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The Immigrant Experience

The international system is characterized by the nation-states as its basic units. People live with their nations in their own specific geographical locations. Being stateless is a fate no one wants in this modern international system. Nevertheless, millions of people still live as immigrants in foreign countries. Being an immigrant is a bitter experience as varied circumstances often compel people to opt for this option of migration. The immigrant experience is the theme of these two short stories that highlight how people suffer when they become immigrants in foreign lands. The Boundary by Jhumpa Lahiri and the story “For What They Shared” is an exact description of this troubling experience.

To begin with, immigrants are not welcomed in foreign lands, and they are viewed as outsiders (Hua). They have a huge problem in the assimilation process, and they often at the brink of being a "Marginal Man" in those foreign cultures. This ill-side of being an immigrant is highlighted from the quote in “For what they shared” where the author stated, “she knew her people were targets in America” (Hua, 6), so it is how often immigrants are treated in other countries. Then the storied Boundary(Lahiri) also highlights also native people become envious of other foreigners and their lifestyles. Here Lahiri states that “hear everything as they eat. The laughter and chatter are louder tonight. The family relates all their mishaps in the country: the tomato-eating crickets, the funeral under the plum tree, the sheepdog, the fox that carried off the flip-flop. The mother says that being in touch with nature like this has been good for the girls (Lahiri,5). In this way, native people do not feel good about visitors and the become jealous of their own patterns of life.

Thus, immigrants in foreign lands often encounter different kind of experiences. Nevertheless, they remain a constant target for native people without a shadow of a doubt.

**Works Cited**

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