



**ASHIMA GANGULI'S DIASPORIC LIFE IN JHUMPA LAHIRI'S
*THE NAMESAKE***

THESIS

By

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
JEMBER UNIVERSITY
2010**



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A THESIS

presented to the English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University
in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra
in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is gratefully dedicated to:

My Mother, my loving confidante, Eko Sulistyaningsih

My Father, my witty confidant, Takim Bastiawan

My Ma and my Pa, beautiful roots of mine

My boon companion, Nirdesh Kumar

My beloved Alma Mater

MOTTO

The greatest journeys are the ones that bring you home.*)

*) Mira Nair, 2006. Film's Tagline for *The Namesake*.

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled *Ashima Ganguli's Diasporic Life in Jhumpa Lahiri's The Namesake* is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publication. I certify that to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in this preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, October 29th 2010

The Writer

(Mening Marganingsih)

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis has been approved and defended in front of the examination committee of Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

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Hopefully, this thesis may have been a good contribution towards the English studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of Literature.

SUMMARY

Ashima Ganguli's Diasporic Life in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*; Mening Marganingsih, 050110101085; 2010: 58 pages; English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University.

The Namesake is a well-crafted novel of Jhumpa Lahiri that delivers the theme of diaspora; the scattering of people, language, or culture that was formerly congregated in one place. The novel depicts how the Gangulis deals with diasporic life in the United States. The thesis analysis draws attention to diasporic life of Ashima Ganguli as the female protagonist of the novel. The experience of moving from India to the United States makes Ashima Ganguli an exceptional woman. Thus, her diasporic life is truly noteworthy to analyze intensely. The thesis analysis investigates the beginning of Ashima Ganguli's diasporic life, the complexities she faces in the every stage of her diasporic life, and the final decision that she makes dealing with her diasporic life.

Furthermore, in examining the data, inductive method is used by exploring specific details that Ashima Ganguli conducts in order to conceive the general idea. Postcolonial approach is used in this thesis to analyze the matter of identity of Ashima Ganguli who comes from India as the minor system to the United States as the central system. Besides, cross-cultural psychological perspective is applied in examining the psychological aspects that Ashima Ganguli encounters in her diasporic life. With the intention of profoundly studying the case of Ashima Ganguli's diasporic life, the notion of diaspora as well as that of attending issues are applied. This thesis is done through library research. The data are collected from several books and encyclopedia dealing with theory of diaspora, postcolonial theory, cross-cultural psychological theory, and other notions that are pertinent to the topic of

discussion. In addition, a number of data taken from internet resources are applied to support the analysis of the thesis. This thesis contributes to understanding about diaspora, diasporic life, and the attending issues. It also tries to provide an intense description and analysis of diasporic life as the depiction of Ashima Ganguli's life in *The Namesake*. In addition, this thesis is hoped to be a helpful contribution for further research relating to South Asian American Literature, especially in Jhumpa Lahiri's works.

The findings of the thesis analysis describe that Ashima Ganguli's moving to the United States occurs as a consequence of her arranged marriage. Subsequently, she is expected to obediently follow her husband to fly to the unfamiliar place and leave her beloved family in India. Then, the analysis points out homesickness and nostalgia as the heaviest difficulties that Ashima Ganguli often endures in her diasporic life. Besides, issues concerning diaspora such as acculturative stress, culture clash, hybridity, and negotiation give prominence to Ashima Ganguli's diasporic life. As a wife and a mother living in a diaspora, Ashima Ganguli does what she can do to uphold the Bengali traditions inside her house. Meanwhile, as a part of Indian diasporic community, Ashima Ganguli feels connected to the other Indian people living in the United States. Lastly, the thesis analysis gives evidence that after some years, Ashima Ganguli's perception of home changes. She is able to accept that the United States is the place where she has started to build her life as a wife for her husband, a mother for her children as well as a friend for everyone whose ethnicities and cultures are different. Somehow she realizes that her home is not only India but also America.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FRONTPIECE	i
DEDICATION PAGE	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION PAGE	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	vi
SUMMARY	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The Rationale	1
1.2 The Problems to Discuss	2
1.3 The Goals of the Study	3
1.4 The Method of Analysis	3
CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	4
2.1 Previous Researches in Relation to the Study	4
2.1.1 Previous Researches in Relation to Indian Diaspora in the United States.....	4
2.1.2 Previous Researches in Relation to <i>The Namesake</i>	7
2.2 Postcolonial Approach	8
2.3 Cross-cultural Psychological Perspective	9

2.4 Diaspora	10
2.5 Issues Concerning Diaspora	12
2.5.1 Homesickness and Nostalgia	12
2.5.2 Acculturative Stress.....	15
2.5.3 Culture Clash.....	16
2.5.4 Hybridity	16
2.5.5 Negotiation	18
2.5.6 Cultural Preservation	18
2.5.7 Ethnic In-group Contact	20
CHAPTER 3. ASHIMA GANGULI’S DIASPORIC LIFE IN JHUMPA	
LAHIRI’S <i>THE NAMESAKE</i>	21
3.1 The Brief History of Ashima Ganguli’s Coming to the	
United States	21
3.1.1 Arranged Marriage	21
3.1.2 Ashima Ganguli’s Coming to the United States	23
3.2 Ashima Ganguli’s Diasporic Life before Becoming	
a Mother	25
3.2.1 Homesickness and Nostalgia	26
3.2.2 Acculturative Stress	28
3.3 Ashima Ganguli’s Diasporic Life after Becoming	
a Mother	29
3.3.1 Homesickness and Nostalgia	29
3.3.2 Culture Clash.....	37
3.3.3 Hybridity	41
3.3.4 Negotiation	42
3.3.5 Cultural Preservation	44
3.3.6 Ethnic In-group Contact	50

3.4 Ashima Ganguli’s Diasporic Life after the Death of Her Husband	52
3.4.1 Cultural Preservation	52
3.4.2 Ethnic In-group Contact	54
3.5 Ultimate Decision of Ashima Ganguli’s Diasporic Life.....	54
CHAPTER 4. CONCLUSION	58
BIBLIOGRAPHY	59
APPENDICES:	xii
A. The Biography of Jhumpa Lahiri	xii
B. The Synopsis of <i>The Namesake</i>	xv

