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THEME OF LOVE, EMOTION AND MARRIAGE IN 'UNACCUSTOMED EARTH' BY  
JHUMPA LAHIRI

Dr. MANISHA DWIVEDI<sup>\*1</sup>, ESHAGYA MESHAM<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>HOD, <sup>2</sup>M.Phil Research Scholar

Department of English, Dr. C. V. Raman University

\*dr.manishadwivedi1234@gmail.com; meshramesha1211@gmail.com



ABSTRACT

'Unaccustomed Earth' collection of eight short stories from Pulitzer Prize winner author Jhumpa Lahiri written in 2008 shows the life of Indian Immigrants living in US. This research shows the different aspects of characters in the respect of married life, their premarital relations, their extra marital affairs, their deviation from the traditional Indian way of life style, the emotions and love developed within the characters of both the generations, arrange marriage or love marriage.

KEYWORDS : Marriage, love, emotions.

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INTRODUCTION

In order to have a healthy relationship one should have an emotional connection with their partners. A marriage is based on trust, emotional and love without that any relationship couldn't survive. Unaccustomed Earth consist of eight short stories The stories are divided into two parts, first part consists of five independent stories "Unaccustomed Earth", "Hell and Heaven", " A Choice Of Accommodation", "Only Goodness", "Nobody's Business" and the second part consists of three stories intertwined with each other " Hema And Kaushik" 'Once In A Lifetime', 'Year's End', 'Going Shore'. These stories not only deal in the interrelationship of the character, but the stories basically revolve around emotional attachment towards each other.

Love is often classified as philo (brotherly love), eros (sexual love), agape (selfless love) and storge (parental love). The short story 'Nobody's Business' is a complex love story of two major characters Sangeet aka Sang and Paul. Sang a Bengali women in her thirties living in US share a apartment with Paul and Heather and Paul develops a secret love for her. Later in the story they find that Sang has a boyfriend named Farooq and Paul never expresses his feeling towards Sang. At first everything seems to be ok between Farooq and Sang but after three years of strong relation they started to drift apart from each other. They have fights daily and when Sang directly talks to Farooq about getting settle he goes out of the house with giving excuse about not getting married to a girl like her in anger. After this fight she goes to London to visit her sister and then a phone call from a girl name Deirdre comes for Sang, and Paul talks to her and comes to know about the truth about Farooq. When Sang is back she receives a call from Deirdre and then she comes to know the truth about Farooq. In all this Paul hides his feeling towards Sang and goes to confront Farooq with her with all the drama at the end the truth is reviled in front of her. And she leaves US and get settle in London with her sister. In all

this we can see relation, betrayal, silent love, breaking of trust, in a relationship beautifully intertwined with each other.

The other story of Ruma's Father in 'Unaccustomed Earth' is shown by Jhumpa Lahiri as this is a love relation of first generation. As he is ready to start a new life by breaking the stereotype norm after the death of her wife by getting settled with a widow of his own age Mrs. Bagchi. In search of place for one's own where no one knows him. Here the first generation love story is shown by Lahiri.

In 'Hell-Heaven' the story is about extramarital affair between Usha's mother Aparna and a Bengali boy Pranab. Here the story is been narrated by Usha about her earlier life and the impact of her mother's relations childhood and adulthood. The stories show about infatuation, betrayal, jealousy. The title itself shows two forms of mental of the intimate of two traditionally opposite world eternal sorrow (hell) and pleasure (heaven). As Usha's mother finds heaven in her relation with Pranab and the depiction of hell when the love marriage of Pranab and Debarshi comes to an end.

In the last three chapters the story is of Hema and Kaushik entangled relationship their stories start with Hema (6yrs) and Kaushik (9yrs) growing up as siblings in innocent love. Kaushik and Hema both born in US and Kaushik moving back to India with his family. Their diasporic family has close relationship. By the age of 13 and 16 Hema and Kaushik emotionally close to each other. After Kaushik gets in university for further studies he is deep shock about his mother's death and has to face the fact that his father has married to Chitra after his mother's death. After this incident both Hema and Kaushik break up with each other. And Hema marries Naveen, later at the end of the trilogy we come to know about that Kaushik is dead. Hema and Kaushik emotional entangled in three stages of their life the three chapters.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Thus this research shows how love, emotional connection, marriages falling apart, new relation bond, extra marital affairs all different shades of modern relationships are beautifully intertwined with each other the characters portrayal by Jhumpa Lahiri. Lahiri has shown love a highly comforting self-fulfilling human experience. It is love to which the world has to head and hold. These stories are coughed entangled between the family relations, culture traditions, individual identities, sense of isolation and alienation and finally death.

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