

Tribhuvan University

Socio-Cultural Contrast in Miller's *A View From The Bridge*

A Thesis submitted to the department of English, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, Kathmandu, in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Degree of Master of Arts in English.

by

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March 2018

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Declaration

I here declare that the thesis entitled,

"Socio-Cultural Contrast in Miller's *A View From The Bridge*"

Is my own original work carried out as a master student at the Department of

English at Rajyalaxmi Campus except to the extent that

assistance from others in the thesis design and

conception or in presentation Style and linguistic

expression are duly acknowledged

All resources used for the thesis have been fully and properly cited. It contains no

material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the

award of any other degree at Tribhuvan University or

any other Educational institution, except where

due acknowledgement is made in the thesis.

.....

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March 28, 2018

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled "Sociocultural Contrast in Miller's *A View From The Bridge*" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, by Shyam Kumar Chaudhary, has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee.

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Acknowledgements

This present thesis has been prepared with the guidance by respected teacher Motikala Subba Dewan, so I wish to express my sincere heartfelt guidance to my supervisor Motikala Subba Dewan, Associate Professor of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, Kathmandu.

My special thanks goes to my respected teacher Pradip Sharma, Head of Department of English for his guidance and co- operation. I am also thankful to all my friends and relatives who helped me in carrying out this research work.

Finally I would like to express my deep gratitude to my parents Mr. Mangain Chaudhary and Mrs Ram Kumari Chaudhary and all family for their timely and robust encouragement and supportive role during the proposal writing and thesis writing phase.

March 2018

Shyam Kumar Chaudhary

Abstract

Literature brings together what geography and culture split apart, and reflects the differences between the distinct cultures of mankind. This thesis explores the cultural differences and cultural clash in Arthur Miller's drama *A View From The Bridge*. Through the drama Miller aiming to provide an angle for the complications of immigrants life in America by means of analysis of concepts such as integration, otherness, identity and Americanization as well as an emphasis on the justice system of America and extreme individualist culture who rejects socialist culture of Sicilian tradition. Miller shows the issue of clash between the two cultures and how the misunderstandings purport the tragic fate to immigrants. This work is divided into three chapters; the first one is devoted to the introduction part, second part 'Theoretical analysis.' The third chapter 'textual analysis' explores the characters behavior in relation to the above mentioned concepts.

Sociological and Cultural Study on Arthur Miller's Drama

This research studies the famous American dramatist Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*. Arthur Miller was born in New York City on October 17, 1915 and published the book titled *A Boy Grew in Brooklyn*. Miller Graduated from high school in 1932, but was unable to go on to college. He worked for two years in an automobile parts warehouse at \$15 a week in order to pay his way to college. Having saved enough for one semester, he entered the University of Michigan, and was only enabled to complete his course with financial aid from the National Youth Administration and with a salary earned as night editor of the Michigan Daily.

After Second World War America became the supreme country of the world so it became the dream of land and opportunity. Therefore, many people from different parts of the world migrated to America in search of secure and prosperous life. These immigrants face many problems in America due to regional, cultural differences. The main purpose of this research work is to study the contrast between American and Italian immigrant's culture, justice system and its affect to them. In the play unlike many emigrants Italian immigrants are also migrated from Italy to America in search of their prosperous and beautiful life. Though ideology and dream of each Italian emigrant in America is different but they have same concept and respect for their Italian heritage. As social dramatist Miller has presented the conflict of the two societies in beautiful way in *A View From The Bridge*.

Today's world became a global village; people migrate from one place to another place, one country to another country for different purposes. Therefore, community frequently encounters the socio-cultural differences. *Oxford Dictionary* defines culture "the social behavior and norms found in human societies." (98) through this definition it is clear that culture is the human product, therefore culture

differ from different societies. Culture is transmitted through social learning in human societies therefore different society has different social learning so there occurs contrast between their cultures.

Culture is a contested phenomenon which is understood to mean different things by different groups. Culture is the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief and behavior. Culture embodies language, ideas, beliefs, customs, taboos, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, works of art, rituals, and so on. Culture consists of shared values, beliefs, knowledge, skills and practices that underpin behavior by members of a social group at a particular point in time. It is creative expression, skills, traditional knowledge and resources. These include, craft and design, oral and written history and literature, music, drama, dance, visual arts, celebrations, indigenous knowledge of botanical properties and medical applications, architectural forms, historical sites, and traditional technologies, traditional healing methods, traditional natural resource management, celebrations, and patterns of social interaction that contribute to group and individual welfare and identity. It is generally accepted that culture embodies the way humans live with and treat others and how they develop or react to changes in their environments.

A View From The Bridge is the social drama where Miller presents the problems and miseries faced by the immigrants in a American culture. Thornton Wilder says that "Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* presents many different views of America, not only do you see America through the eyes of an Immigrant but also through the eyes of the regular working people, for instance the longshoremen (Wilder 16). He clears that every character in Arthur Miller's play *A View from the Bridge* is controlled by American dreams and passion. It is true that Miller's plays mirrors the present materialistic society in which men like his characters are facing

the problem of identity. Every character in his plays is from the real world. It is a journey from modern world to postmodern world where an individual faces different unsatisfactory circumstances due to contrast of culture and believe.

Arthur Miller as a social dramatist presents the socio- cultural contrast between Italy society and America society in beautiful way. In *A View From The Bridge* Culture is the most significant factor in any society; it defines who and what we are. It is an all-universal influence on our actions and the way we live our lives. It is a key feature in Arthur Miller's *A View From The Bridge*, and a dominant theme throughout Schumach Murray says:

A View from the Bridge is set in is one where America, especially New York was seeing immigration from Italy and the Mediterranean when it had always previously received immigrants from Western Europe. They formed pockets of cultures, in which was a mix of aspirations to the American culture, but still the very strong foundations of the culture from whence they came. Two generations since the 1920s saw the height of immigration into America, with the Italian/American culture still receiving illegal immigrants from relatives and friends in the Mediterranean. (23)

Murray argues that *A View From The Bridge* is the strong cultural contrast between Italian immigrants and American culture. This play can be taken as a personal tragedy, set under the conditions of a cultural clash. Contrast of American and the Sicilian culture is the most prominent feature of the play.

This play can also be taken as basic conflict: "civilized" American law vs. "uncivilized" Italian tradition. When the American justice system is incapable of bringing the characters the kind of justice they think they deserve, everything goes

haywire. They resort to their unspoken codes of their Italian roots Balaji Natkare says:

This results in stuff like bloody revenge and duels in the streets. In my opinion, *A View From The Bridge* is not only about the people in the story, but also the cultures and societies they represent and how those cultures influenced many people's lives and decisions at the time. The story is full of contrasts between American life and the Sicilian way of life showing the differences and similarities between the two. (9)

Natkare declares *A View From The Bridge* represents how culture influence societies, people and their decision. In most of his works, Miller raised the political, social and cultural issues. He often uses his works to focus on the moral values of each culture. His play *A View From The Bridge* is a social play that deals with the traditional code of loyalty and honor of the Sicilian American community in which Eddie lives. This play surely contains a system of social reference.

This play focuses on the contrast between two cultures. The research questions are: What are the differences between Italian and American ideas of justice? How does each character relate them to their Italian culture? How are each character's dreams affected by Eddie's actions? How do they follow the culture in Italy and America?

Although this study makes significant use of concept developed Cultural study it doesn't offer a comprehensive analysis of these theories. Since, the major objective of the study is to explore the contrast be culture of Italy and American through the play. It will be dealt through psychological dilemma of characters.

Literature Reviews

For the preparation of this thesis proposal, several published literature have been reviewed in print and online. After its publication in 1955, *A View From The*

Bridge was received favorably by both readers and critics thereby enriching and broadening its literary opulence. It is taken differently by different people William B. Dillingham says:

A View From The Bridge has power and substance. It is based on a story that Miller heard in the Brooklyn neighborhood where he lived. Eddie, ordinary longshoremen, is unconsciously in love with his niece-the daughter of his wife's dead sister. Early in the play two of his wife's Italian relatives are smuggled in an start to live furtively in Eddie's apartment, Catherine, the niece, falls in love with the younger Italian brother and proposes to marry him. Eddie does not understand why he opposes the marriage so violently, nor do any of the other people who are involved. Searching around for a plausible reason, Eddie convinces himself that the young Italian is a homosexual whose only motive in marrying Catherine is a chance to legitimize his citizenship in America. (13)

William B. Dillingham says that *A View From The Bridge*, which stands in the background of hero's trial. The characters are conscious for their personal identity. The search of personal identity can be seen in the protagonist of "A View from the Bridge" is conscious of his personal identity, like that of other heroes of Miller's earlier plays. Furthermore this story moves around the Italian emigrants which are searching their identity in United States. Beside it Dinesh. A. Gundawar says:

Miller, obviously, has presented a picture of the "good society" in his preceding plays *All My Sons*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Crucible*, and as well as in his *A View From The Bridge*, which stands in the background of hero's trial. This good society, at the end, ostracizes the informer for betraying

the communal code of honor out of feeling of personal identity. The protagonist of *A View From The Bridge* is conscious of his personal identity, like that of other heroes of Miller's earlier plays. (6)

Dinesh .A. Gunadawar views that Millers plays are social drama based on the conflict between the emigrants family. In most of his drama he has developed the concept of good society. His characters are conscious for their personal identity. Similarly, Raymond Williams views:

A View From The Bridge, particularly is a typical play. Both the social elements and psychological elements are used by the playwright. The revised two act play follows the same catastrophe that the original one act version did. Thus the meaning of the play is now rooted in an individual and community. As the story proceeds we are evident that Eddie Carbon and Beatrice have brought up the orphaned Catherine as their daughter. Eddie is fond of young Catherine gets upset when she wears spike heel shoes, when she "walks wavy" in her new short skirts, and when she proposes to take a secretarial job on the docks. It provides some hint of the possessive and unnatural form of his love for Catherine. But the full power of his passion emerges, when Rodolpho arrives, and Catherine wants to leave home to get married. (16)

Williams, Raymond clears that *A View From The Bridge presents* the both psychological and social consciousness of the characters. This play follows the theme of realism which is the main characteristics of nineteenth century literature.

Discussing Miller's theme and tone in his plays especially tragedy George de Schweinitz writes: in *A Note on Epic and Tragedy*:

Whatever the differences of technique and tone, the four plays share a common theme. Each of Miller's heroes is involved in one way or

another in a struggle that results from his acceptance or rejection of an image that is the product of his society's values and prejudices, whether that society is as small as Eddie Carbone's neighborhood in *A View From The Bridge* or as wide as the contemporary America that helped form Willy Loman. (363)

George de Schweinitz says all the drama of Miller shares the common theme, tone and technique. Through his drama he focuses on the conflict of the societies such as prejudice, struggle for their identity etc. similarly George Ross focuses about Miller's main character in *A View From The Bridge* about the weakness of Eddie Carbone:

In *A View From The Bridge* the plot focuses on in antisocial action, Eddie Carbone's betrayal of the immigrants: In betraying Rodolpho and Marco, Eddie violates a code of behaviour with which he has previously identified himself. (415)

Catherine falls in love with Rodolpho and their love is genuine and sincere. Actually their love is doomed to disaster and tragedy as a result of Eddie's Jealousy and possessive nature over Catherine. Eddie goes many times to Alfieri to look justice when he is unable to deal with the situation of Rodolpho and Catherine.

Cultural Studies in Millers Drama

Cultural study is an analytical study of human behavior belief and attitudes from different angles. Guerin Das also agree and comment "Cultural studies is committed to examining the entire range of society's beliefs institutions and communicative practices including arts" (251) these ways of analyzing human behavior are formed as a theories by thinkers. So, Chris Barker argued "Cultural studies is body of theory regard the production of theoretical knowledge as political practices" (5). In whole cultural study is the scientific study of whole way of life.

Cultural Studies relies on interdisciplinary research on the formation of knowledge, power, and difference. Cultural Studies scholars and practitioners explore constructions of race, class, ability, citizenship, gender, and sexuality in their effort to understand the structures and practices of domination and resistance that shape contemporary societies. Many different topics surface as part of this exploration: everyday practices that structure the creation and reception of cultural artifacts; relations between producers and consumers in the circulation of global commodities; claims to membership in particular communities as they undergo transformation.

Cultural Studies is an academic discipline which combines political economy, communication, sociology, social theory, literary theory, media theory, film studies, cultural anthropology, philosophy, art history, criticism etc. to study cultural phenomena in various societies. Cultural Studies researches often focus on how a particular phenomenon relates matters of ideology, nationality, ethnicity, social class and gender. Cultural studies developed in late 20th century in part through the re-introduction of Marxist thought into sociology. And in part through the articulation of sociology and other academic disciplines such as: ethnography, literary criticism, history, sociology etc. it may also precisely be taken to refer to distinctive field of academic inquiry. In this use, its historical root can be traced back to the work of Raymond Williams and Richard Hoggert in late 1950s and early 1960s and to the formation of Birmingham Center of Contemporary Cultural studies in 1964, originally under the directorship of Hoggert and then of Stuart Hall.

Raymond Williams presents an anthropological concept of culture denoting 'a whole way of life' in his words "We use the word culture in these two senses: to mean a whole way of life – the common meaning; to mean the arts and learning the special process of discovery and creative effort" (4). Williams comments on cultural

studies ". . . , as the study of relationship between elements in a whole way of life. The analysis of culture is the attempt to discover the nature of the organization which is the complex of these relationship" (52). Out of this conflict between culture in anthropological sense and culture in normative sense.

There emerged a third way of using the term. "One that refers neither to a peoples organic way of life nor to normative values preached by leading intellectuals but to a battleground of social conflict and contradictions" (Graf and Bruce 421). From the theoretical perspective one cannot assume a single, central cultural that renders individual experience coherent and meaningful for it is incapably different divisive and dissonant.

Today culture has borrowed the terminologies of other field of criticism. Post-colonial criticism and post-colonial theory of discourse made culture a contested space. The cited terminologies, these days, in the study of culture are Foucauldian notion of 'power' and 'Discourse' and Gramsci's concept of 'Hegemony' post-colonial perspective emerged from the colonial testimony of third world countries and the discourse of minorities. Within the geographical division of east and west north and south. They formulate their critical revision around the issue of cultural difference, social authority and political discrimination in order to reveal the antagonistic and ambivalent moments within the 'rationalizations' of modernity. Post-colonial criticisms bears witness to these unequal and uneven forces of cultural representations involved in the contest for political and social authority within the modern world order.

Socio-Cultural conflicts are caused by the underlying cultural differences in norms, values, interests and worldviews, and are accompanied by the intracultural creation of contrasting "us" and "them" images. In cases when the objective conflict

situation occurs and becomes recognized by the parties, even random events due to the emotionality and sometimes irrationality inherent to intercultural relations can lead to conflict growth.

In conclusion it can be said that Cultural studies is an innovative interdisciplinary field of research and teaching that investigates the ways in which "culture" creates and transforms individual experiences, everyday life, social relations and power. Research and teaching in the field explores the relations between culture understood as human expressive and symbolic activities, and cultures understood as distinctive ways of life. Combining the strengths of the social sciences and the humanities, cultural studies draws on methods and theories from literary studies, sociology, communications studies, history, cultural anthropology, and economics. By working across the boundaries among these fields, cultural studies addresses new questions and problems of today's world. Cultural study is devoted to understanding the processes through which societies and the diverse groups within them come to terms with history, community life, and the challenges of the future.

A View From The Bridge contented Room of Culture

"The play centers upon the dilemma of the Eddie who is torn between his loyalty to the traditional code of honor followed by his community and the blind force of his psychological obsession" (Balaji 9). Characteristically the play seems to be on two levels i.e. psychological and social. The play reveals us that Eddie Carbon and Beatrice have helped Catherine, their niece, since the death of her parents, when she was very young.

Eddie, Beatrice and Catherine are there to show the typical Italian American family of the 1950's. Their house is what most of the longshoremen and their families would live in. It is only a small tenement flat. In the early section of Act One,

Miller contrasts the flat, to the living conditions in Sicily and Southern Italy, he voices the comparison through Eddie's response, to Beatrice's worries about needing a new table cloth and cleaning the flat, which is 'listen, they'll think this it's a millionaire's house compared to the way they live. This is showing, why there were so many immigrants coming into America, the living conditions were so much better than in their countries, even the poorest were living like Kings in the eyes of the immigrants. Catherine, I believe is symbolizing the future, because she is the one, who wants to move on with her life, and become a stenographer and work for a company. But Eddie, who still believes in the archaic ways that the man should do the working, tries to discourage her from taking the job. In a way, Catherine being offered the job is showing the 'American Way' that anyone can get a job in America, even an immigrant.

The culture of America is mingled with so many other cultures that are why it is called a multicultural country. The reason for the presence of so many different cultures was America became the dream of world and opportunity for the people of entire world. Especially after the first and Second World War America gains the prosperity, so many people migrate to America to fulfill their dream. This country got separated into many groups on the basis of color, skin, religion and region. The emigrants found it a of country rich in natural resources, a country whose lands were very fertile from which they can gain immense wealth.

This play *A View From The Bridge* is also based on the cultural contrast and conflict occurs between the characters. The setting of the play is in America New York. Arthur Miller as the social dramatist explored various social-justice themes. Miller presents the cultural contrast between the Italian immigrants and cultural system practiced in America. The Sicilian immigrants lived in tribes and followed

their tribal culture and on the other hand the American people belonged to a developed nation and regarded themselves as civilized. Sicily is a small island and was least developed than America Sicilian lived a simple nomadic life completely dependent upon natural resources for their livelihood and had a close bounding their tribes there was not discrimination principle of fraternity and brotherhood, unlike whites who followed discrimination. In the drama Marco says there is not fair in America which proves the discrimination white people. Beside it the culture of America was in extreme individualism. They did not care each other there was not feeling of brotherhood and socialized in American society.

The play centers upon the dilemma of the Eddie who is torn between his loyalty to the traditional code of honor followed by his community and the blind force of his psychological obsession. Eddie's Characteristic can be analyzed from the cultural hybridity she is Sicilian inhabitant but born in America. She has equal respect and honor towards both American justice system and Sicilian tradition. So she faced a psychological trauma in the play. The play reveals us that Eddie Carbon and Beatrice have helped Catherine, their niece, since the death of her parents, when she was very young. Eddie, Beatrice and Catherine are there to show the typical Italian American family of the 1950's. Their house is what most of the longshoremen and their families would live in. It is only a small tenement flat.

As the Play develops there occurs conflict between Sicilian-community and American law in the play. The community is forced to accept American customs to protect illegal immigrants. This law brought the clash between Italian emigrant families. This community has strong associations with names, believes in trust but changed into revenge due to American system of justice. Edward said a Cultural critique analysis the culture from Foucauldian of

power and discourse. He says:

Culture with its superior position has the power to authorize, to dominate, to legitimate, denote interdict and validate: in short i.e. the power of culture to be an agent of and perhaps the main agency of powerful differentiation within its domain and beyond it too. (9)

Said argues that who has the power he has the authorize to use the culture in his own way. In the context of drama Sicilians emigrants are inferior and marginalized so they are forced to use the culture of authority. I.e. the culture of America.

A View From The Bridge is set in Red Hook, Brooklyn, in the 1950s. At the time, it was a majority Italian American community. All of the characters are of Italian origin, and some are newly arrived. The character of the play faces a lot of contrasts between two places. The play explores differing ideas of justice, rural vs. urban lifestyles, and the economic differences between the two countries. The expression of Alfieri can contrast the cultural difference between Italy and America in his speech Alfieri says:

But this is Red Hook, not Sicily. This is the slum that faces the bay on the seaward side of Brooklyn Bridge. This is the gullet of New York Swallowing the tonnage of the world. And now we are quit civilized, quite American. Now we settle for half, and I like it better. I no longer keep a pistol in my filling cabinet. (1.1)

In the above lines Alfieri is describing the difference in Sicilian tradition and American justice system. Alfieri, an Italian-American, is true to his racial identity. He is a well-educated man who studies and respects American law, but is still loyal to Italian behavior. The play told from the viewpoint of Alfieri, the view from the bridge between American and Italian cultures who attempts to objectively give a picture of

Eddie Carbone and the 1950s Red Hook, Brooklyn community.

Arthur Miller presents Sicilian-community and American law as the central conflict for characters John L. Mothershead, says difference between the Justice system in Italy and America creates traces between the characters of the play he further says:

A View From The Bridge sets up a very basic conflict: "civilized" American law vs. "uncivilized" Italian tradition. When the American justice system is incapable of bringing the characters the kind of justice they think they deserve, everything goes haywire. They resort to their unspoken codes of their Italian roots. This results in stuff like bloody revenge and duels in the streets. (13)

John L. Mothershead analyzes that characters goes irrational due to the Justice system of America. American law treats brutally towards the emigrants. *A View from the Bridge* can be also taken as cooperation between tribal and country law. In other words, the characters must merge between the social laws of the Red Hook Sicilian-American community and the laws that they are bound to by the state. The contrast between the civilized America and Italy can be clear from the following conversation of Marco, and Alfieri:

Marco: In my country [Eddie] he would be dead now. He would not live this long.

Alfieri: All Right, Rodolpho- you come with me now.

Marco: All the law is not in a book.

Alfieri: Yes. In a Book. There is no other law.

Marco: He degraded my brother. My blood. He robbed my children,

he mocks my children, he mocks my work. I come to work here,
mister! (2. 241-45)

Eddie Carbone supports the state law that bans illegal immigrants. Due to Eddie carbon many immigrants were punished by the state law. Marco and Rodolpho, although wanting live in the U.S. break American law by entering the country illegally. Influenced by the fact he has already been deported so he gets anger towards Eddie Carbon. So he expresses his voice against the American justice system. He says "In my country [Eddie] he would be dead now. He would not live this long." (2.241) From this expression sentence to death against betrayal is accepted by their community in Italy. But it is unjust in American Justice System. Beside it Marco is pretty unhappy with the failure of America to provide the kind of justice he thinks is only right and proper. He focuses on the natural justice system practiced in their community not the justice printed in the book. He further says that technically every law and conduct accepted by society is not mentioned in the justice of book in America.

Alfieri, the Italian-American lawyer who narrates the play, is the great compromiser between Sicilian law and American laws. Alfieri is able to negotiate between social mores in Red Hook and the demands of American citizenship:

Alfieri: A lawyer means the law, and in Sicily, from where there fathers came, the law has not been a friendly idea since the Greeks were beaten. I am inclined to notice the ruins in things, perhaps because I was I was born In Italy..... only. In those days, AlCapone, the greatest Carthaginian of all, was learning his trade on these pavement, and Frankie Yale himself was cut precisely in half by a machinegun on the corner of Union Street, two blocks away. Oh,

there were many here who were justly shot by conquest men.

Justice is very important here. (1.1)

Alfieri represents two kinds of law i.e. state and federal statutes and moral and ethical laws within his particular society. He is the principle of social order that is always dominant in Miller's drama. "Sicilian community in Italy practices unwritten law, based on the principle of manly honor unlike Greek did. Eddie Carbon violates this law when he turns Submarines to the immigration service and he meets with blood revenge" An American lawyer of Sicilian origin, Alfieri embodies the social and secular law, the law governing our civilized morality. This is opposed by a more ancient and tribal law operative among the Brooklyn community.

Justice system and culture are related to each other. Nothing can explain without any of them. Justice System is made according the cultural practice. Justice system also needs to be changed according to the changes the society faces, because without the necessary changes law cannot keep pace with society. Without the control of the law, the society became the jungle or at least barbaric. So, to keep the society peaceful, we need to create a harmonious relationship between law and culture.

American Justice System is influenced by the Christian culture. Noah Webster, one of the great literary figure of American writer says "The moral principles and precepts contained in the scriptures ought to form the basis of all our civil constitutions and laws. All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war, proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." (23) So Americans used the Bible as a source for common law. Whereas Italian Justice System is influenced by the natural law and customs, so honor killing is accepted in Italy. It can be clear from this expression, Marco: "In my country [Eddie] would be dead now." (2.241) Italian

immigrants are influenced by the natural law and culture practice from their ancestors, so American justices system became the big obstacle for them. As result they face tragic situations.

Through this play *A View From The Bridge* Arthur Miller relates Italian cultural heritage as well. Miller praises the cultural heritage of Italy. Through this drama he relates that cultural heritage of Italy is beautiful then America. *Merriam Webster* defines: Cultural heritage is an expression of the ways of living developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. (120) Cultural heritage produces real representations of the value systems, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles.

In the play the majority of the people in the Red Hook community are from Italy. They represent Italy homeland and origin. Though there is conflict between them they respect their Italian heritage. Catherine associates Italy with mystery, romance and beauty. All of the characters, as much as love the benefit of living in the U.S., still strongly hold to Italian traditions and identify it as home. Italy is the basis of the cultural traditions in Red Hook and unites the community in common social practices and religion. Rodolpho, on the other hand, is actually from Italy, and thinks it is a place with little opportunity that he would like to escape from though he respects his cultural heritage. He says though their country is poor and undeveloped comparative to America they are proud for their country it can be clear from the following expression of Rodolpho:

Rodolpho: I am furious! Goes to her. Do you think I am so desperate?

My brother is desperate, not to me. You think I would carry on my back the rest of my life a women I didn't love just to be an American?

Its so wonderful? You think we have no tall buildings in Italy? No

wide streets? No flags? No automobiles? Only work we don't have. I want to be an American so I can work, that is the only wonder here-work! How can you insult me, Catherine?

Catherine: I don't mean that-

Rodolpho: My heart dies to look at you. Why are you so afraid?

(2.45-47)

From the above expression Rodolpho it is clear that these emigrants worker respects their practice and heritage though they are in America. Rodolfo feels sad and angry when people say his country is inferior and poor. Catherine presents Italy in beautiful way it can be clear from following expression:

Rodolpho: Eddie, we only walk together in the streets.

Catherine: you know what he can't get over? That there is no fountain in Brooklyn!

Eddie: Fountains?

Catherine: In Italy Every Town's got fountain . . . they got orange on the tree where he comes from, and lemons, imagine – on the trees? I mean its interesting. (2.15-19)

In the above expression Catherine is expressing the natural heritage of Italy. She says Italy is rich in natural heritage. There are many fountains in Italy which attract them. But these natural beauties are absent in America. she imagines orange, lemon trees of Italy in nostalgia way.

Emigrant worker relate their Italian heritage and wants to return their own homeland because America becomes a darker and more sinister place, no longer the glamorous place where everyone can get work and money. American government seems to be scared with the emigrant people so they attacked violently towards

emigrant's works. The direct effect of American system have hampered in the livelihood of the emigrant worker. The expression of Rodolpho "I want to be an American so I can work, that is the only wonder here- work!" (58). Proves the synonym of America is to work, no work no money in America. American culture changes the people into machine. American dream made people brutal and extreme individualist. They don't care and socialized with other. There is extreme passion of self and other. But this culture does not exist in Italian society; though they were poor their society was socialized. This extreme individualist brought repulsion in the emigrant worker it can be reflected in the conversation of Catherine and Rodolfo:

Catherine: I wanted to live in Italy

Rodolpho: You are going to marry Somebody Rich?

Catherine: No, I mean – There you and me.

Rodolpho: When?

Catherine: Well. . . , when we get married? (2. 36-40)

In the above conversation alone in the flat and Catherine brings up the topic of possibly living in Italy once they get married, Rodolfo is surprised and amazed from her word, he replies saying "How can I bring you from a rich country to suffer in a poor country" which really validates that America is a much better place, even the slum of America is better than Italy Cynthia Edmonds Says:

The play *A View from the Bridge* is set in New York in the 1950s.

During this period of time there were many illegal Immigrants from Eastern Europe moving in to America. This was due to the depression caused by the Second World War. The depression caused a lack of work, many people started to migrate to America where there were many jobs. Due to the mass immigration America started to restrict the

number of people gaining citizenship and made it illegal to house immigrants. (20)

Dream, hope and plan is the another characteristics of this drama. The American dream blinds the immigrants and creates a false ideology of a better life by working in America. They believe that their economic gain will be vast and they will be able to live a life of luxury Balaji Natkare Says:

In this drama Miller reveals the idea that the American Dream is just a dream and by the time the immigrants find out the truth, it is too late to turn back. Arthur Miller wrote *A View From The Bridge* to convey the harsh realities that they faced during their time at work. He was able to describe this so effectively as Arthur Miller chose to work with these men at the dockyards even after obtaining fame. This allowed him to fully grasp the situation these men faced in their everyday lives.(4)

The characters in the play are followed by false ideology of American dream. The American Dream is a national belief of the United States, a set of ideals in which freedom contains the opportunity for prosperity and success, and a progressive social flexibility achieved through hard work. These emigrants worker came to America wishing to make their lives better and standard. They hope to gain respect not only in the community but also in the workplace. Marco and Rodolpho come to the United States in search of the American Dream as they are without work in Italy and can no longer provide for themselves and their families: they therefore try to find work in America to fulfill their needs. Marco is prepared to spend four or five years away from his wife and children in order to ensure their survival.

Eddie Carbone is the protagonist of the play he is a Longshoreman. He lives with his wife, Beatrice and orphaned niece, Catherine, in Red Hook Brooklyn. Eddie

is faltering character and is powerless who craves the face of his own tragic end other characters as well. Tragic situation begins when Eddie Carbone betrays the Sicilian tradition and culture of trust and honor. He break the trust of their community and helped the American officers to arrest the illegal emigrants of their communities member. The following conversation of Eddie carbon shows the betrayal of him to illegal emigrants:

Eddie: Give me the number of the Immigration Bureau. I want to report something. Illegal immigrants. Two of them. That's right. Four-forty one-saxon street, Brooklyn, yeah, ground floor. Heh ? I'm just around the neighborhood.

Eddie: Where is everybody? I says where is everybody? (2. 56-57)

From the above expression it can be clear that Eddie Carbone is breaking the Sicilian culture of trust. There is unity and trust in Sicilian community. There is ideal bounding in their community but Eddie breaks their system and arrested the immigrant's workers which cause the trouble in their community. Immigrants take him as the traitor of their community so there cause dispute in their community. Immigration officer came and arrested Marco and Rodolpho the emigrant workers.

Marco and Rodolpho were guided by the Sicilian culture which is practiced from the Roman and Greek civilization. Revenge was taken as the honor in their culture. Marco wants take revenge to Eddie for his honor so he came for revenge after he was bill from the jail. Marco returns to the house of Eddie for revenge. Eddie lunges into Marco with a knife. Marco turns Eddie's arm and kills Eddie with Eddie's own knife. Eddie dies in Beatrice's arms. This is the tragic end of the drama.

Arts and Literature as the reflection of society

Literature is an impression of society which reflects norms, values culture's

ethos and the clash of social classes and culture. It has a close relationship with human being's life and the problem they face becomes foremost provenance of any work of art. The aspect of culture was always reflected in literature, and Arthur Miller is no exception. The complexities that were encountered by the characters of drama prove not only the clash of cultures but also their imperfections under strict social parameters. In Arthur Miller's Drama *A View From The Bridge* he explores the manners of his characters predominantly influenced by Sicilian tradition who challenges the complex American society; on the one hand, these characters are ignorant yet simple. They could neither understand the American norms nor respect them, so they frequently break the justice system of America; therefore frequently these immigrants are imprisoned.

As a realistic writer, Miller tried to depict the reality of twenty century American social codes which contrast the small island Sicilian ones through the international theme. Innocence and self-reliance were mostly associated with Sicilian while experience and knowledge was related to America.

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