

SEARCHES FOR OWN IDENTITY AND CULTURAL GAP AMONG CHARACTERS IN JHUMPA LAHIRI'S STORY «ONLY GOODNESS»

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In today's multicultural world, the problem of a person who has hybrid identity increasingly becomes the object of discussion. Hybridity means destruction of already formed identity as a fulcrum and the formation of a new individual one, which consists of a set of contexts. Therefore, hybrid identity means incompleteness, and the possibility of acquiring another.

The article deals with the phenomenon of transcultural identity in terms of American multiculturalism. Being a representative of both cultures only in a half transcultural person lacks integrity as a whole.

Special attention is paid to the notion of «double consciousness» [1, p. 102], to the process of adaptation and search for own identity because it is relevant in the light of literary studies. Jhumpa Lahiri's story «Only Goodness» (2008) is analyzed in terms of globalization and multiculturalism and it is one of the attempts of exploring transcultural paradigm in Jhumpa Lahiri's works.

We mention about «cultural gap» and generation problem that occurs among immigrants. In Jhumpa Lahiri's story the images of the parents who are the first generation immigrants are opposed to the images of their children. Parents follow their home traditions: make Indian dishes, follow absolute cleanliness, and sing Bengali songs to their children. Parents do it because «aware that they faced a life sentence of being foreign» [2, p. 97] and the fact they never become real Americans.

Unlike their parents the children emphasize their nationality only by form of treatment. Instead of «mother» they say «ma», and «sister» is changed to «Didi». It is noticeable that the children the second generation immigrants do not want to be a «copy» of their parents. They want to «merge» with the Americans completely, but these «attempts» are not always successful.



It should be noted that the first generation immigrants are «tied» to their own country and do not want to break this link. But at the same time, they cannot say for sure which crops are greater, the ones where they are born and where their roots are or the new where they are now and where they can «find» themselves.

Jhumpa Lahiri`s most characters feel lonely and alienated. In particular, this refers to the first generation immigrants who are trying to follow their home traditions and who do not want to include Americans into the circle of their Bengali friends. As a result, they remain to be «strangers» in a strange land. Their children who born in America do not consider India their home and fully belong to American culture. Indian culture begins «to slip away» from each generation of immigrants. Therefore, the third generation immigrants become «interpreters» of culture of their ancestors.

References

1. Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folks* // *The Oxford W.E.B. Du Bois Reader*. – New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. – P. 97–240.
2. Lahiri J. *Unaccustomed earth* / J. Lahiri. – New York, Toronto: Manotosh Biswas, 2008. – 331 p.