

PREMISES: Postcolonialism

Postcolonial is a current of thought that develops in the colonised countries after receiving Independence. The word "Postcolonialism" explicitly describes the meaning of the movement; it is including in two parts: the prefix "post" which means "after" or "beyond" a specific period, the Second World War, in the second part of twentieth century and the word "colonialism" which means the process of colonisation of Third World.

Postcolonial literature is written by colonised peoples' point of view and the main features of the movement are: the concept of identity, the sense of displacement and, last but not least, the concept of "hybrid" which means the integrated with other cultures.

"EXIT WEST" : postcolonial aspects

In the novel there are many aspects of postcolonial literature: the first aspect is the writer; he comes from an eastern country but later moved to England. He therefore had to learn English culture and the English language. The English language, however, is not the same as the original language and this is underlined by the use of long sentences which recall a spoken discourse, typical of oriental culture.

About the themes dealt with in the novel, these recall postcolonial literature. In particular, the main theme of the novel is equality. In fact, as postcolonial literature wanted, Moshin Hamid does not defend and does not believe that his culture is superior to others, but he believes that all cultures are equal. In the Exit West, the novelist often underlines that everyone of us is a product, a mixture of different cultures.

The novelist underlines this aspect in particular with the description of Nadia; she is a woman who looks like an oriental woman but behaves like a western woman. The novelist does this to make the reader understand that there are no stereotypes in the world but that everyone is different. The same novelist, however, states that even if a person adapts to a culture different from his own, the latter will always be influenced by the original culture. This aspect is underlined by the description of the character of Saeed. He maintains the custom of praying and of keeping certain behaviors even if the situation is not the same as the initial one. Like the language, the culture of colonised people is affected by the mother culture.

Before the process of colonisation, the literature celebrates European culture and it isn't open to include other cultures; this aspect brings the concept of sense of displacement that it is recurrent throughout the novel and it is one of the most important features of Postcolonial literature.

Unlike the colonizers' literature, the colonized literature does not want to impose its own culture, to propose its origins and its own language, but wants all cultures to be equal. In

Exit West Saeed and Nadia in every new place they go do not try to impose their uses on the people they meet, but they try to adapt to them. Throughout the novel there is always the concept of equality and above all of resistance.

This aspect is underlined in Exit West with the description of an episode of two men kissing each other; it underlines the concept of union of diversity, an important feature of Postcolonial literature.

All this is given by the hope that it is always present in the hearts of migrants and which doesn't seem to abandon the two protagonists.

In conclusion the novelist in all the novel tells about the concept of the concept of instability, everything changes through time. This aspect is in accord with postcolonial literature: migration has led to changes necessary because cultures can not always remain unchanged but they also change over time.

