JUDGMENTS AND OPINION

In this text I will consider the article written by Andrew Motion , journalist of the Guardian Magazine , to analyse his judgments about the novel Exit West by Mohsin Hamid.

I will then compare them with my opinions and I conclude the text with a reflection on the book.

From the title of the article it is possible to understand how the text is structured, it is composed by an alternation of moment of Magic , violence and love. But first of all it is important to understand what the Author intends to do with this article.

Here the Author wants to analyse the novel Exit West from various aspects, such as the narrative technique and the use of language. In this article, the Author presents the characters and highlights the key aspects of the novel, but above all, he express his opinions and judgement, which are:

Exit West confidently adopts yet another kind of voice – a tone of radical simplicity that in the opening 50-odd pages borders on brutality, and makes every conversation, every detail, every scene feel at once vital and under threat.

The mixture of clarity and restraint in such passages is very impressive, and confirms Hamid’s reputation as a brilliant ventriloquist who is deeply engaged with the most pressing issues of our time. It is also interestingly at odds with the device he then uses to connect his story with its remaining sections.

They maintain an element of magical strangeness opposed to the plainness of the prose in which they are presented, and lead us to think of the novel as a form of parable.

And so it is – a parable of hideous contemporary familiarity and strangeness

preparing us for an ideal of integration that his characters find variously attractive and difficult to achieve.

A major part of Hamid’s achievement in Exit West is to show how profoundly social damage will injure private lives – not only in obvious ways (physical injury, homelessness), but by hampering the ability to construct any sort of life outside their sphere of influence.

Saeed and Nadia fear that they are about to be engulfed in a second wave of carnage, and the ferocity of the opening scenes in Exit West will make every reader share their anxiety. But by this stage in the novel Hamid has in fact changed tack somewhat.

In the process, Hamid’s simple style acquires an almost fairy-tale quality, as he continues to explore the extent to which personal lives are subordinate to political circumstances.

The narrative depends on clear storytelling so much for its effect, and Hamid makes this clarity a means of generating suspense.

This makes for a comparatively quiet conclusion to a book that began with fire and blood.

Initially it compelled us to sup full of horrors. Now it seems a little thin, and therefore conveys a sense of wishful thinking. Perhaps this is always a risk when writers use the same style to dream of utopia after toiling through a dystopia. But it nevertheless means that we exit Exit West admiring its depiction of nightmare more deeply than we feel persuaded by its description of a bright future – no matter how much we might sympathise with the principles defining that future.

I agree with the journalist when he says that Moshin Hamid in this novel uses a Tone of radical simplicity to describe the brutality of the war.

I noticed that the Language is Direct and raw and the narrator is outside the story in this Way the reader can have the possibility to see all the facts in different way.

For the Author of the article Hamid is a brilliant ventriloquist who is deeply engaged with the most pressing issues of our time. I agree with his Point of View , immigration is a very contemporary Problem all over the world and only a few people manged to deal with such delicate issues in a novel. Hamid managed to mix the realism and magic. The black door is an Element of Magic strangeness, to create a sort of parable , a parable of hideous contemporary familiarity and strangeness, adds the Author which one in fact he also says that a major part of Hamid’s achievement is to show how profoundly social damage injures private lives, the war devastates them, it is real, just seeing what happened to the thousands of refugees escape from wars, they are alone , many not accompanied minors and divided families.

External pressures accentuate the differences between the people and in this case between Saeed and Nadia, they change in each other’s eyes in a new place far from their home; perhaps in their in their homeland the two could live together and not separated because of their differences.

The narrative form changes during the novel, specially when Saeed and Nadia express their ideas , in fact , the Author says that “there is a quiet conclusion to a book that began with fire and blood” , and I agree with his affirmation. Perhaps Hamid wants, at the beginning of the novel, to create a critical situation to keep the reader’s tension and attention high, while at the end softens the Language and narrative to create an unexpected but not absolutely tragic end, but a happy ending. The journalist never raises the technique and the mastery of the novelist, in fact he praises him for the skill with which he can tell facts that can hit anyone in the future. Almost certainly the Author feels inferior to Hamid.

In conclusion, I Think that Hamid is sending us a Signal of hope. With is novel he want to tell us that nothing is lost, there is always a solution and not always the future is how we expected it.