

Reflection on Culture and Ethos: Study of Kamala Markandaya's *Bombay Tiger*

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Abstract:

Literature is a reflection of the society. In other words it reflects the culture of the society. As literature is the reflection of society it reflects the culture and tradition of people. Kamala Markandaya describes the culture, tradition, lifestyle, practice, and mode and manner of Indians through her novel *Bombay Tiger*. The prepared presentation elucidates the culture and tradition of Indians. The aim of this work is to analyze the tradition and culture of Indian society, which speaks and as the identity of every individual.

Bombay Tiger by kamala Markandaya is about the business man Ganguli. Ganguli is the big industrialist in metropolitan city Bombay. He is very ambitious, though he is very ambitious he fails as a father and husband, he did not take care of his wife and his girl child Chandralekha. He fails in his life as a family man. Ganguli at the end of the novel turns into the man of good deeds and opens the Mahatma Gandhi hospital for poor.

Culture is the identity of group of people living in a specific place. As culture is the identity of every individual kamala Markandaya own Indian culture reflects in this novel. Culture

is the social behavior and norm found in human society these include expression like art, music, dance, religion, cooking, shelter and clothing.

Indian culture is widely reflected in the works of Kamala Markandaya especially in *Bombay Tiger*. In postcolonial diaspora writers have played the role of cultural translators very well. The identity of Indian culture is carried out by postcolonial writers in India. Kamala Markandaya is one of the famous women among the literary cultural translators. She not only translates a content or work but also transfer the values, norms, daily routine, food habits, clothing, celebration of festival and social relationship of this particular culture to next generation.

Gangulis's wardrobe is full of dhotis and kurta. He wears banyan and lungi at home. As a big-wheel Ganguli is not interested in adopting the western culture. Rao is childhood friend of Ganguli and now Rao is Ganguli's Rival in business. Though Rao is Ganguli's rival he treats him with pure South Indian tradition. He served him particular south Indian dishes like boiled rice and rasam, rice and sambar, rice and curd and papad. "He took huge servings great steaming mounds of rice and sambar, rice and rasam, rice and curd, together with garnishing papad which simply disappeared down his gullet" (BT 34).

Ganguli is rich enough to arrange the marriage by himself. Though Ganguli is rich he followed the Indian tradition he respect his elders and relatives, request them to arrange a prospect bride for him. "Ganguli has married later than his peers, Relative arranged the marriage" (29).

In Indian tradition people have deep faith in God. In this novel Kamala Markandaya reveal the concept of prayer. "Rao prays for Ganguli once, when his patience ran out, he want so far as to pray for to Ganguli to fail just once, please God" (35). Through this novel he reveals how prayer is important in Indian society. Spirituality plays important role in this novel. Hindu

culture is well portrayed by Kamala Markandaya in the novel *Bombay Tiger*. In this culture panditpandey is the upright pillar of community.

In Indian culture joint family custom is followed by our ancestors. Kamala Markandaya Pictures the joint family system in this novel. Rao is the childhood friend and rival of Ganguli. Rao's family included his aged parents, married son, daughter and grandson. In Indian society having a girl child is infortune because of dowry system. Dowry system is one of the main customs in Indian society. Ganguli's wife died after giving the birth to girl child. Ganguli is unable to accept the girl child and thinks lekha as burden. Ganguli wants a boy child to support in his business. When is lekha is confined and prohibited to go school she is allowed to learn classical singing and dance which denote the importance of fine arts in south Indian culture.

“Dance like an angel, like an possessed it's in the blood!” (24).

Festivals are the most important part of Indian culture and India is called as country of festivals and celebration. In this novel Kamala Markandaya well portrays the festivals celebrated by Indian people. On Diwali Ganguli usually distributed the sari through lekha's hand to the female factory workers. Holi is the festival that brings life and colour back to the whole atmosphere after the autumn season. To celebrate this festival Rao gives a public invitation not only to the belonging to the Hindu religion but to the people belonging to the other religion also. Rao daughter Nalini's tutor Miss Pinto, a Christian and Rajiv Pandey friend Dr. Jinwala, a parsi are also invited to attend this public celebration.

In this novel kamala Markandaya sketches the rural rustic life of village were Ganguli was born. The village depicted in this novel is south Indian village Srirangapatnam once the capital of sultans. Gangli's village life is full of pain and sufferings his house is burned down and he was given shelter by his uncle. His financial condition is not so good. So he moved to Bombay to achieve his goal. In this novel Ganguli's life in village is representation of tradition

and Ganguli's life in Bombay city is the representation of modernity. Here Kamala Markandaya brings the theme of tradition and modernity.

Kamala Markandaya gives importance to spirituality in her novel and she has presented this novel with spiritual values. She has portrayed the traditional values and culture of India in this novel elaborately. She describes about the custom and there festivals which is the part of their life. Thus culture, tradition and custom of Indian people is well reflected by Kamala Markandaya in this novel *Bombay Tiger*.

Work Cited

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