



Exploring the Portrayal of Diasporic World in the “Exit West” by Mohsin Hamid: A discourse-based Study

Iffat Zara^a, Tazanfal Tehseem^b

^a M. Phil Scholar, University of Sargodha, Pakistan.

^b Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Sargodha, Pakistan.

Corresponding author’s email: iffatzara4602@gmail.com

Received: 15 January 2023, **Published:** 21 March 2023

Abstract:

This study is an attempt to explore that discourse is a practice of social patterns and is not freely produced and that how culture embedded in a discourse produces power relations. The study is based on a theoretical framework of *Cultural Approach to CDA* (CCDA) (Nuri, 2012), a new aspect of CDA. The researchers analyze the text of novel *Exit West* (2017) focusing on three variables: Gender, Racial Discrimination, and External and Internal patterns of the human mind. CCDA (2012) focuses discourse as a byproduct of social practices and these practices are shaped by the surrounding culture. In the analysis, our main focus is on analysis of language of the society, the meanings of the language used, and in what sense they are used by the users. The researchers concentrate on figurative language and other linguistic devices used by the writer in the selected text. By keeping in view, the research questions, the data comprises on 12 passages from the novel *Exit West*. These twelve passages are analyzed at three levels: description of the text, socio-cultural interpretation and analysis of the linguistic choices. By focusing on the research variables, the researcher has found out the cultural codes that are working behind the text. The research is very significant as this study will open up the way for CCDA application on other similar literary works. It is also significant as this novel is not yet explored from the perspective of CCDA.

Keywords:

Cultural Critical Discourse Analysis, Cultural Codes, Linguistic Choices.

DOI Number: [10.47067/jlcc.v5i1.162](https://doi.org/10.47067/jlcc.v5i1.162)

© 2023 The authors. Published by SPCRD Global publishing. This is an open access article under the Creative Commons Attributions-NonCommercial 4.0

Introduction:

This research will help the readers to understand how the researchers have traced out the abuses of power in Hamid's novel *Exit West* (2017) by using Cultural Approach to CDA (2012) as an approach. The study aims at exploring the cultural codes used in the selected text *Exit West*(2017) of Mohsin Hamid and to highlight the role of culture in the formation of immigrants thinking and surrounding world around them and that how cultural codes can be the cause of societal immoralities.

Migration is considered as one of the major issues of 21st century. When people migrate, there is always a difference between the ideology of the native land and that of the migrated land which shows that culture play vital role in shaping the characteristics of the individuals. This study analyzes the impact of culture in the formation of the identity of the characters and how cultural values which sometime cause reproduction of unequal power relations.

Mohsin Hamid is a British Pakistani author and writer of the novel *Exit West* (2017). Hamid received several literary awards for his fiction that portray the realistic picture of our society with great technicality.

Hamid, being a migrant, himself has picked up the theme of migration and the realities associated with it in *Exit West* (2017). Despite the fact that the work has won several literary honors, there has been very little research on its relevance in the study of impact of culture in formation of society. As a result, by selecting this novel as the subject of this inquiry, this work also fills a vacuum in the area of literary studies. Hamid narrates the story of two migrant lovers in *Exit West*. Nadia and Saeed, who flee their anonymous homeland in the middle of a civil conflict. The protagonists are immediately transferred from one location to another by a system of magical black doors. As the protagonists migrate through these doors, the novel reflects on the impact of culture in the depiction of its major characters.

Nuri's theory of CCDA (2012) has been chosen to understand the impact of culture in the novel *Exit West* (2017). This research explores the hardships faced by immigrants, depicted in the novel *Exit West* (2017) and also highlights the fact that how culture plays a significant role in shaping mind, relationships and personalities of immigrants. This theory examines how a language aids in understanding of cultural codes that cause discrimination. CCDA acts as a pragmatic device which accommodates a better understanding of the text by examining the ways in which symbols and figurative language reflects the culture in the text.

There are three major research variables on which my research stands and they are racial discrimination; People living in different parts of the world discriminate against one another on the basis of race, Gender discrimination; that considers males physically intense and considers females as mentally delicate or frail and Internal and External pattern of characters; Immigrants are challenge physically; which influences immigrants outward (social structure) and also involves internal challenges (psychological trauma).

Problem Statement:

To make people understand that how culture influence thinking and behavior of people and how sometimes cultural bias generate social evils in the society.

Research Questions:

The following research questions are explored in this paper:

- How cultural exploitation is revealed in "Exit West"?
- How are specific linguistic choices made to show the impact of culture in terms of gender, race, and the shaping of external and internal patterns of characters?

Significance of Research:

This study is significant because it highlights the powerful impact of culture and evils produced by these cultural norms. And shows that text hold much more than what one read from the text surface. This research highlights the work of our indigenous writer; Mohsin Hamid in the world of English Literature. Findings of research are relevant to the people till date because the core of society has been discussed.

Literature Review:

Many researchers have explored the novel from different perspectives using different approaches and tools. Farooq, M. et al. (2022) by using framework of Kenneth Burke's dramatism theory (1950) and content analysis is adopted as methodology. The researchers have analysed the difference between the changes that both of the Protagonist Changez and Saeed face at the end of the novel. The research concludes that Hamid's portrayal of Saeed is more realistic and has universal appeal.

Mckee, E. (2022) in her research by using textual analysis as research methodology has compared Sara's Ana Jurik and Hamid's Saeed. The main argument of the research is the importance of social status in warlike situation. In this research the researcher has compared the experience and living traumatic conditions of the both protagonist and concluded the significant role of wealth distribution on immigrant's living experiences.

Liaqat, Q. (2022) has analysed the narrative technique symbols and metaphors and analysed the ugly realities of relocation. The main argument of research is the poor living condition and the hardship that are faced by migrants the research has used deconstructive study and stylistic analysis as methodology.

Mehmood, S. et al. (2021) have used a framework of Karen Horney (1952) and describe describe the portrait of Nadia in the novel Exit West. The research concludes that Nadia character is portrayed as a strong lady who is struggling in all aspects of life and she has better neurotic understanding of herself.

Hamid, M., Mir, S. et al. (2021) in their research by applying Cathy's traumatic theory (1996) and using textual analysis as research methodology have analyzed the impact of physical and psychological trauma on major characters and on their relationships. This research highlights experiences and healing of characters from war situations.

In their research, Wahla, M., & Asif, S. (2020) examine gender behavior. In this research, the researcher has used the theoretical ideas from Butler's Gender Trouble (1999) and Bodies That Matter (2003). In this research, the researcher has discussed that the central characters, Saeed and Nadia, in their native country were bound by their environment and culture of fulfilling

particular gender roles and there is a very significant role of religion and ethnicity in promoting the prevailing gender discourses in the minds of the migrants. However, as they migrated, there was a transformation in their gender role as well.

Rivaldy, Budiman, M., & Tambunan. (2020) have analyzed the importance of the issue of identity and that what is the meaning of identity and homeland for the people of the Diasporic world by using three theories, namely; Hall's theory of identity (1990), Brah's "Homing Desire" (1996), and Bhabha's "Unhomely" (1992, 1994). A close textual analysis of two novels "Home fire"(2017) and "Exit West"(2017) is done. The discussion of the research concludes that both novels represent heterogeneity within the home and identity construction of the Muslim Diaspora.

Kayani, T., Mubarik, M., & Butt, H. M. (2020) have analyzed the changes in the portrayal of female characters by Pakistani writers. Betty Friedan's theory of Feminine Mystique (1963) has applied to analyze the novel *Exit west* (2017). They have explored that how liberal ideology put its impact on woman and that how Hamid portrayed Nadia not as a typical household woman but she is portrayed as a liberal woman who stand against the patriarchal society for her basic rights.

Sadiq, N. (2020) has explored two significant issues; subjectivity and power dominance in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* by applying the Foucault theory of the construction of subject through genealogy (1977). This research finds out that the political conditions and discourse of that particular area and their surroundings are the primary cause of the surveillance of the subjects.

Perfect, M. (2019) made a detailed analysis of characters of Salman Rushdie's fiction (1982) and Hamid's novel (2017) focusing on all the other significant aspects of their lives, e.g., their physical appearance, surrounding environment and people around them and their relationship by keeping a common point of magical realism. The researcher has concluded that both of these characters are portrayed as they are living in the situations of modern world.

Sing, J. (2019), in his research, by using the methodology of textual analysis, highlights the effects of migration on domains like sociocultural conditions, geopolitical positions and political conditions of the neighboring countries. The other main focus of the research is to explore the experience of the migrants that how they are challenged not only physically but also mentally. The study also focuses on the reasons behind differences between migrant and natives.

In his research, Baglama, S.H.(2019)the researcher has analyzed the text at a linguistic level by using the dichotomous construction of them and us. This study highlights the social, cultural and economic difficulties that migrants face in the dominant system of western countries.

Manzoor, A. (2018) in his article has discussed the issue of refugee crisis portrayed in *Exit West* (2017). The researcher by using textual analysis as research methodology has argued that unnamed city universalizes the condition of city and refugees to the situation of present world.

Pequena, A. J. (2017) examines how the migrant female protagonist represents these concepts, which ultimately foils the assertive and conventional meaning of home and identity. The research proposed that the migrant's women comparative to men have different concepts of home and identity.

Recommendation for further studies:

This research provide room for future researches because it shares area of general interest. Different methodologies can be adopted to explore this novel. This novel can serve great interest if we explore it as a diaspora work by doing its case study with other diasporic novels.

Research Methodology:

I have used textual analysis as a tool in the backdrop of cultural approach to CDA given by Gavriely Nuri (2012) to analyses text. The research is qualitative in nature. The research is focused on the analysis and interpretation of texts by keeping together their social and cultural background.

According to Gavriely Nuri theory of cultural critical discourse analysis:

- "No text is independent of its cultural contexts" (Nuri, 2012, p. 77-85). So, for CCDA text always depends upon the historical and present surroundings
- "Rather than the deconstruction of linguistic structures, the CCDA shall aim to uncover the cultural and cross-cultural codes connected with discourse". (Nuri, 2012, p. 77-85)
- "The CCDA used tools and methodologies taken from the discipline of cultural studies, such as the heuristics of decoding cultural codes"(Nuri,2012, p. 77-85) patterns used in any text but its main job is to focus on cultural strategies interwoven in the text.
- "Cross-cultural or multicultural perspectives facilitate the identification of unique elements belonging to a specific culture code and thus contribute to the process of decoding cultural codes". (Nuri, 2012, p. 77-85)
- "Decoding cultural codes demands not only intrinsic familiarity with a community's language, culture and history. It also needs a special awareness toward the idea that sometimes social and historical creation is treated as natural event or as the inevitable outcome of natural characteristics". (Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)
- "The CCDA demonstrate that as far as the rhetoric power is concerned, there is no difference between small and large communities". (Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)
- "The CCDA seeks to expose the global dictionary of power and manipulation by focusing on specific metaphors and idioms in the text". (Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)
- "CCDA analyzes verbal and non-verbal practices (e. g visual practices as well as cultural sites) alike. Because it does not focus on the study of linguistic structures only". (Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)
- "CCDA analyzes factual and fictional discourses alike, assuming that a fictional story can also act as a repository for cultural codes, and can be implicated in the reproduction of power abuse just like a political speech can". (Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)

These theoretical principles of Nuri (2012) have been used to analyze *Exit West* (2017) with the view to find out the discrimination in term of gender and race and impact of culture on internal and external pattern of the characters.

It is very important to know that how CCDA works and analyze a particular community's cultural codes. Three analytical stages of CCDA are stated as:

- "CCDA focuses on one or more specific discursive strategies. (Nuri, 2012, p. 77-85)
- "CCDA exposes and decodes the cultural codes that are triggered by these discursive strategies."(Nuri, 2012, p. 77-85)
- "CCDA shows how the encounter between discursive strategies and cultural codes mutually contributes to reproducing abuses of power."(Nuri,2012, p. 77-85)

Data Analysis:

Text no 1:

"If you don't pray, he said lowering his voice, why do you wear it? ... She smiled. Took a sip. And spoke, the lower half of her face obscured by her cup. So, men don't fuck with me, she said." (Hamid,2017, p. 15&16)

This given passage is a conversation between Nadia and Saeed when they had their first coffee together. Saeed asked her that if she is not a religious person than what is the reason that she wear black robe, that how a person can be conservative and modern at the same time. This question shows the curiosity of Saeed regarding the personality of Nadia. Nadia in her reply gives the reason and says that she wears a black robe, a symbol of religious reverence as a outward symbol for the man of the society to stay away from her. It simply portrays her helplessness in a patriarchal society.

The given passage evidently shows that how cultural values restrict women of the society to move according to their own free will. These lines show that how Nadia is forced to act in a certain way and women either directly or indirectly are forced to make certain choices in their life. In male dominating society males consider themselves free to tease, judge and dominate on any women and women on the other hand have to transform themselves accordingly. In patriarchal society man are not at all blamed for their mistakes and the blame is conveniently put on women, as in the novel. Nadia wear robe to save herself from men. She does not have religious inclinations; social norms restrict her not to act freely but according to the male members of the society.

The choice of lexis is specialized in a sense it shows the strong feelings of the Nadia to show that how the societal pressure make her to adopt things contrary to her choice. The writer has used the word "obscured" to show that Nadia do not want to face Saeed directly and it might suggest that may be Saeed is also a man of that very particular society so she hesitates from him. If we look at the answer given by her, the selection of indirect sentence by the writer lays stress on the reason that she gives. To express negative physical action of males towards her harsh words like "fuck" is used. It shows that she is very well aware about the mindset of the men of the society

Text 2:

"Nadia's mother and sister were quite women and her father a man who tried to be quiet, thinking this a virtue, but who nonetheless came to a boil easily and

often where Nadia was concerned. Her constant questioning and growing irreverence in matters of faith upset and frightened him.” (Hamid,2017, p. 17&18)

Textual Context:

Nadia, unlike her mother and sister, who have always accepted their family’s patriarchal attitude and outwardly religious way of life, attempts to question the validity of such believe. As a result, she regularly clashes with her father, who is clearly the patriarchal figure in their household. Nadia attempts to resist patriarchy and express her inner personality. It is demonstrated by the fact that she is frequently the cause of her father's rage and worry. Nadia’s father is imposing religion on her that suffocates her sense of individuality and choice. Nadia is a modern lady, in sharp comparison to her devotedly religious family members.

These clauses are loaded with gender discrimination as we can see that the ideal woman is portrayed as a quite lady which indirectly suggest that such a woman who just simply follow the order of the males of the society are appreciated as modest women. Here we can see that females sometime become the victim of mortification. And when a women try to raise from the boundaries set by patriarchal society they are snubbed by the males of the society.

The author has tries to throw light on the power relations knitted in the text that how good women are described by using adjective like quite. The sentence is made complex by adjoining simple sentences having complete sense. The questioning of females is not welcome in the patriarchal society the writer has used words with negative connotation like “upset” and “frightening”, both these adjectives show the response of male dominating society towards the female who has the ability to think critically.

Text 3:

“Nadia announced, to her family’s utter horror, and to her own surprise for she had not planned to say it, that she was moving out on her own, an unmarried woman, the break involved hard words on all sides, from her father, from her mother, even more so from her own sister and perhaps most of all from Nadia herself.” (Hamid,2017, p.18)

In Nadia’s family home, people are staunch believers of religious traditions and strictly follow these traditions, they have stifling patriarchal that is the root cause behind her decision of leaving her home. Nadia to Being a woman in a patriarchal society she is always deprived of her basic right to live a life of her own choice. In patriarchal society women are suppressed in such a way that if they take stand for their own basic rights they feel that as if they are doing something wrong that is why when Nadia announced her decision she herself feel very frightened and the most severe reaction was not from her father but from her own sister, a woman of modern century who should understand and appreciate her decision but she did not because of her suppressed thoughts in male dominating society.

In our society women are considered as subordinate creatures who are just supposed to follow the instructions given by male members of society. If a woman wants to take a stand for herself she is supposed to face the harsh reaction from the males of the society. The text depicts the dark picture of those societies that suppressed females by considering them not capable of living a free life. The patriarchal society make its female members to think according to the

norms and traditions of the society and this is what writer has also portrayed in the text that when Nadia takes a decision to live an independent life she not only face resistance from her father who is depicting the picture of male of the society but also from her mother and sister who are representative of females of the patriarchal society. Her decision is strickly opposed from all of the members of her family and they were shocked at her decision and Nadia herself was surprised at her own powerful decision.

The selection of words like “utter horror”, “surprise”, “perhaps” shows the reaction that is not at all welcoming on the decision that Nadia takes. When Nadia announces her decision she face “hard words on all sides” the selection of word “all side” in the sentence shows that whenever woman take decision she is opposed by whole society. The use of adjective “unmarried” before woman shows that how in our society women are categorized in to two types married; who is supposed to obey her husband and other one is unmarried; who is supposed to obey her father and are not allowed to take their own decision.

Text no 4:

“[...] there was a burly man at the red light of a deserted late- night intersection who turned to Nadia and greeted her, when she ignored him, began to swear at her, saying only a whore would drive a motorcycle [...] swearing with such ferocity that she thought he might attack her [.....]” (Hamid, 2017, p. 39)

This passage portrays females' expected behavior and actions in a society that are male attributed and make a laborious life for women. Whether a man knows a by passer woman or not, he has a right to talk to her. Nadia encountered a burly man in these lines, who firstly greeted her to grab her attention, but he got annoyed when she ignored him. The vital point is that Nadia was riding her motorcycle, and it's exclusively against the male-oriented society, so how can a male endure this view or take it as a positive gesture of progress of females' status. When he got annoyed, he called her a whore, apparently due to her motorcycle, but was Nadia's vibrant personality that irritated him the most.

This passage shows the predominant culture of women's humiliation in the society. In this line, "a whore would drive a motorcycle" the writer has given the idea of female status that in the male society consider progressive and open-minded women while taking women merely as a source of sexual pleasure. In another line, 'he might attack her' that's also the male-oriented aspect. If a woman ignores males' perverted attitudes, they will get crushed and take it as ego hurt and take revenge from women. Generally, this passage portrays the idea of expected gender roles and attitudes for females in society. While it also explains the social roles of the male members of society that attribute to oppress and subjugate women.

The writer has used the adjective ‘burly’ to describe the man who was following Nadia shows that how in such conservative environment men were living life of their own choice. When Nadia ignored him, he called her “whore” he uses word whore which has negative connotation used for characterless lady who prostitutes her body, simply for girl who ignored him because of his male ego. Her driving of bike symbolizes her stand for equality so he abused it.

Text no 5

The fury of those nativists advocating wholesale slaughter was what struck Nadia, most and it struck her because it seemed so familiar, so much like the fury of the militants in her own city. (Hamid, 2017, p. 156)

Nadia and Saeed started living in London after their migration. The reason of leaving their own land was to keep themselves safe. Here, in London, Emigrants were living on a separate land called "Dark London". And the natives were living in "Light London". The reason of them living in separate place was that the natives did not want the emigrants to live with them. So, the natives, with the help of government, arranged a force to attack Emigrants. They were blindly attacking innocent people who were unarmed. The immigrants were just seeking for shelter just to protect their lives. This act of brutality disturbs Nadia because all of this was done in their own city by the Army officers. The same act of killing innocent people was done there. And the natives of London were doing the same. They were not accepting the emigrants even the emigrants were causing no harm to the natives. But it was their mindset that they will not allow outsiders to come and live in their homeland.

The act of killing innocent people by the natives shows that there is no acceptance in their society. They have made up their minds that no other person can be a part of their society. Even the discrimination of the names of land "Dark London " in which emigrants were living and "Light London " where natives were living. These names are given on the basis of masters, the land owners and the outsiders. Here, the writer shows the struggle of a man to survive in a society. The basic right of a person is to live and it should be given to him but these societies and cultures and traditions are the cause of conflicts. It causes nothing but brutality, hatred, bloodshed. Saeed and Nadia moved to another city to avoid getting killed innocently and when they have arrived to a new place, they face the same circumstances i.e., the unequal fights between natives and emigrants, killing innocent people, not letting them to live in their land and so on.

Hamid has used the literary device of flashback. As the current situation in host land "reminded" Nadia of the massive killing at her homeland. The comparison made between fury of natives and fury of militants by the writer shows the intensity of hatred on the basis of race and sects. The word "wholesale slaughter" is used it is a negative connotation used to refer violent, savage and brutal killing on larger scale which shows that how the life of immigrants was of no value in eyes of natives that shows the selfish and cruel nature of natives.

Text no 6:

"Every day a flight of fighter aircraft would streak through the sky, screaming a reminder to the people of dark London of the technological superiority of their opponents, of the government and nativists forces." (Hamid, 2017, p. 150)

In this passage, the author depicts the situation of immigrants living in London. The natives plan strategies against the immigrants and they get full support of their governments. They construct a force with the assistance of government and make that force work against the immigrants. Natives threaten the immigrants and start to cut off their electricity, food and water supply. Every day, through the flight of fighter plane the native and government force

reminded the immigrants that they are inferior to them. Also, they warn the immigrants to move out of their land otherwise they will make them pay for it by depriving them off the basic human needs for survival.

The author highlights racial discrimination faced by the immigrants. He explains that the natives have privilege because from the start they have been living in that country. Natives conclude that they have all the rights over the resources of their country and it is their will whether to share those resources or not, with other people i.e., immigrants. In addition to this, they also rule over the immigrants on the basis of technology. The fact that government helps natives in carrying on these wicked deeds shows that both the government and natives possess immense hatred towards immigrants. Government being the ruling power does not educate its people to have some sympathy for immigrants; instead, it instigates the natives by helping them. This also says a lot about their inhumane manner. The horrific attitude of natives toward immigrants also highlights the fact that although they live in a rich developed country but still they are narrow-minded people not being ready to accept the poor and helpless.

The word “Screaming” is used, this word is picked carefully by Hamid as it is used to induce fear in the listeners which show the pressure that natives put on the immigrants. The choice of “dark London” is made to show immigrant’s inferiority comparative to the natives. The writer has very specifically mentioned “superiority” of natives over immigrants which shows that natives are using these technologies to create fear among immigrants and they are not superior to immigrants in any other case.

Text no 7:

“Children who climbed and played among the bough, like little monkeys, not because to be dark is to be monkey-like, though that has been and was being and will long be slurred ...” (Hamid, 2017, p. 136)

This description is given by writer in this the writer describes a scene where children are playing in the garden. These children are enjoying the nature free from the concept that either that land belongs to them or not, here we can say that might with the help of children writer is portraying the basic nature of human. Then the writer further compares these children with little monkeys and the reason for this discrimination is their dark skin colour.

The given passage throws light on the discrimination on the basis of colour and writer make it more clear for the readers by comparing the children with little monkeys. One can observe how social norms and cultural codes cause to exercise the discrimination in the society. Here the writer first makes a comparison between children and monkeys and he says that he is comparing them with monkeys not only because they have dark skin colour though it is the reason as well shows the discrimination and the inhuman attitude of people toward people with dark skin colour. It suggests the socio-cultural environment around Saeed. It is evident that society distinguished people based on their skin colour. It does not bother what a person is all about. The author has highlighted the main issue between them that is class difference.

The writer has used figurative language to make his idea clearer. He uses simile in which he compares children climbing on tree with little monkeys. Usually, monkeys are compared to child for their playfulness but here it is used in a negative connotation as writer himself justifies

the comparison by saying that it is not because of their dark skin colour “though that has been” shows that Saeed either consciously or unconsciously discriminate people on the basis of their skin colour because of cultural codes that are existing in his surroundings.

Text no 8:

“From dark London Saeed and Nadia wondered what life must be like in light London, where they imagined people dined in elegant restaurants and rode in shiny black cabs ... were free to journey about as they pleased. In dark London, rubbish accrued, uncollected, and underground stations were sealed” (Hamid,2017, p. 56)

In this passage, the author describes that Nadia and Saeed migrate towards London through the magical doors. After reaching London, they realize that this part of the city is segregated from the other areas and only the immigrants reside in that place. The author uses the term dark London for part of the city where immigrants live and light London for the areas inhabited by native people. Initially, they are of the view that London is a place where people live a wealthy and prosperous life but later on their perspective changes when they witness the reality. They observe that natives and immigrants have comparatively different quality of life.

Through these lines, the author creates a comparison between the natives and immigrants living on the same land. He draws attention towards the fact that although the immigrants and the natives are living in the same city, still they both face a different kind of treatment. Natives are among those who avail all the opportunities whereas the immigrants are deprived of all favors and they depend upon natives for their basic needs. The reality unfolds in front of Nadia and Saeed when they witness with their own eyes, that the people are treated completely opposite from what they imagined. Imagination is often contrary to the reality and this can be seen in the given passage of the novel. The natives in London crush all the hopes which immigrants carry with them when they enter the foreign land. It simply highlights the cruel behavior towards migrants by metaphorically dividing London in light London and dark London.

The choice of word to make a comparison between “Dark London” and “Light London” is consciously used by writer to show the discrimination between native and immigrants that how they are living life quite contrary to each other. “Light” symbolizes white people who are living privileged life and “dark” symbolize people with dark skin colour and who are living miserable life and cannot enjoy all those luxuries of life that white people have and they were killed without any mercy.

Text no 9:

“They were dressed in accordance with the rules on dress, and he was bearded in accordance with the rules on beards, and her hair was hidden in accordance with the rules on hair” (Hamid,2017, p. 83)

It is a description given by the writer that describes the physical appearance of the characters. The society in which Saeed and Nadia lives has a culture that gives no freedom to people to dress up according to their own choice. There are specific limitations on the dressing code of the people, and people follow it. The writer describes how even when Saeed and Nadia were

trying to leave their country safely, they followed its cultural values. Saeed had a beard, and Nadia was covering her hair according to the rules set by society.

In conservative societies, women and men are not allowed to make their own choices according to their values or what they like. Person freedom of dressing signifies their freedom in terms of their living condition. A person's choice of dress code signifies their religious beliefs, the outlook of life, and belonging to their own culture. In the society where Saeed and Nadia lived, there are specific rules regarding an individual's dressing. In our society cultural codes such as humility and decency are profoundly linked with our clothing or dressing. A dress code is considered to symbolize a person's character. As in the text, Saeed was beard which shows that he has a religious mindset, and Nadia was also hiding her hair to show that she is a religious person though she is not; she was doing so because of her cultural system. Wearing the robe and covering of hair is considered a symbol of modesty and piousness in their society.

The writer has used words like rules on dress, rules on beards, and rules on hair to emphasize the impact of culture on the characters' physical appearance. Hence, the repetition of the word "rule" signifies how individuals living in society have particular impacts on themselves that are even obvious through their physical or apparent choices.

Text no 10:

"As they walked Saeed and Nadia did not hold hands, for that was forbidden in public between genders, even for an ostensibly married couple" (Hamid,2017, p. 86)

In the given passage there is a description when Nadia and Saeed decided to leave their homeland during the journey though they are free individuals they can do whatever they want but they did not because of the fear of the cultural environment around them. In their society it is considered as immoral act that opposite two opposite genders hold each other hands without any relationship. This scene described by the writer shows that the both of them have intimate relationship with each other but instead of that in a public place by keeping in mind their cultural environment around them they have avoided to hold their hand.

Saeed and Nadia are in relationship in their homeland. Both of them are in love with each other but they were not married because Nadia was quite hesitant to get married because being an independent lady she does not want to get married and depend upon someone so during the war their country was in a worst state and because of which their country faces a lot of destruction and violence. So, they decided to leave their homeland and move to another place that is safe. On their way they walk together but they did not hold their hands which showed the culture of their homeland in which it is not considered as appropriate act that unmarried couple should get intimate publicly even for the married couple it was not considered good which shows that it is their culture that does not permit them to do so and they are following it which actually highlights the impact of culture on their own thoughts or mindset.

The language used in the above passage is very simple and still it suggests the impact of culture words like "it was forbidden in public" suggest about the cultural norms of the society that Saeed and Nadia consciously or unconsciously are following as it was a cultural rule but still followed it very strictly.

Text no 11:

“One night one of the tiny drones [...] not larger than a hummingbird, crashed [...] they ought to give it a burial and they dug a small hole right there and then covered this grave [...] Nadia asked if Saeed was planning on offering a prayer for the departed automaton, and he laughed and said maybe he would.”
(Hamid,2017, p. 204&205)

After Saeed and Nadia migrated from their homeland to London they faced severe backlash from natives. Natives start a major operation against the immigrants so that they can free the occupied land. In the above lines writer describes the situation that how one night a drone that was tiny crashed and natives were so used to it that they instead of getting afraid of it make it a source of their enjoyment. Nadia brings a body of the drone gives the idea they should bury it so they started digging grave for it and then they buried it, then she asked Saeed that if he is going to offer prayer for it to which Saeed replied in a fun that maybe he offers prayer for it, these lines clearly demonstrate the impact of Muslim culture on their thoughts.

In a Muslim society there are certain traditions that people follow. In the above lines one night Nadia found the body of a crushed drone now she brings it to him and she asked him that they should give it a burial both of them agreed and then they make its grave which basically shows the impact of cultural traditions on their mind. Though the drone is not a human and is a material but they still give him a burial because in their culture if a person dies he is given a proper burial after that Nadia asks Saeed in a very lighter manner that if he's going to offer a prayer for the body of the drone that they have buried right now, which also shows the importance of prayer in a Muslim culture and that how are living in a Muslim society its culture has its impact both of them consciously or unconsciously. Though in a lighter manner but Saeed also agreed to offer prayer it shows the impact of culture on his thoughts.

The writer used the metaphor of hummingbird to describe drone which shows that how drone is nothing new for immigrants and they are so used to it that they consider it as a part of nature, it shows impact of their surrounding war culture upon their mindset. Then the use of words like offering a prayer, departed automaton shows that the impact of Muslim culture upon their mind as in Muslim society if a person dies and then he is buried in a grave and on his grave people offer prayer so the above lines are highly embedded with cultural codes.

Text no 12:

“When Saeed was a child he had first prayed out of curiosity. He had seen his mother and father praying and the act held a certain mystery for him.”
(Hamid,2017, p. 199)

These lines describe the character of Saeed the description given by writer in chapter eight. These lines clearly show the impact of culture on the upbringing of the child and that how the choices that an individual makes are not independent but are highly influenced by the surrounding environment. Praying is considered as one of the most important parts of Muslim community and Saeed also offer prayer as a child but he does so not because of his religious

tendencies but because of the Muslim culture around him. Being a child, he used to see his parents' offering prayer that inspire him and had such great impact on him that he himself asked his parents that he wanted to offer

Saeed used to live in Muslim society and Muslim society has certain culture and traditions and while living in a society a person though is a free individual but he does not make individual choices his choices are always influenced by the environment or the cultural situations these lines clearly depict the same condition as when Saeed was child he used to observe both of his parents offering their prayer regularly and being a child he does not understand the religious importance of prayer but he was very sure that he is also going to offer his prayer because of the impact of culture upon him. He offers his first prayer out of his curiosity this significant point highlights the impact of culture more than the impact of a religion on the child.

This passage is a true example of the impact of culture on the mindset of an individual. One can see, there is no use of figurative language but particular choice of lexis clearly defines what she writer wants to convey like selection of words like curiosity and mystery shows that Saeed offers his prayer because of cultural influence.

Discussion:

Hamid depicts gender discrimination; racial prejudice and he allow us to gain insight in to the mind of the characters and the choices that they make in physical world. The first thing that strikes our mind is impact of culture on these characters. This study has successfully explored the three selected research variables taken from Hamid's novels and twelve passages are analyzed linguistically just to find out how the particular choice of words and lexis helps to perceive authors point of view in any text.

The variable of racial discrimination has also been discussed and analyzed minutely. Discrimination on the basis of race is the problem of every society. This research is an attempt to nominate this evil in the selected novel. Racial discrimination is very evident in the novel immigrants are called as "black hole" in the fabric of nation.

Gender inequality is the most renown and practiced phenomenon of the world. Men consider it necessary to overrule women. The Protagonist of Hamid's novels, Nadia is suffering from the same inferior treatment. Being a woman, she is supposed to obey men of her society. The researcher has located, analyzed and proven this distinction on the basis of her methodology CCDA.

The external and internal pattern of the character is another variable and the research has concluded that migrants like when they shift to the new land, they receive the impact of surrounding culture upon themselves. Saeed religious approach is always awakened unconsciously. Nadia is not a religious lady but she used to wear a hijab only because of the religious culture and has nothing to do with her religion. That is how culture has very strong impact on the psychological thinking of individuals and their choices that they make in physical worlds.

Conclusion:

The present research has successfully achieved its objectives and the answer to the research questions. The textual evidence and its analysis show how culture shapes society and directly

or indirectly influence the life of the characters and gave birth to unequal power relations. The distinguishing feature of the present research is that it discovers that how the culture embedded in language exercises its power and reproduces social evils in a particular society.

By adjoining Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) with culture, Gaverily Nuri (2012) has introduced a new approach and dimension to the Critical discourse studies which help the researcher to complete the findings easily. Working as a practical tool CCDA has given strength to the analysis of my data. The research has analyzed the linguistic choices of the writer used in his fiction and sees how the figurative devices and metaphors provide a deeper view of cultural exploitation in the texts.

To conclude, the present work has successfully proved the powerful impact of culture on individuals and it also highlights that how this cultural influence leads towards power abuse in the society. We can say that the present research has achieved its research objectives and found the relevant results.

References:

- Bagalma, S.H. (2019). Mohsin Hamid's exit west: Co-Opting Refugees into global capitalism, *New Middle Eastern Studies*, 29(3), 149-158.
- Farooq, M., Rahman, G., & Sohaib, M. (2022) Analyzing Mohsin Hamid's exit west and the reluctant fundamentalist: cosmopolitan and anti-cosmopolitan concerns, *Pakistan Journal of Social Research*, V (4), 85-91.
- Hamid, M., Mir, S. et al. (2021). Assimilation and healing of war trauma: a study of exit west. *Oeconomia Copernicana*. V (12).
- Hamid, M., 2017, *Exit west*, Penguin Studies
- Kayani, T., Mubarik, M., & Butt, H. M. (2020). Subversion of Traditional Feminine Stereotypes in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West. *Orient Research Journal of Sciences*, 5(1), 94-106.
- Liaqat, Q. (2022). Poetics of Migration Trauma in Mohsin Hamid's "Exit West". *English Studies at NBU*, 8(1), 141-158. *Literature, Linguistics and Translation*, 1(1), 27-35. <https://doi.org/10.47340/mjell.v1i1.3.2020>
- Manzoor, A.M. (2018) "Global Refugee Crisis: A Study of Mohsin Hamid's Novel exit West", *International journal of Interdisciplinary research in Arts and Humanities*, 3(1), 15-16
- Mckee, E. (2022). Currency and Border Crossing: The Role of Social Class in Exit West and Girl at War, 9(1), 27-36.
- Mehmood, S., Ahmad, M., & Akbar, H. (2021). A psychological Feminist Study of Mohsin Hamid's "Exit West", *Pakistan Languages and Humanities Review*, (2), 403-411.
- Nuri, G. D. (2012). Cultural approach to CDA. *Critical Discourse Studies*, 9(1), 77-85.
- Pequena, A. J. (2019). Representations of Home and Identity for the Migrant Woman in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West, *Humanities and Literary discipline* (1), 91.
- Perfect, M. (2019). "Black holes in the fabric of the nation": Refugees in Mohsin Hamid's Exit West', *Journal for Cultural Research* 23(2), 187-201.
- Rivaldy, Budiman, M., & Tambunan. (2020). Rethinking Home and Identity of Muslim Diaspora in Shamsie's Home Fire and Hamid's Exit West, 18(1), 28-38.
- Sadiq, N., Saleem, A.U., & Javaid, S. (2020) Subjectivity Power Affairs and migration: A Foucauldian Analysis of Hamid's Exit West, V(I), 584- 593.

- Singh, J. (2019). Envisioning Co-Existence: Exploring responses to Migration in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit west*, 4(6), 1816 -1818
- Wahla, M., & Asif, S. (2020) Masculine Female and Feminine Male: A Study of Gender Slippage Amid Migration Spaces in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*. *Millennium Journal of English*, 2(1), 12-18.