

## **The Isolationism Accompanying Local Migration and Its Effect On Artistic Potential: A Case Study of Jibananda Das' Poetry in British-Occupied Bengal**

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### **Abstract**

The isolationism that arises with inhabiting an urban center for a commercial purpose was brought out aptly in his poetry by Jibananda Das, a 20<sup>th</sup> Century Romantic poet from the state of Bengal in British-occupied India. Exploring the dark side of migration pursued in order to attain upward social mobility, Das' poetry becomes a reminder of the illusion of urban freedom and the promises of the commercial space which it fails to deliver on. This paper aims to explore how commercial success led Das, who embodies the contemporary figure of a migrant, to choose to romanticize death as a respite from the struggles of not belonging in the commercial environment of Calcutta in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The trope of commercial success and the lure of the urban space which continues to motivate individuals to move to cities in search of work has a fatal effect on the creative potential of artists, often leading to artistic degeneration in several cases. In the area of migration being explored by this conference, this paper wishes to study the theme of local migration as a sociological and universalist phenomenon through the expression that it finds in translated Bengali Literature.

**Keywords:** Commercialism; freedom; migrant; potential; social mobility.