

Immigration: ‘A Lifelong Pregnancy’? An Analysis of Jhumpa Lahiri’s Fiction

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In my thesis I investigate the fiction of Indian-American writer Jhumpa Lahiri, whose works can be labeled as postcolonial, Indian or Bengali diasporic, and South Asian American, all at the same time. While depicting specific ethnic experiences of educated, upper middle class Bengalis who have migrated to New England around the mid-1960s, Lahiri simultaneously addresses universal themes like marital harmony, loss of a loved one, or parenting. Thus, she opens up her literary creations to a wide audience and makes it clear that her intention is not to circumscribe her work to ‘pure’ ethnic communities, but on the contrary, to delve into the heterogeneity of migrants’ identities and look at the processes that are produced in the articulation of cultural differences. A twice-displaced individual herself, Lahiri looks at the experience of migration from different angles and exposes its unevenness.

Using the concepts of cultural translation and cultural hybridization (Bhabha), subaltern status (Spivak), diasporic formation and diaspora space (Brah), cultural identity (Hall and Grossberg), transnationalism (Faist, Vertovec, Kennedy and Roudometof), and ‘third space’ (Bhabha and Soja), my project demonstrates how Lahiri uses physical space (houses, other buildings and city-spaces) in order to move from cultural translations, through cultural hybridity, to a third space of transnational encounters. I construct a three-stage model of migration which reflects the sequence of Lahiri’s fictional texts and I thereby demonstrate that intratextuality is a defining feature of her oeuvre.

There is a unitary development from her first work, *The Interpreter of Maladies* (a short-story collection published in 1999 and dealing predominantly with cultural translations), through her novel *The Namesake* (which appeared in 2003 and includes cultural translations, but also thoroughly examines cultural hybridity and transnationalism) to *Unaccustomed Earth* (her second volume of short stories, which was printed in 2008 and explores ‘third space’ and transnationalism). Her latest book, *The Lowland* (2013), picks up the red thread of transnationalism, and confirms the overall message that a transnational model of belonging is the most appropriate for contemporary migrants. The marked dialogic communication between her

four books along the space-time continuum, prompts me to view Jhumpa Lahiri's oeuvre in its own chronotope (Bakhtin).

Immigration: "a lifelong pregnancy"? January 2014. DOI:10.17877/DE290R-6878. [Show full abstract] boundaries of modernist, middlebrow and popular fiction. Drawing on a range of interdisciplinary theoretical and analytical perspectives, the book provides a critical and cultural history of the novel in British literature, charting its changing nature and usage from the mid-nineteenth century up until the interwar period. Read more. Article. Soon after, Lahiri says, "Gogol prefers New York, a place which his parents do not know well, whose beauty they are blind to" (126). This further proves that he prefers the safety of a city foreign to his parents. It's the day before Christmas and Ashima is preparing for the celebrations to come. Lahiri informs the reader of Ashima's new plans, "Ashima has decided to spend six months of her life in India, six months in the state" (275). These changes of plans are important because instead of doing what the reader would assume she'd do "move back to India for the rest of her life, Ashima takes an unexpected route and chooses to spend a good amount of time in America. View Jhumpa Lahiri Research Papers on Academia.edu for free. Given that "The Third and Final Continent" is the story of a Bengali immigrant who endures lifelong hardships in pursuit of a better life in the United States, the above-mentioned nameless 'I' provides both the main character and the potential distant readers of the story with an affective means of self-transformation that renders their precarious lives more intelligible. Routing Relationships through Diaspora: Short Fiction of Jhumpa Lahiri. Initiating itself with an analysis of how often Jhumpa Lahiri has been exclusively read and quoted as a diasporic writer, this paper goes on to explore how diaspora plays a key role in both building and breaking relationships within family as well as outside it. metaphors in jhumpa lahiri's fiction. 257 Pages 2011 9.6 MB 161 Downloads. I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "Metaphors in Jhumpa Lahiri's .. meanings by mapping Immigration: 'A Lifelong Pregnancy'? An Analysis of Jhumpa Lahiri's Fiction. 342 Pages 2014 1.4 MB 156 Downloads. 'A Lifelong Pregnancy'? An Analysis of Jhumpa Lahiri's Fiction Indian American Identity Career, Family and Home in Jhumpa Lahiri's Unaccustomed Earth By 112 Pages 2011 1.15 MB 42 Downloads.