

STATE VS. INDIVIDUAL: A CASE STUDY OF *HOME FIRE*

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: The main purpose of researching this topic is to discover how the conflict occurs between the state and characters of society, in light of the theological apparatus and interpellation of Althusser by the concept of the novel *Home Fire*.

Methodology: A qualitative approach is used to study *Home Fire* by Kamala Shamsie in the light of the concept of theological apparatus and interpellation of Althusser.

Main Findings: Findings show that In this novel, we see that different ways are used to suppress society like ISA's; moreover, it also includes how the state becomes dominant over people. Many clashes of ideas occur between both—the ideology of Althusser dominant ideas of ISA and RSA and character in Shamsie's *Home Fire*.

Applications of this study: This research contributes to the field of conflict between State and Society literature.

Novelty/Originality of this study: The study is one of its kind and helps us understand the concept and contention between society, family, and faith in the modern world.

Keywords: *Individual, State, Althusser, Interpellation, Ideology.*

INTRODUCTION

This study helps us to explore the clash and role of family, society, and faith in the light of theological apparatus by Louis Althusser in the novel *Home Fire*. The individual takes his or her identity by social interaction with many non-secular organizations and many political or social institutions.

Background to the study

Contemporary writers show the imaginary world to people, including the characters. The contemporary writers mostly focus the personal and societal issues. Most Contemporary writers allow portraying their ideas in literature by showing the proper scenario. Kamila Shamsie is a contemporary writer, as she engages the readers to read these issues. She encourages the role of women and connects them optimistically to society in her works. But Shamsie's framework is to be as societal by missing Althusser interpellation. But [Levett \(2010\)](#) explains it as the ideological function in different discourses as others have their governing recognition. Such as Levett said, when a person knew about the subject, then the police officer hails; due to this, hailing interpellates that the ideology of state raised and turned subconscious to conscious. The subject also reminds us that ideology shows the act of police officers. This subject also reminds us that the behavioral requirements of objects are also associated with ideology.

Interpellation occurs because the crowd, when they emphasize an adopted ideology process, turns their unconscious mind to conscious. This person understands things and shares their means with the outside world. *Home Fire* of Kamila Shamsie is a great example to show these clashes in the modern world. One of the major points of this novel *Home Fire* is the outburst of culture by the state on a higher level. The thought of Althusser shows the ideological and repressiveness of state skillfully in *Home Fire*. The top or elite class uses these ideas to rule the lower social class. RSA's court, police, and defense, by the passage of time, involve the state to lower down the subordinate class as they want violently or not; this shows the inequality of work in the state. Characters of this novel fail in consuming the resolution of conflict. According to [Althusser \(2006\)](#), the State apparatus has many ways like all ideologies consider that subject of exploitation and person gets an answer when he answers his idea. Marx's idea is the same as Althusser's in his debate; he treats people as a bone of the working state. Before birth, the actions and control of the child show him as a subject by ideology. The further thing in Marxist theory is the difference of repressive and ideological apparatus from Althusser. He adds that these are the subgroups of organizations and social multiplied ideologies. While following ideologies, politics gain political interest by the use of their specific purpose. The concept of democracy west followed to give concept to Muslim countries to take an interest in politics.

The individual groups and political teams threaten the social order of society by establishing the socio-economic class, and these orders then state react to these and raise important repressive roles. It affects the judiciary as well as the public written agreement, elicit behavior of using these tools of societal language. They need to handle the threats of society differently by forces like the police. Interpellation of Althusser explains individual is a subject. Many discourses used by the institutions of country thoughts are like media which identify an individual in society. When Althusser hails individuals as a subject response to their decisions and consciously acts, their actions and thoughts, typically stated as the topic that has causes and substance changing, carry their ideology to the subject. In this, Althusser shows the non-

secular ideologies of Christians, which embody the voice of God and guides the individual in the place of the world. The purpose of Althusser is attractive because Christian needs to have the same faith as a subject. [Althusser \(2006\)](#) said two purposes: First, its ideology represented the actual condition of individuals and linked them. Second, ideologies are not just ideas, minds, concepts; these are the actions.

Statement of the Problem

The study aims to explore the clash between the three main points of the modern world: faith, family, and society, which is the major problem facing by the present time. It is also used to find state dominance by the selected novel Home Fire which reviews the concept of ideological apparatus and interpellation by Louis Althusser.

Research objectives

The two important objectives of this research are as follows:

- To analyze the text by applying the ideological state apparatuses.
- To analyze the similar and clashing features of Home Fire in the light of ISA.

Significance of the Study

This is the informative work which had not been done so far. It helps us to study the contemporary issues by the concept of ideological state apparatus by Louis Althusser. It is a great example to study the clashes in society present in the modern world, which exist in the modern world, while ISA helps us understand these relations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this section, reviews and studies done with Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie are discussed:

[Ashcroft et al. \(2006\)](#) review a novel that appreciates the timing at which it releases in the present Environment. According to his observation, this novel shows the hostile world, which is the nuanced exam place for Muslims, and he is truly a brave author who has done this provocative work. A space for annoying this is that readers expect both the black and white sides of terrorists and Muslims as well as non-terrorists or non-Muslims. In his study, he takes the concept of 'Westoxification' and 'Fundamentalism,' but this concept is not discussed in the state role of the novel Home Fire. That's why this concept has linked with the Muslims rather than evaluate it with the other members of the society. The review of William Hoque is on the subject of the novel Home Fire. As family ties and we have to sweep the terrorism, religion, and radicalism from the community on a wider range, what do we do for love or war? Hence, he completely discussed the problems of the present world globally and religiously. [Al- Nindita and Al-Hafizh \(2019\)](#) give a review in such a way that Home Fire is a contemporary novel to Sophocles and emphasize that it is the new version of Sophocles Antigone. It is because the characters of Shamsie are more similar to Sophocles, which is shown in the new version. [Levett \(2010\)](#) reviews that the Home Fire is a modern retelling of Greek mythological classicism and said that the mythology exists in her all novel, making them precious. The subject that makes it different and modern is not discussed in it, as the relation between the state and religion or family. [Levett \(2010\)](#), in his article, gave a review as "Representation of Greek tragedy in the present" which is published in the London Evening Standard, and Lucy Scholes write an article on name "Modern version of Antigone", published in The National. They said that Home Fire is a Contemporary Greek Tragedy. They appreciate the novel Home Fire for representing the Greek Tragedy, but they did not talk about the modern aspects which are not discussed in Novel Home Fire.

Some reviewers take it as a Sophoclean work, but others see it as a novel that takes it as a contemporary issue after 9/11. [Chamber \(2018\)](#), in her review, explains that the novel argues Home Fire as post 9/11 while repeating her point related to people who leave their country to live in another country, which theme is explained in Home Fire. By noticing that he listen, others were self, neither punished and acquit, other than terrorists. Chamber answers the question of Spivak 'Can the subaltern speak' In return, by the question 'Can the oppressor listen.' For Chamber, this question point is related to all about hearing and being heard. These are highlighted in the article of New York Times by Dwight Garner with the name "link of immigration and Terrorism". As immigration, jihad, and family love are the main points of it, but [Chamber \(2018\)](#) also puts a quick spin on ancient Greek tragedy from the basics of Home Fire. Thus, in the West, most of the people migrate from one country to another country because of this, their society faced many problems. [Fatima et al. \(2020\)](#) gave her reviews by arguing and making the link of Home Fire with the history. She said that Shamsie wrote this at the request of her friend who has her theatre in London, she tries to write a drama, but later it becomes the novel Home Fire; this drama also blessed to become a movie. She also represents the age of ISIS in Antigone as similar to Home Fire. According to the reviews which are mentioned above, some highlighted reviews of Home Fire show the Greek tragedy of Sophocles Antigone while some others see a novel from outside this tragedy. According to this, [Hashmi \(2020\)](#) studied it from the outside like postcolonial studies and discussed the concept of Westoxification and fundamentalism in this novel, which focuses on shaping an identity that Pakistan-British Muslims take off after 9/11. Whereas Westoxification is defined as the indiscriminate borrowing form of imitations by joining the west in twin dangers, rather their culture affects the political and domination. Fundamentalism is also be defined as the form of religious uphold belief restricted their literal interpretation.

[Tiffin et al. \(1994\)](#) reviewed Muhammad Hanif's 'A case of exploding Mangoes' in 2008 and Kamila Shamsie *Home Fire*, published in 2017. Hanif, in this novel, wrote about the ending rule of Zia-ul-Haq; on the other side, Shamsie is writing about the issue which Pakistani-Britain Muslims had faced. Their study aims to highlight the subject in politics and political messes like personal, civil, social, political with religious values, through the conversion of capitalism into Marxism which originated in 19th-century researches, while they validate of positive politics had a reason of making peace in society. The Study highlights that reason for doing politics is to get economic power and ruin others' careers. In short, to get power study compares the novel to find out the politics which have done of all levels. The study to find out the politics is converting capitalism which has done for personal benefits. It represents the wrong use of religion and political purpose. The findings reveal that the negative impact of politics causes political messes due to capitalism mixing religious values with political ones.

[Brigida and Pinho \(2019\)](#) review the paper by saying that thousand so years of Greek mythology were delighted by artists, out of which 'the Antigone legend' is an ancient Greek myth. [Ali \(2018\)](#), in her papers, reviewed the unstable identities of Muslims by Islamophobia and racism. She takes the Greek tragedy Antigone as the present time or world. [Hasan \(2013\)](#), in his article 'radicalization,' shows the present century of *Home Fire* by different dimensions. According to him, the novel that deals with radicalization consider the present century as this article explores the themes of sounds. Keeping consideration point of listening and at the same time, it refuses to overlook Jihadists. [Chamber \(2018\)](#), in his other research, 'sound studies in *Home Fire* and just another Jihad Jane,' argues that today's speech is important than listening.

METHODOLOGY

The study is done by following a qualitative approach. Kamila Shamsie's novel 'Home Fire' is scrutinized in this study via Althusser's theory. The idea of interpellation and ideological state apparatus by Louis Althusser is used to extract the idea from "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus." Ideology is a fake consciousness that impacts the social and political assembly of production. So, ideology is the main element working behind the individual mind, surroundings, and situations that are related to that individual's mind.

Louis Althusser's ideology is defined as "the impression of the connection between men and their world" ([Althusser, 2006](#)). He described that a person could stay in an environment that is well matched for his behavior and nature. Therefore, "ideology is the illusionary connection of individuals to their actual conditions of existence" ([Althusser, 2006](#)). Our experiences impact our beliefs. Althusser ideology is the actual effect, and every community is based on these ideologies. It is also expressed that Althusser's ideology is eternal, timeless, and universal that can be applied to everyone. Communities are based on the ideology on which a person can control the nature and limits of subjectivity. By having faith in ideology, one can have free will and choice ([Althusser, 2006](#)). So, people are bound to work on the ideology which they have in their thoughts even without their knowledge. The impact of ideology is not seen by the individuals because it is present in their unconscious minds. It is also referred to as a certain number of realities ([Althusser, 2006](#)). Louis Althusser initiated the concept of interpellation to elaborate the ideas which come to our minds and impact our lives. These ideas impact in such a way that one can believe these ideas are their thoughts. Interpellation is a procedure in which one faces cultural values and interprets them. Interpellation explains the idea that it does not belong to any single one, but it is always present there. You just need to accept that idea or thought which is already existed. Ideologies that have an impact on our attitude towards gender, class, and race are considered more social impacts. These attitudes can be accepted or rejected by one person. Althusser refers to the simple manner of an individual. It is like addressing individuals with a specific identity. No one can use violence to accept this ideology of one. But these roles are present everywhere to be offered or assigned by the culture in such a manner that one can willingly accept these roles or ideologies. It has the greatest effect when people accept that these thoughts are their own built.

Marx expressed that state apparatus produces different conditions that are beneficial in the legal and political fields. Althusser had to rethink this term. He modified it as summing two sets of apparatuses. By adopting the Marxist theory of State, Althusser suggested the extension of the theory. He confirms that State is Repressive with State Apparatus and State Power, State Apparatus and their types must be separated. Althusser added all institutes in two apparatuses are their state, family, religion, or media. He urged that these apparatuses only work via ideologies. It set the mind among the individuals who are impacted by way of their thinking or understanding either it is linked with the society or relation. He said that capitalist is connected in both apparatuses, but capitalism shows different characters in both. As he said, RSAs are gathered and performed more efficiently because they work for the interest of capitalists. While ISAs show variable efficiency due to difficulty for achieving the goal of capitalists in this condition. Ideology state apparatus can be separated from Repressive with this truth that RSA works with violence while ISA works with ideology ([Althusser, 2006](#)). Althusser more includes that each SA uses violence and ideology. He also explains the process to overcome the confusion among them. Either RSA or ISA is connected, but ISA is in unified form because it is dominated by considering the ruling class of ideology as the ruling class of State Power. So ruling class is important for ISAs. For Althusser, Interpellation is the basic connection between ideology and ISAs' work. Interpellation is the main force that forces people of different fields like family, society, religion, and media to think in certain ways that are mainly affected by their ideology that they are already following unknowingly. He considers the importance of these

interpolations so much because he urged that personal interpellation, called "identity," is forced by ISAs (Althusser, 2006). Either way, ISAs importance is more effective as these can create the identities for the interpellated individuals. These can also predict the imagined subjects that are internally self-created by their identities or subjectivities.

Modern capitalism considers interpellation more for ISAs that is more helpful in identifying the individuals with related manners that are given by the existing situations of ideologies for capitalist exploitation. Althusser concluded the result of all ISAs in a parallel manner that Capitalist connection of exploitation (Althusser, 2006). He said that capitalism and exploitation are connected because capitalists urge people to perform their work. All ideologies via ISAs interpellates the individuals to a specified position, and ISAs defined the subject ideologically into figures. His theory put forward the idea that the limited agency of an individual is to answer the call of that ideology (Althusser, 2006). It shows that one can have this limited power to express oneself is to answer the call of that ideology that is already present. It is concluded that ISAs of Althusser's theory empowered exploration of culture and its relation differently by Marxist and that is mainly related to the political class and analytical class. Althusser does not agree with the term "Post-Marxist" applied for cultural exploration because he considered that Marxist study was just considered the simple beginning. Two forms of apparatuses are reliable for manipulating the role of the capitalist. Further, he considered that all the institutes like state, family, and religion play their important role.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, Kamila Shamsie's novel *Home Fire* is discussed with the concept of ideological state apparatus and the concept of Althusser interpellation. It is also analysed by the concept of family, faith, and religion. Althusser categorized the way of thoughts of people in a society that they controlled. This way of knowledge has all members of society as they know if they all break it. They punished that this method includes the government and other forces that work for the country is named as a repressive state of apparatus (Ashcroft et al., 2006). According to this RSA state always work with the functions of violence. A different method of forces is used to rule on the class they dominate. In the novel *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie, the other researcher found similar patterns indicated by Althusser by the model of ISA and RSA. At the start of the novel, the first character is named Isma, who is detained at the airport for investigation. This investigation was against her based on being a Muslim who wears a hijab as a Muslim by facing security problems after 9/11. Isma had not taken anything that could cause the problem to her visit, even though the investigation was too harsh. Questions asked from her were so annoying because of unlikely to her, keeping in mind the religious factor. In this novel, one character asked another character whether he considers himself as a Britain or not. Isma faced the identity issue because of her being Muslim.

Moreover, there was a fight in Syria, Iraq of Shia, or Sunni in those days. She interrogated as she told the views for issues. So it showed the state about the control of oppression (Shamsie, 2017). When one character wanted to know the thoughts of another one, his thoughts were different due to sect between Shia or other countries. Like Iraq or the concept of dating etc. They wanted to check the thoughts related to the current issues after knowing that they could analyse, as she belonged to extremist or not.

The interrogation of the characters of the Isma is the ideology and loyalty-based question. In those days, the events happening in ISIS in different countries were a lot of what he asked from her related to what she thought about suicide bombers. Isma expects she would not be allowed to go where she was heading because of the nature of the question being asked from her. What happened with her at the airport is because of her family's background, as her father was in Afghanistan with the Taliban and died during the war. Even the interrogation was very much biased that the investigator was not natural. The media showed lots of demonization with British Muslims. The British government and state Britain people treat Muslims as extremists by taking negative thoughts about them; undoubtful Isma kept under check. Oppression can be detected right from the beginning of this novel. According to Althusser, the state is always known to be a Repressive Apparatus. Here also, domination of the ruling class can be seen over the working class (Krause, 2020; Aamir, 2019). According to Althusser, the State is always known as a "machine of repression" (Althusser, 2006).

One of the novel characters showed the aspect of the change in ideology, i.e., Eموonn from Muslim name Aymen. This change was because of the factor of his father Karamat Lone, who wanted the new identity of ruling state and also for a Muslim girl Isma. To show loyalty to the British, they tried to change the name as shown in lines in the text by one character to ask the one another whether it be difficult for Muslims or not. At one point in the novel, when Karamat lone was given the charge of home secretary, some news were there which were calling him a "Lone Wolf." The reason behind it was his Muslim background; for instance, when Karamat was entering the mosque, the media projected it as a terrorist or hate preacher entering the mosque. Aneeqa heard the news of the death of a young boy named Pervaiz Pasha, who was called a member of ISIS. It is the case of repressive state apparatus of the state, which clearly showed the cut of as dual nationality Pakistani British it may join the enemies. In an instant, again, the short writer of the novel 'Pasha who is known as Pakistani British, which means dual nationality and does anything whether it may be dead or alive. Because the terrorist of Muslim is extremist as the Muslims of British are nationally treated badly which started the searching of those Muslim of British by nationality.

Although Pervaiz was a British national, the British government showed no mercy even after his death. They did not allow, to bury Pervaiz in Britain, which would have been embarrassing for his family and the Muslims as well. But as

say by Althusser, excessive use of power led this to happen as it created repression, and repression led it to oppression. So any disobedience about what has been said must be punished, whether physically or mentally. Therefore the clear example by which repressive state apparatus is playing a great role in society is the ruling class who are ruling through oppression (Althusser, 2006). The women who were coming on media knew that the boys did the wrong blame on the boy's home secretary as it was an ashamed act. Her cheeks were covered with mascara; she was crying, saying that the home secretary was to be ashamed. This burial was also related to the Greek tragedy Oedipus Rex, as it followed the same ending where the sister wants to give a proper burial to her brother; therefore, this novel has also been named as modern Oedipus Rex. Here the state was involved in keeping the rulers as oppressors (Hashmi, 2020).

The Turkish government is forced by the government of British to send the dead body of the person to her own country Pakistan so that they would be able to enforce their rule over the Muslim community and would show the world that they do not own terrorists and never even allows them to be buried on their soil. In this scene, the RSA quality of Althusser is shown again. The state forced Pervaiz Pasha's sister to read a statement in public which suits the state, not Pervaiz or his family, not even the Muslims of Britain. In the novel, Sister of Pervaiz Pasha spoke that this statement is not cleared yet we saw this because both the sister of Pervaiz and especially Aneeka wanted him to be given to her in Britain, not Pakistan. So, the state wanted to rule through oppression. The last part of the novel, where the dead body was to be taken to Pakistan, and his sister wanted to bring him back to Britain to give him burial, took a crucial case where two states were involved. Both the states were thinking about themselves rather than the dead body of Pervaiz Pasha. This part tells us the kind of ideology running into the minds of people of two different nations on one cause (Rivaldy et al., 2019; Burns, 2019).

Aneeka wanted to bring her brother's dead body back to England to where it belongs. But Karamat did not want to let it happen as Pervaiz was considered an enemy of the state. First, Aneeka tried to bring her brother back from Istanbul by using Eamonn. But she did not succeed in it. Now she wanted to bring the dead body of her brother to England, as it was sent to Pakistan at the request of England's government, as they did not want to own a terrorist to be buried in their homeland. So, Repressive State Apparatus is involved in Home Fire, making sure the rule prevails and anyone breaking the laws is punished according to the rules (Haque et al., 2020). Thus Althusser's Ideological State Apparatus is visible here, which states that people if break laws or certain rules are violated by them, and then they would be punished severely for that. Identity may take much crisis between both of the states as shown interpellation. This identity crisis is faced by Pervaiz, who is a 19-year-old British citizen of Pakistani origin. His father worked for the jihadists in Afghanistan and died in the process; as Pervaiz follows his further work, he can also be trapped in this process. But later on, when he wants to return to his homeland England, he died near the embassy, maybe killed by ISIS. His family wants his dead body to be given to them in Britain, but the government of Britain wanted him to be delivered to Pakistan. Pakistan had to face the identity crises, which is the major actual problem at that time by Britain. The whole fight between the state and Aneeka, where Eamonn joined her in Pakistan, was because of an identity crisis.

CONCLUSION

After critically reading the novel, an assessment of the novel can be made by several different traces which are discussed, family, faith, and state, where the state dominates at the end always. According to Althusser, several ways are used to control people and society. This is from the way of oppression and repression. It shows clearly repression and oppression being used in this novel, along with ISA. It was also used by the British government against Muslims. Isma's treatment at the airport is an example in the novel Home Fire. She has to prove herself as British, not only through a passport because that was not enough. She gave thoughts on many controversial issues according to Islam or thing which are allowed in the West as a gesture of freedom to live whereas they are Haram in Islam like homosexuality. All of these have nothing to do with her British Citizenship because every citizen of British has the right to freedom of speech. However, because she was a Muslim and had a backdrop from a father who fought against the Taliban, so she has to prove that Isma did not think like her father. As said by Althusser, State shows the ideology of the ruling class; thus, it is a repressive apparatus that only shows its ideology on the working class.

To conclude, the novel Home Fire shows a great clash between these parts like society, family, and State. Secondly, State uses force or oppression to control the subjects in the novel. Thirdly, the ruling class is always the working class people ideology which is the ideology in the novel which is based on Althusser's concept of ISA.

LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD

This study discussed Home Fire only in the light of the ISA concept of Althusser. Moreover, the novel can also be studied under the concept of nationalism.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

The topic is selected by the first and second authors. The analysis is done by the first author. The introduction is written

by the second author. The third author wrote the study's methodology, and the fourth author wrote a literature review of the study. In the end, the fifth author did the formatting and conclusion of the study.

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