THE ISSUE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN KAVITA DASWANI’S FOR MATRIMONIAL PURPOSES

A Thesis
Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Strata One Degree (S1)

Arranged By:

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106026000985

ENGLISH LETTERS DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY “SYARIF HIDAYATULLAH”
JAKARTA
2011
SUMMARY OF “THE ISSUE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN KAVITA DASWANI’S FOR MATRIMONIAL PURPOSES”

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The thesis has been defended before the Faculty of Adab and Humanities’ Examination Committee on March 23, 2011. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata I.

Jakarta, March 23, 2011

Examination Committee

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or the other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgment has been made in text.

Jakarta, February 25th, 2011

Dziroyatun Naqsyabandiah
ABSTRACT


The research is slated for giving a brief description about the cultural identity which appears in the main character in For Matrimonial Purposes. This novel accurately tells about the Indian girl, Anju, as immigrant in America. The writer uses descriptive qualitative method. In analyzing, the writer explains the character analysis of Anju and the culture identity analysis which represented by her.

From the data analysis, the writer found the points of characters and identity that represents the main character the writer wants to analyze. The main character represents a different cultural identity of immigrant in America, but she still keeps and uses her cultural identity as Indian. Finally, the writer concludes the novel analysis through character and culture identity theory. The main character in this novel is categorized as negotiated immigrant.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to give the most appreciation and many thanks to Allah Swt., the lord of the universe and the thereafter. She is sure that she can not do anything without Him. He guided us with all of His blessed in our life. Then, peace and blessing is upon to our beloved prophet Muhammad Saw and all of his followers.

The writer would like to express her highest gratitude to all her family, and especially for her beloved parents H. Albar Salim and Shofiah Imron for giving spirits that makes her strong and always give her prayer and motivation. And also her beloved siblings Barikatul Hikmah and M. H. Al Ashim Billah for always make her laugh and entertain her whenever she was down. And also special her beloved person, Muhammad Lukman Hafidz, for all inspiration, motivation, spirit and joking that will never forget.

Next, the writer also would like to say thanks to her advisor Mrs. Elve Oktafiyani, M. Hum for her great patients and contributions in finishing this paper. She thanks for all of her advices that have been given to him; and may Allah Swt. bless her and her family.

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Finally, may Allah gives His blesses to us, amien.

Jakarta, 24th February 2011

The writer
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Immigration is a major worldwide phenomenon that produces complex interaction among individuals from all around the globe. Immigration occurs because many immigrants who wish to find better social life, or to seek more advanced education from their homeland. However, most of these immigrants are out of the country to seek better live from their homeland because may be they may not have jobs or better payment. But not infrequently also the immigrants opt out of the country to avoid natural disasters, domestic violence, or political oppression due to their race, religion, gender, nationality, political viewpoint, sexual orientation, or membership in a particular social group.

The impact of migration within a country can be both positive and negative. In terms of positive, migration can make a state meet the shortage of workers in enterprises, the foreign investment which can speed up the development, and also introduce a new culture to other nations to strengthen a sense of solidarity among nations. In negative side, migration can caused the explosion of population in one country. The effect of countries with high population growth will impact more on
people are looking for jobs. It creates a condition where lots of immigrants are jobless while trying to survive in new country.

There are some countries that have problem with migration such as: China, India, and Mexico. Those countries have massive population, as a result their citizens migrate to other country. Especially India, Indian people can be found in all over the world. Lots of Indian people has migrated to all over the world and prefer to find a new better life in other country than in their homeland which has a big population and hard to find a job there. Many of those immigrants have migrated to areas in Europe such as France, Germany and England. But the most country that has a big population of immigrant is America, until America known as the country of immigrant. The reason why those immigrants choose America to migrate because America is a very developed country, so they thought there are lots of opportunities such as jobs, educations, and a promising life to live because of that, many immigrants who gain success in America and sometimes they choose to live permanently there.

Apart all of it, the immigrant will produce complex interaction among individuals such as the exchanges of ideas, values and costumes. Immigrants face multiple challenges and changes in social, political, economic and religious issues. Immigration also involves identity crises, changes in values and behaviors, as well as the need to adapt to new social relationship.¹ The immigrants changes in cultural identity as influenced by socio cultural dynamics that keep rotating among the

various cultural aspects of the community. This is the case with the immigrants. They continue to shape her identity in line with the existing dynamics. And generally result in the dislocation of cultural migration, led to a condition that allows immigrants experienced alienation in the midst of socio cultural life of new communities and farthest from the old cultural roots. Moreover, immigrants eventually experience a change of identity as more alienated from the cultural roots of origin and more soluble in a new culture.

“Migration, of course, involves a different kind of change in cultural spaces than travelling. With travelling, the change is temporary and, usually, desirable. It is something people seek out. By contrast, people who migrate do not always seek out this change. Many immigrants leave their homelands simply to survive. But they often find it difficult to adjust to the change, especially if the language and customs of the new cultural space are unfamiliar.”

The problem of immigrant’s identity in America attracted many Indian immigrant authors interest to put it into a novel. One of them is Kavita Daswani in For Matrimonial Purposes that showed the life of Indian immigrant in America.

In the novel For Matrimonial Purposes Kavita Daswani writes about Indian immigrant who live in America. The main character in this novel is Anju, a girl who

3Kavita Daswani is currently a fashion correspondent for CNN International, CNBC Asia, and Women's Wear Daily. She has written for the Los Angeles Times and the International Herald Tribune among many other publications and has been the fashion editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. Her family is originally from Mumbai, and she grew up in Hong Kong. She now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons. Her first novel, 'For Matrimonial Purposes', was published in 2003 followed by 'The Village Bride of Beverly Hills' (both G.B. Putnam's Sons) and 'Salaam, Paris' (Plume). In 2007, she released her first Young Adult book, 'Indie Girl' (Simon Pulse) and her latest, another Young Adult work, will be out in 2010 (HarperCollins). Her books have been published in 17 languages. http://www.kavitadaswani.com/ accessed on January 14, 2011
grew up in the Indian tradition of old-fashioned. Since her teens, her parents continue to find the right match for her. This made her depressed, and finally she decided to go to America to live her own lives and hope to become a better human being. In America she continued her studies until her graduate. Her life slightly changes when Anju started to get a job as a fashion publicist in New York, when she had a green card. Then America gradually changed her life, she began to follow the American life style. It showed from how to dress, how to speak (accent), and make a relation with ‘white’ men.

The complex issues of cultural identity of the main character in this novel inspired the writer to analyze in this research. For an immigrant like Anju, it’s not that easy to live in new country like America, it needs adaptation to face a new culture. She has to adapt which cultural values of her origin she wants to keep and new cultural values she wants to adopt or not, or she can negotiate both of culture. It must be interesting to analyze, because of that the writer would like to analyze the concept of cultural identity that is presented by the main character in the novel.

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4 green card, is an identification card attesting the permanent resident status of an alien in the United States of America. Green card also refers to an immigration process of becoming a permanent resident. The green card serves as a proof that its holder, a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), has been officially granted immigration benefits, which include permission to conditionally reside and take employment in the USA. The holder must maintain his permanent resident status, and can be removed if certain conditions of such status are not met. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_residence_%28United_States%29 accessed on January 14, 2011
B. Focus of the Research

In this study, the writer focuses only on the main character, Anju, to identify her cultural identity as an Indian immigrant in America.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background of the problems described above, the formulation of the problem in this research is:

How does the main character perform her cultural identity as an Indian immigrant in America in the novel *For Matrimonial Purposes*?

D. Research Objectives

According to the formula above problems, the purpose of this research is to discover the cultural identity of the main characters in the novel *For Matrimonial Purposes* for Indian immigrants in America. And this research will also show the original culture of ethnic change the main character in her new lifestyle in America.

E. Research Significance

The writer hopes this research will provide many benefits to readers who are also interested to know the life of Indian immigrants in America and how cultural identity is displayed by these immigrants in a literary work, and can be used as a reference.
F. Research Methodology

This research methodology includes several important aspects in the study as follows:

1. Research Methods

In this study the author uses descriptive qualitative methods in researching the main character's identity as an Indian immigrant in America by using the concept of cultural identity.

2. Data Analysis

In this study the writer examined the data by using qualitative data analysis methods. Analysis based on the methods, theories, or approaches that are relevant. The data collected will be analyzed using the theory of cultural identity by the writer.

3. Research Instruments

Instruments used were the researchers themselves as a means to obtain data in a way to collect qualitative data about the main character's identity as an Indian immigrant in the novel For Matrimonial Purposes by Kavita Daswani with several steps, namely; read the novel over and over again, identifying the cultural identity of the main characters in the novel, classifying and marking the text in the novel that support the writer in data collection.
4. Analysis Unit

The unit of analysis in this study is novel For Matrimonial Purposes by Kavita Daswani, published in 2005 by G. P. Putnam’s Sons.
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Character on the Novel

Characters are the first important to look for when reading a novel. They are the persons presented in the novel that carry their personal life through dialogue and action by which the reader understands their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives. Character refers to the people authors create to inhabit their stories. ¹

The author can describe the characters in various ways. It can be directly described or use a third person to tell the names of characters, how they physical appearances, how they dailies, family, social status, education, what they are doing and thinking etc. And also could be drawn from the thoughts, actions and dialogues as the readers understand.

The character in the narrative work, such as novel itself can be major or minor characters, protagonist or antagonist characters, flat or round characters, and static or dynamic characters. ² The major character shows the important role and almost be the first character that introduced while reading a novel. The major character is developing as they react to events and to other characters. On the contrary, the

¹ Gloria Mason. Et al., Literature and Ourselves. 5ed (USA: Pearson Education, 2006) p. 9
character which appears only few times and takes the short portion is called minor character.

Besides major and minor character, there are protagonist and antagonist through the characters. The protagonist is the main character in the novel, a person who being conflicted by minor character and holds the key of story till the end of the novel. The opponent of protagonist is known as the antagonist or in the event that opposing force is not person, we speak of antagonist force. They force the protagonist and often give troubles and conflicts to the protagonist character.

According to Aspects of the novel (1927), E. M. Forster defines two basic types of characters, their qualities, functions, and importance for the development of a novel: they are flat and round character. Flat character is constructed round a single idea or quality. It means that the character undergoes no change or development and tends to stay the same throughout a story. While round character is character encompass many ideas and characteristic. It shows us with more facets.

Static character is usually character, the character that remain stable in his attitude throughout a work. And dynamic characters tend to be more fully developed.

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5 Ibid.
and described than flat, or static, characters. If you think of the characters you most love in fiction, they probably seem as real to you as people you know in real life.⁶

B. Cultural Identity

Identity are the interface between a private sense of self that includes conscious and unconscious feelings, rational and irrational motivations, personal beliefs and values and those factors that constitute the social context in which we experience those feelings and motivation. Everybody lives in different countries in the world, with different cultures, religions, personalities even ethnicities. These differences become his or her identity in society when they are interacting with another one. And identity is used to know the social status, such as races, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, etc.

Cultural identity is needed by someone to show themselves as an individual who recognized their existences in an environment. A cultural identity is not immediately formed, but cultural identity is a process that is never finished. As Stuart Hall said:

“... every identity is placed, positioned, in a culture, a language, a history. Every statement comes from somewhere, from somebody in particular. It insist in specificity, on conjuncture. But it is not necessarily armour-plated against other identities. It is not tied to fixed, permanent, unalterable oppositions. It is not defined by exclusion.”⁷

The quotation above explains cultural identity is something that is never finished, always creating new and different process procedure earlier and more visible in everyday life. From this view, it can be concluded that one's cultural identity is not determined by culture, but rather depends on the position in which it is located. An individual can be anyone depending where he is and for what needs. The cultural identity of others can become the individual's cultural identity. Cultural identity is not an essence, but a position. Basically from all notions of the definition of cultural identity is a part of one’s self concept that comes from knowledge and feelings become part of particular group who need to be recognized in a particular environment.

According to Rice cultural identity is the feelings of members of the group with symbols, values, and common history that made them known as a distinct group also proposed definition of cultural identity: “The sum total of group member’s feeling about those symbols, values, and common histories that identify them as a distinct group. “

Another definition also proposed by Dusek. Dusek explained that cultural identity refers to how much person feels as part of a group of specific cultural/ethnic and how it affects the feelings, perceptions, and behavior: “The degree to which one feels he or she belongs to a particular ethnic group and how that influences one’s feelings, perception, and behavior.”
Many novels about Indian immigrants in America can serve as an example in the research of issues of cultural identity and Diaspora. Through these novels can be found in the fact that the problem of identity is not as easy as imagined. According to cultural studies paradigm, identity is seen as something that will never complete, always in process, and always arranged in representation of something.

Stuart Hall said in Cultural identity and Diaspora that Cultural identity can be viewed from two perspectives: identity as being and identity as becoming. The first perspective, cultural identity is seen as an entity owned jointly, the original of a person and within many people who have a common history. Cultural identity is an example of historical and cultural similarities that make up a group of people into one unity, they would always look the same despite their different views from the outside.

The definition of identity as being and identity as becoming also explains that cultural identities reflect the common historical experiences and shared cultural that show us a one people. For example is the language, the Indian which lived in India speaks Hindi as their language to communicate to others. Language being use as one of the sign to describe that they as one people (as Indian). Since the language is the one kind of culture, it means that they all shared their culture through the language.

The strength of our cultural identities involves the degree to which we see our culture as important in the way we define ourselves. We tend to see our cultures as important in how we define ourselves. We are another culture then we are in our own

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cultures. We are more aware of our cultural identities when we found ourselves in another culture than when we are in our own culture.

But there is one more theory that we must pay attention. It is a theory of the position of someone while face the new culture of new place. The people could be dominant, negotiated, and oppositional. A dominant is the characters who generally accept their identity. Such as, if he or she is an Indian, they would act as Indian with all activities of their original culture. Negotiated would not accept the two of culture, if the character is Indian-American cultural identities. While oppositional would not respond both of cultural identity, because she/he prefers to hide their own identity.

C. The Indian Identity

The Indian identity can be identified from their characters, educational aspect, food, costumes, language and family life. Most of Indian ives ased on the basics of India’s culture. Like the language, dances, religion, music, they really employ all of it in their daily lives. Even the modernity has come to India nowadays, Indian remain principled with their culture, because the culture has deeply rooted within their heart, mind and soul.

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9 Judy Giles and Tim Middleton, “Studying Culture: A Practical Introduction” (Massachusetts: Blackwell publisher, 1999), p.64

“A dominant (or preferred) reading of a text accepts the content of the cultural product without question. A negotiated reading questions parts of the content of the text but does not question the dominant ideology which underlies the production of the text. An oppositional response to a cultural product is one in which the recipient of the text understands that the system that produced the text is one with which she/he is fundamentally at odds.”
Regarded by some historian as the oldest living civilization of earth, the Indian tradition dates back to 8,000 BC and has continuous recorded history for over 2,500 years. Several elements of India’s diverse culture such as Indian religions, yoga and Indian cuisine have had a profound impact across the world. In India the family plays a very important role. They will live together: parents, children, daughter in law and grandchildren. And parents are owns of control in a family. Parents who will arrange the rules and reserves the decision that considered important in family and other family members will abide by the rules given by their parents. Especially for the girls who were not married, the Indian girls who are not married will look for prospective husbands by their parents to find a man who would marry them. In India, the marriage is thought to be for life, and the divorce rate is extremely low. The arranged marriages generally have a much lower divorce rate.

Tradition in India is about values that transcend down generations automatically. These are genetic traits and simplicity is the main ingredient. Ancient culture believed in a lot of dogmas and rituals that can be termed as false beliefs and Indians are an intelligent lot to traverse these paths and modify the social requirements. Indians are highly flexible in the sense they would like to imbibe the changes dictated by western influence and yet clearly affirm their belief in traditions.

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11 Ibid., marriage
The most important the identity of Indian can be seen from their skinny dark looks and costume. The Indian costume is totally unique in the whole world, their traditional clothing called sari for the woman and dhoti for the man. They are always proud to wear their traditional clothes in every way and anywhere. Indian food is vegetarian, many traditional dishes also include chicken, goat, lamb, fish and other meats. Indian speaks in native language, Hindi, and also English for the second language. And the last seen is from family life, Indian live in big family in one community.

D. The Indian American Identity

Since Indian came to America's immigrants, they have already got many problems. The most problem was had to face the different culture, way of life and lifestyle. As newcomers, they had to adapt with American ways standard. It happens till now. Some Indian loses their identity, but others still keep their identity as Indian.

With generally high expectation for economic standing, success, and equally high levels of education American reveal that a culture which shares the traditional American emphasis on mobility and middle class status is uniquely positioned to both appear to be responding o integration, while still maintaining key aspects of Indian culture including language and customs. Indian American identity in reality and life expressed through a number of different categories, such as gender and class, from

contact with religion in a way that really shows the cultural differences. Indian American almost confused to find their identity, on the other side America is a place full of freedom that never existed in India. Because of that many of Indian American couldn’t manage themselves to receive where the positive and negative effects life in America. Mostly American Indian American work in as convenience store owners, taxi cab drivers, or engineers. But they also have a strong presence in many other parts of the American workforce.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDING

A. Data Description

In chapter III, having read the novel “For Matrimonial Purposes” the writer finds the main character of this novel, she is Anju. She has been subject to explore the term of identity in this research. And the writer finds some statements as the corpus of the research. They are classified into two groups: character as American and as Indian cultural identities. The writer will summarize the analysis first as following:

<table>
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<th>No</th>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Corpus</th>
<th>Cultural identities as Indian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Anju</td>
<td>“om broom brubas pataye namaha. Om broom brubas pataye namaha.”</td>
<td>Indian Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“…Om jai jagdishare swami jai jagdishare”</td>
<td>Traditional clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“I hited up my sari and found y way back to my group just as the lights were going down.”</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“…I was in an unadorned cotton salwar kameez.”</td>
<td>Traditional food of India</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“on a green marble-topped table in front of me were plates pilled with cookies and a pot of cardamom-rich tea... I helped myself to a snack and</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
B. Character Analysis and the Issue of Cultural Identity

In *For Matrimonial Purposes*, the issue of cultural identity is performed by the main character, Anju. This character has very important role in development of the story because this character presented with conflicts and actions that build the novel. As Edgar said in Writing Themes about literature (1997) that analyzing character is one of the analyses that are very popular and interesting in discussing novel.
The issue of cultural identity in this story happened in major character, Anju. Her cultural identities come from her own culture in India and her new culture in America. As the writer knows, India is known with their Hindi languages, religions, dance, music, architecture, food and customs differ from place to place within the country.\(^1\) Especially with the tradition of Hindu, most of the culture of India related to Hinduism. So that, it’s encourages the writer to analyze this character. The character is Indian immigrants who live in America and going to face a new different culture in her daily life.

1. **Anju**

a.) **As Indian Immigrant in America**

Anju is a main character of the novel, she has an important role in developing the story. In the beginning of the novel, Kavita Daswani introduces Anju’s character consciously about her marriage.

“My grandmother was married off two days shy of her tenth birthday. My mother found a husband when she was twenty. I thus reckoned that if every generation increased by a decade the acceptable age for marriage, I should have become a wife by thirty. But at thirty-three, I was nowhere close to being married.” (Daswani 2004, 9)

\(^1\) Anonymous, Culture of India accessed on December 14, 2010
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_India
Her marriage is the main conflict through the story. Her parent concerns to find a perfect match for her and she went along what her parents wanted to do. Everything has been done by her parent, trying to match her with the Indian man who stayed in Accra, Africa. Calling Udhay, the most astrologer in Bombay. It aims to predict when exactly the attempt for her to marry. And then put Anju’s profile on matchmaking sites in internet. Its make Anju a bit frustrated to think about her marriage.

While her father and mother still arranged her marriage, she decides not to think much about it. Then she asked her parent to allow her to go to and study in America. Firstly her parent rejected, because her parent thought that Anju were educated and worked happily in her father’s shop. But Anju tries to explain that in Bombay she is not doing anything real and useful for her own life, and she wanted to do something useful then looking for a man which never suited for her.

“daddy, I pleaded, sitting on my sweaty palms and bitting my bottom lip, like always did when nervous. Just think about it. I mean, I’m not doing right here really. Nothing useful or worthwhile. All my friends are married. I feel quite alone, and during the day I go to the shop to do a job that anyone can do, and no body takes me seriously over there, because I’m only your daughter.” (Daswani 2004, 134)

“What do you mean? ... you are working happily in daddy’s shop, meeting people. You come with me here and there to parties and shopping. You have your friends, like Indu and all. You will soon find a boy, yes, yes. What do you mean you are not doing anything here?” (Daswani 2004, 100)

After a long debate that there had to be something better out there for her, a life wherein she didn’t feel like such a disappointment, people who saw something in her
that nobody in Bombay saw, finally her parent allows her to go to America. And four months later she comes to America and accepted into a school of continuing and professional studies at New York University. Then she decided to take courses in temporary world studies, and current business and marketing trends. She lives in her uncle and aunt who lived in Fort Lee, New Jersey. Just because she lives with her uncle and aunt, it doesn’t mean she has everything instantly. In that new place she has to do everything by her own, go to university by train, making breakfast for herself, or anything else that almost different with her life in Bombay, that she hasn’t to do everything by herself. Because everything always provided by her family. But it doesn’t matter for her, she really enjoyed it because she thought America is the place she belonging to.

"As alone as I was in that moment, I felt like I finally belonged somewhere. “

(Daswani 2004, 111)

Until she graduated from her university and fined her job as publicist, she hasn’t live with her uncle and aunt again. It makes her happy, because she could live normally as any other woman without extra supervision by her uncle and aunt. And she feels like she would become as a true independent woman.

After graduated from university, Anju doesn’t want to come home. Because her counselor said she can stays in America and work, and it is the part of student experience. She convinced her parent that it wouldn’t hard to her to get a job. As a
parent, they refused it. They wanted Anju to come home, but Anju still in her own decision.

“Daddy, please. I haven’t had much time to meet anyone, being at school and all. But now, I’ll have more time. I’ll be able to meet more people than uncle Lal and aunt Vinita. They’ve been trying so hard, but I’ve been so preoccupied. I promise, just give me one more year, and I know I’ll find someone. You know, dad, I need an educated boy now, and I won’t find anyone like that in Bombay. I know that. Please.” (Daswani 2004, 134)

And then her parent agrees with that condition, so Anju got the job soon a week later. She hired as an employee in That’s A Wrap! A small publicity and events company in the downtown section of Madison Avenue, it is because the capability of Anju to write a press in under an hour. One thing that makes her happy, she hasn’t live with her uncle and aunt anymore. Because, she can live normally she any other woman without extra supervision by her uncle and aunt.

“With no uncle and aunt to placate, my life was finally my own.” (Daswani 2004, 133)

“I may have been living on my own—something that I knew my parents had taken great pains to hide from their friends.” (Daswani 2004, 136)

She worked hardly in her new job until she got H-I visa from her boss, Marion.

“I’d convinced Marion to sponsor me for an H-I visa—a term now a firmly entrenched part of the subcontinental lexicon. It was going to take some time to get it all squared away, and I would ultimately be a part of the New York working community, fair and square.” (Daswani 2004, 222)

Then Anju becomes very successful woman after her visit to Paris, in Paris she companied Len Maverick, the new client of the company that going to throw the

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2 Anonymous, Work Visa Jobs, accessed on December 20, 2010 www.h1base.com
Mother of all fashion shows. And she own the responsibility of all things concerned with the fashion show. And then her boss, trust her to manage all of the things of the company in New York.

"on board, I went over the preshow notes and seating assignments. This was massive responsibility, overseeing all the American media for this designer’s first show in Paris: getting the press release out, organizing photographic shoots, coordinating interviews, and entertaining this little posse of gırlies for the next couple of days... for the first time ever, that I might actually now be a grown-up." (Daswani 2004, 226)

"Thereafter, I fell into a velvet-cushioned rut. Marion was retreating from the PR scene, and was virtually handing over the company to me. We doubled in size and evolved into one of the most prominent event and publicity enterprises in the city. That trip to Paris became one of many, enchanted by sojourns in Cannes and Capri, Milan and Munich. Wherever there was a party to be had, a perfume to be launched, a designer to be showcased, we were there." (Daswani, 2004. 255)

With success in education also work in New York, Anju’s life as Indian was infected by American life. It showed since she refuses her parents to come back to India after her graduation. Then prefer live in New York than in India, its showed when Anju go to the therapist. The statement can be seen bellow:

“Well, im kind of living here in New York againsts the wishes of my parents. They want me to go back to India so they can find me a husband. Marriage is very, very important to us, you know, to do it, and at an early age. I feel like im letting them down. But even though Bombay is my home, I don’t feel like I fit in there anymore. All the girls I grew up with are married. Most of them. So I was hanging around the house, working a bit with my dad, but mostly feeling like a burden. Like every time my parents look at me, they saw their own failure. So I came here, although they hate that. And now I get lonely here, as I haven’t really met anyone, and the guys I do meet are, you know, white, and I don’t want that either” (Daswani, 2004. 140)
Again, her marriage is the main conflict through the story. It makes Anju under pressure when her parents asked her to marry. She hates it, but she won't disappoint her parents. She thought just because she had a good life in America, then she wouldn’t choose any man to marry without agreement from her parent although there is no man suitable for her that has chosen by her parents, she still keeps obedient to her parents.

“I didn’t want to hurt my parents. This was, after all, their home—as it once was mine. I didn’t want to seem dismissive—as if I was now better than all this, as if I had left them behind for what I perceived to be a more worthwhile life” (Daswani 2004, 17)

“I love my life there. But I loved my parents more.” (Daswani 2004, 51)

That’s all Anju as Indian immigrant in America. She felt the condition in her homeland was no longer appropriate to her anymore. Especially when the problem of marriage is coming from her family. It makes her a bit frustrated to think about it. It’s not that she did not want to get married, she had tried as she had make a relation with ‘white’ men, but the relationship did not last long because for Indian women a foreign marriage is seldom a positive act it is more usually an act of despair or confusion. It leads to casteless-ness, the loss of community, the loss of a place in the world and few Indians are equipped to cope with that. And she won’t make her parents feel that bad effect because of her marrying a ‘white’ man if the relation stays longer. However, sometimes she also felt sad with the act of her parents that too much to find her a mate. She needs happiness, and she’ll find it herself, that’s it. While she felt confused about her parents and marriage while in India, she always
decided to go back to New York. She told her parents directly and shows that she have tired of all stuff about that problem, Anju told her parents that she felt more useful in new York than to find a never suitable.

b.) Anju’s Indian Cultural Identity

Anju is a girl who grew up in India with her families. But, she lives in America for several years lately. She took an education then works there. In America she often shows her Indian identity, and sometime she presents American life style too. It is because she was an immigrant in America that a bit influenced by American culture. And the cultural identities of main character can be seen as follows.

It’s not so hard for Anju being an immigrant in America, because the second language of India is English. So that, she could fluently speaks English. And there is no difficulty to make conversation with the people in America.

How to dress is one of the ways to know someone’s identity. And here Anju get dressed as American, such as when go to school she wears jeans, sweater, boots just like American students. While she has got a job, she starts to wear famous brands in New York such as Prada, BCBG, Chanel, and etc. it was really different how to get dressed in India.

As immigrant Anju faces new kinds of menu there, while she eats chane bread in India, she should eat sandwich in America. Get coffee in Starbucks, pasta and etc. But as Indian, she can receive of those foods of America.
“I took a small tub of yogurt and a sandwich....” (Daswani 2004, 112)

“I stopped every morning at Gabe’s, the coffee shop around the corner, and bought a cappuccino and a bagel, which I devoured on the subway while reading The New York Times.” (Daswani, 2004, 223)

Just because Anju a bit influenced by American culture, it doesn’t mean she brought American culture in her whole dailies. She represents Indian cultures and shows it in America. The Indian culture of Anju in America can be seen below.

1.) Indian Language

In america Anju stays in her uncle and aunt’s house. From the first she came to America she uses English Language, but she also often speaks Indian language with her uncle and aunt or when makes a call to her parent in India. The writer takes the scene when Anju just broke up with her white man, Jeff, then she speaks Indian while the man tries to leave her.

“om broom brubas pataye namaha. Om broom brubas pataye namaha. Please God, make him hug me and say it’s okay, and we’ll go around the block to the Italian place instead” (Daswani 2004, 132)

“...Om jai jagdishare swami jai jagdishare”—“ O glory be to God.” (Daswani 2004, 85)

2.) Indian Traditional Clothes
When get started to work, Anju almost wear the clothes that usually wear by American woman, its blazers, shirts, and skirts. But she shows an Indian identity sometime by wearing sari. She wears Sari whenever she wants, and she doesn’t shy to show that Indian identity by wearing that. Even in a big fashion show in Paris, she proud to wear Sari while the other people try to show their new clothes of some brand by famous designers. She stills proud of Sari, the traditional clothes of her homeland, India.

“..hoisting back the pallav from my sari that had begun inching its way down my shoulder. “ (Daswani 2004, 254)

“I hited up my sari and found y way back to my group just as the lights were going down.” (Daswani 2004, 237)

“….I was in an unadorned cotton salwar kameez.” (Daswani 2004, 61)

3.) Traditional Food of India

Although she can accept the food of America, sometime Anju eats the traditional food of India. She often misses foods of her homeland, that’s why when she came to her uncle’s house she never miss to eat anything that her aunt made of Indian foods.

“on a green marble-topped table in front of me were plates pilled with cookies and a pot of cardamom-rich tea... I helped myself to a snack and a cup of chai” (Daswani 2004, 107)

“after homemade dinner of puri and channa masala.” (Daswani 2004, 110)

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3 One of original Indian’s wear
“I was eating dokhlas—spongy semolina snacks served with a cool mint chutney...” (Daswani 2004, 44)

4.) Hindu Tradition

There are some activities that brought by Anju to America, it is the tradition of her religion, Hindu. As We Know India is one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies and cultures. Religion still plays a central and definitive role in the life of many of its people⁴

And what Anju brought to America is fasting. The fast were done by Indian female who has in marriageable age. They had to fast to get Shiva’s⁵ bless and then Shiva would give them a good boy for her. In America Anju still brought this habit in order to get a boy, while make Shiva happy by her fast.

“...and the fasting—I was still doing Monday, Thursday, Friday—made socializing inconvenient at the best of times.” (Daswani 2004, 115)

Anju also doing her pray in her own house in America. She has a cupboard that functioned as a home temple called Mandir. Every morning she had to pray in front of Mandir as taught by her parent to ask help or anything, such as find a mate, to pass the test or to ward of sickness and etc.

“...a tiny cupboard where I kept my at-home temple... I still had to have a little mandir at home. My parents had insisted on it. Inside, there were statuettes and pictures of most members of the inner circle of Hindu deities—

⁴ Anonymous, culture of india, accessed on December 15
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_India

⁵ One of Hindu’s Gods
Shiva, Laxmi, Parvati, Durga, Vishnu, Krishna. Most mornings...i bowed my head and said a little prayer.” (Daswani 2004, 147)

“...I sat cross-legged in front of a small granite statue of lord shiva, and I repeated the mantra over and over, louder and louder: “om namah shivaya, om namah shivaya.” (Daswani 2004, 269)

It’s showed as a creature of God, Anju still keeps their cultural identity by showing her obedience to her religion and God in order she had a good life in America.

5. ) Indian wedding

Anju was reached all that she wanted to do, but a man. She tried to find a man, but no one of the man out there suitable for her, it is make Anju a bit worried. Actually, she met Jeff in America but her relationship with him was no stayed longer. It is because Jeff was white and Indian woman doesn’t marry white man, its tradition. But she never loses her optimistic, she keeps pray and tries.

“On each of my trips back to Bombay, I secretly hoped that this would be the special, destined journey in which I would find “the one.” That here, in the midst of the wedding parties and politics and desperate mothers seeking boys and girls for their offspring, I, too, could find intended.” (Daswani, 2004. 21)

With her optimistic, finally, she finds Rohan. Indian man, who lives in Los Angeles and become her husband later. There is always good result who kept optimist in everything they had. Then Anju celebrates her wedding by tradition as Indian.

From explanation above, Anju is the main character in the novel that her character showed as Indian immigrant in America. She still keeps her cultural
identity, although sometime she acts like American too. It’s shown in the novel from her wear, food, language, and her tradition while in America. Anju can through both of two cultures without felt culture shock like any others who face the new culture of new country to live.

Actually Indian people are always making a group in everywhere, like in this novel. Sometime Anju attends the group in America, they usually use that moment for gathering with the other Indian people and look for a match to marry for whom still single like Anju or doing any else according to the tradition. Even some Indian people made a company to employ Indian immigrant in America, because sometime it’s difficult to immigrant to find a job in other country like America. But, Anju doesn’t bind to Indian people. She proved that Indian immigrant like her could find a job in foreign company and become success.

The writer concludes that the character of Anju was negotiated. She negotiates because, she has to survive to live in America. She performs her identity as an American while she works in America’s Company and while interact with American community. Then she performs her identity as an Indian while she join Indian community in America and her dailies in her own apartment. Her being American in America’s company is her effort to negotiate with local culture in order to earn money. Moreover her effort in mantaining the Indian culture in Indian communities is her way to find husband. The way she negotiates both culture shows how she positions her self in two different cultural identities due to her need to survive.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

In the novel *For Matrimonial Purposes* Kavita Daswani has taken a simple story about an unmarried Indian girl and told it with mesmerizing intensity. A commonplace Indian story, it takes on significance in view of today’s liberated attitude. The book makes clear the importance of marriage and getting married at a young age, a basic fact of life for most Indians, whether boys or girls. This in turn highlights the concept of arranged marriages, something which has the power to shock Westerners and yet remains an ordinary, taken for granted occurrence in Indian family life. This disparity of culture, values and morals is brought out very clearly through the heroine, Anju. Her story initially begins in India, but later on moves to America, and she experiences these disparate societies and their vastly different attitudes towards life and love.

That difference makes the writer interest to analyze cultural identity of the main character in this novel, Anju. How she through the new culture in America without leaves her Indian cultural identity. It proved in the dialogues through the novel. Anju is an Immigrant in America, mostly she came to America because her parent insists her to marry. But until her through 33th she couldn’t find a match that suitable for her. So that’s she come to America to continuing her study and forget about the match one for a while. She got permission from her parent
because of she promises to her parent that she will remain as a good Hindu in America, also if she could find a man, she would tell her parent because at the first time her parent doesn’t let her go. Life in America is not much better than India, she should find new friends, new culture, and new things other. Then she through her study well until she graduated from the university. She finds a job as a publicist in one company in New York. Even she had successes in America, she were not forget her own culture as Indian. Although she acts like American, but she still keeps her cultural identity by wearing Indian traditional clothes, use Indian language, or Indian foods because, she has to survive to live in America.

She performs her identity as an American while she works in America’s Company and while interact with American community. Then she performs her identity as an Indian while she join Indian community in America and her dailies in her own apartment.

From Anju’s experiences as immigrant in America and how she performed her cultural identity makes the writer sure that as Hall said cultural identity is not immediately formed, but cultural identity is a process that is never finished. And the character of Anju was negotiated. Negotiated means not related with both of culture (Indian-American), but she could stay balance with both of cultures.

B. Suggestion

The writer analyzes the main character’s identity based on novel For Matrimonial Purposes. From the character analysis and conclusion above, the
writer would like to suggest for those who is interested to analyze about cultural identity, further study can be undertaken or discussed later in other areas.

During the analysis, the writer also discovered that there are several approaches can be used to analyze the novel. Anju as a main character is an Indian who lives in America. The writer assumed that Anju has cultural identity to analyze, because in America she would face the new culture that almost different from her homeland, India. So it could be more interesting to be discussed in further study.
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Green card, is an identification card attesting the permanent resident status of an alien in the United States of America. Green card also refers to an immigration
process of becoming a permanent resident. The green card serves as a proof that its holder, a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), has been officially granted immigration benefits, which include permission to conditionally reside and take employment in the USA. The holder must maintain his permanent resident status, and can be removed if certain conditions of such status are not met.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permanent_residence_%28United_States%29
accessed on January 14, 2010

The company was started by the Italian designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana in Milan, Italy.

accessed on February 8, 2011

The French acronym Bon Chic Bon Genre or ("good style, good class"), Women's clothing line created by Max Azria a French fashion designer.

www.linkedin.com/company/bcbg-max-azria
accessed on February 8, 2011
A. Introduction

Immigration is a major worldwide phenomenon that produces complex interaction among individuals from all around the globe. Immigration occurs because many immigrants who wish to find better social life, or to seek more advanced education from their homeland. However, most of these immigrants are out of the country to seek better live from their homeland because may be they may not have jobs or better payment. But not infrequently also the immigrants opt out of the country to avoid natural disasters, domestic violence, or political oppression due to their race, religion, gender, nationality, political viewpoint, sexual orientation, or membership in a particular social group. The impact of migration within a country can be both positive and negative. In terms of positive, migration can make a state meet the shortage of workers in enterprises, the foreign investment which can speed up the development, and also introduce a new culture to other nations to strengthen a sense of solidarity among nations. In negative side, migration can caused the explosion of population in one country. The effect of countries with high population growth will impact more on people are looking for jobs. It creates a condition where lots of immigrants are jobless while trying to survive in new country.

There are some countries that have problem with migration such as: China, India, and Mexico. Those countries have massive population, as a result their citizens migrate to other country. Especially India, Indian people can be found in all over the world. Lots of Indian people has migrated to all over the world and prefer to find a new better life in other country than in their homeland which has a big population and hard to find a job there. Many of those immigrants have migrated to areas in Europe such as France, Germany and England. But the most country that has a big population of immigrant is America, until America known as the country of immigrant. The reason why those immigrants choose America to migrate because
America is a very developed country, so they thought there are lots of opportunities such as jobs, educations, and a promising life to live because of that, many immigrants who gain success in America and sometimes they choose to live permanently there.

Apart all of it, the immigrant will produce complex interaction among individuals such as the exchanges of ideas, values and costumes. Immigrants face multiple challenges and changes in social, political, economic and religious issues. Immigration also involves identity crises, changes in values and behaviors, as well as the need to adapt to new social relationship. The immigrants changes in cultural identity as influenced by socio cultural dynamics that keep rotating among the various cultural aspects of the community. This is the case with the immigrants. They continue to shape her identity in line with the existing dynamics. And generally result in the dislocation of cultural migration, led to a condition that allows immigrants experienced alienation in the midst of socio cultural life of new communities and farthest from the old cultural roots. Moreover, immigrants eventually experience a change of identity as more alienated from the cultural roots of origin and more soluble in a new culture. The problem of immigrant’s identity in America attracted many Indian immigrant authors interest to put it into a novel. One of them is Kavita Daswani in For Matrimonial Purposes that showed the life of Indian immigrant in America.

In the novel For Matrimonial Purposes Kavita Daswani writes about Indian immigrant who live in America. The main character in this novel is Anju, a girl who grew up in the Indian tradition of old-fashioned. Since her teens, her parents continue to find the right match for her. This made her depressed, and finally she decided to go to America to live her own lives and hope to become a better human being. In America she continued her studies until her graduate. Her

1Anonymous http://www.jmu.edu/forlang/callimmigrate.html Accessed on August 23, 2010
life slightly changes when Anju started to get a job as a fashion publicist in New York, when she had a green card. Then America gradually changed her life, she began to follow the American life style. It showed from how to dress, how to speak (accent), and make a relation with ‘white’ men. The complex issues of cultural identity of the main character in this novel inspired the writer to analyze in this research. For an immigrant like Anju, its not that easy to live in new country like America, it needs adaptation to face a new culture. She has to adapt which cultural values of her origin she wants to keep and new cultural values she wants to adopt or not, or she can negotiate both of culture. It must be interesting to analyze, because of that the writer would like to analyze the concept of cultural identity that is presented by the main character in the novel.

**Focus of the Research**

In this study, the writer focuses only on the main character, Anju, to identify her cultural identity as an Indian immigrant in America.

**Research Questions**

Based on the background of the problems described above, the formulation of the problem in this research is:

How does the main character perform her cultural identity as an Indian immigrant in America in the novel *For Matrimonial Purposes*?

**Research Objectives**

According to the formula above problems, the purpose of this research is to discover the cultural identity of the main characters in the novel For Matrimonial Purposes for Indian immigrants in
America. And this research will also show the original culture of ethnic change the main character in her new lifestyle in America.

**Research Significance**

The writer hopes this research will provide many benefits to readers who are also interested to know the life of Indian immigrants in America and how cultural identity is displayed by these immigrants in a literary work, and can be used as a reference.

**Research Methodology**

This research methodology includes several important aspects in the study as follows:

1. **Research Methods**
   
   In this study the author uses descriptive qualitative methods in researching the main character's identity as an Indian immigrant in America by using the concept of cultural identity.

2. **Data Analysis**
   
   In this study the writer examined the data by using qualitative data analysis methods. Analysis based on the methods, theories, or approaches that are relevant. The data collected will be analyzed using the theory of cultural identity by the writer.

3. **Research Instruments**
   
   Instruments used were the researchers themselves as a means to obtain data in a way to collect qualitative data about the main character's identity as an Indian immigrant in the novel For Matrimonial Purposes by Kavita Daswani with several steps, namely; read the novel over and
over again, identifying the cultural identity of the main characters in the novel, classifying and marking the text in the novel that support the writer in data collection.

Analysis Unit

The unit of analysis in this study is novel For Matrimonial Purposes by Kavita Daswani, published in 2005 by G. P. Putnam’s Sons.

B. Theoretical Framework

Characters are the first important to look for when reading a novel. They are the persons presented in the novel that carry their personal of live through dialogue and action by which the reader understands their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives. Character refers to the people authors create to inhabit their stories. ²

The author can describe the characters in various ways. It can be directly described or use a third person to tell the names of characters, how they physical appearances, how they dailies, family, social status, education, what they are doing and thinking etc. And also could be drawn from the thoughts, actions and dialogues as the readers understand. The character in the narrative work, such as novel itself can be major or minor characters, protagonist or antagonist characters, flat or round characters, and static or dynamic characters. ³ The major character shows the important role and almost be the first character that introduced while reading a novel. The major character is developing as they react to events and to other characters. On the contrary, the character which appears only few times and takes the short portion is called minor character.

² Gloria Mason. Et al., Literature and Ourselves. 5ed (USA: Pearson Education, 2006) p. 9
Besides major and minor character, there are protagonist and antagonist through the characters. The protagonist is the main character in the novel, a person who being conflicted by minor character and holds the key of story till the end of the novel. The opponent of protagonist is known as the antagonist or in the event that opposing force is not person, we speak of antagonist force. They force the protagonist and often give troubles and conflicts to the protagonist character. According to Aspects of the novel (1927), E. M. Forster defines two basic types of characters, their qualities, functions, and importance for the development of a novel: they are flat and round character. Flat character is constructed round a single idea or quality. It means that the character undergoes no change or development and tends to stay the same throughout a story. While round character is character encompass many ideas and characteristic. It shows us with more facets. Static character is usually character, the character that remain stable in his attitude throughout a work. And dynamic characters tend to be more fully developed and described than flat, or static, characters. If you think of the characters you most love in fiction, they probably seem as real to you as people you know in real life.

1. Cultural Identity

Identity are the interface between a private sense of self that includes conscious and unconscious feelings, rational and irrational motivations, personal eliefs and values and those factors that constitute the social context in which we experience those feelings and motivation. Everybody lives in different countries in the world, with different cultures, religions, personalities even ethnicities. These differences become his or her identity in society when they

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6 Ibid.
7 Anonymous, fiction, Accesed on January, 15, 2010 http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/dynamic.htm
are interacting with another one. And identity is used to know the social status, such as races, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, etc.

Cultural identity is needed by someone to show themselves as an individual who recognized their existences in an environment. A cultural identity is not immediately formed, but cultural identity is a process that is never finished. Hall explains that cultural identity is something that is never finished, always creating new and different process procedure earlier and more visible in everyday life. From this view, it can be concluded that one's cultural identity is not determined by culture, but rather depends on the position in which it is located. An individual can be anyone depending where he is and for what needs. The cultural identity of others can become the individual's cultural identity. Cultural identity is not an essence, but a position. Basically from all notions of the definition of cultural identity is a part of one’s self concept that comes from knowledge and feelings become part of particular group who need to be recognized in a particular environment. According to Rice cultural identity is the feelings of members of the group with symbols, values, and common history that made them known as a distinct group also proposed definition of cultural identity. Another definition also proposed by Dusek. Dusek explained that cultural identity refers to how much person feels as part of a group of specific cultural/ethnic and how it affects the feelings, perceptions, and behavior. Many novels about Indian immigrants in America can serve as an example in the research of issues of cultural identity and Diaspora. Through these novels can be found in the fact that the problem of identity is not as easy as imagined. According to cultural studies paradigm, identity is seen as something that will never complete, always in process, and always arranged in representation of something.
Stuart Hall said in Cultural identity and Diaspora that Cultural identity can be viewed from two perspectives: identity as being and identity as becoming. The first perspective, cultural identity is seen as an entity owned jointly, the original of a person and within many people who have a common history. Cultural identity is an example of historical and cultural similarities that make up a group of people into one unity, they would always look the same despite their different views from the outside.

The definition of identity as being and identity as becoming also explains that cultural identities reflect the common historical experiences and shared cultural that show us a one people. For example is the language, the Indian which lived in India speaks Hindi as their language to communicate to others. Language being use as one of the sign to describe that they as one people (as Indian). Since the language is the one kind of culture, it means that they all shared their culture through the language. The strength of our cultural identities involves the degree to which we see our culture as important in the way we define ourselves. We tend to see our cultures as important in how we define ourselves. We are another culture then we are in our own cultures. We are more aware of our cultural identities when we found ourselves in another culture than when we are in our own culture. But there is one more theory that we must pay attention. It is a theory of the position of someone while face the new culture of new place. The people could be dominant, negotiated, and oppositional. A dominant is the characters who generally accept their identity. Such as, if he or she is an Indian, they would act as Indian with all activities of their original culture. Negotiated would not accept the two of culture, if the character

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9 Judy Giles and Tim Middleton, “Studying Culture: A Practical Introduction” (Massachusset: Blackwell publisher, 1999), p.64

“A dominant (or preferred) reading of a text accepts the content of the cultural product without question. A negotiated reading questions parts of the content of the text but does not question the dominant ideology which underlies the production of the text. An oppositional response to a cultural product is one in which the recipient of the text understands that the system that produced the text is one with which she/he is fundamentally at odds.”
is Indian-American cultural identities. While oppositional would not respond both of cultural identity, because she/he prefers to hide their own identity.

2. The Indian Identity

The Indian identity can be identified from their characters, educational aspect, food, costumes, language and family life. Most of Indian lives ased on the basics of India’s culture. Like the language, dances, religion, music, they really employ all of it in their daily lives. Even the modernity has come to India nowadays, Indian remain principled with their culture, because the culture has deeply rooted within their heart, mind and soul.

Regarded by some historian as the oldest living civilization of earth, the Indian tradition dates back to 8,000 BC and has continuous recorded history for over 2,500 years. Several elements of India’s diverse culture such as Indian religions, yoga and Indian cuisine have had a profound impact across the world.\(^{10}\) In India the family plays a very important role. They will live together: parents, children, daughter in law and grandchildren. And parents are owns of control in a family. Parents who will arrange the rules and reserves the decision that considered important in family and other family members will abide by the rules given by their parents. Especially for the girls who were not married, the Indian girls who are not married will look for prospective husbands by their parents to find a man who would marry them. In India, the marriage is thought to be for life, and the divorce rate is extremely low. The arranged marriages generally have a much lower divorce rate.\(^{11}\)

Tradition in India is about values that transcend down generations automatically. These are genetic traits and simplicity is the main ingredient. Ancient culture believed in a lot of

\(^{10}\) Anonymous, Indian culture, accessed on January 25 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_India \\
^{11}\) Ibid., marriage
dogmas and rituals that can be termed as false beliefs and Indians are an intelligent lot to traverse these paths and modify the social requirements. Indians are highly flexible in the sense they would like to imbibe the changes dictated by western influence and yet clearly affirm their belief in traditions.

The most important the identity of Indian can be seen from their skinny dark looks and costume. The Indian costume is totally unique in the whole world, their traditional clothing called sari for the woman and dhoti for the man. They are always proud to wear their traditional clothes in every way and anywhere. Indian food is vegetarian, many traditional dishes also include chicken, goat, lamb, fish and other meats. Indian speaks in native language, Hindi, and also English for the second language. And the last seen is from family life, Indian live in big family in one community.

D. The Indian American Identity

Since Indian came to America s immigrants, they have already got many problems. The most problem was had to face the different culture, way of life and life style. As newcomers, they had to adapt with American ways standard. It happens till now. Some Indian loses their identity, but others still keep their identity as Indian.

With generally high expectation for economic standing, success, and equally high levels of education American reveal that a culture which shares the traditional American emphasis on mobility and middle class status is uniquely positioned to both appear to be responding o integration, while still maintaining key aspects of Indian culture including language and
Indian American identity in reality and life expressed through a number of different categories, such as gender and class, from contact with religion in a way that really shows the cultural differences. Indian American almost confused to find their identity, on the other side America is a place full of freedom that never existed in India. Because of that many of Indian American couldn’t manage themselves to receive where the positive and negative effects life in America. Mostly American Indian American work in as convenience store owners, taxi cab drivers, or engineers. But they also have a strong presence in many other parts of the American workforce.

C. Research Analysis

1. Anju as Indian Immigrant in America

Anju is a main character of the novel, she has an important role in developing the story. In the beginning of the novel, Kavita Daswani introduces Anju’s character consciously about her marriage. Her marriage is the main conflict through the story. Her parent concerns to find a perfect match for her and she went along what her parents wanted to do. Everything has been done by her parent, trying to match her with the Indian man who stayed in Accra, Africa. Calling Udhay, the most astrologer in Bombay. It aims to predict when exactly the attempt for her to marry. And then put Anju’s profile on matchmaking sites in internet. Its make Anju a bit frustrated to think about her marriage.

While her father and mother still arranged her marriage, she decides not to think much about it. Then she asked her parent to allow her to go to and study in America. Firstly her parent rejected, because her parent thought that Anju were educated and worked happily in her father’s

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shop. But Anju tries to explain that in Bombay she is not doing anything real and useful for her own life, and she wanted to do something useful then looking for a man which never suited for her. After a long debate that there had to be something better out there for her, a life wherein she didn’t feel like such a disappointment, people who saw something in her that nobody in Bombay saw, finally her parent allows her to go to America. And four months later she comes to America and accepted into a school of continuing and professional studies at New York University. Then she decided to take courses in temporary world studies, and current business and marketing trends. She lives in her uncle and aunt who lived in Fort Lee, New Jersey. Just because she lives with her uncle and aunt, it doesn’t mean she has everything instantly. In that new place she has to do everything by her own, go to university by train, making breakfast for herself, or anything else that almost different with her life in Bombay, that she hasn’t to do everything by herself. Because everything always provided by her family. But it doesn’t matter for her, she really enjoyed it because she thought America is the place she belonging to.

Until she graduated from her university and fined her job as publicist, she hasn’t live with her uncle and aunt again. It makes her happy, because she could live normally as any other woman without extra supervision by her uncle and aunt. And she feels like she would become as a true independent woman. After graduated from university, Anju doesn’t want to come home. Because her counselor said she can stays in America and work, and it is the part of student experience. She convinced her parent that it wouldn’t hard to her to get a job. As a parent, they refused it. They wanted Anju to come home, but Anju still in her own decision. And then her parent agrees with that condition, so Anju got the job soon a week later. She hired as an employee in That’s A Wrap! A small publicity and events company in the downtown section of Madison Avenue, it is because the capability of Anju to write a press in under an hour. One thing
that makes her happy, she hasn’t live with her uncle and aunt anymore. Because, she can live normally as any other woman without extra supervision by her uncle and aunt. She worked hardly in her new job until she got H-I visa from her boss, Marion. Then Anju becomes very successful woman after her visit to Paris, in Paris she companied Len Maverick, the new client of the company that going to throw the Mother of all fashion shows. And she own the responsibility of all things concerned with the fashion show. And then her boss, trust her to manage all of the things of the company in New York.

With success in education also work in New York, Anju’s life as Indian was infected by American life. It showed since she refuses her parents to come back to India after her graduation. Then prefer live in New York than in India, its showed when Anju go to the therapist. Again, her marriage is the main conflict through the story. It makes Anju under pressure when her parents asked her to marry. She hates it, but she wont disappoint her parents. She thought just because she had a good life in America, then she wouldn’t choose any man to marry without agreement from her parent although there is no man suitable for her that has choosen by her parents, she still keeps obedient to her parents.

That’s all Anju as Indian immigrant in America. She felt the condition in her homeland was no longer appropriate to her anymore. Especially when the problem of marriage is coming from her family. It makes her a bit frustrated to think about it. It’s not that she did not want to get married, she had tried as she had make a relation with ‘white’ men, but the relationship did not last long because for Indian women a foreign marriage is seldom a positive act it is more usually an act of despair or confusion. It leads to casteless-ness, the loss of community, the loss of a place in the world and few Indians are equipped to cope with that. And she won’t make her

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13 Anonymous, Work Visa Jobs, accessed on December 20, 2010 www.h1base.com
parents feel that bad effect because of her marrying a ‘white’ man if the relation stays longer. However, sometimes she also felt sad with the act of her parents that too much to find her a mate. She needs happiness, and she’ll find it herself, that’s it. While she felt confused about her parents and marriage while in India, she always decided to go back to New York. She told her parents directly and shows that she have tired of all stuff about that problem, Anju told her parents that she felt more useful in New York than to find a never suitable.

2. Anju’s Indian Cultural Identity

Anju is a girl who grew up in India with her families. But, she lives in America for several years lately. She took an education then works there. In America she often shows her Indian identity, and sometime she presents American life style too. It is because she was an immigrant in America that a bit influenced by American culture. And the cultural identities of main character can be seen as follows.

It’s not so hard for Anju being an immigrant in America, because the second language of India is English. So that, she could fluently speaks English. And there is no difficulty to make conversation with the people in America.

How to dress is one of the ways to know someone’s identity. And here Anju get dressed as American, such as when go to school she wears jeans, sweater, boots just like American students. While she has got a job, she starts to wear famous brands in New York such as Prada, BCBG, Chanel, and etc. it was really different how to get dressed in India.

As immigrant Anju faces new kinds of menu there, while she eats chane bread in India, she should eat sandwich in America. Get coffee in Starbucks, pasta and etc. But as Indian, she can receive of those foods of America. Just because Anju a bit influenced by American culture, it
doesn’t mean she brought American culture in her whole dailies. She represents Indian cultures and shows it in America. The Indian culture of Anju in America can be seen below.

1.) Indian Language

In america Anju stays in her uncle and aunt’s house. From the first she came to America she uses English Language, but she also often speaks Indian language with her uncle and aunt or when makes a call to her parent in India. The writer takes the scene when Anju just broke up with her white man, Jeff, then she speaks Indian while the man tries to leave her.

2.) Indian Traditional Clothes

When get started to work, Anju almost wear the clothes that usually wear by American woman, its blazers, shirts, and skirts. But she shows an Indian identity sometime by wearing sari. She wears Sari whenever she wants, and she doesn’t shy to show that Indian identity by wearing that. Even in a big fashion show in Paris, she proud to wear Sari while the other people try to show their new clothes of some brand by famous designers. She stills proud of Sari, the traditional clothes of her homeland, India.

3.) Traditional Food of India

Although she can accept the food of America, sometime Anju eats the traditional food of India. She often misses foods of her homeland, that’s why when she came to her uncle’s house she never miss to eat anything that her aunt made of Indian foods.

4.) Hindu Tradition

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14 One of original Indian’s wear
There are some activities that brought by Anju to America, it is the tradition of her religion, Hindu. As We Know India is one of the most religiously diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies and cultures. Religion still plays a central and definitive role in the life of many of its people.

And what Anju brought to America is fasting. The fast were done by Indian female who has in marriageable age. They had to fast to get Shiva’s bless and then Shiva would give them a good boy for her. In America Anju still brought this habit in order to get a boy, while make Shiva happy by her fast. Anju also doing her pray in her own house in America. She has a cupboard that functioned as a home temple called Mandir. Every morning she had to pray in front of Mandir as taught by her parent to ask help or anything, such as find a mate, to pass the test or to ward of sickness and etc. It’s showed as a creature of God, Anju still keeps their cultural identity by showing her obedience to her religion and God in order she had a good life in America.

5. ) Indian wedding

Anju was reached all that she wanted to do, but a man. She tried to find a man, but no one of the man out there suitable for her, it is make Anju a bit worried. Actually, she met Jeff in America but her relationship with him was no stayed longer. It is because Jeff was white and Indian woman doesn’t marry white man, its tradition. But she never loses her optimistic, she keeps pray and tries. With her optimistic, finally, she finds Rohan. Indian man, who lives in Los Angeles and become her husband later. There is always good result who kept optimist in everything they had. Then Anju celebrates her wedding by tradition as Indian.

16 One of Hindu’s Gods
From explanation above, Anju is the main character in the novel that her character showed as Indian immigrant in America. She still keeps her cultural identity, although sometime she acts like American too. It’s shown in the novel from her wear, food, language, and her tradition while in America. Anju can through both of two cultures without felt culture shock like any others who face the new culture of new country to live.

Actually Indian people are always making a group in everywhere, like in this novel. Sometime Anju attends the group in America, they usually use that moment for gathering with the other Indian people and look for a match to marry for whom still single like Anju or doing any else according to the tradition. Even some Indian people made a company to employ Indian immigrant in America, because sometime it’s difficult to immigrant to find a job in other country like America. But, Anju doesn’t bind to Indian people. She proved that Indian immigrant like her could find a job in foreign company and become success.

The writer concludes that the character of Anju was negotiated. She negotiates because, she has to survive to live in America. She performs her identity as an American while she works in America’s Company and while interact with American community. Then she performs her identity as an Indian while she join Indian community in America and her dailies in her own apartment. Her being American in America’s company is her effort to negotiate with local culture in order to earn money. Moreover her effort in maintaining the Indian culture in Indian communites is her way to find husband. The way she negotiates both culture shows how she positions her self in two different cultural identities due to her need to survive.
D. Conclusion

In the novel *For Matrimonial Purposes* Kavita Daswani has taken a simple story about an unmarried Indian girl and told it with mesmerizing intensity. A commonplace Indian story, it takes on significance in view of today’s liberated attitude. The book makes clear the importance of marriage and getting married at a young age, a basic fact of life for most Indians, whether boys or girls. This in turn highlights the concept of arranged marriages, something which has the power to shock Westerners and yet remains an ordinary, taken for granted occurrence in Indian family life. This disparity of culture, values and morals is brought out very clearly through the heroine, Anju. Her story initially begins in India, but later on moves to America, and she experiences these disparate societies and their vastly different attitudes towards life and love.

That difference makes the writer interest to analyze cultural identity of the main character in this novel, Anju. How she through the new culture in America without leaves her Indian cultural identity. It proved in the dialogues through the novel. Anju is an Immigrant in America, mostly she came to America because her parent insists her to marry. But until her through 33th she couldn’t find a match that suitable for her. So that’s she come to America to continuing her study and forget about the match one for a while. She got permission from her parent because of she promises to her parent that she will remain as a good Hindu in America, also if she could find a man, she would tell her parent because at the first time her parent doesn’t let her go. Life in America is not much better than India, she should find new friends, new culture, and new things other. Then she through her study well until she graduated from the university. She finds a job as a publicist in one company in New York. Even she had successes in America, she were not forget her own culture as Indian. Although she acts like American, but she still keeps her cultural identity by wearing Indian traditional clothes, use Indian language, or Indian foods
because, she has to survive to live in America. She performs her identity as an American while she works in America’s Company and while interact with American community. Then she performs her identity as an Indian while she join Indian community in America and her dailies in her own apartment From Anju’s experiences as immigrant in America and how she performed her cultural identity makes the writer sure that as Hall said cultural identity is not immediately formed, but cultural identity is a process that is never finished. And the character of Anju was negotiated. Negotiated means not related with both of culture (Indian-American), but she could stay balance with both of cultures.

E. Suggestion

The writer analyzes the main character’s identity based on novel For Matrimonial Purposes. From the character analysis and conclusion above, the writer would like to suggest for those who is interested to analyze about cultural identity, further study can be undertaken or discussed later in other areas.

During the analysis, the writer also discovered that there are several approaches can be used to analyze the novel. Anju as a main character is an Indian who lives in America. The writer assumed that Anju has cultural identity to analyze, because in America she would face the new culture that almost different from her homeland, India. So it could be more interesting to be discussed in further study.
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APPROVEMENT

THE ISSUE OF CULTURAL IDENTITY IN KAVITA DASWANI’S FOR MATRIMONIAL PURPOSES

A Thesis
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Strata One Degree (S1)

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APPENDICES

A. The Cover of Novel
B. Biography: Kavita Daswani

Kavita Daswani is currently a fashion correspondent for CNN International, CNBC Asia, and Women's Wear Daily. She has written for the Los Angeles Times and the International Herald Tribune among many other publications and has been the fashion editor of the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong. Her family is originally from Mumbai, and she grew up in Hong Kong. She now lives in Los Angeles with her husband and two sons. Her first novel, 'For Matrimonial Purposes', was published in 2003 followed by 'The Village Bride of Beverly Hills' (both G.B. Putnam's Sons) and 'Salaam, Paris' (Plume). In 2007, she released her first Young Adult book, 'Indie Girl' (Simon Pulse) and her latest, another Young Adult work, will be out in 2010 (HarperCollins). Her books have been published in 17 languages.