

VFSTR (Deemed to be University), Vadlamudi

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This paper examines Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *"The Mistress of Spices"* (1997) through the lens of identity displacement, set against the framework of postcolonial discourse. The protagonist, Tilo, is a mystical healer with command over spices, embodying the tensions between traditional Indian cultural heritage and modern Western ideologies, characteristic of the immigrant experience. The narrative delves into the complexities of cultural dislocation and identity crises, as Tilo navigates between her responsibilities as the Mistress of Spices and her personal aspirations. The oscillation between these dual realms highlights the inherent struggle faced by diasporic individuals attempting to reconcile competing cultural paradigms. This study focuses on how Divakaruni uses magical realism to foreground the complexities of identity, resistance, and adaptation in a globalized society. Finally, this paper aims to attempt a perspective on the immigrant experience, showing how personal and cultural identities are continually reshaped in the face of displacement and change.

Keywords: Diaspora, Identity Crisis, Magical Realism, Post colonialism, Cultural discourse.