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IDENTITY REPRESENTATION IN SOCIAL SPHERES THROUGH THE  
USE OF SPECIFIC LINGUISTIC REALIZATIONS IN MOHSIN HAMID'S  
EXIT WEST

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**Rida Fatima, Misbah Rizvi, Aqsa Said. Identity Representation in Social Spheres Through the Use of Specific Linguistic Realizations in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West-- Palarch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology 19(1), 2079-2096. ISSN 1567-214x**

**ABSTRACT:**

The application of critical stylistics theory and political discourse theory in the social realms of Mohsin Hamid's novel Exit West is investigated in this research (2017). The purpose of this article is to describe and identify how the main characters in Exit West are affected by migration as depicted through language. The findings are intended to demonstrate that migrants face significant challenges in their social lives. Four to five tools were chosen for this study from a broad list of Critical Stylistics tools, and their frequency and percentage were determined using MS xcel to extract data from the text. It will be helpful to be aware of the text's frequent usage of linguistic choices. The political discourse theory of Laclau and Mouffe is applied to them (2010). The results will be discussed to show how language analysis combined with textual observations allows for a better understanding of the migration phenomenon and identity conflicts among the characters.

**INTRODUCTION:**

“Exit West” is a novel written by Mohsin Hamid in 2017. It is shortlisted for ‘Man Booker Prize’. Hamid is a British Pakistani National born in Lahore Pakistan. He has spent a lot of time there and rest of the time in London, New York and California. He has got Pakistan Sitara-e-Imtiaz/star of excellence. The novel is an elucidation of similarities and differences between the cultures and the major difference with the western world. Mohsin Hamid is a cosmopolitan writer who always tries to involve the two cultures in his writings. His themes also revolve around the two nations and cultures. This novel of Mohsin Hamid

actually explores the themes of migration, relationship, love, violence, identity construction and humanity. The analysis of "Exit West" is an authentic refugee problem that was faced in 2015. Mohsin Hamid was himself a migrant and he was well known of the fact that how the migrants feel prejudice in their host countries. The doors in the novel are the symbolic representation and work as a stylistic device for the author and also seem paradoxical. The name of novel "Exit West" itself has two representations; Exit word denotes to escape and the West is specially chosen to explain these circumstances with respect to the relationship between East and West.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* (2017) has been selected and the theoretical framework of Political discourse theory (2010) has been used to analyze this study. Critical Stylistics theory (2010) has been used by using the textual conceptual functions in order to collect data and coding from the text. Previous researches have been included in this study to provide the information related to this work.

Machado (2014) has worked on 'Laclau and Mouffe's Theory of Discourse and Hegemony: A Possible Approach to Law and its Integrity?' The Montesquieu faces a crisis related to the decentralization of law. The research has linked law to the poststructuralist theoretical reference of the theory of discourse by Laclau and Mouffe. Dworkinian theory is used as a support which has a different philosophical background when it is compared to Laclau and Mouffe theory. The integrity is taken as a hegemonic integrity to understand the principles of justice as a promise of justice and substituting judges.

Walton and Boon (2014) in 'Engaging with a Laclau & Mouffe informed discourse analysis: a proposed framework'. This paper presents an analytical method through which a political analysis of intra and inter-organizational conflicts were conducted. The paper presents an iterative method of data analysis which is based on a consolidation of work by using Laclau and Mouffe's discourse theory across management, organization and social science disciplinary domains. The politically orientated discourse theory of Laclau and Mouffe has used by management and organization researchers. The paper proposes a method which involves making explicit an analytical process for reading available textual data.

Amara & Omar (2018), in an article on 'Traumatized Voices in Contemporary Arab-British Women Fiction: A Critical Stylistics Approach' explores the linguistic mechanisms in the narratives of feminist trauma and the main focus was on trauma of exile in the diasporic writing of Arab-British feminist novelist. The critical discourse stylistics has been adopted to describe the hidden mechanisms in the speeches of those who were victims of trauma and to study that how these mechanisms affected the unsettling experiences. It has also studied the extent to which traumatic dimensions are conveyed to the authors and readers. This study comes out to be an ideological interpretation and it also reflects the attitude of the author and how psychological trauma build trauma. Baglama (2019) in his article 'Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*: Co-Opting Refugees into Global Capitalism' explores the Marxist perspective and economical

element in migration. The researcher minutely observes the victimization of migrant in the foreign land where migrant are already facing psychological, social, cultural, and identity loss. This research analyzes the biasness of host at social and economic level causing damage to migrant at several levels. The researcher uses the dichotomy of 'them' and 'us' to portray the gap between host and migrant. Hamza places the text in historical context as discussion it in relation to Donald Trump's foreign policy of visa and migration, Mohsin Hamid in this text presents a world full of chaos and uncertainty where life is under threat that creates an existential atmosphere. In such situation, it is quite easy to exploit the migrant socially, culturally, economically and psychologically; researcher minutely observes all these victimizations and records them. The narrative depicts the sense of loss and dislocation while in a state of exile which leads towards mass scale victimization. The researcher discusses the process of interpellation through which migrants like Saeed and Nadia have been subjugated politically, socially and economically. By concluding, Hamza remarks that Exit West actually mocks the process of interpellation and massive victimization of migrants done through this process.

Sharma (2019) observes in, "Pangs of Migration and Confrontation with Hegemony in Mohsin Hamid's Exit west" that what are the pains of migration and how the western administration shapes the eastern ideologies by suppressing the powerful over weak? The two characters of Saeed and Nadia show that how one is attached to his country as there are a lot of memories of his family which are present there. He is not adjusting easily in the other country whereas Nadia can adjust easily and is happy in a new place because of already living as a migrant in the previous country. Migration makes a man to face a lot of difficulties like sometimes or almost, it happens that the new country and the residents of that country never agree to happily welcome the migrants and they feel fear from them. In this study the pangs of migration are also effective on the relationships of the main characters and their relation is totally destroyed at the end of the novel.

"As if by Magical Realism: A Refugee Crisis in Fiction in Cultural Intertexts" Gheorghiu (2018) has talked about the magical realism and post colonialism in the fictions written by Mohsin Hamid and Salman Rushdie. They both have special command on the phenomenon of migration and Mohsin Hamid himself is a migrant through many countries of the world. In an interview he said that while writing fiction he tried his best to write on the issue of migration because he could understand its merit and demerits very well. Mohsin Hamid's novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Exit West* whereas Salman Rushdie's novel *Imaginary Homeland* are about the migration of people and the story of their problems and the concept of otherness which is being faced by those migrants while migrating from their country to another. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* has main focus on the situation of migration after 9/11 when people were migrating from one place to another in order to take an exit from the civil war and terrorist attacks making a threat to their lives. In this study the focus of the author is especially on *The Exit West* and the relationship between personal and the political life. It also discusses that how the concept of Otherness is created by using the trick of magical realism. Actually by using magical realism the author has portrayed the realistic view of modern life.

## **METHODOLOGY:**

In the theoretical perspective of this research a Political discourse theory (2010) by Laclau and Mouffe is used. According to them, "Discourse is not a combination of sentences rather a combination of signs". A series of signs placed along each other in an equivalence chain and the signs of a discourse get meanings through this link. By combining and modifying two major theoretical traditions, Marxism and structuralism, Laclau and Mouffe have constructed their theory. The theories of these two theorists contain a large number of notions that have made it difficult for the researcher to understand the governing bodies and other conceptions of the social phenomena, but they also supply many instruments to the researcher. These notions have a distinct property in that they are linked together in a chain. Each concept's comprehension will lead to the following concept's understanding. Other ideas that are subsets of the core concepts are connected to some of the very fundamental notions. This study focuses on the following concepts:

- 1: Restlessness
- 2: Otherness
- 3: Hegemony
- 4: Power

The information comes from Mohsin Hamid's novel Exit West. The entire book is researched in depth for this purpose, and data is collected using Jefferies Critical Stylistics Theory (2010). Because the data is gathered from an already existing work created by someone else, the nature of the data is secondary. It is not directly gathered or witnessed by the researcher in the field. Data is gathered by codification, which employs a variety of textual conceptual functions from critical stylistic theory. Based on a constructionist approach, the data is studied at the latent level rather than the semantic level. Critical Stylistic Theory is used in the codification process. The information gathered is analyzed quantitatively and subjectively. On MS Excel, the frequency and percentage is specified, and the average was computed. Laclau and Mouffe's Political Discourse Theory is used to interpret the data. Critical stylistics incorporates stylistics and discourse analysis features. Stylistics is used to explain a literary effect in a text, whereas CDA is used to describe the contextual elements of a powerful language in a text, according to Jefferies. It uses linguistics and critical discourse analysis methods to act as a bridge between stylistics and critical discourse analysis. The data collected through this method is interpreted by using Laclau and Mouffe's political discourse theory (2010) as a theoretical perspective in which meaning making process is done by using theoretical lens like 'Restlessness', 'Power', 'Hegemony' and 'Political subjectivity'. For the investigation of data, thematic analysis is employed within the theoretical framework and theoretical thematic analysis is done while keeping in view the latent themes under constructionist framework. The main purpose of implying thematic analysis is to understand the theoretical manifestation by the construction of those themes which are analyst and theory driven. This study explores the concepts which are theory bounded which give a detailed analysis of the given data. Thematic analysis is used for identifying, reporting and analyzing the themes within data. Thematic analysis involves two approaches, inductive as well as theoretical thematic analysis. In inductive approach themes identified are strongly linked to the data.

This process includes the coding of data without trying to fit it in to pre-existing coding frame or the researcher analytical pre-conceptions. This sort of analysis is data driven. There are two types of themes, semantic and latent. In semantic approach the themes are identified in the surface and explicit meaning of the data and a researcher is not allowed to go beyond the given data. In the latent level thematic analysis goes beyond the semantic content and it also identify the underlying meaning, ideas, concepts, themes and assumptions. In latent thematic analysis interpretative work involves in the development of themes. In this level the analysis which is produced, is never only a description but it might be theorized already. Three functions of language ideational meta-function, interpersonal meta-function and ideational meta-function are constructed by Halliday help to support the research questions and a point of view.

- 1: Ideational meta-function
- 2: Interpersonal meta-function
- 3: Textual meta-function

### **ANALYSIS:**

This chapter contains the data collected from the text Exit West (2017). The data is collected by using tools of Critical stylistics theory (2010). The codification process is done by using Critical Stylistic theory. The data is dealt quantitatively and qualitatively. The frequency and percentage has been set on MS excel and average has been calculated. The data is interpreted by Laclau and Mouffe's Political discourse theory (2010). This chapter is divided in to two parts, out of which the first one comprises of those tools which have representation of migrant characters and their sufferings in war while the second part consists of representing identity and hegemony in social spheres within text.

In 'Representation of identity and hegemony in social spheres', the first tool of analysis is discussed which is 'Time, space and society', an inter-personal metafunction of language. In this tool the linguistic features are selected which represent the time, space and society where migrant characters were living including the situations and circumstances which they were facing. In "Deictic", words are selected with those linguistic features in which words have meaning according to the context in which they are used. The context here is related to the migration, war and social identity. In "Other space builders" those linguistic features are selected which represent the consideration of people as another being, where the hosts are not ready to accept the migrants. 'Hypothesizing' is a textual metafunction of language which presents the view of an author as a universal reality that cannot be easily challenged or negated. In hypothesizing, "Epistemic" is present which deals with the degree of speaker evaluation or degree of belief of a knowledge upon which the proposition is based. The data from text, for this purpose is taken with concept of migration and identity issues which are represented through them. "Boulomaic" is a modality which tells us that what is possible or necessary when someone's' desire is given. In this way the features presenting the wish or desire of the characters for their loved ones is analyzed by keeping in view the phenomenon of migration and war. "Deontic" modality contains the opinion of the producer in which the character's opinion is selected from the text which they have during

conversation. In Implying and Assuming, an interpersonal metafunction of language, in which there are assumptions and implications which contain pragmatic structures and have implicit meanings. "Presuppositions" are selected which contain assumptions and background belief related to the utterance whose truth is taken for granted in a text that has information about the scenario of migration and social issues. "Entailments" have relationship between two sentences where truth of one requires the truth of the other. In Implicature those features are selected which give meaning about social class, society and war indirectly or through hints. In 'Presenting Other's speech and thought', an ideational metafunction of language, is used to tell that what kind of ideology is presented by the author. In "Speech" the thoughts related to the society are selected from the text which shows the different things related to war, migration and societal issues during migration. In "Thought", it contains the viewpoints of author which presents the picture of people who suffer from war and migration facing issues of identity construction. All these tools of Critical Stylistics (2010) are used to take data from the text by categorizing according to Halliday's metafunctions of language and interpreted by using concepts of Political discourse theory (2010).

### ***Representation of identity and hegemony in social spheres***

The representation of identity and hegemony in the social spheres is presented in this section taken through linguistic realizations. The data collected from the critical stylistics theory while interpreted by using Laclau and Mouffes' (2010) theory of political discourse with the concepts of restlessness, hegemony, competition, hostility and otherness, power and position of subjectivity and political subjectivity. These concepts are the basics for the data interpretation which makes the things more clear in the required perspective. This section contains Hypothesizing which is identified by the use of modality expressed in a variety of linguistic forms that includes epistemic, boulomaic and the deontic. In the category of presenting others' speech and thought, the free direct and indirect words and sentences are used. Free direct speech and free direct thought come with reference to social class while free direct thought, free indirect thought and free indirect discourse appear with reference to migrant characters and their identity. The deictic words for place, time, tense, and person to represent time, space, and society are used to create "a deictic projection" and help to occupy the "deictic centre" of the text. In addition, the results of this study demonstrate that the author's choice of the period during which the story takes place portrays migration narrative, identity construction and the hegemony. The text reveals circumstances and features of the period during which the events take place. It details the events of the migration and the problems faced during migration by the protagonists. The author focuses on providing historically accurate information about this period. He also provides many details, places and vocabulary related to the period.

*Time, space and society It is an interpersonal meta-function of language.*

*Deictic*

Those words which have their meaning according to the context in which they are written.

‘Shaking like earthquake’ (52)

It describes the time when the whole city was suffering from firing and bombing attacks. It was like an earthquake due to which everything was shaking. The windows and doors of nearby buildings were broken into small pieces. It was a time when the city was at fire and people were moving here and there to save themselves. But those who couldn't were shot down dead. A lot of dead bodies were present on the grounds but no one dared lift them up. Because people were trying to save their own lives.

‘Activities of drones and aircrafts.’(53)

It pictures the time when drones were in the air and attacking the citizens by throwing shells upon them.

‘Bodies hanging from street lamps and billboards like a form of festive seasonal decoration.’ (81)

A true depiction of brutality on poor human beings who were not involved in any kind of illegal activity. But the attacks were only to impose power on them. Forces were trying to kill as many people as they can because less number of people cannot defend a large army. Their main agenda was to make them weak and to spread horror among them so that they leave the city and migrate to another country.

‘Refugees occupied many of the open places in city.’ (23)

The moments were captured when people were made homeless and they were finding places to live even on the footpaths. They were suffering from thirst and hunger but nobody from higher authorities took notice of them. Those who couldn't find any place on foot path they started ‘Pitching tents in green belts’ which shows that people were no more living a life like human beings they were treated badly as animals. They were ‘Sleeping rough on pavements’ because no one was ready to welcome them and to give them place. It gives rise to the concept of otherness when in the host country people never accept the refugees as their fellow being but they treat them like aliens.

*Other space builders*

‘They seemed emotional: perhaps excited, perhaps frightened, perhaps both.’(28)

People started 'Recreating rhythms of normal life' by migrating through the magical doors in order to find better place of living for them. They were aware of the fact that if they lived in their city they would have been shot to death so it was good for them to migrate. The magical doors helped them to move out of city.

'He disliked Filipino'(28)

It is showing the attitude of people who belong to the host countries. Such people never admit the migrants as their friends or fellows but always treat them as other creation. It produces inferiority complex in the migrant people.

'So men don't fuck me with me'(16)

It was a trick used by Nadia in order to save herself from the rapists. It was a time when Saeed was so confused that Nadia used to wear a long black robe but never offered any prayer. He thought that she is a true Muslim girl that's why she wore such a type of dress in order to follow Islamic laws. But soon she told Saeed that she wore it only to protect herself from the other men who can tease her in a number of ways. It was actually used as a protection against rape.

### *Hypothesizing*

#### *Epistemic*

'They were looking for people of particular sects.' (79)

During war when the militants were killing people by invading into their homes, they were following a strategy. According to their plans there was a list of different sects which were their main target. They were first asking about the sect of people and if it was present in their list, they let the person down and shoot him or her at the spot. It happened in Nadia and Saeed's neighborhood when their male member was killed and children were taken by militants along with the wife. Saeed and Nadia's sect was not in their list which made them feel comfortable. It also happens in a country like Pakistan where people are killed on the basis of beliefs and sects which they have.

'Families had no choice to bury their dead in a courtyard or at sheltered margin of a road, it being impossible to reach proper graveyard.' (73)

People were killed in a large number but there was no proper arrangement for their burial. Because people were not able to go outside and bury the dead ones in the graveyard. But they started burying them in their courtyard because it was compulsory to do so. It had already happened in many wars even in one grave three or four dead bodies were buried because space was not enough to bury them separately. History is full of such examples and these events have real life happenings in their background. Those who migrated saved their lives but those who were left there were killed by the militants.

'Suspension of internet connections.'(55)



It was also creating hard times for the people because through internet they were able to watch the news. In this way they could see that what was reported in the news channels about the situation of their country. Due to suspension of internet and mobile networks, people were only limited to their specific areas. They had only that news which was related to their own places. They were not aware of the situations of other areas because of no access to the internet and other resources. The use of internet has made our lives easier as well as more complicated. Because human beings are now totally dependent on these resources. For watching news and getting other information related to the country, no access to internet made a lot of difficulties for the people of that country.

### *Boulomaic*

‘Saeed threatened to carry his father over his shoulder if he needed to.’(91)

It was a desire shown by Saeed when they were migrating towards the other country. Saeed’s father was not ready to go with them because of his wife. They were very attached with each other and she was buried in that city so he was not able to leave her alone there. Saeed had already given payment to the agent for his father, but when he came to know that he was not going he insisted him and offered to carry him on his shoulders to take with them. It was Saeed’s wish which he tried to fill but unfortunately his father refused. It shows a true picture of migrants who leave their homeland and their blood relations in order to have security of their life. These are the hurdles of migration.

‘She would one day marry his son and be called mother by his grandchildren and all he asked was that she remain by Saeed’s side until Saeed was out of danger.’(93)

It was a wish of Saeed’s father when he talked to Nadia before their departure. He said that he wishes her to marry his son and later in life he desires to listen the word mother by his grandchildren, for her. He wished to remain with Saeed through thick and thin because he was worried about his son as he never lived alone before. But later circumstances failed her to fulfill these promises. Concerns of Saeed’s father represent the feelings of all those parents who have to leave their children but unwillingly.

### *De-ontic modality*

‘You two must go, but I will not come.’ (91)

It was said by Saeed’s father when they were about to leave their home. It was supposed that they all would move towards their new destination but their father refused to go there. The logical reason behind this was mother of Saeed. His parents had a strong bond which was still strong even after her death. When Saeed asked his father that why he was not joining them towards new country and he replied that because his mother was here. Although Saeed’s mother was dead but she was still alive for his father. He thought his daily visit to her grave was a meeting on daily basis. So he was not ready to leave her alone there.

That's why he said to them that they could go and they must go but he would not come. Migration and war had separated their family into three parts which were far away from each other.

'They should explore the island as if they were tourists. Saeed laughed and agreed, and this was the first time he had laughed since they arrived.' (108)

It was after migration that one day Nadia asked him to explore the new places by pretending themselves as a tourist. After migration their relationship was not as good as it was before. Their bond was getting weak day by day. It was due to migration that they got plunged into difficulties and hurdles and forget to show concern for each other. But after that, it was for the first time they laughed together and before that they were living together but tensed and serious.

### *Implying and Assuming*

#### *Presuppositions*

'Rumors had begun to circulate of doors that could take you elsewhere, often to places far away, well removed from this death trap of a country.' (69)

It is a truth universally accepted that when war starts in any city or country there also exist some kind of doors. These doors are legal as well as illegal with military and non-military hold. In their city when war started there came news about the doors and the agents who were responsible to take the people to the other countries. The doors were both for rich and poor countries depending upon the availability of money and resources of people. This information was true in a sense because it happened everywhere when war started. These doors were made to take out people safely to other country where they could enjoy peace. In their city, only death was in surroundings and dead bodies were hanging from the walls. In this situation it was not possible to live and keep their identity alive in their own city. So people started to move from their home town.

'There was a possibility that agent had sold them out to the militants, a final afternoon of their lives.' (96)

Everything said, must have a background on the basis of which one can make perception. Many migrants like Saeed and Nadia were afraid first to go with the agents, because smuggling of human beings was also a common thing in those days. So they were very frightened to leave for another country totally unknown to them. For instance when Saeed and Nadia first went through the doors, the agent said to pass one by one because two persons couldn't go at the same time. Both of them were worried about losing each other. They were not ready to take a step first, but later on they decided to go and fortunately they reached safely. But such things exist in our surrounding which force people to think in that perspective because experience always speaks. Migration is all about fear and losing of loved ones.

### *Entailments*

'In their phones were antennas, and these antennas sniffed out an invisible world.' (35)

The two sentences require the truth of each other. In the days of war, the media was out of the reach and people who normally watched the news on television were not able to get information. But Saeed and Nadia had mobile phones and within them, antennas were fitted which gave them news about the current situation of the whole world. They could not even know the condition of their own city and all the information were coming through mobile phones. Mobile phones were important but with antennas they became the need of an hour. Usually it happens in the days of war, that media converge become suspended because they does not want to show the real and cruel faces to the world. So war not only force people to migrate but also suspend their lives and take them at zero.

'People vanished in those days and for the most part one never knew if they are dead or alive.' (66)

It was also due to non-availability of media and phone signals that people could not contact with each other. When Saeed stayed at Nadia's apartment he forgot his phone in car and his parents got worried about him. In this way people started to think negatively especially when there is war in the surrounding. Similarly at another time, Saeed tried to contact Nadia but there were no signals due to which they could not contact with each other. Saeed went to all those places where they used to meet. But not finding her there, increased his tension. So non-availability of media was also a trick used by the warriors to harass the people.

### *Implicatures*

'It dawned upon him that this was the head not of a goat but of a human being.' (82)

It was a time when Saeed's father noticed a group of boys playing with a ball. He stopped there and started watching the boys remembering his own days of youth. He was smiling by looking at them but suddenly he noticed that the thing, with which they were playing, was not actually a ball. It was like a head of goat or any other animal. But when he observed it keenly, he noticed that it was head of a human being. It showed the cruelty and sufferings which the natives were bearing. Because when dead were not buried they were tortured and humiliated in another way. Humans were killed and disrespected in this and a number of other ways like that. It had pictured the condition of humans during war and migration and how their identity was removed from the earth.

"We murder from our lives those we leave behind."(94), was a philosophy of migration which was about the mindset of migrants who were talking about the murder of left-over people in migration. Like Nadia and Saeed who left their home behind and migrated to other country. Saeed's father was also left behind

and they were thinking like that they had murdered their lovely things in migration. Migration actually made the hearts as strong as a stone which has to bear many hardships even leaving your families. It was an admitted fact, the things which we leave behind during migration we could not find them back. If they were human or inhuman things. Human beings were mostly killed in such situations while the goods left had been stolen by the criminals. So when a person migrated from his home place, symbolically he had to murder everything which was loved by him once.

“Geography is destiny; respond the historians’ (09) meant the political, social and economic situation of any country respond to the geographical structure of that place. The geography determined the history of that place. In this novel the geographical situation of the countries lead to the future historians to write about the situations of war and terror. It also helped them to talk about the pre and post war circumstances. It came under the category of position of subjectivity and political subjectivity in which when the identity formation occurred for the subject it would give rise to social, political and economic unrest. When such type of situation occur the whole geographical structure of a country changed and it referred to the historians to write about the new historical achievements.

‘A normal door they said could become a special door’ (69-70) has a relational transitivity with the migrants. The doors which were actually the illegal paths towards the other countries, considered so special because they were in control of powerful hands. The people who owned such doors were in contacts with the international broadcasting agencies who were their guides. They were taking money from people and sending them to the countries which were their destination. Migrant people were giving money which they demanded because in those days money was not important for people although their lives were most important for them.

### ***Presenting Others’ speech and thought:***

It comes under the category of ideational metafunction as well as textual metafunctions. Because in this tool we have thought, in which the textual construction along with the ideology of the author is presented. Thought is a textual metafunction of language. On the other hand speech comes under ideational metafunction in which a reader gives his perception of how the author has given his ideas and thoughts regarding his ideologies.

### ***Speech***

‘If they caught her she would get a scolding, or occasionally a slap on the back of her head.’(17)

A thought of the author in which he had described a typical thought of the society. It had pointed towards the time when Nadia was a child who was a keen lover and observer of art. But she was not permitted to learn that subject as her major field. When she was found reading that subject she often had to bear scolding from parents as well as her teachers. It was a thought which author has conveyed through Nadia’s childhood time. In our society it has been a trend that parents always force their children to choose a field of their choice. They do not

care for the interest and consent of their child but they only want to fulfill their wishes. Such a type of decisions made the children passive learners because things never happened according to their taste. There was another condition, in such a type of environment, children often become rude, unethical and bold. Might be possible that later on the decision taken by Nadia, to leave her home and become an independent woman, was due to that sort of environment which made her so. Such incidents have been common in our surroundings. Because every human being born with his or her own identity could be free enough to take decision for their own life. They always had a specific place in a society but when someone wanted to snatch that identity from them they would struggle to maintain it. Such an act was taken by Nadia who tried to make her own identity in the society by keeping herself independent without being ordered by someone.

‘They had their own place, but they have to know their place.’(28)

Everyone had different thought patterns about the patriotism and love of their country. But author had shown his perspective through Saeed in the novel. When Saeed noticed Filipino in his city, he got disturbed by their presence. He asked Nadia they had their own country and a separate setup. They had a government of their own which consists of their own people then why they were living here. They should go to their own place and must know about their right destination. Because according to him that was not their real destination. As author had written this in background of war so it shows that how the outsiders had to face difficulties in the host countries. Like Filipinos and many migrants of the other countries had to bear words of people like that of Saeed.

‘Our country was poor. We didn’t feel we had as much to lose.’ (162)

Another thought of author which was conveyed through Nadia. In this sentence he had compared the conditions of developed and under developed countries. Nadia said that when migrants moved towards the poor countries they had to face the difficult situations. Because in such countries, the economical condition already faced bad situations so they were not in a position to give anything to the newly migrated people. Because they could not even fulfill all the needs of their own people. Sometimes to complete even the basic needs of their masses, they had to take loan from the developed countries. So migrants never affect the economy of such countries. On the other hand when migrants came to settle in the developed countries their economy was automatically affected. Because they had to give new accommodations and jobs as well, to the newly migrated people. They had to give them food and shelter as well unless until they become able to fulfill their needs on their own. So they had to work more and more to stable their finances as well as to provide all the facilities to the people of their country whether they were migrants or natives. So Nadia had given thought of author who was of the opinion that migrants affect the economy of developed countries more as compared to the poor of undeveloped countries. It also shows that how those migrants who could not afford to go to developed countries, had to face problems in the less developed countries where the basic facilities were not even provided to them.

### *Thought*

‘We murder from our lives those, we leave behind.’(94)

An author's view point in which he had presented a picture of those people who migrate from their homeland to another country during migration. Because when they leave their country, they had to leave not only home but all the relationships and the affiliations which were made with that country. This thought was described well in the novel like when Nadia and Saeed migrate, they left their father behind. They remained no more in contact with him and they only got news of his death and nothing else. So in migration we had to leave each and everything behind. Whatever we left, remains there and never come back. While living abroad a person can maximum attend the funerals of their loved ones but some people cannot even attend them as well. So we had to forget everything which we left in our country because it never comes with us. What we take with us are only memories and nothing more. So migrants have to feel a lot of traumatic situations in order to keep their identity and position in a society.

‘So men don't fuck with me.’(16)

A common thing happened in our society, all around us. It had a relation back to the wearing of robe by Nadia. Saeed was very confused that Nadia only wears a black robe but she never offered prayers nor she got very close to her religion. To know about the matter Saeed once asked Nadia, about wearing that black robe. She replied that she wear that robe so that no men can rape her. It was a true thing presented here through Nadia because she was living as an independent girl. It is a matter of fact that girls alone are not much safe and those who are jobians had to work in field with men. So it was to protect themselves in order to keep their character transparent like glass. Nadia also used to wear it because of these things as it worked as a protection against all that. So it was not easy for the girls to keep their identity as an independent being in a society where men are dominant. So woman had to bear the identity crisis in whatever the field they work.

‘A normal door could become a special door.’ (70)

Author was of the view that all the doors in those days were special doors. A normal door was also treated like a special one because these doors were occupied by the agents of different agencies. They took the responsibility of sending people safely to another country where they can live in peaceful atmosphere. The agents took the doors as a business as they demanded a high amount of money from the migrants. People had no other chance but to leave the country, so they were paying the demanded money. Same was happened with Saeed and Nadia as they paid a great amount of money and they did not even argue with the agent to reduce the amount. Because everyone was there to save his life and the money was not more important for them. The agents took benefit of their helplessness and demanded the money according to the party. The stronger the party was, the more amounts was demanded by them. Saeed was once robbed when a person known by him, meet somewhere and assured

him to take them to a good place. Saeed gave him money but he never came back. So as migrants were already leaving their hometowns with a heavy heart, they had to bear all these sufferings as well. So identity construction and migration were not easy phenomenon to achieve but one has to give his everything to achieve the goal.

### *Negating*

Negation is a technique which highlights the two points which are closely connected to each other. It also evoke reality with negative and positive both the perspectives (Jefferies, 2016, p, 165). It is an inter-personal meta-function. 'In a city swollen by refugees but still mostly at peace or at least not yet openly at war.'

In this sentence the word refugee was taken by almost all the readers, with a common meaning. The meaning of this word is the number of people who migrate from one city to another city for settlement. Normally readers take this kind of meaning because it is commonly known in dictionary. With reference to the perspective of migration narrative this word has actually the ideology of the author. The negation is a tool which helps us to differentiate between the thinking of an author and a reader and how they contrast with each other. The ideas actually negate the ideas and views of each other. In this sentence, when a common reader goes through it he takes a refugee as a migrant who comes to settle from one place to another. But the author has something else in his mind. This ideology of refugee is cleared from the whole perspective through which the writer has written this piece of novel. But at the same time the most famous line of the novel, 'We are all migrants through time', actually supports the idea given by the author. It shows that the main idea of the author lies in the ideology that all human beings are migrants throughout the time which involve personal migration as well as the migration of time. The ideologies of authors are hidden in their works, but readers cannot reach the point of their understanding which produces many ambiguities in their minds. Such non-clarification of the concepts gives rise to the debates in which both the parties try to support their ideas. It is also a writing technique and to reach at their point of view there is a need of an in-depth analysis for the writing of that author which can minimize the effect of negation.

'Nadia did have several moments of questioning whether she had done the right thing. But she didn't change her mind.'(23)

It is a contrast within the personality of Nadia because her thinking was not the same. When she went to her apartment with Saeed, she thought about her decision time and again in the way before reaching the destination. She was confused whether she has taken a right decision or not. She has negated the societal norms as well as she has broken the traditional aspect of a society and a culture. Because the kind of society in which she was living, does not allow a woman to invite a man at home and to have illegal relationship with him. She was facing contrast in her way of thinking and she was as well negating from the norms of society. Because she was going against the standards set by the society. Social identity in this case is related to her identity as an independent

girl that how she maintain it and follow the rule of society. But she does not follow the rules and her identity was at stake but it was between both of them, and her character was not exposed before anybody else.

‘Militants were well known to have sympathizers within.’(48)

An opposite condition set by the author in the novel where he is negating his own views. Because on one side he has described the militants as those who had taken over the city and the stock exchange to harass the residents. But on the other side he is presenting another face of the militants that some of them were good at heart. Those militants who imposed emergency over the whole city, war and bloodshed was everywhere in the city. Thousands of people were shot down to death and even they were not given a burial. They were not allowed to go and bury dead bodies of their loved ones in the graveyard. Bad smell was coming out of those dead bodies but they hanged them on the walls instead of burying them. That was the cruel picture of militants but author has also presented them as good souls. The militants were the war initiators who forced the natives to migrate from their country by creating tough situations for them. They were responsible for people, leaving their homes and loved ones.

This research work has highlighted the linguistic choices which show the migration narrative in the text, problems faced by migrants, situation of war and terror and the circumstances lead to the social identity crisis. There are many research works, already done on this novel. These research works include the phenomenon of migration and hegemony, refugee crisis, refugees as a global issue and transnationalism, mapping diaspora, psychological dimensions of migrants, homelessness and new dimensions in migration. These researches are done by taking a single aspect from the novel and based on qualitative study only. These works do not include the study from stylistic or linguistic perspective, by counting figures and their frequency and then analyzing the terms by the perspective of main topic. Machado (2014) has worked on ‘Laclau and Mouffe's Theory of Discourse and Hegemony: a Possible Approach to Law and its Integrity’ and Ibrahim (2010) in “Critical Stylistic Analysis of Sherko Beka’s Snow” has used Jefferies Critical Stylistics and Kovecses’s version of Lakof and Johnson’s conceptual metaphor approach. Agrawal (2019) in “Mapping Diaspora at the crossroads: Reading Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West” attempts to have an understanding of the new transnational space and sensibility as transformation, human migration and nativism which are discussed as the key features of Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West and Mir (2018) in “Global Refugee Crisis: A Study of Mohsin Hamid’s novel Exit West” has encapsulated different dimensions and investigates various facts like politics and economical resulting in migration. Like this many researchers have worked on these issues especially war, migration and refugee crisis using these theories. But this research study is different from those works because first of all it is based upon qualitative as well as quantitative study.

Five tools are taken from textual conceptual function from critical stylistics. These tools of critical stylistics are divided in to their linguistic realizations to highlight the incidents associated with the migration and migrant characters. These linguistic choices show the identity construction highlighting the



phenomenon of migration and the migrant in the novel. These are taken by MS excel in order to know the percentage and the frequency of linguistic choices in the text. The data taken in both the questions is interpreted by Political Discourse theory like hegemony, power and subjectivity etc. It helps the reader to know about the nature of incidents according to different concepts through which the analysis is done. This type of research work has never been done on this text and it is a new dimension of research being done on this novel. This work is helpful for the readers to know about the linguistic elements present in the novel and an in-depth analysis of all the linguistic choices found under textual conceptual function. It will help to understand the novel in detail and to know about different themes present in the text. In previous researches there were many aspects discussed but in this research all the aspects are discussed in detail including migration, identity crisis, social spheres and war or terror. The linguistic choices are taken with respect to the migration narrative and social identity construction, but the future researchers can take other dimensions and perspectives from the text to elaborate them.

**Descriptive Statistical Analysis of Tools**

<b>Descriptive statistical data of Implying and Assuming</b>		
Presuppositions	80	68.38
Entailments	21	2.80
Implicatures	183	1.57

<b>Descriptive Statistics of Negating</b>		
Negating	10	5.49

<b>Descriptive Statistics of Hypothesizing</b>		
Epistemic	117	15.58
Deontic	25	3.33
Bulomaic	36	4.79

<b>Descriptive Statistics of Speech and Thought</b>		
Speech	44	89.80
Thought	90	84.91

<b>Descriptive Statistics of time/space/society</b>		
Deontic	34	1.83
Other space builders	13	0.97

**CONCLUSION:**

Through language choices that fall under the category of different critical stylistics tools, this study demonstrated the social identity creation of migrant characters in the migration story. In terms of gathering and analyzing data from the text, the Critical Stylistics (2010) theory is employed, while the Political Discourse theory (2010) is used to interpret the acquired data. These linguistic features depicted migrants' sorrow in the shape of words and phrases that

underline the challenges they encounter in maintaining and preserving their identity. This research aids in understanding migration concerns and provides a thorough examination of the new from a migration standpoint. The present study examines the identity construction at societal level from a perspective of migration. The data is collected by Jefferies (2010) Critical Stylistics. Laclau and Mouffes' (2010) Political Discourse Theory is used for interpreting the data. Similar investigations can be adapted to the ideology of war and social class in Exit West (2017) from a Critical Discourse analysis perspective or from a pragmatic perspective. Studies may also focus on revealing the ideologies based on other concepts presented in his novels such as socio-political issues. Other studies may compare linguistic strategies used by different authors to present war and/or social class. So, the studies may also compare the representation of ideologies by different authors of other literary works cross culturally.

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