

A Psychoanalytical Study of Bharti Mukherjee's *Wife*

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Abstract

The term psychoanalysis refers to a method of analyzing a person's inner conscious mind and emotional difficulties. The purpose of a psychoanalytical study is to read the mind of a person and to find out the root of the problems. Psychoanalysis in literature helps us to understand how psychoanalytical theory can be used to evaluate characters and themes in a work. This paper A Psychoanalytical study of Bharti Mukherjee's Wife deals with the themes related to psychological trauma, loss of Identity, Alienation and cultural conflict. Through her character Dimple, she beautifully knitted the complexities and struggles of an immigrant married woman and she captures the heart of the readers.

Keywords: Trauma, Identity, Immigrant, Alienation, Cultural Conflict, Complexity

Introduction

Bharati Mukherjee is an award-winning novelist who is known for her bold female protagonists who dare to challenge the established order of society. Her short story "Wife" is about an Indian – American woman Dimple Das Gupta. Her emotional journey reflects the difficulties of isolation and the impact of cultural conflict. The protagonist of the novel experiences social and psychological isolation from other Indian immigrants as well as from the so-called "host" society, which highlights a persistent feeling of not belonging and of living in a "no-man's land" between the past that has passed and the future that never seems to come.

Dimple's Social Alienation

In this story, Mukherjee portrays the innermost feelings and dreams of a young bride who saw her married to a charming doctor who would provide her with an opulent lifestyle and keep her content. Like any other Indian daughter, she accepted her father's decision and, despite her better judgment, married Amit Basu, with whom she believes her life will be terrible.

Dimple finds it difficult to fit in at her husband's home on Dr. Sarat Banarjee Road after they get married. She also dislikes her daughter and mother-in-law. But Dimple believes that when they move to America, she will be free of all of these issues. Dimple's furious reaction reveals her growing annoyance. She believes she

will never be able to win her husband's affection and care because she has an inferiority complex. Amit's lack of knowledge about female psychology could also be held accountable.

The first indication of Dimple's social alienation from American culture is her infrequent, chance encounters with Americans, which serve as a reminder to her of the abrupt invalidation of the social norms and power structures. Being an educated, middle-class member of the religious and ethnic majority in Calcutta, she only has a vague fear of other American ethnic minorities: Puerto Rican girls in tight sweaters and pants who looked almost Indian except that they could mug, stab, and kill; huge black men in leather jackets and small, dark men shouting to her in Spanish or English; these people are part of her "gallery of monsters" (W 121).

Cultural Alienation

Dimple is quite attached to her native Bengalis and is hesitant to travel to a strange country so remote from them even before she departs for the United States. The very notion of immigration transforms her into a "resident alien," bemoaning the departure of her homeland, cultural heritage, parents, and social circle. during Pixie's tea party scene. Dimple suddenly becomes anxious since she is leaving her pals behind. According to Bharati Mukherjee, the scene is as follows: "Pixie hugged Dimple and sobbed as Amit and Dimple said goodbye at the front door. "It won't be forever, will it?" She enquired." An additional aspect of the immigrant experience that Bharati Mukherjee captures in her portrayal of Dimple's character is.

The American setting of the book serves to highlight both the country's constraints on multiculturalism and the disparities between the American ideal of opportunity and independence and a policy of tolerance for ethnic diversity. A young Indian immigrant wife's experiences are used in *Wife* to illustrate the challenges of cultural displacement and identity loss. Readers will note that the protagonist of the book "Wife," "Dimple," is oblivious to her new surroundings and, despite her ignorance, she easily adopts or becomes a victim of the society that has changed.

Psychological Trauma

Dimple feels like a bird in a cage after getting married, which puts her in a more difficult situation. When Amit's family first sees Dimple, she has to endure a few snide comments about her. Dimple's name annoyed Amit's mother since she thought it was frivolous and unengali. Mrs. Ghose, Amit's sister, believes that Amit's dimple is a little darker than the picture suggests. Due of his dark skin and rather diminutive stature, Amit is referred to as the "short dark prince charming" by Dimple's companion Pixie. Dimple had a dream of a wealthy, attractive husband. "She wanted Amit to be infallible, intractable, godlike, but with boyish charm," Dimple said (88-89). However, she finds nothing admirable about either Amit or his family.

To relieve Dimple of all tensions, Amit brings her to the United States. He is concerned about his wife's safety and is not driven by money. He forbids her from taking any jobs that pay much. He wishes for her safety. Despite his little salary, he is neither stingy nor prejudiced. He gives Dimple everything, yet Dimple is the one who disregards her husband's silent devotion. She prefers to live in the realm of imagination and fantasies and does not discuss her issues with her spouse. She wants to flaunt her wealth in front of other ladies and consider herself as an established US woman. She turns nasty. She thinks about getting pregnant.

Dimple has heartbreak since her dreams surpass her limitations. Using the knife, she kills her spouse in the kitchen. She believes that, unlike other cunning thieves, she will escape detection. Living in America, she adopts the lifestyle of a criminal and loses sight of the ideal Indian woman who gives her everything for her husband. As a result, Dimple only experiences shock from her decision to kill her husband. After taking this step, she loses everything and falls into a ditch.

Dimple and her spouse, Amit Basu, find their expatriation to be a complicated phenomena, and their tale eventually descends into tragedy. Christine Gomez offers her thoughts on the move abroad: Actually, being abroad involves a complicated range of feelings and thoughts, including a yearning that is wistful.

Conclusion

Dimple becomes a victim of the gap between her unmet expectations and the reality available to her, which in turn makes her more violent. At the end, Dimple takes a drastic decision to come out of her isolated life. Her thoughts and actions shows hopelessness. This young woman cannot balance and equalize her life in an Immigrant world and with an uncared husband. She makes her step towards personal freedom and identity. She murders Amit and she pushed herself into a world of darkness.

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