



## **An Analysis on Comparative Study of The Trauma of Partition Reflected in The Selected Novels**

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### **Abstract**

The number of writers who have addressed the split in the last several decades is one aspect that has evolved. The books' depiction of the setting is heavily influenced by both the historical period and the geographical area. Women, nationalism, the causes and effects of partition, and many more such subjects are examples. A variety of viewpoints and methods of treatment, however, is of equal importance. Despite sharing a common theme, the novelists' perspectives on the partition couldn't be more different. Even though some of these authors were not around during this bloody period in India's history, they succeeded in capturing the essence of what was happening via their work. These books portray the division's terrible realities, even though they came out at separate times. These pieces portray acts of communal violence, racial hatred, abduction, rape, looting, and arson. A variety of feelings about the split have found their way into the works of these authors. Despite the similarities, there are also many key distinctions in the authors' depictions of India's darkest past. The novels have illuminated the social, cultural, political, and historical landscapes of India by providing a glimpse into the communal and individual lives of Indians before and after partition. It can found the divide from many perspectives once we compare and analyze them. Examining the chosen texts for similarities and differences among the three authors is the next step after deciding to compare these novelists. In this article, an analysis on comparative study of the trauma of partition reflected in the selected novels has been discussed.

**Keywords: Trauma, Partition, Novels.**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Here it was examined three famous writers' works that addressed the topic of partition. A Bend in the Ganges by Manohar Malgonkar and Phoenix Fled by Attia Hosain are two such examples; Ice Candy Man and The Bride by Bapsi Sidhwa are two more. All of the aforementioned books have been read and analyzed by the researcher. This chapter primarily aims to compare and contrast the three writers. Their shared and unique understandings of the partition history, projection techniques, and points of view will be the primary foci of analysis.

### **COMPARATIVE STUDY:**

Because it sets the stage for literary works, history is always significant. It is not a simple task to combine fantasy with reality. Some authors, nonetheless, have succeeded in doing so thanks to their exceptional imaginations. It is possible for one to rise to prominence above the other based on the unique qualities shared by literature and history. Careful consideration of fact and fiction is required while utilizing this tool. A great number of brilliant authors, however, have accomplished the seemingly impossible: to seamlessly combine fact and fiction. This has allowed literature to advance. Countless novels have dealt with the topic of partition. Many authors found inspiration in the subcontinental division and its aftermath, and they tackled the subject head-on in their writings. Fictional works have delved into various facets of the partition, encompassing communal animosity, crimes, devastation, the condition of refugees, and, above all, the deterioration of human principles that endured during the division. The terrible tragedy of the partition still leaves green wounds, even if seventy years have passed. At least one new fiction touches on the topic of partition year. As a result of the tragedy's potential, many authors are moved to write about the continual sorrow of division. The Holocaust survivors might be approached by many authors who would like to hear their memories of the division.

The writers provided their own distinct analysis of the split in each of the publications. While some writers have divided it up, others have made it the meat of their writings. Many authors have utilized partition as a key or main theme in their works. Some examples include Shiv K. Kumar (A River with Three Banks), Chaman Nahal (Azadi), Khushwant Singh (Train to



Pakistan), Raj Gill (The Rape), etc. Just a few more books, like B. A Bend in the Ganges by Manohar Malgonkar, Sunlight on a Broken Column by Attia Hosain, and a number of Rajan's works all deal with partition, though in a more secondary role. Quite a few novels, including Clear Light of Day by Anita Desai, A Fine Family by Gurucharan Das, and The World is My Village by K. In many texts, partition is discussed as an afterthought, and A. The Great Indian Novel, Shadow Lines, Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh, Shashi Tharoor, and Abbas.

According to the researcher, this analysis would be based on the novel by Attia Hosain. Many writers, including Attia Hosain, found inspiration in Partition. Because she dared to write in a male-dominated culture, Attia is considered a pioneering female novelist. Her lone book, Sunlight on a Broken Column, takes place in India during partition. The story portrays the subcontinent as having endured a terrible partition both prior to and following independence. Those on both sides of the border felt the repercussions of the partition in this book. This book takes its title from one written by T.S. Eliot. John Eliot. The poet John Eliot. This is Eliot's The Hollow Man. According to the title, summer is going to be full of promise and winter is going to be full of disappointment. The sad events surrounding partition and the fight for freedom are addressed in Sunlight on a Broken Column. Laila, a fifteen-year-old protagonist, goes through the horrors and misery of division herself in her story. Despite depicting the country's present state as a broken column due to partition, Attia maintains that there is still possibility for improvement. After overcoming the horrors of partition and growing into an adult, Laila becomes a mother in the book's final chapters. The fight for independence of India and Laila's fight against the customs are both depicted in Attia. Elsewhere in the story, the author slams the British government's "divide and rule" strategy.

Most of the characters, notably Laila, are based on real-life incidents that occurred to Attia since this book is autobiographical. The years 1930–1950 provide the backdrop of the story. As a survivor of the Holocaust's Partition, Attia provides an incredibly accurate account of what happened. One Muslim royal family's experience with the split is key to the story. Our heroine Laila gives us first-hand accounts of the schism. We observe how the split shatters Laila's Muslim orthodox family as the drama nears its conclusion. Approximately twenty years passed while Attia penned this book. Twenty years before to independence, the air is thick with riots, carnage, communal violence, mistrust, and communal animosity. Attia provides an accurate depiction of the liberation struggle and division as they affected the Muslim population.

In Sunlight on a Broken Column, Attia Hosain deftly and accurately portrays the poignancy of partition. There are others who want religiously distinct nations, even though Attia promotes secularism and communal identification. To justify her work on the partition fiction, the author gives an explanation. "I wanted to write about that agonizing heart break when we were all split up and a brother could not see a brother and a mother could not be with her dying son and families that had been proud to always collect together, when there were weddings or deaths or births or anything, cannot be together," she said. The fact that a Muslim author portrays the schism between the Muslim League and Congress in Sunlight on a Broken Column is a watershed moment. The author omits the time preceding the partition. Although the partition isn't the main focus of the novel, it does explore the cultural, social, and political consequences of the division.

The fight for independence from Britain was a joint effort by Muslims and Hindus. All throughout Attia, the fighting people are encouraged to be tolerant and united in their faith. Intolerance of religion is eradicated by the royalist strategy of "divide and rule" in due time. Bipin Chandra claims that the policies and reign of the British are largely to blame for the rise of communalism in contemporary India. During the terrible years of 1946 and 1947, religious communal riots reached their height, and the British capitalized on and contributed to their fueling. The enmity between them developed from deep-seated historical and religious disagreements. As the author notes, political and social shifts caused Hindus and Muslims to betray one another in response to the British. Despite taking place about seventy years after the



split, the book provides a vivid depiction of religious riots and communal hostility. Both groups have a long tradition of being used as scapegoats by political parties.

While detailing the part Muslims played in the split, Attia maintains objectivity. She discusses Muslims who were for and against the partition of the country. She uses the characters in her book to illustrate how society is evolving. After taking a level head, Attia empathizes with the Muslims' longing for homeland. Having said that, she is honest regarding the extremist Muslims who, in the name of religion, ruined the environment and corrupted the youth of the faith. While Attia acknowledged that the terrible schism was caused by her demand, she also acknowledged that the ideas held by Gandhi and Nehru had an impact on and inspired her. After hearing Gandhiji's remarks, our heroine Laila, who had never left her home before, "went out into the streets" to protest the independence war. Even back then, she was there for every single one of those occasions. When it comes to the Swadeshi movement, her support has never wavered. By adhering to Laila's values, Attia shows her support for Gandhiji's goal.

During the fight for independence, Attia was a fervent supporter. At fourteen years old, she began working for the Congress. Her fictional personas mirror her real-life political challenges. While his family relocates to Pakistan after the partition, Asad remains in India as a symbol of his patriotism. Attempting to inform his family, particularly his defiant brother Zahid, of his final acceptance of the British doctrine of "divide and rule," Asad tries to end the scandal. Attia intends for this paragraph to emphasize how her brothers differ in outlook and philosophy. Here we see the brothers torn apart by the partition that separated their families. Following independence, radical Muslims like Attia were understandably concerned about Hindu rule. It was believed that most Hindus still look down on Muslims because of the hundreds of years that Muslims ruled over them. Finally, democracy has given them an opportunity to exact revenge. After two centuries of domination, the Brits must have finally accepted how despised they are. When it comes to religious concerns, Attia is vehemently against partitioning the country. Through her protagonist Laila, she expresses this viewpoint.

The painful separation and the simultaneous joys of freedom are both shown in Sunlight on a Broken Column. Many people had to flee their homes and settle in other countries as a result of the divide. As tensions rose in the neighborhood, the once cordial relationship between the two groups rapidly deteriorated. Attia depicts the atrocities committed by both Muslims and Hindus during the partition, such as kidnappings, rapes, and mutilations. Attia was firsthand aware of the terror of beheadings, rapes, mutilations, and carnage as the vicious, spiteful men poured over the border and reached that sanctuary in the hills. It would have been far worse if the peaceful hills had erupted into violent volcanoes and the wild woods had unleashed their terrible creatures on my child and the remnants of humanity.

The implications of the split are addressed in the last section of Sunlight on a Broken Column. These repercussions are detailed by Attia on both a subcontinental and a familial level. The nation's fight for freedom is symbolized by Laila, who defies her family's norms. In this section, Attia describes the suffering that resulted from the divorce for both families and individuals. Despite their rich status, Laila's family faced emotional and mental pain, even though they did not suffer any bodily injury. This compels Attia to detail the mental and emotional toll it has had on her loved ones. Persecution of Muslims is depicted in graphic detail in the book. Muslim subjects were subjected to torture and humiliation by examination and search officers during the partition. There was a common perception among Muslims in India that the government was out to take advantage of and suppress Muslims.

Another symbol of the harmony and camaraderie between Hindus and Muslims is Sunlight Shining on a Broken Column. Attia attempts to bring us good news about Saleem and Nadira's love when they return to India. After returning from two years in Pakistan, Muslims and Hindus once again live side by side, producing an extraordinarily moving tableau, as if the awful event of division had never occurred. Until her death, Attia carried the burden of the loss and anguish she experienced as a result of the breakup. According to what Attia Hosain says in her writings, we should not pass the buck but instead accept full responsibility for the partition.





The division has been utilized as a backdrop in previous works by Attia Hosain. Stories collected in *Phoenix Flew* take place during the divide. The title story recounts the uprising, division, and communal bloodshed based on actual events. The author illustrates the impact of the partition on herself through Granny. She remains steadfast in her loyalty to her hometown and fiercely guards her individuality, despite the inhumanity she faces from even her neighbors. Because the author focuses more on Granny's character, the younger characters in the book are secondary. Another story by Attia Hosain that deals with the aftermath of the breakup is *After the Storm*. We are taken along on the tragic journey of a young child whose life is abruptly cut short due to the separation. Out of everyone who was killed during the partition, only she escaped unharmed. Though the author chooses to keep the girl's religious background a secret, she does identify her as Bibi. She becomes the narrator's adopted daughter after she helps him out around the house. The story depicts brutality, bloodshed, and inhumanity as a consequence of communal conflict and division. Thanks to the schism, our protagonist skipped childhood altogether and never had to deal with puberty.

One prominent work that used separation as a metaphor is *A Bend in the Ganges* by Manohar Malgonkar, a novelist. As this book so graphically depicts, the partition was a time of extreme violence, communal hatred, kidnapping women, rapes, and mass murders. The reasons behind the deadliest upheaval in India's history, Partition, are explained by Malgonkar. The story shows how several factors and competing allegiances contributed to the novel's central subject of division. Malgonkar portrays the communal rioting and violence as they actually happened, focusing on the behavioral and mental changes caused by the division. The author deftly captures the core ideological struggle that existed in India in the 1930s and 1940s: the decision to oppose violently or peacefully. This comprehensive history of independence movements spans the entire Great War to the Partition of India, starting in the 1930s and concluding with independence. The tale of Malgonkar revolves around partition, which involves the slaughter on a national and provincial scale. Three young men—Gain Talwar, Debi Dayal, and Shafi Usman—undergo a metamorphosis throughout the course of the narrative as they navigate the anarchy of the Partition.

The religious civil war quickly escalated and engulfed the entire nation. The risks posed by the riots were too great for the government, the police, and the army to contain. All of the country's towns and villages with a mixed Muslim or Sikh population were turned into battlefields, leading to widespread destruction. "Tens of millions of people had to flee, leaving everything behind: Muslims from India, Hindus and Sikhs from the land that was about to become Pakistan: two great rivers of humanity flowing in opposite directions along the pitifully inadequate roads and railways, jamming, clashing, colliding head-on, leaving their dead and dying littering the landscape," Malgonkar says in his account of the horrific event.

A huge mass migration was conducted by people from all around the border. However, the most despicable aspect was lowering human standards to an unbearable degree. The human race was acting more barbarically than any wild animal. Kidnappings, rapes, and murders occurred in great numbers. Not only did the second group destroy homes and streets, but they also tormented children, humiliated women, raped them, and killed them. They even destroyed the sacred animals that the previous group had. Shockingly brutal acts spread across the nation. It was a major concern of Mahatma Gandhi's that the independence of millions of people would come at the cost of their suffering. It was a horrible sight to see the ground covered in blood before independence. After decades of peaceful coexistence, the once-friendly people are now killing each other out of religious animosity. There were numerous corpses discovered on the street due to the rampant religious prejudice. The shocking reality is that people's horrific murders were motivated by their religious convictions.

At *Bend in the Ganges*, the author describes how the schism severed the bonds of brotherhood between the two groups. Their already deep religious divide became even more polarized, leading to animosity and eventually bloodshed. Malgonkar has begun looking into this matter. He wonders if the country's division was brought about by Gandhiji's peaceful ideology or by



the British policy of dominance and partition.

They had a long history of friendship, so it's puzzling that they became so poisoned with animosity. Did the British or Gandhi come out on top? This change was anticipated by the British all along. Or maybe they were both wrong because they hadn't thought about the possibility that the subjects they were testing on had some sort of intrinsic defect. How could Gandhi foresee a liberation that would provoke such animosity and misery? Had the possibility that it might set in motion a migration of peoples unseen in human history ever occurred to him?"

There have been independence movements and community uprisings, which Malgonkar likens to terrorist assaults. He now claims that if terrorists had controlled these movements and the populace, the outcome would have been the same. His descriptions of the senseless rioting and their aftermath are powerful. Even while he doubts the Indian National Movement's commitment to nonviolence and its applicability in this context, he admits that it was an important part of their plan to fight the British. At this point, the author starts to wonder if the radicals' violent actions or their nonviolent attitude were more crucial to winning independence. Given that it is a political ideology that has not been able to stand on its own, Malgonkar presents his interpretations on Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence. The independence movement could never have been successful without the sacrifice of numerous lives. Nonviolence is the primary target of this book's analysis and criticism. Violence like as kidnapping, looting, sexual assault, murder, mutilation of children, arson on houses and streets, etc. has a long and bloody history in the Indian split. Rioting and violence play significant roles in *A Bend in the Ganges*. What matters most is that it exposes the tyranny and murder of defenseless individuals. The text delves into the psychological impact of the Partition on individuals. *A Bend in the Ganges*, like Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan*, highlights the importance of love as something that can overcome all boundaries, even in the face of terrible sectarian violence.

Partition is an ancillary problem that Manohar Malgonkar discusses in his debut novel, *Distant Drum*. Regular activities of soldiers are depicted in the narrative. For the plot to unfold, the chasm is an indispensable backdrop. It lays out the stark reality and repercussions of the separation. The nation itself was one of many entities that became separated during the split. After the separation, the country's military forces were also split. It was a personal or national decision for military leaders to put themselves in harm's way. The army was divided into two divisions. People who had worked together for a long time became bitter rivals. The division causes a rift between two buddies in the army in *Distant Drum*. Due to their closeness, our heroes Kiran and Abdul were able to quell the communal disturbances that broke out during partition. Ranks at the Dehradun Military Academy were bestowed upon them. They break up because Abdul chooses to go to Pakistan when offered the option of just one country. Over the Kashmir border, their paths recross after a long history of animosity. The impact of the division on people's day-to-day lives is evident here. Consequently, two countries that had been cordial for quite some time turned into bitter rivals. *Distant Drum* details the language, tactics, and hardships of the army, among other things. Also covered are issues within the military.

*Ice Candy Man*, Bapsi Sidhwa's novel, has received rave reviews from readers and critics alike. The novel's events unfold against the backdrop of India's independence and the partition, two historical events that happened simultaneously. One political response to religious tensions in India was to partition the subcontinent into two nations, one for Hindus and one for Muslims. Millions of people lost their homes and lives as a result of this division. The division sparked communal rioting, which in turn led to kidnappings, murders, and rapes. *Ice Candy Man* takes place in the bustling Punjabi metropolis of Lahore. With five rivers flowing through it, the region is ideal for farming. After Lahore, dubbed "the Paris of India" prior to its division, fell under Pakistani rule, it transformed into a massive refugee camp. Similar to innumerable others, *Ice Candy Man* chronicles the harrowing experiences of a Parsi family and their extended relatives during the period of partition. *Ice Candy Man*'s existence is the story's



framework, with the idea of partition serving as a powerful backdrop.

On both sides of the border, communal hostility has broken the spirits of people who were once fairly close to each other. It doesn't matter if someone is old, female, or healthy; what matters is that they are being killed because of their religious beliefs. The homes are looted, burned, then rebuilt. These brutal rapes frequently result in death, mutilation, or amputation. Despite his past feelings for Ayah, the Ice Candy Man is now a devoted Muslim who is fighting for his faith and homeland. By making an honest effort to portray the horrors of the split, Sidhwa highlights the impassable gap between the good and the bad that every person possesses. In her persuasive speech, she urges her listeners to unquestioningly embrace callousness and brutality. The novella takes readers back in time while showing them the atrocities of the Partition. As shown below, politicians in Raima's village planted the seeds of communal animosity, insecurity, and worry. The men's savagery is on full display as they massacre their fellow residents, whom they had formerly thought of as brothers. Seeing the terrible murder of his family on the train makes even the Ice Candy Man feel the psychological effects of the Partition. In the aftermath of the slaughter of his family at the hands of Hindus, he explodes in wrath. As a method of appeasing the Hindu community, he decides to join the rioting and begins murdering Hindus, including his friends. The author vividly described how the pride of the people crumbled throughout the division due to the individual transgressions of the nation's inhabitants. People on both sides will never get over the emotional wounds that the separation inflicted. One shadowy aspect of India's past is revealed in Ice Candy Man.

Bapsi Sidhwa's *The Bride* (also known as *The Pakistani Bride*) takes place during the subcontinental divide. *The Bride*, published in 1982, is a masterwork by novelist Sidhwa. Our protagonist, a little girl named Zaitoon, tragically lost both of her parents in the violence that erupted after the separation. True events inspired the plot of this book. During her honeymoon in Karakoram, Sidhwa met a local girl. After learning this girl's story, she felt compelled to pen a book about her.

## CONCLUSION:

The sub continental split is portrayed with sadness and suffering in *Sunlight on a Broken Column* by Attia Hosain. This book presents the schism from the Muslim perspective, which is different from the majority of literature on the subject. The book is on the growing schism among Muslims in society and family life, and she has demonstrated that there is a distinction between nationalist and separatist Muslims. Separatist Muslims left for Pakistan after partition, while nationalist Muslims remained in India. The community was split apart as a result. Immigrants from India were warmly welcomed by Pakistan. Throughout her psychoanalysis, Attia has concentrated on the feelings of isolation and betrayal that migrants endure. This book covers the years 1930–1940, the height of the independence movement. Since Attia lived through the metamorphosis firsthand during the break, her memoirs *Sunlight on a Broken Column* has an autobiographical tone. The horrible circumstances of partition are described by her both during and after independence. The book describes the tragic loss of life and property on both sides caused by religious prejudice and communal enmity.

*Fled* is a collection of short stories all with one common theme: separation. The effects and suffering caused by the division are discussed in the title tale. *Phoenix Fled* provides a historical viewpoint on the uprising, discord, and communal killing.

Also included in this analysis is Manohar Malgonkar, the second novelist chosen. The partition serves as the backdrop for the central plots of his two novels, *A Bend in the Ganges* and *Distant Drum*. Using Gandhi's nonviolent philosophy as a framework, *A Bend in the Ganges* recounts the events leading up to India's split. During the communal conflicts, it reveals how Muslims radicalized nationalists. This book sheds light on the darkest period in Indian history, when unthinkable atrocities including rape, mass kidnapping, and murder occurred. The book deftly handles the political aspects of partition history as it depicts an India transformed by division and independence. This book does a masterful job of describing the nation's fight and division, and it demonstrates how the common people were the ones most hit by the communal violence



that occurred during the partition. The subject of partition is central to Malgonkar's Distant Drum storyline. The separation's terrible truths are revealed by this. Through the division, not only was the country divided, but many other things were as well. Another effect of the partition was the division of the country's military forces. Senior military officers have the option of residing in and serving for either country. The soldiers were likewise split into two units as a result of the division. After years of working together, the police officers betrayed their confidence and began plotting their demise. Two pals of soldiers who are separated by the division are the protagonists of Distant Drum.

Bapsi Sidhwa of Pakistan is the third novelist discussed in this investigation. Before her work, Ice Candy Man, no other Parsi author had created fiction addressing partition. The narrative presents the schism via the Pakistani perspective. The novel depicts how the separation caused communities to separate, conflicts to arise, and the planting of hatred seeds that would eventually blossom into bloodshed and devastation. The story is told by a naive Parsi girl from Lahore. While numerous novels touch on the topic of partition, we believe that Ice Candy Man stands out from the crowd since it is set on the opposite side of the limit. Examining the partition from the vantage point of a Parsi writer who was not a part of the two bitterly divided groups that suffered great damage as a result of the separation is an intriguing task. The Bride (or The Pakistani Bride) is another one of Sidhwa's works that uses partition as a setting. True events inspired the plot of this book. During her honeymoon in Karakoram, Sidhwa met a local girl. After learning this girl's story, she felt compelled to pen a book about her. Our protagonist, a little girl named Zaitoon, tragically lost both of her parents in the violence that erupted after the separation.

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