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Quest for Identity and conflicting Loyalties: An Exploratory Journey of Lyla in Samina Ali's Madras on Rainy Days



Dr. Rashmi Achmare,

Director, Institute Of Indian & Foreign Languages
MGM University, Aurangabad

Abstract

The Quest for identity refers to the existential struggle of human beings to attain meaning and value in their life. It is an inward journey in search of roots and a struggle for self-expression. Literature has the potential to portray the process of identity formation and identity maintenance. In the present world of globalization, the question of identity has assumed new and critical dimensions.

This paper aims at exploring quest of identity and conflicting loyalties in the process with reference to Samina Ali's Madras on Rainy Days. The notion of identity has been critically investigated across a variety of perspectives such as psychological, historical, sociological and literary. Though the reclamation of identity has many challenges, many writers have remarkably handled the theme of identity

and belongingness in their fiction. All human beings have their own image based on individuality and a sense of belongingness. There are different aspects of identity such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, culture, and nation. In cognitive psychology, the term identity refers to one's capacity for self-reflection. If cognitive psychology finds identity on the self, social psychology speaks of an identity negotiation process by which we learn various social roles through personal experiences and come to an understanding of ourselves vis-à-vis our fellow humans. We define our identity with various experiential markers socially acquired and subjectively internalized.

Key Words

Quest for Identity, self-expression, conflicting Loyalties, Journey of Lyla, Samina Ali's Madras on Rainy Days