

## KAMILA SHAMSIE'S TALE 'CONSUMED SHADOWS' IN THE LIGHT OF POST-FRONTIER HYPOTHESIS

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### **Abstract:**

The present paper intends to discuss the elements (Metropolitanism, other, hybridity, nativism and diaspora) of post colonial theory found in Kamila Shamsie`s novel *Burnt Shadows*. The study addresses the conditions of the people who suffered before and during India`s partition. The aim of this paper is to see how colonizers (British) treated colonized (India) and how natives reacted against their injustice. The paper also tells the history of India before and during the British Raj. Moreover, it discusses treatment of the previous rulers who had also conquered India before advent of English. British also occupied and ruled India, but how their ways of the ruling were different from all previous rulers.

**Keywords:** metropolitanism, other, hybridity, nativism, diaspora

### **Introduction:**

Post colonialism is a reaction of colonized which emerges from the pens of post colonial writers. How people were colonized and treated is discussed in the literature based on post colonial theory. Colonizer`s limitless and injustice cruelty remained main theme of post colonial literature. The present research has intends to critically discuss the postcolonial elements found in the novel. Metropolitanism, other, nativism, hybridity and diaspora are the elements found in the novel.

According to “metropolitanism” colonizer considers “colonized” undeveloped, and think that without their assistance they could never be progressivists. In colonizer`s eyes, their culture was superior to other. Europeans said that they has colonized lands to develop backward people, but their argument was totally opposite to their actions. They occupied lands to loot natural resources of the occupied soil.

“Hybridity” represents transfer of culture. After colonization, native people had been knotted between two cultures. The same case was with Indians. When English occupied India, they ruled India cruelly and crushed people under their feet. Indian had to follow fixed rules set for them. During colonial period, India had lost his identity because of Amalgamation of English culture.

“Other” as a post colonial element represents discarded people. Colonizers considered native people different; that`s why they kept them away. They treated brutally them as though they would be worst creature of the world.

“Nativism” is an expression of lost culture, which shows that even now love of pre- colonial culture is alive in their hearts. Post- colonial people by readopting their past culture betrays

colonizers. Nativist prove that they were and will ever be civilized, no colonizer can crush their noble culture under their feet.

In post colonial theory people separated from their original homeland come in the category of “diaspora” or “unhomliness”. During colonization native people were used for different purposes. They were taken for work far away from their residential areas. There were enslaved there and behaved like animals. To separate someone from his native place where he was born and grew up is called “diaspora” or “unhomliness”.

British came to India divided Hindus and Muslims and ruled over them. Sajjad is protagonist of the novel represents India; on the other hand, his employer James Burton represents British Raj. English as colonizers considered themselves culturally superior to other and Indians were culturally backward people in their eyes. This way of thinking comes in the category of metropolitanism.

Sajjad Ashraf and James Burton`s relation is technically mentioned in the novel. Sajjad is puppet in the hand of James. Sajjad is depicted “hybrid” tied between Eastern and western cultures. Hiroka`s arrival in Sajjad`s life gives rise to a sense of freedom. Her love enables him to prove himself nativist. Hiroka Tanaka has already suffered from which sajjad was going to undergo. She was victimized by the Americans. Hiroka tanaka warned sajjad to leave playing chess and on his studies. Burton was making him fool by distracting his attention from his studies. After partition, he had no any qualified degree for getting good job. After struggle of leaps and bound, he got a post of manager in soap factory.

### **Discussion\Anaylsis:**

#### **Metroploitanism:**

According to metroplotanism colonizer consider colonized undeveloped, and think that without their assistance they can never be progressive. The colonizers believe that their on Anglo-European culture was civilized, sophisticated, or as post-colonial critics put it, metopolitan. Therefore native people defined as savage, backward and undeveloped. Elements of metroploitanism can be noticed in very beginning of the novel when sajjad ruminates on British India. Sajjad cast a glance at the down fall of his homeland and quick disappearance of its venerable culture. He contemplated that British came to India for trade but they slowly got power and occupied it and colonized us in our on homeland. Injustice of British Raj with Indian remained unsurpassed in the history of post colonial literature.

Sajjad wants to see British out of his country because he, living with Burtons, has known well that this English beaten with broom can never be sincere with Indians.

**Hybridity:**

Hybridity represents transfer of culture. After colonization native people had knotted between two cultures. They, willingly or unwillingly, had to adopt new culture. The case was same with Indians. Sajjad is hybrid; he stands between two cultures. His family follows Delhi's culture, interested in poetry. He enjoys remembering early days of his life, when he listens them saying poetry in gathering. Another side, having English clothes, played chess with James since dawn to dusk. Sajjad is chained between two cultures; at home he wears shalwar kameez and own duty English dress.

**Other:**

Other as post colonial element represent discarded people. Colonizers considered native people different; that's why they kept them away from them. They treated brutally as though they would be worst creature of the world.

Kamila Shamsie has analyzed post colonials notion through out her novel "Burnt shadows".

She expounded the concept of otherness in the novel. For James Sajjad was other. Sajjad is interested in law and anxious to be lawyer. He always requested James to give him time for law but he also engaged him in chess. Then Sajjad slowly understood that English can never be sincere with Indians.

**Nativism:**

Nativism is basically an expression of lost culture, which shows that even now love of pre colonial culture is alive in their heart. People of post colonial, adopting past culture betray colonizers. After Sajjad had decided to get married with Hiroka, he made his mind that he would be no more of James servant. He was quiet free from western culture. He put off English clothes and put on kurta pyjama and demolished western culture boundaries.

Now Sajjad was follower of his native culture, cursing so called job and English culture. His re adoption of native culture and betraying of English culture showed nativism.

**Diaspora or unhomeliness:**

In post colonial theory people separated from their original homeland, come in the category of diaspora. During colonization native people were used for different purposes. They were taken for work far away from their residential areas. To separate someone from his native place where he was born and grew up is called diaspora.

Sajjad never ever wanted to leave Dilli. To Dilli he always sad his Dill (heart) but British snatched their country and shifted into Karachi.

**Literature review:**

Poonam's (2011) article seeks to identify the female characteristics of Kamila Shamsie's novel *Burnt Shadows*. Naturally, the analysis of gender question must be based on a understand of the socio political condition and historical factors. The study conclude that Kamila Shamsies novel *Burnt Shadows* is a feminist text which explores the psyche of its protagonist Hiroka and other female characters. It is in some ways a process of psycho analysis of a women's experiences through her journey from youth to old age. The study tries to explore shamsies presentation of when who fully know the challenges they face yet choose to fight against the entrenched system and norms that make up their environment what is strikingly new and distinctive about these women is their willingness to face the result of their choices.

Shafique and Yaqoob's (2012), article (Kamila shamsies *Burnt shadows* as an inter sexual re-writing of Forster's *A Passage to India*) examines Kamila Shamsie's use of inter textually in her novel *Burnt Shadows*. Like other Post colonial writers, she aims to write back to the center. Shafique and yaqoob find that: postcolonial literatures seek to address the ways in which non-European (Asian, African, South Americans, but also settler colony) literatures and culture have been marginalized as an effect of colonial rule, and to find if possible, modes of resistance, retrieval and reversal of their own peer colonial pasts.

Immerman and Godde's (2013) focuses on the significance of Kamila Shamsie's *Burnt Shadows* as a work of historical fiction, offering as it does an important mean of recovering the complex, multiple global histories which are still going transformed by the cold war. In *Burnt Shadows*, the story's back drop is a fabric rich in a cold war references, ranging from the 1945 bombing in Nagasaki to Karachi teeming with international espionage, to late 20<sup>th</sup> century wars in Afghanistan.

Wahid Pervaz (2014) article is critical study of Kamila Shamsie's novel "*Burnt Shadows*" in the light of post colonial theory. In which he discuss different element of post colonial theory like metropolitanism, hyberdity, nativism, other and Diaspora or Unhomliness. The study addresses the condition of the people f pre and post Indo-Pakistan. He discussed how colonizer treated with colonized people and colonized people consider colonizer undeveloped and backward people. they cannot progress without colonizer. As Kamila shamsi deeply explain 1945 atom bombing, 1947 partition, third with 1982 Pakistan and fourth with 2001-2 the 9\11 time period. the Indian adopt the culture of English. Shamsies character's stand between two culture like Sajjad at hoe wears shalwar Kameez and own duty English dress. Indians are puppet in the hand of English men. Lois Tyson says about Nativism that "many ex-colonial feel they must assert a native culture both to avoid being swam bed by Western culture so firmly planted on their soil and to gain their national image in their own eyes and in the eyes of others.

Raibaud-et-al (2015) assert that the Pakistani English novel came into its own with the arrival of a dynamic younger generation of writer's, these include Mohsin Hamid whose novel the

Reluctant fundamentalists is an exploration of a young Pakistan's identity crises, living in New York, immediately after catastrophic events of 9\11. Muhammad Hanif's satire A case of exploding Mangoes is another work in this category describing Pakistan's involvement with the Afghan fighters progressed to form what become knew as the Taleban, a particularly uncomfortable fact that many would like to forget. Kamila Shamsie's Burnt Shadows is a dizzyingly prodigious in its geographical and historical scope, ranging from Japan to South Asia, and North America, in the hectic period from world war II to the present day.

### **Research methodology:**

#### **Descriptive qualitative research:**

The present research in its nature is qualitative and employ textual narrative analysis of the novel "Burnt Shadows" from the point of view of post colonial discourse. The collected data for the present paper are descriptive and narrative. Therefore, the qualitative tools like definition, explanation, interpretation are employed to analyses the data and draw generalization and conclusion.

According to Kothari the writer off "research methodology: methods and techniques"-discusses the major purposes of the descriptive research and description of the state of the affairs as present. The research can report what has happened or what is happening. (Kothari, 2008, p .3). moreover, in the eyes of Calmorin et al (2007) descriptive research is to find new truth.

#### **Post colonial literary Discourse research method:**

So for as post colonial literary discourse research method is critical aspect in which Indians have been colonized and made them slave in their own land. After taking a bird view of the British Raj, the paper has undergone the experiences of colonized to foreground their tension and strain with colonizers. Pot colonial writers have chosen colonizers` language to make them clear that how much they have exploited in India during their reign. Colonizers believed that they had brought development in India own broad scale. Before their advent India was undeveloped and its people were civilized and backward. One of the greatest post colonial theorists Homi K. Bhabha describes that "form of social criticism that bears witness to those unequal and uneven processes of representation by which the historical experience of the once colonized Third World come to be framed in the West". Thus, post colonial literary discourse critically discusses the Britishers` attitude to Indians. The treatment of English people with native people has micro scopically been studied in the light of post colonial theory. The elements of post colonial theory which the present paper selected are metropolitanism, Eurocentric, Other, Mimicry, Diaspora, hybrdity and Nativism. These aspect of post colonial literary discourse are very much relevant to the textual study of the novel Burnt Shadows.

**Findings:**

Displacement has a major king in Shamsie`s novel (kahf, 1999) but in *Burnt Shadows* this displacement has become all the more traumatic when linked with the gigantic human tragedy of the dropping of atomic bomb in world 11 Shamsie has shows how the crisis of identities is effected by tragic national event between imperial Japan and England.

**Conclusion:**

The aim of this paper was to discuss the novel *Burnt shadows`* in the light of post-colonial theory so, the paper reveals that India has been governed by many rulers in past Turk, Arab, Hun, Mongol, Persian but English occupied differently, they basically came here for trade, but, greed to become owner of all natural resourced aroused them to occupy it. They slowly and gradually, took pores in their hands and made Indian their slaves .English considered Indian savage and backwards. Previous all rulers were sincere and friendly to the natives. They made India their home. When they left; they were disconsolate. English`s injustice compelled Indian to take action against them. This is all shown in character of Sajjad. Sajjad and James Burton`s relation is technically mentioned; Sajjad is puppet in the hand of James. Sajjad represents India and James represents English. Sajjad as a hybrid tied between Eastern and Western cultures. Hiroko`s arrival in Sajjad`s life gives him sense of freedom. Her love enables him to prove himself nativist.

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