



A critical review of Amitav Ghosh's novels through the lens of theme and literature

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Abstract

Amitav Ghosh's fiction and non-fiction works exhibit his deep apprehension regarding ecological imbalance and its consequences in the Anthropocene. Amitav Ghosh's current works depict characters—both human and supernatural—as subjects of discrimination. Exploiting Mother Nature and the community as a whole will eventually lead to problems for everyone. He writes about current sociopolitical events that have a big effect on the world's history, geography, and population. He can show what someone is really thinking and feeling because he knows a lot about human nature and psychology. In most of his works, Amitav Ghosh tries to give a voice to people who are not often heard, forgotten, or absorbed by the powerful and not remembered in history. This article provides a critical review of Amitav Ghosh's novels, focusing on thematic interpretation and literary analysis.

Keywords: Anthropocene ecocriticism, marginalized voices, sociopolitical consciousness

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 non-existent 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.

A critical review focused on thematic perception and literature

Kulbhushan Rajak (2024). Amitav Ghosh's fiction examines contemporary issues related to interpersonal relationships and human emotions within diverse social and political frameworks. His story links the characters' most important feelings to the readers' most vulnerable feelings. His fiction works are loved by readers all over the world because they are so relatable. He skilfully combines the ideas with the social and economic problems to make a great work of literature. Amitav Ghosh proposes the concept of a work of art that satisfies the emotional desires of average readers and

the analytical perspectives of literary critics, akin to a compliant postmodern scholar. Ghosh, a teacher and journalist, has a deep understanding of how people suffer and how weak relationships can be. The goal of this research paper is to look into the themes of dilemma and pathos in Amitav Ghosh's writing ^[1].

Khan, R. H. (2024). Amitav Ghosh's *Gun Island* (2019) discusses the climate catastrophe on a global scale and makes a suggestion about how important and possible it is for people from different cultures, species, and ethnicities to work together to fight climate change. Ghosh's comparison of how climate change affects the migration patterns of people and animals shows how important multispecies climate justice is to the novel. The book talks about social, racial, and historical wrongs and shows how European colonization and modern global capitalism make the climate crisis worse by connecting the refugee crisis in the West to the environmental crisis in other parts of the world. I call the kind of environmentalism I practice "planetary environmentalism." I see on *Gun Island* that this kind of environmentalism goes beyond all human-made borders. When the future of the whole world is at stake, borders don't matter anymore. From the perspective of planetary environmentalism, I assert that the novel underscores the necessity for multispecies justice as essential for the survival of multiple species amid the challenges presented by the climate change-induced planetary crisis ^[2].

R. Manimozhi (2024). The family and society that Indian women grow up in shape their lives more than just their upbringing. There are also other groups, such as religion and culture. Throughout history, important events have changed how women think. The roles of women change based on what society needs and wants. Every culture creates a unique setting where women's identities and roles are defined. Women in India have a different role than women in other countries. Women in India play many roles, such as mother, wife, daughter, and even the main breadwinner for the family. She fights to keep who she is in the middle of all this. She feels obligated by love, but she wants to be free.

Women play important parts in Amitav Ghosh's writing. The roles of women are examples of how culture affects society. Amitav Ghosh has written about a perfect society where dreamers, social workers, culturalists, and economists work together to show the real struggles of female characters from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Ghosh's imaginative vision brings about a new socioeconomic system and cultural awareness. Ghosh depicts women as providers and sustainers of life ^[3]. Neerja Mann (2023). Ghosh is a supporter of post-modern cultural weightlessness and a novelist who likes to make up new things. His work is just as interested in the ties that bind as it is in the short-lived nature of global culture. "The Shadow Lines," a highly praised, complex, and original novel by Amitav Ghosh, The novel has become the most important work in modern literature because it best captures the mood of a new world that is still forming. It goes back and forth through a complicated time warp. 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 to look for hidden links between the real-life problems of racial discrimination, cultural segregation, and nationality. It becomes more important when each of the different ideas is shown in a very modern setting. The shadow lines connect and separate people and countries ^[4].

R. Manimozhi (2023). Amitav Ghosh is one of the most famous Indian writers in English literature right now. Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta in 1956 and grew up in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Iran. After graduating from St. Stephen's College in Delhi, he went on to get his D. Phil went to Oxford in 1982 to study social anthropology. Ghosh has taught at a number of universities, such as Delhi University, the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania. He has taught in departments like anthropology, sociology, South Asian culture, and comparative literature. In 1999, Ghosh started working as a visiting professor in the comparative literature department at Queens College, City University of New York. Before writing his first book, Ghosh worked as a writer for The Indian Express during the Emergency. He was fluent in Bengali, Hindi, English, French, and Arabic when he wrote and published his first work, "Ethnology," in 1984 ^[5].

Ishita Bhatt (2023). This study investigates the profound impact of Indian culture on the thematic and narrative elements of the postcolonial literature produced by the eminent author Amitav Ghosh. A comprehensive analysis of select works, including *The Hungry Tide* and the *Ibis Trilogy*, among others, demonstrates the essential function of Indian cultural elements in understanding the complexities of Ghosh's literary realm. The research investigates Ghosh's portrayal of colonial interactions and their extensive consequences within the context of historical legacies. Through the lens of the Opium Wars and the indentured labor system, which are both explored in the *Ibis Trilogy*, Ghosh skillfully shows how colonial abuses affected Indian culture. He also shows how Indian people have been able to adapt and bounce back from past upheavals. The intricate relationships among characters and the varied cultural landscape of postcolonial India constitute a significant focus of the study. Ghosh's novels reflect the country's diversity by using a mix of languages, customs,

and traditions. The article examines the importance of linguistic diversity in articulating the intricate nature of Indian identity, featuring characters who effortlessly alternate between languages, reflecting the country's polyglot reality. The study also analyzes the thematic exploration of cultural hybridity in Ghosh's works. The characters navigate the convergence of modernity and tradition, reflecting the evolving Indian cultural landscape in the postcolonial period. Looking at ecological and environmental factors also shows how Ghosh uses nature as an important part of culture, showing how cultural practices and the environment can help each other. This study contributes to the discourse on postcolonial literature by emphasizing the significance of Indian culture in Ghosh's narrative structure. The paper aims to underscore the essentiality of cultural representation as a fundamental element in understanding the intricacies of postcolonial identity and societal evolution in India through an analysis of the cultural subtleties embedded in his works ^[6].

Sunil Gatadi and Babina Bohra (2023). Amitav Ghosh's critically acclaimed novel addresses the disadvantaged in Indian society and receives widespread acclaim. Amitav Ghosh's major works clearly show that he cares about subalternity. He writes fiction about the problems that poor people face, like the existential dilemma, feeling alone, and having to move. Amitav Ghosh's books started to include the voices of the subalterns, who had been ignored in history books because of their struggles and sacrifices. He wrote a lot about subalterns in his fiction to give them a voice against the oppressive forces in their society. This essay will analyze Amitav Ghosh's choice of novels and emphasize his viewpoint on subalternity. For this project, I picked "Circle of Reasons," "Calcutta Chromosome," "Hungry Tide," "Glass Palace," and "Sea of Poppies." Amitav Ghosh writes about the hard and desperate situations his men are in in these books. Amitav Ghosh's book also shows the bad things about exploitation, homelessness, poverty, and conquering ^[7].

Identity is a very complicated word that can mean different things in different places. Geography and time affect how we think about identity's "being" or "becoming." The interaction and presence of the two places make it hard for someone to figure out who they are. No one can separate themselves from their identity, whether it be past or present. The political, cultural, and social contexts of a person's time and place shape who they are. Consequently, national, social, cultural, and individual factors shape identity. Amitav Ghosh's 2008 book *Sea of Poppies* tells the story of indentured laborers, their struggles, their place in society, their displacement, the pain of leaving their home country, and how they dealt with identity crises. Ghosh's book looks at the identity issues that people have in their personal, social, and political lives. This article examines and elucidates the diverse issues and elements of diasporic, national, subaltern, and cultural identity that Ghosh incorporates in this novel ^[15].

M. Bhavithra (2016). The main goal of the study is to look closely at the difference between reality and fiction, with a focus on how Amitav Ghosh uses magical realism in his books. The *Circle of Reason* and Amitav Ghosh's *The Calcutta Chromosome* have been selected as the novels for specific examination in this study. This essay demonstrates how Amitav Ghosh's novel, *The Circle of Reason* and the

Calcutta Chromosome, explores diverse coincidences and the notion of the "magical real," incorporating ideas that surpass linguistic, historical, epic, genre, and other limitations. Ghosh illustrates a society wherein individuals conform to and hold faith in their national culture and traditions [16].

Cowaloosur, V. (2015) [17]. This article reexamines and rewrites the power dynamics that have existed between these realms from the colonial period to the present. It does this by looking at how modern Indian English writers came up with, spread, and politicized a certain kind of polyglot prose as a philosophical challenge to the British Anglophone world's dominance. The article calls this prose "English," which means that it is different from regular English because it focuses on India and its regional languages. The vague references to R. This article's main focus is on Amitav Ghosh's most recent novels, *Sea of Poppies* (Citation 2008) and *River of Smoke* (Citation 2011), both of which are mostly set in the 19th century. Salman Rushdie, Upamanyu Chatterjee (who is currently writing), and K. Narayan (from an earlier generation) try to look at the different ways this prose has been used over time. Ghosh uses the 19th-century setting to think about modern life, skillfully using language to show and index the power dynamics of states, whose relationships have changed as international politics have changed. The novels also contain a number of interesting thoughts on how language is changing now and in the future, as well as how India and its Diasporas are becoming more connected in the modern world. This article specifically aims to demonstrate the challenge to the hegemony of a global "north," which is being supplanted by a burgeoning yet more robust "south-south" cooperation. This cooperation promotes the emergence of a "alternate" hegemony characterized by a more "integral" nature, rather than one driven by political and economic dominance.

As a result, Amitav Ghosh has had an effect on every part of the human brain, including how people relate to each other and what they value. His stories are real mirrors of society that make people think about things in their minds and spirits. "The Shadow Lines" by Amitav Ghosh is one of the most accessible and sophisticated Indian novels that have come out in English recently. Writing that really works comes from a certain time in history that has a big effect on both the country and the narrator at a key point in their growth. The book talks about the important things that need to happen for central strength and sanity to survive in society, all while telling a believable and effective story about the most important events in history. A violent, idealistic, passionate, and mysterious flurry breaks the narrator's personal history and geography, making us more aware of our own actions and making us react. Amitav Ghosh skilfully guides the narrator's interactions with multicultural representations within a fictional framework, thereby enhancing his developing sociological awareness. Amitav Ghosh's books have a lot of postmodern traits. His stories are mostly about history, language, and being out of place. Ghosh is a master of postmodernism, but he also fits into the "magical realism" genre. The author used allegory, symbols, imagination, and realism in their writing.

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