



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

DECONSTRUCTING ISSUES OF IDENTITY IN "THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST" BY MOHSIN HAMID

*Shamim Akhter

**Abrar Hussain Qureshi

***Mehmood Ul Hassan

****Barira Tanveer

Abstract: *Communities are defined as a unified body of individuals sharing common interests, values, and/or beliefs. Often we speak of community as a united population, which bonds people together. However, studies reveal that communities are founded upon ideals of homogeneity and identity, through the generation of boundaries. With the advent and expansion of technology, the whole world has shaped into a global village and this globalization has threatened the identities of the people. As is seen, the traditional notion of identity becomes impossible in the modern urban environment because of identity's foundation on contemplation, by which a person can "give himself up to his train of associations. The undertaken research "Deconstructing Identity Issues in 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' by Mohsin Hamid" investigates the dilemma of identity and explores the problems of immigrants especially the Muslim-Pakistani immigrants after 9/11 incident. It also discusses the role of the characters' roots and history in constructing their identities and how they have made life problematic for the characters in multicultural America. They also want to escape from their family's roots and history but it is difficult, because leaving roots is not an easy process. Ultimately, this exploration attempts to generate an identity crisis, through the amplification of ambiguous space, which exists in the reality of urban form.*

Key Words: Post colonialism, imperialism, identity, 9\11 incident, discrimination.

1. Introduction

Undoubtedly, 21st century is the age of science and technology. All the nations of the world are experiencing the impacts of globalization but simultaneously, it has also caused the serious issues of diaspora, racism, hybrid culture, alienation and identity crisis etc. The issue of identity occupies



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

a significant place in literary genre and is the product of post- colonialism. The post-colonialism is the period when formerly colonized nations have got their independence officially.

*Institute of Southern Punjab, Multan

**University of Sahiwal, Sahiwal

***Khwaja Fareed UEIT, Rahim Yar Khan

****University of Sahiwal, Sahiwal

The post colonialism is a term that is employed to unfold all the cultures affected by the process of imperialism. Simply, it may be said that post colonialism shows the end of colonization by releasing the native population from the cultural and political slavery of imperialism and by granting them independence. Actually, imperialism was characterized by the commercial project of the western nations that started from late 17th century and early 18th century. They desired to find the markets for their goods in different foreign lands as well as they also wanted to gain the control over the natural resources and man power. To fulfill this purpose, they established colonies to supply raw material for colonial powers. In this way, the colonizers started treating the native people of these lands as colonized and kept them in bondage. In that situation, many western powers began to spread this philosophy that all white were superior.

Most of the post-colonial nations are facing the issue of identity and are endeavoring to weaken its impacts. The Post-colonial period shows resistance to the cultural, emotional and political effects that were left by colonizers. These nations have attempted to find their identities which they had lost during the period of imperialism. Ashcroft (1989) says that the knowledge of post-



colonialism tries to explore what type of issues are faced by the colonized people. Many post-colonial writers attempt to reveal the sufferings of immigrants which endanger their identities in foreign land and the well-known Novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Hamid is an effort to explore this issue elegantly.

1.1 Statement of the problem

In the age of globalization, the dilemma of identity has gained significant popularity. It is a question that has penetrated into all spheres of human life and has become the major concern of Post-colonial literature. The undertaken research explores the circumstances and causes that create this critical issue. The subject of identity has been delicately discussed by Hamid's work "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" (2007). He (2007) throws light on the problems of immigrants and reveals how do people face different challenges and how do foreign lands create hindrance in establishing their identities. It is argued that there are many factors that endanger the identity of an immigrant. Not only differences in culture, religion and countries that create this critical situation but also the outward appearances as well. Rather, it happens to be one of the major factors that lead to the way of identity crisis.

1.2 Significance of the Study

Identity is defined as an individual feature by which a person or thing is identified. Identity crisis is a state in which people experience what kind of people they are and what type of people they would like to be. Simply, it may be said that it is a state in which people are not sure who they are (Erickson, 1968). The undertaken research attempts to highlight several issues such as, resistances, challenges and problems faced by immigrants. Hamid (2007) endeavors to portray that an immigrant has to face the dilemma of identity in a foreign land because of differences in culture and religion. Changez, a Pakistani-Muslim, goes to America to seek a career. While



staying there, he tries to dissolve his own identity to be an American. Before the incident of 9/11, he feels that bright future is awaiting him. He expresses his love for America. He speaks and behaves as Americans do. After getting education, he finds job at Underwood Samson, a famous American firm and renders his services for Underwood Samson. He is very proud of being an employee of this firm. But the situation is completely changed after the incident of 9/11. When America is attacked by terrorists. After this incident, Change observes the biased attitude of Americans towards non-natives especially against Pakistani - Muslims. He himself is a Pakistani - Muslim immigrant and he also becomes the subject of racism, contempt and prejudice of the natives. They ignore all his services to their country and treat him badly just keeping in mind that he is non - white and so he is danger to America. He observes such circumstances that put his identity at stake. Hamid (2007) draws the attention of the world towards the problems and sufferings of immigrants which lead them to the issue of identity. Hamid (2007) skillfully throws light on the ideology of the occident towards the orient especially for Pakistani-Muslims.

1.3 Research Questions

- (1). How does globalization affect the identities of persons and groups?
- (2). How do people face psychological problems because of identity crisis?
- (3). How does Hamid in "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" attempt to point out the western Positioning of the Orient especially the Muslims?

2. Literature Review

Modern literature is replete with the issues of Identity and the problems pertaining to it. It has not only penetrated into modern societies but also creating adverse effects on human beings at large. Many Post-Colonial literary figures from all over the world have been attempting through their works to highlight its negative effects on human societies in general.



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

Phillips (2011) tries to define the sufferings of the second generation of emigrants and throws light on the circumstances due to which this generation faces the issue of identity. Being an immigrant, he is conscious of the problems of the immigrants and takes interest to elaborate those impacts which are left by first generation on the lives of people. His work aims to raise understanding among the individuals about the problems of the immigrants. He opines that our children must be conscious about the tussles of colonized and the challenges which they have to meet with in foreign lands. Phillips (2011) shows that immigrants' lives in this age have tendency to reflect the frustration, stresses and dilemmas. He is of the view that it is tension within family which creates the problems of identity.

Ferguson (2015) is interested in exploring the dilemma of identity through her pen. She says that identity is shaped and influenced by various factors like class, race and gender. It is maintained that Identity is as rare and unique as the fingerprint of an individual. An individual is identified by his/her fingerprint which shows his/her uniqueness. Concurrently, identity is also the unique manifestation which enables the people to perceive the environment where they live. Ferguson (2015) reveals that ancestry also creates impact on the process of making identity of an individual. She opines that the act of forming individuality is affected by the surroundings and social structure and these factors also become helpful in making the identities. The society and environment not only help in the formation of identity but also help in deciding what is appropriate and what is inappropriate.

Ali (2003) strives to reveal the hardships and pangs of immigrants. She is of the opinion that people have to meet with several challenges surviving in foreign land. Her work throws light on the immigrants' lives and their attempts to resolve their problems.



Desai (2006) explores the dilemma of identity in an artistic manner. She says that an individual adopts the identity which family, societal structure and history lay over him/her. It is argued that several things like family disputes, past life and inward clashes upset the people and their identities.

Sen (2006) shows his courage to uncover the dilemma of human identity beautifully. He argues that the identity of an individual always alters and it is infeasible to restrict it to a single individuality. Sen has won the 'Nobel Prize' and he uses the term of multi-dimension for identity.

Norton (2000) thinks that the identity of an individual is based on the fact how the person gets the knowledge of his/ her association with the world and how time and space make this association. He further tries to explore how the people perceive the possible options about future life.

Djité (2006) argues that identity is a class and people belong to that class. The author stresses that an individual may be a member of different social classes established on such factors as gender, ethnicity, nationality, cultural inheritance, age, profession, and societal position. It is argued that an individual possesses various identity situations and keeps moving among them according to dissimilar societal perspectives. So, it may be said that identity is a procedure of relationship and resistance and of regular cooperation, creation, and presentation and not a fixed type of ownership. Identity is lively, active and alters relying on the purposes of communication and the conditions in which people and groups are involved.

Naipaul (1967) tries to highlight the issue of identity in the modern world. It is argued that his work shows how the individuals face the dilemma of individuality. He opines that persons suffer from the problem of identity when they try to escape from their roots and past life. It is said that



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

by conquering and regaining the past life, some people get success in life. They come forward in life by settling an adjustment with history. He is of the opinion that due to the blind imitation of the culture of west, individuals suffer from the issue of identity. Naipaul (1967) states that individuals fall a prey to the issue of identity in the surrounding around and they remain restless in that surrounding. Thus they fail to reconstruct their individualities. The aim of Naipaul's (1967) writing is to save the individuality. It may be said that the pursuit to seek identity is an unending process which cannot be fulfilled.

Woodward (1997) investigates the dilemma of identity. She is of the opinion that many sources are involved in making the identities. The factors as nationality, ethnicity, gender, social class, sexuality and community construct the identities. These factors not only make the identities but also affect the course of making identities. An interesting attempt has been done to unveil the differences due to which people suffer from problems which threat their identities. It is argued that it is identity due to which people are identified. Woodward (1997) clarifies that individuality points out the way which throws light on the factors which connect us with the people who belong to same place and simultaneously these factors point out the way which differ them from others who do not belong to that place.

Hall (1996) narrates that identity is very difficult term to understand and is not feasible task as people generally think. He opines that it is wrong to believe that the identity is such type of process which has already been completed. This is a world which is changing day by day and in this world, the identities receive impacts and these impacts remain them always in state of modification. Hall (1996) investigates that identity remains unfixed and unsettled. It is said that immigrants face the dilemma of identity and two major questions are faced by them. One question is why immigrants are here in this country and second question is when these



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

immigrants leave this country to go their homes. The immigrants are unable to give the answer of these two questions. These people know very well the fact that the act of going back to their homes is not an easy task. In fact, Hall (1996) is of the opinion that immigrants cannot return to their homes because they have no homes at all.

Lahiri(2003) explores the crisis of identity in foreign land through her work. Basically, the author herself belongs to the second Indian dispersed generation. And her this second generation has to face the dilemma of identity and this generation shows intense thirst for individuality .She herself faces the problems of identity, that's why, she uncovers all the challenges and issues faced by immigrants . She opines that immigrants find themselves in a fix when they are caught up between two different countries; one is their native country and second is the country where they are trying to settle. This thing makes them disturbed. These people attempt to strike a balance between the cultures and traditions of both countries which are opposite to each other. But in doing so, they fall a prey of intense issue of identity.

Kureshi's(2000) work reveals the challenges and experiences which people have to face when they migrate to other country and desire that natives accept them. His famous work "The Buddha of Suburbia (2000) explores the sufferings of the immigrants and their attempts to get acceptance by the natives to settle there. Kureshi(2000) uncovers the differences that create sufferings for immigrants. Due to the belonging to different religions and customs, people face problems. Society has altered with the advent and expansion of technology and assumed the shape of global village. He is of the opinion that societies have been affected by globalization. Kureshi (2000) says that every individual belongs to a particular culture and this culture possesses a specific backdrop. He highlights the dilemma of complicated identity and tries to provide the base to attain identity for the people who have blended nation. Kureshi (2000) says when people go to



other country; they make efforts to absorb the native culture and traditions to settle there but in doing so they fail. He opines that people should be ready to receive the changes because of globalization. They should take the things which are not opposite to their culture and then employ them in a way that match with their identities.

Fanon (1967) shows the effects of imperialism on people which are responsible to create the issue of identity. He states that imperialism has retarded the people mentally. It has deprived them from the freedom of thoughts by locking up their minds. As chains and handcuffs are used to imprison the body, in the same way, the imperialism has imprisoned the minds of the people. The end of imperialism not only affects the economy and politics of colonized but it influences the minds of the people by creating many psychological problems. Simply, it may be declared that Fanon (1967) attempts to reveal the problems of identity which are the product of imperialism and create the dilemma of identity for colonized.

3. Theoretical Framework

Theoretical Framework is used to have a close analysis of the texts and helps in determining different latent facts and perceptions. Social identity Theory by Tajfel (1979) has been used to analyze the text "The Reluctant Fundamentalist". Social Identity theory presents the way that people employ to perceive and categorize themselves into different categories. It presents two groups, in- group and out- group. In- group stands for majority group and out- group stands for minority group. The theory highlights that the simple act of being grouped, creates prejudice towards other group. It points out three stages. One is Social Categorization. In this stage, people are classified into different categories on the basis of gender, ethnicity, occupation, etc. as black, white, student, professor etc. Second is Social identification. In this stage, people adopt the identity of the group to which they belong. Third stage is Social Comparison. In it, people



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,

University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

compare their group to other group by showing favorable biased attitude towards their own group. This creates discrimination between groups.

4. Analysis and Discussion

Migration is a natural outcome of globalization. Immigrants move to other lands taking with them already constructed identities that are made in the native surroundings but face problems in other lands due to these constructed identities. Their already constructed identities clash with the identities of foreign lands due to differences in culture, religion and life style. Hamid(2007) explores the struggle of such a person who attempts to collect his identity in a foreign land. In his attempt of gaining identity, he meets with such challenges that put his identity at stake. Hamid(2007) throws light on the challenges and hardships that are faced by immigrants and shows how these issues cause threat for the individuality and identity of a person. Hamid (2007) presents a Muslim person Changez as the main character of "The Reluctant Fundamentalist". Hamid tells us about his life while living in US by sharing his experiences of getting education and job. Changez gets his education from Princeton College and then finds a lucrative job in a reputed firm of US as an analyst. He enjoys his job and is attracted by American life style and culture. He feels proud to be a part of this country. He thinks that a shining future is going to welcome him. He adores America and thinks that his American dream has been fulfilled. But situation is altered after the incident of 9/11 when America is targeted by terrorists. "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" highlights how the protagonist of the novel is subject to racism, prejudice and contempt of the white because of his appearance and being non-white. He observes such circumstance after 9/11 that takes him to the way of alteration of his identity. This novel plays an important role in splintering this fallacy that all eastern especially Pakistani Muslims are killers and terrorists. Hamid(2007) through Changez attempts to break the current



depiction and misrepresentation which propagate the prejudice and biased attitude towards the persons who are considered and treated as 'others'. 'Others', is the word which represents the persons who are taken as inferior because of their attachment to other culture, race and nation other than white's. The main character of the novel is treated as other despite of the fact that he loves America and attempts his level best to conceal his originality and takes in the culture of America. His attempt is highlighted by the text:

“I attempted to act and speak, as much as my dignity would permit, more like an American.” (2007, 7)

It is shown that he acts and talks as the Americans do to adopt the new identity. It is argued that he is willing to alter his existing identity and is ready to receive new identity happily. To be an American, he starts drinking. Once Erica, (Changez' beloved) invites him for dinner at her home. When Changez arrives there, Erica's father takes him as non-drinker but he affirms that he drinks. Changez is enchanted by the culture of US to such an extent that he calls himself New Yorker as is revealed by the text:

“In a subway car, my skin would typically fall in the middle of the color spectrum. On street corners, tourists would ask me for directions. I was, in four and a half Years, an American; I was immediately a New Yorker.” (2007, 37)

Changez's feelings are expressed when he starts his job in the reputed firm. Multicultural nature of this city creates in him a sense of belonging and it is the prolificacy of the culture due to which he takes himself as an American. He never feels that he is stranger. He takes America as his own country. For this purpose, he tries to conceal his originality. When he gets his job, he keeps secret his identity as the text shows:

"On that day, I did not think of myself as a Pakistani,



but as an Underwood Samsontainee and my firm's impressive offices made me proud. I wished I could show my parents and my brother!"

(2007, 38, 39)

The text shows that he attaches himself to the divergent culture by negating his past. His job gives him strength and excitement to such extent that he is constrained to say:

"I was a young New Yorker with the city at my feet."(2007)

By leaving his roots and culture, he makes efforts to conceal his identity as is highlighted by the text:

"I was the only non - American in our group, but I suspected my Pakistaniness was invisible, cloaked by my suit, by my expense account, and-- most of all --- by my companions " (2007, 82)

The above mentioned quote reveals his feelings while staying in Manila for the task of Underwood Samson with Americans. Changez is respected only by Filipinos after concealing his original identity and having the cloak of American culture. The incident of 9/11 gets down all his attempts of hiding his constructed identity and absorption of new identity. He remains stranger and is treated as non- American despite of all his struggles and love for America. Before 9/11, he is glad and excited by thinking that his dream of success has been realized. But the situation is totally altered when he observes biased attitude, prejudice and contempt after 9/11 incident in the country about which he says that he is the lover of America. But after facing the heartrending situation, he starts to think about his own identity. While staying in Manila, he hears the incident of 9/11. With the attack of terrorism on America, attacks are started on his identity. He faces the partial bearing of the white against non- white. When he is coming back



from Manila, Changez is suspected due to his outward appearance and stopped at airport for inspection. The officer at airport asks him to reveal his real intention of staying in US. He replies that his purpose is peaceful but she is unwilling to trust him. Hamid (2007) shows that all white people have feelings that all other races than white are barbarians and are not reliable. 9/11 incident intensifies the thinking of westerns towards eastern. They take them as killers, terrorist and extremists. They think that others' presence in this country means the "destruction of America". When Changez observes this situation, he starts to separate himself from Americans and ponders upon his own originality. America's attack on Afghanistan makes Changez restless. It shows the change of Changez's thinking. He stops identifying himself to America as he acted and behaved earlier.

The west is of the opinion that East is backward and its economy is stumbling. They have these feelings especially for the Pakistanis. As it is seen in the text:

"Economy is falling apart though, no? Corruption, dictatorship, the rich living like princes while everyone else suffers. Solid people, don't get me wrong. I like Pakistanis. But the elite has raped that place well and good, right? And fundamentalism. You guys have got some serious problems with fundamentalism." (2007, 62, 63)

The text shows that once Erica invites Changez at her home for dinner, her father meets Changez and talks about his country in an insulting way. He says that Pakistan is a country where economy is not stable. People are poor. Corruption is ruling everywhere in Changez's country. Corruption and dictatorship are the features of his country. Because of corruption, the rich are exploiting the poor and enjoying luxurious life style of princes. After hearing this comment,



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,
University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

Changez becomes disturbed. This shows the thinking of West towards East that all eastern are corrupt, uncivilized and inferior.

Erica's father attacks Changez's country and keeps on saying that the people of his country are extremists and narrow-minded. They are not willing to quit their narrow-mindedness. According to Erica's father, fundamentalism damages his country and people a lot. They are unable to keep pace with the modern world and its advancement. That's why, they are facing problems in every sphere of life. This quote clearly reveals the thinking of one culture and nation to the other culture and nation by showing favorable attitude toward their culture and nation. People of every culture think that their culture is superior to other culture. Simply, it may be argued that it is purely the feeling of occident towards orient especially towards Pakistani-Muslims. It strengthens the western typical point of view that all eastern especially all Pakistani-Muslims are extremists who commit the crime of terrorism.

Western ideology becomes severe after 9/11. They openly preach their feeling of disrespect and contempt against Non-white especially against Pakistani-Muslims and consider them a danger for their country. They not only start preaching their feeling of contempt but also start treating them contemptuously.

Hamid (2007) tries to reveal the thinking of white. Changez feels pride by serving Underwood Samson but his pride is shattered after 9/11 when the staff of airport separates him from his team of Underwood Samson and inquires him severely about the purpose of his stay in USA. They suspect him because of his non-white appearance and stop him at the airport. All his colleagues are allowed to go and they do not wait for him and go by leaving him alone at the airport for inquiry as is revealed by the text:

“I flew to New York uncomfortable in my own face: I was aware



Of being under suspicion; I felt guilty; I tried therefore to be as nonchalant as possible; this naturally led to my becoming stiff and self-conscious.”
(2007, 85)

The text explores the behavior of the natives towards non-natives. The central character of the novel faces the insulting situation and behavior because he is non-native and Pakistani-Muslim. The white men strongly start to show prejudice towards outsiders and their behavior for them is based on discrimination. All these circumstances lead him to the phase of realization.

Hamid(2007)says that because of differences in culture, religion and nation,Changez never becomes an American. Even before9\11, once Changez is enjoying his holidays with his friends. All friends are discussing their future plan. They ask Changez to reveal his future plan. He says that he sees the dream to become the dictator of an Islamic state jokingly. The faces of his friends remain wide open with utter surprise to hear these words as the text explores:

“When my turn came, I said I hoped one day to be the dictator of an Islamic republic with nuclear capability; the others appeared shocked and I was forced to explain that I had been joking.” (2007, 33)

This quote shows that Changez has to explain his point of view that he is just making fun and there is no reality in his statement. His friends fail to perceive his comment. Actually his friends' inability of perceiving him shows the lack of understanding which is existed between both cultures. This quote also strengthens the fact that all eastern are suspected by the westerns. The white never gives importance to thefact that these non-natives do their services for the betterment of their country and love their country. But they always show mistrust towards eastern in general and for Pakistani-Muslims in particular. They call them extremists by ignoring the reality that



their behavior is also spreading extremism and creating problems for Non- Natives. Changez faces sufferings in America due to this typical attitude of Western.

American behavior against orient is shocking for Changez. Distances are produced between orient and occident and this factor creates crisis for Changez's identity. 9/11 incidents provide the logic to occident in thinking that all Eastern are inferior and killers. Hamid(2007) explores the so-called concept that orient especially Muslims are terrorists. Through this novel, Hamid (2007) explores that all eastern especially Muslims are targeted of biased attitude as the text shows:

“Pakistani cabdrivers were being beaten to within an inch of their lives; the FBI was raiding mosques, shops, and even people’s houses; Muslim men were disappearing, perhaps into shadowy detention centers for questioning or worse.” (2007, 107)

The text shows that this biased attitude of occident is responsible in creating the issues of identity for non- native especially for the Muslims as is shown in the depiction of Changez. He visits Pakistan to meet his family after 9/11 incident. At this time, he starts to think about his identity. He grows his beard before leaving Pakistan to separate himself from Americans and to represent his own identity as the text shows:

“It was, perhaps, a form of protest on my part, a symbol of my identity, or perhaps I sought to remind myself of the reality I had just left behind; I do not now recall my precise motivations. I know only that I did not wish to blend in with the army of clean-shaven Youngsters who were my coworkers and that inside me, for multiple reasons, I was deeply angry.” (2007, 147,148)



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,
University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

With growing beard when he comes back to America, he faces extreme behavior of the white. His colleagues in the firm start whispering about him as he is not trustworthy being a Muslim and is danger to them and their country.

By observing these circumstances, he leaves his attractive job and comes back his homeland. Heteaches in a local university with his own true identity. In this novel, Hamid(2007) throws light on the behavior of westerns towards backward nations especially towards Muslims.

5. Conclusion

Globalization creates many serious issues and identity crisis is also one of them. People who leave their country taking with them constructed identities are in constant danger of losing their identity. The New culture also keeps on threatening the identity of these people. Hamid (2007) states that there are cultural and political factors that affect the individuality of a person. He further asserts that other factors like mimicry and hybridity also make impact on the identity of these immigrants. There are differences in culture, religion, race and nation that classify people into multiple categories. Similarly, on the basis of his race, culture, religion and nation, Changez is taken as other and is humiliated because of his belonging to so-called inferior culture. Hamid(2007) presents the fact that no culture is ideal. Every culture has drawbacks, no culture is superior and no culture is inferior. It is just the attitude that creates distances between backward and developed nations. Hamid(2007) highlights the partial behavior of the westerns towards Eastern cultures. This biased attitude puts the identity of an immigrant at stake. Loss of identity leads towards distances between communities as with Changez. He does services for America but after facing adverse circumstance of biased attitude of the Occident, he comes back his home land in search of his true identity.

References



AL-AZVĀ الاضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,
University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

- Ashcroft, & Griffiths.(1989).*The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literature*. London, Routledge.
- Coetzee, J. M. (1974). *Dusk lands*. Johannesburg: Raven Press
- Desai, A.(1999).*Voices in the city*, New Delhi: Penguin Books India (P) LTD.
- Desai, K.(2006). *The Inheritance of Loss*. New Delhi: Penguin Books
- Djité, P. G. (2006). *Shifts in linguistic identities in a global world*. Language Problems. Language Planning, 30(1), 1-20.
- Erikson, E.H.(1968). *Identity, youth and Crisis*. New York: Norton.
- Fanon, F. (1967). *Black Skin, White Masks*, trans. C. L. Markmann. New York: Grove Press.
- Ferguson, S. J. (Ed.). (2015).*Race, gender, sexuality, and social Class: Dimensions of inequality and identity* (2nd ed.). Singapore: SAGE Publications.
- Hamid, M.(2007). *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Orlando: Hartcourt.
- Hall, S.(1996).*Cultural identity and Diaspora*. London: Wishart
- Kureishi, H.(2000). *The Buddha of Suburbia*. (London: Faber and Faber).
- Lahiri, J.(2003).*The Namesake*. New Delhi: Harper Collins, Print.
- Morrison, T.(1997). *Paradise*. New York: Plume, Print.
- Naipaul, V.S.(1967).*The Mimic Men*. Middlesex: Penguin books.
- Ngugi, W.O.(1972).*Homecoming: Essays on African and Caribbean Literature, Culture and Politics*. London: Heinemann.
- Norton, B. (2000). *Identity and language learning: Gender, ethnicity and educational change*. Essex, UK: Pearson Education Limited.
- Phillips, C.(2011). *Contemporary Writers*. British Council. n.d. Web.



AL-AZVĀ الأضواء

ISSN 2415-0444 ;E 1995-7904

Volume 51, Issue, 34, 2019

Published by Sheikh Zayed Islamic Centre,
University of the Punjab, Lahore, 54590 Pakistan

Sen, A.(2006). *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*.London:Penguin, Allen Lane.

Tajfel, H. (1979). *Social identity and intergroup behavior*.Cambridge,England: Cambridge University Press .

Walcott, D.(1992).*The Antilles: Fragments o f Epic Memory*. Nobel Lecture.

Wallcott,D.(1970). *Dream on Monkey Mountain and OtherPlays*.New York: Noonday Press.

Wallcott,D.(1978).*The Joker ofServille and OBabylon!*London: Jonathan Cape Ltd.

Walloctt,D.(1979). *The Schooner Flight.ChantofSaints:A Gathering of African American Literature, Art and Scholarship*. Harper,Michael and Robert Stepto. Eds.