

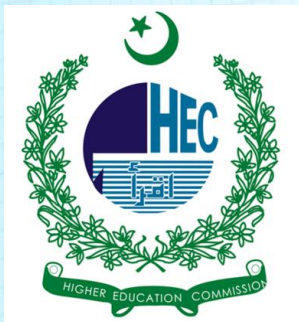
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**Multicultural Dynamics and Stigmatization: Locating Cultural
Shift in R.F. Kuang's *Yellow Face***



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Abstract

The presence of several distinct cultural or ethnic groups within a society is multiculturalism. It is a social philosophy to recognize the value of diversity of different cultures and ethnic groups within a society and it is an adumbrated phenomenon of the modern world. The novel *Yellow Face* highlights the issues of Multicultural America, the best example in the Modern world. The current study highlights the challenges minority groups face in the context of Kymlicka's theory of Multiculturalism. Will Kymlicka, a Canadian philosopher, has raised the issues of cultural identity and the rights of minorities in public policies. In *Yellow Face*, the two main characters of the novel are from diverse nationalities. Jane Hayward an American national, is the protagonist of the novel who dreams of pursuing a successful author while Athena Lieu who is on fast way to succeed a Chinese American writer. After the death of Athena Lieu, Jane steals the manuscript of her novel. The story revolves around Jane's jealousy, Racial discrimination, manipulation, and the role of the publishing industry. By using the multicultural theory, the study highlights the issues of liberal societies and the modern world, immigrants and minorities who must face certain attitudes from members of that society despite state laws. It also analyses that how it can be tackled, and state should find out solutions of the challenges against established stereotypes.

Keywords: Multiculturalism, Liberalism, Immigrant issues, Oppression, Racial discrimination, Internal restrictions

1.1 Introduction

World has shrunk to a globalized village, people are closer to each other than past, means are always there to bring people together. Technology has revolutionized the world, they are like a family either they are from various lands or customs. World has now become a cosmopolitan city where people from various backgrounds are living together. They are part of the society where people from various race, gender and culture become as closed as they never have been since birth of human beings on this planet. In ever-changing world it is essential to make people aware of the continued experiences as a citizen of global future .This phenomenon creates a multicultural

society while multiculturalism is socio political and philosophical model which endorses the peaceful coexistence of diverse cultural groups within a society. (Classen, C. (2023).

Multiculturalism is both a political and philosophical framework that advocates for the peaceful coexistence of various cultural groups within a society. It is stranded in the recognition and celebration of various religious beliefs, languages, and cultural practices within a nation (Arasaratnam, 2013). The basic concept behind multiculturalism is the acceptance and protection of cultural diversity rather than to force minority groups to assimilate into the governing culture (Moawad, 2017). This philosophy recognizes that societies comprise from various individuals that are from various ethnical back grounds and they must be given equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy social life. Multiculturalism is about the positive ideals of social justice, equality, tolerance and respect. It strives to include a range of cultural practices and perspectives in public life. By encouraging people to understand and cooperate from different backgrounds, multiculturalism is the notion that cultural variety is a valuable social resource (Cochran-Smith, 1999). Promoting social harmony, encouraging creativity and innovation, and enhancing public debate with varied perspectives are some of the possible benefits of multiculturalism.

On the other hand, there are obstacles to overcome, such as resolving power disparities, negotiating cultural tensions, and guaranteeing the fair and effective implementation of multicultural policies. Along with these obstacles, there are some complications and issues related to multicultural societies. Some are highlighted as below (Zhu & Sun, 2004). Navigating the inevitable disputes and tensions that could emerge between diverse ethnic groups is one of the main obstacles of multiculturalism. Misunderstandings, prejudices, and even violence can result from divergent norms of behavior, ethics, and thoughts (LeBaron, 2003). the goal of making people living together sharing same identity may be thwarted by identity politics, unequal distribution of resources, marginalization, cultural erosion and social cohesion are major issues of multicultural societies. A vast number of writers have been presenting issues related to Multiculturalism. One captivating voice them, in modern literature, is Rebecca F. Kuang, a budding literary star known for her sharp wit and tireless probing of complex issues. Kuang, a native of Guangzhou, China, came into this world in

1996 and made a name for herself in the literary world with her moving stories that made people think.

1.2 Overview of *Yellowface* (2023)

The novel *Yellowface*(2023) is a satirical approach towards current publishing industry in literature of multicultural America. It is replete with wit, irony, dark humor and satire which highlight the issues of cultural representation, identity and racial discrimination for immigrants with reference to East Asian American writers. The novel evokes the white authors who write stories about minorities and oppresses communities to benefit their white communities by making stereotypes in today's world. Thematically, " *Yellowface*(2023) is embedded with real life ,race based, identity and ownership of culture in literature within liberal multicultural states like America .the story mainly revolves around two characters Jane Hayward ,a white author who believes to be sophisticated and loyal cannot get fame as compared to her East Asian Chinese friend Athena Liu, who is cooler, more attractive and more exotic than June. Her literary success surpasses June's biggest dream which is depicted in the very outset of the story where both have participated in an inauguration ceremony of a novel. Athena meets and freaking accident during which Jane steals her manuscript "The Last Front" a novel about unsung Chinese Laborer who was recruited to help the British and French Army during WWI. She publishes it as her own pseudonym "Juniper Song". June has contributes to the practice in supremacy of white authors who continue to change the narratives of certain voices. She is of the view that there is no need of representing Chinese laborers contribution in WWI. She changes the cover of the novel and named it "The Last Front".

At first she gets fame and deals with New York Times best sellers. Things go right but wring later. She started watching Athena's ghost. She feels that she watches Athena's ghost while reading the novel "The Last Front" and then shortly in a tweeter account "Athena Liu Ghost" that threatens to expose her fraud. It is run by Candice Lee who is an Asian American editorial assistant who is also a victim of manipulation minority representation. He asserts that publishing industry produce racist stereotypes of us. June represents narcissist and stupid white women who spend too much time in refusing to admit the feeling of guilt and claiming her rightful authorship of "The Last front" and her subconscious is subject to present itself as a truth in her fraudulent life.

It highlights the way to make readers aware of the truth outside of the June's narration. *Yellowface(2023)* offers comprehensive commentary on the issues of cultural diversity and co modification of Asian and other immigrants stories and writers. As she begins to untangle the deeply nested relationships and the oppressive framework of systems of dominance, the topic of cultural appropriation and exploitation proves to be part of it. Kuang's use of satire in *Yellowface(2023)* in responds to the publishing world's drive to profit off diversity further delves in the exploration of race and cultural ownership and the morality in wanting to be great.

1.3 Research Statement

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the novel *Yellowface(2023)* by Rebecca F. Kuang and its complex themes and narrative twists. The research situates the work of Kuang's in the context of broader literary setting, arguing that the novel explores race, cultural appropriation, and variety in the publishing industry. I argue that *Yellowface(2023)* disrupts the contemporary perception of identity and representation, as well as the model of cross-cultural exchange. Also, I reflect on the importance of Kuang's satirical style and the provocative nature of her societal criticism in the novel. I aim to investigate the novel's exploration of twenty-first-century culture, its discourse, and the role of literature in analyzing its trends and intricate textures.

1.4 Research Questions

- 1) To what extent, does R. F. Kaung's *Yellowface(2023)* give importance to minority rights and promote social awareness in diverse societies?
- 2) What is the significance of R.F. Kaung's *Yellowface(2023)* in challenging the stigmatization and representation of Asians in the West?

1.5 Objectives

- 1) To examine the presentation of the importance of minority rights and the promotion of social awareness in diverse societies in R.F. Kaung's *Yellowface (2023)*.
- 2) To analyze the stigmatization and representation of Asians in the West through the journey of R.F. Kaung's *Yellowface (2023)*

1.6 Significance of the Research

This research is relevant and imperative because the research was on Rebecca F. Kuang's *Yellowface, (2023)* which is very recent literature that reflects current

discussion and literature. The title itself has historical significance as this term was a commonly used for the white actors in Hollywood who play the role of East Asians characters in films and theater .This research seeks to contribute to an understanding of urgent social and political issues by conducting a comprehensive research of the themes of racism, cultural appropriation, and the exploitation of diversity by the publishing world in the novel. . The ultimate aim of this research is to facilitate a meaning discussion about the place of literature in the communication of cultures and the role of literature in promoting social justice and equality.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

Since the first half of the nineteenth century, massive mass immigration toward developed countries has continued. With several reasons behind these, the continuous migration of citizens of underdeveloped countries to Europe, the USA, and Canada has created multicultural societies in these countries as Will Kymlicka a well-known Canadian philosopher goes on,“Many Western democracies are multi-national. For example, there is number of national minorities in the United States” (p.11). With time, the idea of a multicultural world is promoted. It gives rise to the feeling of pride in one’s own culture and language. Will Kymlicka, develops *The Liberal Theory of Multiculturalism*(1995),with an argument about the value of cultural membership . As Kymlicka (1995) states “I call it a societal culture to emphasize that it involves a common language and social Institutions, rather than common religious beliefs, family customs, or personal lifestyles” (p. 346). Kymlicka discusses in his theory ethnical and cultural diversity of societies and increasing connections between ethnic groups which have raised the issue of identity and rights. . “ If a culture is not respected, then the dignity and self-respect of its members will also be threatened” (p. 89). The metaphors "melting pot" and "salad bowl" are most widely used to characterize the two main models of multiculturalism as how various cultures are incorporated into a single civilization. Melting pot highlights the implementation of government policies while salad bowl claims for individual rights keeping their recognition of identity and culture like ingredients of salad, different cultures are combined but they don’t need to make a uniform culture Within the American territory of New York, The salad bowl theory asserts that people don’t need to give up their cultural heritage to be considered members of the dominant society. A metaphor

for how a society interprets cultural diversity is the "salad bowl model of multiculturalism," often referred to as the "cultural pluralism model (Miguel A. De La Torre (2009).

1.7.1 Minority Rights and Stigmatization

Developed countries have resources and facilities so to avail these, people of different ethnicities and cultures come there for a better future. These diversities cause various conflicts in society. The people and government face multiple difficulties and challenges in this context. Multicultural society has two patterns of cultural diversity. The first type of diversity arises from the National minorities which are the groups who maintain their identity alongside with majority culture. The second pattern of cultural diversity arises from immigrants. Kymlicka calls them ethnic groups. "Such immigrants often coalesce into loose associations which I call 'ethnic groups'" (p.10).

This group is part of a society with a distinct identity. Even though societies have become liberal, and they have acceptance for immigrants, ethnic groups or national minorities still face problems in developed countries. Societies do not support them to allow them to form their original society in a new land. It is a feature of colonization. He asserts "Immigrants have not asked for or received such support" (p.15). To integrate immigrants with their culture 'language and religion and give them social and political support is a mechanism and this mechanism forms a balanced society "In all liberal democracies, one of the major mechanisms for accommodating Cultural differences is the protection of the civil and political Rights of individual" (p. 26). Despite the provisions of basic rights by the state to minorities or ethnic groups they face oppression from the members of the society. By careful observation, the oppression can be observed in a multicultural society. "The identification of oppression requires sensitivity to the specific situation, particularly when dealing with other cultures" (p.40). Kymlicka refers to these oppressions as "internal restrictions" (p.40). These internal restrictions create hardship for minorities and this all happens in liberal societies by their individuals. Minorities or ethnic groups are influenced by these oppressions. "The threat to individual rights from such internal restrictions is real enough." (p.41). Existing multicultural policies allow immigrants to express their ethnic identity such practices from members of societies that create restrictions for minorities are not logical. "Public policy (quite consistently)

endorses some external protections, while rejecting internal restrictions” (p. 41).

Any society deserves to be called liberal when it recognizes the individual identity and rights of all its members. “The basic principles of liberalism, of course, are principles of individual freedom”(p.75). Kymlicka develops an analysis that led to policy implications and to implications for the way that we look at ourselves and others and how as individuals, and in groups relate to each other. He emphasizes, “a liberal view requires freedom within the minority group and equality between the minority and majority groups.” (p.153). As well as discrimination and racial unrest are caused by the integration of immigrants into society. Minorities’ rights can be associated with discrimination, but other aspects of minority rights should also be discussed by liberals. We see discrimination on a large scale, but minorities also face the attitude on a smaller scale in society. To explain the reason behind this, Kymlicka explains the racism between whites and blacks. “Racism against Indians comes primarily from the denial by whites that Indians are distinct peoples with their own cultures and communities.” (p. 60). In the modern world, the United States of America is a multination state as well as a polytechnic state. The novel *Yellowface* (2023) is based on racism, oppression, immigrant issues in the contemporary sphere of the American publishing industry, and restrictions faced by minority groups. The novel is written in the American background, I shall analyze it in the context of Will Kymlicka’s theory. By analyzing the novel in the context of Kymlicka’s theory we will be able to grasp the various aspects of minority groups struggling to integrate into a multicultural liberal society and the impact of race, individual rights, and ethnicity in American present day.

1.8 Data Analysis

Multiculturalism is an ideology that emphasizes the value of diversity of cultures within society. It promotes the acceptance of cultural differences while many complications and dilemmas are also the part of multicultural societies .Will Kymlicka has represented the predicament of multicultural societies in developed countries. The study and research on R.F. Kiangs’ novel *Yellowface* (2023) in keeping the theory of will Kymlicka we found that multicultural societies accommodates immigrants of different races and cultures but can they protected from racial discrimination?.do all the members of the society treat other ethnic groups in the same

way that is on the basis of equality? Can the immigrants and new comers can stand with their own cultural identity or do they have to adopt certain values that make them part of the new society? All the people living in the same society do not have the same attitude and temperament, so the ethnic groups have to face different troubles and attitudes from native members of the society. Troubles and attitudes like racial discrimination stigmatization and internal oppressions in a multicultural society have been discussed in the study. R.F. kuang's characters are the best representatives of the all these troubles and dilemmas.

1.8.1 Racial Discrimination

Racial discrimination is one of the most vivid and fatal problems of a multicultural society. The people who belong to non-white society face backlash often. Kuang's work shows that how multicultural society, has discriminatory treatment based on race, which impacts minority groups' religious and cultural practices. Kuang demonstrates how those from minority origins may find life challenging because of these unjust beliefs. Kuang explains to us, via the characters and tales in the book, the difficulties minorities encounter when their religious and cultural customs are disregarded. The book gets us to consider how racism affects not just interpersonal relationships but also the way societies are set up, including the laws and the distribution of power. Many instances can be traced in the very work. One of them is put as under who shows that racial prejudices affect the cultural and religious affairs of the minorities. Along with racial prejudice they present June's racial comments about Athena's funeral.

The funeral is at a Korean church out in Rockville, which is strange to me because I thought Athena was Chinese, but whatever. I'm struck by how few people present are my age. It's mostly old Asian people, probably friends of her mother. Not a single writer I recognize, nor anyone from college. Though maybe this funeral is just a community affair—Athena's actual acquaintances went to the virtual service that the Asian American Writers' Collective set up (p. 24).

June's comments in the paragraph expose her racial prejudices and preconceived notions regarding Athena's funeral. The user's surprise at the burial taking place at a Korean church instead of a Chinese one demonstrates a limited understanding of

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Asian identities, suggesting anticipation for all Asians to adhere to cultural clichés. Furthermore, June's portrayal of the participants as "elderly Asian individuals" reinforces age-related stereotypes and undermines the importance of their presence. Her conjecture over the lack of well-known authors or college acquaintances fails to acknowledge the communal backing and togetherness exhibited by those there, underscoring her disconnection from Athena's cultural heritage and the wider Asian American community. These remarks underscore June's lack of understanding of the various aspects of Asian identities and lead to the continuation of damaging generalizations, strengthening racial prejudices, and marginalizing Asian Americans. Now the following lines explain further the situation.

That's all it takes for my tears to start flowing. But that's a good thing, says an awful, cynical voice in my mind. Crying makes my grief look genuine. It deflects from the fact that I don't know what the fuck I'm doing here." (p .25).

June's introspective thoughts reveal a disturbing element of her personality and emphasize the underlying racial motifs present in the story. June's artificial grief over Athena's death exposes her insincerity and emotional detachment toward Athena's Chinese American identity. On the contrary, she perceives her tears as a coating, a strategy to mislead others and conceal her inner lack of confidence and unease. This depiction exemplifies a more extensive trend of racial insensitivity and appropriation, as June endeavors to use Athena's manuscript and identity for personal gain, while dismissing the cultural importance and genuineness of Athena's work. Furthermore, June's utilization of offensive language and disrespectful attitude towards her own acts indicates a lack of recognition of her advantages and obligations, therefore propagating detrimental stereotypes of entitlement and lack of awareness. The following lines are to emphasize the situation. "Interrogated the use of Christian missionaries to convince young, illiterate Chinese men to work and die overseas," (p.79).

In this passage, the criticism directed towards the way Christian missionaries are portrayed represents a kind of racism and cultural insensitivity that downplays the past mistreatment and exploitation of Chinese manual labor. The reviewer promotes a narrative that absolves white authority figures of responsibility for their acts by failing

to acknowledge the part played by Christian missionaries. By downplaying the manipulation and abuse of Chinese laborers, the reviewer denies oppressed communities' power and perpetuates a narrative of white supremacy. This argument highlights the larger problem of racism in historical narratives, where dominant cultural narratives frequently overshadow or misrepresent the perspectives and experiences of national minorities. These lines describe the point well. "Annie was a sheltered, fidgety girl who thought the laborers were dirty, frightening thugs." (p. 81).

The extract highlights the disparity between Athena's initial writing and June's modified version of Annie's character, exposing inherent racial prejudices and stereotypes. Athena's depiction of Annie as a pampered and contemptuous teenager who regards Chinese laborers as "unclean, intimidating criminals" sustains derogatory generalizations about Chinese persons and maintains a narrative of white supremacy. This portrayal exemplifies the historical vilification and degradation of Asian communities, which has been employed to rationalize prejudiced policies and mindsets. June's reworking of Annie portrays her as a likable and compassionate figure that interacts positively with the Chinese laborers. This implies an intention to undermine these stereotypes and confront racist tropes.

Another major reason for racial discrimination is white privilege which leads to the mistreatment of national minorities not only physically but with every communication means like the publishing industry and social media platforms within modern multicultural America. The upcoming line depicts how racism prevails in modern society. "We also soften some of the white characters" (p. 37). June's decision to diminish the racism of the white characters in Athena's manuscript demonstrates a more profound understanding of white privilege. June intends to modify these characters to diminish the prominence of racism in Athena's text, so exposing more extensive concerns on racial sensitivity. June's reluctance to face racism is emphasized by this action, which could weaken Athena's message and neglect the opportunity to challenge systematic racism. The statement highlights the power dynamics involved in storytelling and the obligation of privileged individuals, such as June, to address racism instead of perpetuating it.

1.8.2 Internal Restrictions

R.F. Kuang's novel *Yellowface* (2023) delves thoroughly into the idea of internal

constraints, in line with Kamlicka's theory of multiculturalism. The book portrays characters' struggles with constraints placed on them by society or cultural conventions in a realistic manner. These limitations have a big influence on their ability to express themselves freely. Kuang depicts the complex complexities of cultural identity within a salad bowl society through the experiences of the characters with gender norms, parental expectations, and group pressures. *Yellowface* (2023) provokes critical thought on the challenges of negotiating cultural norms and the pursuit of individual agency within varied societies by examining how these internal constraints impact characters' lives and societal institutions. The current section examines how white privilege from an individual and as a group is a major part of internal restrictions within a multicultural society. Like June made many changes to the original draft of Athena's novel. Following lines elaborate on the behavior of a white author towards the manuscript of an Asian writer.

I spot where the pacing sags, and I mercilessly cut out the meandering filler. I draw out the plots through line like a clear, powerful note. I tidy up; I trim and decorate; I make the text sing (p. 27).

June's substantial revisions to Athena's original manuscript demonstrate internal limitations within the concept of cultural representation, particularly her dislike of the portrayal of Asian manipulation by white nations. June edits with a brutality that aims to eliminate any filler and highlight the story's coherence and impact. By keeping the story's core premise simple, "like a clear, powerful note," she aligns the narrative with her values and objectives. This demonstrates her denial of harmful myths and presumptions regarding marginalized groups. June's alterations bring to light the struggle minorities have on the inside to assert their cultural identity and challenge prevailing narratives in creative settings. Her actions highlight the complex relationships between cultural agency and self-expression in underprivileged areas within multicultural America. June had no regret of making changes in Athena's draft. Her apathetic attitude is evident in the following lines. "I come off as nicely tanned, which makes me look sort of racially ambiguous" (p. 56). June expresses in this line her satisfaction at not being associated with any specific race and her lack of guilt about altering Athena's text. This demonstrates that people's perceptions of their racial identity and social fit are constrained. June aspires to appear multiracial and

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supports white nationalist ideologies. This indicates that she has internalized prejudices and is content to conform to social norms. June alters Athena's essay to omit the harm that white supremacy causes to people to feel at ease and conform to societal norms. This demonstrates her unwillingness to accept the harsh realities of racism and her desire to avoid being associated with any group that is the target of prejudice. June's actions demonstrate how individuals in unjust systems might struggle with their own identities and bear the burden of society's opinions. This concept demonstrates how people might absorb harmful ideas and disseminate them to gain favor and advantages in society. A similar instance is shown in next lines. "It was Highlander Syndrome—I've read about that before; the way members of marginalized groups feel threatened if someone else like them starts finding success. I've." (p. 75)

This condition explains how people from immigrant countries may perceive other members of their own community as threats. There is a worry that only one individual can succeed at a time, which leads to rivalry rather than support, instead of celebrating group accomplishments. The constraints placed on minority groups in a diverse but multicultural society are the cause of this internal restriction, as are social pressures. People may internalize the notion that success is uncommon in multicultural America, where many racial and ethnic groups compete for acceptance and success, which breeds jealousy and division. The fear and competition that impede minority groups from providing complete assistance to one another exacerbates their difficulties. Athena had received death threats from white people as well as from the Asian community when they found her dating a white boy which shows a similar instance from the text. "She started getting death threats" (p. 117).

Because Athena dated a white guy, she received death threats from both Asian and White individuals. This demonstrates the pervasive biases and prejudices held by both racial groups. These threats demonstrate the intolerance that people have for relationships that defy conventional expectations. Threatening white people might have been a reaction to Athena dating a Black person. This illustrates their support for maintaining racial segregation. Asians may have thought Athena defied cultural norms by making her own decision. These threats serve as a reminder of the difficulties people encounter when they defy social norms with their personal decisions. To build

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a more inclusive society, it is critical to confront these prejudices within communities. Athena's mother learns that June has stolen her daughter's novel, so Jon goes to her house and extorts her, saying that if she reveals it, she will make Athena's pornographic photos viral. To present their own culture it is another major issue for immigrants.

The following lines are from the conversation between June and the editor. The editor appreciates the changes made by June in the draft. They both dislike Chinese cultural exposition in the draft. These lines show the problem faced by minorities when they present their culture. Upcoming textual lines show the barriers to interpreting the culture of marginalized groups. "The stories. Geoff argued, were a scorching interrogation of colonial misogyny, AI rights, and Chinese patriarchy" (p.137). These lines highlight that the barriers within the literary and cultural realms are illuminated by Geoff's experiences of neglect. Significant issues like Chinese patriarchy, all rights, and colonial misogyny are addressed in Geoff's stories but aren't given enough attention. This rejection highlights structural biases in which narratives are marginalized because of accepted conventions. Explanations include prejudices against tales that deviate from the norm, a reluctance to explore difficult subjects or a preference for mainstream content. Geoff's fight demonstrates the obstacles that marginalized voices must overcome to be heard. It underlines how inclusive cultural settings are necessary to guarantee that various perspectives are acknowledged and heard. Women are an easy tool to be marginalized in any Society; Athena is a representation of marginalized Asian American women in the publishing sector within multicultural America.

1.8.3 Immigrant Issues

The novel *Yellowface* (2023) by R.F. Kuang delves deeply into the struggles faced by immigrants, striking a chord with Kymlicka's notions of multiculturalism. The book illustrates via immigrant characters the challenges of assimilating into a unique environment while clinging to one's cultural identity. Kuang clearly illustrates the difficulties faced by immigrants, including language barriers, conflicts with local customs, and unjust treatment, especially in the publishing industry. These tales highlight the difficult balancing act between fitting in and being authentic. The following analysis highlights the immigrant issues that erupt because of mistreatment,

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love with heritage, mistrust, and recognition. June is attending a workshop of Asian American writers in memory of Athena.

The director of the workshop explains about racial treatment of the publishing industry towards Asian American writers which depicts the mistreatment of immigrants. "Finally, someone's calling Athena out on her bullshit, on her deliberately confusing sentence structure and cultural allusions." (p. 36). The immigrant issues are highlighted through June's discomfort at a workshop for Asian American writers, where the director addresses the racial treatment faced by Asian American writers in the publishing industry. The director's critique of Athena's deliberate obscurity in her writing, along with her reluctance to make her work more accessible to readers, reflects broader challenges that immigrant writers, particularly those from marginalized communities, encounter in navigating the literary landscape. Athena's approach, characterized by solid sentence structures and cultural allusions, may stem from a desire to assert her cultural identity and resist assimilation pressures, yet it also perpetuates barriers to understanding and recognition within the white publishing industry.

June's discomfort suggests are cognition of the tension between artistic expression and the need for representation and visibility within immigrant communities in a multicultural America. June says that Athena had faced online criticism in the start of her career because she was not American. The challenges endured by immigrants in the literary domain of America are described in these lines. "Even Athena suffered her own period of online vitriol, though in her case she really had done nothing wrong." (p.116). June's observation regarding Athena's online harassment shows the difficult circumstances faced by immigrants in the American literary community. June highlights that Athena, an Asian American writer, was subjected to intense criticism and animosity on the internet just because she failed to sufficiently adhere to the conventional idea of what it means to be "American." This implies that those who are frequently considered minorities are scrutinized closely and rejected because of preconceived beliefs about their home country. This narrative emphasizes the challenges minorities and immigrants have in gaining acceptance and recognition in American culture, particularly in creative fields like literature. Another problem that immigrants face in a multicultural society is recognition of their rights.

To gain recognition, immigrants tried hard to make up in the society which is evident from the following lines. “She doesn’t even speak Chinese fluently she’s admitted in interviews that she “spoke only English at home in an attempt to better assimilate.” (p. 87)

These lines emphasize the complicated conflict that minorities and immigrants experience because of assimilation pressure. There is a sense of alienation from their cultural heritage brought about by the expectation of perfect fluency in the dominant language, as demonstrated by the criticism Athena receives for her imperfect Chinese speech. Though Asian American author Athena constantly advocates for representation, the impulse to fit in can make people feel socially excluded when speaking in their tongue. This hypothetical situation exemplifies the challenges faced by immigrants attempting to negotiate their cultural identity in a dominant nation. When they display their cultural history, they feel uncomfortable being seen as outsiders and are conflicted about wanting to fit in.

1.8.4 Oppression

The novel of *Yellowface* (2023) explores the issue of oppression, echoing the multiculturalism theories of Kymlicka. The work effectively depicts the systemic inequalities faced by marginalized groups in a multicultural society through the experiences of its protagonists. Kuang deftly depicts the many manifestations of oppression, such as social exclusion, political marginalization, economic exploitation, and cultural erasure. Characters from immigrant, Indigenous and ethnic minority origins struggle with injustice and discrimination, demonstrating how ubiquitous oppression is. The following lines give further insight into cultural oppression in society “how Asians were silently suffering because they did not exist as a voting category to white American politicians.” (p.87). These lines illuminate the systematic obstacles based on culture encountered by Asian women in the United States. The mention of hate crimes directed towards Asian women highlights the distinct types of violence and prejudice they experience, frequently without any means of seeking redress or assistance. The statement that people “do not speak out against this” suggests a feeling of powerlessness or fear of retaliation, which reflects larger social patterns where marginalized voices are suppressed or disregarded. Furthermore, the assertion that Asian Americans were not recognized as a distinct voting group by

white American politicians underscores the deliberate exclusion of Asian Americans from political discussions, leading to a disregard for their interests and issues.

These sentences highlight the intricate nature of the oppression faced by Asian women, emphasizing the need for comprehensive ways to tackle systemic disparities in society. June is talking about Athena's friend who is Chinese, and his Chinese name is Jie Fu. But he is known by his American name Geoff, and he does not want to call him by his Chinese name in public. Upcoming lines explain how cultural oppression operates in society. "Geoff's Chinese name was Jie Fu, and he wanted me to call him that when we were alone,"(p. 136). Athena's exasperation with her friend's inclination towards his American name rather than his Chinese name, Jie Fu, highlights the intricate connection between cultural identification and societal norms. The condescending attitude towards Jie Fu's preference to be addressed by his Chinese name exemplifies a prevailing societal convention that values Westernized identities over those that are grounded in non-Western cultures. This mindset sustains the elimination of cultural legacy and strengthens the demand for marginalized individuals to adhere to prevailing cultural standards. In addition, Athena's unease in officially recognizing Jie Fu's Chinese heritage highlights the societal prejudice and bias experienced by those who deviate from the norms of the prevailing society. The analysis focuses on the oppression of minorities as a group and as an individual based on culture, white privilege, how it is practiced in history, and then how individuals like June's (protagonist) domineering attitude cause oppression towards late Chinese American Athena and immigrant society.

1.9 Conclusion

This study has been based on an in-depth investigation and critical analysis of the complicated relationship between stigmatization and multiculturalism. The presented research attempts to shed light on the complexities of cultural transition, social prejudices, and power differentials as depicted in modern pieces of literature. Thus, the conducted analysis was based on Kymlicka theoretical frameworks of multiculturalism and cultural transition. It is vital to consider that the present study has proven the potential of any literary text to help reflect and form one's identity and notions about belonging and the 'right' way of coexistence within multicultural communities. The present research highlights the novel's involvement with

multiculturalism, minorities' rights, and the depiction of Asians within the Western society through an analysis. By relying on the theoretical framework of multiculturalism as proposed by Will Kymlicka, it becomes evident that Kuang's writing makes profound statements on the potentials and challenges that come with diversity, particularly in the realms of publishing and literature. It is crucial to mention that an analysis of the book *Yellowface* (2023) has revealed that it does not only depict pressures and concerns of the cultural decay accompanied by pressures to acculturate and challenges related to the integration and cohesion of society. This has to do with intercultural tensions and conflicts between marginalized cultures and the culture of the majority.

Besides, the research highlights the importance of culturally specific analysis that explores the intersections of culture, power, and representation in literature, placing the discussion in the context of the diverse mix of theories and frameworks, such as multiculturalism, identity politics, and social justice. Kuang's works represent a vivid example of the kind of fiction that is capable of critiquing the dominant discourses and making the voices of the oppressed heard, and they can serve as a springboard for discussing issues related to equality, justice, and inclusion in multicultural America. The insights into the complexities of development of other cultures' culture identity developed in the course of the research can be summarized to suggest that the works of literature can be a potent force that either maintains or challenges existing social structures and rules.

Recommendations

- Anti-discrimination policies should be implemented in multicultural countries.
- Multicultural states should support different cultures and traditions by celebrating them.
- Cultural exchange program should be promoted.
- There should be equal access to social resources for each member of society.
- Educational awareness about different cultures should be given to each member of society especially from school level.

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