

Negotiating Identity in Exile: Diasporic Struggles in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*

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Abstract: *This paper explores the experiences of diaspora in Jhumpa Lahiri's novel The Namesake, focusing on important themes like identity struggles, cultural separation, generational differences, and the search for belonging. The novel follows the Ganguli family, Indian immigrants who move to the United States and face many difficulties as they try to adjust to a new culture while keeping their own traditions alive. Lahiri thoughtfully shows the emotional and mental challenges of living in a foreign country, where family members must find a balance between their Indian background and the demands of American society. The story also highlights how the second generation, born and raised in the U.S., often feels torn between two cultures, causing confusion about their identity. This study uses ideas from postcolonial and diaspora theories to examine how mixed cultural identities develop in diverse societies. It looks at the continuous process of how people try to shape and reshape their sense of self amid conflicting cultural pressures. Lahiri's novel reveals the complex nature of immigrant life and the universal human need to find a place where they belong. Through the story of the Ganguli family, the book explores both the personal and social aspects of diaspora, showing how identity is influenced by history, culture, and surroundings. In the end, The Namesake provides valuable insights into what it means to live between two cultures and the ongoing search for self-understanding..*

Keywords: Diaspora, Indian-American literature, identity crisis, Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake*, hybridity, cultural alienation, generational gap

