



JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL LAUREATES ACADEMY

www.rlaindia.org

REVIEW ARTICLE

CRITICAL REVIEW ON AMITAV GHOSH NOVELS IN THEMATIC PERCEPTION AND LITERATURE

Sneha Sarkar*

Department of English, Sonarpur Mahavidyalaya, Sahid Biswanath Sarani, P.O: Rajpur,
District: South 24 Parganas-700149, West Bengal, India.

* Corresponding Author.

ABSTRACT:

Amitav Ghosh's fiction and non-fiction writings reveal his profound concern for ecological imbalance and its ramifications in the Anthropocene. In his current works, Amitav Ghosh portrays characters—both human and supernatural—as the object of discrimination. Everyone eventually faces crises as a result of the exploitation of Mother Nature and the community as a whole. In his works, he depicts current sociopolitical events that have a big impact on the history, geography, and population of the world. His deep understanding of human nature and psychology allows him to depict a person's innermost thoughts and feelings. In the majority of his works, Amitav Ghosh aims to give voice to the underrepresented, largely ignored, hushed, voiceless, or those absorbed by the powerful and not remembered in history. In this article, critical review on Amitav Ghosh novels in thematic perception and literature has been highlighted.

KEYWORDS: Amitav Ghosh, Novels, Thematic, Literature.

INTRODUCTION:

In his works, Amitav Ghosh tackles the most complex and mysterious subjects. His books illustrate some of the most pressing themes of the day, including suffering, division, recurring situations of alienation, dilemmatic division, diaspora, and forced immigration. He depicts his characters trapped in a profound state of isolation and turmoil. He appears to have an understanding of the basic human emotions, which are partially the source of his pain. His approach to addressing the problems is still unique and captivating, though. Amitav Ghosh's highly acclaimed, intricate, and inventive novel "The Shadow Lines" It was published in 1988, and the following year, it was awarded the esteemed Sahitya Academy Award. It has received praise from literary critics, as well as several well-known litterateurs, for its artistic achievements. This novel effectively conveys the sense of time and events, the lines that unite and divide people, and the lines that appear to be nonexistent from one point of view to another. One person's memory and, thus, another person's imagination contain lines. Historical occurrences such as the Swadeshi movement, World War II, India's Partition, and the 1963–1964 communal riots in Dhaka and Calcutta serve as the backdrop for the story. Its main historical focus is the violent post-partition scenario, but its general structure is a deft blending of fiction, memory, and reality.

CRITICAL REVIEW WITH FOCUS TO THEMATIC PERCEPTION AND LITERATURE:

Kulbhushan Rajak (2024). Amitav Ghosh's fiction explores the most current topics pertaining to interpersonal relationships and human emotions in various social and political contexts. His story connects the characters' essential emotions to the readers' vulnerable feelings. His works of fiction captivate readers around the world with their universal appeal. He skillfully weaves the ideas together with the socioeconomic issues to create a literary masterpiece. Amitav Ghosh presents the idea of a work of art that quenches the emotional yearning of ordinary readers as well as the critical viewpoint of literary critics, much like a docile postmodern scholar. Ghosh, a teacher and journalist, has a keen understanding of human suffering, and his understanding of the frailties of human relationships is exceptional. This research paper aims to investigate the themes of dilemma and pathos found in Amitav Ghosh's works. [1]

Khan, R. H. (2024). Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island* (2019), in addressing the global scope of the climate catastrophe, makes a suggestion about the necessity and viability of multispecies, multiethnic, and cross-cultural cooperation in the fight against climate change. Ghosh's comparison of the migration patterns of humans and animals as a result of climate change highlights the novel's emphasis on multispecies climate justice. The novel addresses social, racial, and historical injustices and highlights how European colonization and modern global capitalism contribute to the climate crisis by linking the refugee crisis in the West to the environmental crisis in other parts of the world. I use the phrase "planetary environmentalism" to describe the type of environmentalism I see on *Gun Island*; this type of environmentalism transcends all human-made borders, since borders become meaningless when the future of the entire world is in jeopardy. Through the lens of planetary environmentalism, I contend that the novel highlights the need for multispecies justice as a matter of multispecies survival in the face of the challenges posed by the climate change-related planetary crisis. [2]

R. Manimozhi (2024). The upbringing in a particular family and society shapes Indian women's lives more than just their upbringing. Other categories, like culture and religion, are included. Throughout history, significant events have shaped women's perspectives. Women's roles shift in accordance with societal demands and needs. Every culture establishes a distinct environment within which women's identities and roles are defined. In India, women play a different role than in other nations. In India, women fulfill a variety of roles, including those of mother, wife, daughter, and even provider for the family. She fights to maintain her identity in the midst of all of this. Love obligates her, but she aspires to independence. In Amitav Ghosh's writing, women take on prominent roles. Women's roles serve as examples of how culture shapes society. Amitav Ghosh has depicted an ideal society where dreamers, social workers, culturalists, and economists collaborate to bring forth the true struggles of female characters in various socioeconomic positions. With his fantastical vision, Ghosh creates a new socioeconomic structure and cultural awareness. Ghosh portrays women as life-givers and sustainers. [3]

Neerja Mann (2023). As a supporter of post-modern cultural weightlessness and a novelist prone to generic inventiveness, Ghosh's work is equally concerned with the bonds that bind as it is with the fleeting nature of global culture. Amitav Ghosh's highly acclaimed, intricate, and inventive novel "*The Shadow Lines*" Because the novel most effectively captures the tenor of a brand-new

world that is still shaping itself, it has emerged as the dominant figure in contemporary literary growth. It travels through a complex time-warping back and forth. A violent, idealistic, passionate, and mysterious flurry tears apart the narrator's personal history and geography, sharpening our conscience and triggering our reaction. The main idea of "The Shadow Lines" is the pursuit of invisible connections between the reality of racial discrimination, cultural segregation, and nationality. It becomes more significant when each of the distinct concepts is presented in a strikingly modern setting. The shadow lines divide and link peoples and nations. [4]

R. Manimozhi (2023). Amitav Ghosh is one of the most well-known Indian authors in English literature today. Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta in 1956 and raised in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Iran. Following his graduation from Delhi's St. Stephen's College, he pursued his D. 1982 saw Phil study social anthropology at Oxford. Ghosh has held teaching positions at several universities, including Delhi University, the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, and departments of anthropology, sociology, South Asian culture, and comparative literature. Ghosh began serving as a visiting professor in the comparative literature department at Queens College, City University of New York, in 1999. Prior to penning his debut book, Ghosh was a writer for The Indian Express during the Emergency. He wrote and published his first piece, "Ethnology", in 1984, fluent in Bengali, Hindi, English, French, and Arabic. [5]

Ishita Bhatt (2023). The present study examines the significant influence of Indian culture on the thematic and narrative characteristics of the postcolonial literary works authored by the well-known writer Amitav Ghosh. A thorough examination of a few works, such as *The Hungry Tide* and the *Ibis Trilogy*, among others, illustrates the crucial role that Indian cultural components play in comprehending the intricacies of Ghosh's literary universe. The study examines Ghosh's depiction of colonial interactions and their far-reaching impacts against the backdrop of historical legacies. Ghosh deftly conveys the cultural fallout from colonial abuses through the prism of the Opium Wars and the indentured labor system, examined in the *Ibis Trilogy*, while demonstrating the adaptability and resiliency of Indian people in the face of past upheavals. The complex interactions between characters and the diverse cultural fabric of postcolonial India are a major area of interest for the study. Ghosh's novels embody the country's diversity through a mosaic of languages, customs, and traditions. With characters who switch between languages with ease,

representing the polyglot reality of the country, the article explores the significance of linguistic diversity in expressing the complex nature of Indian identity. Additionally, the study looks at Ghosh's works' thematic examination of cultural hybridity. The characters traverse the intersection between modernity and tradition, capturing the changing Indian cultural scene in the postcolonial era. Examining ecological and environmental factors also highlights how Ghosh incorporates nature as a fundamental component of culture, demonstrating the mutually beneficial relationship between cultural practices and the environment. This study adds to the conversation on postcolonial literature by highlighting how important Indian culture is to Ghosh's story structure. The paper intends to highlight the necessity of cultural representation as a cornerstone in comprehending the complexities of postcolonial identity and societal developments in India by dissecting the cultural nuances hidden in his works. [6]

Sunil Gatadi and Babina Bohra (2023). With his critically acclaimed novel, Amitav Ghosh addresses the disadvantaged in Indian society and garners widespread praise. Amitav Ghosh's major books clearly reflect his compassionate stance towards subalternity. Through his fiction, he explores the existential dilemma, alienation, and migration issues that impoverished people face. The voices of the subalterns, previously ignored in the annals of history due to their hardships and sacrifices, began to prominently feature in Amitav Ghosh's literature. In an effort to give subalternates a voice against the repressive forces in their society, he centered his fiction on them and wrote about them frequently. In this essay, I want to examine Amitav Ghosh's selection of novels and highlight his perspective on subalternity. I have chosen "Circle of Reasons," "Calcutta Chromosome," "Hungry Tide," "Glass Palace," and "Sea of Poppies" for this project. In these novels, Amitav Ghosh portrays his men's desperate and challenging situation in a genuine manner. Amitav Ghosh's book also exposes the dark sides of exploitation, homelessness, poverty, and conquering. [7]

Rajesh Jakhar (2023). This research paper looks at how three of Amitav Ghosh's novels—*The Shadow Lines*, *The Hungry Tide*, and *Sea of Poppies*—represent human suffering and the actual fight. This study delves into how Ghosh portrays the experiences of people and groups during social, political, and environmental disruptions and how their battles for existence and respectability are influenced by broader historical and cultural factors. The article examines the various types of human suffering, including violence, marginalization, displacement, and

ecological destruction, that Ghosh portrays through a close reading of the novels. It explores the ethical and political ramifications of Ghosh's characters' acts as well as how they react to these difficulties—resistance, adaptation, or resignation. This thesis contends that, while based in historical and cultural particulars, Ghosh's novels offer a rich and nuanced knowledge of human suffering and empirical strife that speaks to larger problems of power, justice, and resilience. Additionally, the study shows how Ghosh's use of intertextuality, historical allusions, and numerous perspectives enhances his narrative techniques and results in a complex and nuanced portrait of the human condition. Finally, this research paper argues that Ghosh's books provide a strong case for the importance of literature in understanding and addressing human suffering and the real fight. Ghosh's books offer a potent critique of dominant narratives and a vision of hope for a more equitable and sustainable society by shedding light on the realities of marginalized and oppressed populations and demonstrating the interdependence of individual and community struggles. [8]

Jenniefer Dkhar (2022). We should read history from the perspective of common, unfortunate people who face the consequences of history in their daily lives. It is impossible to interpret history solely from the viewpoint of famous historical figures. There are many ways to interpret history. This gives a writer the freedom to use history however they see fit, using it to further their creative vision. Amitav Ghosh employs his creative imagination to tell short stories about common people in narrative formats such as memoir, journal, and recollection. By doing this, Ghosh reinterprets history from the perspective of non-historical individuals who have yet to bear the consequences of historical events. Amitav Ghosh creatively imagines the experiences and lives of common people in his fictional works, *The Shadow Lines*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, and *The Hungry Tide*. [9]

Ferdous M. (2022). Amitav Ghosh, a renowned author and anthropologist, expresses throughout his works his profound concern regarding the current generation's incapacity to address the climate change catastrophe. In *The Great Derangement*, he predicts the impending catastrophe that could result from such negligence. His Sundarbans trilogy—*The Hungry Tide*, *Jungle Nama*, and *Gun Island*—is superior to all of his other writings because it blends his own voice with a realistic and true portrayal of the mangrove forest. In his novels, he draws attention to the fact that certain developed countries release harmful amounts of methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere

and that rising sea levels as a result of these actions heighten the frequency of natural disasters that endanger the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest. As a result, Ghosh hopes that his novels will significantly contribute to increasing climate change awareness in South Asia at a time when the epidemic is posing a threat to human life across the entire area. Ghosh predicts pandemics and shortages on Gun Island as a result of ecological upheaval, which could lead to migration in both the natural and human realms. The COVID-19 outbreak is just one of the most recent global catastrophes to wreak havoc on humanity. Ghosh, a South Asian writer, also draws attention to the fact that women in this area face double threats as a result of natural disasters. We are concerned about the pandemic's impact on the suppression of nature in general and women specifically. Therefore, ecofeminism, a real-world movement for social change that emerged from women's struggles, is currently a booming area of scholarly inquiry. The relationship between women's oppression and nature is artificial, established by patriarchy as a tool of subjugation rather than a natural one. In this essay, I will demonstrate how recognizing the relationship between women and the environment and comprehending ecofeminism—which promotes women's emancipation during pandemics—can strengthen change-oriented action plans. His groundbreaking book, *The Great Derangement*, his published interviews, and his nonfiction books are all tendencies to come to light in this trio. [10]

Mondal, Mrityunjoy (2021). Today, everyone agrees that Indian-born author Amitav Ghosh is a postcolonial and postmodern writer. In addition to capturing the current sociopolitical climate in Southeast Asia, Ghosh's novels stand out for the way he portrays his female characters. The female characters in books like *The Hungry Tide*, *The Glass Palace*, and *The Shadow Lines* are truly role models. They appear to be completely aware of their social and political circumstances, and they make a significant contribution to both the beauty of their own lives and the education and empowerment of the community as a whole. They have an intense need to leave their imprint, to distinguish themselves from others, and to set an example that they hope others will follow. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate how women's incredible perseverance, unwavering drive, and astounding endurance allow them to surpass their limitations and challenge societal gender stereotypes. [11]

Gaana Jayagopalan (2020). This essay offers a critical analysis of Amitav Ghosh's fictional portrayal of colonial knowledge acquisition, assimilation, and diffusion in *River of Smoke* (2012).

The study focuses on the nineteenth-century cultural interchange of horticultural and botanical knowledge between Europe and China, as told by Ghosh. The novel serves as an important example of the value of non-Eurocentric methods of knowledge conservation, which would otherwise be undermined by the brutality of utilitarian paradigms in European epistemology. This paper demonstrates how Ghosh depicts the Chinese as successful in safeguarding the Golden Camellia, a rare flowering species in China, from European naturalists' epistemic hegemony and the profit-driven logic of botanical expeditions. The paper maps Ghosh's fictional depiction of Chinese horticulturists utilizing botanical illustration to prevent Europeans from obtaining the Golden Camellia, using Pramod Nayar's imperial cosmopolitanism and Robert Proctor's agnotology as critical frames. In the novel, the Chinese horticulturists stop European botanists and plant traders from usurping and profiting from the Golden Camellia by spreading the myth that the plant variety does not exist. The study also demonstrates how Ghosh's writing contributes significantly to the literature that highlights the South-South relationship in South Asian literature. [12]

Shahadat Hossain Azad, Md. Aziz Ul Bari Khan (2019). Amitav Ghosh is well known for his influential works, in which he addresses issues pertaining to the oppressed members of his community. His greatest novels reflect his sympathetic attitude toward the marginalized. In his writings, he exposes the existential crises, migration, and alienation issues that impoverished people face. His portrayal of these individuals as the primary protagonists highlights their voices, struggles, and sacrifices. In this essay, we will examine a few of Amitav Ghosh's works and discuss his existentialist interpretation of "self" and "others." We have chosen *The Circle of Reason*, *The Calcutta Chromosomes*, *The Hungry Tide*, *The Glass Palace*, and *The Sea of Poppies* as the novels for this paper. His novels truthfully depict the pitiful and challenging circumstances faced by those viewed as "others" in society. [13]

Satya Narayan (2018). Indian authors of English-language fiction portray women and their lives in patriarchal societies with a great deal of empathy. In Ghosh's novels, women are portrayed with great sensitivity and serve as the main characters. He depicts the way their culture is constructed. Neither do Amitav Ghosh's female characters ever come across as overtly radical feminists nor as clichéd representations of Sita and Savitri. He portrays women in a largely realistic manner. Amitav Ghosh has endeavored to delve into the emotional realm of women via his literary works,

enabling readers to get insight into their psychology and feminine sensitivity. The female characters in *The Shadow Lines* are portrayed as equally brave as the male ones because they overcome obstacles such as poverty, injustice, and widowhood. Tha'mma, the main character in this book, is a great revolutionary who has strong nationalist sentiments. In his novels, Amitav Ghosh explores the difficulties faced by women. From clichés to feminists, Ghosh charts the development of the feminine world. His female characters are portrayed as the protagonists of his fiction, giving life to others. He depicts women and their experiences with empathy and comprehension. This essay examines how women are portrayed in a few of Amitav Ghosh's books, including *The Glass Palace* and *The Shadow Lines*. Ghosh imagines a future in which women's empowerment will result in emancipating reforms to more significant social challenges in these two novels. Three generations' lives are portrayed in the novels, spanning boundaries and cultures. In this paper, I will cover philosophical topics, women's struggles against patriarchal society, gender discourse, and women's place in society. [14]

Sandhya Tiwari (2017). Identity is an extremely complex phrase with varying degrees of meaning and space. Geography and time influence the relative concept of identity's "being" or "becoming". The interaction and presence of the two locations foster an individual's identity crisis. Nobody is able to remain apart from their identity, either past or current. The political, cultural, and social contexts of an individual's environment and period shape their identity. Therefore, national, social, cultural, and individual dimensions influence identity. The 2008 book *Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh retells the tale of indentured laborers, their struggles, their place in society, their displacement, the agony of leaving their homeland, and how they overcame identity crises. In his book, Ghosh delves into the identity problems that characters face in their personal, social, and political spheres. This article explores and articulates the various concerns and components of diasporic, national, subaltern, and cultural identity that Ghosh employs in this novel. [15]

M. Bhavithra (2016). The primary goal of the study is to conduct a thorough analysis of reality and fiction, paying particular attention to Amitav Ghosh's use of magical realism in his novels. *The Circle of Reason* and Amitav Ghosh's *The Calcutta Chromosome* have been chosen as novels that will be specifically examined for the study. This essay showcases how Amitav Ghosh's novel, *The Circle of Reason* and *the Calcutta Chromosome*, delves into various coincidences and the concept of the "magical real," encompassing concepts that transcend language, historical

terminology, epics, genres, and other boundaries. Ghosh depicts a society in which the people adhere to and believe in their own national culture and traditions. [16]

Cowaloosur, V. (2015). This article revisits and rewrites the power equations that have prevailed between these worlds from the colonial era to the present. It does this by examining contemporary Indian English writers' invention, dissemination, and politicization of a particular variety of polyglot prose as a philosophical challenge to the hegemony of the British Anglophone world. The article describes this prose as "English," distinguishing it from ordinary English by giving priority to India and its regional languages. The general allusions to R. While Salman Rushdie, Upamanyu Chatterjee (from writing currently), and K. Narayan (from an earlier generation) attempt to survey the various ways in which this prose has been utilized over time, this article's specific focus remains Amitav Ghosh's most recent novels, *Sea of Poppies* (Citation 2008) and *River of Smoke* (Citation 2011), both of which are primarily set in the 19th century. Ghosh employs the 19th-century backdrop to contemplate contemporary reality, skillfully manipulating language to serve as both an index and a reflection of the power dynamics of states, whose relationships have changed in tandem with shifting international politics. The novels also offer a variety of insightful reflections on language changes that are occurring now and in the future, addressing the growing connections between India and its Diasporas in the modern world. This article specifically aims to show how the hegemony of a global "north" is questioned and replaced by an emerging but stronger "south-south" cooperation that fosters the development of an "alternate" hegemony that is more "integral" in nature and less driven by political and economic dominance. [17]

CONCLUSION:

As a result, Amitav Ghosh has influenced every facet of the human brain, including relationships and value systems. His fiction genuinely acts as a mirror of society, stimulating contemplation in the mind and spirit. Among the recent Indian novels published in English, "The Shadow Lines" by Amitav Ghosh is among the most approachable and sophisticated. Writing that is truly effective comes from a specific historical period that touches the nation and the narrator at a pivotal juncture in their development. The novel delves into the vital considerations necessary for the survival of central strength and sanity in society, all the while capturing the historical moment's high points

in believable and effective narrative action. A violent, idealistic, passionate, and mysterious flurry shatters the narrator's personal history and geography, sharpening our conscience and triggering our reaction. Amitav Ghosh deftly directs the narrator's contact with multicultural representations in a fictitious construct, thereby fostering his evolving sociological consciousness. The books written by Amitav Ghosh have distinct post-modern characteristics. His fiction heavily relies on history, language, and dislocation. Despite being a master of postmodernism, Ghosh also falls under the category of "magical realism." The author's writing methods included allegory, symbols, imagination, and realism.

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