

**TRAVELLING ACROSS CULTURES –  
JHUMPA LAHIRI'S *INTERPRETER OF MALADIES***

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*Abstract: The migrant has become one of the emblematic figures of the contemporary world. Travelling and adapting across cultures have turned into major issues and concerns of the contemporary globalizing environment. Contemporary fiction attempts to offer possible solutions to the more than evident crisis of communication between cultures. It is through literature that many of the contemporary writers try to come to terms with their immigrant condition, to find a voice of their own by making the two worlds they are forced to live in resonate harmoniously with the very often traumatized self. Jhumpa Lahiri's collection of stories *Interpreter of Maladies* is the result of the writer's "desire to force the two worlds I occupied to mingle on the page as I was not brave enough, or mature enough, to allow in life." Lahiri's stories, set across national, but also generation, frontiers, contribute to the writer's finally finding an identity of her own. The stories may be interpreted as the writer's journey into her new, even if not necessarily true, self, a journey of initiation into the major adaptation problems of the contemporary world.*