**Analysis of an extract**

In the current text I’m going to analyze an extract taken from chapter 3 from Moshin Hamid *“The Reluctant Fundamentalist”*. The sequence concerns the moment when the protagonist is telling the interlocutor about the new districts in Lahore.

The narrator’s choice to use the dramatic monologue is extremely appropriate to silence the Stranger, his interlocutor. This is done on purpose in order to bring to surface an Eastern perspective on events like the WTC attack and the global relationship America & the alter world.

Actually Changez, the speaking voice – a Pakistani young man – wants to draw the Stranger’s attention on the similarities-differences between Manhattan and the new districts of Lahore. The reader can easily evince that in the use of the exclamation marks: “Like Manhattan! Yes, precisely!”. Nevertheless the Stranger might feel quite surprised about the similarity because it is an indirect social, political and personal statement linked on a both urban and social divide comparison. Indeed, an “ancient hierarchy” has given advance notice of the social divide which led to a class stratification - a division by the social status -, contrasting “the mounted man” and “the man on foot”, who can and who cannot. As a result, the intelligent reader catches the implied opposition poor versus rich: Pakistan and Manhattan, respectively.

Since each lexical choice in the extract underlines this dichotomy there is no need to develop it. Along his speech Changez provides examples that could convince the Stranger of his apparent feeling at home in Manhattan – a synecdoche for New York - . He reminds his mother tongue, Urdu, spoken by taxicab drivers, the typical Pakistani food that could be tasted at the Pak-Punjab Deli, concluding with his memory of a song “which I danced at my cousin’s wedding”.

It goes without saying that irony is a defence weapon by means of which when Changez found himself to live in New York he tried to overcome a sense of nostalgia through his senses.

His way of surviving the cultural shock is proper to implicitly-emotionally emphasize a cultural difference which he managed to prevail over intellectually.

To conclude, the intelligent reader realizes that, even in a short paragraph, the novelist’s intention is to make one reflects upon the American binary system, reading between the lines the reader has to catch the critique against it as well as the contradictions of a country - Lahore – that is apparently globalised. On the whole, the examples Changez provided – each one linked to a sense – are used by the US with the aim of integrating the foreign, implicitly forcing him to do what the State wants. Moreover, the apparent similarities-differences are functional to bring to surface both the protagonist’s trust betrayed and his fault for believing in the “American dream”.