

Title: Analysis of the Poem, “An Introduction” based on the Politics of Language**Sankar Sarkar**

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Abstract: Kamala Das's poem "An Introduction" is a profound reflection on the independence of her language and the familiarity of women. The poem is a kind of protest and self-expression of the writer towards her identity and language. Here, poetic language embraces both Hindi and English feelings of reality. Kamala Das discusses her female identity and the artificial boundaries of society, where she is to play different social roles, sometimes as a wife and daughter. In the poem, she explores social oppression and a profound journey of finding self-identity, where language, self-confidence and love are keywords. It is also a powerful declaration of her language in the poet.

Keywords: Self, Inner and Cultural Conflict, Gender, Colonial Birthright, Patriarchy, Societal Expectations, Language Politics, Freedom of Expression, Self-Determination, Personality, Resistance to Norms, National Identity, Domination, Suppression & Power and Authority

Introduction: The poem 'An Introduction' focuses on freedom, language, self-identity, and societal norms and values. It is not a personal poem but a political poem is replete with political themes and perspectives. The poet faces political protests and challenges to establish her position and identity. Besides, linguistic and gender politics are reflected in the poem. It is why this poem is political and how Kamala Das speaks against various nonconforming aspects of society.

Language and Identity Politics: Her poetry reflects a particular approach to language, which is very important from a political point of view. Kamala Das said,
 “The language I speak becomes mine...”

She uses Bengali, Malayalam, and English as her linguistic identities. However, she pointed out various criticisms of society about using the English language. Society opposed her for using the English language here, as it is not the mother tongue. There is a profound political implication here, as the English language is of colonial governance under India.

Kamala Das adopted the language as part of her cultural and personal identity, a protest against colonial India.

Gender and Society Expectations: Kamala Das has an influential remark on women's physique and social role in poetry. She describes how society wants her body and femininity to fit a role model. In the poem, he says, "When I asked for love, not knowing what else to ask / For, he drew a youth of sixteen into the / Bedroom..." In this space, Kamala Das makes a critique of society's view of the body and the sexualization of women. She also mentioned that society told her:

"Dress in sarees, be a girl, Be a wife,
Be a quarreler with servants. Fit in."

Here, society has prescribed fixed roles for women, where they are restricted only to housework and childbearing. Kamala Das directly protested against this conventional and patriarchal society, where there is no freedom for women, and her body, her identity, and her desires are all controlled.

Identity and Social Limitation: Kamala's pen knows how to whisper her self-identity in the context of her use of language in poetry. She is given different names and identities by society. Society pressured her to adopt these identities. But she is in her point to say, "Be Amy or be Kamala. The poet adorns herself with herself and persona. It is a political reply, where she does not want to allow herself to bow down to the prescribed list of society and wants to define his identity independently. She established with the help of her magic pen to voice the right to freedom and self-identity, which is the fundamental right of every human being.

Struggle in Colonialism: She places herself as an Indian feminist poet. and says, "I am Indian, very brown, born in Malabar." She is eager to convey identity and political messages to Indians. She is classic in thinking and feeling when talking about nationality and social realities in colonialism. There is a supporting criticism of the changing conditions and culture of Indian society, where political freedom and cultural identity are still fragmented. Indian political, social and cultural contexts are expressive in poetic thought. She undertakes to express her views and feelings. She made an independent political statement through the English language, which presents a singular outlook on identical culture and language related to colonised countries like Bangladesh.

Breaking the silence through Language: Her "An Introduction" is also a protest against the stifled and muted voice of women. In this poem, she talks about love, grief and fair sex. She shows her feelings. They are taboo in most of the society. With this debut, she breaks the repression and silence of women, and it is a political work. It establishes the empowerment and freedom of women.

In her poem "An Introduction," Kamala Das reflects on her experiences, offering a powerful critique of societal expectations surrounding women, language, and identity. She challenges the traditional boundaries imposed on her, questioning the roles assigned to her based on gender and the restrictions placed on self-expression and language. Through her work, Das highlights the deep connection between individual experience and social change, asserting that self-identity and independence are inherently political.