



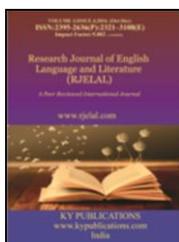
## CULTURAL HYBRIDITY IN NOVONEEL CHAKRABORTY'S *MARRY ME STRANGER*

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### ABSTRACT

India has a unique culture of its own. At the same time, it is quite capable of accepting other neighboring cultures as well. There are always conflicts between two cultures. In the present scenario, there is a dilemma prevailing in the minds of the people. Novoneel Chakraborty is well known for his romantic thrillers. His famous work *Marry me stranger* figures out the controversies in the minds of the female protagonist. The leading character Rivanah is a corporate girl. She has a dilemma throughout the novel. This paper attempts to explore the hybrid culture values in society as well as the mind of the protagonist.

Keywords: Hybridity, culture, relationship, dilemma

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### Introduction

Novoneel Chakraborty is an Indian novelist, born at Silchar in Assam. He is well known in Romantic Thrillers that he writes along with philosophy mixed with it. His first novel is *A Thing beyond Forever* (2008) he got the tag of the national best seller in his first novel. His second work is *Stranger Trilogy* which contains three novels like *Marry Me Stranger* (2014), *All Yours Stranger* (2015), and *Forget Me Not Stranger* (2016). His trilogy deals with the emotional quotient of presence generation as well as light upon the impact of corporate culture. Recently he released the novel *Block Suits You* which deals with Psycho- Sexual thriller.

The paper argues that Indian has never minded about their cultural values. They adore about Western culture. They become accustomed themselves to the West by changing their way of living. The research tool used for the study is Homi K. Bhabha's *Hybridity* which comes under the

postcolonial study. Post-colonialism is rooted in the history of Imperialism. The word 'Imperialism' derived from the Latin *imperium* which means Power, authority, command, dominion, realm, empire.

The term 'Hybridity' has been most recently associated with the work of Homi K. Bhabha. In Latin *hybrida* refers to "the offspring of a tame sow and a wild boar, child of a freeman and slave" The notion of 'Hybridity' is central to Bhabha's work in challenging notions of identity, culture, and the nation as coherent and unified entities that exhibit a linear historical development. Hybridity expresses a state of 'betweenness' as a person who stands between two cultures.

### Discussion

India has a unique culture and immense cultural values while compared other countries. In the present scenario, India loses its cultural values because of globalization. Indians live in a corporate

world where hybrid culture is prevalent. They affect in between their own culture and the influence from the West. Indians feel too proud as follow the Western culture more than follow their own culture. Indians can never know about their immense cultural values. They feel extremely superior when they become a corporate person.

Novoneel Chakraborty's *Marry Me Stranger* is a novel about mystery, relationship, corporate culture, sex life, isolation, cultural values, and real fact of life. The protagonist of the novel Rivanah Bannerjee is a young and independent girl. She lives in Kolkata and gets a job as Programmer Analyst, Tech Sky Technologies in Mumbai. Rivanah's character undergoes change because of Westernization. She feels proud of a corporate girl. It is the impact of cultural hybrid which corrupt human mind.

'Rivanah Bannerjee, you are a corporate girl now,' she said to herself as she entered the premise feeling jubilant. (20)

Though Western cultures have never cultural values, Indians want to adapt themselves for the fascination of Western culture.

Indian culture gives freedom to women with huge responsibilities. Indian culture knows that more freedom is a precarious thing to women. Women have freedom with some restriction in Indian society. It is the unique of Indian culture and values. But hybrid culture breaks Indian traditional culture. Corporate culture encourages individual's freedom which is the root of the inconsistent society. Ishita Rana is another character of Novoneel's novel. She is a modern girl as well as the roommate of Rivanah.

Ishita was fiercely independent and audaciously modern. She consumed an average of a box of cigarettes a day and all her water bottles contained 80 percent Vodka and 20 percent Sprite. (56)

In Indian culture, drinker lost their noble identity among the Indian society. Indian culture should never give respect to the drinker. But present scenario drinking is socialism. It is an impact of hybrid culture. In corporate culture, every party must have a drinking session. Western culture gives

more important to the entertainment than cultural values.

On weekends, following the breakup, Ishita made sure Rivanah accompanied her to the nightclubs.

'At least have fun before your parents get a husband for you' (103)

Ishita is an independent girl who goes to a nightclub with many boyfriends. It is the impact of hybrid culture. Freedom without responsibility can ruin the good of any individual.

According to Indian culture, relationship is being a mutual affection. The relationship can never fake in Indian society. But Western culture establishes the Extra-marital and Pre-marital relationship. In hybrid culture, there is a relationship based on particular purposes like money, sex, desire, etc. Ekansh loves Rivanah for satisfied their sexual thought. After breakup Ekansh, Rivanah loves Danny for satisfied their Sexual thought. Rivanah is admired herself by another handsome boy during the birthday party of Danny. No one has ever known for true love and real relationship in Western culture.

Before marriage sexual relationship is an offense in Indian culture. But Rivanah has a sexual relationship with Ekansh. Pre-marital is not a big issue in the West. After the breakup of Ekansh, she had a Sexual relationship with Danny. In Indian culture, sexual relationship is legal only within marriage, pre-marital sex is taboo and it is illegal in Indian culture.

#### Conclusion

In Indian culture, women have more freedom with some restriction. It helps to save the life of women but Western culture gives more freedom to women without restriction. In the opening of the novel Rivanah had a dilemma between two cultures but finally, she adapts herself to Corporate culture. Even though Western culture had never cultural values Indians admired themselves with the customs and practices of the West.

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