

ISSN: 0976-8165

IMPACT FACTOR 7.86

THE CRITERION

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL IN
ENGLISH

Bi-Monthly Peer-Reviewed eJournal

VOL.14 ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 2023

14 Years of Open Access

Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Vishwanath Bite

Managing Editor
Dr. Madhuri Bite

www.the-criterion.com

AboutUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/about/>

Archive: <http://www.the-criterion.com/archive/>

ContactUs: <http://www.the-criterion.com/contact/>

EditorialBoard: <http://www.the-criterion.com/editorial-board/>

Submission: <http://www.the-criterion.com/submission/>

FAQ: <http://www.the-criterion.com/fa/>



ISSN 2278-9529

Galaxy: International Multidisciplinary Research Journal
www.galaxyimrj.com

Exile Testimonio in Peter Carey's *The Journey of a Lifetime*

Dr. L. Santhosh Kumar

Assistant Professor of English,
Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous),
Affiliated to Bengaluru North University,
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

&

Joshy Mathew

Assistant Professor of English,
Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous),
Affiliated to Bengaluru North University,
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.

Article History: Submitted-01/10/2023, Revised-16/10/2023, Accepted-23/10/2023, Published-31/10/2023.

Abstract:

Literature in contemporary times documents human living, and most importantly, it erases the line between personal and political so that the voices of the oppressed are brought to the limelight. Literary texts are pivotal in contemporary times and bridge the gap between the known and the unknown. After the advent of Cultural Studies, Literature traverses the unheard territories and unexplored binaries, which is the need of the hour. To a greater extent, Academia considers the terms 'exile' and 'testimonio' as irreconcilable binaries, whereas it is not valid. Exile and Testimonio are reconcilable binaries, and in the current scenario, exile testimonio is creating a rampant discourse and acts as a threat to power structures and to end political monopolisation. Texts dealing with exile testimonio are supposed to be (re)-searched and (re)-visited by the researchers, making every individual understand the falsified truths. Peter Carey, a renowned Australian writer, is known for his witty thoughts, and he uses text as a medium to express his hatred towards Western Imperialism. On the whole, this research article stresses the nuances of exile testimonio by having the select work of Peter Carey as an impetus.

Keywords: Personal, Political, Cultural Studies, Binaries, Western Imperialism.

Homelessness is coming to be the destiny of the world

-Martin Heidegger

Literature reflects the multidimensional realities of life, and most importantly, it showcases the plight of manipulated voices to a greater extent. Exile Testimonio, as a

theoretical discourse, foregrounds the unheard voices and questions history and historiography. The multitudes determine the Literariness of a text in contemporary times and the ramified voices which project the falsification of truths that are gaining momentum in Academia. Exile Testimonio addresses the impact of the text, which has gained Autotelic and also the element of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary play a vital role in the texts of exile testimonio.

Exile and Testimonio are said to be reconcilable binaries, and it is prevalent right from the good old past. The key terms which unify exile and testimonio are displacement, dislocation, and disjunction. In the Heyman world of postmodernism, people celebrate fragmentation. These voices create a rupture in the identities, and the voices of these identities are made known to the world through the writings of exile testimonio. Books are said to be the reservoirs of culture, and through exile testimonio, it can be emphasised that it bridges the gap between known and unknown. Subversion and containment play a vital role in exile testimonio, and the supreme irony is that subversion is state-sponsored, and the writers of exile testimonio showcase it in their writings. Academia in contemporary times looks for authenticity, and the texts which contain the element of exile testimonio foreground the authenticism in authenticity. Exile Testimonio highlights how pathetic the past was, how horrible the present is, and how terrible the future would be.

Australian Literature has a diversified background which foregrounds the unheard voices, and these voices challenge history and historiography, which traverses the unexplored binaries to a greater extent. Australia is a "terra nullius" landscape, meaning no man's land. The Cultural Landscape of Australia has a unifying voice, representing the plight of exile testimonio to a greater extent. The writers of Australian Literature are said to be the typical torchbearers. Also, at the same time, they glorify their ancestry through their cultural nods, which are interconnected with their daily lives.

Western Imperialism attacks marginalised countries in the name of culture, and the supreme irony is that all the natives of these nations undergo a sense of homelessness within their homeland. The writers of Exile Testimonio are said to be Exile Testimonialistas, where these writers question the falsified truths which had been augmenting throughout the ages. In the name of development, the natives are forced to relinquish their culture and undergo forced assimilation, which is a painful phenomenon. Home and homelessness have a predominant role in the writings of Exile Testimonio, and Australian Literature is an impetus for it.

Peter Carey, a renowned literary figure in the Australian discourse, culls out the multitudes of Australian Voices. He is the only Australian writer who has won the prestigious Australian literary awards. He is a satirist who mocks the rudiments of Western Imperialism and the devastating impact the political monopolisation had created in the minds of Australian citizens. Peter Carey, a writer, is influenced by the spirit of time. Exile Testimonio stresses the writer's ramifications and the hidden past, making everyone contemplate their roots. Exile Testimonio, through the writings of Peter Carey, stresses the conflict between Roots Vs Routes. Power Structures have created a devastating impact in the minds of the natives, and that will be made known to the people through the exile testimonialistas.

Exile Testimonio act as a social documentary and projects the voice of the voiceless. The beauty of the exile testimonio is that it foregrounds the plight of the collective self through the individual self. Exile Testimonio addresses the plight of the natives in the realm of displacement, dislocation, and disjunction. Homelessness has become a blurring issue in contemporary times, and the supreme irony is that the natives of Australian soil are being displaced in their soil, and the outcome is that their identities are fragmented. It has created chaos in the minds of the people. Identity construction and Identity Formation in the Australian context have led to Identity Manipulation in the Australian discourse, and the writings of exile testimonio never fail to project it.

The Journey of a Lifetime is a renowned masterpiece of Peter Carey, which evolves around the protagonist Louis Marrow Baxter Moon, who wishes to be an Englishman in Blood, Taste & Colour. Peter Carey attacks the institutions through the depiction of his characters, and Louis Marrow Baxter Moon acts as an impetus for it. Louis Marrow Baxter Moon is said to be the government solicitor clerk and has been deputed with a duty to be executed at the earliest. His journey in executing the task reveals the sense of cultural alienation, which happens consciously and unconsciously.

Louis Marrow Baxter Moon from the Lenses of Exile Testimonio represents the life of a native caught in Western Imperialism's clutches. As a solicitor clerk, he was appointed to execute capital punishment by his Authority and was given the first class train ticket from his locale. The supreme irony is that Baxter Moon was unaware that he would indulge in an activity not for his deeds but for someone's wish. He felt so happy that he was going to board the train for the first time, in first class AC, and he was wearing a typical Englishman costume.

Exile Testimonio records the plight of the people trapped by the impediments of power structures and how the natives undergo a sense of in-differences and in-betweenness within their own culture. Louis Marrow Baxter Moon, whose nationality is Australian by nature, then becomes prey for the coloniser's culture, and the supreme irony is that he is the 'other' on the Australian soil, but he 'others' the people of his nativism in all walks of life. When the protagonist of the story enters the train, he feels excited as if he has achieved something more significant in life, and also, at the same time, he feels that he will be treated with great importance since he will be travelling in the first class. Exile Testimonio foregrounds the pathetic phases undergone by the people after they started to adopt/adopt the coloniser's lifestyle. When he sits in his allotted seat/berth, the protagonist feels a sense of pride that he is enjoying the aristocratic way of life and the people giving him great respect, and he feels that he has achieved something greater in life. A particular woman in the compartment was trying to create a hindrance to everyone in that particular compartment, and Louis Baxter Marrow Moon was completely unaware of it. The saddest truth is that the protagonist will be unable to distinguish between good and evil and will be accustomed to all the social follies on the train. Unfortunately, on the train, one person would have been dead, and the people would have informed the railway officials about that person's demise. He would have been kept close to the Air conditioner so the corpse would not be decayed.

Exile Testimonio portrays the fragmented mindset of the society, and it boldly emphasises that the natives live in a society where good things are being mourned, and bad things are being celebrated. Literature in contemporary times envisions readers re-reading the text and making people know the truths that were not manipulated. John Beverly opines that "The Best way to learn Subaltern Literature is through Testimonial Literature".(1) Exile Testimonio challenges counter histories and also, at the same time, puts an end to the falsification of truths. *The Journey of a Lifetime* is a repository of exile testimonio which portrays the social follies and, at the same time, it presents the fact as how it is and also, at the same time, questions how authentic authenticity is. Peter Carey highlights the cultural imbalances without any exaggeration or manipulation.

Louis Marrow Baxter Moon embodies exile testimonio when he encounters a pathetic situation with a lady who is not of clean values. She tries to pull down his character in all aspects, and he becomes prey for it, and after indulging in that act, he feels terrible for it. The plight of exile testimonio is that they indulge in the evil act consciously, and the reality is that they cannot get rid of all the follies. When Marrow Baxter Moon wants to drink cold water, he

is forced to take the water and the ice cubes below the corpse. At first, he drinks it unknowingly, and later, when he comes to know about it, he feels disgusted. Exile Testimonio also projects how the process of forced assimilation has led the natives to tolerate things which were beyond their horizons. At least, when Louis Marrow Baxter Moon felt terrible for what had happened on the train, he longed for his work to be done. When the train reaches the destination, the protagonist, with his English dress code, enters the place, and people who are supposed to attend to him are prudent enough to notice his behaviour.

Exile Testimonio should be examined as a political discourse because it examines the inhabitants to a greater extent. In *The Journey of a Lifetime*, the protagonist and the vehicle he travels have many implications. It is understood that the Exile Testimonio discusses the aftermath of a problem and analyses it on humanitarian grounds. In the exile testimonio, the protagonist's name has a robust political implication. The word Moon in the protagonist's name has a robust impending element. The general characteristic trait of a Moon is to reflect the sun's light. The same thing is valid with the protagonist. Whether he likes it or not, he is supposed to adapt to the Westernised way of life, which promotes fragmentation. Through the Exile Testimonio, it can also be inferred that the train is said to be a colonial symbol which has a unifying message. It is a well-known fact that Western Imperialism initially seems to be an enormous phenomenon, but later, everyone understands its impending doom. The protagonist throughout the story has a horrifying experience with the vehicle, which was introduced to the world by the hub of colonisation.

Exile Testimonio, on the whole, envisions humanity with its unheard truths and also makes the unknown known. The writers of exile testimonio never hesitate to record the histories, the manipulated versions, and the chaos created out of it. Exile Testimonio act as a threat to falsified histories, which in turn creates counter histories. Through Peter Carey, it can be inferred that the writers of exile testimonio ascertain that books are said to be the repository of cultures that will keep the wounds visible. The Culture of the New Generation differs from that of the old Generation, who grew up reading books. The new "visual and aural culture" has formed the outlook and cultural norms of the present-day writers, artists and critics. The Present Generation takes pride in assimilating these new "cultural influences". Even the Intellectuals and Scholars of the Previous Generation have been fascinated by the Popular New Culture. The term reading is being used in the broad sense. It is necessary to differentiate reading from theory. However, both theorising and acts of reading are correlated. Acts of reading arise from the theory, and the theory takes shape from the former. Even then, the two are not in harmony.

The term 'conflict' is crucial in both theoretical discourses. Through the presence of conflict, the contextualisation of both these theories becomes similar. Exile Testimonio shows that the victims, too, have voices, and their voices have been muted due to politics. They are even denied the essential recognition that they are human. Exile Testimonios showcases that the victims, once they lose their roots and he/she is rendered homeless, and he/she is forced to embark on a journey in different routes. Their physical space and the construction of the hegemonic structures become oppressive. Personalisation, context, objectification, and reductionism all affect how Exile Testimonio is read. Overall, this dissertation extracts the results of political violence and demonstrates how the author anticipates the Exile Testimonios by detailing the losses and harm caused. Testimonios from the diaspora continue to have an impact because they recount meaningful and inspirational experiences.

Exile Testimonio writing is rife with identification consciousness and the challenge of adjusting to a new culture. Memory, familiarity, strangeness, integration, change, permanence, belonging, and embedding are the seven elements utilised to probe the mind and establish its identity. One might infer, thanks to Peter Carey, that a division distinguishes the Exile Testimonio between the public and private spheres and the public and private worlds. The past is honoured and preserved in this way. The social world is shaped by race, community, origin, and language. Conjugation of the multiple pasts that coexist in the present is what constitutes the 'Self' that emerges. The deepest layer, the 'core' self, is constituted through cognitive processes, reflection, memory, exploration, and exposure. At the same time, identity is the outer layer related to skin colour, socioeconomic status, nationality, and other superficial indicators.

Works Cited:

- Beverly, John. *Testimonio: On the Politics of Truth*. U of Minnesota P, 2004.
- . *Subalternity and Representation: Arguments in Cultural Theory*. Duke UP, 1999.
- Carey, Peter. *Collected Stories*. Faber & Faber, 2010.
- "Contents." *Beginning postcolonialism (second edition)*, 2020.
- Foundation, Wheatland. *Literature in Exile*. Duke UP, 1990.
- Gildersleeve, Jessica. *The Routledge Companion to Australian Literature*. Routledge, 2020.
- Gunning, Dave. *Postcolonial Literature*. Edinburgh UP, 2013.

Kumar, L. S., and S. Sobana. "A disquisitive study of exile testimonio in the kim scott's Benang and That Deadman dance." *International journal of health sciences*, 2022, pp. 1175-1181.

Kumar. L, Santhosh, and S. Sobana. "Exile Testimonio in Kim Scott's Benang from the Heart." *World Journal of English Language*, vol. 12, no. 5, 2022, p. 41.

"RE-PLACING THEORY." *The Empire Writes Back*, pp. 153-192.

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*. Penguin UK, 2016.