



# SUBALTERN WITH REFERENCE TO AMITAV GHOSH '*THE SHADOW LINE*'

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## ABSTRACT

The most prominent message rendered by author Ghosh is that borders shed tears, blood are mean, ungodly. How come the man creates such borders for the land which has no enclosures. It was fashioned as the sky was. Yet humans enclose themselves and accept vain of humanity. This novel clearly pictures the hurdles faced by some fictitious characters. Yet it is from historic source and it is vividly representing the hardships of being sundered. Author himself has given a very tricky topic for his Sahitya Academy award triumphing novel as "*The shadow line*".

**Keywords** Subaltern, Diaspora, Religion, Violence, Women Empowerment

Author's perspective can be seen and learnt wherever also encounter his views. Obviously, the borders are not only the enclosure of places but also the merciless brutal killer of the humanity. Also, borders are just the peep of shadows which possess the merciless brute reality behind them. While author has not mentioned the name of narrator yet he exposes history and pictures the pain behind the dark shadow line. Author is against the partitioning of India, vile world wars, Sikh riots, swadeshi movement and riots in Calcutta-Dhaka 1964 which intensifies the inhumane activities and succumbs humanity.

We can feel the author's brawny stand towards the partitions which are man-made long-term disasters. Such things are backdrops. The novel has setting as major three countries namely; India, England, East Pakistan (current day Bangladesh). The major changes in world such as new arrival of the riots triggered the author to fabricate this historic fiction as a master piece. It surely enlightens the inner us and will allow us to say we are yes with what we have. Surely bewilderment and greed of man is leading the world towards a path which should not be reached. Exotic sense of author in describing things is through the narrator.

The main theme of this novel is being away from home where the boundaries arise and they become unknown in their very own country. The author cites that these boundaries are not that good and such a practice must be withdrawn. The characters in this story long for the love which is bewildered by the boundaries.

Author cites through *thamma* - “They know they’re a nation because they’ve drawn their borders with blood”. A very deep words by author we shall encounter his views where his main thing is opposing any act which is against ourselves. The main theme is observed throughout the context author has provided.

Another major theme is about the riots where it has the colour of religion, violence created by sadistic groups. We can remember Thomas Hardy’s poem “Yes: quaint and curious war is! you shoot a fellow down you’d treat if met where any bar is or help to half-a-crown “. Vividly those riots are meaningless and exceeds the moral value of an individual. The novel was released aftermath of various riots which took place in the mid 80’s. certain pursuing riots and communal clashes led the author to make a historic fictitious novel where we can figure out many aspects. Ghosh has spoken about the borders which are a continuing constraint and a hurdle from which human has to refrain from.

Ghosh speaks out about the needs and rights of an individual person. He throws light on it via *thamma* – “freedom to be ‘earned’ like a right”. everyone has certain level of freedom to cherish no one has limit to restrict that. Ghosh deeply believes in individual rights to be offered priorly. He also reinforces that wherever freedom is denied it must be earned just like a right. Restrictions and encroachment never ever builds a stable society. It will be creating colonization and people with restrictive and harmful thoughts. Ghosh is crystal clearly a supporter of fundamental rights and people’s well-wisher.

Development and the dreams of attaining great altitudes are certainly possible only when we grow and linger together. When we isolate peoples and make divisive thoughts prevail, nothing can be attained. We must accept the vain only. whenever, we approach the thoughts and provoking of colonization, is a destruction to imagination and human rights surely. Borders shiver due to prolonged mistake man has made. Man has been growing and doing better stable growths yet, some mistakes commenced is making the society to push it aside a few centuries dark back. Ghosh’s thought emerges towards peace.

He emphasizes the need and elaborates the history as well. actually, the partition led the many Bengali families divided. There were Hindu Muslim animosity in large number which was not a required one for any nation or geographical land. Ghosh even asks to remap the world and name the places once again. The political events affected the most and made even the native people captive in their own mother land. It is pictured via *thamma* who becomes a foreigner in her very own mother country and returns to Dhaka as an alien. It all happened within a certain span of period where the tensions arouse among the people.

The decade was so affected and there were miseries and sorrow to witness with. The author elaborates the death of Khalil and Tridib by angry mob. Every nation has the right to get and acquire the rights as freedom. It plays an inevitable role in building the progress of the many people who are expected to build a nation which is out of fear and there are no backdrops in the sustainability and development. The riots affect and exploit the people and has its impact even on those upcoming generations. it remains a stain on the mark of humanity. It is surely cruel and evil on the society and people.

Let’s come out of the enigma of cruelty. The earth is a very scene full place to live with and enrich the resources with each other. Ghosh thinks it’s not needed to be within boundaries its also very much needed

that we shall look these worldly things with more love and imaginative way which will be a way where we can nourish the benefit of entire people. As we read from “The migrant birds” by famida y Basheer where she insists humans to lead and live like the birds which fly high in the sky with their pride. They all head towards a new destiny and they keep exploring new places and landmarks. They never claim any land as their own nor they never try acquiring others living source. They never restrict themselves to a boundary they grow and never riot within their flock.

The entire world is vast we make it restricted and smaller we boundary ourselves and fail to explore the other side of these fabulous made earth. The main theme mentioned here is to be always facing the things with no constraints. Another theme emphasises the necessity of bonding and the home. These things make the right way which we need to traverse. We shall note that we are not in a stand in which we accept our failure through these evil things. We saw how necessary open mindedness through author’s imaginative narrator is. He made a beautiful scenario where he picturised the miseries so realistically through his novel. The majority had lost their lives, property and relative bonding’s. the sorrow lasted for few decades and they still hunt the generations even after having an enormous tragic impact on the next generation too.

The narrator commences the story. his memories are associated with his uncle tridib. now author is quite grown up yet he appreciates the memory with his uncle. He assists narrator in many aspects and narrator not being from a rich background has not even crossed Calcutta yet he has very good imagination of how the world should be. Author also has sharp contrast in the novel where ila has travelled to many places of the world yet she has no experience though. She lags the imagination in her. Attitude of her is as she had never ever been to any other place. Simultaneously, narrator has a very good fancy and is exposed to places though he has not visited the shadow lines of other cities.

Narrator is fascinated by the tales he lent the ears to his uncle tridib. Through his uncle only he has got such a broad thinking mind. He is depicted as a fascinator of atlas and maps. It belonged to his uncle tridib. Another prominent character in the novel from whom the story starts with is Tha’mma the grandmother of Narrator. She was educated, belonged from a flock of middle-class family. She is filmed with aspiration for betterment of her very own life. Author visualises aspect of any middle-class family women who would wish to. Imagination throngs his mind and still empowers him throughout the way.

She is stint with revolution. at a very young age of 32 she was widowed. Yet, she as her education as an assistant and empowerment she continues to shine and survive in this society. As h.w Longfellow as told “doesn’t be dumb driven cattle in this strife”. She was never stagnant she always wanted to reach the heights. She pursued her journey as headmistress and left Dhaka. She was very time conscious and loved to be at the lap of the time. She is indeed a fiercely independent woman. Author pictures the women empowerment through a fictious character in a clear-cut manner. her whole life mission was thronged towards bringing back her uncle to India.

Jethumoshai is another character of privilege by author. He is uncle of tha’mma. They were separated in a conflict where father and her uncle were isolated by hearts. it is important to stay connected as possible

with relatives and friends in this short temporary life. Author has also been telling the need of being one and contrastingly border corners even those who are far near and dear to heart. we can feel the context of the author where depictions of domestic violence, women empowerment and inhumane vile these circumstances fill our total story which makes it more than a story indeed a real one thing and lesson which may enlighten the whole world and help the world to get of the immense pressure which has being received as a consequence of the man-made chaos. Author hopes for the betterment of the humanity which may cause betterment in the lives of people as insisted in his novel.

Contrasting character to grandmother depicted by author is ila. She has hatred towards the people of India and religious customs and is tired of the tradition, religious, protocols, longing hierarchies, relational bonding. Narrator longed for her love but she was not paying attention to narrator in that aspect. At last she marries Nick. after marrying Nick, she suffers a lot yet she didn't will to give divorce. Author here displays the unfulfilled and unbounded love of narrator for ila. The ignorance of ila and sufferings aftermath of her marriage. Grandmother never loved her she built a strong disagreement with her. Also, another prominent character was may who wanted to meet tridip. Yet their love didn't succeed due to the riots in which tridip and jethumoshai were killed.

Author marks the death of tridip and jethumoshai as the failure of the whole mankind where the wishes of two families were left unfulfilled. It changed the path of lives .it withdrew the desire of many. Many uncertain things occurred while we were developing thoughts and ideas in destroying each other and using weapons. the main enforcement of author is to be the cherisher of goodness and neglecter of vile provocations and thoughts. As a conclusion author also shows the colonizers attitude. whatever western culture you maybe following its better to be in perspective of colonizer in a colony.

Here in the novel people started murmuring when may kissed tridip in a railway station. it's all our attitude where it is dynamic in nature in accordance to places. The novel is an eye opener in every aspect where we can mould ourselves from keeping those Fictitious characters as a key reference and heading towards progress and neglecting the path of noisy environment. It's really hard for an individual to move away from home where he has a bundle of memories and lots of bonding, we can also understand another theme "home is where the heart is". It can be viewed through out the novel where we see the characters longing for their bonding and mother land where they started to see their world from emerging into the survival in the world.

Author represents the various theme lines in his novel where we can encounter the required need of the drastic things which are not needed and amendments to be carried out throughout the life in order to get the stability and requirements of one's and others. It is not possible without the support of others and their rigid growth. Getting the acquisitions must not be fulfilling ones greed. This master piece is providing a very strong message where multiple themes are discussed on this literature forum. Clearly, a required message to humanity and its stealth growth where we can get benefitted by those fictional characters. The ultimate aim of stability will be attained by the humanity only when we follow and strictly adhere to the brotherhood and

peace. When we realize the fact of the life we might not involve in conflict nor will not indulge in any riots which are a step back for the whole humanity. The world is the only suitable place in the universe to live with. How come we can make this planet fragile? We never had such priority and should never have it. Just, we shall be a patient observer and let us deliver and display love in every possible aspects as far as possible by which we can nourish the inner humanity in us.

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