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**The Evaluation of Child Development in Kamila Shamsie's Visionary
Trilogy: A Bildungsroman Analysis of The City by the Sea, Burnt
Shadows, and Home Fire**



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Abstract

This qualitative study explores child development in the visionary trilogy by Kamila Shamsie using a thematic analysis within a Bildungsroman structure with four accumulated forces, namely, trauma and resilience, the family influence, the cultural belonging in Kamila Shamsie's visionary trilogy: *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows*, and *Home Fire*. *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows* and *Home Fire* are the interrelated novels by Kamila Shamsie that provide the in-depth study of the topic of maturation within the context of the significant historical events, which is a unique chance to study the developmental processes affected by the mass trauma. This paper thus reviews the complex research of child and adolescent development in this futurist trilogy, and how the inter-textual subjects of trauma and resilience, family impact, and cultural affiliation all contribute to the collective development of the psychological and ethical character of its youthful heroes. Theoretically informed by developmental psychology and the postcolonial theory, the research applies a qualitative thematic analysis built on a Bildungsroman framework to trace the non-linear trajectories of characters going through the events around the partition of Karachi to the bombing of Nagasaki and marginalization of the British-Muslim diaspora. It has been identified that the transmission of trauma between generations and the pressure of cultural displacement are not just the decorative elements of the narrative but the driving forces that essentially define identity negotiation, and moral maturity can be gained through a multifaceted play of historical recollection and blood ties. In the end, it is concluded of this present research that the work by Shamsie is reinventing the Bildungsroman of the 21st century that individual coming-of-age is always sublimated by the remnants of the past, the complications of family, and the forces of societal prejudice that pervade, thus provides a highly crucial literary model of development in the postcolonial world.

Keywords: Bildungsroman, Child Development, Kamila Shamsie, Identity Formation, Trauma Studies, Postcolonial Literature, Thematic Analysis, Coming-of-Age.

Introduction

Kamila Shamsie, is a born British Pakistani author who was born in 1973 and she has earned critical acclaim, courtesy to her novels which have explored issues of identity, culture and moral issues of a new generation. This element of her literary endeavor is rather sharp in per se in the light of Bildungsroman as the genre which can be best utilized in the context of the consciousness of the past and the moral quandary (Bakhtin, 1986). *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows*, and *Home Fire* by Shamsie are interwoven with each other because they are linked to the problems of young adults and adolescents whose growth can be complicated due to the excessive influence of their families, culture and socio-politics crisis. Conventionally Bildungsroman genre chronicles the experience of growing up of a hero in the actual life about his/her morality and his/her establishment of a fixed

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self-identity (Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms, 1999). Shamsie can also transform this construction into the postcolonial world of today where her characters have no easy way towards the self-discovery. On the contrary, they have to juggle between the in-betweenness of having two or more cultures they belong to, the shadow or the trauma of the past and the confusing migratory experience. That way, her novels become text-filled ones where the behavior of the people, family values, social culture, historical memory, and the political revolutions live in the undebated (Shamsie, 2003; 2009; 2017). The subsequent notion which Shamsie conveys with the help of child and teenage stage is that this is a significant stage of moral thinking and self-development that is strongly rooted in a specific cultural context. Following her narrations, development is a process that is situational and not linear and process is dependent on the effects of such forces as trauma, displacement and social responsibility (Erikson, 1950; Marcia, 1966). The blend of the psychological with the sociological and the postcolonial approach that Shamsie offers, provides him with an opportunity to create the novel approach to Bildungsroman that gives a profound insight in the destiny of the generation of people that grew up in the world that globalization and war have changed.

Background of the Study

The *City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows* and *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie are not technically a trilogy but the central theme of childhood and youth with a political war, migration and cultural bargain are connected. They give an emergent vision of the young who is one wherein identity is ceaselessly constructed in the precarious situations of social-political order: Hasan in the *City by the Sea* struggles with authoritarianism, Karim in *Burnt Shadows* struggles with the post-war bombing of the world Nagasaki, the Pasha brothers in *Home Fire* struggle with the British-Muslim diasporic crisis. The images of these works through the prism of Bildungsroman make it possible to realize a more significant fact about personal development, which is directly connected to the historical trauma, displacement, relations in the family. What Shamsie brings to the overall situation of the postcolonial and diasporic literature is how the theme of coming-of-age is responded to in the world that has been disintegrated by the very process of globalization and war. The rationale of placing her novels in this argument in this paper is to define a higher instance of how the youngsters maneuver their spiny realities nowadays.

Research Gap

The available studies regarding the novels by Shamsie tend to approach them separately, and the bias in particular object to the problems of geopolitics, migration, or gender. There is however an absence of comparative studies, which specifically examine the child development and the complex processes. The Bildungsroman pattern is not always used in discussing her fiction, which is evidence of not knowing how well she is able to achieve so brilliantly the technique of depicting the life of the young people, who are being forced to deal with trauma, displacement and cultural identity loss. No comprehensive and cumulative study has ever been carried out using *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows*, and *Home fire* as a work block in this very end. This paper bridges this gap and it is the first effort to study this trilogy of visionary works by Shamsie comparatively, by unveiling its systemic examination on how it speaks out how youth is being constructed in the

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postcolonial world.

Research Objectives

To examine the way in which the protagonists at youthful age were depicted in three novels, we can look at it through the theoretical background of Bildungsroman.

To find out the emotional, moral and social-cultural issues of the novels that precondition the transformation of the younger generation of Shamsie.

To find out whether or not the three novels can be read as a continuous series of historically-conscious works, thus, justifying the idea of a visionary trilogy.

Significance of the Study

The study is relevant in the fact that it gives a useful but not well developed dimension of the activity of Shamsie and that of children and adolescence development. It is concerned with the effects of authoritarianism, traumatic past and diasporic struggles on emotional self-building and the moral decision making. The paper exposes how Shamsie recreates Bildungsroman to the globalized world where politics, culture and family in the making of youth identities have a complex relationship with each other. In the latter, it is a good contribution to the postcolonial literature, the trauma studies and the study of childhood, providing an alternative perspective of what the transnational youth may be relatable to, and what Shamsie does adds to the impact of the macro-level trends of the contemporary coming-of-age texts.

Scope of the Study

The detailed study of child development in the novels of Kamila Shamsie *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows* and *Home Fire* has been done in the current paper. This discussion has been set out in the background of different cultural, historical, geographical background of Pakistan, India, Japan and England in the perspective of determining the role played by such backgrounds in adopting the forms of adolescents. Following the inter-disciplinary approach of integrating the postcolonial theory, childhood studies and the literary tradition of Bildungsroman, the work examines the techniques of narration, characterization and plot lines in terms of approach to the questions of cultural belonging, socialization and trauma and the family life. Its main argument is that the book child development process in the Shamsie novels is a non-linear, non-linear process, which is very influenced by trauma, loss, and displacement. This is addressed with the help of certain assumptions about each of the novels: in *The City by the Sea* the family and the culture will also participate in the maturation of the protagonist; in *Burnt Shadows* the maturation of the characters will be pre-conditioned by the disastrous events of the historic past; in *Home Fire* the impact of the diasporic experience will assist in the description of the formation of the Pasha brothers. The proposed research is expected to contribute to the postcolonial literature, childhood studies and Bildungsroman theory through the assistance of qualitative literary analysis of both primary and secondary literature to create an insight to new knowledge in the child development in various cultures and guide subsequent research.

Literature Review

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This literature review summarizes major debates in the literature on the history of Bildungsroman development, developmental psychology and postcolonial theory to develop a comprehensive model of child and adolescent development in the novels of Kamila Shamsie. It looks at the manner in which the classic coming-of-age story, which may trace how a protagonist becomes a part of a stable society, is completely redefined in *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows* and *Home Fire* by Shamsie. Transcending a postcolonial setting, the review is based on the assumption that the work by Shamsie changes the genre and makes the social integration become a complicated issue of the identity striving to be found in the backdrop of historical trauma, family strife and cultural displacement. Each of these strands interlaced forms the basis of this section and explains how Shamsie young protagonists find their way through a non-linear process of maturity, which is heavily influenced by forces that are well beyond their individual of control.

Child Assessment Development.

The youth is not an easy task of defining the identity, survival by the trauma of the epoch, coming of age of culturally volatile and politically insecure worlds, which are the topics of the books *The City by the Sea*, *Burnt Shadows*, and *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie. Karachi furnace where Hasan must deal with the authoritarian father and the violence of Karachi in general affects coming-of-age of the main character in *The City by the Sea*. This trend is exaggerated in *Burnt Shadows* since the historical tragedy of Nagasaki bombing is the trauma in a transnational description of diasporic exile. The formation of the characters such as Hiroko and her son Raza is both personal and integrative affair of the emotional and moral rationality to survive in the cross-continental world because what transpires of the world directly intrude into the lives of the individuals as we can see the case of Hiroko and her son Raza. In the same way, Pasha siblings in *Home Fire* are depicted to develop in the culturally unstable and politically unsafe environment of the modern Britain. They may be defined by the unrelenting clash between the Islamic origin of their family and the social stigma they have to struggle with, the conflict that causes them to reach the stage of serious moral and mental bargaining with each other. All these stories present characters, which Shamsie has created not as the consequences of the process, which is one-dimensional, but as the result of the desperate struggle, not to mention the complex dynamics within a family. Following these psychological and moral changes, Shamsie rewrites the classical Bildungsroman in which the child-formation is changed into the political and transnational-formation. This treatise has shown that the lives of people are infiltrated with the machineries of macro-level that lead to development of strong, ambivalent and politically conscious youths.

Classical Foundations

The discussion of the problem of morality and identity formation in the literary world is reflected in the early Bildungsroman works as well. The will and demands of the society are in a contradiction, which is described by the individual desires and social principles of *David Copperfield* (1849-1850), negotiated by Charles Dickens. Mark Twain *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885) is concerned with the invention of morality in social and cultural prohibition as much as his *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) is concerned with identity and classes perception. Despite the fact that these novels established the key issues of the genre in the Western setting, the models are

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re-created in the postcolonial world in the novel by Kamila Shamsie. Indicatively as David Copperfield starts narrating a personal struggle with the English society, Shamsie's *The City by the Sea*, the same struggle is brought out, but under different setting, the socially dubious environment of Karachi. Likewise the Moral quest of Huckleberry Finn resonates with the modern global world of the *Burnt Shadows* that make the characters devise a moral compass in the world continents following the eruption of enormous historical disasters. Moreover, *The Great Gatsby* brings out the question of identity based on the issue of class, *Home Fire* reiterates the hunt of the 21st century based on the precariousness of belonging and citizenship of the British-Muslim diaspora. In this way, these illustrations, as a prototype of the classical illustrations, are recruited by the novels of Shamsie to engage, subvert, and develop the issues of the contemporary world life.

Psychological Perspectives

The existing development theories can also be extended to expound on the adolescence development proposed in fiction. According to Erik Erikson (1950), the adolescence stage is the identity versus role confusion stage in which one cannot be capable of discovering a consistent moral and emotional identity. Shamsie in the novel mentions this clash in the most graphic way possible in the novels. In the film *The City by the Sea* the main character of the film, Hasan finds himself caught between the element of role confusion and the need to realize his own goals or the inflexibility and totalitarianism of their father and the Karachi world. Other characters in *Burnt Shadows* such as Hiroko and her son Raza also undergo a severe identity crisis since their identities are stealed away by the traumatic event of displacement and wrongness of their Japanese, German, Indian and Pakistani cultural affiliations (Shamsie, 2009). It becomes most acute in the scenario with *Home Fire* when the Pasha brothers are forced to come to terms with the threat to their lives posed by identity since they must understand how to balance between their British citizenship and Muslim religious principles and family background which become complicated due to the prejudiced outlook of the state (Shamsie, 2017). Expounding on Erikson, James Marcia (1966) quoted this, since period of active identity development wherein an individual is required to test various forms of commitment before they formulated sense of self, which makes sense to them. All characters of Shamsie are dragged to this procedure: Hasan is forced to find his moral code not in the shade of his father, the characters of *Burnt Shadows* are in a long-term search of new cultural and national identities, and Pasha siblings have to find their own way: academia, love, tragic and extremist ideology. These psychological paradigms also allow considering the interaction of the personal, social and historical processes within the novels by Shamsie to create the moral character and identity.

Adaptations Formations of Modernity and Post colonialism

Franco Moretti (1987) also put the European Bildungsroman in perspective and tied it to the social transformation that was underway on the continent, where the youth self-formation process was inclined to follow the same progress that was being dragged in the nation. Kamila Shamsie has brilliantly brought this paradigm to a new postcolonial and diasporic place that proves the process of development is no longer about the harmonious integration, but the survival in fragmented worlds. This can be said to exist when *The City by the Sea* (2003) brings up Hasan in the political

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turmoil of the city of Karachi and his own formation cannot but be connected with the ruin, social and moral of the city. This theme of displacement and its effects of the identity is furthered in the *Burnt Shadows* (2009) in the life history of the main character Hiroko who is negotiating new cultural identities in this life to both the Japanese world and to the Indian world and ultimately to the Pakistan world as a monument of the historical trauma of Nagasaki bombing. This gap is indeed made quite brashly present in the recent *Home Fire* (2017) when the reality of the contemporary socio-political, i.e. the events of the War on Terror, come in force to remind the upbringing of the Pasha siblings whose maladjustment is not to an alien culture which they are obliged to acculturate to but to the West where the faces of the inhabitants look at them suspiciously and their entrance into the adult world is a life-or-death clash of citizenship, ideology and belonging. It is the violent transformation that proves how literature was changed due to the modern socio-political experience, and, thus, child upbringing is characterized not within the traditional European context, but rather in the disordered, transnational aspects of the postcolonial world.

Themes of the Study

The current paper is based on four general and interconnected themes i. e. Identities Formation, Trauma and Resilience, Family Influence and Cultural Belonging with the use of three connected novels i.e. *Home Fire*, *Burnt Shadows* and *The City by the Sea*, thematically resonant through Kamila Shamsie. The next discussion will assume that these themes are not separate literary mechanisms but are the most imperative part of the transmission of trauma which in its turn leads to the contentious sense of identity and makes the search of cultural belonging to the depths the most difficult. The paper discusses how the concepts are transferred to new contexts, upon the thematic frameworks of the novels, which are local forces in Karachi and world history of the Nagasaki bombing and to an up-to-date context of marginalization of the British-Muslim diaspora in a systematic manner. This type of comparison is ultimately supposed to shed a light of the universal search of the self and in fact to show how subjective experience of the individual being is as undoubtedly sublimated by the great residues of the past, the close relationships of kinship and the everywhere-present domination of the societal prejudice.

Theme	The City by the Sea	Burnt Shadows	Home Fire
Identity Formation	Hasan: personal vs societal expectations	Karim: Japanese and Indian identities	Pasha siblings: diasporic identity conflicts
Trauma & Resilience	Political instability fosters maturity	Nagasaki bombing impacts emotional growth	Diasporic marginalization shapes ethical decisions
Family Influence	Authoritarian father constrains growth	Intergenerational trauma guides decisions	Sibling responsibility fosters maturity
Cultural Belonging	Karachi societal norms	Multi-country displacement	British-Muslim diasporic challenges

Table 1: Comparative Thematic Summary

Synthesis and Research Gap

It is evident in the literature in most cases that psychological, social and cultural aspects play

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significant roles in the adolescence stage. In the trilogy of Shamsie, however, there is very little in the coverage of child development. Although scholars have touched on the identity formation and trauma in her respective works, there have been a few scholars who have synthesized the two issues, to a definite study of the concept of coming of age in her works. The current paper meets that end by dissecting the inter-relational influences of Identity Formation, Trauma and Resilience, Family Influence, and Cultural Belonging themes within her most significant writings with the view of introducing a new implication to how she puts the concerns of development among the younger generation in the midst of the international arena.

Theoretical Framework

The study will be more precise on how *The City by the Sea* (2003), *Burnt Shadows* (2009), and *Home Fire* (2017) by Kamila Shamsie touch upon the problem of children development and how they construct identity in the redefined Bildungsroman concept. The psychological, moral and social development of her young characters is addressed in this construct. In this discourse, the context of the postcolonial theory would be provided within the frames of which their development would be viewed in the context of the political conflict, migration and culture translocation. The main questions to be addressed within the frames of childhood research and development theories will be the identity negotiation, trauma, family influence, and belonging to a specific culture, that is, Erikson (1950) and Marcia (1966). What is parted out of this blend is a more delicate production of the non-linear, socially-mediated child development in trilogy of Shamsie which is closely connected with historical and cultural facts.

Methodology

The present study was qualitative in nature. The following is the research methodology of the study.

Research Design

The thematic qualitative analysis is used in this paper to discuss the child development and identity formation patterns within the trilogy by Shamsie.

Sources of Data

The three novels will be used as the primary source of data, and the literary criticism, the postcolonial theory, the learning of childhood, and the learning of Bildungsroman research will be taken as the secondary ones.

Analytical Approach

Textual coding assisted in eliminating passages that were indicating the development of the child, family effects and various factors, identity formation, trauma and cultural belonging. The thematic analysis provided in the study was carried out as recurring motifs and the cross to cross comparisons across the novels in order to identify the points of similarity and the points of difference. Historical, cultural and family background of the narratives was viewed in a contextual manner.

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Data Analysis and Findings

Theme 1: Identity Formation

Concept and Use in Novels

The question of identity formation is manifested as problematic act of negotiating with a huge force. The City by the Sea shows a conflict between Hasan and the inner world and inability to conform to the norms of the society, which is inflexible and pre-determined in the country of his origin Karachi. The conflict in Burned Shadows is created on the global scale where the identity of Karim is an intricate garment made of his Japanese and Indian ancestry, and he is expected to solve this because the two cultural roots are antagonistic to him. Likewise, even Home Fire offers the identity of the Pasha siblings as an affair that is effectively instructed by the diasporism that they are caught amid the liberal British and the traditional and religious context of their Pakistani origins and therefore they are in a pitiful and torturous state of self-denial.

Data Analysis and Results

The realities of this theme demonstrate that the identity conflict nature is radically shifting to the local to global and eventually to the diasporic.

1: The City by the Sea introduces the issue of personal and societal needs. It is internalized and localized struggle.

2: Burnt Shadows reveals the Japanese and Indian identity. It is a synthesis form of identity conflict, setting up of cross-cultural background and history movement.

3: Home Fire illustrates that it has some identity clashes as diasporic. It is modern struggle of belonging and loyalty to a specific minor group of the West.

Findings: The findings have been established with a clear inclination of greater complexity. The struggle is no more pitted between an individual and the society but a poly-layered dialogue between various cultural traditions and then the modern dilemma of an oppressed faction of a society which is basically indifferent and mostly unfamiliar.

Discussion

The present development of the information is an indicator of an observation of the changing nature of the concept of self in a post-colonial and globalized world. Taken together, all the novels challenge the reality that identity is becoming less and less an issue of mere devotion to a particular place or culture. The resultant product is that the modern identity, specifically, the identity of the colonized and displaced is a disjointed and disputed concept. The implication of this information is that it is not a personal, psychological conflict but a political conflict in which people have to shape their identity on the backdrop of historical and social prejudices and the competition of a multinational identity.

Theme 2: Trauma & Resilience

Concept and Use in Novels

This theme talks about how traumatic experiences (both personal and historical) become the motivators of character growth and hence individuals seek means of deriving strength in times of agony. The City by the Sea is a systemic chronic illness of the politics, which is a factor of strong-

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minded silent maturity. In *Burned Shadows*, trauma is singular and destructive to the bombing of Nagasaki by the atoms that leaves an unerasable mark in emotion history of the people who survived the war and their children. Structural trauma in *Home Fire* is psychological because the Muslim diaspora is an outsider and is always suspect, this is what influences the decisions the diaspora make when making ethical and moral decisions.

Data Analysis and Findings

The information classifies the source of the trauma and it shows a back to the political and onto the historical to the systemic.

1: *The City by the Sea* is the quote that addresses the political instability that makes people mature. Its source lies in the environment and everlasting.

2: *Burnt Shadows* is a reference to Nagasaki bombing on the emotional development. It is the cause of the certain catastrophic historical phenomenon.

3: *Home Fire*, The marginalization of the Diaspora in ethical decision making. It is caused by a social, chronic disease.

Results: The statistics show that we have a tendency on the force of the traumatic nature. It is carried to an overall, political instability to specific, historical trauma and then, to an overall systemic social pressure. Both agree on the fact that the trauma is not a terminal experience but a growing process which directly impacts on the development.

Discussion

According to the research, trauma, one way or another, is a significant factor in the development of the characters in such stories. The discussion shows that the definition of resilience does not imply that of a bouncing back but a change in the most fundamental way after an experience. This fact suggests that the source of the trauma determines the type of resiliency that one develops; the political turmoil develops a realistic maturity, the historical catastrophe develops a more humanized picture of the loss, and the endemic marginalization develops a more superior and sometimes threatening, moral legislation. This reveals that resilience does not have a standard feature but rather it is based on the type of misery one undergoes.

Theme 3: Family Influence

Concept and Use in Novels

The theme is also a discovery of the family unit as a powerful force and rather ambivalent force which can both imprison or free the members. The family, in *The City by the Sea*, is an outright oppressive institution that has a dictatorial father. Intergenerational trauma is the carrier of emotional wounds of the past and it is transmitted by the family in *Burnt Shadows*. One of the most important settings of sibling responsibility in *Home Fire* is the family setting, and the relations of responsibility and love become the defining characteristic of the characters, as well as leading to their maturation.

Data Analysis and Results

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The figures transform to those of family influence, indirect, tyrannical to the hereditary and pervasive to a mutual responsibility relationship.

1: City by the Sea Authoritarian father stifles growth. It is a bad, top to bottom, direct influence.

2: Burnt Shadows has an Informs choices aspect of Intergenerational trauma. It is more subtly acquired, hereditary and the unseen rule.

3: Home Fire entails the fact that Sibling responsibility results in maturity. It is a horizontal supportive but a straining pull, which presents itself in the form of absence of parents.

Findings: The results of the findings reveal that it transformed the family influence structure. It is a product of a more archaic and patriarchal form of straightforward domination into a more psychological form of transmitted trauma, and the modern form of a peer-based family (siblings) in which there is a common task to be fulfilled.

Discussion

These shifts in the image of the family are the indicators of the shifts in the social order and further psychological comprehension of the trauma. It is believed in the discussion that in the family most of the larger forces in the society and even history are personalized. The figures show that the influence of the form of family is modified, but, nonetheless, it is still quite significant, as it is the authoritarian, inherited, and reciprocal one. It is always explained that the main conflicts of the novel are acted out in the family, hence it is the most important variable that proposes the options regarding the fate of the characters.

Theme 4: Cultural Belonging

Concept and Use in Novels

It is a theme that explains how human beings would love to be a part of a culture/community and how unfortunate it is not to have the need or to be tested. The City by the Sea is a film that addresses the problem of belongingness at the particular tier of the Karachian customs. Burnt Shadows is the expression of the powerful and irreversible feeling of displacement when all characters are trying to belong as each of them is displaced to several countries. Home Fire explores the peculiarities of the British-Muslim diaspora existing between two cultures, and that which does not always think that he/she belongs to British or Muslim cultures wholly.

Data Analysis and Results

The data is used to track the searching of the characters more to the various countries to relocate the city to a few diasporic communities.

1: The Karachi society norms characterize the City by the Sea. The identity search is reduced to situate itself in a specific and culturally amplified city.

2: Multi-Country displacement is a characteristic that is found in the data point of Burnt Shadows. It is a cross-national hunt which is marked with the feeling of a foreigner.

Data Point 3: Home Fire can be characterized by phenomena encompassing the problems of British-Muslim diaspora. It is a search that is guided towards a specific community that has a marginalized group in a mainstream society and a Western society.

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Results: The statistics prove that there is a distinct propensity toward the increase of the geographical and psychological distance between a place of unchallenged settlement. It is no longer an issue of how the characters could conform to the local demands and live by them, but the issue of how the characters could survive in the world where they were displaced and they are treated with the suspicion.

Discussion

The findings of this discussion reveal one central theme of the feeling of lostness and seeking a new home in the world of post colonialism. Just as it is already mentioned in the discussion, cultural belonging exists not but is a thin veil that can be torn when the unfolding of the history occurs, when political turmoil occurs and when bigotry is being practiced in a systematic fashion. The evidence suggests formation of alienation: the one who rebelled against his or her culture (The City by the Sea), the one who deprived of his/her culture (Burnt Shadows) and the one who was betrayed by the culture that he/she had to live in (Home Fire). This tendency implication is that the modern state or the victims of the postcolonial heritage is usually characterized by the necessity to seek a place, where it will belong.

Overview of all Themes

The combination of these four themes is not an analysis, it is an ingredient of a powerful narrative of how the individual is fighting his or her identity in the world which is shaped by other forces of greater magnitude. The epicenter of the gigantic tension of Trauma be it the political instability, historical tragedy or marginalization trickles in and becomes transformed by the family. It is that trauma, which, in its turn, is the one grievously impacting the characters who are in Cultural Belonging, and making them feel either displaced or alienated the way they are in the wandering across the nations of the globe of Burnt Shadows or stranded in Home Fire. The same crucible, which leads to their Identities Formation, is this bargaining between their lifetime by their family legacies, the traumatic past and their being out of the place. A common conclusion made in all of the novels is that identity is not something that one finds, but a delicate and strong something that must be excruciatingly constructed following the shadow of the past, which is characterized by the intimate and in most cases enslaving associations of the family.

Summary Table of Thematic Analysis

Novel	Theme 1: Identity Formation	Theme 2: Trauma & Resilience	Theme 3: Family Influence	Theme 4: Cultural Belonging
The City by the Sea	Conflict between personal desires and rigid societal expectations in Karachi.	Chronic political instability forces premature maturity and resilience.	An authoritarian father figure constrains personal growth and freedom.	Belonging is shaped by the specific and often unforgiving societal norms of Karachi.

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Burnt Shadows	Struggle to reconcile a hybrid identity shaped by Japanese and Indian heritages.	Trauma of the Nagasaki bombing shapes emotional development across generations.	Intergenerational trauma silently guides decisions and emotional landscapes.	Characters face profound displacement and rootlessness across multiple countries.
Home Fire	Fractured identity caused by tension between British nationality and Pakistani Muslim heritage.	Systemic trauma from diasporic marginalization shapes ethical choices and resilience.	Sibling responsibility, intensified by parental absence, drives emotional maturity.	Search for belonging within a Western society that often views their community with suspicion.

Table 2: Comparative Table on Developmental Factors Across Novels

The three novels demonstrate how youth progress to a moral and emotional level, as they pass through various socio-cultural pressures. In the *City by the Sea*, one of the leading figures is restricted in his logical thoughts and emotional growth by the totalitarian system and severe local laws. The suffering of the generations and historical events in *Burnt Shadows* influences the process of moral choice and maturation of the characters, and they are worsened by the alteration of cultures. *Home Fire* presents moral reasoning which leads to the intense responsibility in siblings, and emotional growth is achieved in a gradual manner in the encumbrance of the diasporic state and the turmoil between assimilation and culture. Together, all these works are indicative of the distinctive effects of power, trauma, and cultural displacement on individual development.

Factor	<i>The City by the Sea</i>	<i>Burnt Shadows</i>	<i>Home Fire</i>
Moral Reasoning	Emerging under authority	Shaped by intergenerational trauma	Developed through sibling responsibility
Emotional Growth	Delayed due to authoritarian control	Accelerated by historical trauma	Gradual, influenced by diasporic pressures
Socio-cultural Challenges	Local societal norms	Multi-national cultural shifts	Diasporic integration vs family tradition

Table 3: Comparative Table on Developmental Factors Across Novels

Findings of the Study

According to the findings of the study, the key findings are as follows:

1. **The Interplay of Key Themes:** The paper discovers that identity, trauma, family and cultural belonging do not exist as distinct issues but rather related elements of one narrative of how an individual battles the issue of selfhood.
2. **The Family as an agent of Trauma:** Family is the pivotal point where bigger historical and systemic traumas or issues, e.g. political instability or marginalization, are absorbed and transmitted across generations.

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3. **Identity as a Precarious and Sturdy Construction:** The individual identity is not a preexisting substance to be found, but a delicate and strong construction that is excruciatingly created as a reaction to the past and close-knit family relationships.
4. **A Non-linear and Multidimensional Development:** The passage to adulthood has lost its linear nature to become a situation-specific and multidimensional process produced by the complicated interplay of family, cultural, and historical factors.
5. **The Effects of External Forces on Development:** The moral rationale and affective development of an individual are distinctly influenced by the overwhelming external pressure, which may be the authoritarian control, intergenerational traumas and the difficulties of cultural displacement.

Simply stated, the research shows a contemporary Bildungsroman in which there is no identity, but a creation after a period of history. It transforms the narrative of coming-of-age to a struggle of self amidst the complex family, trauma, and belonging.

Conclusion

The trilogy by Kamila Shamsie reflects on how Bildungsroman has evolved in the postcolonial literature and how the process of children growing has lost its linear character, the situation-specific and multidimensional one. The process of interaction of the forces of familial, cultural and historical level has led to the identity formation of her main characters, their stability and legitimization of moral principles. Shamsie gives a vivid account of how young people develop in the interwoven cultural context both in the psychological and sociological as well as the postcolonial paradigms. It is a key work of Bildungsroman, literature of childhood, postcolonial literature and literature carries with it implications, to some extent, on knowledge among educators, the policy-makers and the social scientists. The future researchers will be in a position to explore the cross-cultural Bildungsroman and intersectionality in identity formations and how the Shamsies works can be used in pedagogical situations of child rearing in the diasporic situations.

Future Research Directions

Subsequent research could be formed on the basis of developmental approach of the work by Shamsie in developing how her later or least-covered novels continue to cover the theme of the youth subjectivity, displacement, and intergenerational trauma. The general tendencies of transnational childhood and of new differences of the postcolonial Bildungsroman would be facilitated by comparative studies of other authors of the South Asian diasporas. The interdisciplinary practices, such as the role of the study of the trauma, the migration, and the childhood sociology, can also lead to the image of how the manifestations of youth in the literature are produced the way that they would reflect the real picture in the conflict and migration. Additionally, further research may be applied to examine the response of the readers, the feeling of education and the way Shamsie has exploited the parameters of youth and how the world is discussing the identity, belonging and resilience. This would bring in the problem of the critical voice of the oeuvre of Shamsie and its suitability in the contemporary world of mobility, precarity and negotiation of cultures.

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