuously questioned their root culture.

Kashmiri people are excited to leave Kashmir. They believe that they get satisfaction in abroad but the ground reality makes them to feel their native culture due to American cultural hegemonization. There research argues that cultural hegemony has becomes an important issue where cultural domination can be due to various social aspect like economic, education and technological factors. It is supposed to be that the cultural product of developed country ruled the developing and under developing nation. Such product makes dependency to those poor nations and elite group easily impose their ideology in the name of development. Finally that ideology hegemonizes the subordinate culture.

It is very hard to live between two cultural worlds and maintain balance. This research has explored the issue of cultural hegemony. The modern world with the increase of immigrants numbers, hybrid nations, with different cultural diversities

where the question of cultural identity comes to surface. To the answers of the issue of cultural hegemony this research moves on. In *An Isolated Incident* the characters suffer from war in native land and face many difficulties to adjust in America like country. Characters seem happy in America but their local culture is trapped due to their detachment or lack of identifications.

Finally, the geopolitics of the subcontinent is best explained by the serious enmity between two major countries India and Pakistan. Both nations choose the way of war to control the Kashmir and fight many times against each other on their border. Even they hegemonize through non - military domains such as economy, education and politics. India dominates many area of Kashmir geographically and it uses so many hegemonic tools to control the Kashmir and other neighboring countries. As the famed sub continental scholar Chhanakya has said "In trans border relations there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies." India adopts same ideology to control its neighbor country so it has not very good relation with them and Kashmiri. Kashmir wants to free from Indian rule but due to military power it is dominated.

Conflict between India and Pakistan captures some parts of Kashmir. It imposes hegemony that puts Kashmir on the path of conflict. Both countries are intent on holding their power in Kashmir. Indian hegemony seeks to dominate or rule Kashmir through ideological and cultural means whereas Pakistani by nuclear weapon. It refers the ability of India and Pakistanis' government to hold power over Kashmir. They take the help of social institutions that strongly influence values, norms, ideas expectations and behavior of the rest of the society.

Hegemony is the chain which is thrown by elite group. Kashmir is tied by the chain and there is no option to go against the powerful chain. India and Pakistan use indirect idea to get more benefits and they hegemonize over Kashmir. Kashmir

became the matter of news in television, radio and newspaper. It seems as an object to hegemony and it is most strongly miniaturized when those ruled by the dominant group.

Finally people come to believe that the economic and social conditions of their society are natural and inevitable rather than created. This hegemonic power is imposed and largely driven to check the state - enforce to hegemony. Indian and Pakistani monopoly is exercised through the different apparatuses to subjugate Kashmir aggressively. Such autocratic wings of power leave no space to celebrate local culture. This situation suppresses the individual voices and democratic values. Even the common sense of people is confiscated with such dominant and undemocratic power. As the political domination, war, and the impositions of supremacy over other culture and people do not globalize the world, it creates a revengeful attitude of the native people.

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