

The Role of Storytelling in Preserving Cultural Identity in Uma Parameswaran's Works

Dr. Vandna Tiwari

Guest Faculty - Department of English
Government TRS College, Rewa, M.P.

Abstract: *Uma Parameswaran, an Indo-Canadian writer of Tamil Brahmin origin, employs storytelling—through myths, dramatic monologues, dance-drama, family narratives, and poetry—as a powerful mechanism to preserve and transmit Indian cultural identity amid the challenges of diaspora. Her works, set against the backdrop of Indian immigration to Canada, negotiate the tensions of nostalgia, alienation, hybridity, and bicultural adaptation. By reinterpreting Hindu epics and legends (such as the stories of Sita and Meera) and weaving personal immigrant experiences into narrative forms, Parameswaran not only resists cultural assimilation but also educates both the diasporic younger generation and Canadian audiences about South Indian heritage. This paper examines select plays (Sita's Promise, Meera, Rootless but Green are the Boulevard Trees), poetry (Trishanku), and fiction to demonstrate how storytelling functions as a site of cultural continuity, identity assertion, and intergenerational transmission. Drawing on qualitative textual analysis, the study highlights storytelling's role in transforming "rootlessness" into a vibrant, hybrid Canadian-Indian mosaic..*

Keywords: Diaspora, Cultural Identity, Storytelling, Mythology, Indo-Canadian Literature, Hybridity, Preservation of Heritage, Immigrant Narratives

