

A Study on Immigrants' Life in Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies

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Abstract

It is a study on immigrant people presented in Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies. This paper focuses on how immigrant people are made oppressed under the British rule and also focuses on how the author has brought history into the novel and told the history in the form of story. As it is stated, Sea of Poppies has its base on historical event of nineteenth century. It analyses colonization, historical, economical, psychological and cultural habits presented in the novel Sea of poppies. In the first volume, Ghosh presents Ibis Colonization. Ibis is an imaginary ship made by Ghosh. This ship helps people from different nations reach their destination. Here in this Ibis trilogy Ghosh speaks about the story of Opium war and migration of coolies. The colonization creates a path for the birth of a historically, politically and culturally colonized country. The story is narrated using the historical events and places. Ghosh differs from other novelists like Vikram Seth, Gita, Allen Seally etc., in his narration on events and colonization with historical background. The characters presented in the novel are native of India, Burma, South Africa, etc., the novel is divided into three parts, namely land, river and sea. Amitav Ghosh's sea of poppies is the best novel that narrates the colonization of people, post-colonization and the people of immigration.

Keywords: *Colonization, Colonialism, Culture, Politics, History, Immigration, Opium War.*

This paper analyses how people in the novel Sea of Poppies written by Amitav Ghosh, are oppressed. As many critics state, unique are the Ghosh's than the other novelists. Sea of Poppies is one of the Ibis trilogy novels along with River of smoke and flood of fire.

One could identify Ghosh's voice for the rights of the people in the novel. In the novel Ghosh try to raise voice against the oppression of the people and he also talks about the human rights which are for every individual such as right to speak, right to practice their culture and tradition. Sea of Poppies is a mirror which reflects the life of twentieth century people. He, the author creates a big ship named Ibis wherein people from different nations travel together in search of their livelihood and settle. During the British rule opium trade was at its peak. So opium plantation was encouraged and established in many places in India like Goa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and in many countries like China, Africa and Arab countries. As India was one of the colonies of India, people from India as slaves were transported to Mauritius Islands.

One could see how underprivileged, marginalized and ordinary citizens of Bengal were treated badly and consequently Ghosh raises his voice against the oppression of these people. He opposed the British colonial rule. So he conducted opium trade against British empowerment in order to save the people. The business that has been started deals with local people of Bengal, Ghazipur. He reveals both the positive and negative side of the business. He vividly picturize and describes the roles and condition of people from different categories of the society ordinary, middle class and zamindars.

By the visualized dream of Deeti, Ghosh introduced Ibis ship which is huge than other ship to trade off all the people from the British rule. The Ibis ship is sign of destiny which sail above the sea comes under the visualization of vessel sinking in her dream. An author clearly describes Ibis and opium trade war from Ghazipur to Mauritius. This shows that people from different continents reached the destination. They were well trained in planting opium crop and working in factories. They are aware that working in the factory and field will certainly affect their health. Ghosh clearly depicted in the trilogy how this opium trade and war Under the British rule there were many crucial atrocities took place against

the people of Bengal. To escape from the atrocities of the British, the people when they entered Ibis ship have hope about their dreams of having good future.

The people from different countries and nations were pushed together to mingle each other to create new future without colonization and to develop unity in nation which is called as microcosm of culturization. Gosh want to raise the voice of people against the British colonialism to abolish the harsh empowerment. Sea of Poppies, one of the Ibis trilogy, mainly speaks about opium trade and colonization where coolies are trafficking to Mauritius.

Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies mainly narrates with rights of humans, against colonization, historical events and their places effectively, "with a flick of his wrist, he sent it snaking back so that it looped itself around Bhyro singh's ox like neck". (Poppies 489)

Amitav Ghosh's novel also portrays about the life of people in Bengal and Sea of Poppies has some different characters from India and other Asian countries and Africa. This novel plays an important role in portraying the true condition of the people in twentieth century (Penguin, New Delhi, 2008). The people from cumbersome circumstances and different nations travelled in Ibis ship which is bigger than other ship. Due to some certain conditions, they are carried by Ibis to reach their destination. The crew members were selected by emerging people of independent group for the Ibis ship.

Amitav Ghosh narrates all the stories to create awareness against the colonism and human rights with his experiences of story writing. In Ghosh's novel, each and every character has been provided equal weight which gives uniqueness to them. His works have received good comments and he has explained things vividly. His trilogy mainly describes about Land, River and Sea.

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