



NEGOTIATING CULTURAL SPACE IN MISTRY'S NOVELS: A POST-MODERN STUDY

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Abstract:

This paper is an endeavour to explore Rohinton Mistry's approach to negotiate various socio-cultural issues of the Pars community in postcolonial India. The terms 'postmodern' & 'negotiations', are deliberately analyzed for a forehand understanding and consequently made relevant in Persian context, specifically with reference to Mistry's three important novels---**Such a Long Journey**(1991), **A Fine Balance** (1996), and **Family Matters** (2002). The cultural symbolism and depiction of Persian ideology, its conventional stereotypes are generally observed in the immediate means of negotiations, but here minutely scrutinized with respect to a larger context of socio-cultural processes and relations. On literary perspective, the adaptability of Persian community in form of fictional texture is the keynote of 'negotiation' the term itself. The concepts of 'negotiations' that are distinctly discussed, happen to centralize particularly around the Persian practices of matrimonial rites, social parties, generations disparity and so on. In commensurate with postmodern belief in changeability of ways of life, the Persian characters in Mistry's novels, who indulge in mixed marriage system, are observed enough negotiable Indian socio-cultural frame.

Keywords/Phrases: Postmodern, negotiations, socio-cultural issues, adaptability, Persian practices, changeability.

Introduction

In conformity with postmodern perspective, Rohinton Mistry is a novelist of unparalleled height. Nurtured by the contemporary literary phenomena in Indian literature in English, chiefly dominated by Salman Rushdie, Khuswant Singh, Dina Mehta, Bapsi Sidhwa, et al, Mistry's modus operandi in his fiction is a highly fertile oeuvre to examine various postmodern concerns and perspectives, what, in the dictum of Ihab Hassan, clearly stand "to create ontological and epistemological doubts". (Waugh, 407) Here the chief endeavour evolves to impart the quintessence of how Rohinton Mistry fictionalizes varied quandaries of Parsi community in particular and various other communities in general, co-existentially living in the Indian society, specifically highlighting their individual, cultural, religious, political, psychological and many other related aspects. Not only so, he elaborates them graphically in context of some noted historical facts, and puts forward some essential questions of earnest compromises at the end, rather attempting to negotiate them practicably