

MULTICULTURAL IDENTITY IN JHUMPA LAHIRI'S *THE NAMESAKE*

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**Abstract**

The cultural differences in Jhumpa Lahiri's novel *The Namesake* are highlighted in this essay. One of the main themes in literature today is the disparity between cultures. It deals with cultures, primarily those characters who adopt new cultures and encounter difficulties assimilating into the host culture. The difficulties of assimilating into another culture are primarily caused by cultural disparity. The character of Ashima Ganguli, who settles in Massachusetts, and how she lived her life while living abroad are highlighted in Lahiri's *The Namesake*. The character of Ashima Ganguli is thus depicted in this paper as the problem of cultural disparity. *The Namesake* not only dramatizes the Diaspora conflicts that immigrants experience as a result of coming into contact with a completely foreign culture, but it also looks at a conflict between two generations of a migrant family. In addition, this paper paves the way for future scholars to analyze Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* in the contexts of migration, alienation, parental love, identity exploration, and other related topics.

**Keywords:** Cultures, Disparity, Identity, Diaspora, Migration

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Jhumpa Lahiri's novel *The Namesake* tells the tale of how race, culture, and inheritance affect a person's outlook on life. The text details the diasporic experiences of the main characters, the Bengali newlyweds Ashoke and Ashima, who have moved to America to start a new life. The newlyweds are allowed to learn new national laws. Ashima moved from India to America with no knowledge of the place, but she soon realized how much she missed her family back in India. Because of the climate change, she struggles. Ashima struggled to adapt to the climatic conditions because India had different weather conditions, but in America, it was too cold and snowy. She spends the majority of her time daydreaming about her childhood home and the things she used to do there, while keeping track of "the Indian time on her hands" which in Calcutta is ten and a half hours ahead. Ashima tries to prepare Bengali food at home, even though people in America adhere to different kinds of culture and cuisine. She felt lonely there during her pregnancy and gave birth to her son there alone, far from her family in America. She would be looked after by her family if she were to reside in India. Once the baby's name has been given, the new parents are permitted to leave the hospital. They finally gave their son the name Gogol and left the hospital. Gogol likes his name at first but later tries to change it to Nikhil. After the birth of Gogol and Sonia, Ashima learned how to go shopping and attended parties that American-based Indians had invited her to.

The author of the novel, *The Namesake* Jhumpa Lahiri was born in 1967 to Indian parents in London. She later relocated to the US to continue her studies and spent some time there. Despite having extensive knowledge of India, she has only occasionally visited her parents' country. She visited India as a tourist when she was younger, she has never lived there. Her debut book, *Interpreter of Maladies*, is a compilation of short stories with themes related to Indian-American identities and Diasporas. According