



BHARATI MUKHERJEE'S *JASMINE*: A NARRATIVE OF 'AFFIRMATION' AND 'ASSIMILATION'

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ABSTRACT

Individuality of a person creates his identity, which is created or emerges, as a result of its relationship to other positions and roles in society. The act of migrating significantly influences and challenges a person's identity. Identities are constituted and re-constituted due to a number of factors broadly encompassed by the structures of place time and culture. Identities are fluid and shifting and with the changes in time and place individual sense of self is affected.

Bharati Mukherjee has been highly acclaimed as a writer of expatriate – immigrant sensibility. In her novels she honestly puts forth her different phases of life – from 'alienation' in India and then in Canada to 'assimilation' in USA. This paper aims to explore Bharati Mukherjee's vision of evolving identity through her novel *Jasmine*. Throughout the novel she concentrates on the 'adaptability' of the protagonist. With the progression of the novel Mukherjee conveys a message that the survival of an immigrant among changing situation is possible only through being committed to new culture by instilling 'affirmation' and 'assimilation' in his attitude.

Keywords: Identity crisis; Transformation of self; Adaptability to the changes; Jasmine-a rebel, an adaptor, survivor.