

Introduction

Postcolonial literature is richly engaged contemporary English literature all over the world. Caryl Phillips is one of the most reflective international writers, who continuously deals with displacement. Moreover, he has nine novels and many other non-fictional works at his credit. Caryl Phillips' *Crossing the River* is one of the most interesting postcolonial novels, shortlisted for the Booker Prize. The aim of the present inquiry is to analyze the novel *Crossing the River* from the point of displacement, racism, slavery, and identity crisis.

As said earlier, Caryl Phillips is a significant living writer of the contemporary literary world. He has proved himself noticeable novelist by receiving various prestigious awards. His novels have been widely read all over the world and students have reviewed his novels from different perspectives. Somehow, the writer has not received the due critical attention that he should deserve by the Indian researchers. Therefore, the present research attempts to provide a comprehensive critical statement on Phillips' novel *Crossing the River* (1993).

As Caryl Phillips is well known postcolonial diasporic writer, this research begins with a historical overview of postcolonialism with special consideration of diasporic postcolonial literature and the image of Caryl Phillips as a writer. The present research is limited to study his novel *Crossing the River*.

The present research comprises of four chapters. As mentioned earlier, in the first chapter life and works of Caryl Phillips are discussed which may help to comprehend the features of his writing, his contribution to the literature as well as to note the major influences on him. Similarly, in this chapter some special events in Phillips' life are mentioned that may help to point recurring autobiographical elements reflected in his works.

Whereas the second chapter deals with the theoretical framework of diaspora that in fact, provides an essential account of the postcolonialism and diaspora. In addition to this the second chapter explains major issues of postcolonialism, definition and meaning

of diaspora ,and also characteristics of diaspora .Nevertheless in this chapter the attempt is made to explain many key terms related to diaspora that will further assist to interpret the selected novel accordingly .

In the third chapter, *Crossing the River* is examined in terms of the postcolonial themes.In other words, researcher modestly attempts to point the postcolonial diasporic issues like displacement, racism, slavery, and dialectics of marginalization presented by Phillips. In this chapter researcher presents evidences of grim reality of the black diaspora, their shattered families, and struggle for survival into host country. This account helps us to understand Phillips' concern for diaspora. Similarly, shows that the diaspora is not only a theme but it is the rootcause, as well as basis of his writings.

The fourth chapter is conclusion. The present research has tried to focus out problems of the diaspora in the western society and to study racism, slavery as well as to find out how displaced people search for self-identity. The chapter conclusion points out that the novel *Crossing the River* certainly exposes the concern .It notes how Phillips not only voiced the problems of marginalized but also made a personal crusade for equality through his writings. Besides this, it comments how Phillips successfully presented the problems of assimilation. In short, it notes his unique presentation of the universal predicament of the displaced people, through the selected historical events. Specifically focusing on Phillips' unique contribution to the body of the postcolonial literature.

To sum up, it can modestly be claimed that the present research is an attempt to study the novel *Crossing the River* through the postcolonial perspective and to observe mode of psychologically and spiritually fragmented lives of diaspora in the novel . It endeavors to study his novel from the point of view of highlighting his authorial motives and assertion of his identities reflected in his work of art.