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The Impact of Globalization and Multiculturalism on National Identity, Ethnicity, and Location: With special reference to Fred Wah (A Chinese-Canadian Writer)

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has touched many things all over the world. By this and even Multiculturalism also impacts on many things, I mean it brings changes on several issues to discuss here. As we know globalization splits the identities and regenerated ethnic divisions once latent under the control of nations and states. The countries those practicing the multi-cultures like Canada, America, Japan China and also are facing the identity, ethnicity (Indigenous) problems. So these issues are discussing and debating in global level and creating conflicts towards to building either national identity or individual identity. Here researcher discusses those significant issues with the focus on Fred Wah who is half Chinese half Canadian (his father was born in Canada but raised in China, his mother was Scott-Irish) and also so called the Asian Canadian writer, having an identity and ethnicity problem. This article discusses on Multiculturalism, Globalization and most importantly on identity, ethnicity, and from selfhood to Location with reference to James Fredrick Wah.

As we know globalization touched many things at the same time Multiculturalism impacts on many issues in the countries, which have practice of different cultures called multi-cultures, countries like Canada, China, France, and America. Both globalization and multiculturalism have been impacting on national identity. This article discusses about ethnicity and location with reference to James Fredrick Wah who is the Asian Canadian writer. He has conflict attitude towards his identity and he explores identity, ethnicity, and his selfhoodness to location throughout his writings

Keywords: Multiculturalism, National identity, Ethnicity, Location, Selfhoodness.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization is distinct as the set of processes (economic, social, cultural, technological, and institutional) that contribute to the relationship between societies and individuals around the world. It is a progressive process by which exchanges and flows between different parts of the world are intensified. Globalization is a complex phenomenon. As such, it has a considerable influence on several areas of contemporary societies.

While discussing multi-cultures, which are blending of different cultures and also cause to origin multi-linguistic approaches on different regions of the people. When it impacts on different regions of people absolutely different cultures impact on the language, life style and culture of the people.

The British Puritan writer David Crystal states that, in a postcolonial world, "it is inevitable that there must be a strong reaction against continuing to use the language of the former colonial power, and for promoting the indigenous languages." These arguments hold some weight for Crystal because "they are all to do with identity, and with language as the most immediate and universal symbol of that identity".

Fred Wah in his writings, he explores his selfhood and location, because he is in the dilemma that whether he belongs to China or Canada. There is an intermixing in his religion, culture, race, ethnicity due to such crisis he is unable to proclaim if as he was a pure Canadian. Because of racial and cultural intermixing so he is so called half Chinese and half Canadian writer. He began his writing since 1965, many of his poems say about his conflicting attitude towards his identity.

In the *Diamond Grill* (semi-fictional Biography) which explores the cultural identity as one of the most powerful issues. Throughout this book Fred Wah writer of cultural identity and his father's immigration back (from Canada to China). Wah (*Diamond Grill* 20) himself refers to his mother's family; they are severe and also religious. He also speaks about his grandfather's marriage with Erickson, when he got the economic refuge in

Sweden. Then their family members negotiated for the particular identity for themselves. He refers to the fragmented diaspora and hybridization.

Wei Reich says that "A person's identity is defined as the totality of one's self-construal, in which how one construes oneself in the present expresses the continuity between how one construes oneself as one was in the past and how one construes oneself as one aspires to be in the future".

Identity reveals historical, socio-cultural background and post-colonial situation. Whether it is ethnical, racial, indigenous, national, and religious, but a person's identity can reveal his reorganization. Here Fred Wah remarks about his ethnic as well as his national identity. Throughout his writings, Fred Wah discusses his family's Chinese background, his conflicting attitude towards his identity. If we talk about national identity or Ethnic identity we can refer Fred Wah who is also facing the national, ethnic identity problem. He showed his conflicting attitude towards his self-identity; he negotiated this through his father's migration issue. Generally when we discuss and refer to national or ethnic identity, for example, is national identity the sameness of a nation in all times and places, or the circumstance of being this nation and not another. Undoubtedly the idea of national identity involves a concept of sequential and spatial continuity of a country, but this isn't what an essay on the national identity of the Russians would be focused on. Nor is national identity the fact or condition of being unlike from other nations, but rather something about the content of differentiations.

This article explores how Fred Wah investigates and discusses the issues of ethnicity, his self-identity and how he connects his selfhoodness to location and negotiate all these in his writings.

Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to focus on how Fred Wah presents and elaborates his arguments in terms of his identity; being a Chinese Canadian writer he explores his genetically mixed background and examines his identity from his own point of views.

- 1) To see how conflicts of identity are negotiated by Fred Wah and his fellow writers.
- 2) To see how contexts of immigration, not merely contexts as displacement of place or culture, but also the historical contexts impact on identity formation.
- 3) To see how Globalization impacts on National identity, Ethnicity and location determines selfhood and identity.
- 4) To understand how individual identity negotiates through discussing the issues mentioned as key words in the above.

Research Methodology

In this article, following research methods and methodologies have been used. Close reading method, critical analysis method and comparative analysis method have been used here. On the other hand, I have used post-colonial methodologies or theoretical base in this research project. A close reading and an interpretation is provided by keeping in mind the parameters like the socio-political setting, background of the author, historical context and national identity in these works.

The present study is not just a historical study but also a conceptual study of the following subjects: identity, race, hybridity, Diaspora, ethnicity and culture. Psychological theories were used along with James Clifford's and Homi Bhaba's different theories. These critical perspectives have helped me to elaborate my texts. It seems that psycho-analytical theory is not just enough to understand the self and the experiences in terms of individual's identity in contemporary times. And that this is mainly due to the legacies of colonialism such as stereotype of race, culture and the impact of it on the national identity. It is argued that post-colonial theory and its critique provides the basic framework for understanding these issues. In realizing the objectives of the study, the research has focused more on the works of Fred Wah but also on other Chinese- Canadian writers.

Analysis of National identity Ethnicity, selfhoodness and Location: with special reference to Fred Wah.

Multiculturalism has its features such as the different cultures play an important role to determine its own culture, ethnicity, race, etc. As Wah says, he was eager to know how Chinese treats ethnic minorities; how do they allow people on a particular basis as such issues argued. As Wah knows the three things like diaspora, indiginity, and ethnicity; race is very complex in eastern Canada. We've moved away from that kind of debate around Linda Hutcheon's [52] multiculturalism and the whole notion of ethnicity is pretty problematic still. Those terms, he thinks, even provocative terms, continue to raise a lot of questions. In a sense, though, he finds it hard to talk about it with any feeling of clarity.

The effect of the post-colonial era is that there is much increasing in migrations, diaspora, cultural intermixing, race, ethnicity displacement and dislocation and these factors are concerned about determining the self-identity.

Wah in his writings, he explores his selfhood and location, because he is in the dilemma that whether he belongs to China or Canada. There is an intermixing in his religion, culture, race, ethnicity due to such crisis he is unable to proclaim if as he was a pure Canadian. Because of racial and cultural intermixing so he is so called half Chinese and half Canadian writer. He began his writing since 1965, many of his poems say about his conflicting attitude towards his identity.

The most important one amongst is the Asian-Canadian writer Fred Wah. His quest for his self-identity can be found in his writings, in the process of globalization national identity especially dual identity has become a significant issue. The author Fred Wah has the dilemma of dual identity as his mother is Irish-scot and father is Chinese- Canadian. Today people have more mobility than even before they had, as the effect of globalization there is a lot of increasing numbers in migration, even globalization not only affects on nationalism but also on culture, language, linguistic approach. By the

effect of globalization on a lot of different cultural influences lead to the people as over-confidential, due to this the searching for self or individual identity is a more considerable task for individuals and from the emerging new hybrid cultures, people may feel challenged to search their self-identity. This research explores how the national identity becomes a surface and important issue in the present world and also how the global market is retreating such issues in its context, discussing through a reading of Fred Wah's (an Asian-Canadian writer) national identity the researcher would like to blend such issues in this article

After 1970s and 80s, lifestyle has been changing along with change of perspective. It may be Fred Wah in that sense he started to write in his way; as a intellectual writer he questions and refuses the historical practices and methods at the same time he upholds his only counter memories and practices what he has seen and experienced it .if we have a look on his works it seems as how he narrates his personal stories in the *Diamond Grill* he raises many such issues regarding his race, ethnicity and tries to challenge, makes counter answers for the ancient practices.

The question of identity was not important in the countries earlier except multicultural and multilingual countries, but it has been widened. The notion of identity defined by different critics of their opinions, sometimes identity involves wrenching a self from others and sometimes it changes for several reasons, for example by the act of immigration, and even by cultural, racial and ethnic differences it may lead to a hybrid identity. Fred Wah raises, questions and expresses his conflicts in his writings. He keeps focus on his Chinese background, racial and cultural intermixing (Chinese and Canadian racial, ethnic, and cultural and mixed blood). We could discuss that if there are racial and ethnic differences; it may lead to conflict and it is happening in many countries and people are facing the same racial problems those who come from the mixed racial background. Because lots of people migrated to many countries from their natives for several reasons after the

World wars we could consider them even they have their own racial and ethnic problems. But we could not take them individually here like Wah, but Wah glorifies his racial issues and tries to defend his identity as hybridized. Wah connects his selfhood, to his "location", through this he attempts to rationalize himself.

Wah posits himself between two ethnical and racial issues like two wooden doors and the dislocation caused by migration also impacts on his identity, he says that:

My hybridity obliges me to locate by difference not sameness

These lines also allow us to know that his self-justification and how it even makes himself to think different from other racial and ethnic writers. Fred Wah seems us as good presenter but he upholds his binary thinking and opposition till to end of his bio fiction and poems and this binary thinking that supports these oppositions, when he used to claim something which is regarding to his racial and national identity.

Findings

- 1) Wah connects from self to location of identity, it continues in the transformation of the individualization, and hyphenated subjectivity.
- 2) Wah connects from self to location of identity, it continues in the transformation of the individualization, and hyphenated subjectivity.
- 3) Wah's self-questioning and arguments enhance readers to rethink that how to judge such identities in global level.
- 4) Wah treats identity through the racial and ethnic differences. Identity for him relates to the person's nationality, language, race, culture and background.

Conclusion

Today the issue of identity is commonly discussed across the world, because it is global issues

especially in commonwealth countries which have multi-culture, multi-linguistic systems are facing the challenges. I found some similar issues that what Fred Wah has discussed in their writings; for example the problem of identity, racial and cultural intermixing, border disputes. But Wah narrates his own life experiences. Here it is my understanding and not only Canada but some other countries like multi-cultural countries are facing the same challenges. As the title itself suggests the selfhood connects to identity of location by the displacement and dislocation it has been happening all over the world.

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