

Relinking Structural Violence: Social Discrimination in Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist

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Abstract

This thesis examines the link between social discrimination and structural violence in Mohsin Hamid's novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Structural violence is the theory or a form of violence wherein some social structures or social institutions may harm people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs. The research highlights the protagonist, Changez's identity and shares his experience of how he feels ashamed while living in America and faces issues like social discrimination, and social grievance in the post-event of 9/11. Social and political discourses create discrimination against Muslims in the Western world. Thus, Joan Galtung's theory of structural violence has been used as the primary theoretical framework for the textual analysis of the novel. Therefore, the selected text illustrates oppression and injustice for having different identities. Furthermore, Galtung contends that this type of violence is more hazardous than direct physical violence. Specifically, Hamid portrays the misrepresentation of Muslims in America and the dark face of American society revealing his prominent side. This thesis makes the connection between readers and the protagonist, Changez. The research is qualitative as the data has been analysed through textual analysis techniques. This research may be beneficial to new researchers to analyse other texts of Hamid for exploring the problems of trans nationality of Muslims in America and around the globe.

INTRODUCTION

Social disinclination has been a subject of unprecedented significance in postcolonial literature and theory. Moreover, 9/11 deals with new and more toxic forms of it. When fires stopped at ground zero, new political and social discourses emerged that particularly discriminated against Muslims living in America and globally. Due to the shift from race to religion, as is evident from the essay "Londonistan Calling" by Christopher Hitchens, social discrimination became a tool of oppression against Muslims. European political discourse expanded drawing upon the binaries of us/them and initiating a war on terrorism added more to it. Further, this study explores how post-9/11 added to social discrimination against Muslims keeping in view the character of Changez along with discovering the misrepresentation of Muslims in America. The novel unveils the middle-class Pakistani character, Changez who returns to his homeland. He faces violence and social discrimination in the wake of 9/11. According to the UN, discriminatory behaviours take many forms, but they all inform some form of exclusion or rejection. Discrimination is the accomplishment of iniquitous distinctions linking human beings and divided into groups and classes. Dr Mona O'Moore explains violence: as "An Unlawful exercise of physical force" (Oxford Lexico) Further, she broadens this term and says that behaviours of people against someone cause physiological problems. For this purpose, Johan Galtung introduces structural violence. The event of 9/11 is the result of violence against Muslims. Furthermore, the Americans attack the minority of Muslims. They consider that the Muslims are the colonists after the awakening of 9/11 and impose the Diaspora postcolonial culture on them. After the 9/11 incident, the literature changed the position of minorities

who lived in another country. Further, Hamid's discusses the nasty social behaviour of Americans. Through his best narrative, he maintains the point of human behaviour in his literary text. Besides, Hamid mentions the different stages of consciousness and unconsciousness in human behaviours. Consciousness is the part where a man is fully aware of what is happening and understands the reasons behind every happening. Same as in the novel, Changez quickly analyses the awkward behaviour of Americans that he faces. Thus, the protagonist of the novel cannot find why only he is discriminated against in American society and his mind continuously goes through this problem. The thoughts of being discriminated against start threatening him. According to the theory of Galtung, such thought increases the guilt of projection (protecting someone's ego against the feelings of anxiety). Changez throughout the novel tries to fix himself in the American society and struggles for a better life to spend in America. But all the grapple is in vain. Furthermore, this research explores how post 9/11 affects the exponent of violence and how the novelist delves into the issue of misrepresentation of Muslims in America. For example, Changez passes his Graduation in America and wears the mask of American culture and hides his identity of being a Pakistani. He belongs to the middle class and enjoys his scholarship to Princeton. Hamid interprets the post 9/11 and identifies the issues related to the identity, discrimination and racism that Muslims faced. Besides, he feels at home while working in New York but the repression that he faces changes into the shape of violence. The religion of Muslims conveys the message of peace but Americans give the shape of terrorism to Islam. The main purpose of this study is to explore how structural violence causes social discrimination and how Hamid creates the link between these two terms in the

primary text. Changez faces social behaviour based on religion and appearance. Hamid gives his pessimistic views of global affairs and describes the relation of America with another Islamic country. The novel gives a broad sense of home and migration by the specific political events where Changez examines his relation to America and his homeland. Changez approaches an unknown man (a stranger called an American) in the streets of Lahore and he offers him a cup of tea. During his conversation, he narrates his experience, relation and his living standards in the United States. While living in America, he graduated from Princeton University and lives a luxurious lifestyle in New York. In this way, he is positioned for a successful job as an analyst in a firm. Thus, he started his successful career with Samson Underwood. While enjoying his vacations in Greece along with friends, he meets with Erica and instantly falls in love with her and continues to spend quality time with her. Coming from Manila, suddenly his position in America changed after the destruction of the Twin Towers. And he feels uncomfortable over there, he is treated like a terrorist in America. Soon, he realises that his working in Samson Underwood gives the benefit to America and that is harmful to Pakistan. So, he returns and becomes a lecturer in a university and makes the team of Anti American against the Discrimination that he faces in America. He tells the stranger "Do not be frightened by my beard: I am a lover of America" (1). And after this, the stranger who is uncomfortable before the encounter now feels relaxed. Hamid, as a Diaspora, lived in Lahore and then moved to London. He spent some time of his childhood in the United States and detailed his experience of the West, where he worked under the two famous writers, Toni Morrison and Joyce Carol. His academic career ended in 1997, in Harvard law school. His first

novel *Moth Smoke* got more appreciation not only in Pakistan but also in America. In 2007, he published his 2nd novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and translated it into 25 languages. He writes about the religious, moral and identical issues in America that Muslims faced especially after the attack of 9/11. The title of the novel signifies the afflicted, clashing inner side of the protagonist Changez. He is a resident of Pakistan but he moved to America for higher achievements and business opportunities. At the initial time, he seems to be obsessed with getting power and money and tries to make himself an athlete in the USA. Even for a while, he dates an American woman, Erica and after that, he gets emotionally attached to her about this relationship. Through his relation with Erica and loyalty to his workplace, Samson Underwood, tries to express his loyalty to America besides all these obstacles, the people of America see him as a terrorist and this hurts him the most while staying over there.

Statement of the Problem

This interpretive research takes up the content analysis of Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* keeping in view the work of Johan Galtung and Paul Farmer's work on structural violence as a major part of the Theoretical Framework. This research aims to analyze social discrimination towards Muslims as a significant aspect of western political and cultural hierarchy. This research will observe such events and situations as well as problems faced by major characters to the heightened levels of social discrimination in the wake of 9/11.

Significance of the Study

The study traces the events of hatred, inequality, social injustice and social discrimination towards the protagonist of the

novel, Changez. His writing is observed in the petition of structural violence theory and how the novel signifies the compelling of the character's dignity. This research opens an unfamiliar perspective on American political and national discourse. It is one of the crucial problems which disorganise the peace of the world by illegitimate religious identities and Muslim ideology around the globe. To this end, the novel explores the culture of Europeans and Americans and its hierarchy of violence. It is the very structure of Western society that stands upon the aspects of hatred and discrimination towards the inferior to justify their eurocentrism. Thus, the researcher investigates the misrepresentation of Muslims living in European countries and explores structural discrimination against them, to maintain that freedom is the essential part of human existence. In this way, this research will give new insights for researchers who set to explore social discrimination.

Aims and Objectives

- i. To find how social violence causes social discrimination in Changez' life in The Reluctant Fundamentalist.
- ii. To investigate how the novelist creates the link between social violence and discrimination through Changez' character in the novel.

Research Questions

1. How does structural violence cause social discrimination in Changez' life in The Reluctant Fundamentalist?
- iii. To what extent does Mohsin Hamid connect the link between violence and discrimination through the character of Changez in the novel?

Literature Review

This study comprises the reviews available on selected books from different authors. It deals with different research articles, journals, reports, book reviews and interviews. Further, it also discusses the problems that Muslims faced due to their appearance and how they faced the issues of religious discrimination. Moreover, it also discusses why they still face such issues still in the 21st century. Besides, it shows the research gap i.e. Relinking Structural Violence: Social Discrimination in Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist as it has not been reconnoitered before. Mohsin Hamid is a proclaimed Pakistani Novelist. In 2001, all the circumstances for the Muslims changed. Hamid chooses the best narrative to show his reviews to the world as to how the West dominates the world through its gestures, behaviours and appearances.

Olofsson claims that the title of the novel, The Reluctant Fundamentalist is very meaningful because the protagonist of the novel Changez faces the issues of fundamentalism, especially after the tragedy of the Twin Towers, and paid attention to the victims who are grabbed under the fundamentalism of Islam. The researcher compares the two tragic heroes who face the same situation of tragedy after the incident of 9/11. And the identity of Changez becomes questionable for the Americans after this terror, while on the other hand, Amir, the protagonist of the play (Disgraced) works in New York who also faces an identity crisis after 9/11. Both characters have one similarity that they want to get the luxurious and charming life of America. Gradually, it becomes the dream for both of them to achieve this goal. Their dreamy life changes when the trauma of discrimination starts to grow in their selves, the dream of filmy life converted into a nightmare after 9/11. This paper shows that terrorists are few people but

most of the people who live in America face this issue after the incident of 9/11. Likewise, it changes the lives of Changez and Amir and creates a devastating impact on their belongings (Olofsson 22). Olsson claims that the foreigners experience discrimination and obliviousness caused his alienation. But Hamid's novel contains such few moments that it is renowned for its depiction of Changez's class aspirations and emotional struggle (4). The novel depicts the social discrimination that happened after the attack of 9/11. According to the author, in 2001, Changez had radical views. He was living in New York and worked for Samson Underwood as a financial analyst. The sudden smile after the collapse of the twin towers pierced Changez' character (2). Changez keeps an outsider's double stance, on his trip along with some Princeton friends in Greece, he spends quality time with Erica. And hardly falls in love with her. But Erica is distracted from this love, yet he identifies the flaw of that class. And gives his exceptional aptitude and talent for winning his new job over the other people, and that desire seems but all guaranteed. He finds himself as an American when he reaches Manila, due to the hostile looks of American's meanwhile Changez goes in a deadly form of nostalgia and starts to lose all his interest in his work. Moreover, never grasp the identity of American's men yet Changez commonly disturbed the narrative that is addressed to him. It is noted that he had been continuously chasing Changez, who has become the leader of anti-American protests. Hamid treats the novel's title ironically and every critic of America in a Muslim country should be labelled as a fundamentalist and may use another term that is more accurate than fundamentalist (11).

Anthony intends to analyse the American perspective towards the Muslims and expresses that social, political, cultural and the issues of

power of America create a great impact on the victim of Pakistani character Changez. To some extent, Changez shows his sympathetic figure when he was humiliated in front of other Americans. And faced racial Discrimination at America's airport. America creates her enemies after this classification based on appearance and nationality. Indeed, based on social and political arguments in which Pakistan is seemingly sinking over the challenges of fundamentalist, preferred to live in his own country instead of a crowd-pleasing country. And Hamid as a Novelist did his job very well, he became the authentic voice of the characters and he succeeded in it (Anthony 10).

Bhat portrays that identity is not only related to the Asian-American diaspora in English literature, it is also related to the stereotypical people of the country. He also shows the picture of American society and their dealings and their particular concerns towards the immigrants. His narrative towards the American society is that they have no human values for the humanity they humiliated wherever they wanted like Changez. The American minds are confused to create the image of people. Bhat's novel also acquires the place of an individual where Americans treat a person after inspecting his affiliations, taste and background (Bhat 447). He is ashamed wherever they see him. Moreover, he says that Hamid mirrors them through his novel that they are breeding financial fundamentalism through their institutions like Underwood.

Demirel explains that the protagonist has a shifting sense of belonging, he builds the idea of transnational identity and the writer of this novel is much concerned with this approach where he presents the experience of migration of a Pakistani to America. His ideas are very clear about the attachment of one side. Moreover, he also says that a transnational

individual cannot be judged through his appearance and belongings. This turning point that occurs in his life, diverts the attention towards the fragmented nationality that the protagonist of the novel *Changez* faced as a transnational person and the dilemma of immigration to America (Demirel 121). His work also reflects the protagonist's belongings through his unique narrative. *Changez*, who loves America like his home and is the true lover of America, over time, his cultural characteristics and his ways of living and his ideas change with time and space. But after the dilapidating incident of 9/11, his opinions take a turning point in his life and gradually he becomes a transnational individual. Instantly, the sense of the host country and the sense of home country is produced in him. And he starts to return to his homeland, Pakistan.

Bellot describes and gives the reason why every American should read this transnational journey of *Changez* who comes from Manila, and it abruptly changes his life. Moreover, he says that his coming from a Muslim country and his ethnicity becomes the reason for his unexpected life. In addition to this, he says that one more reason to read this novel is that it is the only novel that describes clearly 9/11 terrorism. After reading this novel, one should interpret all the assumptions of Muslims and Americans. The novel, *Reluctant Fundamentalist* shapes all the events, doubts and fears in a unique manner. Bellot also lives his own opinion about the Muslim families with whom he grew. Furthermore, he says that these families are well-known and famous in their city. He says that after the collapse of the twin tower, he is afraid of all the news that he hears from television and makes his mind that every Muslim is a terrorist. The phenomenon of love and hate is simple, if one spreads love, one will get love but when you spread hate you will

get in return for it. He said I'm always read Hamid's novel and then recommended my friends, even though most of the American students confess they came into the class with the negative image of Muslims while on the other Mohsin Hamid's novel showed us a new picture (Bellot 2). The novel depicts the other side of Orientalism, that refers to belief and typical ideas of westerns and describing the language template of the countries. He considers Hamid's novel as a puzzle and he loves to solve this puzzle (3).

Rizwan maintains the point of religious discrimination. He says that the West has made its ideology for the Muslim media, actually these Western people are the ones who have made the ideology of white and black in the discriminated world and they manipulate all the truths and facts. Besides, they control and run the world according to their ideology. Thus, through this paper, he clarifies the bitter truth of religious profiling while using the reference of this novel. On September 11, 2015, the world changed its view towards all the Muslims of the world. Western civilization changed their behaviour and attitudes toward Muslims because they consider Muslims the culprits for this terrible disaster. And all the Muslims from wherever they belong face more identity crises in the USA. Likewise, the people of the USA treat them as a discriminated being. In this way, they become the symbol of terror and horror and the religion of peace becomes the sign of terrorism. Thus, Muslims are classified from the rest of the world and the destruction of the twin towers creates a great impact on the lives of Muslims (Rizwan 8).

A review of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Jason reveals that the novel has some weaknesses but it gives amusement to the reader as well. It gives the message of mistrust between the two nations who found themselves

as reluctant allies (1). Despite all the obstacles, his love for Erica and his loyalties become questionable after 9/11. The novel gives a certain frame structure using the links of past, present and time and space. And this structure is unarticulated and perhaps transparent. Hamid becomes successful in creating momentum for readers. Further, he postulates that while reading the novel, his heart was running from the early pages to the conclusion. Most of the writers like Pullman and Desai call it "Beautiful" and "Brilliant". Moreover, the novel is deliberately nebulous (5). It is powerful enough to offend the thoughts. "The characters and their thoughts are little in-depth and do not portray the correct structure of the society" (23).

The above data on literature deals with the pathetic condition of Muslims like Changez while living in America. He faces discriminating issues while surviving in this society. As a human being, he must continuously face the wretched unjustified difference. While staying in America, he does not enjoy equal rights and this thing becomes heart-breaking for him. According to the survey of America, the issue of discrimination increases the rate of stress level. But their actions are opposite to this survey, those Americans create this difference on behalf of colour, sex and religion. Thus, the above review of the literature manifests the gap i.e. Relinking Structural violence: Social Discrimination in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* as it is still uncharted by any other researcher. Thus, the next chapter will unfold the findings and research gap through the analysis of the text.

Research Methodology

This research is based on qualitative nature, that is why it takes the task of critical and

textual reading of the novel. Therefore, the affirmation provided to support the thesis is mainly concerned with textual references. Johan Galtung explores the structural violence to explain the social discrimination that a Muslim character, Changez faces. The content analysis method is the "Analysis of the obvious and latent content of a body of communicated material (as a book or film through classification) and evaluates the impacts". The purpose of this research is to use the content analysis method to perceive the concept of social discrimination in Mohsin Hamid's novel. This methodology assists the researcher in making "replicable and valid references from the text". Besides, the theory also discusses how rights are marginalised and overlooked globally. Thus, through this technique, the research explores the social injustice and discrimination based on the nationality of Changez and discusses the relation to the background of structural violence. The researcher uses Johan Galtung's article "Violence, Peace and Peace Research" for the theoretical framework. Because Galtung talks about racism, classism, sexism and further categories like direct violence including state violence, gender violence, hate crimes, terrorism, war, police violence and racial violence. All these outbreaks of violence are directly related to social discrimination and social injustice and it affects the lives of people in distinct social structures. He claims that structural violence is an "avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs" (6). He further diverges the structural violence into classical violence, here he points out that the "direct" violence is classified by primitive, fugitiveness: "bodily destruction". According to Galtung's point, it is injustice and inequality built into the structure of the society that is invisible and often involves a very unequal distribution of power and wealth. Structural violence has very

clear victims but often no clear individual perpetrator; instead, people are harmed or disadvantaged by how the society is organised or structured. It benefits some in society and disadvantages others. Further, structural violence can be sustained through threats and the use of direct violence. It can also be sustained through misinformation manipulation, media distortion, deception, unjust laws and repression efforts to address direct violence without addressing structural violence. Violence is being challenged selectively or incompletely.

In the category of violence, he considers that it is the first category that some actors commit. From this initial point of view, structural violence can be recognised as violence that is approved with no specific starting. Furthermore, the second category of structural violence is poverty, i.e. where someone faces hardship in getting basic human needs and he structurally designs this part of violence. Here, society plays an essential role to build this structure while distributing the rights of the lower and upper classes. Simply speaking, the word “violence” is not specified with physical violence. It is also related to violence on someone’s mind and with the human psyche (7). Lastly, while defining repression, he says that there is no need to violate the repression and relate with the repressive government because human rights are humiliated on specific documents and it damages the human mind but the thing is to realise that these are not mentioned in a particular tradition. Thus, he further describes another type of violence which is alienation. Moreover, he says that structural violence probably becomes the cause of unnatural deaths and social differences. The loss of mind creates disability. There are some examples of structural violence i.e. adultism, nationalism, ageism, elitism. Concerning

violence James Gilligan’s book, *Reflection on a National Epidemic*, describes structural violence as the death rate and the rate of disability are increased due to the secondary suffered people of the society who face the challenge of contrasting themselves with the above class. Further, he says that the lower class faces more death experiences than the above ones. However, these unnatural deaths bring about the issues of stress, inequality and shame. He clarifies the idea by taking references to Richard Sennett and Jonathan Cobb who examine the “contest for dignity” in a context of dramatic inequality (8). Bandy X. Lee writes in her interdisciplinary textbook on violence that structural violence relates to escapable restrictions that society implies on a specific group of people to attain the basic needs of life to achieve equal rights i.e. economic, cultural, religious and political. These are the limitations to run the power of institutions. Moreover, she says that interpretation and the ignorance of these institutions begin social violence and creates harmful effects in the lives of living society and the result of this may cause penury (8). The terms oppression and social injustice come from violence because the decisions of human’s cause repression and result in unnatural death. Likewise, structural violence is invisible and so many individuals are affected by it (12). Moreover, the most affected from this classification is the lower class that lives under the burden of unemployment, lack of opportunities and powerlessness. From this discrimination, the whole social life is distributed. Due to the unfair behaviour of society in making the structures of an elite and lower class, people are divided into different categories that cause the death rate of more than 20 million every year. The theory of structural violence focuses on social values and describes how all the structural violence in society runs

systematically from the early years and the people of fewer authorities become the target of structural violence and humiliation just for the sake of human rights. The violence of human rights increases on an international level. To perceive all the information, the theory systematically gives the idea of structuralism and further expands the grounds of structural violence for a better comprehension of structural violation of human rights. In addition to this, the theory examines the causes from roots and addresses the global inequalities and integrates all the rights socially, politically and economically. Moreover, structuralism is the methodology to analyse human cognition, behaviours, experiences and culture while using and relating and contrasting specific objects or names. It reflects the unconsciousness of human expressions and also focuses on the breakdown of human minds. These are the universal aspects of a structural violent society. There are several structures and their varieties that are comparatively discussed on the domestic and global levels. Further, these institutions and organisations are divided into the different structures of the lower class, business class and political parties. These are included in political structures and the institutions like (UN) and (WTC) are global institutions. All these institutions symbolise domestic and global structures. The theory of structural violence gives the picture of a world that addresses the violations of human rights and examines why still most individuals are restricted to achieve the fundamental basic needs of living a life. Johan Galtung explains the reasoning of violence in his theory by saying that the idea of the past is avoidable in the present time because we have more ideas than the actual. Now at this time, people still die due to past prescriptions and ideas. The purpose of this theory is to make people aware of the past who build the social

structure and harm the people. Thus, violation of human rights increases and overlooks all the inequalities. The following chapter will discuss the review of literature that has been collected from different books, journals and research papers. In this way, it will help the researcher find a research gap in studies.

Textual Analysis

The Reluctant Fundamentalist is related to the social description, inequality and injustice by the society. It also points out the protagonist, Changez's struggle against the violence that he faces only due to his race and his religion in American society. The novel unveils the character of Changez who is the lover of America and works in America at the prestigious firm. America has always selected diamonds from the universities for her progress and Changez is the one diamond in Princeton college. As an international student, it is a big achievement for him to work for the Underwood Samson. Generally, it is supposed that when a student learns at the international level, he serves better for his country but Changez cannot do so when he works in America for the US. For this, he is often happy. If someone utilises his talent for his society. He is selected only because of his hard work. He works in New York's financial firm. Though the event of 9/11 changes the position of Changez in America and suddenly he faces criticism because of his colour, race and religious discrimination. Also, his love for Erica becomes an obsession for him but Erica loves her dead boyfriend. The glory and love and obsession of America turn Changez' character into the lover of America. Soon, this illusion changes into danger when he sees the real picture of dark America. Then, Changez leaves America and returns to his homeland, Pakistan. Where he becomes a lecturer against America. Hamid's novel mainly revolves

around racism, inequality, social injustice, social discrimination and powerlessness of the main character, Changez in American society. The narrator himself narrates the post-event of the 9/11 incident. Changez meets the stranger in Anarkali Bazar and offers him a cup of tea and asks him not to be frightened with him only due to his appearance and his beard look. "I noticed that you were looking for something; more than looking you seemed to be on a mission, and since I am both a native of this city and a speaker of your language, I thought I might offer you my services" (Hamid,1). This novel mainly revolves around the male character Changez who breaks all the American authorities and rejects all the luxuries that he gets in New York. Changez feels agitated after the unfamiliar behaviour of Americans and after the incident of 9/11. According to Galtung's theory, structural violence happens due to the unfamiliar behaviours of social, political and economic violence. Changez faces these types of outbreaks of violence and the traditional system of discrimination have been revolved around the lower and higher castes. Changez is victimised by social discrimination. From the very start of the novel, he shows the violence of discrimination. For instance, Changez' words "Excuse me sir, but may I be of assistance? Ah, I see I have alarmed you. Do not be frightened by my beard: I am a lover of America" (1). Here Hamid shows the insecurities of a stranger American towards Changez. That's why he asks him not to fear his beard because he is the lover of his country, America. Americans judge only by looks of Muslims that they have no concern for the talents that they serve for their country. Hamid diverts the attention on structural violence of human rights through the light of his novel. Hamid also points out that stereotypical social discrimination that Muslims faced around the world is the result of disadvantages of legal

political and social traditions. Sometimes it seems ordinary because of structural inequalities. Here, the distortion of 9/11 is highlighted and structural violence also highlights the incidents and inequalities of the past in the modern world. For the relief of another, Muslims always clarify themselves and he is always targeted for his identity, the same as in the first sentence of the novel. And these humiliations have been going on for centuries. And Muslims had faced inequality and the pain of discrimination to live a peaceful life in strange countries. The character of Changez unmasks his Identity from the beginning of the novel. Joan Galtung's theory is directly related to the violence of social structure and social institutions that harm individuals from getting basic needs. The following words, "I'm not poor; far from it: my great-grandfather, for example, was a barrister with the means to endow a school for the Muslims of Punjab. Like him, my grandfather and father both attended university in England" (9). While getting a prestigious job in the valuation firm, New York, in his interview, he satisfies Jim that he does not belong to a poor family and he has no hunger for money. According to Galtung's theory, he also addresses the poverty and injustice situation that Changez faced in his interview and he clarifies himself that his father and grandfather belong to a rich family and they get a good education from England. Jim thinks that he belongs to a poor country so might be, he wanted to get more money without any talent. Americans show their unjust behaviour while getting interviews. And this concept is developed when society suffers from inequality. American perspective towards the world poverty does not change and the protagonist of the novel Changez throughout the novel faces this experience of poverty while his colleagues torture him in the name of Islam.

He says: Do you see those girls, walking there, in jeans speckled with paint? Yes, they are attractive. And how different they look from the women of that family sitting at the table beside ours, in their traditional dress. The National College of Arts is not far/ it is, as a matter of fact, only around the corner- and students often come here for a cup of tea. Just as we are doing now. (16). There is yet another example of social discrimination is that when Changez hears from the stranger American talks about the dress of Western girls. Changez very intelligently tackles this question and replies very well while giving the example of the National College of Arts where boys and girls live their style in a high approach and wear jeans despite belonging to the elite class, they come in Anarkali Bazar just for a cup of tea. It shows the negative condition and mindset of Liberal Americans and Changez inadequate insecurities which adversely create an impact on him. Changez notices that Americans try to decrease his identity, so he starts to clarify his negative image. He clears him by saying that as the stranger and he is there for a cup of tea so it does not mean that it is an inferior place for sitting. Violence does not mean that it harms and relates to bodily violence, in-fact it is inflicted through structures. So Stranger American emotionally attack his mind through the examples of his culture. Changez' thoughts were engaged in a struggle to maintain his reputation in front of him. Our technology achieves achievements in the world but our civilization remains the same. The nature of the world of fundamentalism cannot be changed. On another occasion, Changez remarks, In a subway car, my skin would typically fall in the middle of the colour spectrum. On street corners, tourists would ask me for directions. I was, in four and half years, never an American; I was immediately a New Yorker. What? My voice is rising? You are right; I tend to become

sentimental when I think of that city. It still occupies a place of great fondness in my heart, which is quite something, I must say, given the circumstances under which, after only eight months of residence, I would later depart. (33) This shows how the past theoretically inspired and made the recognition of someone based on past experiences. Foreign students face so many hurdles as illustrated in the previous paragraph. The United States of America creates problems for academic students and this produces violently unequal structures in the world. Galtung's theory further describes the imbalanced social discrimination of power and provides structural violence into human rights violations. It creates a huge disparity and global unfairness on an international level. Changez was assaulted because of his skin colour again and again and his appearance. He says that he is spending more than four years in America but he is still unknown to Americans; they treat him like a foreigner. His voice changes into a sentimental condition when he remembers that he was a New Yorker in the past. America could not accept even his love for America. America has still distributed the world based on colour and race. Yet there were moments when I became disoriented. I remember one such occasion in particular. I was riding with my colleague in a limousine. We were mired in traffic, unable to move, and I glanced out the window to see, only a few feet away, the driver of a jeepney returning my gaze. There was an undistinguished hostility in his expression; I had no idea why. We had not met before. I was virtually certain _ and in a few minutes, we would probably never see one another again. But his dislike was so obvious, so intimate, that it got under my skin. I stared back at him, getting angry myself_ you will have noticed in your time here that glaring is something we men of Lahore take seriously _ and I maintained eye contact until he was obliged by

the movement of the car in front to return his attention to the road (66). These lines show that the whole incident is unfamiliar for Changez. And he tries to understand what is happening before the second and why he acts like that. Besides, at this moment he realises that he is making his own home but still he cannot make any identity in America. Joan Galtung describes penetration and segmentation as some mechanisms which are used to eradicate people's inequality. Physical violence is easy to recognise but getting weird attention from another country is panic. Same as structural violence is invisible and harms someone's mind. And it is difficult to recognise violence as violence. He observes his peculiar expressions while watching his face. His negative response to Changez was indeed direct violence for him. Moreover, Changez wants to live a peaceful life in America but he cannot bear disrespect and humiliation every day. So, he comes back to his homeland after his self-realisation and spends the rest of his life in Pakistan. In this regard, Galtung says that performances, events and negativity create obstacles over time. Changez belongs to a different culture and he has a different mindset and expectations from others. Initially, he tried to set and adjust himself in American luxurious culture and make his own identity, he has own values and he tried to blend these values in another culture. Even though he thought himself a New Yorker. He has a great desire and dream that people call him an American. He enjoys multiculturalism and sees his future living in America. Apart from these, he knows he is not like them, and he could not get the equality like other Americans have after the incident of 9/11. American culture discriminated against him and nobody accepted him over here. Immediately, his position status clashed. His feelings for foreigners hunt him every day. Americans treated him differently,

and he could not bear this behaviour from his dream place where he was daily ashamed and escaped his identity. He hides his identity from his favourable position.

In addition to this, the whole scenario shows the powerful side of American culture. They discriminate against anybody anytime and snatch all the senses of security. When Changez is humiliated by the hands of his girlfriend's gatekeeper he knows his position and knows where he is standing in this country where a servant is more powerful than a man who works in a prestigious firm. And this fact upset him a lot. And Now he finally realises the troubles of his homeland. He stopped at every moment due to his racial discrimination. The insult he met with daily is by the infuriated looks. Simon Frith talks about culture and identity in his book: "In talking about identity we are talking about a particular kind of experience or a way of dealing with a particular kind of experience. Identity is not a thing but a process" (110).

After experiencing these facts Changez enables himself to identify the injustice of American society and sees the bias faced by Americans. And his opinion towards his land instantly changes. Firstly, as a person and as a Pakistani his mind changes towards his country. He realises the changes that he feels in himself. "I was looking at me with the eyes of a foreigner, and not just any foreigner, but that particular type of entitled and unsympathetic American who so annoyed me when I encountered him in the classrooms and workplaces of your country's elite" (56). In the above lines, Changez portrays his country in the foreigner's eyes that the media presents to the world. And people easily believe it. The media depicts the wrong picture of one country and everyone blindly accepts it. Changez sees the western behaviours and misrepresentation of Muslims in the western world. And the media plays a

vital role to show the wrong picture of Muslims. Because Changez sees the original colours of American politics. And he sees the colour picture of both countries and is aware of their perspectives because now he assimilates from both of them and easily feels the discrimination issue. And this Discrimination made him recognise the injustice and bias side of Americans. Now he can see the real image of Pakistani through the eyes of Americans. His attitude changes towards the people of the motherland. After watching this quality there is no chance to settle in America. At the end of the novel, we are not much sure about the Changez Fundamentalism but on the other hand, he must become a competitor of the USA.

Conclusion

The undertaken thesis concludes that Changez does not follow the rules of the United State. Returning from America to Pakistan enables him to differentiate his identity crises. He observes this experience before when he visits his family during his vacation from New York. He was looking at himself as a foreigner after his comeback from Pakistan. He does not shave, he sees América through different eyes. He thinks that most of the foreigners who live in America came from Europe and other developed countries but they do not face those challenges. He was tortured daily by his looks. He starts to think about the difference between his identity and others' identities. Social injustice is the main subject after the destruction of 9/11. Americans annoy him at every moment when he interacts with them. He noticed all the arrogant and angry eyes. Hamid successfully defends his opinions about the individual character that faced the hyperreality of the powerful country. The West has always dominated the East. In his novel, Hamid uses allegories for the readers to understand the whole incident of the Twin Towers.

Underwood Samson itself shows the discrimination. The character of Erica also is an example of betrayal. All the circumstances create obstacles for Changez. At the end of the novel, the readers cannot get a clear answer to what happened in the next, but it all depends on readers how they perceive this. But one thing is clearer from the side of the audience: they are much aware of the behaviours of Americans and the relations of Pakistan with America. From both sides, nobody trusts the other completely. But this novel helps the audience to understand the situation and recognise the problems between them. However, Changez knows the gap side by side and his crusade to live in between was insane after his social discrimination. Whether his attentions are wrong or right his experience causes him to stand on an extreme level, the whole process leads to a strong reaction from Changez side and it is worth inspecting.

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