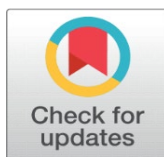
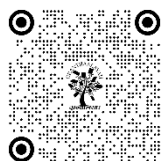


DEETI & IBIS SHIP: THE MATAPHORS IN THE FICTION 'SEA OF POPPIES' WRITTEN BY AMITAV GHOSH

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DOI
[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.3539](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i1.2024.3539)

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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ABSTRACT

Sea of Poppies is a description of colonialism and its effect on the environment. The fiction deals with the cultivation of opium and its harmful effect on the life of the people and the environment. Ghosh tries to find out reality behind every historical moment through imaginative characters. The author writes a story of 'opium war' and describes difficult times. In the fiction, Amitav Ghosh describes social evils, identity crisis, and caste system. He talks about culture, suffering, struggle, capitalism, race and people in a metaphorical manner. Ghosh describes character of Deeti, ibis ship as metaphor in the fiction. The imaginative character of Deeti by Amitav Ghosh shows journey from slavery to independence.

1. INTRODUCTION

Deeti is an imaginary character in the fiction 'Sea of poppies' authored by Amitav Ghosh. Deeti is a young woman of small village. She is married to Hukam Singh. Hukam Singh is working in British army. Kesri Singh, a brother of Hukam Singh is also served in the same battalion. Hukam Singh left army because he got hurt on one of his leg while he was in British regiment. So, he cannot walk properly. Later on, he joined opium factory at Ghazipur in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India.

In the fiction 'Sea of Poppies' Deeti fights for individuality. She struggles for individual freedom. She has a baby girl named Kabutari. Deeti faces many physical and emotional abuses. She struggles a lot as a woman. Deeti is raped by Kesri Singh at her first marriage night. Kesri Singh made her inhale opium at first night of her marriage and abused her physically. Deeti's mother-in-law also does not show any love and affection towards her.

After Hukam Singh's death, Kesri Singh, her brother-in-law tries to force her to accept him as a sex partner. But Deeti refuses him to do so. Therefore, Deeti is forced to be 'Sati' by Kesri Singh. Kalua, an untouchable man, from her neighbouring village helped Deeti to escape the situation of being 'Sati'.

Deeti and Kalua go on the ship which transforms slaves from Mareech to Mauritius. They both start new life on the ship. They both changed their names and hidden their original identities. Deeti becomes 'Aditi' and Kalua changes his name as 'Maddow Colvers'.

Amitav Ghosh has chosen the new name of Deeti as 'Aditi' deliberately. As per Hindu mythology, the name Aditi means "one who is a protector and wades away from all sins." Here, Ghosh tried to show the character of Deeti as a protector and runner from social evils. Amitav Ghosh tried to portray the journey of slavery to freedom and needs of freedom an individual person. Ghosh quoted-

"She had shed the body of old Deeti, with the burden of its karma; she had paid the price her stars had demanded of her, and was free now to create a new destiny as she willed, with whom she chose.... (SOP, 178)".

Amitav Ghosh has chosen the metaphor as a character of Kalua to show the search of freedom. Kalua is untouchable man from neighbouring village helped Deeti and saved her life from escaping to be Sati. The incident Ghosh quoted-

"It was I myself saved today, he said in a whisper. Because if you had died, I couldn't have lived. Jinda na raah sakega....(SOP,179)".

Through this dictation, the author has clearly mentioned two social evils, widow killing (sati pratha) and Caste system (untouchability). Deeti's in-laws wanted to cast her into husband's burning and on the other hand Kalua had shown kindness towards Deeti and saved her life from being Sati. Here author portrays the picture of exploitation at one side and humanity at another.

After escaping of the situation of being sati and boarding ship, Deeti moved one place to another. She is portrayed as migrant by Amitav Ghosh.

2. THE IBIS JOURNEY

Ghosh quoted-

"The vision of a tall masted ship, at sail on the ocean, came to Deeti, on an otherwise ordinary day, but she knew instantly that the apparition was a sign of destiny for she had never seen a vessel before, not even in dream'it was the chasm of darkness where the holy Ganga disappeared into the Kalapani, 'Black Water'(SOP,1)".

The name Ibis refers to a sacred bird in ancient Egypt. It is connected with Egyptian god Thoth. Deeti travels to her freedom and independence on the ship Ibis. Through the ship, the author describes Deeti and Kalua and their journey towards slavery to independence. The ship just served as a means of transport for the people who want to escape from social evils. On the ship some people named Nob Kissin, Paulette, a French orphan were traveling to fulfill their personal dreams. Neel Ratan, and Mr. Burnham travel on Ibis towards their destination.

3. CONCLUSION

Amitav Ghosh's novel *Sea of Poppies* is a description of colonialism and its effect on the Environment. The importance of seeds of plants in the life of human beings is stressed in the novel. Changes that occur due to the cultivation of opium and how its addiction lead to the death of people. The *Sea of Poppies* reveals realistic views of people and their suffering. This Fiction describes social evils, caste system, identity crisis and ethical identity issues. The fiction uses metaphor as a tool to bring out the pain, struggle of an individual. Author uses an imaginative character of Deeti as a metaphor to project the idea of freedom. Ship Ibis is used as metaphor transformation.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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