The objective of my written text is to analyse Andrew Motion’s article with reference to Mohsin Hamid’s “Exit West” to illustrate my point of view about the novel.

In order to do this operation, I am going to make a comparative analysis of the two text titles. After a fast reading the reader can understand Andrew’s article was written in form of a review and, according with the textual form, its title is longer than that of the novel. The length of the title is related to the communicative intention of the text: a review has the purpose of explain a personal opinion about something, in this case a novel, so the title will have the function to synthesize the article not allowing the reader to imagine. In the case of the novel, the title has the purpose of let the reader imagine something about the story so it will be short in order to be vague.

Now I am going to list the journalist’s judgement and opinions I found in his work and next I will discuss each one of the points.

* “Magic and Violence in migrants’ tale”
* “A tone of radical simplicity”, “Vital and under threat”, “The narrative depends on clear storytelling so much for its effect”
* Nadia is less straightforward-seeming”,
* “Hamid’s reputation as a brilliant ventriloquist”
* “Novel as a form of parable”, “Social damage will injure private lives […] by hampering the ability to construct any sort of life”, “As Saeed and Nadia develop their own selves, external pressures accentuate their different attitudes […].”

In the title can be found Andrew’s first opinion: the novel contains magic and violence. I agree with this statement because magic manifests itself in the novel with the passage of the couple through some doors that works as travel points from one place to another one. This feature allows the intelligent reader to understand the tale is in form of magical realism. Violence is also present in many descriptions in the novel, for example in the description of the death of Saeed’s mother or the suppression by the British.

The clime of oppression comes to life in the readers’ mind thanks to the simplicity of the language and the choice to illustrate the most brutal events in the first part of the book.

In this climate of oppression, Nadia is the “less straightforward-seeming” – Andrew wrote – indeed it is so: from the beginning, she is not entirely certain of her feelings, she just said it is a very strong feeling and her choice of wear a black robe even though she is not a believer, left the reader unable to categorize the woman.

The narration in 3th person allows Hamid to interlace the context with the story of the couple, Saeed and Nadia’s thoughts and feelings and modifications. With the choice of the 3th person, Hamid also manages to better characterize the protagonists showing his “reputation as a brilliant ventriloquist”.

Andrew wrote the reader can perceive the novel as a form of “parable”. In a sense, it is true because there is a kind of teaching. Indeed, Hamid’s objective is to show, through Saeed and Nadia’s story, how and how much the condition of being a migrant changes the private life of people under more aspects. With the passing of time and the increase of the number of emigrations, the two modify their behaviour and habits until a convivence became impossible and the pair went off.

In conclusion, I think living in such a condition can change you, but it is not the only reason. Time is the first cause, indeed – how wrote Saeed – “We are all migrants through time”.