

## Tradition and Modernity in Literature: A continuing Dialogue

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### Abstract

Literature has always been a dynamic field where tradition and modernity encounter each other. Ancient myths, oral tales, and folk narratives not only reserve cultural memory but also shape collective identity. In modern times, however, literature has taken on the responsibility of questioning, reinterpreting and sometimes challenging these traditions in light of new realities. This paper explores how oral traditions, language, postcolonial perspectives, Urdu literature, and diasporic writing. Specially the works of Khaled Hosseini continue to influence contemporary imagination Khaled Hosseini novels show or represent the culture of colonial legacies war and migration.

In his writing he focuses on the women strength as it is shown in thousand splendid suns where he highlights how traditional notions & family honor intersect with modern fights against partition.

By focusing on some examples from world literature and such as African literature, Afghan literature and Indian Literature to illustrate that tradition is not static but dynamic and its dialogue emerging with modernity that express new values and identity and knowledge for their importance for both cultural continuity and global awareness of literature.

**Keywords:** Tradition and Modernity, Oral Traditions, Folk Narratives, Postcolonial Literature, Cultural Heritage, Urdu Literature, Language and Identity, Khaled Hosseini, Diasporic Writing, Reinterpretation in Literature.

### Introduction:

The relationship between tradition and modernity not a simple opposite but a complex interplay we can say it has always been negotiation tradition always established on beliefs customs, values, behaviors, cultural roots and ethical grounds, modernity, introduces, new ideas, innovation, Technology, scientific approaches and new and modern way to thinking to change the society, social change and cultural evolution.

Literature, more than any other enough tool to brings these two together in creative and explore the theme of globalization Ancient stories, myths, classical stories and Archaeological stores and epics provided the earliest forms of cultural knowledge such as Homer's Iliad, and odyssey and Ramayana and Mahabharata represent ancient stories include classic epics and myths other significant ancient works include Greek philosopher Plato's Republic roman literature ovid's Metamorphoses and Indian philosophical texts including Bhagavad Gita and Upnishads Fasana-e-Ajaaib by Rajab Ali Beg Suroor, Aag ka Darya by Qurratulain Hyder, Tareekh-e-urdu Noorul Hasan Naqvi urdu ancient writers works.

One thousand and one Nights Arabic ancient story book written by Ibn Tufail, Ibn-al-Muqaffa and Ancient civilization of afghanistan by worwick ball, Lost world of the Goldenking by Frank L. Holt. These are some writers represent their culture moral values, customs and traditions through his writings they were not only entertainment but also provide knowledge and social guidance.

Modern writers, however they were self-conscious separation from traditional ways of writing in both poetry & prose fiction writings modern writings experimented with literary forms with reflected the societal changes of industrialization rapid growth of technological advancement and the trauma of world war. Modern writers rejected traditional narrative experimenting with new styles, unfiltered thoughts and feelings writer's marks by a conscious decision to move away from the conventions of the past. The rapid growth of industry and the rise of capitalism profoundly changed society, creating new urban landscape that influenced the them and style of literature. New technologies contributed to a sense of a transformed world and modern writer engage with changes in their writings, they moved away from traditional values, myths, beliefs, cultural roots, ethical grounds.

Such as chinua Achebe, Modern African writer, Margaret Atwood Canadian writer both writer famous for their modern writings as well as Indian writer salman Rushdie space where ancient traditions are reinterpreted to address modern realities such as colonialism, migration gender and globalization. In this discussion we never forget Urdu literature Urdu literature plays or major role Ahmad Farar, Faiz Ahmad Faiz Ismat Chughtai, Sadaf Husan monto, Parveen Shakir, Nida Fazil writers convey the message through their works such as love social Justice, feminine empowerment and post partition trauma.

In this modern writers era one of recent writer Khaled Hosseini has emerged has appear as ancestral home voice who bridges Afghan tradition and global reading he try to carrying forward the conversation between Afghan tradition & modernity. His novels such as the kite runner, A thousand splendid suns demonstrate how stories deeply rooted in Afghan's cultural contexts, reveals to human emotions of love, loyalty, loss & resilience.

### **Oral Traditions & Folk Narratives**

Oral traditions folk Narratives are the medium of convey the cultural transmission, traditional stories, via spoken words before literature emerged it is useful to understand the culture of folktales, my this, legends, songs, proverb, poetry serving to us collective momeries of history, example Homess illad and odyssey in Greece, The Ramayana & Mahabharata epics in India. Myths and legends stories about deities like zeus and thur and heroic figures such as king Arthur legendary characters in the Jataka tales, Fairy tales like Cinderella, proverb and Riddles, Folk songs Folk dance panchtantra and countless folk cultural activities carry moral lessons.

Modern writers often return to these oral traditions & folk narratives to preserve cultural heritage always challenge dominante narratives, and explore contemporary social issues by reinterpreting traditional stories and using folk elements like rhythm repetition in their work. Indian authors, including Rabindranath Tagore and Contemporary writers like Arundhati roy, have woven folk elements, myths, and rituals into their works. African literature Hausa literature of Nigeria to discuss contemporary issues like women right's and social change.

Urdu literature too is shaped by oral tradition Sadat Hasan monto's stories employ the rhythms & street language & everyday idioms Toba Tek Singh use in his writing humor and absurdity reflects the oral culture of Panjabi storytelling. Khaled Hosseini also represent oral traditions in his writings. And the mountains echoed in this novel Khaled Hossaini begin with a father telling his daughter a fable story. This frame Afghan tradition of passing down wisdom through fealties. Now Hosseini uses it to highlight modern rarities of separation, migration and the fragmentation of families.

### **Language as a bridge**

Language not only a tool to carrys culture, emotions, traditions but also a medium to transfer their heritage Language shows as historical events truth across generation and generation language connects communities allows sharing of cultural knowledge and builds empathy.

The preservation of languages is vital for the continued existence of traditions and cultures whereas their loss can lead to erosion of cultural identify.

Chinua Acheba for example, wrote 'Things fall apart' in English but added it with Igbo proverb and cultural proverbs and cultural references try to made the novel a bridge between African tradition and modern readers. Salman Rushdies Midnights Children, salman uses Language as a bridge to capture India's postcolonial cultural and linguistics diversity by incorporating Hindi, Urdu and other local words into the English narratives.

Urdu literature provides another example of Language as a bridge. It preserve heritage, fostering unity between divests cultures and generations and connecting people across national and international borders through its rich literary tradition for example Amir Khusrus poetry written in Persiam and Hidi Language but it's a fusion of Urdu Language Though his works Urdu Language developed originally. The work of Author Premchand though his writings in Urdu, also bridging role by making literature accessible to a wider audience shared cultural heritage. Urdu and western philosophical terms to creat a language that addressed both Islamic tradition & modern intellectual concerns. Khaled Hosseini represent a contemporary example of this bridging. Hosseini's writing in English but its work deeply represent Afghan's culture, Hosseini makes local idioms accusable to a global audience.

Hosseini rewrite Pashto, persian and Arabic into English a technique called code mixing to preserve and represent Afghan authencity using universal themes and western narratives style to make his stories accessible globally. In the kite Runner, The Kite- fighting clearly describe a traditional Afghan past time the famous phrase 'For you a thousand times over" represent loyalty, scarifies and friendship values deeply embedded in Afghan Society. Similarly Novel A thousand splendid suns derives from a person poem by Saib – e- tibrize shows how tradition can travel across languages and centuries to find new life in modern English Fiction.

### **Post- colonial perspectives**

Post colonial perspectives on tradition & modernity analyze how colonization disrupted traditional literary practices postcolonial literature has used same modern forms the novel, the short stories, post colonialism challenges the idea of a single universal path colonism often conflicting, relationship between colonial "modernity" and precolonial "tradition" post colonial perspectives analyze how colonial legecies of cultural, economics, and political domination continue to shape contemporary societies.

The novel Things Fail Apart by Chinua Acheba critiques the destructive impact of British colonization an Nigerian Society and culture by depicting a pre-colonial Igbo community and the conflicts that arise from the imposition of foreign rule and religion.

Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy cultural hybridity diasporic displacement, and fragmented identities. His novel The Hungry Tide, and The Glass Palace depict the intersection of global forces with local cultures.

Arundhati Roy's fiction The God of Small Things affords a complex postcolonial perspective on the relationship between tradition & modernity. Roy's work criticizes how patriarchal tradition reinforced by modernity controls women's lives.

Urdu modernist Manto and Chughtai also serve as postcolonial voices. Manto's Thanda Gusht and Toba Tek Singh reveal the violence voices of partition movements how suffused and exhausted communities. While Chughtai's Lihaaf criticizes patriarchal structures reinforced by both tradition and modernity. Their work proves that postcolonial writing is not only about recovering tradition but also interrogating it to build new social realities.

Khaled Hosseini also operates in this postcolonial framework. His four novels reveal the Afghanistan's history of colonial legacies, communities affected by war and migration. A thousand splendid suns portrays the resilience of Afghan women against the double burden of patriarchy and political trouble and the mountain echo shows the structure of oral tales about communities migrated, displaced and exiled. Hosseini's expatriate position allows him to recover silenced Afghan voices and shows them to global audience, challenging stereotypes and colonial narratives about Afghanistan.

### **Cultural Heritage in modern writing**

Cultural heritage is preserved by past and shaping our identity with modernity. Migrated writers always struggle with balancing inherited traditions & contemporary rarities. Modern writers, poet authors reinterpreting traditions, questioning cultural norms, critics on complex and sometimes fraught relationship between tradition & modernity. Modern authors draw historical & mythological tables to represent historical issues.

Cultural heritage songs, story-telling, customs, beliefs, languages values are naturally malleable cultural heritage is difficult to preserve, because it may vary to be portrayed to globalized world by multiple diasporic writers but despite of this some works remind us that heritage does not vanish in exile, it adapts and reemerges with renewed meaning.

Saadat Hasan Manto's demonstrate brutal short stories to criticize social hypocrisy & The Partition. Ismat Chughtai who challenged conservative cultural & social norms in Lihaaf, Faiz Ahmad Faiz poetry like traditional ghazals as a voice of political struggle & Social resistance.

Khaled Hosseini's Afghani writer portrayed the example of writing cultural heritages, trauma & diaspora through his work, The Kite Runner. A thousand Splendid suns, And mountain echo. He represents the struggle of two women, Mariam & Laila, both are victims of Afghan cultural heritage, he highlights how traditional notions of family honor intersect with modern fights for dignity, love and survival. Hosseini represents audience that women are oppressive & empowering dimensions. In the novel and the mountain echo examples like artifacts such as folk songs, landscapes & poetry serve as heritage symbols. Hosseini's works remind us that heritage does not vanish in exile; it adapts and re-emerges with renewed meanings.

Mohsin Hamid's modern writings use cultural heritage as a central theme of his work. Shows shapes of identity mainly in the content of migration, globalization novel post-9/11 Return Home. Relation between East & West in Exit West. Hamid explains fluidity of cultural heritage in an age of mass migration. Jhumpa Lahiri's modern writings frequently work Bengali American experience to explore cultural heritage to explore themes of identity, displacement of belongings for Indian American immigrants. His work interpreter of Maladies represents the inner lives of Indians and Americans cultural & emotional struggle. Despite of these writes Rohinton Mistry's novels represent cultural heritage of the Parsi community in Mumbai with theme of identity & displacement.

In modern Urdu literature writer drawn the rich cultural heritage to explore there of identify. Qurratulain Hyder's Aag Ka Darya (River of Fire) represents the history through memory of migration using cultural heritage by trading characters reincarnated from ancient Magadha Kingdom to the trauma & partition.

### **Tradition & Modernity Reinterpretation**

The dynamic process of the reinterpretation of tradition & modernity refers to ancient myths, customs and beliefs that legends in new ways. Tradition & modernity refers to ancestral beliefs, customs, rituals and values passed down through generations, providing a sense of history & belonging.

Reinterpretation relationship between tradition and modernity include modern authors postcolonial authors and contemporary writers represent simple conflict with two faces are interwoven, adaptive and often in tension with one another like.

Chinua Achebe's novel 'Things Fall Apart' depicts the pre-colonial Igbo society in Nigeria as complex and rich with traditions, customs, and laws. R.K. Narayan's Malgudi Days set in the fictional town of Malgudi subtle negotiations and transformations that occur when traditional values meet modernizing forces. Reinterpretation seen in Urdu modernism work Ismat Chughtai's novel Lihaaf some writer interpreted can Lihaaf deep-rooted Patriarchal society and its norms which pressure Nawaab to marry with Begum Jan. Some are interpreted the traditional domestic space in histories. By doing so, something to be blindly preserved but as something to be interrogated & reshaped.

Khaled Hosseini's novels The Kite Runner, A thousand & splendid suns both interpreted the traditional Afghan's game kite fighting into a metaphor for innocence, betrayal & redemption. A thousand splendid suns represent the character Mariam's endurance from her husband, domestic violence, fathers in justice it is transformed from a person poetic image it reinterprets Afghanis' myths, values traditional memories in modern forms. The example shows

that Hosseini's works cultural symbols preserved and make them speak to modern struggles of migration trauma & reconciliation.

### Conclusion

The dialogue between tradition and modernity in literature is a dynamic process of negotiation folk narratives oral traditions and myths are remains of our ancestress modern writes used those remains as a sources of strength they othern used these tools such as the novel form, post colonial critiques, global readership that allow these traditions to reach wider audiences.

In Urdu literature and Afghani writer Khaled Hosseini clearly demonstrate this process from sir monto's short stories to tauba tek sigh's humur & absurdity refelect the oral culture tradition, fair's revolutionary poetry and Khaled Hosseini's diasporic narratives, we see how tradition and modernity constantly enrich to each other.

Hosseinis, in particulars, bridges Afghan cultural heritage and modern storytelling reinterpreting oral traditions, linguistic idioms & cultural memories in ways that resonate globally.

Literature shows us the traditional preservation does not erase simply it gives strength to modernity they can adapt the contort and creating new possibilities for growth and innovation writers present them work to honor the wisdom of the past while making it speak to the challenges of the present by doing so, literature becomes a bridge between cultures, histories & future ensuring that both tradition & modernity remain vital forces in shaping human identify.

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### Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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