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NATIONALISM: POSTCOLONIAL REPRESENTATION IN AMITAV GHOSH "THE SHADOW LINES"

K.Yesodha Devi¹ and Dr. V. Srividhya²

¹Ph.D Research Scholar & Head/Asst.Prof of English, Govt. Arts College for Women, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.

²Assistant Professor & Research Advisor, Department of English, National College, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.

ABSTRACT:

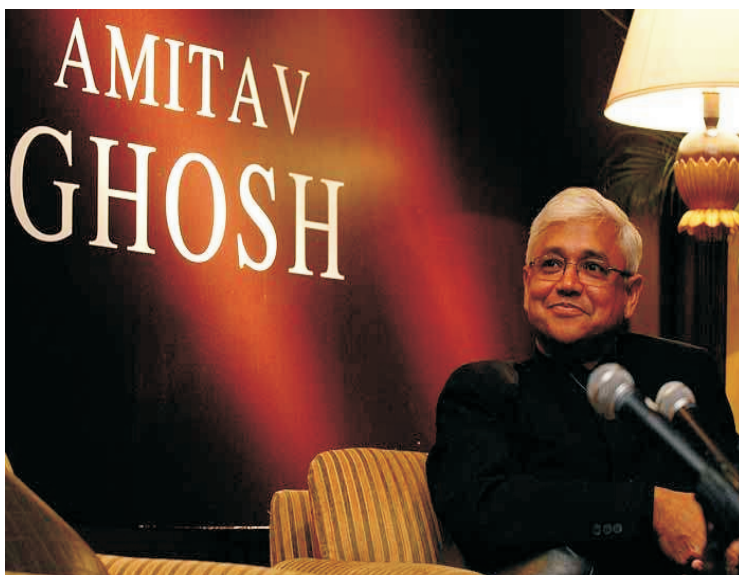
Post colonialism or post colonial discourse is a current movement of thought or a theory that deals mainly with the effect of colonization on the culture and thoughts of the colonized societies the post colonial studies in literature characterize the nature and impact of inherited power and the relation between the colonizer and the colonized people and their effect on global culture social and political system of a nation state. Amitav Ghosh in the shadow lines has woven fact and fiction in a complex absorbing narrative that mirrors lives across nation and spans almost half a century of recent Indian history. In the novel shadow lines the theme of exile of belonging and non belonging is a common link between writer from post colonial cultures my paper deals with nationalism in The shadow line nationalism is an Ideology commitment to the pursuit of the unity. Independence and interest of peoples who conceive of themselves as forming a community. Nationalism can also be

referred as an Ideology a sentiment that focuses on nation. It is a type of collectivism emphasizing the collective of a specific nation.

Key Words: Post colonialism, Nationalism, The Shadow Lines.

INTRODUCTION

The story cleverly engages in its main body characters spanning three generation of this family the fundamental nationalism is emerged from the character of the narrators grandmother she is a fundamental nationalist and wants freedom she is very passionate. The novel begins in the pre independent times in the year 1939 a crucial year in the history of mankind. In this year Second World War commenced and the novel ends essentially in 1964 with the eruption of violence in both India and Pakistan both these dates are significant in this novel. Amitav Ghosh shows that there is a shadow line between sanity and dotage imagination and facts and even nation and nation. The old man question the whole ideology of nationalism which creates boundaries and causes separation the novel witness the growth of the narrator from an impressionable 8yrs old in the Golpark flat in Kolkata to an assured adult through the book. However the growth of the narrator is not physical alone but seen in relation with the growth of ideas on nationalism, nation states and international relation. So here is Thamma the grandmother of the unnamed narrator through whom the issue of the Bengal partition and the whole idea of nationalism and nationhood gets discussed. The novel present a vivid picture of the civil strife in post partition east Bengal and riot-hit Calcutta. The novel also sheds light on the characters Khalil and Tridib who are killed in the riots of 1964. These deaths raise a



question against the arbitrary demarcation of national boundaries. The novel interrogated the processes through which a sense of national identity is construction of the sense of a national identity is the result of a dual dynamics one which is homogenizing and the other which is differentiating. In order to establish a sense of unity within the nation it is necessary to project the image of the entire community as unified single and homogeneous before the riots. The tow communities that are the Hindus and the Muslims they have lived in relative harmony now were suspicious of each other. Rumours that one community had poisoned the water supply to exterminate the other community were fresh and circulating the atmosphere was filled not only with suspicion but also with fear and hatred before the riot the narrators best friend was a boy from the Muslim community but Thamma thinks that Illa does not understand the true spirit England and so does not have the right to be staying there everyone who lives there has earned his rights to be there with blood, with their brothers blood and their son's blood. They know they're a nation because they have drawn their boundaries with blood (78) her nationalism fervor gets articulated when she gave away her cherished necklace the first gift that she had received from her husband after her marriage for the fund in 1965. She say' that she gave it for the sake of this generation for their freedom we have to kill them before they kill us. We have to wipe them out this shows the patriotism for the nation and that they say nationalism the old man questions the ideology of nationalism and the validity of such nationalism because of this nationalism many where killed and the brotherhood between the Hindu and Muslim were broken but the character Tridib is in the belief of international he is an idealist dream of "a better place without borders and countries he don't believe in the border and map and in fact in the nationalism but till the end she fails to realize that national liberty in no war guarantees individual liberty her faith fail her because she comes to realize that borders have a tenuous existence and that not even a history of bloodshed can make them real and impermeable lines on the map are the handwork of administrator's and cartographer's. As she ramp to fly to Dhaka she asked whether she would be able to see the boarder between India and East Pakistan from the plane when her son laughs at her she replies. Where's the difference then? And if there is no difference both side will be the same, it will be just like it used to be before the grandmother has a typical view about nationalism. What she is unable to realized that one can be unsafe even in one's own country. Thamma is in the ride of nationalism and wants self identity. Illa's nationalism is different. She calls Thamma as fascist. She represents Europe as a group of Free states, upholding ideal of civic nationalism. She defines nationalism as a society where anyone integrates into common culture regardless of race or colour she is ignorant of the fact that European nation states were originally constructed on the basis of race, religion and language. So we can come across many characters with view on nationalism and the novel is full of allusion pertaining to the concept of nationalism. So that we can say the novel it reflects the same.

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K. Yesodha Devi

Ph.D Research Scholar & Head/Asst.Prof of English, Govt. Arts College for Women, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.

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