



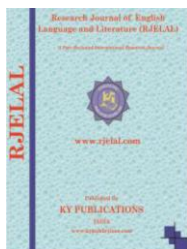
A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN NAZNEEN IN *BRICK LANE* AND LAYLA IN *MADRAS ON RAINY DAYS*

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ABSTRACT

The present study is an attempt to compare and find the similarities between the two protagonists of the selected novels. The two major characters that are to be taken for a comparative analysis are Nazneen from the novel *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali and Layla from the novel *Madras on Rainy Days* by Samina Ali. The similarities between these two characters such as their culture, emptiness in their life, immigration, struggle for independence.

Key Words: Culture, Immigration, Language, Independence, Loneliness.

INTRODUCTION

Post colonialism is a conceptual modulation that describes the cultural heritage of colonialism and imperialism. Post colonialism generally speaks about the outcome of the native's ill treatment in their native lands. Postcolonial study analyzes the various functions of social imperial power that sustain colonialism. Post colonialism is a conceptual modulation that describes the cultural heritage of colonialism and imperialism. Post colonialism generally speaks about the outcome of the native's ill treatment in their native lands. Postcolonial study analyzes the various functions of social imperial power that sustain colonialism. Feminism by definition is a belief the man and women should have equal rights and opportunities. Postcolonial feminism is a deep analysis of the blending inclination of the western feminism. Unlike western feminism, the postcolonial feminism wants to pave the way for the problems faced by the women of the third world nations like India. Heterogeneity and ambivalence plays a significant role in the writings of the post colonial women writers. They are not

interested in breaking their own family customs, rules and regulations formulated by their own society. On the other hand, they want their family, tradition and culture to be preserved and also they want to attain some respect for their feelings. The women featuring with the writings of the post colonial writings under the name of weaker sex want the hard restrictions laid upon them to be relaxed.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN NAZNEEN IN *BRICK LANE* AND LAYLA IN *MADRAS ON RAINY DAYS*.

Similarities between two female characters produced by the two muslim women writers of the twenty first century. The two major characters that are to be taken for a comparative analysis are Nazneen from the novel *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali and Layla from the novel *Madras on Rainy Days* by Samina Ali. The similarities between these two characters such as their culture, emptiness in their life, immigration, struggle for independence.

The first and foremost similarity that the readers can find between the two characters is their identity as Muslim Women. Both Nazneen and Layla belong to a traditional Islamic family, born and brought up under the strict care of their parents and keen gaze of the neighbours of their culture. As a part of the Islamic family, they were brought up to learn the major and essential cultural aspect they needed to adopt in order to be a good Muslim. Nazneen, the heroine of the novel *Brick Lane* is portrayed as a sensitive girl who was born in a village in Bangladesh. Nazneen is like a mirror, who reflects the society where she was living, for example, when she lived in her native village. She was an obedient girl who followed the words of her mother Rupban. But when she went to England and was introduced to a more liberal society, she started to make her own decisions which causes friction between husband and wife.

On the other hand, Layla was the protagonist of Samina Ali's *Madras on Rainy Days* was a young Muslim immigrant from upper middle class family. Layla's life was increasingly similar to Nazneen's. She always wanted to lead her life independently without any stress. Though she was brought up in a traditional Islamic family, living in America led her to adopt the culture of the foreign land.

Nazneen and Layla are similar in terms of their attitude towards their immigrant status. While Nazneen migrated to Britain from Bangladesh, Layla migrated to America from India. These two characters have struggled to a great extent as immigrants. Both the characters underwent the same pangs of loneliness irrespective of whether they were in a native land or a foreign land. Immigration is the crucial thing that makes the native settlers to lose one's identity in a foreign land is a common problem for a immigrant. These characters are also remained in the same condition in the novel.

Nazneen was eighteen years old when she was married to a forty year old Chanu who was living and working as a railway employee in Britain. Her marriage to Chanu took her away from her native village for the first time. She missed home

and was always filled with worries about her new life in London. The unfamiliarity of life in London made her feel very awkward and uncomfortable. Survival in a new country became a question mark. She faced difficulties in adjusting to the language and culture of the foreign society.

Samina Ali's Layla was akin to Nazneen in her problems as an immigrant. Though she spent her life in Minneapolis with her mother, who loved her and gave her much freedom to enjoy her life in America. But Layla was unhappy. This is because the Americans never accepted her as one of their own. She was rejected by everyone because she was an Indian girl from a different culture.

The next thing that makes the Samina Ali's Layla and Monica Ali's Nazneen similar is that of both the characters have apathetic and detached fathers. They neither care for their wives nor for the life of their daughters. The readers can easily understand that the bitter part of the life in their daughters was mainly due to this heartless nature of their's. The father is the head of the family who he is considered to be the authoritative figure one who protects and shields the family from assailing problems. But on the contrary, the problems in the life of the protagonists seem to be created by the head of the family himself.

The tiresome married life of the two heroines seems to be of a similar tenor too. Every woman wants her married life to give her happiness of a everlasting kind with her husband and with the family members. But in the case the life of both Nazneen and Layla they were not lucky enough to get the husband of their dreams till the end of their life. In spite of their husbands being selected by their parents their's was still not a successful marriage.

Nazneen, in the novel *Brick Lane* gave birth to a male child, which gives immense joy to the whole family and even brightens up even their surroundings. For Nazneen it was the only happiest thing that had ever happened in her life before. But fate did not allow Nazneen to enjoy her happiness till the end. The life of the new born baby came to an end within a night. Raqib died in the hospital where he was admitted due to a mysterious fainting spell in that night.

On the other, as a second generation immigrant, Layla who moved to America lost herself in an affair with an American named, Nate. When Layla's mother found out that Layla was pregnant with Nate's child she furiously reacted to the situation by arranging a marriage for her. She immediately left America with Layla, and the foetus was promptly aborted without waiting for a complete permission from Layla. When she comes to know that her baby had been aborted her world shattered to pieces.

Once again another point of comparison between Monica Ali's Nazneen and Samina Ali's Layla can be made on the ground of the age difference between them and their spouses. Nazneen and Chanu have age gap of around twenty years between them, whereas Layla and Sameer have a gap of twelve years between them.

The character of the husbands in the life of Nazneen and Layla is another comparable aspect. Nazneen and Layla both had their freedom and desires curbed and curtailed by their unsupportive husbands. They both failed in their duties as a good husband.

CONCLUSION

Thus this paper deals with the comparison of the uniqueness between the protagonists, the heroines of the two selected novels. The foremost similarity found among the two characters as well as their creators in their religion. They both belonged to Islamic culture. They were brought up to follow the rules and regulations that are to be adhered to in the culture of Islam. Both the authors are women who belong to the same religion; one is uprooted from her land by marriage while the other is brought back to her home soil after marriage. Both have apparently good marriages that are perfect in the eyes of the world but are actually faulty and creaky on the inside. Both strive to seek freedom in their own singular way and by the end of the novel manage to do so without being bitter or hurting anyone and that's where their charm lies.

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