

GLOBALIZATION OF CULTURE IN THE CONTEMPORARY INDIAN
NARRATIVES IN ENGLISH

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of
Tribhuvan University in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

ENGLISH

By

PAWAN BARAL

TU Reg. No. 19207-88

Ph.D. Reg. No. 19/073

Tribhuvan University

Kathmandu, Nepal

June 2022

Letter of Recommendation

We certify that this dissertation entitled Globalization of Culture in the Contemporary Indian Novels in English was prepared by Pawan Baral under our guidance. We hereby recommend this dissertation for final examinations by the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English.

Dissertation Committee:

Prof. Dr. Ram Chandra Paudel

Supervisor

Prof. Dr. Bed Prasad Giri

Co- Supervisor

Date: -----

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Office of the Dean

Kirtipur, Kirtipur

Ref. No.: ...

Approval Letter

This dissertation entitled Globalization of Culture in the Contemporary Indian Novels in English submitted by Mr. Pawan Baral for final examination to the Research Committee of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English. I hereby, certify that the Research Committee of the Faculty has found this dissertation satisfactory in scope and quality and has therefore accepted for the degree.

Prof. Kushum Shakya, PhD

Dean and Chairperson

Research Committee

Date:

Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled "Globalization of Culture in the Contemporary Indian Novels in English" submitted to the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, is an entirely original work and I have made due acknowledgements to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in the course of writing this dissertation. The results presented in this dissertation have not been presented anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other reasons. No part of the content of this dissertation has ever been published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidence is found against my declaration

Pawan Baral

Date: -----

Acknowledgements

It is one of my greatest pleasures to register the many debts of gratitude I owe to so many wise and compassionate souls and organizations in the course of undertaking such a long and felicitous academic journey.

My sincere gratitude goes to Professor Dr. Ram Chandra Paudel, my dissertation supervisor and my mentor for lighting in me the spark of academic research with his perspicacious grasp of theory and literature and for pushing me ever so kindly on to the path to this work.

I have no words to express my gratitude and high appreciation to Professor Dr. Bed Prasad Giri who co-directed the whole project guiding me all the time with solid insights and suggestions. His patience, intellectual rigor and generosity are unparalleled.

I am equally indebted to Professor Dr. Jib Lal Sapkota, Head of the Central Department of English, TU, who remained a source of inspiration and solace during the whole journey by providing me with relevant materials, scholarly guidance, enthusiasm and vigor to carry out the research. I am also thankful to Professor Dr. Anirudra Thapa, former Head of the Central Department of English, Kirtipur for his insights and suggestions to sharpen my arguments and analysis.

I gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Professor Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma and Professor Dr. Beerendra Pandey, Professor Dr. Dhruba Karki from Central Department of English, and Professor Dr. Shreedhar Gautam from Patan Multiple Campus in different stages of the research. Similarly, I extend my sincerest thanks to my colleagues and relatives who have inspired and supported me in various ways to further the research.

I would like to express my words of gratitude to Tribhuvan University and its different bodies, i.e., Office of Dean – Humanities and Social Sciences, Coordination

Division, Central Department of English, and Bhaktapur Multiple Campus for their official and academic support. I also like to acknowledge Tribhuvan University for granting me three years of Study Leave and Faculty Fellowship for carrying out my Ph.D.

Last but not the least, my lovely gratitude goes to my better-half Samjhana Paudel, who is a source of patience; and my curious sons Dr. Abal and Aavash, who take pride in my endeavour, for their uninterrupted support in various ways.

Thank you!

Pawan Baral

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my parents – my father late Shakti Prasad Baral, a school teacher of principles and my mother Chandra Kumari Baral, a loving homemaker – for all their sacrifices of personal pleasure and happiness for my education.

Pawan Baral

Abstract

This study aims at exploring globalization of culture in Indian narratives in English published after 1980s, when globalization has emerged as an all-pervasive cultural force. The central research question is how the Indian narratives in English of post-1980s, as they are the forms of cultural production, replicate globalization of culture. It primarily excavates different forms of global cultural flows and cultural shades of globalization as evident in the characterization or in the representation of a community or a society. It uses four Indian novels in English as the primary source: Bharati Mukharjee's *Jasmine* (1989), Rohinton Mistry's *Family Matters* (2001), Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss* (2006), and Arvind Adiga's *The White Tiger* (2008). Published after the time when globalization has emerged as all-pervasive cultural force, they have all won significant standing in the global literary market. It employs qualitative interpretative strategies of inquiry with the philosophical orientation of social construction. As for the tools for analyzing the primary data, such insights related to globalization of culture are used as Five Dimensions of Global Cultural Flows, Hybridity, Americanization and Creolization.

The study demonstrates that Indian narratives in English of post-1980s epitomize the discourses of globalization and internationalization. This is evident in their representation of various aspects of globalization of culture. These aspects manifest in a wide array of cultural symbols—not only physical objects but customs, ideas and values also. These aspects show up in two main consequential cultural patterns, viz: homogenization and hybridization. The study contends that both strands of cultural patterns of globalization exist side by side in each of these novels, one being dominant over the other. *Jasmine* evidences cultural hybridization in Jasmine's culturally hybrid identity in her different transformations in her gradual process of Americanization. *Family Matters* captures Indian Parsis' cultural hybridization pattern by foregrounding such issues

as rising individualism and changed filial loyalty and demands of family and community as the byproduct of globalization. *The Inheritance of Loss* demonstrates cultural hybridity in terms of communities, characters and language brought about by the interplay of postcoloniality and globalization. *The White Tiger* depicts cultural homogenization in the late twentieth century due to modernization, urbanization, digitalization and increased economic activities.

The significance of the research lies in its modality of examining literary texts with reference to social-global phenomenon. It also incites researchers to explore different dimensions of globalization in literary texts written in English or in non-English language from countries like Nepal.

Contents

Letter of Recommendation	ii
Approval Letter	iii
Declaration	iv
Acknowledgements	v
Dedication	vii
Abstract	viii
Contents	x
Chapter One: Indian Novels in English and Globalization of Culture	1-44
Introduction	1-5
Statement of the Problem	5-5
Hypothesis	6-6
Research Objectives	6-6
Review of Literature	6-34
Methodology	34-43
Research Design	34-35
Justification for Selecting Primary Texts	35-36
Tools for Data Analysis	36-43
Cultural Globalization	36-37
Five Dimensions of Global Cultural Flows	37-39
Hybridity	39-41
Creolization	41- 42
Americanization or Cocacolonization	42-43
Organization of the Study	43-44

Chapter Two: Globalizing India, and Jasmine's Odyssey and Hybrid Identity	45-81
Signposts of Globalization in <i>Jasmine</i> : Hasnapuri Surroundings	46-53
Shuttling between Worlds: Jasmine's identity and Agency	53-81
Chapter Three: Parsis's Destiny in <i>Family Matters</i>	82-108
Text in Context: Parsis in India	82-88
The Legend of Sugar in Milk	83-84
Parsis and the West	84-88
Dynamics of Parsi Culture in <i>Family Matters</i>	88-108
Chapter Four: Postcoloniality and Globalization in <i>The Inheritance of Loss</i>	109-147
Legacy of British Empire and Globalized India	109-112
Globalized Community and Culture: Kalimpong to New York	112-120
Characters: Fractured Identity and Crisscrossed Cultural Codes	120-143
Mixing of Hindi and English: Internationalization of Culture	143-147
Chapter Five: The India Toward the Light in <i>The White Tiger</i>	148-187
Dismantling Traditional Institutions: Family, Marriage, and Caste System	149-158
Aftermath of Economic Liberalization: Americanization	158-174
An India of Light: Technological Extension, Urbanization, and Economic Boom	174-182
Linguistic Imperialism, Nomenclature and Indian English	182-187
Chapter Six: Homogenization to Hybridization of Culture in the Post-1980s	
Indian Novels in English	188-195
Works Cited	196-215