

**Negotiating Queer Identity and Marriage of Convenience: A study of *Marriage of a Thousand Lies***

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**Abstract**



*This study's primary goal is to highlight the difficulties and issues LGBT people experience. In this study, the researcher examines the ways in which the novel *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* discursively constructs queer concerns and themes. The novel selected for this study offers an opportunity to investigate the queer issues of closet, coming out, marriage of convenience and how these issues discursively constructed by author in SJ Sindu's *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*. The researcher main objective is to examine how the novelist uses linguistic and other techniques in the novel under study to portray queer issues and experiences. The theoretical foundation for study is provided by queer theory. The researcher also uses Critical Stylistics, Lesley Jeffries' Ten tools, as a method of data analysis that focuses on analyzing a text's linguistic and stylistic elements to understand texts' deeper meanings as well as the social and cultural settings in which they are situated. Considering the goal of the research, a qualitative method is used to examine the selected texts. To obtain the data for this study, primary and secondary sources were both used.*

**Keywords:** Queer Issues, Queer Theory, Critical Stylistics

**Introduction**

SJ Sindu's, *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* does an incredible job of portraying queer issues and identities. Different issues experience by queer individuals, including marriage of convenience, closet, coming out, homophobia, relationships and self-identity issues are presented in this novel. Rich (1980), invented the phrase "women double-life" for lesbians, which indicates the fact that lesbians cannot completely live as lesbians and must also live as heterosexual women since they are not accepted in their culture (Rich, 1980). In a nutshell, this novel depicts the experience of the main character Lakshmi, commonly known as Lucky, who is conflicted by the traditional expectations of her family and community, which see heterosexual marriage as the only permitted path. She married Krishna, also known as Kris, an Indian gay guy, in order to resolve this problem. They agree to this arrangement in an attempt to live up to their families' expectations and protect their heterosexual facade. The idea of a "marriage of convenience" is a key theme in the novel. Many LGBTQ people usually experience this issue and feel pressured to marry heterosexual partners to maintain familial honor and conform to social norms. According to Agrawal (2022), a Lavender Marriage or Marriage of convenience is a union between two people who get into this marriage in order to hide their respective sexual identities from others, including family members, friends and relatives etc (Agrawal, 2022). SJ Sindu in the novel explores the complicated interplay between societal norms, familial demands, and individual preferences, particularly in South Asian societies.

The term "closeted" or "in the closet" refers to hiding one's sexual orientation which is another LGBTQ issue in the novel. This label has been applied to people who are concealing their sexual orientation. The idea of keeping one's true sexual orientation or gender identity secret is referred to as keeping a "closet" in the context of the novel, particularly in societies or cultures that may not be charitable of or understanding of LGBTQ people. According to Meidlinger and Hope (2014) the extent to which an individual hide's disgraced or prejudiced sexual identity from people is known as concealment of sexual identity (Meidlinger & Hope, 2014). Walczk (2014) claimed that because of established homophobia in society, homosexuals find it difficult to publicly and openly

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demonstrate their sexuality and gender. The way homosexuality is portrayed in popular culture and the media does not necessarily mirror how it actually exists (Walczk, 2014).

Another important issue in SJ Sindu's *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* is the idea of coming out. Coming out refers to the process in which a person reveals to others, often to friends, family, or the larger community, their real sexual orientation or gender identity. According to Kenneady and Oswalt (2014), identity or gender identity that might not comply with societal or cultural norms is referred to as queer identity and disclosing it to other is known as coming out. The LGBT individual first discloses his or her true identity before seeking out any sort of support from others (Kenneady & Oswalt, 2014). Nisha and Lucky are genuinely in love, but are unable to remain together because their relationship is unsuited with that of the heteronormative society.

As a whole, the novel under study provides a detailed examination of queer issues in traditional and conventional context. The novel also highlights the problems and troubles experienced by LGBTQ people when negotiating their true queer identities and marriage of convenience in cultural, social and familial context through the story of Lucky and her journey to self-realization and self-acceptance. The researcher used Critical Stylistic Analysis as a method of data analysis in this which focuses on a text's linguistic and stylistic elements. The objective is to understand the deeper meaning of a text and it's the social and cultural background.

### **Statement of the Research Problem**

The researcher examines in this study, the concept of marriage of convenience which most of the LGBT individuals may get into in order to live up to the expectation of their families, to please their families and keep the appearance of "normal" life, and also the inner conflict that queer individuals experience when they negotiate their identities in light of social conventions and norms. This is best demonstrated by Krishna union with Lucky in the novel, which make possible for them to maintain their appearance and live up to expectation of their families at the same time concealing their true identities. The researcher also examines the experiences of LGBT people after coming out and in most cases the familial rejection of them after coming out to their families, in the novel both lucky and Krishna face such kind of problem after coming out to their families. Queer people face these issues in real life, so the researcher studies these issues in the context of the novel under study. For this purpose, the researcher uses Queer theory as a theoretical framework in this study. The aim of the study is to focus on the narrative and linguistic devices used to depict LGBTQ relationships, experiences and issues. For this purpose, the researcher uses Critical Stylistics analysis as a method for data analysis, Lesley Jeffries (2010) ten tools is used by the researcher to analyze the purposely selected passages for this research.

### **Research Objective**

- To explore in what ways queer issues are constructed discursively in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*.

### **Research Question**

1. In what ways are queer issues (e.g., closet, coming out, marriage of convenience) constructed discursively in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*?

### **Literature Review**

#### **Marriage of Convenience**

A Lavender Marriage or Marriage of convenience is a union between two people who get into this marriage in order to hide their respective sexual identities from others, including family members, friends and relatives etc. In order to live up to societal expectations, men and women often live together in the same house, but they share a purely nonsexual relationship. In some circumstances, though, the couples consider beginning sexual relations to produce a child or properly consummate their marriage (Agrawal, 2022).

Most of the homosexual individuals may get into marriages of convenience to hide their true identities from others, particularly family, friends and relatives, because they are scared of rejection, exclusion, and subjection to prejudice and discrimination. MOCs or marriages of convenience are the marriages in which individuals get into in order to gain social and financial benefits rather than based on mutual love for one another. Marriage by convenience is common in the LGBT community. They usually get into a marriage of convenience and marry a man or woman against their will in order to please their parents and to integrate into society (Potnis, 2019).

It is a known fact that majority of lavender marriages or marriages of convenience, if not all, end in separation and this has negative impact on emotional and mental health of a person. Hiding sexual identity by homosexual people leads them to live a double life, and this concealment of identity from others and self-deception often cause distress and make them feel like they are always running away and concealing. Slowly, this distress can develop into anxiety, depression, and identity crises. It should not be a surprise that LGBT people are more susceptible to mental health problem as compared to other people, and marriage of convenience is one of the reasons that can affect queer people mental health, there are also some other reasons that may affect mental health of queer person for instance, stress, disgrace, and prejudice that LGBT person experience at home, at work place and even in society. Making matters worse, getting queer-affirming mental health care can be difficult as well. It can be challenging for a women to openly admit her sexuality and gender expression, particularly in a culture where traditions are strictly followed and patriarchy are upheld without feeling rejected. In such circumstances, homosexuals are forced to conceal their true identities behind the Lavender Marriage facade (Sharma, S. (2023).

LGBTQ people who get into a marriage of convenience often have to conceal their true identities or sexual orientation from their partner, family, and other people. This may lead to feeling of shame, isolation, and to live a double life. If a person is hiding sexual identity it may ground a life that does not mirror actual emotions and it can have harmful effect on the person mental health. Living double life or hiding true self can result many health issues, including anxiety and depression.

### **Closet**

The concept or phrase of "closeted" or "in the closet" refers to the act of hiding one's sexual orientation, which is another concern related to LGBTQ issues. According to Meidlinger & Hope, (2014) the extent to which an individual hide disgraced or prejudiced sexual identity from people is known as concealment of sexual identity (Meidlinger & Hope, 2014). A person who keeps hiding his or her identity remains in the closet, which means he or she has hasn't come out to the people in their life. Closets are small, dim spaces that are thought of as private. The term closet makes sense, if think about it, since someone in their closet, concealing a portion of their identity. When individuals are in the closet, they might decide to only disclose their true identities to their close friends and/or romantic partners, or they might not to tell anyone at all. Such as they might keep sexual activity with total strangers or wholly wear clothing intended for a different gender in private (Resnick, 2021).

Tony Adams (2011) outlines a number of situations for the closet to be present. A person first must be aware of their same sex attraction and understand what it means to be identified as gay, lesbian, or queer (Tony Adams, 2011). Be aware of the fact that being identified as non-heterosexual may result in a marginalized social status is the second situation for the formation of a closet (p. 45). The closet only makes sense if a person welcomes same-sex attraction or an LGBQ identity, is another situation for the formation of closets according to Adams.

In the perspective of homosexuality, the terms "the closet" have a great importance because it symbolizes the hidden battles, internal identity conflicts, and ultimate path towards recognition by oneself and society. This term or concept characterizes a complicated relationship of feelings, societal expectations, and self-discovery that has important effects on LGBTQ people. Being "in the closet" frequently causes great emotional and psychological distress. As LGBTQ individuals struggle between their true selves and societal expectations, they might go through anxiety, and may feel lonely, ashamed, guilty, and anxious.

### **Coming Out**

Identity or gender identity that might not comply with societal or cultural norms is referred to as queer identity and disclosing it to other is known as coming out. The LGBT individual first discloses his or her true identity before seeking out any sort of support from others (Kennedy & Oswalt, 2014). This act of disclosing true sexual orientation to others is known as coming out. Coming out is refers to the process in which an individual reveals its true identity to others as stated in Appleby & Anastas (1998): Coming out is more usual and has its roots in the community of lesbians and gays. People are considered to be "in the closet." Who intentionally conceals their same-sex attraction to other people in an effort to avoid stigma. The concept of coming out as used in queer community has usually meant disclosing one's true identity as a homosexual to the public (Appleby & Anastas, 1998).

Coming out is deeply personal experience for an individual. This process involves self-realization and acceptance of one's true self, and often a long period of introspection. People choose

to come out for many reasons, including being true to one's self who they are, seeking people's approval, making genuine relationships and avoiding mental and emotional stress due to keeping their identity as secret. It's a vulnerable act that can result in empowerment and personal growth. The timing of coming out is important as well to choose carefully your timing for coming out. The timing to come out is varying for individuals; some homosexual individuals may come out at younger age, while others may wait a bit longer. The perfect time depends on many factors which includes social background, family dynamics, cultural and traditional background, and individual preparation. According to Savin-Williams (1994), LGBT individuals have often been expelled from their homes and rejected by their families due to their sexual orientation (Savin-Williams, 1994).

Bepko & Johnson (2000), stated that due to discrimination and heterosexism, LGBT individuals often lose their friends after coming out. Nevertheless, the anxiety and stress caused by staying in a closet can also affect mental health and create health problems and distract attention from resolving those problems (Bepko & Johnson, 2000).

### **Research Method for Data Analysis**

The researcher investigated the chosen text in light of the critical stylistic tools developed by Jeffries (2010). Lesley Jeffries has developed a new method to study text by linking critical discourse analysis and Stylistics (Xiang, 2011). In her *Critical Stylistics: The Power of English*, Jeffries further expands the tools Fairclough created for his three-dimensional model. According to Reeve (2014), Jeffries has united the advantages of CDA and stylistic analysis to reveal ideologies in a text. The critical stylistic analysis as a methodology is used to examine the research questions as outlined in chapter one. In order to understand text's deeper meanings and the social and cultural settings in which it is situated, critical stylistics is used as a research method of data analysis that focuses on analyzing a text's linguistic and stylistic aspects. The researcher used Lesley Jeffries (2010) ten analytical tools to examine the passage selected in light of the stated research question. This approach can be applied to different type of text, including literary, political, social, and more. It is not specific to any one genre of literature.

Critical stylistic analysis. According to Jeffries (2010), critical stylistics is a set of analytical tools with many subcategories (Jeffries, 2010, p. 11). They are the following: Naming and Describing, Expressing Actions/Occurrences/States, Comparing and Contrasting, Exemplifying and Enumerating, Prioritizing, Assuming and Implying, Negating, Hypothesizing, Conveying the Words and Thoughts of Other Individuals, Representing Time, Space and Society.

### **Analysis and Discussion**

This section presents the analysis and discussion carried out by the researcher to investigate the research question outlined above. The researcher analyzed the selected passages in light of queer theory, Furthermore; the researcher applied Lesley Jeffries (2010) Ten Tools to carry out the analysis of the selected passages.

#### **Critical Stylistic Analysis of Marriage of Convenience in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies***

The passage under study highlights the queer issue of marriage of convenience, usually the queer individual get into an arrange marriage in order to avoid familial rejection and societal pressure. The *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* also depict this issue, where the character Nisha, a lesbian, get into an arrange marriage to avoid familial pressure and keep heterosexual façade.

**(1) "Sometimes I wish you were a boy," Nisha says. A wedding that wouldn't be a lie. A true marriage with love, and children, and nothing extra on the side. It was hard to imagine. Here's the truth: Sometimes I wish I were a boy, too" (Sindu 2017, p.24).**

The researcher uses Lesley Jeffries (2010) ten tools to carry out the Critical stylistic analysis of the passage under study. The Researcher first applies the tool of naming and describing, to analyze how the writer conveys the meaning through naming and description. The writer use of names in the passage is very important in communicating the emotions of characters. The author use of the word "boy" shows the Nisha wish of being a boy, which is different gender identity. It shows her desire to escape the societal expectation and standards. The word "wedding" is simple and usually connected with a ceremony celebrating the union of two individuals. Though, in the context is used to convey contrast idea of true marriage. The writer use of the word "lie" in the passage, in the context of marriage, the word "lie" communicates an idea of deceit or falsehood. "A wedding that wouldn't be a lie" demonstrate that Nisha is currently engaged in a marriage that involves deception. It also stress on the societal pressure to comply with societal standards.

Secondly, the researcher analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Representing Actions/Events/States. The writer in the passage under study conveys the desire of the character Nisha. Through the dialogue, the action of expressing a desire is communicated. The author use of a verb "wish" shows a mental action and it means a wish for different gender identity. The employ of "wouldn't be a lie" shows Nisha's longing for sincerity and legitimacy in marriage. The writer uses of word "again" shows that this sentiment has been communicated before, stressing its importance. Thirdly, the researcher focuses on finding the author's instances of equality and contrast in the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Equating and Contrasting. The passage under study opens with the Nisha's desire or wish for her childhood friend Lucky to be a boy, which shows an equality between being a boy and having a "true marriage with love, and children." This equating means that conventional societal expectation related with gender identity play a very important role in defining what make up a authentic marriage. The researcher further analyzed the text in light of Lesley Jeffries' tool of Exemplifying and Enumerating. Nisha's expression of her desire to be a boy in the passage under examination, "Sometimes I wish you were a boy, "show an example of gender role that is accordance with the societal standards. She further expressed that a weeding which is heterosexual would be true marriage and that wouldn't be lie. Moreover, prioritizing tool of Lesley Jeffries' is used by the researcher to examine the selected passage. The passage under study shows an emphasized on societal norms and standards over the individuals' preferences. Besides, the researcher also applied Lesley Jeffries' tool of Assuming and implying on the selected passage. The sentence in the passage under study, "A wedding that wouldn't be a lie" implies and point out that marriage in which heterosexual couples involved would be considered a real marriage and also be acceptable to society. The researcher then analyses the material under examination using Lesley Jeffries' technique of negation. The passage under study also shows the instances of Negation. The character, Nisha, acknowledges societal expectations ("Of course I do") but instantly negates it by expressing a personal resistance. Moreover, the researcher analyze the passage under study by using Lesley Jeffries (2010) another tool of Hypothesizing. The passage under study shows the hypothetical thoughts express by the characters regarding being a different gender and how being in different gender might affect their relationship and societal expectations they are subjected to.

#### **Critical Stylistic Analysis of the Closet or Hiding True Identity in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies***

The passage understudy presents the queer issue of closet or hiding ones true identity. This issue is experienced by many queer individuals, when try to conceal their true identity because of societal pressure and parental rejection. The passage bold fast below for the convenience of readers, describes the lucky experience and thoughts of being in the closet or hiding true identity and the issues she faces while being in the closet.

**"Most people think the closet is a small room. They think you can touch the walls, touch the door, turn the handle, and walk free. But when you're inside it, the closet is vast. No walls, no door, just empty darkness stretching the length of the world" (Sindu 2017, p.23).**

In order to conduct the Critical Stylistic Analysis of the above selected passage taken from the *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* by using Lesley Jeffries' teen tools. Firstly, the researcher analyze how the writer convey the meaning through naming and describing .this section examines the writer uses of naming and describing to convey the issues of LGBT individual. The above selected passage include various noun phrases such as "the closet," "a small room," "the walls," "the door," "the handle," "empty darkness," and "the length of the world.", also contain Adjectives "small" and "vast." The writer uses of the noun phrase "the closet" to convey the common issue of hiding ones true identity, the issue face by LGBT individuals. Secondly, the researcher analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Representing Actions/Events/States. The writer used the mental cognition verb "think" to show people mental actions. It conveys the people general view or belief about the closet. The phrase "small room" represents a state, demonstrating the first impression of people regarding a closet. The other phrase "just empty darkness stretching the length of the world" is the description of the state of closet from subjective perspective or from the inside. Thirdly, the researcher focuses on finding the author's instances of equality and contrast in the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Equating and Contrasting. The phrase "when you're Inside it, the closet is vast." Here the use of the word "But" establishes a difference between the common belief of the people and the reality of being in the closet. Furthermore, the

words "small" and "vast" are contrasting in terms of size, stressing the narrator subjective experience of being in the closet and what people commonly believe. The researcher further applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Exemplifying and Enumerating to analyze the passage under study. The author uses the exemplification in the passage under study to communicate the concept of the closet as being much worse from inside, experiencing itself than it appears. The researcher also analyzes the passage under study using Lesley Jeffries' (2010) tool of Prioritizing. The passage under study shows that the writer prioritizes the subjective experience and perspective of being inside the closet or hiding true self identity over a common belief regarding what a closet is like. It indicates preference of the individuals experience and perspective within the closet. Furthermore, the researcher analyze the passage by using and applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool of Assuming and Implying, which involves examining the implicit meanings, assumptions. The writer assumes that the reader know the metaphorical use of the term "closet." It is a symbol for concealing one's true self, and not a literal closet. The writer uses of the phrase "the closet is vast," imply that the psychological and emotional chaos experience by someone who is concealing their true identity is profound. The researcher then applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Negation to analyze the passage under study. The writer in the selected passage negating the common belief that a closet is a small, Here, the writer negates the concept that you can easily access and exit a closet. The researcher in the last analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley (2010) tools of presenting others' speech and thoughts, Representing Time, Space and Society. The Lesley Jeffries' tool, presenting others' speech and thoughts, focus on presenting others thoughts and speech, which can provide deeper insight into the use of indirect discourse and its impact on the reader's perception. The writer uses indirect speech to communicate the thoughts of "most people" about the closet, in the passage under study, this indirectness indicates a certain level of objectivity, as if the narrator of the novel is presenting the thoughts of others, rather than expressing a personal viewpoint.

#### **Critical Stylistic Analysis of Coming out in *Marriage of a thousand Lies***

The passage under study presents the issue of coming out experience by queer people which means the revealing of the true identity to other people.

**"Sometimes wonder what it would've been like if we'd both come out in high school, if we would've tried dating for real. But Nisha was afraid even then. Even when we were by ourselves, she'd never acknowledge what is was that we were doing. I'd like to think that I would've come out, if she'd been willing, but that's just another lie."(Sindu 2017, p.23).**

The researcher conduct the Critical Stylistic Analysis of the above selected passage taken from the *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* by using Lesley Jeffries' (2010) teen tools. The Researcher first applies the tool of naming and describing, to analyze how the writer conveys the meaning through naming and description. The writer use of the pronouns such as "I," "we," and Noun "Nisha" provides a personal touch to the narrative. The author use of the repetition of words "we" and "us" stress on a sense of closeness and common experience between the narrator, lucky, and Nisha. "What it would've been like," "dating for real," and "acknowledge what was that we were doing" are important noun phrases employed by the writer to shed light on the examination relationship and identity. The writer use of the word "afraid" shows the Nisha's feelings which point out her sense of fear, which may relate to societal norms and expectation or personal insecurities.

Secondly, the researcher analyzes the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Representing Actions/Events/States. The writer employs the verb "Wonder" in the passage under study to communicate a sense of consideration, the use of verb "tried" convey a sense of action and the verb "afraid" communicate a sense of emotion. The author in the passage under study also uses Modal verbs such as "would've" and "would" show hypothetical or possibilities, adding up a layer of assumption to the narrative. The writer also employs the modal verb "Would've come out" point out a conditional desire that was not realized. The writer use of the phrase "I'd like to think" also initiate an element of desire, adding to the emotional deepness of the passage. The author the past tense in the passage under study such as "would've been," "if we'd both come out" provides a retrospective glance at events that did not disclose. The passage under study also highlights the emotional state of the characters which are very important to the comprehension of the passage. The writer use of the phrases like "Nisha was afraid," "she'd never acknowledge," and "I'd like to think" offer a glance of the characters' emotional state.

Thirdly, the researcher focuses on finding the author's instances of equality and contrast in the passage under study by applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool Equating and Contrasting. The passage under study also displays an implied comparison between Lucky and Nisha about their possible coming out experience at high school. Lucky express her desires for coming out while on the other hand, Nisha is fearful of coming out even in private moments.

The researcher also analyzes the passage under study using Lesley Jeffries' (2010) tool of Prioritizing. The author in the passage under study exemplifies a hypothetical scenario where both Lucky and Nisha come out in high school. This provides an illustration of the writer's contemplation regarding alternative reality, which is evident in the line "I sometimes wonder what it would've been like if we'd both come out in high school..." The researcher further applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Exemplifying and Enumerating to analyze the passage under study. The writer further enumerates Lucky own thoughts and feelings, providing and listing the desire to believe they would have come out if Nisha had been agreed.

Furthermore, the researcher analyze the passage by using and applying the Lesley Jeffries (2010) tool of Assuming and Implying, which involves examining the implicit meanings, assumptions. The writer use of the phrase such as "I sometimes wonder what it would've been like if we'd both come out in high school" in the passage under study demonstrate the narrator assumption of a hypothetical situation. The assumption is also evident in the phrase "if we'd tried dating for real." In which the narrator assumes the possibility of a different relationship if both Lucky and Nisha had revealed their true identity or come out at high school. On the whole, tone of the passage implies a sense of regrets, missed opportunities and unfulfilled desires.

The researcher then applies the Lesley Jeffries tool of Negation to analyze the passage under study. Furthermore, the researcher focuses on the identification of the instances of negation used in the passage under study, and how these contribute to the overall meaning of the passage. The writer's uses of the "even then" provide an example of negation of the expectation that wouldn't be afraid in the school, which shows her fear contrary to what might have been expected.

Moreover, the researcher analyze the passage under study by using Lesley Jeffries (2010) another tool of Hypothesizing. The writer use of the conditional statement likes, "I'd like to think that I would've come out if she'd been willing," stress on the condition essential for self-authenticity. It shows that the Lucky identity and readiness to come out were dependent on the other factors, specifically Nisha's willingness. This shows the interconnectedness of individual true identity and outside factors, also stressing the troubles LGBT individual's faces in balancing their own true identity with societal standards.

The analysis of the above selected passage confirm the views of queer theorist Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick that how queer individuals conceal their true identities and the problem they face to come out to their families and society due to which they remain in the closet.

### **Conclusion**

This section concludes the discussion on research question and presents research findings; the researcher particularly applies Queer theory in this study and Lesley Jeffries Ten tools as a method for data analysis. In this study the research question as outlined is about queer issues, and the researcher probed the matter that how queer issues are discursively constructed by the text producer in the *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*. The novel under study presents complex and multifaceted assessment of queer issues, taking into consideration various factors for instance performative elements, cultural and familial expectation, internal struggle, hiding true identity, societal expectations and intersection of queer identity and issues. The novel under examination offers a range of different perspectives that contribute to the current discourse on queer identities, issues and relationship. The researcher in this study focused on the discursive aspect, which alludes to the ways in which language and communication shape and impact our perception of social concerns, and how queer issues are constructed in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*.

The discursive construction of queer issues in *Marriage of the Thousand Lies* entailed the depiction of characters such as Lucky and Nisha who are forced to live in a metaphorical "closet" because of Societal and cultural pressure. The novel highlights the troubles and difficulties faced by LGBT characters while hiding true identities as queers and the effects it has on the individuals' mental and emotional health. Understanding the difficulties and challenges face by queer individuals in conformist societies centered on the discourses around the closet.

This study also closely examines how the author portrays the details of the coming-out process within a particular cultural setting by utilizing language, narrative methods, and character development. Another important queer issue that is discursively constructed by the author in the *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* is marriage of convenience or arranged marriage within American South Asian culture. The researcher examined how queer people are subjected to societal and familial pressure to adhere the societal norms regarding marriage. This shows how queer individuals feel pressurized to hide their true queer identities and get into marriage of convenience to keep their façade of heterosexuality, and in order to fit in with society's expectations and keep up appearances.

#### Future Research Recommendations

The current study's main objective and focus is on the discursive construction of queer issues such as, closet, coming out and marriage of convenience, other perspectives can also be explored by the researchers. A researcher may focus on the representation of mental health stigma within LGBTQ narratives, particularly on the perspective that how these kinds of novels express the isolation and shame that often lead to mental health issues. As well as a researcher may also focus on how language and stylistic features in *Marriage of a Thousand Lies* communicate the idea of psychological healing or the way to overcome mental health challenges.

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