Lost and Found: Multiple Identities in the Canadian Tamil Diaspora: A Comparative Study of Shyam Selvadurai's Funny Boy and Anand Mahadevan's The Strike

**Description**

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**Abstract:**

I am researching the books, Funny Boy and The Strike by two Tamil Canadian Diaspora authors, Shyam Selvadurai and Anand Mahadevan respectively to find out, through comparative analysis, how the South Asian writers construct multiple identities through the characters in the novel. My primary aim is to compare the works to understand the complex diasporic identities using postcolonial, queer and cultural literary theories. Another important objective of the research is to understand how cultural identity differs in both novels as Selvadurai is a Sri Lankan and Mahadevan is a South Indian Tamil. This comparison contributes to a further understanding of the differences and similarities in the diasporic Identities in the Tamil Diasporas.

**URL:** [http://hdl.handle.net/10393/40288](http://hdl.handle.net/10393/40288)
Shyam Selvadurai (born 12 February 1965) is a Sri Lankan Canadian novelist who wrote Funny Boy (1994), which won the Books in Canada First Novel Award, and Cinnamon Gardens (1998). He currently lives in Toronto with his partner Andrew Champion. In 2013 Selvadurai's Funny Boy was included in the syllabus under marginalized study and gay literature of the under graduate English Department of The American College in Madurai. In 2014, he was presented the Bonham Centre Award from The Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto, for his contributions to the advancement and education of issues around sexual identification.

In discussion of Diaspora literature one can assert this mostly in relation to the first generation because they are the ones who get names like David and Christine (changing their names) to identify themselves with the new world/ the One. But to sum up one can say that eradicating the stereotypes is the first step that is required to get one's identity and that's what characters do or compelled to do in the present novel. "Because Most People Marry Their Own Kind: A Reading of Shyam Selvadurai's Funny Boy." ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature 28.1 (1997): 117-28. Selvadurai, Shyam. Shyam Selvadurai (born 12 February 1965) is a Sri Lankan Canadian novelist. He is most noted for his 1994 novel Funny Boy, which won the Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Lambda
Literary Award for Gay Fiction. Selvadurai was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka to a Sinhalese mother and a Tamil father—members of conflicting ethnic groups whose troubles form a major theme in his work. Ethnic riots in 1983 drove the family to emigrate to Canada when Selvadurai was nineteen. He studied creative and