



## National Echoes in the Works of Bharati Mukherjee and

### Rohinton Mistry

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#### Abstract:

In the present study researcher has focussed on the works of Indo-Canadian writers Bharati Mukherjee and Rohinton Mistry. Researcher has gone through their works and get the idea that both are living outside of India though their works have Indian echo either it is Bharati Mukherjee's *The Tiger's Daughter* (1971) or Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long Journey* (1991). Their most of the works start with the Indian plots. Bharati Mukherjee has pictured her novel *Jasmine* (1989) struggle of Indian woman in America to adopt the America life style. *The Three Bride* (2004) is her historical novel in which she has tried to show the Bengali Brahmin girl and British Raj. Rohinton Mistry has involved the common people of Indian society in his works. His novels and short stories heroes belong to middle class. His finest work *Such a Long Journey* takes place in Mumbai. The protagonist of this novel is hardworking bank clerk named Gustad Noble. Another work *Tales From Firozsha Baag* (1987) collection of 11 short stories presents the life of families who are living in the apartment at Firozsha Baag. Both the writers are not living in India but national echoes can be seen in their writing.

**Key Words:** Bharati Mukherjee, Rohinton Mistry, Nationalism, National Echoes, Common people

#### Introduction:

Since many years people are migrating from one place to another place. It is human being's own choice to leave the one place and go to other place. It is easy to go somewhere and stay there for better life. Human being can physical transfer from one place to another place but it is very difficult to transfer our mind and soul. It is very difficult for soul to accept the new place and culture which is totally different and unseen. The writer who had left their countries years ago is still reminding their motherland in their works.

India is a country where every type of people are living without any hesitation and bondages though many people are not satisfied and they left the country for better life. Since many years it is happening in our country but it has proved that the person who had left this beautiful country for better life he could not get the peace. Many live examples like Jumba Lahiri, Bharati Mhkerjee, Rohinton Mistry, Kiran Desai etc. had left India physically but they could not left India mentally. Some went to America some went to England and some went to Canada. Till today in their writing we can feel India. Through their writing they are trying to live in India. In this paper researcher has taken such a famous two Indo-Canadian writers whose soul still seeing India and we can feel it in their writing which shows their national echo.

### **National Echo:**

As per Cambridge Dictionary national means, "relating to or typical of a whole country and its people, rather than to part of that country or to other countries." The writers who had left their nations and still they are thinking about their nation. They are doing the things which are related to their nation. They are living somewhere but still they are representing their own nation.

In their works national culture, national tradition, national activities and national related all the things are included which shows the national echo. If any new reader will read their writing without knowing that the writer is belong to which country he will make mistake to judge the nationality. It shows the deep effect on writer of his own nation where nowadays he is not living. It is something like that the person who is living in his own home has not the importance of that home but when he will left the home and live somewhere else he will understand the importance of his own home. Now the condition is so worst that he can not come again that is why he is trying to fulfill the gape with his writing. It is real national echo which reader can feel during reading.

### **Indo-Canadian:**

Indo means Indian, the person who born in India or whose forefathers were belong to India is considered as Indo-Canadian. The main question arises here that why Indian went to Canada. It started with the Sikhs. They first went there and set:

Many Indian found jobs in big Canadian companies such as the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company as well as in the resource industries. Jobs in lumber camps, sawmills, cattle farms and fruit orchards were also easily within reach. (Agrawal and Lovell 147)

The basic need of the people was fulfilled that is why they attracted by Canada. People who went their they got the job very easily in Canada which was the

positive point for Indian people. It is human nature to attract by the better life and job. From many decades Indian people had attraction towards the foreign. In that era the person who was serving in foreign had a respectable place in the society. Such people got married easily and set their life in India.

The people who went to Canada they had the same dream. They got the job in Canada. They got the respectable life in Canada but they could not come back to their nation. They became the Citizen of Canada and they called Indo-Canadian people. In that mass many had an imaginary quality who became the writer like Bharati Mukherjee and Rohinton Mistry who called Indo-Canadian writers. No doubt they are living in Canada but their writing shows the love for India.

### **Rohinton Mistry:**

Rohinton Mistry is an Indo-Canadian well-known writer. He is famous for his novel *Such a Long Journey* which was published in 1991. He was born in Mumbai in 1952. He belongs to Parsi family. It is such a strange thing that the student of Mathematics became the writer. He went to Canada married there and with his family. He had worked in Bank. In between he had taken his BA degree in English and Philosophy.

He had started writing from his college days. In his college he had written short stories. After some year in Canada his 11 short stories were published in 1987 called *Tales From Firozsha Baag*. From here the writer's heartily connection with Indian can be seen that his short stories were telling the stories of Parsi dominated apartment in Mumbai. The stories are *Auspicious Occation, One Sunday, The Ghost of Firozsha Baag, Condolence Visit, The Collector, Of White Hairs Cricket, The Paying Guests, Squatter, Lend Me Your Light, Exercisers, and Swimming Lessons*. The stories are written in a way that the reader may say the write is still living in India. The national echo can be seen in his short stories.

His work *Such a Long Journey* (1991) was one of his finest works. The novel was short listed for Booker Prize. It has won several awards. The book was such a famous that it was prescribed in University of Bombay. Dutt had positively praised and said, "The most impressive novels of South Asian Fiction writers are set outside Canada, have nothing to do with the 'Canadian experience', or Canadian landscape" (Dutt). It is not important where the writer is living but his soul is in India. Mistry has created the works which are based on society.

*Such a Long Journey* takes place in Mumbai which was known Bambah at that time. The story moves around the central character named Gustad Noble. He was struggling to put away from poverty from his wife Dilnavaz and three children. His life became so disturb when his eldest son refused to go IIT thought he got the admission. It was not enough the second tragic thing happen when his youngest daughter fell ill. Gustad's relations with his neighbors were described very beautifully

by Mistry. His relationship with his friend Tehmul who was mentally disabled character. "Poor Tehmul. What was to become of him?...Gustad wished he had the power of miracles, the power to cure Tehmul's ill."(Mistry 303) It shows the innocence of life. Later on in Gustad's life takes turn which is amazingly presented by Mistry. In his work the basic idea and real concept about India are really very strong which shows writer attachment with the nation.

### **Bharati Mukherjee:**

Bharati Mukherjee was born in Calcutta West Bengal in 1940. She is not among us but her writing is still serving beautiful works. She died in 2017. She considers the Canadian writer. Her one of the notable work is *Jasmine* (1989). She received B.A. from Calcutta and M.A. from Baroda M. S. University. She lived many years in Canada.

She had written novels, non-fiction, short stories and memoir which named *Days and Nights in Calcutta* in 1977. Her notable work was *Jasmine* which was written in 1989. The novel is based on one young Indian woman who is trying to set in America. The name of the character is Jasmine who was only seventeen years old and become widowed. Mukherjee has posturized the novel in a beautiful way that the reader can feel the feeling of the character. She has presented the struggle of the young girl in Jasmine. Her other novels are *The Tiger's Daughter* (1971), *Wife* (1975), *The Holder of the World* (1993), *Leave it to Me* (1997), *Desirable Daughters* (2002), *The Three Bride* (2004), *Miss New India* (2011). Almost her works present national echo.

### **Conclusion:**

Indo-Canadian writer like Rohinton Mistry and Bharati Mukherjee are the writers who had left India but their soul was not ready to leave this divine nation. They have written a beautiful works which are based on Indian society. Their works has presented the simplicity the calmness and the beauty of this nation. Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long Journey* and Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* are the best works in which readers can see the national echo.

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