

Tribhuvan University

Cultural Alienation of Indian Diaspora in Lahiri's "Unaccustomed Earth"

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,
Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, Tribhuvan University, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Bimala Devi Chudal

Roll No.: 359

T.U. Regd. No.:6-2-215-54-2005

August 2012

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Cultural Alienation of Indian Diaspora in Lahiri’s “Unaccustomed Earth” submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, by Bimala Devi Chudal, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Acknowledgements

I express my sincere gratitude to my research supervisor Mr Bijay Kumar Rauniyar, Associate Professor , Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, for his insightful guidance and supervision in the process of the completion of this research work. I am indebted to Chiranjivi Kafle, Head of Department of English for his scholarly suggestions and regular encouragement which has made this research work come in this present form.

Similarly, I will always remain grateful towards the capable faculty members of the Department; their promise in providing the students with thorough and complete knowledge of the course from the beginning has always remained at the heart of motivation for me. The campus administration, library faculties and cooperating colleagues own to what I am today. The research work would not have come in its present form without their selfless assistance and help.

I must acknowledge the regular support of my friends Govinda Rijal, Rameshwor Aryal Mausami Mukhtan and Rajendra Pokhrel for their effort in completion of this work. They have helped me immensely in collecting the resources through the entire study period. I hereby acknowledge the authors of scholarly books and articles whose intellectual, critical, and creative observations I have used and cited throughout the research.

Last, but not the least, I owe this life and knowledge I have gained to my parents Mr Krishna Prasad Chudal and Tara Devi Chudal.

Bimala Devi Chudal

August 2012

Abstract

This research, fashioned after Jhumpa Lahiri's "Unaccustomed Earth," is an endeavor to expose mediocrities, generational gap, and the searching analysis of Indian traditions, marriage and social life of immigrant Bengali-Americans living as an inbored labores in foreign land.

This work examines Lahiri's immigrant characters and their experiences as second generation of Bengali immigrants in America in the light of postcolonial critical insights. In other words, this work is an effort to clarify the research question if the life in exile is the unbearable rift forced between a human being and a native place, between the self and its true home. Each and every attempt in this paper resonates with Lahiri's discovery of alienated self in her characters in the title story "Unaccustomed Earth."

Contents

Letter of Approval

Acknowledgements

Abstract

Page No.

1:Cultural Alienation and Indian Diaspora

1-23

2:Discourses on Postcolonialism

24-40

3:Cultural Alienation of Diaspora in “Unaccustomed Earth”

41-57

4:Terror of Dislocation

58-59

Works Cited

60-62