Diasporic Disorderliness in Caryl Phillips' Crossing the River

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Abstract

Geographical boundaries alongwith their various cultures, obviously, bring disorderliness and chaos both to human beings and societies. Moving from a place to another one changes the moods, attitudes, deeds, languages and many other features and characteristics accordingly. And such changes are the cause of inconvenience not only inside borders but outside also. In literary studies such phenomena are given the technical name of "Diaspora". After post-colonialism came to exist, the word "diaspora" got its importance among writes and critics specially those migrated ones. "Diaspora" itself envisages different elements like memory, displacement, identity and so on; and many scholars and researchers are so enthusiastic to write and investigate the issue as much as possible in recent years. Therefore, the present study would like to investigate three clear elements of diaspora including displacement, identity and memory in Caryl Phillips' Crossing the River to reveal the influence of mentioned elements on the characters of the said novel to prove that how diaspora plays its role on the life of the people.

Keywords : Diaspora, Displacement, Identity, Memory

For Turton "displacement is not just about the loss of place, and the pain and bereavement this entails. It is also and inevitably is the struggle to make a place in the world, a place which makes action meaningful through shared understandings and shared interpretations of action" (278). Displacement not only is a separation but also is rebirth and making new home in a new country, new society, and new settlement in an alien land.

According to Golparian, Displacement is not only about a loss and absence of a place, but also, it is a loss of context. This context is one that is physically and temporally placed in our culture and history. He also maintains that moving to a new country, cause that person has no choice but to adapt herself/himself to the new place, culture, and values. These sudden changes in living context cause they find themselves lost and unable to make decision.

Golparian argues:

> "Immigration often leaves immigrants lost in-between the place they left behind and the place they live in. When people move to a new country, they rarely immediately (or sometimes never) feel at home in their new environment and they constantly try to make sense of things within the context of the home they left behind. They are placed in an in-