

INTERGENERATIONAL CONFLICTS IN SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORIC LITERATURE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF JHUMPA LAHIRI AND MONICA ALI

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ABSTRACT

Migration often brings about a complicated process of negotiation around identity, belonging, and continuity of culture in immigrant communities. One of the more prominent examples of these negotiations relates to intergenerational conflicts that can develop between migrants and their children. In this article, the intergenerational conflicts are explored in the works selected by Jhumpa Lahiri and Monica Ali, particularly Brick Lane and The Namesake. Starting from ideas from diaspora studies and theories of cultural hybridity, the study examines how the family as a site of origin and connection is transformed into a space of contestation where multiple and conflicting cultural values, social expectations and identity constructions converge. The analysis shows that both authors do not only describe intergenerational conflict as a family conflict, but as a sign of the conflicts that are caused by migration, cultural displacement, and social adaptation. In contrast to Lahiri's focus on the emotional and psychological aspects of diasporic life, Ali brings a socio-political and gendered perspective to the dynamics among the family. The article posits that these stories all point to a fluid sense of cultural identity and a cultural hybridity that can change through dialogue, negotiation, and cultural exchange with other peoples in diaspora.

KEYWORDS: *The South Asian Diaspora, Intergenerational Relations, Cultural Hybridity, Identity Construction, Jhumpa Lahiri, Monica Ali, Migration Studies are the Key Words.*

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