

NAIPAUL'S INTERPLAY OF EDUCATION, FOOD AND RELIGION TO REGAIN THE LOST IDENTITY IN *HOUSE OF MR BISWAS***Jaspin Thampi. N¹ and Dr. L.M.Samuel Nayagam²**

¹Research Scholar, Reg No: 21113114011028, Department of English, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, 629165, Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abhishekapatti, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu 627012

²(Guide) Assistant Professor, Department of English, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, 629165, Email ID: samuelnayagam4388@gmail.com. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, AbhishekapattiTirunelveli, and Tamil Nadu 627012

ABSTRACT

This article aims to explore Naipaul's interplay of education, food and religion to regain the lost identity in his work A House for Mr Biswas. Naipaul explores the role of education in identity and consciousness at the postcolonial societies. He highlights how the western education system impacts cultural, intellectual, and psychological development.

Education is seen as a pathway to social mobility and personal fulfillment, with characters striving to escape their backgrounds. Naipaul's novels also explore themes of identity, power, and social change in postcolonial contexts. Food is central to the characters' daily lives, with traditional cooking and Indian dishes being central to their culture. Religion serves as a lens for navigating identity and belonging, with the coexistence of different faiths.

Keywords: Education, identity, consciousness, society, culture, food and Religion.

Naipaul examines the role of education in identity and consciousness in post colonial societies. He explores how western education system, inherited from colonial powers, impact the cultural, intellectual and psychological development of individuals and communities. The education is portrayed as a pathway to social mobility and personal fulfillment. Characters of

Naipaul strive to attend education as a way to escape the constraints of their backgrounds .

They live for themselves and their families, but education challenges in the contexts of

identity and consciousness. Mr.Biswas aims to be a writer. But his lifelong ambition got lost in search of meaningful and respectful life in the society. For Mr. Biswas life and work are equally important and he search for a "skills and knowledge" rather than merely doing a job.His brother working in a cane field and not interested in education. Compare to him Mr.

Biswas has significant improvement in his life. He was not satisfied in any other job, rather interested only to become a writer. **Anand** quickly absorbed the fathers love in literature andhe got success in school composition. His fathers troubled lifelong affair with words and success in finding dignified work. This inspires his son to become a writer. Education is the most powerful steps in Mr. Biswas life. Naipaul treatment of education in his novels reflectsthe themes of identity, power and social change into the complexities of education experiences in postcolonial context.

The novel portrays both the warmth and the conflicts within family units as well as theimpact of society pressures on individuals lives. Mr. Biswas struggles to get freedom from theTulsi family . He impulsively marriage into tulsi family was orthodox Hindus. The status of Tulsi woman depends largely on their marriage, this is why Mrs. Tulsi is willing to marry her daughter to men of whatever occupation and disposition. He is hindu, holds part time job as asign painter.

Tulsi family was traditional joint family. Hanuman house is the only joint family in the society. Mr Biswas thinks after the marriage, he will get the Hanuman house. But the house was controlled by Tulsi. In tulsi family woman

International Journal of Applied Engineering & Technology

controls the family and take decisions. They not giving importance to men, same to Mr. Biswas also. So he goes to a rent house and faced lot of struggle. Still got freedom from the Hanuman house. He is happy with his wife shama but, financially not. He accept the situation and take a decision to buy a new house .

He need identity in the society. So, Mr. Biswas's lifelong opession with the words and language came in hand. He always through language is beautiful itself. He spent much time with novels because to escape from the hard reality from the life and hardship. He becomes a sign painter because he loves the shapes of letters and a journalist and he loves reading the newspapers. In Naipaul novel the characters, cultural and heritage often express through the use of language. In *A house for Mr. Biswas* language becomes a maker of social status, ethnic identity and cultural affiliation. Mr. Biswas failed repeatedly. He could not match his friend formulaic stories about impoverished people's failure to escape their condition. He finish his own formulaic stories about his unhappy marriage after he splurged on a typewriter in port of Spain.

Mr. Biswas love for language led him to the writer profession. He never allowed

himself to write words as art or produce the kind of literature that he had always admire. Overall education in Naipaul novel explore the themes of identity, power and cultural and dynamics. His attention to linguistic details contribute to the depth of his story telling. The Tulsi family woman's holds the power within the Hanuman house not in society. This is because of the ungaind educational status of women.

In Naipau's work, *A house for Mr. Biswas*, food is a central aspects of the characters in daily lives. Naipaul describes the traditional cooking in island and the Indian dishes in island. In island the people cooks the different types of dishes in the own traditional cultural. Some Indian people lives in island, they not get the Indian dishes and never find the traditional food. The people trying to manage the island food and not get satisfied. The people move one place to another to find a job or work they struggle for food and thinking about the own traditional food. Food serves as focus through the explore themes of cultural encounter

and hybridity. Certain foods and dining practices are associate with wealth, status and privilege. The rich people shows the richness and make the cultural identity and social relations.

In Naipaul novel religion severe as a lens which helps them to navigates the question of identity and belonging. Naipaul exploration of religion contains the wider range of tradition belief of all the religion. And also he portrays in the diversity of religion beliefs and practice. Naipaul tells about the traditional religion and modern life including the coexistence of different faiths , the traditional people follow the own traditional religion. But the migrate people trying to comfort this religion. V.S Naipaul novels often explore within the contexts of cultural identity, colonialism and social change. There are different types of religion in the society like Hinduism, Islam and Christianity. They workshop in the different way with the own traditional cultural. The upper class people takes the political power and rule the low class people.

REFERENCE

Naipaul, V. S., *_A House for Mr. Biswas*, New York, Knopf, 1995.