



Representing Identity as Fragmented in the Post-colonial Context: A Study of Meena Alexander's Autobiographical Texts

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Abstract

The postcolonial era has given rise to a group of Diaspora writers, who leave their native place and settle in a foreign land. They write such narratives which focus on the trauma of dislocation, suffering of separation and loss of home land. The idea of self is more problematic with such writers which is portrayed as split, cracked, fragmented and hyphenated. Meena Alexander in her autobiographical writings *Fault Lines: A Memoir* (1993) and *The Shock of Arrival: Reflections on Postcolonial Experience* (1996) problematizes the concept of self by introducing the idea of division and fragmentation. In her life narratives she represents her fragmented identity through some beautiful imagery. She compares herself with a stone, dried poppy seeds, barbed wire, waste basket, and with a parrot.

Keywords: Diaspora, Dislocation, Separation, Loss of Home Land, Fragmented Identity.