

ESSENTIALIST BORDERLANDS, MONOLITHIC OTHERING AND MIGRATED LOCALES:
ANALYSIS OF H. M. NAQVI'S HOME BOY

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Original Article

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ABSTRACT

Borders in the globalized world are the converging points of not only the globalizing forces of security, trade and migration but also the related conflicting identities, ideologies and civilizations. Just like its spatial connotations that relate to territorial zones, borderlands can also mean phenomena that create psychological borders by means by the enactment of social policy, and ideology. In that case, people of either sides of the border may struggle with the question of identity. Using the psychological borders-related theoretical underpinnings, provided by Gloria Anzaldua, the current study attempts to trace the contribution of border-crossing and globalization in the treatment of such people by the host societies, as depicted in H. M. Naqvi's novel *Home Boy*. Since physical as well as psychological borders are created for the security of a nation, the outsiders are often thought of as a threat to the security of that very nation. The study finds that the host societies question the identities and cultures of these people in the name of the so-called human welfare and security.

Keywords: Borders, psychological borders, hybridity, immigrants, others

1. INTRODUCTION

Borders in the globalized world are the convergence points of not only the globalizing forces of security, trade and migration but also the related conflicting identities, ideologies and

civilizations (Agnew, 2008; Bakshi & Dasgupta, 2019; Hanif & Ullah, 2018; Stephen, 2008; Ullah, 2020). The rise and fall as well as the construction and deconstruction of borders concern the reciprocal impact on the human civilization that requires in-depth analyses of

the dented identity of the migrants (Nasser, 2019; Beaugrand, 2018; Tronvoll, 1999; Kipgen, 2019). Notwithstanding the fact that globalization promises the end of such conflicting history and geography, the study of the migrant borderlands which result in the subsequent psychological problems among migrants (Bottos & Rougier, 2006; Bugarski, 2012; Prokkola, 2009; Chatzipanagiotidou, 2018), as well as their mental health issues have gained momentum in the recent past (Russel *et al.*, 1999; Seegel, 2016; Hernández-Wolfe, 2011; Sherry, 2017). Not only geography but also the associated movements and the ensuing repercussions play a vital role in deciding people's behaviours towards fellow beings (Hagen, 2009; Ullah, 2015; Bottos & Rougier, 2006).

The distinction between two entities of landscape is known as border in a geographical context. Border is much more in political and social context. Borders imply a creation of disputed space where two geographical and cultural entities meet. Borders challenge the existing construction of the border. They question the authenticity of the physical, cultural, and political segregation among the countries that are created by the borders. Just like its spatial connotations that relate to territorial zones, borderlands can also mean phenomena that create psychological borders by means by the enactment of social policy, and ideology. In that case, people of either sides of the border may struggle with the question of identity. Borders and borderlands are not static and stable but fluid and contested spaces (Agnew, 2008; Bakshi & Dasgupta, 2019; Rembold & Carrier, 2011). The political, social, educational and economic aspects are blurred on these contested spaces. The purpose of formation and maintenance of borders is either political or social. They are created to establish hegemony over another (Peirce, 2010; Lanir, 2012). The process of control differs; it depends upon the differences in the socio-political complexities of cultures

(Rembold & Carrier, 2011). Borderlands can also be the territorial zones that include lands, social policy, and ideology. Such types of borders are meant to create division between "Us" and "Them".

Lorber (1999) asserts that people of either sides of the border may struggle with the question of identity. Most often borders are created by political entities. In the United States and Mexico, the borders have not created the political boundary, but they have created the class and ethnic division as well. The political borders create two nation states and identity confusion. Borderlands can be thought of as mental and psychological spaces as well as physical spaces. The history of borderlands helps much to know about the immigration to the United States. Art and literature have also been used to promote these concepts about borderlands. Art and literature have been used as a tool to demonstrate spaces and bring awareness of borders.

Anzaldua (1987) gave the concept of borderland studies in her book: *Borderland/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Borderlands are used in the scholarly discourse and literature as an attempt to defy the hegemonic power of narrow borders and to offer a new approach of talking about history, land, and identity. In her book, she referred to not just the physical entities of control over lands but also to their psychological and ideological impact.

Such discourses generate a national, racial, cultural, and historical sense of division rather than physical barriers between nations (Ullah, 2020; Meier, 2013; Gasparini, 2014). They also help in understanding of how globalization has affected the treatment and representation of the people who cross the borders. The borders are the product of the social activities in the societies. Borders are inconsistent just like the people who created those borders for different purposes. McGregor (2013) states that the creators of the borders give different meaning to them in order to suit the purpose. They did so

in order to highlight what is “theirs” and what is “alien”. The line between what is “theirs” and what is “alien” is invisible. This invisible line can be understood as a mental boundary that does not reflect a physical space, but it only defines the envisioned perimeters of a society.

The metaphoric “border” is something that is within each of us. It can be also understood as an individual or collective state of mind that is stimulated every time we think of literal or symbolic crossing. This mentality is geopolitically determined. Those who are not considered as “other” would be having a different worldviews as compared to those who are considered and treated as “outsider” or “other”.

The research traces the contribution of border-crossing and globalization in the treatment of people as “other” in the novel *Home Boy* (2010) by H.M.Naqvi. Since physical and symbolic borders are created for the security of a nation, the outsiders are often thought of as a enemies to the local set-up. Just like its spatial connotations that relate to territorial zones, borderlands can also mean phenomena that create psychological borders by means by the enactment of social policy, and ideology. In that case, people of either sides of the border may struggle with the question of identity. The identities of those people are questioned in the name of human welfare.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Cultural interdependency can be seen in people who cross the border into a new country. Some of them cross the border and reside permanently on the other side of the border, while others do it for the purpose of work, family and job. The aftermath of the border-crossing is not always positive. It often causes stress for the people and can badly affect their lives. The study aims to explore why those people who cross the borders are, one way or the other, considered as a threat to the security of the people on the other side of the border. In this process, they are often made to think of their

identities, mainly due to the sort of treatment that they receive from the other side of the border.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims to:

- Explore the contribution of border crossing as a factor responsible for the treatment of immigrants as outsiders
- Examine the ways in which people, who cross the border, view the world after their experience with the host community
- Investigate the role of globalization in making the immigrants feel as lost beings on the other side of the border

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do the border crossing and globalization remain crucial factors responsible for the treatment of immigrants as outsiders in H.M.Naqvi's novel *Home Boy*?
- In what ways are the symbolic borders keeping the immigrants at periphery and view them as a threat to the security of the borders?
- Why do the protagonists of the novel after border crossing face the dilemma of hybrid identity?

1.4 UTILITY OF THE INVESTIGATION

The current investigation is of great importance for determining role of border crossing and globalization in making the immigrants as outsiders. The study is not only taking in to account the physical borders but the symbolic borders as well. The study will provide a perspective that will shed light on the symbolic borders that are present wherever two cultures meet. The symbolic borders have contributed a lot in the maltreatment of immigrants in the

other side of the border. These literal and metaphorical borders are leading the people towards the state of bewilderment about their identity.

1.5 SITUATING THE CURRENT PROJECT

Researchers of this project are interested in the explorations of the roles of border crossing and globalization in the marginalization of the immigrants. Since the physical borders have been created on purpose, people who cross borders are often thought of as a threat to the security of the borders. The border-crossing is often done in the name of globalization. The present study will see how the physical and metaphorical borders have influenced the lives of immigrants and contributing in their treatment as “outsiders” or “others”. These borders have made them suffer the identity crises. These responsible factors and their roles have been traced in the selected work titled *Home Boy* (2010) by H. M. Naqvi.

1.6 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study focuses on the novel *Home Boy* (2010) by H.M.Naqvi. The study further focuses on border crossing, globalization, and their influence on the life of immigrants presented in the novel. The study restricted itself to the role of literal as well as metaphorical borders in making the immigrants as “outsiders” and a threat to the borders. The study further pays heed to the identity crises encountered by the immigrants across the borders.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Many complex processes have and will continue to have reflective suggestions for international borders. These complex processes include transnational integration and interconnectivity. The process of de-territorialization projected to collapse the nation state and importance of borders. This process is called “strong globalization”. The critiques which believed in the approach asserted that “world is flat”. Many other critics have other

views regarding globalization. Many geographers, political scientists, anthropologists, and sociologists predicted a weaker form of globalization (See for example, Bowles, 2020; Olive & Gracia, 2020; Veltmeyer, 2019; Sahtouris, 2000; James & Steger, 2014). The weak globalization offers more space and room for long term variation and U-turn of border system. Global economic exchanges have transformed all the borders in meaning and functions. All the borders imitate and cross a variety of social limitations. There exists a tension within the international system and national communities. The borderland studies depict the misleading concepts of state-society congruence but also the implied superiority of the borderless or transnational hybrid experience (Hagen, 2009).

Researchers underline the role of place in the blurring of already subsisting cultural norms, illustrating cultural hybridity as the coalescence of new personal and collective identities from novel combinations of previously disparate cultural attributes, practices, and influences emerging from conditions of being cut off from one's roots and left without a place of one's own (Klee, 2020; Meng & Cai, 2020; Yoon, 2018; Hout, 2011). The analysis of globalization shows cultural adaptation as a form of local resistance. Hybridity can serve both negative and positive outcomes. In positive sense, hybridization may lead to the broadening of cultural offering and a challenge to established mind-sets on race. In negative sense, hybridization can be linked to dislocation, loss of tradition and social unrest (Dear, 2005).

This current study aims to explore immigrants' subordination in the process of border crossing. By keeping in view the physical borders, metaphorical borders, globalization, their influence on the immigrants' lives can be addressed. This consciousness is determined by socio-political limits. These borders leave the immigrants in an utter state of confusion regarding their identity. The physical borders as well as metaphoric borders heavily influenced

their representation on the other side of the border. The immigrants most of the time do not intend on crossing but they are more focused on getting jobs (Sanghoon, Kim, Hong & Ko, 2020). Once they crossed the border, they are expected to face identity crises and are represented as “others”.

The researcher aspires to investigate contribution of the factors responsible for the “othering” of immigrants in the novel *Home Body* (2010) by H.M.Naqvi. The immigrants more specifically the protagonist of the novel namely Chuck suffered identity crises because of border crossing. These borders are not physical only but symbolic as well. Anzaldua’s (1987) point of views would be taken into account in order to know the influence of the crossing of physical borders on the lives of immigrants and the role played by these borders in making the immigrants as “other”.

3. METHODOLOGY

This qualitative study endeavors to trace the contribution of border crossing and globalization in the marginalization of the immigrants and in making them confused about their identities in the novel *Home Boy* (2010) by H.M.Naqvi. Textual analysis of the novel would be done in order to trace the elements responsible for the difficulties immigrants encounter regarding their identity. The famous critic Anzaldua’s (1987) point of view has been taken into account in order to explore the impact of border crossing on immigrants’ lives. Hybridity that is one of the “post border conditions” can also be seen in the form of identity. The border crossing often results into cultural diversity and with that comes the notion of hybridity. The element of hybridity can be traced in the identity of the immigrants. Cultural hybridity often results into hybrid identity and it is all about one’s mind and psychological condition.

4. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Borders are something with in each of us. The symbolic borders are activated when one thinks about crossing the physical borders. This collective or individual mentality is often determined by geo-political elements. A citizen of a “global superpower” would be having a different view of the world when compared to the person who is an immigrant and has been marginalized by the citizens of super global power (Pugliese, 2002). The immigrants are often considered as “other” and this is thought of as a “post border” condition (Beller, 2020). Their migration is often on economic purposes (Sanghoon, Kim, Hong & Ko, 2020). The shift towards hybrid identity becomes more apparent after border crossing. Hybrids exist when various cultures come together in the same place to create something that was not present previously. The roles of dislocation, migration, and deterritorialization, consequent upon globalization has a vital role in the process of hybridization (Dear, 2005).

Gloria Anzaldua believed those borders are created for some socio-political purposes. Borderlands are the places where the “safe” and “unsafe”, “prohibited” and “forbidden” reside. The border crossing often results in making the immigrants as “outsiders”. Even if the place is going to accept the immigrants, the native people still look down upon the immigrants and they show reluctance in considering the immigrants as the people of their own circle. This influence of border crossing has been traced in H.M.Naqvi’s novel *Home Boy*.

You could, as Mini Auntie told me once, spend ten years in Britain and not feel British, but after spending ten months in New York, you were a New Yorker, an original settler.... ‘It’s quite simple: the city’s like a grid (p. 15).

Borders have been brought into the global front during the last decades of twentieth century. The large-scale geographical, societal, and political changes remained the responsible factors for the foregrounding of borders. These factors further include the events like disintegration of the Soviet Union, the fall of Berlin wall, the formation of European Union and the gathering drive of global migration movements. The importance and distinctiveness of the national borders have been changed in Europe because of these movements. Borders have become flexible gateways and they provide considerable area of interaction and negotiation, instead of being the strict separation. These large-scale changes have a considerable influence on the lives of the people. These borders started defining the very identities of those groups of people. The borders made the national culture and identities confined to the geographic areas. The immigrants were that group of people who are looked at as "others". The global migration and the birth of national boundaries gave birth to the need to establish identities. The new boundaries are constructed in relation to the borders and movements. Borders are also dealt as the representation of geographic, cultural, and micro-level borders. Borders are not just the physical entity but symbolic and metaphoric entity as well, but the metaphoric and symbolic borders have most often been neglected in the macro-perspectives. The reason responsible for the negation is that the symbolic and metaphoric borders are recognizable to the insiders only. They are not explicit so the outsiders are unable to recognize them.

Borderlands are at one place brought the nation together that share the same border ruled by the global etiquettes and on the other hand Borderland also served as a meeting point of local traditions. The conceptual borderlands are about the mapping that the people construct in their minds while managing relationships with group of people or communities. The symbolic

borders have no real physical markers of contiguity, but people are aware of their representations and existence (Omoniyi, 2014).

The protagonist of the novel *Chuck* crossed the border and went to America. He went there for economic purposes. He was settled in Karachi before crossing the border and moved towards America. The protagonist tried to attain the qualities of the citizen of the host country and he succeeded in doing so. "I'd since claimed the city and the city had claimed me." (p. 3). However, at the same time, he cannot escape from the qualities he shared with his mother country, Pakistan. He has spent some portion of his life in Pakistan so he shared the characteristics with his Pakistani fellows as well.

"...we listened to Nusrat and the new generation of native rockers, as well as old school gangster rap, so much so that we were known to spontaneously break into Straightoutta Compton, ... From a gang called Niggaz With Attitude but were overwhelmed by hip-hop's hegemony... Though we shared a common denominator and were told half-jokingly, Oh, all you Pakistanis are alike, we weren't the same."(p. 2).

He was having the qualities of both the people of host country and his mother country as well. Because those qualities he brought from his own country. He was not being considered as the citizen of America. The reason for border crossing could be for economic purpose and the immigrants wanted to attain the American dream as well. The hybrid qualities that the protagonist of the novel had, gave reasons to the native citizen of the "global super power" to treat them as "other".

He was not completely belonging to either side of the border. "I'm here but not here." (p.32). This feeling of belonging and un-belonging makes a migrant confused about his own being (Bhugra, Watson & Ventriglio). In the case of the protagonist, he was initially an employee in bank and later on, he opted for a job of cabbie driver. He might be fascinated by the job opportunities that the host country was providing him. However, he didn't find a respectable position in America. There could be many reasons but most important reason was that, he never was a citizen of the place and never welcomed by the native citizens. "I tried tallying the number of possible reasons that could have brought the Federal Bureau of Investigation to outdoor that night. I couldn't. There were too many." (p.99). Since the other side of the border was offering job opportunities to the protagonist, he was unaware of the fact that this border crossing could offer him many things (Sanghoon, Kim, Hong & Ko, 2020).

The crossing of physical border has given many reasons to American citizens to treat the immigrants as "outsiders". At the same time, the symbolic or metaphoric borders accompany the physical borders. These metaphoric borders come into motion when accompanied with physical borders. These borders have a profound impact on the psyche of the immigrants (Klee, 2020). In order to know the influence of border crossing on the state of mind of immigrants, the research would consider the point of view of Guillermo Gomezpena. This critic referred to "gap between two worlds" to facilitate not only the literal crossing and to physical landscape but also the state of mind as well because hybridization is not about the material manifestations but also about the state of mind and psychological impact.

The symbolic or metaphoric borders have influenced the mentality of the people in such a manner that the citizens of the "super global power" do not think of the immigrants in a positive way. They have always thought of the

immigrants as a threat to their security of the borders. The major character of the novel, Chuck did not commit any harmful act because of which the borders of America could be threatened but even then, Americans degraded him.

And I was broken, depleted, more cipher than actor, but kept thinking don't trip, don't break a leg, walk with your head up high, like you've done nothing wrong, but couldn't, and it didn't really matter, because no matter what I did, I couldn't change the way I was perceived (p.103).

The gap between the two worlds refers to the gap between two countries. When immigrants fill this gap by crossing the border, hybridization comes to play. The process of hybridization does not always have a positive result. The citizens of the host country see them as a threat to their security and security of the borders. The Americans take pride in being the citizens of the "super global power" because it ensures their security and basic rights. They have been blessed with every possible favor the American state can provide them regarding their security and the security of the borders. The immigrants are not taken as people who deserve any rights. In the novel when the police officers arrested Chuck and he talked about what warrant they have to arrest him. The police officer reminded him that he is not an American so he does not own any rights. "you aren't American! He fired back. 'you got no fucking rights" (p. 107).

The police officer did not feel the need to know more about Chuck, just the very idea that chuck is an immigrant made the police officer think of the protagonist of the novel as a criminal or terrorist. The symbolic borders that are present with in each of us made the police officer to

think so. The Americans labeled Chuck as an “uncooperative” and “obvious” terrorist.

“Beyond my immigration record, they couldn’t have had much more on me than my height, weight, color or eyes, and distinguishing characteristics, but I could imagine Rooney penning a damning missive in red pen, with the words uncooperative and obvious terrorist leanings double-underlined” (p. 113).

Even if the immigrants have crossed the physical borders, the symbolic borders have set those immigrants at periphery. These borders do contribute a lot in making the immigrants as “outsiders” on the other side of the border (Beller, 2020). Though the immigrants managed to be at a place that doesn’t belong to them, the metaphoric borders will keep remind the citizens of America about the presence of “outsiders” in their country. The protagonist of the novel has been treated as an “outsider” in America. “people didn’t avert their eyes or nod when you walked past but often stared, either tacitly claiming you as their own or dismissing you as Other” (p. 45)

In many recent studies of borders as borderlands or regions, identity and territory are the two Ingredients of the same process. When one talks about hybridity at individual level, cultural hybridity cannot be treated as physical entities only but they are about the condition of one’s mind as well. Dear (2005) viewed how hybrid cultures appear from complex conjugation of identity, memory and mixed culture. Crossing the national border leaves a considerable impact on one’s life because the crossing of the border will redefine the identity, belonging, and loyalty towards different ideologies and nation. The crossing of the border often remained a traumatic experience for the person (Hagen, 2009).

Border crossing does not ensure the rights of the immigrants on the other side of the border. As Guillermo Gomezpena referred to “gap between the two worlds”, the border crossing doesn’t ensure the filling of this gap that prevails between the two countries, because the symbolic borders do not accept the immigrants as a community that deserves some rights in the host country. All the rights are considered to be preserved only for the citizens. The immigrants in the novel have been badly treated because they belong to some other country and were not the original citizens of America. “I ‘m not the other color, so police think / they have the authority to kill the minority” (p. 78). The symbolic borders have made Americans to look at Chuck as if he is a criminal. They thought of Chuck as a threat to their security. Not only the law, but also the common people felt threatened by the very presence of immigrant, Chuck. The American considered it as lawfully correct to treat the immigrants as “outsiders” or “other”. They thought it to be their duty to secure their borders. That is why Chuck and his companions were being maltreated by the police officers. They did not give them any chance to justify themselves, instead they imposed their presuppositions.

Even if the immigrants tried to raise their voices against all this mal treatment, they are neither heard and nor appreciated. Their voices did not change the way they were being perceived by the Americans. In the novel, Chuck voiced his opinion but it was not paid heed to.

You threw a hundred thousand Japanese into camps, whole families-women, children, old people- because they posed a security threat. That’s not right. That’s wrong. And now it’s us. It’s me... I’ve been in jail for the last forty eight hours. I was humiliated starved, physically and mentally abused.we’re not model citizens- I’m not a

citizen at all- but I can tell you this much: we've done nothing wrong. This is no way to treat human beings and this is no way to achieve security (p. 136).

Immigrants have been reminded that this place doesn't belong to them and the gap between these two communities cannot be filled just by mere crossing of physical borders. The symbolic borders are there to maintain the differences between the two and it is because of the symbolic borders that the immigrants have been treated as a threat in the host country.

So you cooperate with us, or we can lock you away for a long time- no phone call, no lawyer, no nothing. And if you're lucky, someday we'll put you a plane-a one-way ticket back to Bumfuckistan (p. 107).

The crossing of border has a considerable impact on the psychological conditions of immigrants. It has influenced them regarding their identity. According to Hall, there are two types of identities. One is identity as beings and the other is identity as becoming that shows discontinuity the formation of one's identity. He referred to Caribbean identities, as they are the products of cultural diversity and hybridity of identity. He believed that the second kind of identity is surely the aftermath of postcolonial conditions. Hall demonstrated through referring to the postcolonial conditions in the Caribbean, where three presences African, European and American illustrate the idea of 'traces' in identity (Zubair, 2012).

The characters in the novel are the immigrants and they faced the dilemma of hybrid identity. This suggests that when one talks about hybridity at individual level, cultural hybridity cannot be treated as physical entities only but

they are about the condition of one's mind as well. Since the characters in the novel have crossed the border and were living in America. They have their own culture and the culture of the host country to adopt. In the process of being in the hybrid culture, they were unable to trace out their own identity.

We'd become Japs, Jews, Niggers. We weren't before. We fancied ourselves boulevardiers, Raconteurs, renaissance men, AC ,jimbo, and me. We were self-invented and self-made and certain we had our fingers on the pulse of the great global dialect (p. 1).

Two kinds of identities can be observed here. One is identity as beings and the other is identity as becoming that shows discontinuity the formation of one's identity. He believed that cultural diversity results into hybrid identity. The hybrid culture that welcomed the immigrants on the other side of the border made the immigrants confused about their identities. The border crossing has led them towards the dilemma of hybrid identity (Bahri, 2019; Moreiras, 1995; Bivan *et al.*, 2018). The immigrant's real identity was not apparent. The protagonist of the novel has come from Pakistan. The people of host country call him Chuck while his real name was Shehzad. The other companions of the protagonist were also immigrants and they were also being called by American names. Jamshed khan was called as Jimbo and Ali chaudary was called as AC. "why do they call you Chuck?" "why d'ya have an American name when you're Pakistani?" (p. 188). The place was given importance in a sense that it was the place that has to determine the identity of the immigrants. The host country was offering the immigrants, culture, and identity. Since they own a culture and identity that has been provided by their mother identity, so there the dilemma of hybrid identity began. "it's not where you're from, 'as

Rakim once averred, "it's where you're at." (p. 15)

This very dilemma of identity has made immigrants to suffer the sense of belonging and un-belonging. The immigrants do not completely belong to the either side of the border. "I'm here but not here." (p. 32). Therefore, border crossing has played a vital role in making the immigrants treated as "outsiders" on the other side of the border. It has considerably affected the psychological conditions of immigrants. The characters in the novel suffered the maltreatment in the hands of citizens of the host country. These immigrants have also encountered the dilemma of identity.

The analysis has shown that the immigrants are not given a warm-hearted welcome. The psychical crossing of the border does not leave a positive impression upon their lives. The immigrants might be expecting no difference between the life in their mother country and the life in the host country, but the moment of realization comes when they actually cross the physical borders. They cross the border on economic purposes, for they think that the host country might be providing them more chances to enhance the life style of their family. The citizens of the host country do not welcome them for long time. After crossing the physical border, they encounter the symbolic borders as well. These symbolic borders cannot be found in physical form but they represent the mentality of the group of the people of a community. These psychical and symbolic borders lead the people towards the dilemma of identities.

The selected work of *Home Boy* by Naqvi has been analyzed in the keeping in view the aftermaths of border crossing and globalization. The border crossing and globalizations are termed as the most important factors that affect the lives of immigrants in a way that the immigrants are not given a befitting status in the host country. The novel's protagonist and his other comparison crossed the physical borders to earn a respectable living, but they crossing of

these physical borders have cost them a lot. The physical borders are set for socio-economic purposes, when the immigrants cross these borders, they are not considered as the people of the community of host country, rather they are reminded that those immigrants do not belong to the host country. Their presence is not appreciated and valued by the native citizens. After the borders have been crossed, the characters realized that they were living a more respectable job in their mother country. The protagonist of the novel was working in a bank but in the host country, he was given the job of a driver. Despite living in the host country for so many years and adopted the qualities of the native citizen of the global super power, he was not counted in the circle of the native community of the people. The native citizens take pride in being the original settler of America, this is also a reason that the protagonist of the novel and his companions were looked down upon by Americans. They were often being humiliated in the host country even when they are innocents. The wrong doings that were happening were being associated with the immigrants and they were considered as criminals.

Once the immigrants cross the physical borders, they encountered the symbolic borders that have labeled them an "outsiders". The "insiders" or the native citizens have created the symbolic borders, so the immigrants are not aware of these borders. It is because of the symbolic borders that the immigrants have been kept at periphery. The outsiders are thought of as a threat to the security of the borders because they do not share the same nationality as the native citizens of America. The characters in the novel were arrested despite the police officers didn't have any other information about them except that they were immigrants. Being immigrants it gave the American law a reason to treat them as "others". The host country has set the rights for the native citizens only, the immigrants were not considered as people who should be given

rights. In the name of security of their borders and the welfare of people, the immigrants are treated as criminals on the other side of the border. The immigrants were reminded of the fact that they are not worth of any basic right, and the only place where they can ask for rights is their mother country. They were asked to go back to their native country or else they will be the victims of inhumane treatments.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The protagonist of the novel and his companions suffered the dilemma of hybrid identity on the other side of the border. They crossed the border having the qualities that they shared with their Pakistani fellows. In America, they adopted the qualities of the native citizens. In the process of adopting the identity, they suffered the dilemma of belong and un-belonging. Their Pakistani names were Shehzad, Ali Chaudary and Jamshed. When they crossed the border and wanted to be the part of the host country, they were given the names that suit their identities in the host country. Shehzad was given the name of Chuck, Ali Chaudary was being called as AC and Jamshed was called by the name of Jimbo. Even they were living there; they practiced those practices that they brought with them from the mother country as listening to the local songs etc. they faced this “post border” condition in the form of hybrid identities. They realized that they should turn to their mother country if they want to occupy a respectable position in the society and if they want to have all those rights they have been striving for in the host country.

The study explored the factors responsible for the inhumane treatment immigrants received on the other side of the border. The borders do not only exist in the form of physical entities but also they define the mental consciousness of a certain group of people. The borders are created on purposes and often those purposes are socio-political. Those who crossed the borders do not occupy a respectable place on the other side of the border. The symbolic

borders allow the “insiders” to treat the immigrants as “outsiders”. The crossings of these borders have a considerable impact on the lives of immigrants.

It is pertinent to mention here that the study was carried out, based on one relevant literary text, and the subsequent conclusion of the study will be beneficial for prospective researchers, not only from literary studies but also other field of Social Sciences. The study recommends that other researchers, taking lead from the findings of this study, may carry out analyses on non-literary data to see how psychological borderlands impact the lives of the immigrant communities.

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