Existence and Alienation in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Glass Palace*

Ms. N. Saranya
Ph.D., Research Scholar (FT), Department of English
Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore

Dr. SP. Sasi Rekha, M.A., M.Phil., PGDELT., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of English, Department of English
Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract

The existence craving at no time gratified. This paper deliberates round the substantial and diaspora adversity which speculates the peculiar facets of the country. The nation endures with the content of partition, rootlessness, alienation and search for identity. Amitav Ghosh distinctly interprets the jolt of the dispute on the ignorant lives of the country people. Ghosh’s novel *The Glass Palace* exposes the three lives of discrete generation. The protagonists of the fiction were uprooted from their inhabitant lands and agonize for their survival in the new space. The author characterized his protagonists with the challenges in search for their identity throughout their journey. The people dominance array the probability for survival in any crisis. The novel sailed around pandemic of two countries and bothering of many people. The British power and Japanese invaded the prevailing life and even dynamic were uprooted. The people regulate all over their life in a modified factors, recent land and people. The characters in the fiction sense the feel of alienation and for their reality of Existence.

**Keywords:** Search for Identity, Alienation, Rootlessness, Existence survival

The Glass Palace legitimized the deracination of the Burmese royal family in Burma which presently called Myanmar. The royal family dwells with dynamic and authorities in their dominance. The existence substituted the royal family when the British invaded their province. Brinda Bose mentions that “The Glass Palace signals a dislocation in our understanding of the myth of our so-called community” (30). The community were contrived to fluctuate into strange space and renounce their possession in Burma. The clan adrift its core and textures alienated in the exotic territory. The Glass Palace metamorphoses into devoid and barren when the royal folk depart. Ghosh cited the cast of dignified group as the fatality of desolation. The community endure the sense of detachment in their partition. The classification cope up for their continuity in the estrange phase. The integrity was vanished and prepares to scrutinize for existence.

Ghosh’s prime mover Rajkumar endeavours all over his existence and crave for his identity in the society. Being a foundling, he formulated his Empire with his drudgery. The man cultivated and
fabricated a castle in the air. The entirety of his possession and labor wafted out when the Japanese invaded the Burma. Rajkumar a new confront exposed in the world of chaos and the only remedy was conforming to the bizarre world. Ranjita Basu says, “History is a brooding presence in Ghosh’s books, almost a living entity able to shape the lives of his characters” (159). In addition, the other protagonist Arjun, who worked as officer in British army and leave behind his moral obligation to his own country. The official frantically endorsed the British regime. He sense appreciative to be a British officer than the India civilian. According to him, the western sophistication was the fashioned trend.

The British Indian officer Hardy attempted to perceive the offends of Arjun but he spurned his words. Ghosh characters were indeed devising with all ethics and esteem. Arjun believes that “the Mahatma thinks that the country can only benefit from having men of conscience in the army” (TGP 40). Later Arjun tarnish himself facing the edge, he conceived his defame and bother about his motherland. But his deeds and proud never gave him an attempt. He withered without executes anything at all to his country. Ghosh portrayals have heaps array of perception for the community in the country. The group of folk wildly attain exotic culture than their motherland. Being an Indian, Arjun works for British and ardent to their domain. Heading to the closure, he affix in Indian National Army which leads to futile. The royal imperial family attained a new work in Chennai and struggled to regulate in the new place with the field of fishing. The community people deteriorate in the discord of frail and dawns in pursuit their integrity.

The novel The Glass Palace demonstrates the chronicles of events of the nations and time. The fiction rendered the affluences of the protagonist and Burmese family. The story line limelight the assorted occurrences which materializes in the country in the era of 20th century. The Burmese family were enforced to depose by the British. “There was no rancor on the soldiers faces, no emotion at all. None of them so much glanced at the crowd” (TGP 26). Ghosh interpret how the protagonist experience splentiness of obstacles and hurdles throughout their life. And they governed to obtain a basic typical dwelling. Rajkumar as a trader in the teak were achieved with full effort and he travelled various region across India for his beloved Dolly whom he met as a young one in Madalay. The fiction pictured that how the Burma was influenced by the western impact. The country suffers numerous revolutions initially with the culture in the hands of dynamic potential who implement discrete trivial decree.

In the pace of 20th century, the province challenges with abounding brutality, bloodshed and pandemonium. It brimmed with strife and strike where remains melancholic and contrived diversity life. The plot progresses with the asset of three generation and their peculiarities. The diverse factual crisis and ordeal of the distinctive has been attained for the sake of estrangement and diaspora. The pathetic Rajkumar handled his life in new circumstances. His character was illustrates as a witty one with expertise skill. He soon ratified the location and initiated to enroll about distinct phenomenon. He was zealous and has uphill battle in tea stall as well as his life to reap tremendous growth.

Rajkumar was an agile lad and adore the artistry of the Glass Palace where the Burmese family resides. He grasps assorted facts through his travelling to adventures. The mind galvanized his activity and his soul sailed according to his aspiration where no one there to bother about him. Rajkumar have Saya John as a fatherly figure and he handled him with abundance affliction. He accomplished copious practice with his own life lessons. Through his adventures, he set up his castle with teak to seek his fortune. The dauntless confident and determined assurance in his life assert with favourable fame. The quest for prosperity was perpetual for him. After the execution of Burmese family, the city people surge to the palace to cherish the delicacy of the Glass Palace and the little lad also flee for that craved palace to take a look.
The futile life was reversed into fruitful with the access of Dolly. Rajkumar grab his love life Dolly, a servant maid of the Burmese family. She was an orphan alike the protagonist Rajkumar. Her elegance startled the generality around and the little lad was astonished by her flawless charm. The phenomenon of existence was obtained through his vast experience. The moral as well as pungent reality derived to look at a world not only from his eyes but also from others. Through the embolden of Saya, he obtain divergent stuff both optimistic and pessimistic. He was craving for the relationship and as a foundling, his eyes stared with detachment. With heaps of hard work, he draws a loan and erects his own empire. Soon, he was lucrative in his business through his immense labouring.

Rajkumar determine to inspect about Dolly in India. Being a considerate personality in the society, its accessible to strike her in the country. With his consistent exertion, he spots his paramour and married her at Ratangiri. Finally, he embarks into the life of family man and he got a soul to guard his life. The man crave for such an adorable relationship to evict his isolation. The couple blessed with two sons Neel and Dinu. They admire every moment what they desired in their life and feels gratified with the perfect life. Soon, their life contrived withagonize for bountiful contend. As an illiterate wife, the man abides constant confrontation, threat and provocation. The sympathetic Dolly allured scads protection for his son Dinu who assailed by Polio. She even discount others in the family except Dinu who demand great guardship. The woman abort her commitment with her husband and Neel. With the passage of time, Neel succumbs and Rajkumar befall with illicit relationship and had an illegitimate son. The man’s life sustains with diverse ascend and descends. “Where would I go”, she asks …this is home” (TGP 119).

Dolly, virtuous maid for Queen Supayalat and she flourish her charisma with subsidies of Uma Dey. Dolly looked magnificent and chronicle more exquisite one than the princess. The pacify nature of Dolly staggers the princess when she was dogged and ornery. She was epitomized as mitigate and placate persona. Two influential feminine portraits were deliberate in this novel. Queen Supayalat was adroit in politics and court intrigues cruelty. The woman excite in multitudinous field and not conventional like the rest of the world. The striking beauty executes anything for her adored husband, The baw. The Queen even averse her own family and decapitate assorted monarch who intimidate her husband. The fondness towards her companion contrived the Queen outpace to any stretch and even exile her daughter twenty years. The nature of human being cannot be exemplified by anyone. The author delineates such portrait as naturally in the time being. The magnificent Queen demeans diverse insane orders not only on her adversary but also on her own family for the love.

Dolly paid amplitudeloyalty to the Burmese family. Even in the time of rebuke, she sojourned with the descendantsand have no place to survive. Dolly merrily married Rajkumar with the words of Uma. Uma, a firm description characterized by Ghosh. Her lucidity and precision thought delivered legitimate accord for other’s life. Uma’s husband, the collector wished his wife to be woman with equivalent rights and be a daring for the outside society. Both are isolated and detached in their relationship and the marriage became a matter of habit. Being in the hostile companion, they depart from each other’s sour company. The crowded desolation generates him to commit suicide and ambiance that there is no one in his home to rest for his rebound.

Uma sense affinity towards her husband and her character glances illusory which crash virtual stereotype of Indian women. Dolly’s younger child Dinu was an introvert personality who hard to meld with others. The generation was contradict with the by gone one. The photography fascinated his passion and he was constantly encouraged by his mother Dolly. Alison craves for a spotlight in life. The new generation people were diverge in the progress of love. Alison and Dinuadore each other’s company and travel smooth until the entry of Uma’s nephew Arjun, an Army man.
According to Alison, Arjun was deficient and feeble one but for her, Dinu was firm and passionate man. The love was broke by the war, Alison was died in the Chaos. Dina was desirous in his profession. He devotes his photography and winded in his work. He was married to Burmese writer happily after the death of Alison. Ghosh attempt the distinct generation feelings with these characters.

The novel addressed sundry rampage and chaos which generate peril and dispute for the middle class society. The humanity were writhe in the partition, colonisation and even adrift of their relationships. Soueif remarks that “Ghosh is one of the most sympathetic postcolonial voices to be heard today. He looks at love and loyalty, and examines questions of Empire and responsibility of tradition and modernity” (5). The country adrift abounding spirits in the provoke of war. Ghosh effectively demonstrates the war and brutality in the backdrop of the novel. The novel interpret the perception, culture, civilization, delicacy, idea and values of the miscellaneous land. The innocent virtuous lives agonise in the grip of tremendous influence. The jurisdiction torments the society and possession of the humanity. Ghosh distinctly imitates the adversity and ordeal of the country people.

Works Cited
1. Basu, Ranjitha. “The Novels of Amitav Ghosh.” London Magazine, vol. 37, no. 3, Sep. 1997, pp. 159 - 61.
2. Bose, Brinda, editor. Amitav Ghosh: Critical Perspectives. Delhi: Pencraft, 2003.
3. Ghosh, Amitav. The Glass Palace. Delhi: Ravi Dayal Publishers, 2000.
4. Soueif, Ahdaf. Review of The Glass Palace, Indian Review of Books, 2000.