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An International & Refereed E-Journal in English

DOI: 10.53032/tcl.2016.1.1.09

Diasporic Element in Rushdie's *The Ground Beneath Her Feet and Fury*

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Abstract

Twentieth century is defined by its peculiar feature that is migration, its shifts cultural as well as physical frontiers that it emerged. Migration is now common factor of postcolonial writers as reflected in their respective works. Man made borders are blurred or vanished owing to migration. It is an umbrella term which anyone can live anywhere as he wishes, such cosmopolitan identity is engendered but on another side such writers are underwent through feeling of loosing own motherland. Thus in the words of Edward Said, he said, "migration is a potent, enriching motif of modern culture as the exile break barriers of thought and experience". For Postcolonial novelist the issue of migration is evident and avoidable, lead exile life, loses birth place, ancestral home, visualized imaginary world, blurred lines of thought and experience. Being a migrant writer by identity, he is divided in multiple identities. He was born in India, shifted in Pakistan and lastly stay in Britian, indicated that how his life is shifted and gone through identity crisis. This paper aims at to explore disporic element in his well known novels 'Fury' and 'The Ground Beneath Her Feet.' V.S. Naipaul regards migration as form of rebirth and moulds that a writer can bring his new world into being by an act of pure will. Different terms such as disporic, immigrants, expatriate and exile alienation have used by postcolonial writers respectively in their works. The term Diaspora is derived from the Greek word 'dia' (through) 'speiro' (to scatter or sow seeds) in terms of etymology. The Greeks were initially used in the conclusion of Jews scattered in exile. Presently, the term has been come to refer to any people or population that is transnational that is residing in a land other than that of its origin, and the development in their dispersal and culture.



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Keywords: Expatriate, Cosmopolitan, Fragmentation, Cross-culture, Immigrants

Salman Rushdie, being a diasporic by identity, is veteran and hailed as a controversial writer on international arena. He insists need of freedom of speech and it is a natural right to every citizen it can't be confiscated under the charges of blasphemy. He is an iconoclast and writes in a free style without any social, political and religious pressure. Similarly like other writers of the Indian Diasporic such as Amitov Ghosh, Jhumpa Lahiri, M.G. Vassanji, Kiran Desai, Bharati Mukharjee, Rohitan Mistry and V.S. Naipaul have been at the center stage in the last decade because of the theoretical formulation being generated by their works. Language and culture are transformed when they come on contact with the others. Once, Rushdie said, 'Crossing frontier all my life- physical, social, intellectual and artistic borderlines.' He himself finds the external outsider, fugitive and an exile. He home in India, move to Pakistan and educated at England and lastly resolved to settle in New York. It meant that he lost his homeland and childhood memories at back. The cloud of the fatwa is hovering around him after the publication of *Satanic Verses*. Fragmentation, lamentation, divided self of the individual emerges as a persistent concern in Rushdie's fiction. He says while writing in context of migrant writes, "On identity is at once plural and partial; sometimes we feel that we straggle two culture; at other times, that we all below seen two stools. But however ambiguous and shifting this ground may be, it is not an infertile territory for a writer to occupy." Diasporic writers focus on double perspective, first is an insider and an outsider is another but the same time, frontier of the worlds is also preserves. Elements of Diaspora are also reflected in *Midnight's Children*, Booker prize winner novel. It subsumes the idea of migration as it deals with transition of India into postcolonial nation. The writer narrates violent changes that accompanied the country's migration into postcolonial nationhood; of class struggle, language battle war with neighboring country. The work is directly engaged with immigration while Saleem migrated to Pakistan with entire family.

Rushdie's three protagonists, Omus Cama, Umeed Merchant and Vina Apsara find themselves in the role of migration in 'The Ground Beneath under Her Feet.' The story extents of four continents, migration began from India to Britain and then the United States. The plot is played out in Mexico. Temporally the novel opens on Valentine Day in 1989- a reference to the day the fatwa was pronounced against Rushdie. It narrative move backward to Bombay of the 1950s, to Britain of the 1960s and to America in the 70s and 80s and stopped in Mexico in 1989 where the earthquake tragedy occurs. Its story developed from post-independence Bombay where there protagonist meet as a children. Born in Zoroastrian family in Bombay in 1937, Ormus entry into the world is almost accidental. He surprises his



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parents as alive baby that follows his dead twin. Rai's parents meet for the first time at the hospital where they are both present to pay a condolence visit at the stillbirth of Gaymot Cama. His father cherishes the Art-Deoport of the eastwhile his mother anticipates and contributes to failure. Vina arrives as a ward and Golmahol Doodhwala. Born to an Indian father and Greek –American mother in 1944 in the United States, this half- Indian girl born Nissa Shetty was sent to her distant relative, overtake her family. Vina escape from ill treatment meted out by her Indian to find asylum and affection made not of the narrator Umeed's family. Umeed is also known as Rai's third angle of the Ormus-Vina-Rai love triangle, as Vina occasional lover live between Ormus and Vina accurs in a Bombay in the 1950. Theirs relationship is constantly distracted by self imposed abstinence and absence. Lovers are parted as a result of circumstances which lead Vina to London, only to be reunited years by them. Ormus is a musician while Vina is an endowed gift of singing. They set up rock band which brought them international limelight. Their migration brings lot of pain to them. Finally they decided to go Folo. The hero leads a pattern of migration, because when the protagonists physically leave Bombay and go west, the splitting of identify as well as theirs notion of reality took place. In this way, Rushdie remarkably highlighted how his hero's underwent through disporic experience.

Disporic element is also evident in his third novel in 'Fury', published in 2001. Its protagonist Malika Solonka whose self identity and geographical borders divided as a similar that of the characters in 'The Ground Beneath Her Feet'. The novel is locating itself in the transition period between the old and new millennium of the hero. He is not less than fifty five year old Indian professors of philosophy whose origin goes back to Bombay. Though he lead an ideal and familial life in England with his wife Eleanor and son Asmaan but he underwent to number of hurdle in his actual life. He is not only utterly distracted and but resolved to shift current place and travel to Manhattan, New York, America and the lastly in Mecca. On the contrary, he realized that his quest for identity and peace do possible only in America. Citizens are highly disappointed due to excessive expectation. Rushdie derived inspiration from Roman mythology while writing 'Fury'. It attempts to comprehend the nature of fury and violence in modern society in relation to Solanka and the other character. This fury finds expression in varied forms of personal and social breakdown. Interestingly, the novel is peopled with self-exiles, refugees, fugitives and migrants.

Rushdie focused specifically on behavior of his hero and said, go back to his past life in Bombay. Because his father deserted the family while Malik was just a baby, his mother married within a year. Malik is given his stepfathers last name. The identity of his biological father remains shrouded in mystery thereby depriving him of history as well as feeling. The



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heroine Neela, a beautiful woman, is a migrant in America. She is hailing from the Indian Diaspora, her forefathers in the south pacific land of Lilliput-Dlefusion modeled on the Fiji Island, the name Lilliput- Blefussey is borrowed by Rushdie from the fictional island in Swift's Gulliver Travels that is inhabited by their people. Mildendo is the capital of Lilliput. This Metropolis is the birthplace of Neela. Although Neela had made New York her home but her roots had a strong influence on her. Neither Mila Milo is a migrant but Eddie, her boyfriend also migrants in America. His father, Milo Milsozenic immigrated with Milo to New York. Milo Milsozenic changes his last name to Milo. He lived a hedonistic life in America. He got upset by rising anti-sentimental and decided to return to his roots. Hence, the strife stricken situation in his homeland provides him an excuse to flee with his daughters because he wanted escape from daughters and kept in very safe place, it meant, his troubled homeland. As Mila puts it, "the fury blew him to pieces"

Jack black American friend got irritated while noticing racism in America. Due to hatred or humiliation he turned to whites, married with white women, "His label changed. He stopped hyphenating himself and become, simply an American." Jewish plumbers, Joseph is another refugee in America due to Second World War, he left to Poland and decided to live at America. Solinka, housekeeper is a Polish lady. Ali Manju, young Muslim taxi driver, who encountered Malik twice, lives in New York. He is deeply saddened by bitter moment of third world. Thus, Fury is fault of migrant's characters. Solanka, the narrator, is a migrants, refugee, self-exile and fugitive. He not only labeled as an outsider and insider but his quest for identity, up-rooting, nostalgic nagging, sense of guilt and disporic experience is also sought out. His personality is utterly splitting which visible everywhere whatever happened around the world. The Fury lurks within everybody. Therefore, the narrator asserts that the whole world was burning on a shorter fame.

In a nutshell, Rushdie expounded disporic element through his artistic works. It is like a diaspora is a scathing of the seed in the wind the fruits of which are a new creation. Every disporic movement hold a historical significance as it carries within itself the kernal of the nation's history. Diaspora is a journey towards self-realization, self knowledge and self definition. Rushdie visits India to his motherland through its history. He is pre-occupied with the element of nostalgia as back to locate himself in new culture of his homeland and at the same time adopt and negotiate with the cultural space of the host land.

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