

Progress of India in the Matrix of Diaspora: a Study of Shashi Tharoor's Fiction

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Abstract: *The Present Paper focuses on the Diasporic aspect of the literature produced by the different Indian Diaspora writers especially by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, a diplomatic writer and winner of Common Wealth prize for literature. In his writings, he represents the relationship of language with the different cultures and economy of the homeland (India) and the foreign countries. The current paper examines and traces out the changes in economical field especially that have taken place in India over the last three decades from the writing of Dr. Shashi Tharoor. Focusing on Diaspora as a subject of study, he probes into the divergence between cultures and economy. The study is considered as an approach to achieve and to realize the psychological feelings of the different Indian Diasporas migrated to foreign countries and returned to their native home lands. The attitude of the present diasporic people is not very satisfactory. The role of diaspora on the contemporary culture is a major impact on many of the Indian fresh graduates, who are likely to settle down in the foreign countries for the sake of employment. To create awareness and bring out a change in the attitude among those students who wish to migrate to foreign countries in search of jobs, they should be trained in simulated environment by focusing on the different diasporic themes in the literature which may help the young professional graduates and the other common people, who would like to settle near their children working in the foreign countries. The present paper focuses on the contribution of Dr. Shashi Tharoor for the development of country.*

Key words: *Diaspora, Indian Economy, Culture, Immigration and psychological feelings.*

I. Full Paper:

Shashi Tharoor, a diplomatic and diasporic writer and an award-winning author of thirteen books, as well as hundreds of articles in which he tried to construct an objective of Indian-ness. He is a current member of the Indian Parliament from the Thiruvananthapuram constituency in Kerala and former Minister of State for Human Resources Development and former Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Shashi Tharoor bestride much experience from the several parts of the world¹ as the official candidate of India for the succession to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2006 apart from his official cadre he contributes much of his time for writing the novels. He contributed many articles to the leading international magazines like the New York Times, the Times of India, the American magazine "Washington Post", and the global edition of New York Times named the International Herald Tribune of America and wrote many articles related to the Foreign Affairs about the development of India in the matrix of Diasporas.

"The term 'Diaspora' signifies the political as well as individual consequences of cultural alienation, a strong sense of exile and a terrible reality of homelessness resulting in the loss of geo (physical) boundaries... In [the] Diaspora's desperate attempt to grapple with the truth and extent of the loss, there is always a constant effort to build the lost boundaries in the host space". (Komalessa 2004:151)

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, descendent of India though born and brought up in distant England, who tried to rewrite about the homeland (India) by narrating the novel "The Great Indian Novel" in 1989 in which he projected the new identity of the characters in the Hindu epic Mahabharata and brought out the heterogeneous cultures without diverting from the Indian literary tradition. Through his fictional and non-fictional works we can identify that Shashi Tharoor has an enthused nostalgia towards India. Shashi Tharoor has explored the diversity of culture in India. In his both fictional and non-fictional works he traced out the India's past and its relevance to India's future with an unfold theme. According to Capello he defines the term Diaspora as:

"The diaspora rewrites home and presents new identities and subjectivities emerging within a confluence of heterogeneous cultures". (Capello 2004:57)

Most of his articles published in the reputed magazines have the themes of Indian economy which has footed from the largely impoverished, underdeveloped country into an innovative and fast-changing country. As the

most respected writer, he offers precious insights into the complex of versatile land, which despite of its lofty diversity of languages, traditions, customs, and the cultures which remain from more than sixty years after its inception of the world's largest democracy. He describes the vast changes that have transformed and awakened India from sleeping country into a world leader in science and technology and projected that India is a nation with poverty-stricken that is now boasting that it has a middle class of over 300 million people as much as the entire population of the United States.

“In March 2012, the authors of a report entitled ‘Nonalignment 2.0’ put it well when they argued that ‘India must remain true to its aspiration of creating a new and alternative universality. . . . India already has enormous legitimacy because of the ideological legacies its nationalist movement bequeathed to it. But this legitimacy, once frittered away, cannot be easily recovered. India should aim not just at being powerful: it should set new standards for what the powerful must do.’” (Source: *Mail Today*)

Both in his fictional and non-fictional narratives, Tharoor fetched materials from the great Indian epic Mahabharata and characters from the Indian struggle for Independence to depict a satirical story of Indian life in a non-linear mode. In his book *The Great Indian Novel* (1989), follows a story-telling (though in a satirical) mode as in the Mahabharata he drew his ideas by assuming both back and forth coming ways of lives based on the time. Dr. Tharoor despites as an UN official living outside India which has made him a vantage point to express the feelings of double segregation, alienation and nostalgia in his writings about the various emigrants like him who have settled down in the different parts of the world for the sake of employment especially he tried to trace out the feeling of alienation among the Engineers, Software Professional and doctors. The delightfully suspect and satirical tone of Tharoor's title informs and enlivens his monumental tale. In an opening disclaimer, he cites the Mahabharata, an ancient Hindu epic, as the source of his inspiration. He retells the story as a veiled and an account of the people and events that shaped India during the struggle for independence from British rule.

Dr. Tharoor foresees the future of India encountering the mythological, fictive realm by different characters of Mahabharata. He has intervened skillfully on the elements of traditional Eastern and Western literature. Despite of his stereotypical treatment of British and Indian characters, he animates the history with the imagination of an artist and the philosophy of a sage. Throughout the novel, Tharoor used the appropriate titles, phrases and figures depicted from the work of a pantheon of "first-world" writers, starting from E. M. Forster and Rudyard Kipling to Ernest Hemingway and Arthur Koestler (and even including his contemporary Salman Rushdie) a subtle but potent reversal of the traditional tide of cultural colonialism basing on his convoluted story on the Mahabharata.³

Dr. Tharoor narrates the fiction artfully combining the hard facts and statistical opinions with deep observation. He focuses on the strengths and weakness of the rapid development evolving in the India (homeland) especially, in five areas like about the current society, current politics, economical growth, cultural issues and sports that takes a fresh look at the world's oldest civilizations among the most populous countries. Tharoor discusses on the assessment of Indian diplomacy over the past three decades in the form a book ‘Pax Indica’ which was released by UAE foreign affairs minister Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan in which he expresses his feelings that the 21st century India needs to play an important role in global affairs including in the realm of regional security and said in an interview published in a international magazine that:

“In my new book, *Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century*, I argue that our foreign policies must fulfill the interests of our domestic transformation. At the same time, much of what we are in the process of accomplishing at home-to pull our people out of poverty and to develop our nation-enables us to contribute to a better world. This is of value in itself, and it is also in our fundamental national interest” (Source: *Mail Today*)

Dr. Tharoor, a diplomat writer whose fictional work “India from Midnight to Millennium” depicts an analytical study of both of India's past and future and discusses about the 50 years of India's independence. Most of his fictional and non-fictional works are poignantly mixed with the contemporary myth invented by the popular Hindi cinemas, satirical comedy, ideology, emotions, bold satire, and political, economical and diasporic themes.

II. Conclusion:

Diaspora has become the fastest movement which is demanding the individuals to adopt the both native and foreign cultures into their lives which makes an individual towards the chaotic condition. Most of the youth who are migrating to the foreign countries for the sake of employment and for the higher studies are not in the

position to accept their new culture and they cannot simply forget their native culture here starts the feeling of alienation among the Immigrants which makes them to think of migrating to their home lands.

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