

From Division to Diversity: A Post Partition Study Exploring Identity and Culture in the Selected Works of Amitav Ghosh and Bapsi Sidhwa

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Abstract : This paper revolves around the cultural complexities, cultural similarities, and national sentiments of the contemporary period. It deals with the idea of cultural hybridization and the failure of socio-psychological and cultural boundaries to include all the members of society. The writers like Amitav Ghosh and Bapsi Sidhwa have a significant mark to cultural imperialism and diversity which lead to fluid identity in the present society. The paper invokes that partition could have been a solution to social and religious homogeneity. As writers like Amitav Ghosh and Bapsi Sidhwa focus on historical fiction, as they do not indulge in border activities rather exhibits complex cultural complexities. In terms of identity they believe that it is constructed and fragmented which is further shaped by colonialism and displacement. They reflect on culture in relation to the disruptions and transformations experienced by communities. Further, the division not only led to the creation of national boundaries but forced individuals to form identities based on religion. The paper aims at analyzing the contemporary scenario and comprehending the multiplicity of cross-cultural interactions leading to convolutions. It fathoms cultural and political complexities as a result of nation and nation-building as a part of collective consciousness. The paper limits itself by comprehending Amitav Ghosh's work *The Shadow Lines* and *The Hungry Tide* and Bapsi Sidhwa's work *Pakistani Bride* and *The Crow Eaters* through the study of Homi K. Bhabha's *The Location of Culture* and Edward Said's *Culture and Imperialism*.

Keywords : culture, imperialism, cultural hybridization, nation-building, hybridity

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