

Abstract

This research intends to explore the instances of acculturation, assimilation and resistance in the Sherman Alexie's novel *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* and short story collection *Ten Little Indians*. Alexie's writings draw upon his experiences as an indigenous American with ancestry from several tribes. This research aims at reading Alexie's fiction as a struggle between assimilation and resistance. The focus of this research is the Native American response to the paternalistic acculturation aiming at the assimilation of the Native Americans as presented in the selected text. Alexie's novel does not provide simplistic answers that fall under the anthropological categories which define cultural exchange. He tries to capture the essence of the complexity that arises from an uneven cultural contact, where one group formulates the rules while the other simply acquiesces. Moreover, Alexie writes from the vantage point of a Native American who enjoys his privilege within the American culture, while being conscious of his native roots. This research also tries to see the selected text itself within the historical context of the acculturation and assimilation of the Native Americans. This research draws upon the theoretical framework devised by Young Yun Kim in her book *Becoming Intercultural: An Integrative Theory of Communication and Cross-Cultural Adaptation*. Kim provides an alternative to mainstream terms like acculturation and assimilation by using the term cross-cultural adaptation. She argues that cultural exchange is a multi-staged process where the sojourner (a subject who moves into a new cultural milieu) goes through continuous "deculturation" and acculturation to become "communicatively competent" within the new environment.

Key Words: Acculturation, Assimilation, Sherman Alexie, Cross-Cultural Adaptation, Native American