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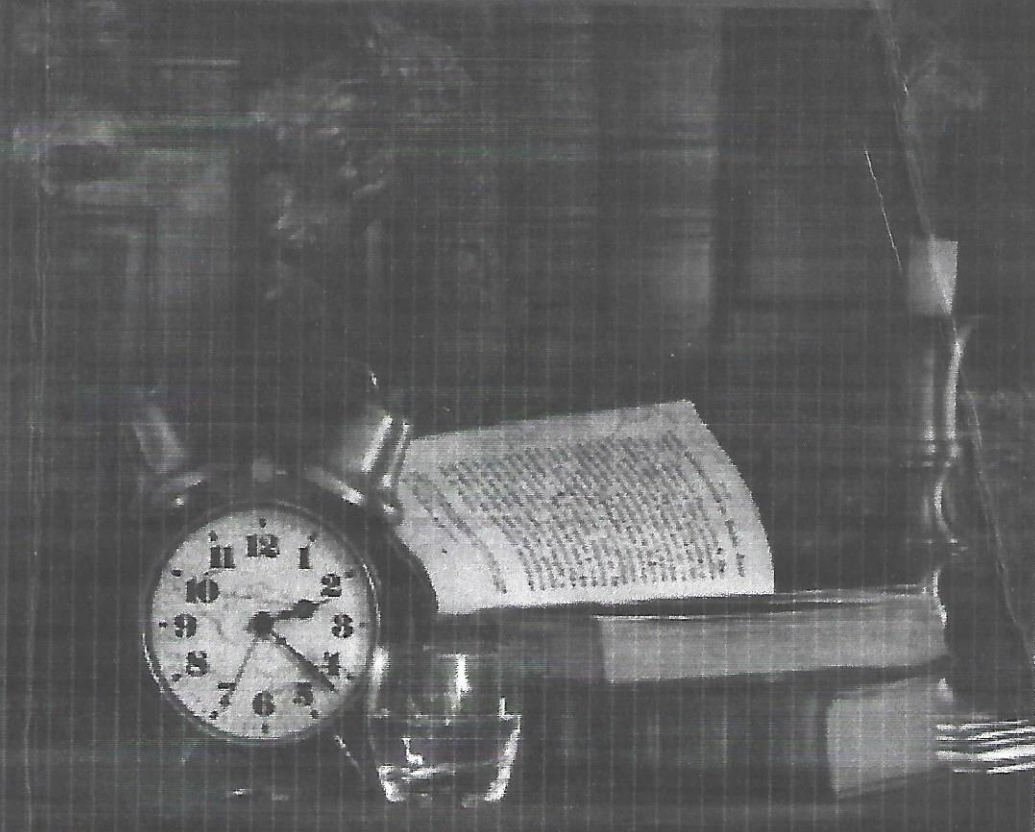


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NEXT GEN INITIATIVES



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to it. In a nutshell, Lahiri has very well constructed the matrimonial world of Shoba and Shukumar, proving details of the human life and of husband-wife relationship and how children- dead or alive affect a couple's life.

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Voice of Black in Literature: Lorraine Hansberry

Dr Umakanth S. Patil & Shashikant U. Patil

Abstract:

Lorraine Hansberry deliberately chose realism which suited her purpose. She said, 'the realist playwrights states not only what is, but what can and should be'. It is important to remember that she was essentially an American. But still, she continues to deny this identity and her ambivalence. She was a particular American- a Black female American writer who grew up in a comfortable home on the south side of Chicago. In her singularity, in her particularity, she was a voice

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...
been growing between the two since the death of their newborn baby." When he returned to Boston it was over. The baby had been born dead. Shoba was lying on a bed, asleep, in a private room ...
(2) Demise of the child had impacted greatly on the mind of Shoba, a sudden change was visible in her lifestyle and relationship with Shukumar - "... how long it had been since she looked into his eyes and smiled, or whispered his name on those rare occasions they still reached for each other's bodies sleeping" (3).

Hope is always the force which powers the survival instinct in their relationships. The endangered relationship of Shoba and Shukumar receives a supply of such a hope, when a notice informs the couple that for a few days there would be an electric cut in the evening - "The notice informed them that it was a temporary matter: for five days their electricity would be cut off for one hour, beginning at eight P.M." (4).

Food, its preparation and consumption play a bigger role in the story. For it offers an opportunity to the couple to come close to each other compulsorily. The one hour of load shedding brought them near, which was desperately required by their relationship to replenish itself - "Tonight, with no lights, they would have to eat together. For months now they'd served themselves from the stove, and he'd taken his plate into his study, letting the meal grow cold on his desk before shoving it into his mouth without pause, while Shoba took her plate to the living room and watched game shows or proofread files with her arsenal of coloured pencils at hand." (5)

While living in one home, they become strange to each other that they could hardly even say something that interested her, something that made her look up from her plate, or from proofreading files. Eventually, he gave up trying to amuse her. He learned not to mind the silences.

The last scene explains the real truth between Shoba and Shukumar. Shoba's daring disclosure is made with sincerity but with unwillingness. The last four days, Shoba has been trying to tell him the same truth, but she could not hold up now. This is followed by Shukumar's disclosure another difficult fact, which he has also held till now from Shoba. It was pertaining to their child and the sex of the child. All the stress ultimately come back to the cause of barrenness in their relationship - their dead-born child. It was the pain which the couple was unable to relate with each other, due to the pressures of modern day requirements and the ensuing lack of time, for once the two got to the root. The element introduced here like the warm evening, Bradford walking arm in arm, again denoting closeness and warmth are the clue to the possibility and will imbibe the same in their personal relations

Conclusion:

Through this story, Lahiri has been able to depict the maladies of a modern-day immigrant couple and crushed under the pressure of a tragedy mounting crunch of time. The fissures of alienating and separation are carefully examined, lending the appropriate fill-ups. The twist and humour touch-induced in the story add the real-life color

the loss of their child six months earlier. They avoid each other and their friends, Shoba filling her time with work and Shukumar in finishing his dissertation. The power outages allow for an intimacy between the couple not achieved since the death of their son. The base of the family is communication. Here the sorrow of the lost child causes a communication breakdown in the relationship of Shukumar and Shoba. This silence between them eventually destroys them because, in their grief, Shukumar and Shoba grow to become different people. Since they no longer share experiences, the couple grows apart. Their final secrets are painful ones - Shoba intends to move out and Shukumar violates the wishes of his wife by revealing the gender of the child. Secrecy eventually leads to broken trust. As a matter of fact, in married life, one has to know what to share and what not to. One must care about the partner's feeling and emotion.

The story is told from the third-person perspective of Shukumar. Though the narrator is omniscient, we understand the events in the story through his experiences. Even environment plays a key role in the story. The darkness is both a metaphor for Shukumar and Shoba's relationship and a safe space for the couple to bond. Both have been groping around in the dark for the sense of normalcy that was destroyed by the death of their child. The darkness forces an intimacy in the couple which they might have forgotten for a long time. By the second day, they are so liberated by the darkness that they begin to anticipate it. Finally, they turn off the lights when the planned outages cease. Darkness ushers in intimacy, which allows the couple to make love for the first time since the child's death.

Faith is one of those foundational principles of human life, which enables a person to live peacefully. Without faith, one cannot attain happiness even though he may have succeeded materialistically. In the absence of faith, man's life would be dull and depressive. Faith is the basis of happiness. Faith is also the basis of love towards one's family members, religion, culture, nation and humanity. Happiness does not lie in any outside object or substance; it is an attribute of a living faith. Faith has the power to make any object lovable and a source of joy. For example, we experience joy by looking at the photographs of our beloved ones residing far away. The story offers a broad and inclusive picture of human emotions. Several characters- Shukumar, Shoba, friends, the darkness and other- help us to understand not only the suffering but the affliction that stands as the great enigma of this human life. It describes people and their lives, their problems, emotion, sentiments, actions, human affairs, day to day activities, family problems, their struggles relations with the inner and outer world.

A Temporary Matter is a delineation of marital alienation between Shoba and Shukumar. The story focuses upon the man-woman relationship in context of bond of marriage, prime issue being the barrenness which has crept into the lives of the husband and wife - "... he thought of how he and Shoba had become experts at avoiding each other in their three-bedroom house, spending as much time on separate floors as possible" (1).

Both of them are living not as husband and wife but as a separate individual refusing

unable to even utter a word with each other. The story focuses upon the man-woman relationship in the context of the bond of marriage, the prime issue being the barrenness which has crept into the lives of the husband and wife.

Keywords: Human life and experience, emotion and feeling, man-woman relationship, family problems, their struggles, relations with the inner and outer world, wishes, intimacy, marital alienation, sorrow

Introduction:

Literature reaches deep into the essential questions of human existence. It reflects the diversity of human experience, emotion and feeling. So generally literature is a creative expression of the human imagination or wishes, which is hardly ever reflected in our actual life. A good story can, for example, offer a broad and inclusive picture of the range of human emotions. Several characters in the stories help us understand not only the suffering but the affliction that stands as the great enigma of this human life. Literature portrays human life describing people and their lives, their problems, emotion, sentiments, actions, human affairs, day to day activities, family problems, their struggles, relations with the inner and outer world. Human life is a unique texture of opposite sentiments comprise of joys and sorrows, trust and distrust, confession and hiding secrets, pains and suffering, hopes and disappointment and depression, enjoyment and celebration of beautiful things and sufferings and sharing of sad, ugly and painful things, challenging and submissive feeling, compassion and humane element. In this research paper, my objectives are to relate and find out how

the human life is projected in the short story focus on the husband-wife relationship and children- dead or alive affect couple's life

Jhumpa Lahiri is one of the very important novelists in American English literature. She is one of the most respected authors of our time. She was born in London on 11 July 1967. She is a second generation diasporic Indian American writer. She got the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2000. Her stories describe people and their lives, their problems, emotion, sentiments, actions, human affairs, day to day activities, family problems, struggles, relations with the inner and outer world.

A Temporary Matter shows the cold and harsh realities of humanity. Shukumar and his wife Shoba commits to spend their life together but find them unable to even utter a word with each other. Yet it seems to be a common sort of marital strife. The story reflects the alienation and loneliness that the emigrants face in a foreign land. The marriage bond which is still considered sacrosanct in India is slithering down under the pressure of new needs under a difficult background. *A Temporary Matter* is a delinquent story of marital alienation between Shoba and Shukumar. The story focuses upon the breakdown of a woman relationship in the context of the barren marriage, the prime issue being the barrenness which has crept into the lives of the husband and wife.

Human Relationship in A Temporary Matter

A Temporary Matter is a story about grief and secrets people keep from one another. Husband and wife Shukumar and Shoba are suffering

throughout the centuries by the male-dominated society.

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**Human Relationships in Jhumpa
Lahiri's A Temporary Matter**

Dr Anita Mudkanna

Abstract:

Jhumpa Lahiri is a creative expression of the human imagination, which is hardly ever reflected in our actual life. Jhumpa Lahiri is one of the most respected authors of our time. Her stories describe people and their lives, their problems, emotion, sentiments, actions, human affairs, day to day activities, family problems, their struggles, relations with the inner and outer world. *A Temporary Matter* shows the cold and harsh realities of humanity. Shukumar and his wife Shoba commits to spend their life together and find them

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