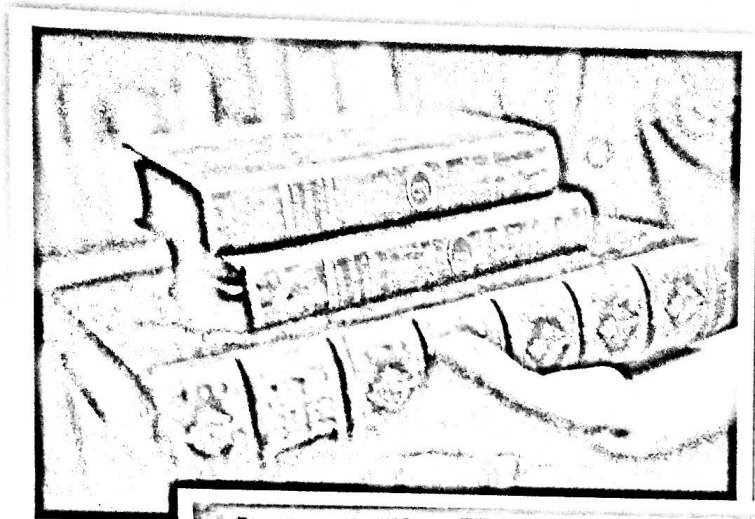


Engaging with Literature: *Contemporary Readings*



Department of English
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Acknowledging the Other: An Interdisciplinary Reading of Kamila Shamsie's *Kartography*

Sumi Bora*

Abstract:

In this paper, I will attempt to make an interdisciplinary reading of Kamila Shamsie's novel *Kartography* (2002) with special reference to the Other. It should be kept in mind that the Other in the context of my paper are the Bengalis and the immigrants (popularly termed Muhajirs) in Pakistan. At the outset, I will briefly discuss the primary operative parameters— (a) Interdisciplinary perspective (b) Understanding the Other— which will underscore the present study. After that, I will offer a brief view regarding the relationship between Karim and Raheen, the protagonists of the novel as it is the basis through which the Other comes to the fore and impinges their course of life. Next, I will divide my paper into two sections to understand the Other in its specific context— (i) Othering the Bengalis and the Liberation War (ii) Muhajirs, the Other. In the first section, I will briefly discuss the Bangladesh Liberation War from the historical narratives, its representation in the novel and the treatment of the Bengalis as the Other. The condition of the Muhajirs as found in historical narratives, their representation in the novel and their treatment as the Other, will form the second section. I will finally sum up my paper by pointing out, how a conglomeration of historiography and literary text can mutually benefit each other by charting new areas to understand a text.

Key Words: Other, Muhajirs, Identity Politics, Bangladesh Liberation War, Historiography

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