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CULTURAL COMBAT AMID DIASPORA: REPRESENTATIONS IN  
*BORN CONFUSED AND QUEEN OF DREAMS*

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ABSTRACT

Culture in broader terms is viewed as a symbolic construction of the vast array of a social group's experiences, the embodiment, and the chronicle of a group's history. Since the group histories of different sections of society differ in important ways, their cultures are correspondingly different. Group histories are inextricably linked with the material conditions of society, so that cultures are marked by the social and the economic conditions of the group at the various stages of its history. That is why the process of cultural production is, in part a process of cultural transformation. At any given time a group will inherit certain cultural institutions and traditions, but its acts of reiteration or repudiation, its everyday interactions and its ritual practices will serve to select, modify or transform these institutions. The above mentioned novels realistically depict the problems of Indian immigrants who endeavored to assimilate into American lifestyles and foreground the issue of cultural conflict within the domestic spaces of the two families after migration. These novels vanguard the problems and differences between first generation and second generation immigrants and lucratively shows how the second generation immigrant's are always ambivalent whether to take on their conventional culture of their parents or to sink into the existing one. Ultimately the cultural disorientation comes into play in the lives of the second generation immigrants and finally starts questioning themselves within which culture to assimilate into.

**Keywords:** Culture, Diaspora, Immigration, Ambivalence, Assimilation.

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INTRODUCTION

Every individual is a part of a particular society and society is composed of different races, religions, social and ethnic groups. To be a part of society socialization is important because, socialization is the process by which an individual acquire knowledge, language, social skills and values to be conventional to the norms and roles required for integration into a society. Within the process of socialization the symbolic construction of the vast array of social and ethnic group's experiences, the embodiment, and the chronicle of a group's history is termed as culture. Culture refers to the languages, beliefs, values, norms, customs, knowledge and skills that people learnt, and that make up the way of life of any society. Culture is passed on from one