

This research paper endeavors to show contradiction of modernity in V.S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* through the vantage point of modernity as conceptualized by Anthony Giddens's notion of 'multi-dimensional nature of modernity', Jurgen Habermas's notion of 'rationality' and, Ulrich Beck's notion of 'risk society'. It also investigates Naipaul's employment of the characters, setting, language and the plot on the basis of traditionalist and modernist clash. This study follows conflict, dilemma, action, psychological background of characters and their level of consciousness back and forth respectively. The debate on contradiction of modernity and its formation is need to discuss with focusing on characters and setting of novel while novelist is drafting the events and evidence of that contemporary time in his novel. The clash between modern and traditional pattern brings the contradiction, which appears in characters, plot, dialogue and setting of the novel. The researcher argues that the changing socio-cultural structure of that contemporary Trinidad reflects contradiction of modernity which is found in the novel.

A House for Mr. Biswas is a story of search for a stable sense of personal identity, symbolized by the house for which protagonist Mr. Biswas is continually searching. Until he attains his own house, a firm structure within which he can seek his own destiny, he is a faceless man, adrift on the tides of life. He studies his face in a mirror and asks his wife Shama who he is, based on his face. She cannot answer, and he says, "I don't look like anything at all. Shopkeeper, lawyer, doctor, labourer, overseer—I don't look like any of them" (120). Mr. Biswas worries frequently about falling into a void, a place where there is no structure, no basis for living. Throughout the novel, inner and outer reality reflects each other. The novel is portraying a figure of psychological lack and identity in each character. The protagonist, Mohun Biswas keeps trying to get a place of his own all his life; he stays at numerous places,

sometimes employed and sometimes at mercy of other people. But he has high self-esteem and wants to have a place where his wife and children could live peacefully and that could continue to shelter them after he was gone. The house he buys in the end, though full of numerous faults, becomes such a place.

As we discuss the issues of literature it has large view in many angles and perspectives along with the ongoing debate of transformative world. The story begins from pastoral and ends at urban which, reflects the time of new search, seeking opportunity, and in other language it is a transforming process of dynamic society. The first chapter of the novel Pastoral scene deals with the traditionalism, class conflict and struggles with the village life and people. On the other hand, when the story shifting towards the urban, there are capitalism, globalization, alienation, and modern dilemma emerge in the story. In the case of village, there found superstitious people such as pundit prophecy on Mr. Biswas "six fingered, and born in the wrong way"(11). Another fact is Dhari, calf's owner, an unkind neighbor who tortures poor people and no any sympathy towards the mournful moment of Mr. Biswas's father dying and their predicament also obliged to leave them village indicates the class conflict. In the same way, when the story proceeds to urban it introduces with the setting and characters of that place as like Tara at Pagotes, Mr. Biswas's relations with the big Tulsi family at Arwacas and rest of the character, places and events. And it informs us to the effects of capitalism, globalization, modern dilemma which surrounds modernity.

Since the research paper attempts to analyze the contradiction of modernity in *A House for Mr. Biswas*, it brings the theoretical insights Giddens's notion of 'The 'multi-dimensional nature of modernity'. Among the four nature of multi-dimensional nature of modernity here discuss only two dimensions they are capitalism, and

industrialism. In the novel, Mr. Biswas's main aim is to seeking the house for his stability and he needs money to get a house. His present obligation is to compete with the capitalism. The reason is that he must fix his permanency and also for his family. Besides, going massive development of industrialism also influencing the people's life of that contemporary time. Though, the emergence of industrialism provides opportunities of employments, it seems still lack because they do not get enough and satisfied earnings and one of them is Mr. Biswas who failed in many attempts in his lifetime. This was transitional time for those who are unfit for the working in industrial world. The fact is that they are unable to move with this change of time and appears the paradox of capitalism and industrialism in modernity.

Along with this, Jurgan Habermas's notion of 'rationality' and, Ulrich Beck's notion of 'risk society' uses as a tool for modernity discussion in the study of text. The term 'rationality' itself notices the contradiction in Naipaul's characters, plot, setting and dialogue while seeking how they are rational in the view of modernity. In the same Beck's 'risk society' also dig out the changes of social values in novel such as protagonist Mr. Biswas's struggle in diaspora, the people, the exchange of cultural and religious practices among the diverse community. The continuously changing world brings risk to society and it is questioning the current generation and coming generation which is reflected in Naipaul's novel. These basic ideas of forming the modernity meet social and human standarities. But, talking all about modernity at the same time not neglecting the contradiction emerges in the formation of modernity. The contradiction of modernity creates a dilemma in the modernity construction. This debate of contradiction forms a discuss subject for an individual, socio-cultural, historical and global issues. With the presence of contradiction issues it regulates the conduct of an individual and other rest of the event creators of social sphere. Mainly,

the research engages around the psychological position and status of the character how they are guiding through. Along with this, that contemporary time and period also exposes which keep in the frame of analyzing the text.

The continuous process of social dynamism affects over the entire human activities and this influence of social dynamic process is seen in the human attitude and their behaviors. Dynamism not only carries new and ordinary subjects, it also carries previous and usual attitude inside the human beings. In the novel, the protagonist Mr. Biswas seems to be a modern man but his real stance is not exact of that. Biswas as a modern man escapes from the vast Tulsi household, he wants to liberal from the huge mass from the Hanuman house. His attitude goes like this: "And how the old queen? That was Mrs. Tulsi. The old hen? The old cow?"(106). But, these language used by Biswas reflects the remaining pieces of patriarchal rigidity inside him. On the other hand, this language of the frustration towards Tulsi indicates that he wants to liberate from it. This process of being liberated gives signal to both modern and traditional clash and also the contradiction. The creation of dynamism brings the contradiction in the formation of ideology of modernity. Thus, the depiction of novelist towards his main character Mr. Biswas centers on the contradiction in his full of life.

Naipaul tries to show both traditional and modern values and their merits as a reciprocal style in the novel which is reflected in the action and performance of characters. The protagonist's father Raghu who always fears pundit's prophecy, a blind faith and finally he attempts to hard risk for the rescue of his son Mr. Biswas but it became vain at last and Raghu lost his life in the pond. Depend on the blind faith exposes the traditional rigidity but, Mr. Biswas approach with the water pond observes in spite of the restriction and breaks the traditional belief though, he was a

child signals to paradox. The conservative image as Naipaul highlights in the text "I have warned you. You can only see him on the twenty-first day. If you do stupid now the responsibility will be yours"(15). The protagonist's father Raghu tries to cross the prohibition to see his son Biswas but he is stopped at last. This attempt of Raghu symbolizes that he wants to cross the tradition but restriction of Pundit prophecy in front of him. So, in the process of modernization there always appears the root of tradition and conservative relic remain inside the human being.

The fact is that this novel is set in certainly a diasporic world and it also engages around the postcolonial bases. The reflexivity of both diaspora and postcolonial effects surrounds the origin of modernity. By the consequences of this fact Naipaul's narration has formed and exposes in his story pointing to the contemporary Trinidad. The postcolonial effect creates mostly impact on the values of cultural and religious exchanging process. In the same way living in diasporic society also creates the tension between various communities to express and exchange their feelings in single and particular geography. In the novel, one of Tulsi's elder son Shekher married with Dorethy; a culturally different community woman and later Shekher's brother as same as Owad married with the Dorethy's cousin. They crossed the values of family but at the same time their family is not well satisfied by the act of Shekher and Owad though they have strong sympathy towards the own tradition. On the other hand, Mr. Biswas who seems to be modern but his stance is not in favor with Tulsi's sons and he spoils on Owad: "The giggles maddened Mr. Biswas. 'Go to France!' he cried"(587). In this excerpt, conflict between Mr. Biswas and Owad expose that they belong from the same community but both lack mutual understanding because of their different living background. This scene of favor and not favor takes the place of contradiction in Tulsi house.

Capitalism is another form and factor of modernity. It can make and change human life and their way of living. Anthony Giddens argues: "We can recognize capitalist societies as one distinct subtype of modern society in general" (56). In modern world capitalism is an essential part of society. Naipaul's central character Mr. Biswas searching for the economic sustainability but his struggle and attempts are unstable because of psychological dilemma between the traditional and modern clash during that time. Mr. Biswas is guided by both hunger of owning his own house and his rule of old style of himself. In the narration of the novel novelist mentions Biswas's movements like this: "Mr. Biswas was impressed and grateful. He determined to put his money aside, and add to it, until he had enough to build his house" (219). On one hand, personal property gives a sense of freedom in capitalistic society which, Mr. Biswas following from very first stage of his life struggles to get his big dream. On the other he is still living in traditional versions of himself which we can see from his behaviors and activities. In fact, both capitalism and modernity are inseparable in the sense of their essential role and relation with the society.

The reflection of globalization also found in Naipaul's novel and by this inspiration Naipaul exposes his story representing on its characters and plotlines. Regarding globalization Peter Marber states that "globalization is a term that encompasses all cross-border interactions, whether economic, political, cultural" (29). In Naipaul's novel we can interact with the globalization impacts such as cross cultural marriage, religious tolerance, linguistic exchange with multiplicity, and survivability among the difference. Owad, another major characters of the novel who, goes abroad for his study and success to know the broad structure of life. The narrator describes more highlighting Owad in this way: "And Owad was an all-rounder. He not only had views on politics and military strategy: he not only was knowledgeable

about cricket and football; he lifted weights, he swam, he rowed; and he had strong opinions about artist and writers"(576). Interaction with the differences Owad filled with knowledge of different versions which exposes the globalization. Thus, J. L. Powell elaborates his views on globalization and modernity in this way: "In a compressed world, the comparison and confrontation of worldviews are bound to produce new cultural conflict. In such conflict, old traditions and new ideas play a key symbolic role"(16). This is how we can analyze the Owad's presence through this Powell idea on globalization and modernity in the novel.

This research paper proves the existing debate of contradiction in modernity through the contemporary images of post-colonial condition and diasporic people in Trinidad. The pastoral and urban part has different images in the novel. Naipaul tries to show how pastoral life and urban life tie up in each other. These fusion represents modernity in a different views especially the people's way of living style. In early days of Mr. Biswas family there was harmony though the poverty still exist. After they transferred into urban they becomes change, they learn the rules of different places, trying to fit for live in vast diverse community and familiar with how to work and walk for survival. Mr. Biswas belongs to common background but his dream is high. He follows his dream though he has failed many times in his struggling journey. Urban is always a region of opportunities and competitiveness where Mr. Biswas was trying to settle. But, the fact is that a boy who come from village, big city, different people with different language, unknown faces, irresponsive relatives, and friends introduce to him from very near. On the other hand, while Mr. Biswas was roaming here and there meanwhile he was learning many lesson of life journey. Despite all these facts he forgets to change himself and his some behaviors which seems very rigid and traditional type. Mr. Biswas is in favor of change but his manner doesn't

show that kind of performance in his every action and decision. This type of dilemma creates two pole in the novel; modernity and its contradiction.

Through the dividing and unstable psychology of the protagonist, the writer conveys the representation of that contemporary circumstances of a diasporic community. Mr. Biswas appears as a representative character in the story and the writer displays him in many versions in the contemporary time frame. Naipaul champions in his work capturing the rising scenario created by modernity. The novel engages around the Caribbean society, most of the characters are originally from India. Thus, modernity cannot succeed single it handedly as includes colonialism, diaspora, capitalism, globalization and so on. Thus, Naipaul's story and its characters move around the shade of modernity in the novel.

The novel represents the multiple versions of time dynamism. Protagonist of novel, Mr. Biswas himself a member of diaspora, experiencer of postcolonial world, victim of identity crisis. These all are indicators of modernity but together with this also included the remaining past culture, ritual and other practices following and practicing since ancestral era. Bahareh Shojaan explains about the postcolonial features on Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* in this way:

Mr. Biswas is a person who has no actual home. He is changing his house subsequently so as to feel at home somewhere, finally finding himself alone and wandered. As he is being crashed by the situation, he makes himself preoccupied by reading fiction as to be away from the reality he is in. He wants to be like the heroes of Samuel Smiles living in romantic world; however, waking up, he sees that he has lost a life behind and should start again. His identity gets fragmented and this is what mostly happens for the colonized living in a colonial country. (77)

Identity crisis is the reality of postcolonial society which creates the feeling of alienation. There is compulsion of protagonist that he always feels alienated in the society. He always attempts to establish himself in the mass of that different communities but becomes vain at last and he again tries to move unknowingly. However, Shojaan here especially focuses on psychological stages of the protagonist but he is absent to express that contemporary time and also the social trends of particular society of Trinidad.

Along with Shojaan interpretation, there exists numerous interpretations regarding the review of novel. In order to dig out the novel Tahereh Siamardi and Reza Deedari states their views through colonial perspectives. The colonial shocked is badly impacts on the life of an Indian immigrant community in Trinidad. They are scatter in the different forms such as psychologically, culturally and religiously because of the proximity with the different communities in the same land and society. Regarding this fact Simardi and Deedari states that:

Biswas, as the protagonist of the story, is searching for a house of his own throughout his life. He represents displaced people having no identity in Trinidad since they are unhomed from their own land and in this new environment, they feel unstable. As a result of being unhomed and having no identity they have to create a new identity of their own. The first step is to imitate the colonizer's way of behavior and absorb its norms through which the characters in this novel gradually lose their language, culture, custom and their belief in Hindi religion and their religion becomes a mixture of Christian and Hindi. (128)

The fact is that novel itself the yield of colonial expansion and its aftermaths.

Siamardi and Deedari especially emphasis on the colonial side while engaging in the

text. Both researcher draws the image of crisis that is found in the post-colonial society. The protagonist Mr. Biswas belongs to the Indian community and appears as a nomad in Trinidad because, he loses his all roots and becomes like an alien. They engage with the colonial subject but absent in the issues and subject of modernity in their work.

Likewise, the interpretation of Benedictus Tsavmbu also focuses on colonialism, intertextuality, marginality, and identity while engaging the text. In the various discussion topics, intertextuality is different among them which is quite apart than previous study. He states his views in this way:

In accord with the signifying quality of texts in intertextual discourse, Biswas' search for a house takes on paramount signification, which on a personal level, embodies the quest for liberty and fulfilment and on the societal level, a will to upturn the subjugating manacles of colonialism and a quest for collective freedom. Because Naipaul's Biswas fails to achieve his singular most pressing desire of owning a house, it may not be out of place to conclude here that, V. S. Naipaul has little hope of a sustainable improvement in the status-quo that obtains in his colonial society. (194)

Intertextuality simply means borrows others textual ideas and trends in writing literature. It assist to know the beauty of writing with their similarities and condition of characters and many other things in the literary works. As the narrator describes in the novel: "Mr. Biswas and Anand hunted through the *Collins Clear-Type Shakespeare* and found the play of *Measure for Measure* rich in things that could be quoted. They also quoted from the *New Testament* and the *Gita*" (510). Naipaul's borrows many others text and their dialogue in his writing. Here, Tsavmbu also prioritizies as simillar previous scholars views except the intertextuality.

In order to see the style, methods, structure and theme of novel, there included the various theories and perspectives by different scholars. Regarding the novel, Deepak Kumar and Shagufta Naj opines that “The ingredients such as: dislocation, confusion, disorder, mimicry, despair and utter rootlessness form the content of Naipaul’s fiction. The first three indicate a preliminary state of fragmentation. The second set, building upon the first, leads to an irreversible alienation from all previous ties” (238). Likewise, Pravir Kumar exposes his view by emphasizing the identity crisis “The novel paints a poignant picture of Mr. Biswas as he struggles to preserve his own identity in an alien environment and tries to forge an authentic selfhood. Besides focusing on his dark world, the novel introduces brief glimpses of ethnic and social history of the marginalized East Indian community in Trinidad” (3032). Similarly, Divya also states her view as same as Pravir Kumar. “The novel, *A House for Mr. Biswas*, reveals the protagonist’s struggle to find his own identity. The story looks into the self of the protagonist who wanders in isolation in a quest of genuine selfhood in a dispossessed land” (15). She talks about identity crisis but her especial focus engages around the diaspora. There too exist the lack of broader interpretation of capitalism, globalization, industrialization and socio-cultural interpretation in the existing researches and reviews.

This research paper marks a point of departure from the existing researches which concern themselves with the crisis and consequences due to colonialism, cultural and identical transition of the contemporary Trinidad in the novel. The previous researches are absent with the issues contradiction of modernity, globalization, capitalism, modern dilemma and conflict with the changing era. Drawing on these claims regarding the novel, the new thing that I am going to deal in this paper will be the subject matter of contradiction of modernity. Regarding the

contradiction of modernity Timothy Mitchell explains “Modernity presents not only a particular version of the production of space, a particular image of the spatial order. The modern is produced as the difference between space and its representation” (27). Naipaul’s novel is the story of postcolonial period and it takes the event of Caribbean country named Trinidad and Tobago. Moreover, the novel is representing the people and the place of that contemporary time and also the reflection of modernity has exhibit in the text. Along with this many dimension of modernity it has different shapes, format and the discussion methods to study the structure.

As the story centers on the protagonist Mr. Biswas, it represents the many sequels of contemporary events of that particular place where he is living as an alien made by fate in the time circle. The protagonist is growing in the colonial world where he is staying in crisis such as identical, cultural, financial, self-respect and social adjustment. Regarding the claim that modernity is effects and result of colonization, Arif Dirlik states:

Too much preoccupation with Eurocentrism or colonialism also disguises fundamental questions of contemporary modernity that cut across so-called cultural divides, especially as the locations of modernity and culture are themselves thrown into question with the reconfigurations of economic and political organization globally. Differences framed in terms of geographical or spatial cultural locations serve above all to conceal the fact that these are the least important differences that may matter in an age of globalization. (21)

In fact, the cause and effect of colonial and post-colonial period is expansion of modernity and globalization almost worldwide. Naipaul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas* is also the output of these contemporary moments and the consequences. The central character and title of the novel named Mr. Biswas itself is witness of that time.

Dirlik's idea on modernity during the period of colonial and post-colonial agree with the Naipaul's novel as well as its story and characters.

Diaspora is another result of the colonization in particular but not as a whole. During the colonial period people crossed their territories and region by many different reasons. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* is the fusion and experiences of both diaspora and colonization especially the result created in the post-colonial period. The protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas is a character and representative of the diasporic community at Trinidad. He is originally from Indian community and tries to survive in an alien world. He has been attempting to fit himself in a vast and unknown world but he is not prepared to change his mentality in a full and celebrating mood which can be the question to modernity. 'And what sort of dowry did they give you?' 'Dowry? They are not old fashioned. They didn't give me a penny' (101). In understanding on diaspora, Anh Hua states that "It is crucial to remember that diasporic identities and communities are not fixed, rigid or homogeneous but are instead fluid, always changing, and heterogeneous" (193). Mr. Biswas stable behaviors and the treatment to others indicating that he is rigid in his still traditional mindset though seems to have accepting the reality of that present time. On the other, regarding colonial impact reviews of Colin Clarke on *The Caribbean: The Genesis of a Fragmented Nationalism* by Franklin W. Knight highlights "Colonialism created the Caribbean's pigmentocracy, but the pecking order did not involve systematic social isolation. Admittedly, old elites and now immigrant groups have emphasized racial purity and the persistence of cultural traits, yet miscegenation, acculturation and cultural hybridization are persistent Caribbean themes" (491). The fusion of different racial group creates the new society in Trinidad and there starting to see the clash between them which indicates the modern dilemma in the novel.

To the rise of modernity many movements and series has been playing vital role in the both past and present time dimension. Naipaul's novel also emerge in the same frame of time dimension. As we go through the each character of the novel they are representing their own values and they are walking with the time dynamism. The modernity is following them continually even in their criticality. Modernity has already the fact that is colonization in this regard Gurminder K Bhambra argues:

With the colonization of time the question of modernity has been bursting. Be it a particular period, a particular epoch, be it the way of organizing life and the ensuing behavioral expression, be it the classification of social. We ought to remember the historically trajectory of modernity, wherein the interests concern itself with particular geo-humanity. More so to, we ought to think through how this humanism has come to be universalized as made of knowing in our everyday life. (181)

Modernity is a consequence of colonization and it can be measured in the historical arena of the time. In the novel protagonist Mr. Biswas who is representing evidences of time which mention in the above extract. Though, there are so many contradiction appears in his lifeline when he is walking in that particular time.

When we talk about modernity the globalization also comes together in the discussion subject of this study. The setting of the novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* particularly the time, while the novelist was drafting his novel importantly. As we see, the title name and the protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas and other rest of the characters and inspiration behind their living style also the important subject to know the globalization impact upon them. Regarding the relation between globalization and modernity Jason L. Powell states that: "Globalization has a rich history associated with the emergence of modernity. Indeed, the rise of modernity has been defined by a

number of historical processes including the Atlantic Slave Trade and attendant institutions of slavery, and European colonization of Africa Asia and Latin America” (3). This evidence exposes how globalization and modernity formed in each other. In the same Naipaul’s novel also connected with this fact and features. The diasporic community of Trinidad itself wide and diverse where, the immigrant people from many places of the world. In this condition of vast diversity they exchange their cultural and religious norms in each other. Some people transferred one country to another. They come and go one place to another and bring the different learnings and experiences. Naipaul’s *A House for Mr. Biswas* and its character, setting, plot are also included in the chronological frame of the history. The novel draws the picture of the postcolonial period and the fusion of globalization respectively.

Modernity requires many terms, theories and movements for its fulfillment. Here, we need to discuss the subject of capitalism with relating to modernity. The protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas who wants to become financially independent. He has a dream of owning his own house. His struggle is to gain money for the fulfillment of his dreams though he often fails. On the other hand, the society is divided into two sections in the race of capitalism. Mr. Biswas has no permanent residence, not enough money, and even no proper and fixed job. But his aim is to find his permanency especially a house. In this regard, the conversation between Mr. Biswas and Mr. Maclean assists to understand more clearly on the basis of text in this way:

‘I was thinking. About the house. It would be nice to have concrete pillars. Not naked though. I don’t think that does look nice. Plastered and smooth.’

‘I know what you mean. You think you could give me about a hundred and fifty dollars just to start off with?’

Mr. Biswas hesitated. (251)

Building a house for Mr. Biswas is strong challenge ever in his life. His dreams are repress by capitalism where the competition is high and hard to obtain the success. To be a human being in modern society the capital is basic thing for every individual. In the novel the protagonist main target is to earn the money fixed a permanent house, fulfillment of basic things for his family and release from financial bound. Moreover, Mr. Biswas wants to establish his value in front of the society and this is the obligation created by the rising capitalism in modern society. Thus, the capitalism is an essential part of modernity which Naipaul's trying to show in his novel.

In the novel, Naipaul figures out the clash between the traditional and modern beliefs. The characters of the novel are divided into different psychology where some are celebrate the modern values meanwhile others are not fully enjoy with that environment. The protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas who always seems to have in dilemma he neither in the full support of modern belief and nor traditional. This contradictory psychology of Mr. Biswas is questioning to the modernity. The causes of psychological dilemma in characters is rapid transformation of the world and it effects in the culture and the community. As narrator describes in text the clash between modern and traditional psyche of characters goes like this:

She asked about the Tulsis and he replied as briefly as he could. He knew that, though the two houses had little to do with one another, an antagonism existed between them. The Tulsis, who did *puja* every day and celebrated every Hindu festival, regarded Ajodha as a man who pursued wealth and comfort and modernity and had alienated himself from the faith. (254)

The above extracted lines indicate that there is definitely a clash between both the traditional and modern generation but reality is that both the first generation

immigrants from India and current growing generation in Trinidad belongs to same community and culture. Due to the fusion and hybrid formation of their contemporary surroundings they are divided now in different culture and the religion. The gap between old generation and new generation created an imbalance condition among their community in the diasporic world. Tulsi who represents the older and in supports to preserving the culture, rituals and tradition. Meanwhile, Ajodha stands in exact opposite to Tulsis. Likewise, the second generation characters protagonist Mr. Biswas, Tulsi's sons Shekher, Owad, and the third generation like Mr. Biswas's kids and other rest of the characters seems the different. In the same way to see the modern dilemma it has many systems to understand its pattern and structure also with the different approach, theory and philosophy. To understand the modern dilemma Cahoon E. Lawrence express his words on the basis of how the society is perceiving the modernity and also provides historical evidences in chronological order. "The complexities of the dialectic of modernity bear directly on that central problematic feature of both humanism and democracy, the attempt to organize society on the basis of individual freedom. The commitment to individual freedom is essential to all modernity, both early and late" (6). In fact, Naipaul's novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* is a dream of its protagonist Mr. Biswas to get a house which provides the permanent settlement, individual freedom, and feeling of real human being to him in the society. Mr. Biswas is bound by many obstacles and says: "Is you who get me in this. You and your family. Look at me. I look like Seth? You could look at me and say that this is my sort of work?" (217). Mr. Biswas wants liberation from the Hanuman House and spoils the frustrations on his wife Shama. In Hanuman House where Tulsis and Seth rules as the head and Mr. Biswas feels repressive all the time. He consider that there is no place and respect for him and wants to release from Hanuman House because he

has own independent nature. Thus, there seems to a fusion of contradiction among the family due to the influences of modernity.

The novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* is set on a post-colonial world. In the post-colonial setting of the novel there emerges sense of alienation due to cultural and social disarrange with the diverse community. In the novel, the protagonist Mr. Biswas is victim of alienation. He feels himself as an alien in his life living moments though there is not any lack of attachment within his own community and people. Mr. Biswas is alienated in order to seeking himself in the diverse mass of different people in Trinidad. Being alienated is a kind of frustration, depressions and the scarcity within itself. Regarding the alienation Mary Hanemann Lystad opines that:

Alienation is seen as a sign of personal dissatisfaction with certain structural elements of society; it has been related particularly to economic and political elements. This dissatisfaction has been defined in the more recent studies in terms of expressions by individuals of feelings of powerlessness, meaninglessness, normalness, social isolation, and self-estrangement.(90)

The protagonist of novel Mr. Biswas appears as an alien in the diasporic world. He is psychologically, culturally, politically, and socially alienated. He seeks the assimilations among the diverse community but unable to find himself and feels like an alien. The major fact is that Mr. Biswas's family is originally from India. So, he is mostly guided by own culture and practices. He is trying to fit himself in that vast world but he compel to face the hardest challenge ever in his life. Alienation is a part of post-colonial literature where modernity shades under it. The central character of novel Mr. Biswas who is hunted by alienation and living with the fragment psychology. It indicates that he is neither accepting the reality of time and conditions

nor fully celebrates the comfort joy in his every situations. This is how feeling of alienation hunts him because of his fragmentation with the community.

A House for Mr. Biswas is set in a Caribbean country Trinidad and Tobago and story of novel shows the realities of post-colonial period where many different communities has been existed. They are different in culture, language, religion, tradition and rituals with each other. In diverse community the communication is the prime things for the people to survive. The protagonist Mr. Biswas who believes on own religion and culture and he tries to seeks himself but unable to find himselfin every time and situation. This type of lack provides him a feeling of alienation in the diasporic world. Mr. Biswas relations with Hanuman House reflects an imbalanced peace since he got married with Mrs. Tulsis's daughter Shama. As narrator describes: "He could go to Hanuman House whenever he wished and become lost in the crowd, since he was treated with indifference rather than hostility. And he went there more often, held his tongue and tried to win favour" (195). The Hanuman house is a chaos for him because it has large members in the house and everyone has guided by different ideology. They are grow in the different multiple culture and communities which influence has clearly seen upon them. It provides the environment of a contradiction in every individual characters at Hanuman House. Moreover, when Mr. Biswas is walking for meet his great dream that is to make his own permanent house but he fails times and again. Behind this attempt and the failures it realizes him to a feeling of alienation. In his struggling there he found alone himself and he feels alienated among his family, relatives and friends of social circle. Mr. Biswas has a lack that is he cannot flow with the time demand. The traditional mindset and patriarchal rigidity often makes him a confusion and stuck which can also feel him alone in the mass.

There are so many movements assist to rise of modernity in the continuous flow of time. In the discussion of Naipaul's novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* rootlessness is another important subject to find how it can assist the modernity in the story. The rootlessness and identity crisis both have some similarities between them but in the same they are also quite different too. To understand the novel there are many different interpretations provided by many writers about the rootlessness on Naipaul's Novel. In order to see the novel Sneh Gupta writes via rootlessness approach in this way:

In *A House for Mr. Biswas* Naipaul describes the rituals enacted in one of the remote villages to Trinidad, jointly by people of all ethnic groups. Migrants and exiled people can find their identity and their house, if they identify their new world as their second home. The need for the exiles in Trinidad was to fully accepted their foster country as their new home (308).

Both identity crisis and rootlessness provides same kind of situations of a person or people in the society. The term rootlessness itself a crisis whereas cultural, social, financial, political and identical. So, the rootlessness is crisis in identity on social structure which is made by society to regulate the people by giving the different identities according to their presence and bases.

As discuss about the modernity it has shared many movement and conditions of the world history. Rootlessness is also one of them which is produce by human activities in the particular place of world and in the certain era. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* set in Caribbean country Trinidad and Tobago while the society was badly affected by postcolonial shocked during that time. Many different communities was growing in the same land and the main thing is build a good communication but there appears the huge gap between them. At first there was a conflict in

communication in the next there started to constructs hybrid society as they open slowly and gradually in each other. This fact create identity conflict in their community which becomes the question for them. The protagonist Mr. Biswas trying to fit himself every time in that environment but he is guided by family root and in the same time wants be a modern because the need of situation created him toomany confusions. Similarly, Tulsi's Hanuman house and its members itself divided into different ideology. Tulsi's elder son Shekher who got married with Dorothey and influence by Christian faith. Owad younger son of Tulsi who left Trinidad for completing his study in abroad. After returning from abroad we can found many changes on Owad too. The other characters are also guiding by different psychology due to their predicament in that contemporary situation. Besides, the society is also disintegrated because of the amalgamation of different community which is assisting the influence of rootlessness. After these all there seems questions and contradiction in the modernity.

In order to see the modernity several scholars, theorists, philosopher have proposed its rise, formation, styles, and patterns in the different way. This paper has applied their ideas, vision and theory in Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas* on the basis of their particular form and structure. Following to this trend the notion of Anthony Gidden's multidimensional nature of modernity especially the capitalism and industrialism are the discussion subject for this research paper. In the novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* the protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas has been targeting to find his own house and he is struggling for earning the needed money to build or buying a house. Mr. Maclean is an architect and they talks each other about house like it types, structure and especially the cost. Mr. Maclean is giving him to details and making more understandable: 'That is a blessing. Too much people putting up

mansion these days. You ever had a close look at the County Road?’ He paused. ‘Upstairs house?’ (249). Capital is prime need for the survival and it creates the feeling of competition among the people in the capitalist society. In this context, Anthony Giddens highlights the relation between capitalism and modernity borrowing the ideas of Marx in this way: “Capitalistic enterprise, we can agree with Marx, played a major part in levering modern social life away from the institutions of the traditional world. Capitalism is inherently highly dynamic because of the connections established between competitive economic enterprise and generalised processes of commodification” (61). Naipaul’s protagonist Mr. Biswas is also moving by this reality. In one hand he is obliged to accept the effect of capitalism and on the other hand there is social institution of the traditional world, the restriction, which is questioning to the modernity.

Discussion of Naipaul’s novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* through the eyes of modernity and its contradiction to generalizes the views of modernity in the text need to have certain theories, philosophy and ideas. As we know modernity includes many trends and practices that have emerged in time and events around the world. In this context, this study discusses the subject that is notion of rationality proposed by Jurgen Habermas and how it works in modernity: “The approach of communication theory seem to be able to salvage the normative content of modernity only at the cost of idealistic abstraction. Once again suspicion is cost on the purism of purely communicative reason--this time in an abstract description of rationalized lifeworlds that does not take onto account the constraints of material reproduction” (349). In this argument, Habermas seems to opposing the more valorization of modernity. His main focus is that we should have judge the modernity through the rational point of view. His argument emphasizes that to see the modernity on the basis of rational point. In

the novel Naipaul's protagonist Mr. Biswas who is seems to neither rational nor irrational that is why there appears the contradiction. Habermas challenged and questions to those who fully celebrates the modernity ignoring the rationality. Thus, in the novel when engaging with the characters, plot, setting and dialogue there found contradiction in modernity even in the absence of spectacles of rationality.

Similarly, there are three generation appears in the story when the novel gradually grows from first to last. Along with this there emerges vivid variation in that generations. Mrs. Tulsi, Mr. Biswas's parents and the pair of Tara and Ajodha represent the first generation respectively. Likewise, Mr. Biswas, his wife Shama and Shama's two brother Shekher and Owad appears as second generation and in the same Mr. Biswas's children, kid insides the Hanuman House and other younger character emerges as third generations in the novel. In order to dive on modern things these three generation have influenced by different layer of perception. Regarding this contradictory status of the characters while moving with the modernity Jurgrn Habermas argues:

As the principal of modernity, subjectivity was supposed to determine its normative content as well; at the same time, subject-centered reason lead to abstraction that fragmented the ethical totality; and yet only self-reflection, which emanated from subjectivity and strove to get beyond its narrow-mindedness, supposedly proved itself equal to the task of reconciliation(347).

In order to seeks the contradiction of modernity *A House for Mr. Biswas* we need to know the inspirations behind the characters that is how they are guided and moving through. At first the three generations where Naipaul stands his characters and shows their different perceiving quality in the motion of timewhile they are living their contemporarily. Habermas said that to see the modernity from the solo point of view

cannot be justifiable. We should accept and support to the rational point of view suggested by Habermas. The issues of subjectivity also can advocate the modernity but in the single time it occurs abstraction and fragmented the ethical totality. Self-reflections supports to know the reality of guiding factors insides the characters and it should not entering in a single perspectives. It is only the supposedly reconciliation in the view of Habermas. Thus, in Naipaul's novel we can found many questions of modernity especially in characters, setting and dialogue.

Engaging with Naipaul's novel and seek the contradiction of modernity, it need to dig out its dimension on the basis of modernist perspectives in the text. In this regard there have been many ideas and perspectives propounded by different scholars and few of them have been discussed from the starting of this research paper. In order to find out the contradiction of modernity Ulrich Beck expose his notion using the term 'Risk Society.' We can apply this principal in the novel especially on the protagonist Mr. Biswas who is representing that particular time and it helps to know the how modernity works on it. To understand the contradiction in modernity Beck elaborates his notion of Risk Society in this way: "Both in the nineteenth century and today, consequences experienced by the bulk of humanity as devastating are connected with the social process of industrialization and modernization. With both epochs we are concerned with drastic and threating in human living condition" (51). In the process of modernization there has been many issues rise in the human world such as social, political, financial, ethical and techno-scientific. The influence directly hits people's daily lives and living styles and in the novel we can find its vivid reflection. The protagonist of the novel Mr. Biswas struggles with the financial crisis. Along with this he has equal responsibility to fulfill daily demands which is needed for life. Mr. Biswas's first need is to make or buy a house for his permanent

settlement. To fulfill the basic needs for his growing children, make their future easier, free from the financial crisis is the second-third respectively. Thus, these all conditions finally attach with the society where risk emerged as contradiction.

Discuss contradiction of modernity engaging with Naipaul's Novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* we need to see the factors and influencer behind its writing and the formation. Basically, what are the inspirations to build this novel? The title itself indicates a metaphorical meaning. The big hunger of house inside the mind of protagonist exposes fixity, certainty and freedom that are basic requirements in modernity. The entire text carries the values of modernization and at the same time there also appears the contradiction modernity. The protagonist Mr. Biswas is trying to introduce himself a modern. In this process his real identity seems to be a kind of dilemma. The celebration with the continuous growing modern values guiding him to contradictory stages. While talking the definition of modernity with taking the base of novel we can find the variation among many which is already discussed in this research study. Regarding to the understanding to the modernity Ulrich Beck defines it with the evidences of chronological order and its factors of emergence like this way:

Traditionally, sociology has sought to couple modernity with industrial society. Although there exists a wide array of explanations of the nature of modernity, differing in scope, focus and complexity, most theoreticians have tended to agree that modernity is a historical period which began in the age of enlightenment in the early 1700s. Furthermore, there seems to be a wide acceptance of the claim that modernity is founded on the ideals of the time, such as reason, freedom and scientific progress through understanding of and dominion over nature (28).

By this definition and the evidences it can analyze the novel agreed with the Beck's view on the modernity. This novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* represents the twentieth century post-colonial literature. During the post-colonial period modernity is rapidly growing around the world. The twentieth century is the era of industrial expansion and its founding. During that time, people's lives had totally changed since the emergence of industrial influence. To see this fact we need to judge Naipaul's character especially the protagonist Mr. Biswas. On one hand modernization is widely expanded and on the other traditional factors were collapsing but the contradiction had remaining strongly. In the mid of this conflict and the paradox the protagonist Mr. Biswas stand in the novel as a witness of that contemporary time. He has a type of dilemma in his mind either support to modern realities neither neglect the traditional beliefs which has a support to him since the ancestral time. So, the expansion of modernization and consequences by this process reflected in Naipaul's novel is seen in its setting and characters.

The debate on modernity and its contradiction can take a long route for discussion on the basis of variation such as scholar, theorist, philosopher, experiencer and the rest who are concerned with this subject matter. In the setting of novel, Naipaul select a diasporic community growing in the Caribbean country Trinidad and during that time there were post-colonial influence taking place. Likewise, regarding the characters Naipaul chooses almost veterans and known person as characters who are real experiencer and witness of that particular period. Mr. Biswas's role and the existence in the novel can represent the different version of modernity and also shows the contradiction. In the same way the dialogue and plot are also meet the paradox and questions creating by the modernization which appears in the novel. Regarding to the question and contradiction about the modernity William M. Reddy states that: "In the

case of modernity's status, for example, to conduct oneself (to perform) as a modern scholar while asserting that modernity is just one cultural configuration among others is to assert something that is contradicted by the performance" (219). In the process of digging out the definition of modernity every scholar exposes their views and argument with the different perspectives. The above Reddy's argument to see joining with Naipaul's novel can find the questions to contradiction in modernity. However, regarding to the contradiction Reddy's view clarified the chaos of the modernity. Mainly, in the case of modernity and its contradiction he emphasizes the new concept that is a performative. In the novel there seems performative contradiction in the role of protagonist and rest of the other characters. Likewise, the character existence and performance in their dialogue also seems to more alive. This evidence supports to Reddy's idea the performative contradiction of modernity though the debate remain the same due to different opinion suggested by many scholars. Moreover, the debate of modernity takes long discussion borrowing different theories and ideas while analyzing the Naipaul's novel. So, the every finding can be separate in each other

The novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* is story about a struggling person who is seeking a house for permanent settlement of himself and his family. The novelist presents the setting of a Caribbean country named Trinidad where the Indian immigrants grew and spent their life during the post-colonial period. Naipaul is himself a participant among his characters as witness of that particular time and events. In this research study, researcher seeks and analyze the contradiction of modernity that is found in the novel. As I studied and confirm that the novel is release during post-colonial period. During that time modernity was already taking the place around the world and Naipaul's novel cannot be separated from its influence in that

context. In Naipaul's novel the paradox of modernity reflects in characters, setting, and dialogue. Basically, there are three generations and they have lack of understanding between one and next. The first generation have long gap with third generation and the second generation is still in a kind of dilemma. Mr. Biswas represents second generation always trying to fit himself in the continuous changing society but he seems to have failed in many attempts and appears the conflict in generation which denotes the paradox of modernity. The setting of the novel also need to discuss in the finding of contradiction. In the beginning of novel Naipaul presents the village life and transfer towards the urban. The long part of novel is set in the urban area where we can see the influence of capitalism, industrialization, individualism, and sophistication which are the factors of modernity. The narration of narrator and dialogue use by characters also reflects the psychological consciousness and the influence of the modernity upon them. Thus, the modernity and its influence cover all the scenario narrated in novel where the contradiction also appears together in the novel.

In the end, long engaging with Naipaul's novel *A House for Mr. Biswas* for this research study concluded the presence of contradiction presented in the narration of novel through the spectacle of modernity. Along with this fact it also introduced with the globalization, capitalism, alienation, rootlessness, modernity, and identity crisis through the text. Naipaul draws the image of how the people survived in Trinidad during post-colonial time. The title of the novel itself a metaphor, *A House* which is for fixity and stability in the life of every person. A house for the protagonist Mr. Biswas is not only the longing rather it's all about the lesson of struggle of a person's entire life. With this story of struggle Naipaul portrays people's lives and living conditions of that contemporary society in Trinidad. In the novel Naipaul's

characters seem to be lucid and they are living their lives as simple with the flow of their contemporarily though there has been annoying moment in front of them. The novel represents the period where the conflict between the conservative and modern life of particular community immigrants from India and growing in Trinidad. This structure of conflict between conservative and modern, Naipaul champions to show the contradiction of modernity. The fusion of conservative relic and influence of modernity reflected in characters especially on protagonist Mr. Biswas and the rest who belong from same community members. In this way, Naipaul tries to balance conservatism and modernity through the dilemma emerged in characters' psychology. Hence, the author in his novel attempts to show the different crisis created in the post-colonial society, tension emerged by modernity, community formed in the diaspora and their status respectively.

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