Baldan Sofia 5ALS

**Read the article to identify the journalist’s judgement and opinions about Exit West and say if you agree with him or not. Support your considerations with references to your reading experience**.

In the present text I’m going to find out the journalist’s opinions and judgement about *Exit West* presented in the article I read in class. I will explain my opinions about the book, too.

Reading the review title “Exit West by Moshin Hamid review- magic and violence in migrants’ tale” the reader understands that the text is a book review and can find out direct references to the book’s themes: the word “magic” refers to the black doors who bring people around the world as they were magic portals. These doors are a writers choice to skip the description of migrants’ journey. I didn’t like this choice because in my opinion the journey is a fundamental aspect of immigration. But in a certain way the doors recreate the sense of disorientation that afflicts migrants when they left their land and arrive in foreign countries: in the book, when Saeed and Nadia pass trough a black door don’t know where they will arrive and they have to find out their “new land” every time. Immigration is the other theme quoted in the review title and in the book one, as well. Indeed the intelligent reader could relate the words “Exit West” to the fact that in the book are quoted the black doors that are literally exits on the west of the world and so the title refers directly to immigration which is one of the main theme of the book.

In the book review the journalist gives some judgements and opinions about:

* the speaking voice - “Exit West confidently adopts yet another...feel at once vital and under threat.”
* the style - “ The mixture of clarity and restraint...to connect his history with its remaining sections.”, “ The narrative depends… makes this clarity a means of generating suspense.”, “When he approaches his conclusion..defining that future”
* the genre – “a parable of hideous contemporary familiarity and strangeness”
* the themes - “a parable of hideous contemporary familiarity and strangeness”, “Hamid describes these..Britain for Britain”, “A major part..their sphere of influence”, “In the process, Hamid’s simple style.. subordinate to political circumstances”, “So suffice it to say that.. to think about questions of national identity and social cohesion”
* the protagonists - “So suffice it to say that.. to think about questions of national identity and social cohesion”
* the reader impressions - “When he approaches his conclusion..defining that future”

From the book review the intelligent reader understands that all the effects of the book and the impressions we have about it depends on different factors that the journalist investigate. I agree with his opinion. The most important choice of the author is to use a clear, simple and contemporary style that in some moments borders on brutality: this choice reflects perfectly the situation the two protagonists have to face with. I also liked the way the stylistic choice “harmonise” with the themes of the book: the clarity and simplicity of the narration reflects the condition of the migrants and the “ingenuity” of the protagonist who start their journey looking for a better conditions and a place to call “home”. I also share the opinion of the author that investigated and makes the reader reflect on the effect that time has on people: Nadia and Saeed changed during their journey and if their differences weren’t a problem, after their “adventure” them became clear. But I think that even if they wouldn’t have done this journey time would have changed them.

At the beginning of the book I didn’t like it because I thought it was strange (there was a lot of suspense, nothing was really clear), but then I really enjoyed the way the author conveyed the journey (not only phisical) that migrants have to do to reach a save place where live. After the reading the vagueness and the suspense created by the author made me reflect about the fact that the two protagonists could be anyone of us and this made me appreciate my situation.