The Representation Of Migrant Characters In Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West In Light Of Laclau And Mouffe’s Political Discourse Theory

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Abstract:
This paper investigates the migrant issues prevalent within the narrative of Exit West (2017) from the application of Laclau and Mouffe’s Political Discourse Theory (2010). The article shows the sufferings of migrant characters as represented through language used in Exit West. The finding proves that linguistic choices plays an important role in building up the issues regarding migration of people which are presented in the text. These linguistic choices interpreted in the light of Laclau and Mouffe’s Political discourse theory (2010). The linguistic choices from Critical stylistics theory (2010), like “naming and describing”, “prioritizing”, “equating and contrasting” are used to collect data from the novel. The frequency of these linguistic choices has been calculated by using MS Xcel sheets. The results will be discussed to show how language analysis combined with textual observations to allows a deeper comprehension of the migration phenomenon and identity conflicts among the characters.

Key words: protagonist, prioritize, migration narrative, migration, political discourse, linguistics.

Introduction:
Among the key concerns of the twenty-first century, migration is one of the most important worldwide issues. This is evident in the number of studies, conversations, and depictions of this problem across a wide range of disciplines. However, it may be claimed that there is a scarcity of research on this topic in the arts and literature. As a result, there is a pressing need to investigate identity development in the context of power culture in migrant narratives in literature. Mohsin Hamid published his novel "Exit West" in 2017. This is Mohsin Hamid's fourth novel, and it has been shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. Mohsin Hamid is a British Pakistani national who was born in the city of Lahore. He has spent a significant amount of time there, as well as in London,
New York, and California. He is the author of four major works that have been translated into nearly forty different languages. He has been awarded the Pakistani Sitara-e-Imtiaz/Excellence Star. He was recently named to the 'DSC Prize for South Asian Literature; Exit West' shortlist (BC 2019). This research study presents the migrant characters, hegemony and identity representation by using the tools from Lesley Jefferies (2010) theory of Critical stylistics like “naming and describing”, “prioritizing”, and “equating and contrasting”. Each of these categories has its own linguistic realization and function in the novel. The category of naming and describing is identified in the author’s choice of words, nouns, noun phrases, adjectives and nominalization. The category of equating and contrasting includes textual construction of equivalence and opposition presented through linguistic elements, which are selected to create a psychological involvement and to show a concern with the internal condition of the characters. Saussure's linguistics, which defines discourse as a set of articulated signs, was employed by Laclau and Mouffe (2010). Laclau and Mouffe took Foucault's discourse notion, but instead of using his "sentence," they utilized Saussure's "sign" to explain discourse structure. As a result, Laclau and Mouffe think that discourse is a succession of signs rather than a collection of phrases. Foucault's concept of "discursive formation" is similar to Laclau and Mouffe's discourse theory concept of "articulation." Moreover, the novel reveals many features of the migration with respect to war and issues of migration and maintaining the identity in the host countries.

**Literature Review:**

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. Researcher has applied the term of transnationalism to the current system of migration which is usually for the economic trade purpose and for getting jobs etc. But this is more related to international migration after 1990’s when people migrated due to war and terror. According to the author, the novel is a great initiative to tell the countries to shed their fear and welcome the migrants by opening their arms to the unhindered movements of the people. The transnational ability addresses migration as a globalized phenomenon but the advancements in the field of technology are making it a threat for diaspora.

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 shape 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. 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. 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. 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:**

The research is based on the analysis that how the meaning of social identity is constructed through textual-conceptual functions presented in the novel. The theoretical perspective used in this research is Political Discourse Theory by Laclau and Mouffe (2010) and the analytical frame work is based on “Critical Stylistics by Lesley Jefferies (2010)” . The theory of Political Discourse is based on the concepts of ‘Restlessness’, ‘Hostility and Otherness’, ‘Hegemony’, ‘Power’ and ‘Competition’. A theory of Critical Stylistics by Jefferies (2010) is used in this research and from this theory the model of ‘textual conceptual functions’ is used. Thematic analysis is used in this research whereas the codification is done by using Critical Stylistic theory and Political discourse theory provides a meaning making process. Jefferies has integrated stylistics and critical discourse analysis in critical stylistics. The concept of social identity refers to the phenomenon of making your place in a society. In Exit West (2017) when people migrate they face the same situation in the next country that’s why this concept will be studied through stylistic analysis in order to understand the concept thoroughly. Three functions of language are constructed by Halliday:

i. Ideational meta-function: It is about the natural world in a broadest sense including our own consciousness.

ii. Interpersonal meta-function: It is about social world especially the relationship between speaker and hearer.

iii. Textual meta-function: It is about the verbal world, especially about the flow of information in a text.

Textual conceptual functions are used for the analysis of text. It contains a number of tools which play an important role in the textual analysis of any given fiction and non-fictional text. These tools are:

* Naming and Describing.
* Equating and Contrasting.
* Prioritizing.

The tools of Critical Stylistics like ‘Naming and describing’ are used to point out different nouns, modification of noun-phrase and nominalization which present different classes and events, related
to the representation of migrant characters in the novel. ‘Equating and contrasting’ the textual construction of equivalence and opposition are used to take out linguistic features from text to know meaning hidden in the text, representing the migrant characters. In ‘Prioritizing’ it contains linguistic choices like subordination, information structure and transformation which tells author’s view related to migrant characters but cannot be challenged.

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. Marxism provides a starting point for thinking about the social, and structuralism provides a theory of meaning. Laclau and Mouffe have fused these traditions into a single poststructuralist theory in which the whole social field is understood as a web of processes in which meaning is created. A discourse is formed by the partial fixation of meaning around certain nodal points (Laclau and Mouffe 1985: 112). In order to understand the theory of Laclau and Mouffe it is necessary to understand numerous complex concepts with so many different sorts of aspects. The following concepts are focused in this research:

Restlessness
Hostility and Otherness
Hegemony
Power

The data is taken from Mohsin Hamid’s fiction Exit West. For this purpose, the whole text is studied thoroughly and Jefferies Critical Stylistics theory (2010) is used in collecting the data. The nature of data is secondary one, because the data is collected from the already present work written by someone else. It is not collected or observed directly by the researcher in the actual setting. The data collection is done by codification using different tools of textual conceptual functions of critical stylistic theory. The data is explored at latent level instead of semantic level, based on constructionist framework. The codification process is done by using Critical Stylistic theory. The data taken out is dealt quantitatively and qualitatively. Its frequency and percentage has been set on MS excel and average has been calculated. The data is interpreted by Laclau and Mouffes Political discourse theory.

Analysis and Discussion:

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 into 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. These tools are divided into sub-sections, individually consisting of areas which come under the main tool to further explain the things in more detail. Focus of research is, ‘Representation of migrant characters’ which consists of ‘Naming and Describing’; a textual metafunction of language, in which linguistic features are present in different ways and they cannot be limited to the reference of a noun but it also includes the nouns which accompany them. These noun phrases are according to the situations of the migrant characters in the text. ‘Prioritizing’, a textual metafunction of language which tells the view of author and the information or point of view cannot be challenged. It also includes foregrounding and back grounding technique. In Subordination, it links the two clauses in a sentence, where one clause is dependent on the other clause. In ‘Equating and Contrasting’, an interpersonal metafunction of language, the fourth tool of Critical Stylistics (2010) contains the things which equalize and oppose each other in the text. Naming and Describing

Naming is a tool of critical stylistics which can name and call things in a number of different ways. In this technique a name can never be limited to a reference of the noun but it may include the words which accompany the noun, nominalized verbs, adjectives and the clauses (Jefferies, 2016, p, 164). By using the tool of Naming and Describing the data is codified by focusing on noun, verbs, words and phrases. Anger and want of power is the real reason of restlessness among the different countries of the world which results in war and terror.

1: Alternative Nouns

Alternative nouns are those which contain name and attitude which they have. It consists of reference vs ideological evaluation.

‘Anger and Anguish.’ (27)

It describes the condition of those migrants who went through many difficult situations in order to pass by the magical doors to go to another land for survival. It was restlessness in life of people who were facing war and migration in the city. It was a power of those immigration companies, who discovered the doors for going out to other countries. Like, in political perspective the element of power is used for the illegal works and mostly for their own benefits. Much like that, power was also used here for the benefit of travel agencies. The doors were made by the agents of different companies, which took the responsibility of shifting people to the safe areas. These doors were not easily accessible and they demanded a heavy amount of money for that purpose. People were found in anger because as they were leaving their homes and they also faced a lot of difficulties to keep themselves safe. Anger and anguish reflect the attitude of migrants like Saeed and Nadia who fell prey to many different sorts of agents and doors while passing through difficult situation. They left their birth place and paid a large amount of money for moving in to the next country to save their lives.
‘Snarled traffic’ (15)

It was a true picture of restlessness in the country when people heard the voice of firing and machine guns; they left their works and went to their home. They were moving fast as everyone was trying to save his/her life. All the people got conscious of their families whether their lives were safe or not. The people on roads were also targeted by the militants and many were shot to death while leaving for their homes. The restlessness in the country made hustle and bustle everywhere and people were not concerned with each other although their main goal was to reach a safe place. People were moving towards their destination to find a shelter for saving their lives. Saeed was also tensed about Nadia whether she reached her apartment safely or not. As she was living there alone so he thought about her and went out to see her. He visited all the points where they usually met each other. But when he found her nowhere, he felt bad vibes about her. Signals were vanished that’s why they had no contact. Both of them suffered a lot during those days.

‘Reddening dusk.’ (32)

A symbolic representation of the time when the gun shots and fires were started in the country and the whole environment of the country got polluted through fires. The sky was colored as red, instead of blue. It’s a true representation of time when there was no more rest and peace and the country was at fire. The dusk was not as peaceful as it was before because the army invaded in the city and people were no more satisfied with the living situation and started searching for the safe doors. The identity of residents was at stake and it seemed to them like it was almost lost by them. Fear got spread all over the country. It was Saeed and Nadia who got frightened from the current situation as Saeed had already lost his mother. He was not ready to leave his birthplace but due to bad law and order situation he had to leave for his goodness. People were moving from their places and the magical doors were overly crowded by people. It seemed as if people were out in order to search for their real identity. In a country of their own, the identity was at stake and they rushed to other places to maintain their social identity.

2: Modification with NP (noun-phrase)

The modification of noun means the addition of phrases and clauses which add to the information of the noun. In this way the modification can be done as post-modification as well as pre-modifications. These modifications are done by addition of prefixes or suffixes or verb and adverbs before or after the noun. These grammatical tools exaggerate the meaning of the noun and modify it.

‘Fighter bombers grated hoarsely through the sky.’ (52)

It is an example of noun phrase modification in which the word bomber is modified by adding fighter before it. It indicates the nature of that bomber. It pictures the time when the jets were in the air and the fighter bombers were making hilarious sounds by producing fear and danger in people. In this situation people were restricted in their homes and they got feared as it was supposed that a great bloody war was about to start. The new technologies were used to monitor the system
of security. In bombing and jets a new variety of weapons was used which showed that it was a war of technology and power also. Saeed also suffered from this situation because his mother also died because of hitting of a bullet. Due to her death, their lives faced a lot of difficulty and disturbance.

‘Shooting unarmed people’ (104)

It is another noun-phrase modifier, which is pointing towards the cruel attitude of the military forces. The innocent and unarmed poor citizens were at the focused point of forces to kill them at first sight. The killing of weaponless people urged the other people to keep weapons with them so that they could defend themselves against the forces. But still a large number of people were found dead on the roads. It was not possible for people to take dead bodies of their loved ones, from the road. Those who came out of their homes were shot down. The dead bodies were spread everywhere, producing unbearable smell and diseases. But the number of dead people was increasing day after day.

3: Nominalization

‘Rote memorization’ (17)

In this case Nadia is trying to create her own place in the society to make herself independent of the societal barriers. The rote memorization points back to an incident which is related to Nadia’s childhood times. She was interested in arts and drawing but like a typical family, her parents never allowed her to go for arts. But she was always forced to learn the things forcefully. As she was not interested to learn those subjects so she was asked to do rote memorization. When she refused to do it, she was badly scolded by the parents and teachers. This act can be seen in perspective of subjectivity position as well as hegemony. The hegemony here is not related to the political powers but here is parental hegemony which has forced her to take bold decision of getting separated from her family.

‘Determined to survive’ (18)

It comes under Competition of those who are considered as others. It is that phase of her life when she got separated from her family and started living on her own. It was a difficult time of her life when she had to manage everything on her own. As it was difficult for an unmarried girl to live alone but she was determined to survive as the decision was taken on her own. For the sake of security, she tried to find out different ways through which she could make herself secure. Wearing a black robe was actually to protect her from men so that they could not misuse her. Because it was considered as a shield or protection which women used to wear for their security although she was not a type of girl who was very close to prayers or Quran. But she used that robe for a security barrier against men. Her decision to be separated from family made her strong enough, to fight with every difficult situation. The term competition refers here to her condition of becoming strong by fighting against the critical circumstances.
4: Prioritizing

It is a textual meta-function. There are some information and structures in the clauses which are arranged in a way, which not only tells author’s view but cannot be challenged also. There are differences in the construction of different clauses.

‘We are all migrants through time’ (209)

This phrase presents the idea and thinking of the author who is of the opinion that human beings start migration from the time they came in to this world. This migration is in the form of personal happenings and time as well. From the time of birth, after coming in this world, migration starts. Migration is a part of our lives but it happens in different perspectives. Like we face time migration in which all the creatures pass through childhood, young, middle and old ages. In this way, they migrate from different stages of their lives. In first stage they are children and enjoy different happenings associated with it, then they move towards the maturity and this is called young age when they enjoy or suffer from life in a different way. Then they have middle and old age, in which they take different responsibilities which they have to accept at any cost. So these are different phases through which they migrate and live their lives. The other type of migration which we face is personal migration in which we migrate from one piece of land to another piece of land for our own purpose. We migrate from city to city for getting education and for job purpose. This comes under personal migration which is done for our own benefits. There comes another type of migration which is migration of feelings, emotions and mind. In the novel Saeed and Nadia go through almost this type of migration too. It is a journey of their love relationship, how they move from different situations which affect their relation, feelings and attraction towards each other. From start to the end, their feelings migrate along with the other circumstances, what they feel in the start for each other, doesn’t remain same till the end of the story. Another most important type of migration is the physical migration, in which people migrate from one place to another for their own benefits. This type of migration is done mostly in the days of war, when they go to other countries to have peace and safety of their lives. Saeed and Nadia also migrated for this purpose, because their city was at war and terror and there was no safety or insurance of their lives. All these types of migration run throughout our life and that’s why we all are migrants through time.

‘She was determined to survive and she did’. (18)

Here, the writer is sharing an opinion about Nadia who was living alone in a strange country. But her determination was very strong she never failed and kept on progressing in her life. From the study of the whole novel, it is clear before the reader that author is so right in his views. She was living in a separate apartment but she made a strong and confident personality. At work, no one dared speak extra word with her because she made that kind of image before everyone. Even on phone calls, people were not able to ask any irrelevant question from her. Her black robe worked as a barrier for her, which saved her from many bad incidents to happen. It was a symbol of her security. She was determined, that she would manage the situation of living alone on her own. And she developed her personality according to the situation. The city where she was living, there was
no guarantee of one’s security. It was a transition of her personality from being dependant to independent.

‘Saeed has spotted a hawk constructing its nest’. (04)

A technique to foreshadow is also an important component of events in the novel. While watching a hawk, Saeed was imagining Nadia and started thinking about her. He related the hawk with Nadia and thought that when he would get marry her, she would also make a house like this bird. But their dreams were not fulfilled. They lived together with each other but they never got married. In our lives we make so many plans but it’s hard to have completion of all those plans. In the same way Saeed thought about Nadia in some other perspective but things went in another direction which set them apart instead of being united they got separated. It demonstrates that the arrangement of transformations and information structure is strategically used to reflect author’s own view point on different social spheres.

Subordination

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

Both the clauses are dependent upon each other. Meaning of one cannot be understood without the other one. It was when Nadia said that when migrants traveled towards our country, we faced no problem economically and financially because their country was poor and under developed one. When people migrate towards the poor countries they do not affect their economic position as they have already very limited resources and they cannot give opportunities to the newly coming migrants. So the country remains in the previous condition. The subordination of migrants is presented clearly, that how much they have to suffer in order to maintain their position and identity in a society. Everyone cannot afford to go in rich countries so those who go to poor countries, always remain in poverty. Even they could not get the basic facilities of their life. They have to do everything on their own. So migration and maintaining a position at a new place is not easy and can be achieved after a hell of struggle.

‘Unprecedented flow of migrants that was hitting the rich countries.’ (71)

Due to war, a large number of people started migrating towards the other countries which were rich in resources. But soon these countries started making their borders more secured to avoid the arrival of migrants. The migration and settlement towards those countries was made much difficult and almost impossible. In such circumstances people were giving double amount to the agents to secure their chances of going to the rich countries. But the affordability was only for the rich, not for the mediocre and poor people. The situation of migrants can be seen, that they had to face inferiority by being considered as ‘other’ and could not be welcomed in the host country because they were not from that country. Being a migrant is like a football that is kicked by everyone until it reaches its destination.

Information structure
‘International broadcasters had acknowledged the doors existed, discussed by world’s leaders as a major global crisis’ (83)

Mohsin Hamid’s point of view which cannot be challenged because it is something universally accepted too. At the time of migration, it was noticed by world’s leader that the doors which were opened for the migrants to go from their country to another one to save themselves from the war. These doors were taken as an initiative of global crisis which includes social, economic and political crisis. The migrants who settled in a new country, they were jobless which was considered as a burden on the economy of the host country. Social norms and traditions were different from their native land. They were facing difficulty to adopt them and to settle down according to them. It is an admitted truth which cannot be rejected.

‘Funerals were smaller and more rushed affairs in those days’. (73) Author’s description about the days of war. The dead bodies were increased in number but there was no place to bury them. People were helpless and they started burying them in their courtyard or on the side place of roads.

**Transformation**

‘It might seem odd that in cities teetering at the edge of the abyss young people still go to class of corporate identity.’ (01)

It was a time when war got started in the city. The city was not at peace but there were tensions started in the city regarding war. People were discussing about the pros and cons of the war. But it looked odd that Saeed and Nadia with many other young people were still going to take their class. It seemed that only old people were concerned about war and young people had no effect on their minds. But there is a hidden meaning in this deep structure of sentence. The young people were taking class on identity which could be helpful in near future for their benefits. It was to teach them the ways of maintaining once identity and how to fight against all the difficult situations in that way. It was also fore grounded through this sentence that they had to face bad days in coming time. This sentence has been made clear by converting it from deep to surface structure in which meaning has become clear. To get them ready for the construction of identity, there were lectures delivered in the colleges and universities.

‘Saeed thought of Nadia and watched the hawk.’ (05)

While watching a hawk that was busy in constructing the nest, Saeed thought about Nadia. It means that he was already thinking in a marriage context. Because he was relating that hawk to Nadia and that time when she would marry him and construct a house like that. He was in love with him and he started thinking about her that they will together make a couple. This deep structure has been converted to surface structure by exposing the ideology of his marriage planning with Nadia. It was thinking of Saeed to marry Nadia because he wanted to have a reality and maturity in his relationship. Saeed’s already thinking of securing Nadia, foregrounds the difficulties which were waiting for them in the days of war like at the time of migration when they were hesitating to hold
each other’s hands they were not husband and wife. So to avoid such things he was thinking in this way.

5 Equating and Contrasting

It is in the category of interpersonal metafunction.

Textual Construction of Equivalence

‘At Nadia’s office the payroll department stopped giving out pay cheques and within days everyone stopped coming’. (67)

It was a time in which both the conditions are equating each other. It was that moment when war started in the city and the administration and management of different companies and factories started to wind up their business because they knew that when war got started and reached its peak the companies would automatically stop working. When it was first announced that the companies were going to close very soon, it was also conveyed to the employees that there would be no more jobs for them so they had to leave their jobs. There were two things which were possible at that time. The companies which were in better positions could be occupied by the powerful nations which started the war. If it could happen, they would hire and appoint their own people and the already working people would be terminated from their jobs. Secondly it was also expected that the owner of the companies had already sold out their businesses to the higher authorities by taking a big amount of money. But it was highly unethical because people were connected to those companies for earning bread and butter and they were serving those organizations from a long period of time. But at the time of difficulty the management and the owner only looked at their own benefit and they never thought of the future of those workers who were associated with them since decades. When the employees showed their unwillingness to leave the company, they started using illegal ways to kick them out. The company owners used a cheap tool of teasing the employees, by stopping their pays. They were thinking in this way that, when they would stop paying them then automatically they would leave the companies because they would get no benefit from there. Both the conditions are supporting each other because the happening of one thing is considered to be the cause of making of another situation.

Textual Construction of Opposites

‘Nadia was possibly even more feverishly keen to depart, the prospect of something new, of change, was at its most basic level exciting to her but she was haunted by worries too.’(90)

At the time when they were planning of migration, Nadia was happy as well as sad. She was happy because she wanted to explore the new world full of joys and new people. These things were looking very attractive to Nadia. She was fond of travelling also that’s why she thought that she had got an opportunity to explore the other countries. But at the same time she thought of consequences which she and Saeed had to bear during migration. So she was in contrasting situation, happy as well as sad. She was also tensed for leaving her home town and the family
which she never visited again after leaving them. To migrate is not an easy thing to do but one has to become strong hearted to bear all the ups and downs.

‘It was an easy promise to make because she had at that time no thoughts of leaving Saeed, but it was also a difficult one because she felt like she was abandoning the old man.’(93)

When they were departing from home Saeed’s father held separate meetings with both of them. At that time Nadia had a commitment with Saeed and she was determined to fulfill it. Saeed’s father took a promise from her to remain with him all the life. He wished before her, that he wanted his grandchildren to call her mother. He wished both of them to get married and asked her to promise him, never to leave him at all. She promised him at that time because she had no intention of leaving him. But at the same time she was worried that although she was not meant to leave him, but still her sixth sense alarmed her that she would abandon the old man. It happened later on that they set apart from each other and all the wishes of the old man were converted into the ashes. Both the condition were contrasting because she was making commitment and at the same time she was thinking about breaking that promise. Migration can change the situation and lives of people. In case of Nadia and Saeed, their love relationship was changed into distance and finally into break up.

‘Rather of disguised shyness, they found it easy to talk to one another’. (21)

It was something happened between Saeed and Nadia. They were in the early days of their meetings. Both of them were not confident enough to openly talk to each other. But instead of that shyness, they tried their best to hide it and never show before each other. They started talking to each other and they noticed that both were feeling a little shy from inside. But when they focused only on discussing their matters, the shyness got hide in their words. Both conditions were opposite to each other because in shyness the level of confidence would be zero but they were confident enough to talk to each other. But in this case the situation got balanced and they both overcame the situation which made easy for them to talk to one another.

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 studies are based only on qualitative research and focus on a specific topic of the novel. These works do not include a stylistic or linguistic analysis of the figures and their frequency, followed by a word analysis from the standpoint of the primary issue. Dr. KV Surendran (2018) focused on the worldwide refugee crisis, while Dr. Devyani Agrawal (2019) focused on the diaspora at a crossroads by reading Exit West in depth. With regard to this essay, Manzoor Ahmed Mir (2018) has focused on the worldwide refugee crisis, while Aditay Sharma (2019) has discussed the issues of migration and hegemony in Exit West. Like this many researchers have worked on these issues especially war, migration
and refugee crisis. But this research study is different from those works because first of all it is based upon qualitative as well as quantitative study. Four tools are taken from textual conceptual functions of critical stylistics which are divided in to their respective categories of linguistic choices which highlight the identity construction in the migration narrative of the text through migrant characters. The linguistic choices are taken out by using MS excel which has identified their percentage and frequency in the text. It became more convenient to look for the relevant linguistic choices from the text, by using this method. It highlights the situations which points toward the migration issues, identity problems and the hardships faced by the migrant characters. All these things are clear from the language and the dialogues present in the novel especially the type of language used to show different events of war and migration. Through these linguistic choices the different concepts and ideologies associated with the text have become crystal clear.

**Descriptive Statistical Analysis of tools: Features**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Statistics of Naming and Describing</th>
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<td>Alternative Noun</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textual construction of opposition</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive Statistics of Prioritizing</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subordination</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information structure</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>75.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table will assist readers in understanding the individual frequency of all linguistic choices, as well as future researchers in extracting a single feature of textual conceptual function based on these statistics in order to conduct stylistic analysis or apply different theories to the data. The study has become more credible and effective as a result of the information provided above. It also aided in the collection and analysis of data for the novel because the figures were crystal clear.

**Conclusion:**

This research study will assist people in comprehending the issues and challenges that migrants suffer from. It contributes to a better knowledge of understanding that how the linguistic analysis
of a text can be utilized to interpret meanings in literary texts. Through this methodology the reader will come to know about the effects of war on the society and on the people of those countries in which war started at that time. It will also help the readers to see the life of refugees and the different hardships through which they pass and survive although they have to face a lot of difficulties and bad behavior of the people of their host countries. It gives us a clear picture of that society where migrants are suffering from difficulties. After studying the dialogues and depiction of different incidents, one can easily come to know about the problems of the migrant people. This study intends to raise people's awareness of the current "migration" problem on a societal level. Hopefully, in the future, the concept of "migration" will be more than simply a title to ponder on a serious note.

References:


Sharma, A. (2019). Pangs of Migration and Confrontation with Hegemony in Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West, India’s Higher Education Authority UGC Approved List of Journals Serial.