

## Emerging Trends in Indian English Literature: A Study Of Contemporary Indian Fiction

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### Abstract

Indian authors significantly influence English literature, with new trends developing every day. Many authors frequently include themes of globalisation, westernisation, spirituality, queer theory, diasporic literature, and ecocritical approaches into their works. Literature mirrors society, and post-modern authors convey their perspectives through various trends and themes. Modern authors have considerable engagement with emerging themes, with writers like Rohinton Mistry, Vikas Sharma, and Kiran Desai playing an essential role in clarifying modern trends and offering critical insights into Indian aesthetics. The tastes of Indian readers have shifted over time, shifting from traditional reading to digital reading. Writers have historically examined themes of post-modern literature, while contemporary authors articulate their viewpoints on these matters through various approaches. Society is consumed by materialism, overlooking the feelings and sentiments of the current day; yet, contemporary authors engage with the realities of modern civilisation. They illuminate the actual suffering of the world through their literary works. This study analyses the emerging trends in Indian English literature, encompassing globalisation, westernisation, spirituality, detachment, rootlessness, and psychological trauma alongside the diverse themes explored by authors to illuminate the essence of the world and the significance of life through their writings.

**Keywords:** Globalization and Westernization, Diasporic sensibility, Psychological Trauma, Ecocritical approaches, Environmental studies.

## Introduction

Modern English literature has been influenced by several emerging trends. These trends include diaspora, spirituality, globalisation, westernisation, suffering, post-modern, post-colonial, queer, and feminist literature. It is well known that English writing is valuable. Current authors like Rohinton Mistry, Vikas Sharma, and Kiran Desai write on many themes. Rohinton Mistry is a diasporic writer who has written extensively on diaspora subjects. After Bangladesh's reformation, he departed Mumbai because of Parsis threatened to life. He is belonging to Parsi community and he moved to Canada to support his family. Many of his fiction works have contributed to English literature. Among the works that he has written, *Such a Long Journey* is one of the most well-known works that has made him an important figure among commonwealth literature and brought him recognition and reputation among people. (Randhawa 215).

On the other hand, Vikas Sharma is a recently introduced writer who is steadily establishing himself as a prominent figure among modern writers. He is currently working as a Professor in the Department of English at CCS University in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, he is the elder brother of Dr. Kumar Vishwas, who is a well-known poet and writer, and he is now serving as the general secretary of the All-India English Association. The novel that he wrote, which was titled 498A: Fears and Dreams, touched on an important aspect of society, which is the fake cases against the dowry system. Although the dowry system is made in favour of women's safety, today, women are misusing their power and right. He has also written great works in the past couple of years.

If we talk about Kiran Desai, she does not require an introduction because she has made a significant contribution to the literary world with her outstanding works. One of the key subjects that she explores in her novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* is ecocriticism, which is a developing trend in English literature. She has authored several works that touch on a variety of topics, and one of the features that she explores is ecocriticism. Mishra mentioned in his paper about Desai:

“Kiran Desai in her *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard* is critical of the hectic town life, having dissatisfied of which the protagonist takes refuge in the guava orchard” (Mishra 170).

Kiran Desai's novel is a representation of the amazing notion that she has, and via her work, she represented the idea that we should rescue the environment. Within her novel, she has accomplished a great deal of work, and the primary protagonist of her story, Sampath, who felt fatigued despite living a regular life with his family, is a great example of her work. It is his desire to live a life of independence and to be liberated from all bad notions that he has been harbouring in his head.

### **Cybernetics and Developing Literature**

Everything evolves throughout time, and humans require new things. This also applies to literature. Cybernetics reading is replacing library reading, and online platforms are changing the way individuals read. This is evident since writers are improving literature and setting trends. It is simply reading online since every book or article can be readily accessed online and read on computers, mobile phones, and other devices with a good internet connection. Social media has eroded the value of books, newspapers, articles, and magazines. Social media is partly responsible for this change. Digital media technologies have become prevalent since they are the only way people can get more information. One can quickly get information from internet-connected devices by clicking on a screen.

Social media is making reading less frequent in society. The current generation avoids reading long paragraphs and information-heavy novels. Literature has changed greatly in recent times, Flash fiction, micro fiction, tweeter fiction, blogging, and micro blogging are popular fiction writing styles. Dr. Spyros support the statement that literature is changing day by day and new genres are introduced in which Flash fiction and many other fictions are included he mentioned:

“One of the most popular genres in the newly formed condition is microfiction, also known as minifiction, flashfiction, quickfiction,

smoke-long fiction, postcard fiction, short story, very short story, etc”  
(Kiosses 9).

Famous flash fiction writers include O. Henry, Ernest Hemingway, and Anton Chekov. Flash fiction's condensed nature is compelling and visually appealing. People used to study books, journals, periodicals, and research papers at libraries for their tasks, Twenty years ago. Now, coming to the library to read and find solutions lacks passion. One can quickly find any information on Google. Fiction writers cover a wide range of issues, reflecting society.

### **Rohinton Mistry's *Such a Long Journey***

Rohinton Mistry is the author of the novel *Such a Long Journey*, which was published in 1991. It is a significant milestone in Mistry's career, since it brought him a great deal of popularity and recognition. Rohinton Mistry uses the novel to illustrate the concept of identity crisis and the desires of human beings to convey his own sentiments. This is because the primary protagonist, Gustad Noble, is also belongs to the family of the Parsi community, and he has had a great deal of difficulty in his life, which is like the difficulties that Rohinton Mistry has encountered in his own life. Rohinton Mistry went to Canada and worked as a Banker for the livelihood of his family, in the same way Gustad Noble also serves in the bank for his family's livelihood.

The plot centres on the partition of India and Pakistan in 1971, as well as the efforts that Gustad and his family make to preserve their lives and provide for them financially. The tale also focusses on the conflict that broke out between India and Pakistan during this time. Gustad Noble is a member of the aristocratic family; nevertheless, his father has lost everything, and Gustad must deal with a financial problem. Despite this, Gustad seeks refuge in his memories, which demonstrates the sentimental impulses that he has throughout his life. The way he recalled his recollections and recalled the period he had experienced is an indication of Rohinton Mistry's diasporic consciousness, which is what makes him the diasporic writer. When we talk about diaspora, we are referring to the sensation that an individual has when they are experiencing or suffering from sentiments such as rootlessness,

alienation, exile, loneliness, and remembering the events of the past, particularly the happy ones. This feeling is regarded to be part of the diaspora.

### **Diaspora**

The term "Diaspora" refers to the movement of people away from their homeland and into other nations all over the world throughout the course of their lifetime. In its most basic form, it is the process by which a community or ethnic group relocates to a different region or nation because of events such as migration, exile, or forced displacement. Individuals of Indian heritage who have relocated and established themselves in a variety of countries throughout the world are referred to as members of the Indian diaspora. These destinations include the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean, Canada, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The Indian population has scattered over the course of history because of a variety of reasons, including colonisation, economic possibilities, political instability, and education, which has led to several instances of migration. As Jayasuriya mentioned:

“The Indian Diaspora appeared amid the frontier time frame when the Indian workers and the business visionaries relocated from Caribbean Island to Fiji and from Canada to South Africa. Thus, the Indian Diaspora has been framed by a dispersing of populace which just changed its structure from the workers of the past to the present IT Professionals” (Jayasuriya 509).

Diasporic writers frequently keep their cultural, social, and religious links to their homeland, while also assimilating into and having an impact on the cultures of the nation in which they have chosen to reside. Many writers explore the diasporic consciousness and gives the statement on diaspora that:

“Diaspora’ (Cohen, 2001; Dufoix, 2008), a word of Greek origin, designates the dispersal throughout the world of a people with the same origin. A descriptive notion, dispersion often receives religious or ideological connotations such as in the Hebrew token of galut (exile) that is imbued with messianic aspirations of ‘Return. Understandings

attached to the diasporic condition may vary both within and between diasporas” (Ben-Rafael 842).

Even we can see the diasporic elements in the novel of Rohinton Mistry through his dialogues and the way he explored through his writing, while remembering his past childhood memories Mistry mentioned:

“This part of the prayers Gustad enjoyed most, even as a child, when he used to imagine himself, a mighty hunter plunging fearlessly into unexplored jungles, deep in charted lands, armed with nothing except his powerfully holy *Kusti*” (Mistry, *Such a long Journey* 3).

### **Elements of Diaspora in the *Such a Long Journey***

The novel *Such a Long Journey* contains several diasporic aspects. It mostly revolves around the life of the protagonist, Gustad Noble, who is employed at a bank that is predominantly controlled by Parsi individuals. Most novels of Mistry contain autobiographical elements, and it is known that Mistry, who is of Parsi descent, works in a bank in Canada. He intentionally portrays his character of the novel to resemble himself, as he conveys his own life experiences, hardships, and sense of detachment via Gustad Noble. Gustad Noble vividly recalls the period when his father possessed considerable riches and wielded significant influence. He immerses himself in his recollections and attempts to recreate his previous life by gifting a live chicken on Roshan's birthday. Whenever he encounters challenges in life, he seeks solace in his old recollections to evade the current adversity.

Mistry suggests that recollecting prior experiences aids in comprehending one's own history. Some individuals may argue that it is presumptuous of me to not reside in Bombay and presume that I possess complete knowledge... However, I am certain that I possess the knowledge. It is a form of memory. Memory, in essence, encompasses both the recollection of past experiences and the ability to combine it with imagination, resulting in the formation of novel memories. Rohinton Mistry's literature portrays the Parsi community's cultural identity by exploring themes of displacement, powerlessness, and estrangement.

The Parsis encountered economic failures, a decline in social-status, and personal adversities. It is shown in all his works. In the novel *Such a Long Journey*, main character Gustad Noble, who works in the bank on the post of bank teller, had several difficulties in his life. Gustad Noble's hopes as a father for his eldest son, Sohrab, are shattered when Sohrab declines to enroll at the prestigious IIT, after successfully clearing the admission examination. Furthermore, he challenges his father's authority and leaves his house to pursue a career in music. He mentioned with the state of depressed mind that:

“Throwing away his fortune without reason. What have I not done for him, tell me? I even threw myself in front a car. Kicked him aside, saved his life, and got to suffer all my life (slapping his hip)”(Rao 241).

Gustad Noble faces the financial crisis of his family resulting from his father's bankruptcy. In addition, he must cope with the loss of his friends Jimmy, Dinshawji, and Tehmul. Moreover, the departure of Gustad also engenders a feeling of detachment and discontentment with the present circumstances. Loss denotes a state of lacking that has the potential to result in destitution, isolation, perplexity, and disillusionment. The above-mentioned statements and the explored incidents of the novels describes the elements of diaspora and the theme of human suffering in the novel which is one of the new trends in English literature.

### **Kiran Desai's *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard***

The writer of this novel is Kiran Desai and it was published in the year 1998. The major themes of the novel are escapism, conflict between nature and the man, mock spirituality and the misuse of the government properties and office. But this novel gives a strong message about the environment and deals with the ecocritical approaches. The frequency of ecological crises is increasing due to the erosion of trust in established beliefs and the unethical behavior of individuals. This undermines the imperative to safeguard the natural world and its non-human inhabitants.

Deep ecology is a philosophical framework that directs human behavior towards harmonious cooperation with the natural environment,

without causing harm or destruction. Critical researchers in the discipline of Deep Ecology analyze literary texts by considering the relationship between human actions and the extensive array of 'natural' or non-human elements. This approach was established as a reaction to the current ecological and environmental issues. If we throw some light on the definition of Ecocriticism then it is defined by numerous writers and they all have their different perspective but all of them have one common thing and that is the emphasize to save environment and to understand the value of environment. As Kavitharaj K mentioned in her paper that:

“Ecocriticism is also known as ecopoetics, green studies and environmental literary criticism. Ecocritics investigate the underlying ecological values and examine human perception of wilderness and how it has changed throughout history. It highlights whether current environmental issues are accurately represented or at least mentioned in popular culture and modern literature” (Kavitharaj 262).

There is one more writer who mentioned in the paper about the ecocriticism:

“Ecocritical theory is a search for such mode of living with the advent of rationalism in philosophy, renaissance, reformation, Newtonian physics, growth of technology the man became arrogant and crueler towards nature and his pride led him to commit ecological sins” (Santhalakshmi 149).

### **Ecocritical approaches and issues**

There are a lot of writers working on the topic, but the focus of the topic is to understand the fundamental concept of the environment and to understand the value of the environment, which is how our environment is getting collapsed day by day and the danger of global warming is increasing every moment. Ecocriticism is the broader perspective that has not yet been explored, even though many writers are working on the topic. As Santhalakshmi also said in her work: “The planetary support systems like include land, water, and air, seem to have been damaged” (Santhalakshmi 149).

When we do in-depth research on the environment, we become aware of the problems that are associated with the environment. Newspapers publish



articles every day that detail the many different types of pollution and the negative consequences they have on the globe. The world is currently seeing the presence of pesticides that are poisoning the food chain, the disposal of rubbish in rivers, and the discharge of toxic gases that are hurting towns. All these things are occurring simultaneously or simultaneously.

The fact that people are aware of the state of the world is something that we can see, yet they continue to disregard the reality that we are in danger. Even though most people are making efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, there are some individuals who run businesses who need to know their money will not be able to save their lives in the future. This is because in the name of development, people have been known to destroy the lives of oceanic organisms, which are also becoming a threat to human beings. The essence of humans is fundamentally anthropocentric, which places individuals at the highest possible level. Because they are the most primitive sentient being on Earth, humans believe that they are superior to all other organisms that are now in existence. The concept that people are the centre point of relevance in every aspect of the environment is called into question by ecocriticism, on the other side. The anthropocentric rather than the biocentric perspective that humanity has is the source of the fatal blunder that humanity has made in the field of ecology.

Additionally, the unyielding desire to control, reconcile, tame, trespass upon, and exploit every aspect of the natural world is still another factor. People are placed at the centre of anthropocentric ideology, which means that they are given the utmost significance. Individuals that adhere to this ideology either have a romantic view of the environment or want to exercise control over it. On the other hand, biocentric thinking moves the focus away from the significance of people and instead investigates the complex relationships that exist between humans and nonhuman creatures. Ecocriticism is an approach that is intentionally wide and is naturally interdisciplinary via its very nature. The literary ideologies that were already in existence provide it with the sustenance it needs. Every single scientific field makes a significant contribution to the general field. Emerging concepts such as post-colonial ecocriticism, ecofeminism, ecomarxism, and ecospiritualism are gaining

importance because of this. Ecocriticism, on the other hand, differentiates itself from other theories by seeing the world not only as a social sphere but also as an ecosphere.

In contrast to previous theories, ecocriticism is distinguished by its focus on environmental consciousness rather than on the ego-consciousness of individuals. To put it simply, it is a style of literary studies that centres on the planet Earth and places an emphasis on the comprehension of our identity, our place in the world, and the appropriate way to behave in relation to this natural environment. Now if we put some light on the discussion that what do the ecocritics do for the environment then it is also mentioned in the paper of Sandeep Kumar Mishra:

“In order to meet with the present environmental crisis, the ecocritics play an important role in building up the eco-consciousness among the readers. For this they read major canonical writings; they look at the natural world differently than others” (Mishra 169).

#### **Vikas Sharma's 498A: *Fears and Dreams***

The novel is written by Prof. Vikas Sharma, who is currently working as a Professor in Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. This novel is all about the article of IPC section 498A which gives the protection to the women against the cruelty and domestic violence by the in laws with them (D. V. Sharma 414). He describes the misuse of the act by the women and not only by women but how women were indulging in the wrong activity through which she and her whole family must suffer in their life. Tanvi Dixit, the main female protagonist, is being depicted as the many women of today's society who seek to realise their suppressed desires after marriage through her husband. There are many characters who struggled with something in their life, and Tanvi Dixit is being portrayed as one of those major characters. Tanvi desires a lavish lifestyle, and she wants to have everything in her house that is not even that much required to them that they cannot live without (D. V. Sharma 416).

Her husband Jatin works for a reputable firm, but his salary can only complete their necessities. Tanvi wants to have everything at her house that

she does not even need. Because of Tanvi's excessive and unneeded demands, Jatin, Tanvi's husband, was put under such a great deal of strain that they were unable to salvage their marriage. Consequently, they ended up breaking up with each other. He was so emotionally broken by this event that he decided to leave India and accept the adoption offer made by London's Merchant the writer mentioned:

“Look Jatin. I can solve your problem in no time as you must support me in old age. Decide to be my son Joe Beverley and then you immediately become a man of crores. I have a big farm in New Jersey, a state near New York” (V. Sharma 21).

This was because London's Merchant did not have any children of their own. Through the characters in this book, the author vividly illustrates the difference between globalisation, westernisation, and pseudo feminism. The concept is taken from the contemporary society and this novel deals with the real facts and incidents happened in today's world that how women take disadvantages of their rights.

### **Globalization and Westernization**

If we talk about the globalization and westernization then there are many incidents which is highly inspired by the western culture and western society and is being adopted by the characters in the novel and very smartly depicted by the writer. English literature has a profound and extensive chronicle, beyond geographical boundaries, and embracing many cultural customs. The period of globalization has been marked by the movement of ideas and cultures across different regions, transcending geographical limitations and reshaping communities. As a result, a new literary landscape has emerged. The writers encounter challenges pertaining to identity, migration, and technology on a global scale, all of which are interconnected with other nations. The subsequent narratives contemplate the inherent universality of human nature, while also acknowledging the influence of cultural biases and views.

“The concept of globalization and westernization is shown in the novel 498A: Fears and Dreams when Jatin got frustrated with the

unusual demands of his wife such as mobile phones, A.C, T.V, scooty etc” (V. Sharma 13).

These demands showed him financial crisis and his family disputes with his wife. This is the main reason that Jatin accepts the proposal of adoption from Joseph as his son and settle down in London because Joseph lost his family in India and Jatin also get frustrated with his life. The migration of Jatin to London and adapting the Christian religion and follows the western culture although he belongs to the Hindu brahmin family of India and this visualization of multiculturalism depicts the theme of globalization and westernization in the novel, as it is also mentioned by Mehmood in his paper where he writes:

“An important theme brought by globalization concerns cultural issues, particularly exploring identity within a multicultural world. Literature has begun to explore the complexity of personal and cultural identities as societies become more diverse with hybrid identities” (Mehmood et al. 26).

### **Psychological Trauma**

This is a prevalent observation across all forms of literature, wherein individuals confront a myriad of challenges throughout their existence. The exploration of human suffering is encompassed within Trauma Studies, which examines the psychological state of the characters portrayed in the narrative crafted by the author and some writers mentioned in their collaborative work:

“The emotional aftermath of such events, recognized by the medical and psychological communities, and increasingly by the general public is known as Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)” (Jaelline Jaffe, Ph.D., and Jeanne Segal, Ph.D., and Lisa Flores Dumke 1).

The novel features a diverse array of male and female characters, each grappling with various forms of suffering throughout their lives. When discussing trauma, it pertains to the psychological dimensions of human experience, particularly how individuals navigate and manage various forms of suffering. A multitude of authors articulate trauma through their unique lenses. In discussing Psychological Trauma, one can refer to the insights

provided by Michelle Balaev. *The exploration of psychological trauma*, its linguistic representation, and the influence of memory on the formation of both individual and cultural identities constitute the fundamental issues that characterise the domain of trauma studies.

The integration of psychoanalytic theories concerning trauma, alongside supplementary theoretical frameworks like post-structuralism, sociocultural theory, and postcolonial theory, establishes a foundation for criticism that elucidates the representations of profound experiences and their implications for identity and memory. Michelle Balaev mentioned: “Trauma studies explores the impact of trauma in literature and society by analysing its psychological, rhetorical, and cultural significance” (Balaev 360).

There are several characters, such as Jatin, Anjula, Tanvi Dixit, Vipul, and others, that are used to illustrate the agony that people experience. The goals and wants of human beings are the primary cause of all forms of misery, as the author states in the novel as well. He also mentions that this is the primary reason for all forms of suffering. However, this marked the beginning of a new set of challenges for the family, since Tanvi had extremely high aspirations for her life. Although she detested working in the kitchen, she was ready to indulge in mouthwatering delicacies. Jatin's salary was not sufficient to meet her requirements for a refrigerator, television, air conditioning, and expensive furnishings.

Unfortunately, Jatin did not fulfil his commitment to buy all these goods during the next five years. Although her parents did not have all these things, she found herself restless when she was deprived of worldly luxuries. In addition, Jatin's wrath is a representation of the suffering of human beings since he was irritated by the demands that his wife made, and the author makes it abundantly obvious that the anger and suffering that lie beneath that fury are conveyed via the conversations. The author mentioned:

“Seeing as how he was unable to satisfy her requirements, Jatin was understandably upset. Furthermore, she did not prepare any food for any of the occasions, and she requested that he go to the restaurant each night. Because Jatin was aware of the constraints that his parents faced, he detested borrowing money from his pals. But then marriage

did not turn out to be the happy ending that his parents had anticipated it would be for him. Her parents felt sad and blamed Jatin and his parents for the wretched life of their loving daughter. Nobody was prepared to understand the concept of life. Nobody analyzed the needs of a couple that failed to survive with forty thousand rupees every month.

Jatin asked her – ‘Why do you need scooty?’

For fun and long drive.” (V. Sharma 16).

The expectation from his wife to understand the things made him frustrated when she failed to fulfill Jatin’s desires to have a good family and to avoid the unusual wants of her for the materialistic things makes Jatin suffer in his life. It is possible to observe human pain in the novel written by Mistry and Desai as well.

When we talk about suffering, we may refer to either physical or psychological suffering according to our understanding of the term. It was even noted by Alison in her work, when she was presenting the dualism of suffering, that there are two sorts of pain, which may be classified as either physiological suffering or mental suffering (Alison 1). One of the examples that can be used to identify the psychological suffering that occurs in the novel *Such a Long Journey* is the main protagonist, Gustad Noble, who goes through a difficult financial situation and wants to fulfil his desire through his son. However, his son refuses to obey his order to attend the IIT, rather than pursuing his own passion of becoming a singer (Mukherjee 213). The anger burst out shows his mental pressure and anxiety towards the unfulfilled desires. When we talk about Sampath from *Hullabaloo in the Guava orchard*, we get to the conclusion that he is estranged from the wisdom of the world and that he has moved to the Guava orchard to live his life. He felt suffocated while living under one roof with his family, and he desires independence from his family. The feeling of suffocation prompted his anxiety, which led him to take the decision to leave his own house and live his life in the guava orchard (Narayana 1048). He was psychologically fatigued in his own house because of this.

## Conclusion

The literature reflects society, and when we debate the new tendencies and new subjects that are developing in the literature, we come to see that it is one of the most extensive topics that must be studied. We are attempting to comprehend the concept of emerging trends such as ecocriticism, environmental studies, diasporic studies, human sufferings and traumas, globalisation, and westernisation in the novels written by Rohinton Mistry, Vikas Sharma, and Kiran Desai. Although there are a great number of authors who have made contributions to the field of literature, we are focussing on the three most prominent authors for this study. There is a clear demonstration of the features of diaspora that are depicted in Novels of Mistry. These aspects include how human beings get estranged from their own people and attempt to construct their own identity within the society, as well as how the elements of diaspora have an impact on human existence.

Then in the novel of Vikas Sharma we came to know about the concept of human suffering that is the part of the Trauma studies and in this novel we discussed the social issue and the IPC article 498A that how women wants to complete their suppressed desire through their husband and when they fail to fulfil their fantasies and desires then how those female allegedly puts them behind the bars by misusing the law, which may cause the suffering a human beings and can be examined through the lens of Trauma.

Then, if we are to discuss the novel written by Kiran Desai, then it is about the research that was conducted about the environmental problem. Although people are aware of the effects of global warming, they have not been motivated to stop hurting the mother earth. However, even though many individuals have contributed to these issues and that many more are now working on them, these themes have not yet been thoroughly investigated. In the future, individuals will be able to do comparative research on several different authors who have written on the same subject, and they will be able to provide treatments or solutions to the problems that have been identified.

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