

SENSE OF SELF AND BELONGING IN RUDYARD KIPLING'S THE JUNGLE BOOK

Mubashir Majeed

Research Scholar, Hamidia Arts and Commerce College, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Received: 18 Dec 2023

Accepted: 26 Dec 2023

Published: 30 Dec 2023

ABSTRACT

*This paper undertakes to explore the concepts of identity and belonging in the literary work *The Jungle Book* written by Rudyard Kipling. Through a thorough analysis of this work, the complexity of personal and cultural identity, as well as sense of belonging to a specific community or nation is explored. Kipling's storytelling unravels the dominance of these concepts offering profound insights into the human experience. In his writing, we often encounter characters that are grappling with questions of identity. These characters are trying to make a sense of their own self and they have a longing to belong somewhere and find their place in the world. Kipling explores the idea of identity from various angles, including individual, cultural and national identity. One of the recurring themes in Kipling's works is the concept of belonging. His writing reflects about the urge of an individual to belong to a particular community, whether it is a nation, a social group, or even a family. His characters often face challenges and conflicts that arise from their desire to fit in or assert their individuality within these communities. His works prompt us to consider how these aspects shape our lives and influence our relationship with others. This research paper aims to analyze and interpret the various manifestations of sense of self and belonging in *The Jungle Book* shedding light on the significance of these concepts and to gain a deeper understanding of their relevance in our own lives.*

KEYWORDS: *Self, Identity, Belonging, Social Group, Community, Jungle.*