

EQUALITY AND UNITY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL ASPECT IN THE NOVEL KIM

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Abstract

Intercultural equality refers to achieving cohesion, equality, and development in culturally diverse nations such as India. Kipling, in his novel, presents an image uncovering the positive interaction of the cultural identities which rather proves the tolerance among cultures than the clash between them. He is amazed by the Indian subcontinent's unity and diversity where multiple cultures harmonize together. Interestingly, with actual observation, he portrays the intercultural setting in its religious and traditional differences through fictitious representatives i.e. Kim and the Holy Lama. Rudyard Kipling's fascination with the Indian backdrop extends to include the cultural coexistence and tolerance among its people. To demonstrate the point, Kipling portrays an intercultural combination of culturally-diverse characters that are homogeneously described. Kipling proclaims human identity as an essential criterion to blend all human groups. Kipling assumes the idea that the diverse human groups and individuals can rather implant coexistence and correlation than conflict. The universality of literature strengthens the humane ideas in the novel, Kim. This paper traces the intercultural interaction and the unity in the light of the view of the dialogue through the fictional representatives portrayed in the novel with a particular focus on Kim's interaction with the Tibetan Lama.

KEYWORDS: Intercultural equality, diversity, cultural identity, unity, coexistence, correlation.

Introduction

About the Author of the Novel:

Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30th 1865, in Bombay (Mumbai), India. He was one of the acclaimed author, of both verse and prose, of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He spent most of his early childhood in India, and his exposure to the native languages in the subcontinent greatly influenced his writing style and reflects in his works. Apart from his poems for children, Kipling would be remembered for his work. His significant contribution to the field of literature won him the Nobel Prize in 1907. He died on January 18, 1936.

About the Novel:

The story KIM begins with the plot of 'The Great Game', which is the political rivalry between USSR and the Great Britain in the Central part of Asia for conquest of power. The

novel made the term 'The Great Game' famous and introduced the great rivalry between the supreme powers. It describes the story after the second Afghan war which was ended in 1881. The book KIM is known for its comprehensive description of the people, cultures, and many religions present in the subcontinent. Rudyard Kipling underwent the colonial in his childhood, the story of KIM was written as a result of these experiences. The themes of KIM are colonialism, identity problem, equality, unity, and the sense of belonging.

Legal aspect in Novel:

The thoughts of equality and unity of people echo across several instances in the novel KIM, mostly seen through the Buddhist teachings of the Holy Lama. The idea of equality and unity of men outshines the rigid caste or class differentiation of the primarily Hindu society which Kim knows. The Lama carries a diagram with him called the Wheel of Life, which represents the Buddhist belief that all lives are equally bounded in the cycle of one's life until they seek release by attaining Enlightenment. Several indications to the Wheel of Life all-round the novel provides the essence of equality and unity.

Rudyard Kipling uses the theme of unity for portraying an ideal India that is not divided rather is unified. This benefits to promote an ideal, unfeasible representation of a specifically united, inclusive British India.

Research methodology

Objectives of research:

The objectives of research is to find the legal and social aspects in this particular novel. This story is related to the era in which imperialism was prevalent. The story explains and is related to different social aspects which influence a person and prevents him from performing his duties efficiently. The researcher is using various research papers, articles, reviews, comments etc related to the topics in the novel KIM, which are related with imperialism, the great game, political rivalry and power.

The researcher is taking up a qualitative research. This method of researching is specifically about non-numerical data analysis. It is essentially used to gather and analyze the data to understand the concepts involved, the opinions presented or the experiences talked about. It involves gathering in-depth insights of the topic. The other tool used is Literature Research Methodology; this research tool is exclusively used for the literary works. It is used to process the data from different perspectives. The last tool is Content Analysis; this method is used to analyze the purpose and the message present in the content. It includes collecting data from different book, contemporary texts, speeches, interviews, etc.

The data that is analyzed in the current research work has been collected from the primary and the secondary sources. The primary source refers to the drama itself, the inferences are taken from the drama to give the clear view of the idea presented by dramatist. The secondary works includes many book reviews, newspaper reports, drama and play reviews. Various relevant sources are referred to increase the efficiency of the work.

Literature Review

1. Chaudhari, B. H. (2016). THE PORTRAYAL OF INDIAN BACKDROP IN RUDYARD KIPLING'S KIM: A DIASPORIC PERSPECTIVE. Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies, 8385-8392.

The author in this work mentions that the Lama followed a middle path and tried to enlighten the young boy KIM by the ideologies he followed. The author takes various aspects of the novel KIM into consideration and observes that Rudyard Kipling with his book as a medium generates the realistic picture of daily life which was prevalent in the Indian subcontinent. The author also concludes that Kipling has honestly portrayed the indigenous aspects of Indian context via the novel KIM.

2. RAMASWAMY, K. K. (2017). Post-colonial Multicultural Identity in Rudyard Kipling's Kim. Literary Herald, 244-248.

The authors in their work refer to the Kim's interaction with the Lama while they travel together. The authors observed that, Kim was not sure about his identity and tries to search for his own. The young boy keeps on questioning himself, and the authors state that the questioning attitude of the boy depicts the young generation of present day who try to find their identity. The authors conclude that the novel by Kipling depicts the advantages of imperialism in the context of Indian subcontinent via the thoughts of a young boy.

3. Yildiz, F. (2013). The Sense of Belonging in Kipling's Kim. Gaziantep University Journal of Social Sciences, 713-719.

the author here states that Kipling tried to make Kim attractive in the novel, but failed to do so because the treason of Kim makes him unfavourable. The author states that Kipling does not question the truth or falsity of exploitation of the country by the imperial power. In reality, Kipling tries to represent the peaceful Indian scenario, and for the same he did not portray any bad sides of colonialism. The author also observes that Kim is not to be blamed for losing his sense of belongingness, but the elder ones are responsible for such actions of Kim and specially the Lama who left Kim without a sense of belongingness.

4. Aljohani, F. M. (September, 2017). Race and Colonization as seen in Rudyard Kipling's Kim. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention, 59-62.

The author in his work mentions that the features of the novel turn out to be gender representations. The author observes that there is no ideal representation the novel which transcends history and politics. The author also specifies that "The expression of ideology always accompanies the disclosure of ideology". For which he necessitates to compose theoretical insights which depict the context of the originality and thus it prevents blinding by insight.

5. Scott, N. (2014). *The Representation of the Orient in Rudyard Kipling's "Kim"*. AAA: *ArbeitskreisAnglistik und Amerikanistik*, 175-184.

The author in his work said that it is difficult to demonstrate the character of Kim in the context of Orientalism. The author observes a large number of negative stereotypes in the context culture. The author believes that, the interpretations of various critics in regarding to Kim from the charges of racism and imperialism do not stand up to scrutiny.

6. Ghadban, D. A. (2017-18). *Rereading Rudyard Kipling's Kim in the Light of the Notion 'Dialogue of Civilizations': A Multicultural Perspective*. Diyala University, 1-15.

The author feels that it is not arbitrary at the end of Kipling to stop his novel with a humane mosaic of coexistence and cultural interaction. He also feels that the geographically diverse characters meet and exchange their cultural identities. The author feels that the message conveyed at end of the novel indicates that there is a possibility of filling a gap for maintaining the integral interaction and positive human growth race or religion.

7. Vescovi, A. (2014). *Beyond East and West: the Meaning and Significance of Kim's Great Game*. *universitadegli studi di milano*, 10-20.

The author in the above article talks about the great game which cannot be disjointed from the roots of Buddhism. According to the author both serve as complementary to shape the character of the young boy Kim. The author states that the act of spying and the great game are not significant in the novel, even though they provide the readers with the thrill. The actual challenge for Kim was that, to play the great game with the same levels of dedication of Mahub Ali and in the absence of Teshoo Lama.

Analysis

Intercultural interaction is postcolonial writings. Multiculturalism teaches the reality that is prevailing in the world. Adult readers have a very close connection with post-colonial writings. A person uses books to overcome the struggle which he faces in an intercultural world. People strive to find their world through books. Postcolonial writings help the current generation to know the characters which were prevalent in that era in reality. Kipling in his novel KIM portrays one such character who is a young boy, and tells the current readers about the impact of colonialism on a young boy.

Kipling witnessed the imperialism as a child in India. He noticed that it was a movement which changed the colonized country in various aspects such as administration, education, irrigation, transportation and immigration. According to Kipling Colonization involves political aspects as well as the aspects which has social and moral issues within. The backdrop of the novel KIM is in the early 20th century, the colonized India under the British Raj. The Novel is about the espionage, adventure, adolescent boy, diversity of the country, behaviour of people and travelling. The story revolves around a young boy of European origin, who was born in India and travels with the holy Tibetan Lama, while the later was in

search of a river which purifies the soul. The young boy uses his tanned skin and language manipulation skill to work as a spy for the secret service of the Colonizers.

In the beginning of the novel, the author portrays the British rule as beneficial and natural to the Indian Subcontinent. He says that, imperialization is beneficial for India in developing socially and economically. Kipling also supports the intercultural interaction. As the story begins, the young boy of British origin, named Kim, was left as an orphan in the rural India. The boy also doesn't know who his parents are. He later finds that he belongs to an Irish origin. He was trained to be a spy in the British secret service because of his tanned skin and the special talent to talk to people in the native language to hide his identity as a espionage.

This novel shows the life of a young orphan boy, who turns into a spy by finding his identity. Although his skin was as black as a native person; even though he doesn't know his mother tongue and had the knowledge of vernacular language; though he was treated equally with the other boys in the locality; Kim was a boy with fair complexion and was poorest of whites.

Kim having the roots of fair complexion, but he doesn't look the same because he walks allround the bazars of India as a native person, the way he dresses himself, his language and the vernacular dialect, all these make him a person with indigenous origin. His skin complexion and the white origin is the most essential part of the novel KIM. The young boy utilizes his dual nature i.e. he belongs to a white community but looks like a person of native origin. This dual nature of Kim makes him cross so many social boundaries.

Kim said "*Never speak to a white man till he is fed*", by quoting a well-known proverb. "*They will eat now, and—and I do not think they are good to beg from. Let us go back to theresting-place. After we have eaten we will come again. It certainly was a Red Bull—my RedBull*".

The above sentence by kim is a vital part of the novel, which depicts the Kim's sense of equality and distance from all the existing races; the races which help him in observing the ideas and habits of diversified people in the country since his childhood. Although the author mentions that a person's race defines his/her status, he also thinks that whiteness is something which should be learnt by Kim, rather than the thing which is attached to him by birth. The author understands that, customs and manners of each person are determined culturally and are to be learnt from other people, but still he depicted his thoughts of understanding a race by looking at the complexion of the skin.

Conclusion and findings

The most vital aspect in the novel is that, the reader can find the questions "who is Kim?", "what is Kim?" over and over again. This depicts that the young boy is in search of his identity in a world which is multicultural. Kim was born and brought up in two different races and cultures, he finds himself to be stuck in an unknown place without identity. This depicts the present day young generation who are stuck in a world without the knowledge of their identity. The young boy learns about multiculturalism while travelling with the holy Tibetan Lama, who was in search of the river to purify his soul. Even though after meeting the Lama, kim was not sure about his identity, he keeps on questioning himself.

At large, the novel depicts the advantages of imperialism and colonization in the Indian subcontinent through the thoughts of a young adolescent boy, who was of Italian origin and was colonized because of this tanned skin and the dialect of local language, and tries to find his identity. The backdrop of multiculturalism interaction is the main essence of the novel.

References

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