

The Impact of Scottish Culture for Diaspore, in Roderick Craig Low's *Going Nowhere*

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*Abstract : A Living Scottish author Roderick Low, around 70, has completed five novels. Though he has not visited Eastern part of the world, the confluence of oriental and occidental cultures, he has found in the diaspore of Scotland influenced him to write upon. As a token of the reciprocation of the cultural values and regards he has kept, he handles the union of cultures delicately in his novel *Going Nowhere*.*

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1.Origin of the Scottish

The Scottish people are the mixture of the various ancient tribes who invaded the country and influx of people who migrated from other parts of Britain. Around 500 BC, the Celtic tribes moved into Scotland from the South where they colonized England and Wales. They spoke a language of European origin and so 5 distinct Ethnic and Linguistics spoken in England. They are the Picts, the Angles, the Britons, the Dalriadic Scots and the Norse in the Scottish Mainland. Modern Scotland over the centuries the Picts and Scots merged into one Gaelic Speaking. In the 19th century, many Irish arrived in Scotland, fleeing a terrible famine in Ireland. In the 2nd half of the 20th century, from even further farther afield settled in Scotland. 64,000 people of different Ethnicities include Indians, Pakistanis and Chinese live in Scotland and most of them are migrated from other parts of Britain. Scotland has a rich melting pot of people different parts of the world.

2. Scottish Culture - an Outline

Scotland is culturally distinct from its southern neighbour England in many ways. England has become a multicultural society with visible ethnic minorities, while Scotland has remained racially homogenous due to its geographical location and tradition. England has become atheist society where people come in contact with the church only at weddings, Christmas and funerals. Scotland retains a strong religious tradition rather than England. In England today many have little sense of a cultural heritage while Scottish tradition such as music and costume are strange and carry of more importance. Most people are away from home during the day, but they gather in the evening to share a meal. They take children to social activities and attend ceremonies in church. Scottish love travelling, they like to settle in other countries and dedicate themselves to earn their bread. This is seen through the diaspora of Scotland. Since the writer is in contact through a social medium, he accepts the above statement and believes firmly what is turning out to be a long life is that human beings the world over essentially want the same things and enjoy the same things too. Scottish people are mostly hard working, love their families, have celebrations and they drink alcohol a lot also love their fellow men very much. Honestly he accepts, some of the characters in his works are familiar since the commonness of the Eastern

Culture and the Scottish culture, influences him very much, though he is a frequent visitor of London. Though the diaspora of the Eastern world in Scotland are different in their skin, costume and religion, they are culturally alike. This familiarity has made him write Indian characters as protagonists in his works, though he has not visited India, once in his life. There are many Indians, Vietnamese, Americans and

many others from different places are settled in Scotland. All are with different experiences. But all are nice, kind, friendly trying to see the best in others.

3. Going Nowhere, a glimpse

Scotland is known for its landscape, castles, farming crops, peace pipers, Greek and Roman influences rather than French. In *Going Nowhere* the young and loving couple Peter Robbins and Jennifer are the diaspora, from England. They are the school teachers. They are the first invaders in several 100 years to Lecul-en-quercy an imaginary small village in France. [It does not appear on any map. pg1] The couple is as different as locals. She seems to be pale and fair, delicate and slim while he is taller than the locals who are invariably strict, square dark, strong. The English couple dress and drive for the sake of appearances. The locals dress and drive to be decent and for practical reasons. The couple love the village like anything since they feel their ancestors lived there during the times of Napoleonic. The couple find the place accidentally. While their touring ahead, they enjoy the outskirts of the place cover with gardens behind stone walls surmounted by steel railings. Peter says, while he drives a car, [Here 's a place, Lecul-en-quercy.....,village Occtain [pg10]. The people who live in it are not Celts although their lands were occupied by Romans, English, Spanish mentioned in history. Therefore the language what they speak must be Occtain. French with strong Spanish influences and they speak in addition to French. Occitan sounds Spanish more. It is the combination of Spanish and French.

From the point of inhabitants, "the Robbins earnestly try to learn French, as essential in the locals' estimation". [pg27] Their accents are rounded English, Jennifer is better than Peter Robinson. While International football is shown, they support France. The Scots enjoy a wide range of activities. Thus the couple transform themselves to the level of locals and they take part in all the special occasions like hunter's dinner of the locals in Lecul very friendly. Hospitality and friendliness are the special quality of the people. They invite them as it is a tradition and he admires her costume strapless top and a short skirt. "No one dresses up in Lecul for anything except perhaps a funeral and if only she were a corpse"[pg30]. Almost Jennifer feels like fish out of water and at once she changes her dress to adopt herself to the situation. Changing her dress, she attends the party, "Perhaps we'll have to be friend the Parisians" [-pg 32]. Both enjoy the dinner with peanuts, volumes of wine, wedges of bread, bowl after bowl of delicious soup. Due their frequent visit they are in association with the local people like Thomas Chene, the wily mayor, Maisie Connel, the English estate agent' skill is appreciated to promote his business.

4. An Impact of the Scottish Culture

The couple is very friendly and respects everyone in the village. The kindness and friendship with everyone makes them docile and dwell by purchasing a house in the remote village of Lecul -en- quercy. The main religion in Scotland is Christianity. Though Peter and Jennifer are probably protestants , they don't go to church except during the special occasions like Easter, Christmas, Wedding. But the people in Lecul are Catholics and they go to church very often. " Christmas 2001, Peter and Jennifer spend in Lecul"[pg 208].

Today, Scots are updated and enriched themselves by dynamism and innovation. In Low's *Going Nowhere*, "the innovation of the bakers is seen in large letters with slogan bread on wheel ,with mobile phone number and website address on the van" [pg-65]. Thus the local rival bakers, Monsieur Blac and Monsieur Grosplet are updated, though their main occupation is agriculture and fishing. "This is France and they do things differently" [pg171]. One of the characters, a doctor asked for planting beans in the garden instead of money. Many of them are casual labourers and part time workers. Scottish people are highly interested in architecture. There is a good builder who works for the couple to build a building beautifully with three new windows cut into the roof on the front. People in Scot are so close to Bagpipes which appeared in the 15th century. Art and Music is a part of life. Low' character Stephanie' son Nicholas plays on the violin while Peter and Jennifer dining up the chateau with Stephaine and Roland to entertain the couple at the fateful hour of the night. They request him to play the instrument once more to listen to his music. "Violin is a cruel instrument". [Pg155] Scottsih parents are very traditional and they spend time with their children to encourage their talents. Festival of the Bandas – one of the festivals held in Lecul as they are no active participants in Lecul. "Snail race in Lecul is very interesting where the people take part merely for enjoyment, actively eating, drinking, chattering happily for a considerable number of hours is accompanied by the incidental of 'Escargots Formule 1" [84]. They celebrate the snail race as worthy as Olympics since a snail is trained for a few weeks to achieve greatness . "When the locals discuss seriously, anglais they felt exluded..." [pg 87]

Peter and Jennifer have a house on the out skirts of Lecul who spend more time in Lecul. They are the second homers. Everyone is rather jealous of them. Thus the couple are settled in Lecul. They feel proud and happy as they find the place which is not found in the Michelin maps since 1939. But the fact is due to the deafness of cartographer and a faulty telephone. Actually the place what they miss it is not missed but it is misplaced. But there was a sense that Lecul is their discovery, their place, not to be shared with others. Thus the Culture of the Scotland is a

colourful with a thought provoking life style reflects in the work of Low's *Going Nowhere* that is rooted in real life.

5. Conclusion

This article is an attempt to prove that though the Scottish couple is different in languages, life styles, dress, appearances, etc from French, the couple is settled in Lecule and accepted by France due to their firmness and practices of the Scottish culture.

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