

# Probing the Narrative Styles of Amitav Ghosh's Select Novels

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## Abstract

Every novel has a unique character, style and plot. The characteristic in the novel is commonly connected to the formula used to narrate the story. The formula in novels commonly involves narrating the figure that becomes the main character in the novel. However, the perspective of the narrator cannot be separated to make an impact in the story. Each author has their own way of narrating their work. True stories can be found in all literary works. Since there would be no record of cultural activity without recounting the story, it serves as the basis for a several literary works. This statement is consistent with the vision of contemporary literature sees art today, which holds a significant place in the comprehension of cultural activity; on the other hand, the narrative showcases the work of the entire element. The problems are the concepts of stories and storytelling, which are included in the study narratology. Narrative is provisionally defined as a semiotic representation of a sequence of events linked in a temporal and casual way. There is no standard definition for the narrative. Definitions are a type of translation since they help us understand a phenomenon in connection to others that are already known to us and (theoretically) should not require definition. As a result, a definition of a certain item will change depending on the “language”, we choose to define it.

A definition must be contextualized because it serves a specific purpose. Depending on the needs of the context, a definition may be more or less specific or detailed. However, the verb narrate is connected to the word narrative. Not only in novels or historical literature, but also in everyday life. The narrative is linked with the following like school teacher, friend in school playground, co-passenger during travel, reporter in television, newsreader over the radio, partner of one on dinner, newspaper columnist, as well as narrator in novel that we like to read prior laying down in bed with the actions of narration and could be identified everywhere when someone tells us about something. Fludernik (2006) proposed Narrative theory, which studies narrative. The genre's study, known as narrative theory or narratology, is aimed at describing the constants, variables, and combinations typical of narrative. Its objective is to clarify how these characteristics of narrative texts are connected within the framework of theoretical models (typologies).

In the vast field of contemporary literature, the works of Amitav Ghosh stand as luminous testimonies to the art of narrative. He won praise from readers throughout the world for their powerful narratives that deftly weave together the personal and the political, the historical and the cultural. His words have force not only because of the stories he tell, but also because of the unique ways he express those stories. Amitav Ghosh is the most celebrated Indian-English writers of their generation. He is renowned for his beautiful writing, in-depth exploration of identity and belonging, and passionate involvement with the Indian diaspora. However, he has quite different narrative styles. Ghosh’s writing is more wide, intellectual, and historically educated. Amitiv Ghosh in the novels such as The shadow lines and The Hungry Tide,

unravelling the linguistic variations, structural innovations and cultural signifiers embedded in their works. In addition to enhancing literary study, knowledge of these narrative idioms offers insightful advice to authors, teachers and readers; thus, making a better understanding for the numerous ways in which stories can be told.

### Introduction

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A definition must be contextualized because it serves a specific purpose. Depending on the needs of the context, a definition may be more or less specific or detailed. However, the verb *narrate* is connected to the word narrative. Not only in novels or historical literature, but also in everyday life. The narrative is linked with the following like school teacher, friend in school playground, co-passenger during travel, reporter in television, newsreader over the radio, partner of one on dinner, newspaper columnist, as well as narrator in novel that we like to read prior laying down in bed with the actions of narration and could be identified everywhere when someone tells us about something. Fludernik (2006) proposed Narrative theory, which studies narrative. The genre's study, known as narrative theory or narratology, is aimed at describing the constants, variables, and combinations typical of narrative. Its objective is to clarify how these characteristics of narrative texts are connected within the framework of theoretical models (typologies).

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## Literature review

### Related studies on Amitav Ghosh's novels

Bhushan (2021) reported that Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Hungry Tide* is situated within the expansive Sundarbans, an expanse of over ten thousand square kilometers known as the 'Beautiful Forest'. The narrative portrays nature's interconnectedness, affecting plant, animal, and human life. The study examines the ecological and eco-critical aspects, revealing Ghosh's subtle critique of impact of globalization on marginalized communities. While globalization facilitates knowledge dissemination and education. It also exposes insensitivity and discrimination towards displaced Morichjhapi settlers by urban dwellers.

Kapoor (2022) explored how political consciousness is increasingly integrated into the narratives of Amitav Ghosh's works. Ghosh's strong belief in this thematic integration is reflected not only in the narrative tone but also in the intricate development of characters and plot resolutions. Various voices, representing diverse groups like women, colonized individuals, different castes, migrants, capitalists and the suppressed, contribute to a vibrant political dialogue. This movement advocates for the empowerment and recognition of marginalized communities.

Parmar (2022) analyzed the Amitav Ghosh's novel *The Shadow Lines*, which focused on Ghosh's complex narrative elements, encompassing the novel's setting, characters, and storytelling techniques. Key emphasis was placed on how these components aligned with Ghosh's central themes. Parmar dissected Ghosh's use of narrative techniques derived from Russian Formalism and structuralism to unveil the novel's creative architecture. They reported that Ghosh's exploration of georeferenced statements amid Bengal's division and his advocacy for cultural diversity and interim solutions were examined in the context of the novel.

These comprehensive studies collectively provide a rich tapestry of insights into Amitav Ghosh literary universe, demonstrating their mastery in narration and his ability to navigate complex themes with finesse and depth, resonating with readers across the world. This offers the chance to conduct a thorough comparison of the approaches used by these two well-known novelists in terms of narrative style, character development and storytelling in their specific novels. An aspect that has not received enough attention is how Ghosh develop their characters and give them individual voices. Through vivid descriptions, original dialogue, or other literary techniques, this research gap presents an opportunity to examine how these authors bring their characters to life and how these decisions affect the overall narrative impact. It is necessary to go deeper into how Ghosh use narrative approaches to convey themes and produce unique literary experiences. Investigating how these narrative choices of the authors align with their thematic explorations can provide insights into the nuances of their storytelling craft. The lack of comprehensive comparative studies that concentrate on the narrative techniques, character development, use of viewpoints, and portrayal of inner thoughts and feelings in the works of Amitav Ghosh is the overall research gap of the study. A study that takes these factors into account could greatly advance our knowledge of how the author use his narrative abilities to draw readers in and provide distinctive literary experiences.

### Research gap

1. Noticeable research gap can be observed in terms of directly comparing and contrasting the narrative techniques of Amitav Ghosh.
2. A comprehensive comparative analysis of how the renowned novelists approach narrative style,

character development, and storytelling across their works is needed as there is a gap in this research area.

3. A research gap can be seen in how Ghosh develop his characters and give them distinct voices which is an under-examined area. This research gap offers a chance to investigate how the author breathe life into their characters, whether through vivid descriptions, unique dialogues, or other literary techniques, and how these choices contribute to the overall narrative impact.
4. Further exploration of how narrative techniques are employed to convey themes and create unique literary experiences by Ghosh is required.
5. A gap can be observed in how the author narrative choices align with their thematic explorations can provide insights into the nuances of their storytelling craft.

### Research question

1. What are the fundamental elements in the narrative's styles of the author?
2. How these elements contribute to the immersive experience of his readers?
3. What are the broader implications of his narratives within the literary domain?
4. What are the intricate thematic elements that Ghosh use in this study?
5. What are the unique perspectives each author brings to their storytelling?

### Problem statement

With its wide range of voices and styles, contemporary literature offers a fascinating setting for literary analysis. In this context, Amitav Ghosh's narrative styles stand out as captivating subject of study. Despite the extensive critical acclaim, they have received, a comprehensive comparative analysis of their narrative techniques and their impact on engagement of the readers and understanding remains notably absent from scholarly discourse. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the narrative approaches of Amitav Ghosh to identify the fundamental elements that define their storytelling prowess, examining how these elements contribute to the immersive experience of their readers, and ultimately, understanding the broader implications of their narratives within the literary domain. The investigation of the intricate thematic elements that Ghosh use in their works is the core of this study. Ghosh's narratives are deeply rooted in historical backgrounds, environmental concerns and socio-political issues; whereas By analysing these themes in depth, the research aims to unravel the unique perspectives each author brings to their storytelling, shedding light on the socio-cultural influences that shape their narrative choices. Another important area of investigation is the relationship between language and narrative structure. Ghosh's lyrical storytelling both contribute to the immersive experiences they offer readers. This study aims to reveal the linguistic techniques used by the author to provoke particular emotions and create particular atmospheres within their narratives by analysing their language use and narrative structures.

### Objective of the study

- The objective of the work is to present narratives and narrative style through the different works of the writer, Amitav Ghosh
- To show art and techniques used in the literary work of the writer
- To understand and cogitate thematic interpretation of Ghosh work
- To compare the portrayal of cultural themes, traditions, and identities in the select literary works of Amitav Ghosh.

- To explore how language functions as a tool for identity expression and negotiation in the writings of Ghosh

### **Research Methodology**

The present study is an analytical type of the literary works of Amitav Ghosh such as *The shadow lines and The Hungry Tide*. The primary focus has been on critically analysing these texts, constituting the fundamental source of research material. The researcher has undertaken a detailed examination of the narratives, characters, thematic elements and narrative styles employed by the writer. Further, this study incorporates a multifaceted approach, utilizing various materials like including books, articles, reviews, interviews and online sources that are relevant to this study. This comprehensive methodology guarantees a holistic understanding of the literary techniques of the author and the broader contexts within which their works are situated. The study seeks to provide insights through this rigorous analytical process, thereby enhancing the reader's understanding of Lahiri and Ghosh's contributions to modern literature.

### **Significance of the study**

This study holds an immense significance in the field of literature and cultural studies. This study provides a profound understanding of the literary strategies, thematic decisions, and cultural influences used by acclaimed author Amitav Ghosh by analysing their narrative styles. The study enriches literary studies by offering critical insights into the distinctive storytelling methods employed by Ghosh. Analysing their narrative styles not only deepens our appreciation for their works but also sheds light on the broader narrative traditions and innovations within contemporary literature, fostering a understanding of the craft of storytelling. Furthermore, by revealing the cultural contexts embedded in Ghosh's narratives, this study makes an important contribution to cultural studies. These authors often explore themes of identity, migration, and globalization, providing readers with a lens through which to understand intricate cultural landscapes. Understanding their narrative styles aids in deciphering the complex interactions between literature and cultural identity, thereby enriching discussions on multiculturalism and global literature. This study bridges the fields of literature and cultural studies and serves as a vital intellectual endeavour. By unravelling the narrative complexities of Lahiri and Ghosh, it not only elevates the appreciation for their literary contributions but also enhances our comprehension of the intricate tapestry of cultures and identities woven into their stories and makes it a valuable contribution to the academic discourse.

### **Expected outcome of the study**

This study gives a comprehensive examination of Amitav Ghosh's narrative styles, giving readers a profound understanding of their literary strategies. The study provides insight on the difficulties faced by immigrants in a foreign country by analysing the interaction between identity crisis and cross-cultural conflicts. Additionally, this work goes beyond simple literary analysis; it offers readers a lens through which they can view the immigrant experience from fresh angles. The study hopes to affect readers by encouraging them to view these narratives through a new and sympathetic lens, so promoting a greater knowledge of the complexities of immigrant life.

### **Limitation of the Study**

This study has some limitations. People might see and understand stories differently, so when we talk about the way stories are told, it might not be the same for everyone. Also, because we're only looking at

a few books by Amitav Ghosh, what we find might not apply to all their work. Sometimes, we might miss some important cultural stuff that affects how the stories are told because cultures can be really complex. Lastly, we might not get all the information we need because we can't access everything the authors wrote or said in interviews.

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