

Souvenir



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Canadian Literature Dialogue across Cultures: Canada and India

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Department of English
Holy Cross College (Autonomous)
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, Tamil Nadu, India.

The Conference

Canadian Literature is one of the New Literatures in English giving voice to the rich immigrant experience of the heterogenous groups settled in Canada. Indian Literature too, while recapitulating the unheard moaning of the colonized, tries to revitalize its traditions and transformations, its distinctiveness and distance from the colonized cultures. Both the Literatures show certain differences and similarities, coherence and continuation and conflicts and convergence. An indigenous and unheard dialogue across cultures of Canada and India invested in creative writing is expected to provide archetypes of universal global existence and exigencies.

CULTURAL MALAISE THROUGH POLITICAL EXIGENCIES- A STUDY OF ROHINTON MISTRY'S SUCH A LONG JOURNEY

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The present paper endeavours to study cultural malaise that stems from political manoeuvring in Rohinton Mistry's **Such a Long Journey**.

The Parsis, who are estranged from their communal roots endeavour to carry on the tradition wherever they want to settle. The Parsis, who are marginalized in Indian society resist the deflation of their cultural values and try to affirm the power and resilience of their community.

Rohinton Mistry is one of the most remarkable writers to have emerged from the Indian literary tradition. **Such a Long Journey** is his debut work which has earned him many accolades like Booker Prize and the Commonwealth Writers Prize etc. In the selected novel **Such a Long Journey**, he brilliantly sews political chicanery with the life of the protagonist Gustad Noble, an ordinary man and divulges how it turns his life upside down.

DOUBLE DISPLACEMENT: A STUDY OF ROHINTON MISTRY'S TALES FROM FIROZSHA BAAG

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A society, which is multicultural, is a tolerant society. It tolerates differences. And Canadian society is a multicultural one. So it gives rise to binaries like 'them' and 'us'. Rohinton Mistry is an Indian born Canadian, living in Canada since 1975. Hailing from the Parsi community, Mistry belongs not only to a minority in India but also in Canada. The main locale of his fictions is based on Parsi urban life in Bombay. **Tales from Firozsha Baag** published in Canada 1987 by Penguin Books has a similar locale. These tales describe the daily life of the Parsi residents in a Bombay apartment block. The stories concern themselves with the tribulations and the idiosyncrasies of Bombay Parsis. In his stories he explores community living, which reinforces cultural identity. The dream of going abroad and making it a reality is the first sign of success and prosperity for most Indians. Based on this ideology, Mistry creates Kersi, a young lad in the story who grows up to make his dream a

reality by leaving India. Little does he realize what is in store for him. Kersi feels incomplete and torn between cultures though like any expatriate he accommodates differences as a part of acculturation. Every immigrant's dream of going to the land of milk and honey is soon realized as a sense of loss of roots, alienation, acculturation, racism, and a double displacement.

A SEARCH FOR ROOTS : RUDY WIEBE

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History is often just the accidental data you happen to have.

Rudy Wiebe

The word 'Canada, it is believed, comes from two Spanish words "aca" and "nada" meaning "nothing here". In a veritable irony of fate, this notion of 'absence', innate in the name has been a haunting 'presence' in Canada throughout its socio-cultural history.

Canadian identity has been such a central aspect of Canadian imagination that, it can be said, the discourse of identity is the Canadian discourse.

In stressing the need to acknowledge and accept the Indian as Canada's ancestor Wiebe suggests a viable and valid means to combat the sense of minimal history, that severely hampers the acquisition of a distinctive Canadian identity.

A PRIVATE CONVERSATION TO ONE'S OWN SELF - A THEMATIC STUDY OF MARGARET ATWOOD'S SELECT POEMS

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"Canadian poetry came to maturity slowly and with difficulty - slowly, since the making of a Canadian existence was late and vast; with difficulty, since the population which supports a culture was meagre and because the urgent preoccupation with commerce and industry vitiated its values. The stifling of the creative arts stifled self-recognition. Canadian poetry existed by virtue of its own integrity." - Ralph Gustafson.