



Identity Crisis and Individualism in Indian English Literature

Nanda K. Thakre

Department of Humanities, Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering, Nagpur

Dr. Amol V. Musale

Department of Humanities, SCET, Nagpur

2045

Abstract

In this context, the identity crisis and individualism in English literature are well depicted. The main objectives of the research such as the crisis of identity in Indian literature, the crisis of identity in Indo-Anglican novels, and the main aspects of individualism are briefly discussed. The three main aspects such as autonomy, self-responsibility, and uniqueness help the person to create individuality. The decisions, choices, and aims of that person can be clear and they can be independent in their ideas without any references from others. They can make their individuality with the implementation of these aspects. The secondary data collection method is used in this research. This method helps to collect several data and the various sources are found by this data collection method. Qualitative data helps the research maintain its quality of the research. The analysis of data helps to maintain the accuracy of the data which helps the researcher to find the main objectives of the research.

Keywords : Identity crisis, individualism, Indian English literature, Indo-Anglican novels, autonomy, self-responsibility, and uniqueness.

DOI Number: 10.14704/nq.2022.20.13.NQ88255

Neuro Quantology 2022; 20(13):2045-2049

Introduction

In this current research, the overall study of the identity crisis and individualism in Indian English literature will be discussed. The aims and objectives will also be mentioned in this study. The objectives such as the crisis of identity in Indian literature, the crisis of identity in Indo-Anglican novels, the theme of individualism, and the main aspects of Individualism in Indian literature will be described briefly in the literature review part. The overall discussion on the crisis of identity in Indian literature will be depicted in this research. The crisis of identity in Indo-Anglican novels will be discussed briefly in this context. The theme and the implementation of the main aspects of individualism will be described briefly in this context.

Aims and objectives

Aims: The current study is aimed at the identity crisis and individualism in Indian English Literature.

Objectives:

- To analyze the crisis of identity in Indian Literature
- To analyse the crisis of identity in Indo-Anglican novels
- To analyse the theme of Individualism
- To analyse the aspects of Individualism in Indian Literature

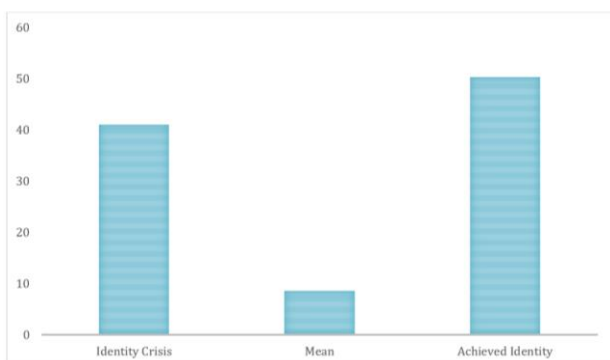
Literature review

Identity Crisis in Indian Literature

An identity crisis is a state of confusion that creates in an organization or institution regarding the direction or the nature of those organizations. In English literature, the crisis of identity is a severe issue for novelists or any other person related to the area of literature (Miller et al. 2019). It is a term that refers to self-analysis which has been conducted by a person about herself or himself and it also refers to the perspective of that person. Several novelists explore this term at the different segments of time in the literature world. In Indian English



literature, the theme of the crisis of identity is handled by three big novelists such as R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, and Raja Rao. They inspect this theme in terms of economic, social, and cultural background. The crisis of identity in the novels of these novelists enlightens the severe side of this.



Graph 1: Level of Identity Crisis

(Source: Created by Author)

Identity Crisis in Indo-Anglican novels

There is defining significance of the crisis of identity in the thematic framework of the Indo-Anglican novels. The techno-thematic fabric is redesigned by the stories of R.K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, and Raja Rao in the fiction of Indian English (Akhtar et al. 2021). The foundation of the fiction of the new Indian English is laid by the novels. These three novelists represented the post-colonial age. It was mainly a search for identity in the different measurements of socio-political order and India's economic order. A thick crowded fabric in Indian life and structure is investigated by the novels which Mulk Raj Anand writes. He has a fiction with undoubted authority. In these novels which are created by Anand, identity crisis has an important role. Through his stories, the hidden proportions of human psychology are explored further in socio-economic and cultural proportions. Through his books, the agony of the crisis of identity at a level of socio-culture is illustrated.

Level of Identity Crisis	Percentage
Identity Crisis	41.1
Mean	8.3
Achieved Identity	50.3

Table 1: level of identity crisis

(Source: Created by Author)

The ideas of the crisis of identity are explored by R.K. Narayan further in different proportions (Yuan et al. 2019). The idea of the crisis of identity is involved in almost all of the novels of R.K. Narayan. The efforts are successive and are also involved in the novels of Narayan to locate them. His first novel is based on the same theme which manifests in the form of the pain and pangs of the children. The other novels of Narayan are also based on the same theme further in various proportions. In the novel of Narayan, a reference to this novel is mandatory because of the important role of the crisis of identity in the novel. The crisis of identity has been suffered in all of these novels in their areas. The characters of the novels are significant areas for understanding the role of identity crisis in these novels (Harehdasht et al. 2018). In another novel by Narayan the confrontation of east-west plays an important role in the production of the narrative and this process helps to owe the genesis of the crisis of identity towards the conceptual conflicts. The characters of this novel spend their life to locate their identities.

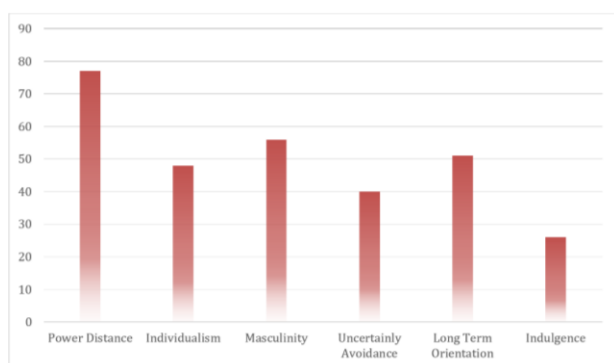
In this process, the entry of Anita Desai creates a different situation. It gives a new proportion to find the identity. The novel which is written by Anita Desai works differently in the history of fiction in Indian English. Her novels are based on the complexities of the idea of the crisis of identity which cannot be denied and is on a female character. The impulsion which is added by Anita Desai towards the wave of feminists is a critical side to finding the complexity of the crisis of identity in the horizon of the writings of Indian English (Nair et al. 2021). In her first novel, the protagonist is a demolished soul who searches for her identity in terms the marital harmony but she failed to succeed. The conflicts between the soul of the protagonists and the spirit of place occurred in the second novel of her for which the crisis of identity is born. Her novels are knit around the complex side of the crisis of identity. The forms of the crisis of identity in English literature are the aspects of the network of techno-thematic in the fiction of Indian English.

The Theme of Individualism

The human situation is explored by Indian English fiction. With this aspect, several phases of individualism are depicted. The theme of individualism is created on self-responsibility,



independency, and uniqueness. Individuality is an essential aspect of Indian English literature (Coulmas et al. 2019). Novelists should maintain their individuality through their creative ideas and thus their work will also be marked as an individual. It gives the novelist an identity. The thought process of the novelist should be unique to get individuality. Several phases should be followed by the novelists to get individuality and marked their works as individual work. In Indian English literature, the term individualism is used to explore the possible forms of the relationship between individuals and groups.



Graph 2: Cultural Communicative Styles

(Source: Created by Author)

Aspects of Individualism in Indian Literature

The term Individualism has a rich definition history which has been used in several areas of different contexts with an unusual lack of precision. The general reaction of European towards the revolution of French is grown through the first uses of this term. Specifically, the term grows the declared source of this and the idea of enlightenment (Zolduoarrati et al. 2022). The thoughts of welfare and the freedom of the individual are included with the first thoughts of individualism and the theory of the political side with the existence of the society. In Indian English literature, the use of the term individualism generally explores the possible forms of the relationship between individuals and groups. The individuality of the character of a novel is explored by this. The three main ideas of individualism are mature self-responsibility, autonomy, and uniqueness. The creative thought of novelists can make a novel that can maintain the individuality of the novel and the characters which are created in that novel.

	Individualism	Collectivism
Horizontal	Independence and quality	Interdependence and quality
Vertical	Independence and hierarchy	Interdependence and hierarchy

Table 2: Honor and shame in vertical-horizontal individualism and collectivism

(Source: Created by Author)

Autonomy helps to create the capability of a person for creative and independent thinking, judgmental, and survival processes (Belas et al. 2019). Through this aspect, a person can describe himself or herself as autonomous and can be independent without any advice or references from other people or groups, or institutions. It also indicates that importance should be given to one's ideas, aims, decisions, and choices. This aspect plays a vital role in several discussions about individualism. This aspect explores the capacity of an individual's creative thought, decisions, aims, and choices. The second aspect is mature self-responsibility describes the personal responsibility of that person. The responsibility of that person helps to create individualism. Mature self-responsibility means the responsibility which is taken for self-individuality (Granot et al. 2021). The action which has been taken for work to create the individualism of the work. In Indian English literature, the individuality of a person is depicted through the responsibility which is taken by the person. Uniqueness is also a very important aspect of individualism. The unique ideas can help the work to be marked as an individual task. These aspects are important to maintain individualism.

Methodology

In the mentioned research the secondary data collection method is used to collect the data related to this study (Sasidhar et al. 2021). Secondary data are collected from several books, journals, websites, newspapers, and social media. In this process, several websites help to find various sources to collect the data. With the secondary process, more data is found to make the research easier to find out the problems of the research. This method helps to know detailed information about this study. The research consists of several pieces of information which are getting from different sites. More collected



data helps this research to get the main aspects of the study (Ornellas et al. 2019). This secondary data collection method is proven highly effective to find out the accurate sources of the data and helps to get several data.

Data analysis and findings

After the collection process, the data needs to be analyzed. In the mentioned study qualitative data are used. The analysis of the collected data helps to get the accuracy of the data which is used in this research. This statistical data is very essential to make this research more specific about the findings of the research. The numerical data helps to maintain the quality of the research. The analysis process helps to find the main objectives of the research (Trueman et al. 2019). Through the application of this data aims of the study and the main focuses of this research are found. The result of this research is getting through the implementation of this data.

Conclusion and future scope

From the above study, it is concluded that the crisis of identity and individualism has a major role in Indian English literature. The crisis of identity in Indo-Anglican novels is briefly discussed in this study. The three big novelists handle the crisis of identity. The identity crisis is also included in their novels. The main aspects of individualism are also discussed in this study. The aspects are autonomy, self-responsibility, and uniqueness. These three aspects help a person to create his or her individuality. These aspects built the capability of that person to respect his or her own decision, choices, and aims and it also helps to develop the thought process of that person without any complexities. The future scope of identity crisis will be reduced with the proper process which will have to implement. The main aspects of individualism help to grow the individuality of every person who will implement the aspects in themselves. With this, the future scope of creating individuality in every person will be grown. This research will help the upcoming researcher and the readers to get proper knowledge about this research.

References

- Miller, R.L. and Collette, T., 2019. Multicultural identity development: Theory and research. *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Contemporary Themes and Perspectives*, pp.614-631.
- Akhtar, S., Qureshi, A.H., Hassan, M.U. and Tanveer, B., 2021. Deconstructing issues of identity in “the reluctant fundamentalist” by Mohsin Hamid. *Harf-o-Sukhan*, 5(4), pp.343-348.
- Yuan, R., 2019. A critical review on nonnative English teacher identity research: From 2008 to 2017. *Journal of multilingual and multicultural development*, 40(6), pp.518-537.
- Harehdasht, H.A., Atae, M. and Hajjari, L., 2018. Heirs of Ambivalence: The Study of the Identity Crisis of the Second-Generation Indian Americans in Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics and English Literature*, 7(2), pp.113-120.
- Nair, N. and Selvaraj, P., 2021. Using a cultural and social identity lens to understand pandemic responses in the US and India. *International Journal of Cross-Cultural Management*, 21(3), pp.545-568.
- Coulmas, F., 2019. *Identity: A very short introduction* (Vol. 593). Oxford University Press, USA.
- Zolduoarrati, E., Licorish, S.A. and Stanger, N., 2022. Impact of individualism and collectivism cultural profiles on the behavior of software developers: A study of stack overflow. *Journal of Systems and Software*, 192, p.111427.
- Belas, O. and Hopkins, N., 2019. Subject English as citizenship education. *British Educational Research Journal*, 45(2), pp.320-339.
- Granot, R., Spitz, D.H., Cherki, B.R., Loui, P., Timmers, R., Schaefer, R.S., Vuoskoski, J.K., Cárdenas-Soler, R.N., Soares-Quadros Jr, J.F., Li, S. and Lega, C., 2021. “Help! I need somebody”: music as a global resource for obtaining well-being goals in times of crisis. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, p.648013.
- Sasidhar, P. and Karanam, S.R., 2021. Reflections Of Various Psychological Complexities In Cry The Peacock And Lord Jim.



Ornellas, A., Spolander, G., Engelbrecht, L.K., Sicora, A., Pervova, I., Martínez-Román, M.A., Law, A.K., Shajahan, P.K., Guerreiro, M.D.D., Casanova, J.L. and Garcia, M.L., 2019. Mapping social work across 10 countries: Structure, intervention, identity, and

challenges. *International Social Work*, 62(4), pp.1183-1197.

Trueman, C.R., 2020. *The rise and triumph of the modern self: Cultural amnesia, expressive individualism, and the road to the sexual revolution*. Crossway.

