

Rethinking Craft : Colonialism, Postcolonialism & Decolonialism



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**CONFLICT BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE
RELATIONSHIPS AND IDENTITY ISSUES IN BHARATI
MUKHERJEE'S JASMINE**

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ABSTRACT

In the novel Jasmine, Bharati Mukherjee takes up the theme of search for identity. She writes how the female protagonist tries to tackle the problem of loss of culture and endeavors to assume a new identity in the U.S. The protagonist Jasmine leaves her country to fulfill her wishes. On reaching the U.S., she begins to search for self-independence. She struggles hard to achieve it and at last she realizes that self-independence is not to be an Indian or American but to be at peace with herself.

In Jasmine, the main protagonist Jasmine searches for identity and her true self began from the day she was born. She was born as Jyoti in the village of Hasnapur in Jullandhar district of Punjab eighteen years after the Partition Riots. She was an unwanted child to the family because she was the fifth daughter and the seventh of nine children. Her mother wanted her to be killed when she was born because she did not want her daughter to suffer the pains of a dowryless bride. As a girl child she was almost strangled to death so that her parents might free her from the problems of marriage. But she survived that attack, Jasmine remembered: "I survived the sniping. My grandmother may have named Jyoti, light but in surviving I was already Jane, a fighter and adapter."



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