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The Hybrid Identity of Home in Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*

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Abstract

For most of the characters in Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*, home is never an easily definable place: it is the inbetween of what used to be their birthplace and the new territory in which they develop as conscientious beings. The vocabularies they develop are hybrid, bringing together the familiar and the uncanny: thus the reader cannot distinguish whether home is the familiar while the adoptive land is necessarily bound to the uncanny. Alterity gradually becomes identity, the characters' new values being a reflection of wisely understanding that what is foreign is not necessarily negative.

Keywords: *home, hybrid, alterity, identity*