Argumentative text

Are there any Postcolonial features in Exit West?

“Exit West” is a novel written by Mohsin Hamid and you can see many Postcolonial elements for example in the use of a language. Because differently from British writers and according to Oriental oral culture you can see long paragraphs but they are written in English, that is the language of people who colonise Hamid’s homeland. And so in Hamid’s novel you can see the theme of hybridity in the language because it is a mixture between the languages of colonisers and colonised. This mixture is very important concepts because it underlines the lack of identity owing to the Colonialism.

The identity is an also element of Postcolonial literature, at first the writer tries to destroy the Western stereotypes about the Eastern that are considered as criminals, otherness, uncivilised with one of the main protagonists of the novel, Nadia, who behaves as a Western women and conveys the idea that we are all human being. Our behaviour doesn’t depend to our culture but to our ideas and values; putting all people in a country in a category that defines behaviours and values is wrong.

In the novel the main characters, Saeed and Nadia, try more over and over again to look for a new place. But they show a different aspect of their identity in every place where they went due to the fact that they were constantly in contacts with people with a different culture and so they must choose if to integrate or not. The relationship toward other cultures change the protagonists behaviour in different ways: Nadia adopts a transnational culture because she refuses her culture, for example she wears the black robe to avoid the problems, but Saeed is strong linked by their culture and he fits into other people that has him ideas and values. Their different attitude is brought about from their different childhood: if Saeed is strong related with her parents and his origins, Nadia is constantly force to do something that she hates. In my opinion the narrator wants to convey the idea that every country which were colonised is more or less connected with the centre of the Empire, and the connection depends on the Colonialist experience.