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Article

Exploring Identity and Trauma: Social Realism and Object Relations in the Works of Temsula Ao and Easterine Kire

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Abstract:

Temsula Ao and Easterine Kire are the two well-known writers from Nagaland who provide an in-depth analysis into the emotional and sociopolitical environments of the Naga people through their literary works. Their works explore the themes of the region's complicated history, which is highlighted by political unrest, cultural change, and the tragedy of bloodshed and displacement. This paper explores how the writings of both the writers employ the strategies of "Object Relation and Social Realism". The concept of social realism explicitly depicts the traumatic reality of Nagaland, with special reference to political unrest, identity conflicts, and gender norms. Additionally, this paper delves into the psychological nuances in the portrayal of relationships, particularly those between family and community, with a particular focus on object relation theory. Through a close examination of important works by both Temsula Ao and Eastrine Kire, this paper aims to vividly show how these authors use literature to bring attention to both individual and collective trauma, and how their exploration of personal relationships helps us understand identity and emotional strength.

Keywords: Temsula Ao, Easterine Kire, Social Realism, Object Relations, Naga Literature, Trauma, Identity, Political Conflict

1. INTRODUCTION

Temsula Ao and Easterine Kire are two prominent authors of Naga literature whose works capture the tumultuous past and rich cultural legacy of Nagaland. Both authors discuss the sociopolitical issues that have molded the area, such as the long-running insurgency and the Naga people's quest for independence. Despite their strong connection to the Nagaland environment, their works explore universal issues of identity, pain, and human connections.

Social realism is one of the most key features in both Ao's and Kire's works, as they explicitly depict the harsh realities of life in a society marked by political violence and cultural dislocation. They often use literature as a tool to critique social structures, illuminate the suffering of ordinary people, and explore how individuals and communities navigate these challenges. At the same time, their works delve into the psychological dimensions of their characters, focusing on personal relationships and emotional development. This aspect of their writing aligns with object relations theory, a concept from psychoanalysis that navigates how early relationships, particularly within the family, shape an individual's emotional world and capacity for future relationships.

This research paper examines how Temsula Ao and Easterine Kire employ social realism and object relation in their works, with a specific focus on how these features aid in expressing the identity and societal struggles of the Naga people.Temsula Ao and

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Easterine Kire's Works: Social Realism in Their Works In literature, we refer to the depiction of ordinary life and socioeconomic conditions—often with an emphasis on the perspectives of underprivileged groups—as social realism. Social realism is a tool used by both Ao and Kire to illuminate the realities of life in Nagaland, especially when it comes to political unrest, gender roles, and cultural relocation.

The ongoing political struggle between the Naga people and the Indian state is one of the main themes in the writings of both Ao and Kire. The decades-long Naga insurgency has left a lasting legacy of bloodshed, uncertainty, and terror in society. These Hills Called Home: Stories from a War Zone, Temsula Ao's collection of short stories, provides a compelling portrayal of this conflict by highlighting the lives of common people caught in the crossfire. Narratives such as "The Last Song" demonstrate how the violence leaves lasting psychological damage and how political unrest affects even the most private facets of life.

Similarly, in Easterine Kire's work "A Terrible Matriarchy" offers a moving examination of the ways in which political violence impacts the daily existence of the Naga people. Political upheaval acts as a continual reminder of the larger socioeconomic issues the town faces, even though the narration mostly centers on the experiences of a little girl growing up in a patriarchal society. Through the hardships of political activism and cultural legacy, Kire's work highlights how the Naga people's identity is developed, with protagonists frequently facing issues of survival and belonging.

2. GENDER ROLES IN SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Ao and Kire, both of them, concentrate on the roles that women play in Naga society. Through their work, they scrutinize how women in the Naga community navigate their roles within a male-dominated culture, utilizing social realism as a critical tool to challenge patriarchal norms. The tale "The Pot Maker" in Ao's Laburnum for My Head depicts the subdued resistance of a lady who devotes herself to her love of creating pots, defying social expectations. This small act of self-expression is a metaphor to women's larger struggles to claim their individuality in a culture that is obsessed with patriarchal norms.

Easterine Kire's *A Terrible Matriarchy* further explores the theme of gender roles by focusing on the protagonist, Dielieno, as she grows up in a traditional Naga family where her grandmother, the head of the household, enforces strict patriarchal values. Kire's depiction of women's lives highlights the tension between tradition and modernity as younger generations seek to challenge the gender roles imposed upon them by cultural norms. Through these depictions, both Ao and Kire use social realism to bring attention to the complex and often contradictory roles that women play in Naga society.

In Easterine Kire's "A Terrible Matriarchy", the main character Dielieno grew up in a traditional Naga home which was influenced by the harsh patriarchal norms of her grandmother, and the head of the household. This instance allows Kire to delve deeper into the problems of gender roles. Kire's portrayal of women's lives emphasizes the ongoing conflict between modernity and tradition as younger generations try to question the gender roles that society has imposed upon them. Both Ao and Kire employ social realism in their portrayals to highlight the nuanced and frequently conflicting roles that women play in Naga society.

3. EASTERINE KIRE AND TEMSULA AO'S WORKS ON OBJECT RELATIONS

Object relation theory, another branch of psychoanalysis theory, explores the early encounters of individuals, particularly those that occur within the family. These encounters have a lasting impact on an individual's mind and emotional growth, ultimately influencing their ability to form future relationships. Relationship interactions within the family and outside the family are very pivotal in portraying the emotional experiences of the various characters in the works of both Temsula Ao and Eastrine Kire.

4. RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE FAMILY AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Family ties are frequently tense in Temsula Ao's stories, reflecting the emotional burdens people bear in a culture characterized by tragedy and war. The tale "The Letter" in These Hills Called Home examines the tense bond formed by both physical and emotional separation between a mother and her son. The unsolved issues between the two characters serve as a reminder of the lasting effects that childhood events—especially those originating from familial ties—can have on an adult's emotional growth and interpersonal dynamics. The object relations theory, which highlights the long-lasting influence of early interactions on one's emotional development, is consistent with this topic of unresolved familial conflict.

In Easterine Kire's A Terrible Matriarchy, the relation between the main character Dielieno and her grand mother serves as a perfect example of how can generation gap and its conflicts can affect the emotional development of an individual, and may lead to the disturbance in one's life. Throughout the story, Dielieno experiences emotional detachment from her grandmother due to her rigid, conventional beliefs, which often leave the girl wondering if she truly fits into this society. The depicted generational conflicts underscore the emotional challenges arising from familial relationships in a rapidly changing society. This represents a significant portion of the Naga community, as they struggle to maintain a balance between their traditional culture and the rapidly evolving modern society.

5. THE COMMUNITY AS AN ADDED FAMILY

Ao and Kire often portray society as an extended family that influences character's psychological and emotional connections of an individual with the society and with one's self. The intricate network of Naga communities

plays a crucial role in defining Naga civilization, where the expectations and opinions of others significantly impact individuals. Temsula Ao in "Laburnum for My Head" perfectly portrays this opinion. For example, the story's protagonist considers arranging her own funeral, a decision that could potentially defy societal convention. Our protagonist frequently finds herself caught between her personal wishes and her societal obligations.

Similarly, the protagonist's journey in Kire's "When the River Sleeps" is not just about physical but also a psychological investigation of his position in the greater community. Throughout this story, he encounters ongoing challenges in his interactions with others, which alters his sense of self. This aligns with object relations theory, which suggests that the community functions as an 'object' influencing the psychological development of characters, shaping their sense of identity and emotional well-being.

6. TRAUMA AND THE MEETING POINT OF OBJECT RELATIONS AND SOCIAL REALISM

Violence, displacement, and cultural loss often lead to trauma in Ao and Kire's works, a recurring theme that melds with social realism and object relation theory. The characters in their works embark on a journey that is both psychosocial and psychological. These theories expand on a more profound comprehension of the ways in which individuals and societies try to cope with the traumas in their lives. The Naga people endure trauma throughout their lives. For instance, the insurgency is portrayed in "These Hills Called Home" by not only the explicit brutality but also by implicit emotional scars that have a long-lasting impact on the protagonist. This results in the inability of the characters to develop a healthy relationship with society as well as with themselvesf. These traumas also contribute to their sense of isolation from society and from themselves. These traumas not only affect interpersonal skills but also intrapersonal skills.

In a similar vein, the hardships of political violence are magnified via experiences of those who struggle between rebels for example the Indian government in Kire's "Bitter Wormwood". The emotional reactions of the characters to trauma, such as numbness, wrath, or grief, represent the larger breakdown of Naga society as a result of political persecution. Both Ao and Kire employ object relations theory to examine how broader societal and political forces influence interpersonal relationships by concentrating on the emotional fallout from trauma.

7. CONCLUSION

The works of Temsula Ao and Easterine Kire provides an important view of the society, political, and affective aspects of the Naga community. Both the authors vividly depict the difficulties faced by people and communities in an area that is marked and characterized by war and cultural change through the application of social realism. In addition, their comprehension of interpersonal and intrapersonal ties gives their works a psychological depth that enables readers to empathize with the characters' emotional lives as well. It helps us better understand how individual and societal trauma impacts identity and belonging in Naga society by looking at how social realism and object relations theory connect in the writings of Ao and Kire. Their stories demonstrate people's tenacity in navigating the intricacies of their lives, serving as a reminder of the ability of storytelling to shed light on the human condition in the face of hardship.

This literature review has thoroughly examined the trade relations between India and the European Union (EU), providing a nuanced understanding of their economic interactions. Several key themes have emerged from the review, each contributing to a comprehensive picture of the current state and future potential of this important bilateral relationship.

The review highlights the significant evolution of trade dynamics between India and the EU. Starting with the foundational Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CPA) in 1994, the relationship has grown substantially. The establishment of the EU-India Trade Sub-Commission and the ongoing negotiations for the Broad-Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) have played pivotal roles in shaping and expanding trade interactions. The increase in trade volumes, as well as the complex sectoral patterns observed, reflects the deepening economic integration between the two regions.

A detailed sectoral analysis reveals the complementary nature of trade between India and the EU. India's exports include textiles, pharmaceuticals, and engineering products, while the EU exports machinery, chemicals, and high-tech goods to India. This complementary trade pattern underscores the mutual benefits derived from their economic relationship and highlights how each region supports the other's economic needs.

The institutional frameworks governing India-EU trade, notably the EU-India Trade Sub-Commission and the ongoing BTIA negotiations, are critical for managing and enhancing their economic relationship. The Trade Sub-Commission provides a structured platform for dialogue and resolution of trade issues, while the BTIA aims to address trade barriers and regulatory discrepancies. These frameworks are essential for facilitating continued economic cooperation and addressing challenges.

Despite the progress, several challenges remain, including non-tariff barriers, regulatory discrepancies, and market access issues. These barriers impede the full realization of the trade potential between India and the EU and require targeted efforts to address them. However, the future holds significant promise. Successful completion of the BTIA negotiations and deeper economic integration could provide new opportunities for growth and cooperation. Adapting to evolving global economic conditions will be crucial for strengthening the trade relationship further.

In conclusion, the reviewed studies provide valuable insights into the complexities and opportunities within India-EU trade relations. The evolution of trade dynamics, sectoral patterns, institutional frameworks, and ongoing

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challenges offer a comprehensive understanding of the current state of this economic relationship. Continued engagement, strategic cooperation, and resolution of existing barriers will be key to realizing the full potential of the trade partnership between India and the EU.

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