

Complexities of Identity and the Search for Belonging in Jhumpa Lahiri's The Namesake: Through the Lens of the Ganguli Family

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The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri explores the complexities of identity and the search for belonging through the lens of the Ganguli family, Indian immigrants in the United States. Portraying the challenges of navigating multiple identities in a multicultural world. The Ganguli family struggles to bridge the gap between their Bengali heritage and their American surroundings. As the protagonist, Gogol Ganguli, grapples with the complexities of his name and heritage, Lahiri delves into the nuanced layers of what it means to belong in a world that straddles two cultures. Jhumpa Lahiri belongs to the second generation of the Indian Diaspora, she is an Indian by ancestry, British by birth and American by immigration, and her theme of writing deals with the experience of emigrants to the USA from India, makes her a centre of the Diaspora. Jhumpa Lahiri has explored the identity crisis, racial and cultural conflicts, ethnicity, and sense of belongingness, loneliness and alienation among the immigrants. For every second generation assimilated, a first generation, in one way or another, spurned. For the gains of goods and services, an identity gets lost, and uncertainty is found. So, it is the moral duty of the diaspora writers to remain faithful while mixing facts with fiction in their writings. The question of identity became increasingly felt in post-modern literature to be the focal point of post-colonial studies.

Keywords: Complexities, belonging, Portraying, immigrant, multicultural, assimilated.