



DIASPORIC CONSCIOUSNESS IN SELECTED V. S. NAIPAUL NOVEL'S THE MIMIC MEN

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Abstract

*In Naipaul's *The Mimic Men*, we are introduced to a world where globalization has transformed the meaning of identity. In this study, V.S. Naipaul's selected novel—*The Mimic Men* (1967) examined for the theme of diasporic consciousness and the problems it raises (2004). This works by V.S. Naipaul are a record of the social, political, and economic circumstances of the third world societies, set against the backdrop of colonial and post-colonial framework. The novel by V.S. Naipaul the *Mimic Men*, cover the theme of diasporic consciousness and the numerous problems that Diasporas encounter. Regarding the approach, textual analysis of the chosen novels would be done in this study. Ethnicity, nationalism and hegemony are all topics that are often explored in the context of literature. This concept focuses on how individuals living outside their native country or culture perceive their place in the world. Through the characters' perspectives, we are able to explore the many anxieties and uncertainties that come with being an exile. In Naipaul's novels, diasporic consciousness is a powerful tool that explores the many layers of identity and belonging.*

Keywords: *Diasporic, Consciousness, Globalization, Identity and Mimic Men.*

Introduction

In Naipaul's *The Mimic Men*, we are introduced to a world where globalization has transformed the meaning of identity. Naipaul examines how the process of globalization has affected the people of Trinidad and Tobago, a country in the Caribbean. He explores their sense of diasporic consciousness, or the idea that Trinidadians have a connection to people all over the world. Naipaul examines how this sense of diasporic consciousness affects the characters in *The Mimic Men*, and he discusses the implications of this type of consciousness on society as a whole. Diasporic consciousness is a prominent theme in V. S. Naipaul's novels, and it is often used to explore the idea of identity and self-hood. In *The Mimic Men*, the diaspora of Indian immigrants to Britain is a central theme, and it plays a major role in the novel's plot. Naipaul explores the ways that the immigrants experience Britain, and he discusses the way that their diaspora affects their identities. He also discusses the ways that the immigrants' sense of identity clashes with British institutions and traditions. The diaspora of Indian immigrants to Britain is a central theme in V. S. Naipaul's novel, *The Mimic Men*. In the story, the immigrants are forced to redefine their identity in order to fit into British society. Naipaul discusses the ways that this process affects the characters and their sense of self-hood. He also examines how this clash between identities has negative consequences for British society as a whole. *The Mimic Men* is set in Trinidad and Tobago during the early days of globalization. Naipaul uses this setting to explore the effects of diasporic consciousness on society. He examines how the immigrants' sense of connection to people all over the world affects their identity and self-hood. The immigrant characters are forced to adapt their cultural practices in order to fit into British society, which often leads to conflict. Naipaul discusses this clash between identities in depth, and he explores the ways that it has negative consequences for both the immigrants and British society.

In addition, *The Mimic Men* is also a story about colonialism. Naipaul uses the plot of the novel to explore how colonialism affects both the immigrants and British society as a whole. He discusses how



colonial officials try to control and manipulate the immigrants in order to gain advantage over them. Naipaul also explores how this manipulation often has negative consequences for both groups. The *Mimic Men* is an interesting, complex book that offers insights into many different topics. It is a great choice for students who are interested in literature and social issues. The *Mimic Men* is a novel by British author V.S. Naipaul. It tells the story of immigrants from Trinidad and Tobago who are forced to redefine their identities in order to fit into British society. The clash between these two groups has negative consequences for both sides, and the book is also an exploration of colonialism.

Diaspora Literature

Diaspora literature is a type of writing that focus on the experiences of refugees and migrants. It comprises both fiction and non-fiction, and often explores the impact of displacement on the individual and on society as a whole. In this paper post, we explore the importance of diaspora literature, its current trends, and how it can be used to enhance our understanding of migration. Diaspora literature is a type of writing that explores the experiences of people who have emigrated from their home countries. This includes writings by both immigrants and their descendants, as well as literature by people who have immigrated to other countries but still feel connected to the diaspora they left behind. Whether it's exploring the effects of migration on identity or exploring the ways in which diaspora literature connects us to the world, this genre has something to offer everyone interested in understanding today's world. Diaspora literature is important for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it provides us with an insight into the experiences of people who have emigrated from their home countries. This can broaden our understanding of migration as a whole, as well as give us an inside look at the effects that displacement has on individuals. Additionally, diaspora literature often explores the ways in which migrants connect with their homeland and other parts of the world. This can provide insights into how migrant communities are able to sustain themselves and build relationships across borders. Finally, diaspora literature can help us to see the world through the eyes of others, providing a lens that often highlights overlooked perspectives.

While diaspora literature has been around for centuries, it is currently experiencing resurgence in popularity. This is due in part to the way that migration has become increasingly central to our understanding of global politics and culture. As more and more people experience displacement either bodily or emotionally, they are drawn to books that explore these issues from a personal perspective. As the world becomes increasingly complex, diaspora literature provides an important way to explore complex geopolitics and global connections in an accessible format. Some of the most well-known diaspora authors include Toni Morrison, Junot Díaz, and Nassim Nicholas Taleb. Each of these writers has written extensively about their experiences as immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Morrison is perhaps best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "The Bluest Eye", which tells the story of a young girl who is raped by a white man and forced to flee her home in Africa.

Research Problem

In this study, V.S. Naipaul's selected novel—*The Mimic Men* (1967) examined for the theme of diasporic consciousness and the problems it raises (2004). This works by V.S. Naipaul are a record of the social, political, and economic circumstances of the third world societies, set against the backdrop of colonial and post-colonial framework. Additionally, they stand in for the weak, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised segments of society, such as immigrants and members of diasporas, who are notable for the sense of displacement, dislocation, fragmentation, and personal crises they express. The protagonists in this book lead rather nomadic lives, travelling from one location to another in quest of



their origins and identities. They experience feelings of homelessness, anomie, alienation, and nostalgia. Through the analysis of this works, the study aims to map out the characters' thinking processes, painful experiences, and consciousness. Additionally, it will try to determine how much this diasporic individuals struggle as they go through the process of mental and physical development. Through his writings, Naipaul has highlighted the contrast between those who live in the centre and those who live on the perimeter, natives and non-natives, blacks and whites.

The objectives of the study

The novel by V.S. Naipaul the *Mimic Men*, cover the theme of diasporic consciousness and the numerous problems that Diasporas encounter. The diasporic characters in this story are portrayed as men of suffering who must deal with harshness and brutality in the country where they are currently living. So that their turmoil, bewilderment, and state of perplexity could be observed, an attempt would be made to see into this Introduction people's hearts as part of this study. It is important to note that in some situations, this Diasporas are representative groups of the modern Diasporas. The cognitive faculty of Diasporas is not free from the fear of problems and issues that they may feel at any time while residing in host lands for one or more reasons, despite the fact that Diasporas have now emerged as transnational forces and being a diaspora is a matter of choice rather than forced dispersion. They have to work hard to create their identity and demonstrate their worthiness in addition to being plagued with diasporic consciousness. So an effort would be made to look into everything. The current study will also address a number of issues that they face, such as issues with nationalism, hegemony, ethnicity, and racial violence.

Methodology

Regarding the approach, textual analysis of the chosen novels would be done in this study. An effort made to clarify their meaning by supporting them with the proper citations from the texts in order to ensure the validity of the research. Since Naipaul is a writer of diverse ethnicities, an effort will be made to capture his diasporic sensibility. His non-fictional works considered for this in order to make the study more thorough. Inputs from his interviews also be provided for additional study. To place the study in a modern context, the most recent criticism from the critics will be examined and addressed.

Review of Literature

Another theoretical contribution to the field of diaspora studies is Gabriel Sheffer's 2003 book *Diaspora Politics: At Home Abroad*. Sheffer makes the case in this book that Diasporas have existed since antiquity and are not recent phenomena. He has categorised Diasporas according to two criteria: the condition of their native country and their age. This two elements result in stateless Diasporas, state-linked diasporas, nascent diasporas, and dormant diasporas. Another well-known theoretical work in the field of diaspora studies is Stephane Dufoix's 2003 book *Diasporas*. The book, which was first published in French, presents an explanation of diasporas based on three introduction factors: managing distances from home and sustaining ties. The importance of diaspora as a social practise and a conceptual concept is emphasised throughout the book.

Academics now place a lot of emphasis on diaspora studies. Avtar Brah discusses the theoretical framework of difference and diversity with reference to numerous ideological constructs such as geography, border, ethnicity, nation, race, and gender in her book *Cartographies of Diaspora: Contesting Identities* from 1996. She adopts a feminist perspective while considering the diaspora. She develops the idea of "diaspora space," which is a location inhabited by both indigenous people and



members of the diaspora. A typology of diasporas, including the Labor diaspora, Imperial diaspora, Trade diaspora, Business diaspora, and Deterritorialized diaspora, is provided by Robin Cohen in his 1997 book *Global Diasporas: An Introduction*. Robin Cohen also discusses the stages in the evolution of diaspora studies. A globalised economy, new types of international migration, the emergence of cosmopolitan sensibilities, and the resurgence of religion as a focal point for social cohesion are four additional factors that are specifically relevant to the mobilisation of Diasporas.

Nowadays, the word "diaspora" is fashionable. Numerous literary works have been produced with the mental health of this Diasporas in mind. As a result, Diaspora literature is a relatively recent genre of writing. A journal called *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* was established in 1991 and is solely focused on Diasporas. The fate and plight of the Diasporas are topics covered in diaspora literature. Because of the hyphenated and fractured lives of those who experienced the harsh realities of homelessness, alienation, nostalgia, ethnic violence, and prejudice as a result of being a member of a different race, culture, and ethnicity, this type of literature was believed to be necessary. The proliferation of literary narratives in modern times is a result of the growth of Diasporas. Particularly many novels have been written to express their disjointed state.

Mimicry: An Instrument of Imitation

Mimicry in colonial and postcolonial literature is most commonly seen when an individual or a group of people belonging to colonized society come to the society of their colonizers and try to imitate them in manners of their eating habits, dressing style. They also try to learn their language and behavioral patterns. A migrant or a diaspora while finding himself in a new land tries to adjust in a different surroundings. Sometimes he has to mimic the people of the land in which he settles down. This mimicry is usually a desire for becoming something else, for becoming better, for becoming others-who are not exactly as same as them. Hence it is "the desire for a reformed, recognizable other, as a subject of a difference that is almost the same, but not quite" (Bhabha, 1994: 122). Here we can cite example of the characters from *The Mimic Men*. For example, Lien, women from Malta, a housekeeper, living in the basement of hotel saw herself as a smart London girl. She spent a considerable time, when she had to go out for creating her „smart London girl“ form. Again, we see that the narrator tries to copy the ways of his landlord, Mr. Shylock. He tried to stroke the lobe of his ear and inclining his head to listen- a gesture which he finds attractive. Bhabha says that mimicry is a sign of double articulation- it stands for a difference and at the same time entails a strategy of reform in the sense that it involves mimicking those who are in the power. But it is also a menace. It is menace in the sense that it continually suggests an identity which is not like the colonizer. For instance, in the novel *A Bend in the River*, Metty, Salim's servant learns the language Identity-Crisis, Nostalgia and In-Betweenness 145 and other features of it like the intonation, and is able to speak like a native. Thus posing a danger to the language skills of the native and subverting their authority.

Ethnicity, Nationalism and Hegemony in the selected novel 'The Mimic men'

Ethnicity, nationalism and hegemony are all topics that are often explored in the context of literature. However, the way that these topics are explored in V.S. Naipal's novel 'The Mimic Men' is particularly interesting. Naipal uses the concept of mimicry to explore these issues in a way that is both thought-provoking and entertaining. In this essay, we will discuss how Naipal uses mimicry to explore ethnicity, nationalism and hegemony, and how these concepts are important in understanding his novel. There is no one answers to the question of how ethnicity, nationalism, and hegemony are intertwined in the novel 'The Mimic Men'. However, in general, Naipal depicts the ways that these concepts intersect



both implicitly and explicitly throughout the text. In particular, Naipal discusses how hegemonic masculinity is used to oppress and exploit women, as well as how both nationalism and ethnicity can be used to justify violence. He also shows how these concepts can be used to perpetuate the cycle of domination and exploitation. In the novel, *The Mimic Men*, V.S. Naipal explores ethnicity, nationalism and hegemony through the character of Rajesh. Rajesh is a Bengali-American who is living in London and working as a scientist for a multinational company. He is married to a white British woman and has two children. Rajesh is caught up in the repercussions of Brexit, which has caused major tensions in his community. Naipal uses Rajesh's story to explore the issues of identity, nationalism, and hegemony. Ethnicity, nationalism and hegemony have always been intertwined. This is particularly true when it comes to literature, where the representation of different groups of people can often reflect the author's own political views. In V.S. Naipal's novel 'The Mimic Men', we see the impact of these ideas on a group of Indian mimics who are forced to live in a segregated society. This deeply explores the ways in which race; ethnicity and nationality can be used to control and manipulate people.

Conclusion

In this paper, we've explored the concept of diasporic consciousness in select V. S. Naipaul novels such as *The Mimic Men*. As the title suggests, this concept focuses on how individuals living outside their native country or culture perceive their place in the world. Through the characters' perspectives, we are able to explore the many anxieties and uncertainties that come with being an exile. In Naipaul's novels, diasporic consciousness is a powerful tool that explores the many layers of identity and belonging. In this paper, we discuss the concept of diasporic consciousness in selected V. S. Naipaul novels such as *The Mimic Men*. By exploring the concepts of diasporic and migrant experiences, Naipaul brings to light the universality of human experiences and emotions. By analysing the characters and their interactions, Naipaul demonstrates the ways in which diaspora shapes identity and creates unique perspectives on the world. Finally, we provide a CTA for readers to explore Naipaul's novel further. In this paper, we have discussed the concept of diasporic consciousness in selected V. S. Naipaul Novel's *The Mimic Men*. By exploring the idea of displacement and its consequences on the individual, Naipaul has shed light on the delicate balance between belonging to a place and feeling at home in another one. The novels examine the ways in which an individual deals with feelings of alienation and disconnection, and how these can be destructive or constructive. Diasporic consciousness is a concept that is deeply explored in Naipaul's novels, and it is an extremely valuable tool for understanding the novels' themes. Papers like these are so important in helping us understand the world around us. By exploring selected V. S. Naipaul novels, we get to understand the concept of diasporic consciousness in a deeper way. This is relevant to our current world because of the growing trend of people moving away from their homeland in search of a better life. Naipaul's novels brilliantly depict the challenges and emotions faced by immigrants, refugees, and displaced persons. We can learn a lot from his writings and appreciate the struggles of these people even more! So, if you haven't read any of Naipaul's novels yet, now is the perfect time to start! And as always, don't forget to check back for more updates. There's a new trend in literature and it's called Diasporic Consciousness. It refers to the way in which writers explore the experience of different cultures through their works. It has become popular in recent years owing to the success of novels such as *The Mimic Men* by V. S. Naipaul. This paper concentrates on one of Naipaul's novels, *The Mimic Men*, and discusses how it explores the concept of diasporic consciousness.



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