

**HIGHLIGHTING THE CONCEPTUAL USE OF BORDER IN RELATION TO CULTURE IN NOVEL,  
"THE WANDERING FALCON" OF JAMIL AHMED**

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**Abstract**

*Today, the world is divided into independent states. These states are divided on the basis of international agreements; the international rules, bound constitutions and the regulations for people all around the world. The results for division resulted into the loss of individualism and sense of belonging to home state and culture. The borders are crucial features that demarcate between states. Therefore, the main aim to highlight in this research is to analyze concept of borders that could change socio-realistic approach in tribal clans culturally and in transition. The instrument to analyze the concepts of borders and culture is a book of Jamil Ahmed, The Wandering Falcon. Pakistan is surrounded by borders on every side that is constructed not only through basic factors; however, its border connects the province of Baluchistan to Afghanistan. It was political standpoint against the state terrorism. The tribal clans need to avoid terrorism. It can be made possible by cleaning off the terror elements from tribes. Does the conflict affect natives than to defend state from the outsiders?*

**Keywords:** Affiliations, Balochis, Pathans, Pakistan, Sentiments

**1. Introduction**

This research deals with the concept of border in relation to culture in the frontier regions of Pakistan and Baluchistan. This element is witnessed in novel of "The Wandering Falcon" by Jamil Ahmed. The borders are related to the existence of cultural boundaries that are typical to all human societies, both the western and the eastern zones of the World. The boundary is the ideological origin by the human invention. It is now practiced across the World on international frontier between the regions. The concrete concept of borders between states have intricate the divisions based on historical perspectives of every citizen to that state. Therefore, the people, who are living on the borders, have a primal fear of losing their own territory. Shuja (2017) has likewise stated that:

"Culture danger is often sensed sharply at the borders, but sometimes it does not hit completely until you have been in a place for a long time." **Shuja (2017)**

### **1.1. The Background of Novel**

In the novel, wandering Falcon, boy Tor Baaz travels across remote areas of Baluchistan, Fata and Afghanistan. He foresees the deprived conditions, atmosphere and life of the underprivileged tribal clans having their lives under the rule of their tribal leader. The author tried to depict the inside of highly traditional and honor bound culture for the first time. The tribal areas and part of Baluchistan on frontiers usually tend to cross their borders for purpose of trade of goods and the seasonal iterant take place. The tribal people have been engaged in this for years. The Government of both the states, Pakistan and Afghanistan is imposing laws to avoid seasonal iterant and trade of goods across borders. It is because movement results into smuggling of criminal assets, arms-ammunition, narcotics and other illegal transcending. Therefore, with the implementation of laws and borders being patrolled by the Army of counties, the freedom of border people is facing hurdles. It is clear that on both sides of the border, people belonging to same culture and customs live but the enforcement authorities have forced them to belong to any one nation.

### **1.2. Aim of Study**

The present paper will try to explore socio-realistic perspective of people living on the borders in the textual context of novel "the wandering falcon". The paper tries to sketch a picture of realization in relation to arduous conditions of the tribal clans living on the borders with effects in the modern time with its effect on governance and the local tribal issues.

### **1.3. Research Objectives**

- To critically examine the tribal clans on the borders in the context of Novel, "the wandering falcon".
- To view the Concept of Border and the culture relation in the times of events described in the novel.
- To critically define the novel from socio-realistic perspective.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

**R.Q.1.** How political defined borders affect the cultural lives of Tribal people?

**R.Q.2.** what is the impact of state interference in the lives of tribal people?

**R.Q.3.** what kind of narrative representation is used to describe the social lives of tribal people?

### **1.5. Significance of this Study**

The paper examines the important phenomenon of relation between borders with the native cultures of people from the novel. The paper critically elaborates the contextual verification of proves given by the author to highlight the peculiar characteristics of tribal people, their traditions with examples.

### **1.6. Limitations of Study**

The novel highlights the background of tribal laws, culture and traditions. The same novel may be analyzed in several other perspectives by the critics of language. The concepts can be homelessness, sense of belonging, the fashion of honor killing and comprehension of the tribal regions. However, the study is focused to present the socio-realistic perspective in relation to define the concept of border with culture of the tribal areas. It tries to highlight that importance of tribal laws and traditions for the tribal people.

## **2. Literature Review**

In a very short time, Jamil Ahmad made his unique place in the Pakistani literary sphere. The main contribution of Jamil was the novel, the wandering Falcon. However, the author had no criticism on

work. Novel was initially written in year 1970. The reading of this novel had less value. After the 9/11 scenario, this part of World was famous and attracted interest of researchers (Sadaf, 2016). Borders depict the human life, culture, practices, and the psychology of people that is influenced by the development and unification. The borders are construction of culture, geography, and politics.

According to Wasif (2017), the boundaries are not only regarded as the walls that separate the nation-states, but they become areas of cultural semiotics where treaties, interactions and developments are identified. Basharat Peer (2011) stated that

*"The Wandering Falcon is also a searing indictment of nation-states ' brutal ways of enforcing artificially constructed boundaries on older, more complex worlds"* **(The Guardian, June 25, 2011)**

Likewise, Bhabha Homi (1994) stated that:

*"A boundary is not the one at which something ends, but, as known by the Greeks, the boundary is the one from which something starts to appear".* **(The location of culture, 1994)**

Therefore, the borders are historical sites and can change over time. The border signifies distance, labels the progress, guarantees about the future, but our proclamations of going beyond the barrier and dividing the line. It is the act of going beyond the unrepresentable, without a return to the present that becomes contradictory and displaced in the process of reiteration. The entire geography and the law are associated to the borders of state. The geography defines it in terms of physical contact that is visible. It divides provinces and the countries. Wilson and Tunca (2015) indicated that how the Turner's concept can be used into research. The ultimate experience includes the exchange and transit zones that signify borders from the existing structures. Endsjø (2000) identified about problems of liminal space structure that notes 'Liminality'. According to Endsjø (2000):

*"It tends to apply about final stage or the underlying situation. According to Van Gennep, it is the liminal stage that describes that is not in between two states. Therefore, any kind of recognized culture in between and the beneath could be in constant condition."* **(To Lock Up Eleusis, 2000, 234-35)**

Babcock (1987) earlier stated that the edges, boundaries of wastelands or land of no counter attack the transition from one center to another. Therefore, the emotional function of contemplation is fulfilled by the act of crossing. The border itself becomes a mirror of self and the other's exacting the knowledge. The novel is itself fine to evoke the landscape features and characters in background. This occupied the feud between tribal frontiers. According to Endsjø (2000) the numinous countries and the entire social stages of class division, the race have been changed with basic opposites. The opposites are Divine against the man, the man against animals, and the death against life. Kulkarni (2018) defined the relation of social caste system and societal status with the division of boundary. She engaged the entire work to conceptualize the shape of ethnic boundary with geographic boundary lines.

Ahmad (2011), the author of novel tried to explain the crucial concept of territorial boundaries with set criteria. According to him:

*"If we consider the border as a means to maintain movements between the territories with different criteria, such as the nation states, liminality can be used to identify the passage pathway as a stage on its own. Who makes a man like you who lived in a foreign country? Look for this place and meet these people? This land ought not to have meant anything to you as you did not see or stay in it"* **(The Wandering Falcon, 2011)**

Each tribe is unmarked with respect to its boundary. The crossing over on border is a moment that has a universal uncertainty. The different races, rules, boundaries and well known personalities do intersect.

The change in the international and the national rules did encourage the tribal clans to rebel for their rights against Government. They are forced by the Government of state to give up their traditions that they have been practicing since years. Ahmed (2011) quotes a dialogue from the novel of a character who states that:

*"I should need to settle now ... I dont know what my future holds for me and the decisions of this country, except the God?" (The Wandering Falcon, 2011)*

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1. Design of Research**

The research follows qualitative method to analyze the content of text from the novel. According to Fidel (1993), qualitative approach in research tends to offer best strategies in order to further explore the in-depth meaning from texts and to relate the meaning with the investigation of behaviors in human. The basic aim of this paper is an exploration of cultural boundaries in tribal region of Pakistan through analyzing the texts of novel, the wandering falcon.

#### **3.2. Instruments Employed to Collect Data**

In order to analyze the data, the instruments that have been used to collect data are various research articles on novel, documents, novel "the wandering falcon" and abstracts of the published works. The lives of tribal people were recorded through internet videos and literature on them in authentic books.

### **4. Process of Data Collection**

According to Leung (2015), the appropriate instruments, information and use of methods are steps in data collection process. The design and its method selected can help to find befitting results. To reach to the conclusion, the correctness and accuracy of the findings will be analyzed critically.

### **5. Procedure to Analyze the Data**

The gathered data from different books and literature will help to arrange and validate answers for the research questions of this study. The collected data is taken in form of variables from the novel "the wandering falcon" of Jamil Ahmed under the theory of socio-realistic perspective. The paper is designed to view the evolution of phenomenon of border with culture of the tribal regions. The data will be analyzed through different observations of the authentic documents. The data from previous papers and history will be cited. In the novel, "the wandering falcon", the themes are revolving around the concept of border and the culture. It shows different tribes and their culture, socio-political, religious and the moral values. The novel highlights about the influence of new changes of the 20th century on the people of tribal regions.

Following themes were constructed from the Novel, "The Wandering Falcon". The themes are critically analyzed below.

#### **5.1. The Pathan and Baloch Tribes Along the Borders of Pakistan**

The Pathan tribes of Pakistan belong to the north western region of Pakistan. These tribal clans also live in the Afghanistan. Many people have mutual relationships across the border on both sides of border between two states. The Pathans belong to the both countries that share same culture, language, color, religion, and the social lifestyle. Pathans are physically very strong people.

Weapons are common in their households. In some areas, women also know how to use the weapon. In tribal areas, people are recognized by their tribes. In border regions, Mehsud, Afridi, Bethani etc. are considered as the major tribes, living by the borders of Pakistan. In upper Baluchistan, the major Pathan tribes are Kakkar, Tareen and Achakzai.

As in the novel, it has been observed that the *Sarmast khan* belongs to the Mehsud tribe, *Jalat khan* and *Zabta khan* belongs to the Wazir tribe. In this way, all the individual characters belong to the different tribes. Each of the tribe is led by tribal leaders or it is also called the Malik. The decision of Malik is considered as the full and final that must be accepted by all and sundry of tribe. Then, the novel sketches about the Baloch tribes of south western region of Pakistan. Baloch people mostly live in the Balochistan and in the Sindh province. The Balochi nation lives in the other different countries such as Iran and the Afghanistan. The Balochi nation living in other countries have same social and the cultural values, religion, and the language. They even live by the tribal system. They have strict social norms. Their tribe is led by their Sardar (Head). A word from a tongue of Baloch is considered as the final word. Baloch nation is strong and weapons are their identity. Honor and the dignity are primary to their culture. The major Baloch tribes in Pakistan are Mengal, Rind, Raisani and Bugti. In novel, it is observed that Tor Baz's parents belonged to the Siahpad tribe, *Roza khan* belong to the Mengal tribe.

### **5.2. Identity and Values**

Identity and values are the essential elements of any developed society. In Baloch and Pathan tribes, their identity and values are the source of their recognition. Each tribe has its different own identity. There are some values which are same in both nations of Baloch and Pathans. Every nation has its own moral, religious, economic, and the socio-political values. Balochi nation is known for its pride, patience, dignity, endurance and a deep sense of honor. Pathans are known for their bravery, revenge, asylum, and loyalty to their tribe, courage, hospitality, and the complete faith. Killing of women in both nations is considered as honor in name of shame. Both these nations are brave and proud defenders of the Islamic republic of Pakistan.

In novel, the author has observed that when *Gul Bibi* was shot by her husband and her husband was killed by her father's tribe with the pelt of stones. This was the value of Baloch people who killed both man and the woman who went against the traditions and values of their tribe. The incident mentioned on novel belonged to the Siahpad tribe. *Dawa khan* of Kharot tribe fulfilled his promise to bring a pup for an adopted son of *Ghuncha Gul*. A promise that is done then needs to be fulfilled. When, *Shah Zarina* left her home for an unidentified destination, she met with a man named, *Afzal khan*. He inquired her of leaving home and going to where. The girl alone without brother or the father and husband is a sort of shame to that home, to which the girl belongs to. The girl needs a protection. It means that girls in both the nations cannot travel alone in the mountainous tracks. Furthermore, it was observed from the novel that for the Pathan tribal clan, it is necessary for a girl that she must be accompanied by a male member of her family outside the house premises. Most importantly, it was observed that both these nations present very low ratio of divorce. However, in many cases, the male gender does possess more than one wife.

### **5.3. Borders are the Legacy**

Borders are the bread and butter for the Bedouin tribes. These tribes moved from one place to the other based on to the change of seasons. It has been done by the generations of the tribes. Since the independence of Pakistan in 1947, it caused the great hurdle for the Bedouin tribes. The movement of these tribes was halted by the states. Earlier, the border was just to cross the path for them.

In novel, the *kharot* tribe is a Bedouin tribe. They were million in population. They have a *Kirri* which consist of hundred tents and each had their own leader. Each *Kirri* was at one day distance from each other. Each tent means a complete family. The general is considered as head of the entire tribe. This way of life was endured since the centuries. Now, Pakistan as a state could not let these Bedouin movement because it was dangerous for the citizens. The states had now established some concepts like statehood, loyalty to the state, citizenship, writ of the state and the settled life.

#### **5.4. Co-operation, Tradition and the Acceptance**

In the tribal areas, the above mentioned aspects are popular and crucial. Co-operation is the dominant factor of these tribal clans. In the novel, when the Siahpad tribe man was given the shelter by the military men that man cooperated with them by fetching the water for troops. The wife of that tribal man made few baskets from the date-palm leaves. In another example from novel, when the tribesmen agreed to release the kidnappers by accepting the ransom, they cut 2 thousand rupees further for the respect and the tradition. In the Last, when the foreigner tribesman visited the home in *kuki-khel* area of the Afridi tribe, they readily accepted them as a guest.

#### **5.5. The Region to Contact and Separate**

For the long time, these frontier and western regions of Pakistan have fought against the invaders before the time of partition. These include the British and the Afghans. Khyber Pass had a unique significance in the entire tribal region, and it came under the jurisdiction of Afridi tribal area. They charge the heavy amounts to the passers. British also fought against these tribesmen but never established a rule there. They imposed the rule of frontier crime regulation, however, failed. In treaty of Rawalpindi, these tribesmen played an important part on the part of Afghans. Secondly, each tribe has their area and is restricted to it. The tribe is further divided into clans as Afridi has 8 clans.

In novel, when they were planning to kidnap the teachers, they decided to take at least 1 member of a tribe by which they shall cross. In that kidnapping, the kidnappers belong to the Wazir, Mehsud and Bhattan is tribe. Second example is when the *Kharot* tribe people wanted to cross the border; it became the separating unit for them which they have never seen before. The region of Pakistan and Afghanistan had become the borders of separation.

#### **5.6. Culture is produced through Socialization**

Socialization is how one can learn the norms and the beliefs of society. These are called the societal values. There are three fundamental elements that play their part in the developing socialization. These are family, school, and the religion.

In novel, the researcher observed that *Hamesh Gul* went to his in-laws house after twenty years of his marriage. There were two guests with him but they were treated in most appreciable way. It was their culture to respect a guest. As the guest left, they heard a firing sound that hit the door and the very next moment, the old woman fired back. It showed that revenge or the dispute in a tribe does not settle quickly. As in this case, the two generations have past, but the dispute is still there and surprisingly women are keeping it on as the men of both houses have gone for their works. Another example is of when the Tor Baz went to the office of the deputy commissioner Bannu, the DC asked inquired of his identity. In tribal clan, the man is known by his tribe, Deputy Commissioner said:

*"You live with Wazirs, but you are not one of them, your looks are like Mehsud, but your accent does not match with them."*

Tor Baaz replied that:

“*Sir you are right but think of me like your hunting falcon and it is sufficient for you.*” **The Wandering Falcon (2011)**

In that society, a man is known by his tribe, it is a prime factor for socialization. Lastly, when *Dawa Khan* went to avenge the murder of his cousin in a Kakar valley, when he reached the house, he witnessed the boys are wearing only long shirts and no trousers. In tribes, it is their culture that revenge could not be taken on women and children. The wearing of shalwar is considered as a symbol of Manhood. It is clear that culture prevails in these areas.

### **5.7. The Implications of Political Boundaries on Culture**

In the 20th century era, World started to take the new dimensions. Kingdoms were replaced by the states and the countries. This same happened in the South Asia region. The subcontinent was divided into the countries. Pakistan is amongst one of the countries. The new political borders affected the culture, specifically of the Bedouin tribes. They suffered a lot. In 2018, FATA is also merged into Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. By this, all tribal laws have been demolished and they are now under the constitution of Pakistan.

In the novel, the researcher found that when the *Kharot* tribe tried to enter Pakistan by the leading *Kirri of Dawa Khan*, the soldiers tried to stop them but initially they tried to play tricks. At last, *Dawa Khan*, her wife and few other people were killed. By this, the tribe people dispersed. Political boundaries have caused much trouble and loss in the sub-continent from the Frontier regions, Punjab, Sindh and the Baluchistan. These people were affected because they had long relations across the border that was stopped due to new political boundaries.

### **5.8. Harmony and Conflict at the Border**

Borders have always been the place of harmony and conflict. In some areas, people on both sides of the border live peacefully, caring and with helping each other at the odd times. The example is Finland and Slovenia, Estonia and Hungary and the Germany and Serbia. Trade was an important element that definitely has to pass through different borders of different areas. In the tribal areas of Pakistan, every tribe has its own area so one can refer it as their border.

In novel, the author witnessed that when Mullah Barrerai accepted the responsibility of Tor Baaz, the adopted son of *Ghuncha Gul*, it showed the harmony between people at borders. It is when kidnapping take place, there were 10 people so that no tribe in between left behind and there shall be any conflict between tribes. It was due to each tribal border. When the soldiers started to stop people from travelling between the states, it was a time of conflict for state and the Bedouin tribes.

### **5.9. Governance**

Governance is a backbone to run a state, tribe, clan and even the house. It is the foremost pillar. It is a process in which it helps the state to achieve the objectives, bring improvement and tries to maintain law and order for its people. In Pakistan, there are three main governing pillars. They are executive, judiciary, and Legislation. The role of executive is to implement the orders of the Government. The role of judiciary is to provide justice and resolve disputes between the citizens. The role of legislation is to make policies that are in the best interest of citizens of State. In executive, the main departments are Police, military, and the civil administration. Earlier, the tribal people were having freedom in their own tribes; they were having the sole authority to rule in their tribes as they want. However after 2018, with the merger of frontier regions into the KPK province, their freedom is taken over by the state. Now, they are under the state laws.

In the novel, the researcher observed that in the time of world war the responsibility of military was to guard their boundaries. They had to deal with the tribes that paid money to fight against their military.

The people in the military belonged to the local tribes. When in the condition, the Mullah Barreraï gave news to the captain about Germans who were making payments and distributing the Arms, then, the tried to start a war against the British army. The issue was resolved when the British army captain had to give 50 thousand gold sovereigns to the tribal leaders. The revolt was dispersed. This was the type of governance at that time.

Then, there is another example from the novel that when the tribesmen kidnapped sic school teachers. At that time, the tribes were governed through frontier crimes regulation (FCR). Now, the administration had very few choices that they could put any kind of punitive on the tribe, they could put half year tax but the problem was that it was not sure about which tribal people are involved in the kidnapping process. After that, there were only two options available, first was to be patient for a long time so tribesmen release them, but it was too difficult, the second and most applicable was that the ransom must be paid. Now, the terms of release were discussed, political agents arrived, the middleman was *Mehsud*. *Mehsud* tribal leaders called the jirga on the expense of Government. The matter was settled in twenty thousand rupees. The captives and the money was exchanged. This is the type of governance in frontier regions before 2018. Finally, there have been no FCR, now these tribal regions are directly under the control of administrative units of KPK. All these tribal laws have been abolished. The government is trying their best to cope up with their grievances and help them out in the development of health and educational matters.

#### **6. Practical Implications Could be Possible on Part of Government for the Betterment of Nations**

Border and culture have very important role in Pakistan where the neighboring states have same culture, religion, language, and the social values. Many people have their relations across the border on both the sides. The state should bring certain reforms especially on the border regions so that it can help the people to lessen their sufferings for their loved ones that are living in another side of border.

- The reforms can be ensured when every other mature citizen of the state must be given the passport with trans-border cards. This will help the state authorities to maintain proper check and balance on the suspicious elements.
- Secondly, work permits shall be given to the people so that they can easily perform trade and maintain other working relationships.
- Thirdly, the common border patrols should perform better to lessen the military expense on both sides of border.
- Fourthly, the data exchange mechanism can be made of border crossing people and negotiations shall be made with local and military leaders for their people. It can for the sake of state's betterment and prosperity.
- Lastly, the tourism points shall be made for the people to people interaction so that they can still feel the same living environment on the other side of the border. It will have an immense benefit for the citizens of both states.

#### **7. Conclusion**

The present research highlights about the issues of tribal people, the border cross relations, the Bedouin people and the tribal cultures. The author of the novel, Jamil Ahmed tried to sketch the role of tribal elders, *mullahs* (religious clerics), military men on the borders and the civil administration. Furthermore, he depicted the real-life events of present to these tribal areas. He showed the influence of culture, traditions, values and the tribal laws in 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to this, he presented the misery of people and harsh realities of the family lifestyle in tribal clans. He portrayed

the role of women in tribal society. He informed the audience about the importance of culture and love of tribal people for their beautiful land. The research was aimed to portray about the influence of borders on human lives, society and the social values in tribal areas. This novel written in 2011, at times, when the tribal areas were struggling and facing many crucial problems of their livelihood. FATA was in worse condition; the military operations were full-fledged on verge against the Taliban and banned the organizations. In 2015, the peace was restored in the area. In 2018, the tribal regions are made part of KPK province and FCR system is abolished. Through this new policy, one can hope that it will open the gates of prosperity, development, the removal of poverty, and can create the opportunities of employment, better educational and the health institutions for the impoverished people of the tribal regions.

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