

A Critical Discourse Analysis of the Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid

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Abstract

This important study debates in detail the Critical discourse analysis of The Reluctant Fundamentalist, a famous work by Mohsin Hamid. The theoretical framework by Ruth Wodak, for current research work discusses in detail, the strategies which involve in the making of the particular ideology in the discourse. Discussion on the Critical Race theory is also a very important aspect of this chapter. This particular work traces the history and the major research works in which CRT applies. All of the characters feel and sense that in their collective unconsciousness and none of the characters are in a position to change their stance. Racism is like hanging in the collective unconsciousness of the people from both sides that is shown in the reaction of the people which are extremely strong, abrupt and impulsive. Impulsive reactions of the social actors arise when something come to them suddenly and they have no other option but to give their response in an unthinking manner. The differences over the ideologies of the people from both sides are so inherently strong in the minds of the people that these have become instinctive reactions that can be seen over the faces of the people as observed by Changez in the novel.

Keywords: CRT (Critical Race Theory), CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis), Analysis.

Introduction

This qualitative study, through the use of Critical Discourse Analysis both as methodology and theoretical perspective will unearth the latent dimensions of how the writer has represented racism through his dialogues, i.e. diction, phrases, figures of speech and other linguistic devices in his novel. One significant development in this research work is the exploration of the data in the framework of Critical Race theory (CRT) by Delgado and Stefancic (2001). In this oft quoted democratic society where there are continuous slogans on the equality of man and his relationship to another man on the planet earth on equal basis is the prerequisite of the cultured classes of human beings. Yet there is a long way to go if the picture has to be evaluated in the real sense. The most developed countries that has louder claims, still have racism at its roots that also is involved in governing the affairs of the country and making decisions that are racial and prejudiced. Eventually, the literature produced thus would also be tainted by racism. There are going to be such allusions that would point to the existence of racial prejudices and practices across the world.

Both in research world and discourse, racism is an intricate concept, very difficult to define. According to Barker (1984), "Racism comprises of a series of imagined realities, according to which a certain group of people is morally, intellectually and culturally superior to another group, and according to which these

superior characteristics are inherited from generation to generation”. This concept is further discussed by Liebkind that how racism and the concept of ‘race’ are connected to each other? She sorts out that the concept of race is purely a social product – “race’ is believed to be a biological type or class, when in reality, not a single biological criterion exists for this kind of classification” (Liebkind (1994:41). Since language forms representations, its use is never neutral. Such representations construct social reality in other forms and affect the ideologies and identities of people. Among such dominant and constructed ideologies, one is that of race and racial ideologies, in language. It is therefore important to pay attention to language and reveal racial injustices and discrimination in society.

This study focuses to explore:

1. How has predication/labelling of the social actors been done in the novel?
2. How is racism perpetuated through language?
3. How have the tenets of CRT been applied in the novel?

Significance of the Study

The significance of the research work can be better understood through the study of the objectives that it wants to achieve. The current research is very important as it focusses for the first time on a very popular novel by oriental novelist, Mohsin Hamid, on an extremely famous issue i.e. terrorism, in the backdrop of CDA and CRT. Finding the racial elements in a novel and analyzing the specific use of linguistic tools makes it even more important research as a Pakistani student, for the issue not only concerns us all rather it also concerns all the human beings on this planet.

Literature Review

In the current times racism is not just manifested the way it used to be in the past. The expressions and practices have greatly changed. The concept of racism has also become very much diverse. In the past it used to be shown through the physical features, colours of the skin and so on. It signified mostly the biological and hereditary features. Different races were distinguished on the basis of the above mentioned features. However, in the modern times, the scope and boundary of racial differences has extended to a much more conceptual and non-physical features of the human existence. Most of the studies on racism have been conducted on the legal documents. In fact, the critical race theory traces its origin in the study and analysis of legal documents (Cook, 1995).

The concept of racism has extended to ethnic, religious minorities, immigrants and asylum seekers. It is no more based on the idea of differences in the colour of the skin. In its crude terms the ideological and identity differences also come under the umbrella of the racial differences in the modern times. The panorama of racism has widened to the national, political, economic, geographical and regional boundaries. Sanson et al. (1998) focus on the same issue that racial discrimination in the world is also because of the same reasons that are further dividing the societies into different groups that keep on clashing with one another from time to time. In their paper on racism in Australia, they argue that the term racism has gone beyond the biological differences. It is now a political construct that can be labeled to any community or people that are different from the powerful elite in the society.

Cook (1995) argues that the notion of racism is also directly linked to the supremacy of the white man. It is a politicized phenomenon and the notion of imperialistic designs and supremacy control the idea of racism in the world. Yet colour of the skin is still a predominant factor in racism. The differences among the people and stereotyping of the particular group of people being negative and positive are related to the colour of skin as well. Seldom there is the attitude about the acceptability of the criminal who belongs to a different race and colour of skin. Most of the times it is ascribed to a particular colour of skin in the developed societies. In the US, it is normally the non-white colour and in Australia, it is the brown colour of the Aborigines. So, broadly speaking, the concept of racism does not confine itself to the colour of skin,

rather it also incorporates the non-physical features of a community and the attitudes of the people are also formed accordingly.

The concept of the colour of skin is also very important for Ellemers, N. & Haslam, S. A. (2012). In their studies, they argue that racist uphold the idea that whiteness is the property of the chosen ones. Those who reside in the West and belong to a common shared biological heritage. All others that have white skins are excluded from it. Hence, whiteness is the peculiar property of the few chosen ones. It cannot be given to anyone else in the world. The whiteness also contains with it certain characteristics that are also the property of those chosen one. The specific word civilization and being civilized is also used for the white people. It cannot be used for anyone else at all. All other white or non-white people are others and they can never be to the perfection of the ideals on which the white stand.

In the same context, critical race theory discusses and evaluates the text in the specific manner bearing in focus the following elements as outlined by Delgado & Stefancic (2017) in their introductory book on critical race theory:

1. As compared to liberalism, critical race theorists are more aggressive and specific in their approach as they view each document in the light of racism. They argue that all the transformations occurring in the society are specifically racial and biased. There are not voluntary laws to be postulated and presented in the society in the name of humanity. Such legal transformations serve the interest of the powerful elite.
2. Counter storytelling is another important focus of these race theorists. They argue on the need to develop and present counter narratives in order to do away with the effects of the racial documents and laws in the world.
3. Derrick Bell and Mary Dedzuiik have extensive research the legal documents and literature related to racism in America and have concluded that making of anti-racial laws and anti-discriminatory acts are very much incidental and are protected and propagated to advocate and prove white man's supremacy over the third world countries. There is no humanitarian effort involved behind it. All these efforts that are based on the idea of fraternity and brotherhood or the national solidarity of Americanism are purely planned serving the interest of the ruling white man. Therefore, these have no archival place in the annals of humanitarian efforts.

Hence the need of the male white is more propagated than the needs of the female black or for that matter the male black with these differences, hence promoted, also get wider attention by the law and policy makers. It is because of racism. This point of critical race theory is also very much important for the researchers of gender studies who claim that the propagation of rights of a particular gender, male in this case, is purely a biased attitude that further gives birth to gender inequalities.

Harris (2019) and Ladon-Billings (2009) add another important theme to the critical race theory. They opine that whiteness is a specific property that is possessed by some in this world. It is on the basis of this quality that most of the racial prejudices present in the American society take their foundational basis and linger on. The concept of eurocentrism is somewhat related to this. According to this concept the European race is considered to be superior. There is an overarching hierarchy that exists even in the Eurocentric societies. Among the white colour is given superiority than the brown or the black one. Critical race theory has been applied in various fields. Initially it was applied on the crime and hate speeches in America.

The analysis of the discourses brings forth those interests and helps us in better understanding of the text. Fairclough (1997) focusses on the use of power through language. He argues that language and power are closely interlinked and the job of the discourse analyst is to bring forth the interplay of language and linguistic means that are used to dominate others. His concept of power is very interesting. He argues that the exercise of power is done by all. It is not just limited to the few. Rather all use this power in their own capacity for the interests that they have on the basis of their own desires and ideals. Thus the power use is

done through language. Viewed in this context, everything that is in oral or written form or has the label of communicated content can be viewed as corrupted through the ideals of power.

There are thus varieties of discourses. These can be political, religious, academic, and racial and so on. First of all, it is important to define as to what is discourse. Fairclough (1997) argues that discourse is the way various aspects of society including ideologies, beliefs, identities, norms, and customs, and so on are presented. Discourse is the mirror of society that shows the internal arrangements of the social system. Hall (1997) argues that discourse represents the various viewpoints about the world and its surroundings. These views are most of the times subjective.

CDA is the analysis of discourse in a specific manner that takes language as the paramount object of analysis. Kress (1993) argues that CDA digs up the social practices and systems of a society by bringing out their practices and concepts. Different aspects of the society and world are taken out through the discourse analysis. Hence, the analysis not only develops the deeper understanding of the social concepts rather it also discusses the specific use of language for special purposes.

Different techniques and strategies of specific language use are found out and discussed. Hence, use of language and its analysis becomes a very much systematic and scientific process. Although, about the human beings there cannot be a definite defines formula especially while analyzing the non-physical aspects. Yet the use of discourse and language are, to a great extent, helpful in making out generalizations that are important for the study of language and discourse.

Ruth Wodak (2001) has mentioned some very significant characteristics of CDA that it is interdisciplinary, eclectic, abductive, problem oriented, practical, applied, and intertextual. It is interdisciplinary because it does not limitize itself only to one specific discipline, rather wherever the topics of the discourse lead, it goes along that and studies in that context. Eclectic as it focusses on the incorporation of various methodologies and doctrines. It is problem oriented as it focusses on the problem and tends to find the solution of that problem. Rather Fairclough (1998) goes so far as to emphasize that the existence of the problem in CDA has to be checked and counter checked at two different place. First in the very beginning of the research the problem has to be defined and analyzed properly. Second, at the end, after discussing the results the problem of the research has to be discussed in detail. This way the existence of the problem would be ensured for better validity and reliability of the research.

With such versatile characteristics of research and important tools that help in understanding and evaluating the text in a better way, there are different discourse analysts who have presented their step by step models of analysis. However, three main discourse analysts have been in the forefront for the past two decades. Their works signify that they have gone a great deal deeper in conducting the discourse analysis of the texts. Those discourse analysts are Ruth Wodak (2001), Dijk, T. A. (2008), and Norman Fairclough (1997). They have presented their specific models that outline the detail methodology of conducting discourse analysis.

Ruth Wodak et al. (2001) presented her discourse-historical model that focusses on the understanding and interpretation of the discourse in the specific historical context. Wodak argues that discourse is the discursive construction that incorporates various elements and various subjects of knowledge. Therefore, the task of the discourse analyst is not limited. Rather, it is extended to the other subjects in which the discourse analyst must have the mastery and understanding. It can be understood in this regard, that the research might be the student of linguistics, but if he conducting an analysis of the political discourse, he must be able to understand the terminology and the basic concepts of political sciences so that he is better able to interpret the words, phrases, and the clauses that have been constructed in the discourse in order to convey specific meanings. Wodak regards it as the discursive approach.

The model of Wodak is based on the Frankfurt school of thought particularly that of Hebermas (Andreasson, 2007). The purpose is to understand the background information and expose the different

layers of the meanings implied in the text. Therefore, there is this systematic approach required in order to bring out as many layers of meanings as possible.

Teun Dijk, T. A. (2008) has presented his sociocognitive model that focusses on the construction of mental models that are the subjective representations of the events. He argues that discourse forms context and mental models and it is the task of the analyst to find out how these mental models are being formed in the reader or in the audience. Therefore, he calls his approach as the sociocognitive.

Norman Fairclough (1997) is also a very important discourse analyst who focusses on the Marxist tradition and interprets discourse as the use of language in society for the purpose of power grabbing and manipulation. He argues that there is a direct relationship between the language and power. Both are so interrelated that each discourse of any level aims at finding the power play or domination over the viewers or listeners.

Research Methodology

The researchers have selected Critical Race Theory to take the guiding tenets that they could find in the discourse of this novel after critical analysis and this theory would also function as the theoretical framework of this research. All the research questions are associated to the features of racism in the novel. Therefore, it is impertinent to go along this theory. The need for both CDA and CRT is because the racial elements are to be found at the level of linguistic means and lexical items. Had it been just on the thematic level, only CRT might have been sufficient. Yet at this stage, we need the help of both the theories. Therefore, we have juxtaposed them together in this research worth.

As it has been discussed in detail in second chapter that CDA presents different models for research and analysis. But for the current research, we have selected the one that has been presented by Wodak (2001). The reason for the selection of her model is that it focusses to find out how racism is perpetuated in the novel of Mohsin Hamid. Discourse-historic Model of Wodak provides excellent strategies that are to be found in the discourse and that are related to finding and analyzing the ways perpetuation of ideas and ideologies is done in a text.

It analyzes and provides the most useful tools to discover the strategies by which perpetuation is carried out. Among the many strategies that Ruth Wodak has listed in her model and figure of discursive strategies, we would focus mainly on the two strategies, that is, preaching, which is related to the stereotyping of characters and ideas, and the other is argumentative that relates to justifying ideologies to perpetuate them. Both types of strategies are largely related to the perpetuation of certain ideas and ideologies. Therefore, we have just focused on these two strategies. There are other strategies of Wodak too. One of them is destructive strategies, but we have not selected this one. It is related to how ideas already held are destroyed through speech. The focus of our research is not this aspect. Rather it is primarily the perpetuation of racial ideologies and elements in the novel.

Critical Discourse Analysis of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

The analysis of the novel is being done through critical race theory and racism is quite closely linked to the heritage of the physical and non-physical features. We have not applied the whole model of Ruth Wodak. Rather, we have selected his very important aspect of discursive strategies because these strategies help us in analyzing and finding out answers to the research questions. Critical Race Theory has also been selected because it has helped in finding out the basic tenets that deal with the third question of the thesis. We have taken the tenets of racism from Critical Race Theory. The format of this chapter has also been kept simple and understandable. Each question has been dealt under a separate subheading so that the clarity to the answers and the discussion may be maintained.

This novel represents what can be called the dissection of desires and objectives of various classes of society in the wake of fast transforming social set up in Pakistani society. It does little concern itself with the morals and values of Pakistani society. However, the background of the novel is post 9/11 condition of Pakistan that deals with culture, loyalty and success of the people who belong to a specific class and are East concerned with the political turns of the events.

It is his second novel, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* in 2007 that brought him great success. The novel has also been adapted for motion picture. It also has the background of the post 9/11 condition of Pakistan. This novel brought him many prizes like the Man Booker Prize, the Commonwealth Writers prize, the South Bank show award for literature and so on. Born and bred in Pakistan, Mohsin went to America to live there for some years. Since then he has been the witness of the cross sections of various cultures including the West and the East. His novels also contain the themes that are related to both the dimensions of cultures. These can be observed from his writings.

In his interview in Barnes and Nobel, his words suggest that he is completely influenced by the currents of his time. For example, talking about the birth of the idea of *Moth Smoke*, he suggests that one day in Lahore, when he woke up he saw a bullet on the bonnet of his car that might have come from some wedding ceremony or any other. This is the very incident that set the motion of his first novel *Moth Smoke*. Therefore, the central character of the novel is also orphan. These words show that the culture of Pakistan does not go away from his novels. It lives there completely and he is very much into it. His characters are Pakistani to the core.

He can be viewed as a very specific voice of the modern mind that tries to approach various political and racial issues in much universal manner yet at the core of these issues there is always an air of bias and prejudice towards a particular culture. His writings can also be viewed in the backdrop of post colonialism. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* is set in the backdrop of Post 9/11 events and the treatment of the American society towards that of Pakistani society and over all the Muslims of the world. There are certain dialogues and symbols that signify that the writer is pro-Muslim and is averse of the attitude of the Americans towards Muslims.

The issue is of global scale. Therefore, the writer sets the plot of the novel in Pakistan, America, Greece, and other parts of the world. It normally discusses the topics of change that is happening in the world at global scale. It discusses the fall of the empire of the US and the changes that are occurring in the attitudes of the people related to it. There are also references towards the living personalities and the characters of the movies and media that are held to be the ideals of the modern American society. There are tones of irony and sarcasm hidden in the words of the central character of the novel *Changez*.

There are also allusions to the clash of the East and the West and a very apt comment on the powerful and civilized condition of the orientalist when the West was living in the slumber of darkness. In the very first chapter there is reference to the civilized condition of the East and to the barbaric condition of the West in the past. The whole of the novel is seen with the conflict of the East and the West. The protagonist of the novel, the Eastern person who loved America at one stage of his life but is now completely transformed and his preferences have changed.

The word 'fundamentalism' is not just used for the Muslims rather for the West as well. Most of the allusions and symbols that have been used in the novel relate to the events and the changes in the perceptions of the Eastern and the Western people towards each other. The stereotyping of the Eastern people by the Western has been judged from the perspective of a transformed person who has seen both sides of the world. It is impertinent to understand the event after 9/11 that have brought about so many changes in the perception of the world.

Islamophobia is the important perceptual change that has occurred in the minds of the people typically of the West. They hold that all men with beard are terrorists. This ideology has increased the gap between the East and the West. There is no meeting ground between these two cultures except for the hatred that connects them. A fear of the non-white people, and their symbols and traditions have been created among the people. There is insecurity of the bearded persons all over the world.

There are references to the strange fear of death for anyone who raises voice against the empire. Standing against the empire has been taken as standing against the Nobel ideals. This is taken as barbaric and unjust of which Muslims are the greatest culprits. These types of images and perceptions have been created among the people all over the world. Media has also played a very effective role in creating such images of the Muslim countries. In chapter three of the novel there is also clear allusion to this reality. It is the media that has painted a specific racially discriminative picture of the Muslims who are considered to be barbaric.

The story is set in a café of Lahore, where the central character of the novel meets a foreigner whose name has been mentioned. He sits with him over a cup of tea and related the story of his life. His main purpose is to bridge the gap because he knows the language and can be very helpful for the foreigner. He relates that he used to live in America and worked in a good firm over there. He used to have a happy life.

As narrated, there he falls in love with Erica, who is not able to continue the relationship with him because she is too much into the memories of her deceased boyfriend Chris. His first meeting with Erica takes place in Greece. Yet later on they try to continue their relationship but the troubling mental condition of Erica did not allow it. She is admitted to the mental hospital of New York. Later on, it is found out that she is missing and her clothes have been found near the Hudson River. Yet there is no confirmation of the death of Erica because her body has not been found.

The professional life of Changez is very good as all his peers are happy with him and he enjoys his work a lot. Through his company, he also travels to various parts of the world including Chile, Philippines, and Valaliraso. He observes the world and the changes that have taken place. Yet the change is also shown as the continuous process throughout the novel. However, after returning from Chile with unfinished assignment, he loses his job and there is no other option for him but to leave the country.

Leaving New York is also motivated because of the situation after 9/11 that changed the attitude of the Americans towards the Muslims. However, as he belonged to a particular society, nothing harmed him yet he had nothing to do there. He starts having a beard in response to the attitude of the West towards the Muslims. He finally comes back to Lahore and starts working here as Lecturer in Finance in a local university. Here, he gives vent to all his ideas and experiences that he has got. He gives speeches, delivers lectures and interviews mostly against the perception that has been created against the Muslims of the world. There is also a very famous interview by Changez in which he openly criticizes the military policies of America. These kind of activities create a fear among the people around him who view him as some kind of person who can be disappeared any time.

The novel ends with the doubts over the stranger who is supposed to have some kind of weapon in his pocket. Changez lives in the doubt that has been created in his heart due to the activities of the locals and foreigners against all those who try to stand against America and say the right and justified thing in favor of the Muslims all over the world.

Predication/Labelling of Social actors

As has been discussed in detail in the chapter of Literature Review and introduction that racial prejudice is shown by labelling the social actors. There is a typical stereotyping that is done in the discourse in order to relate the social actors with the certain racial traits that are held to be of the particular race. These traits can be both at physical as well as non-physical level. In the novel, Hamid presents various such allusions to the traits of races that show the racial bias towards the Eastern Muslim and the westerners. These traits also form a specific identity and ideology of the people that can only be countered through the counter story

telling. This novel is also an attempt at such counter experience. The following paragraphs contain such references to the racial prejudice that have been analyzed and discussed in detail using the tool of predication provided by Ruth Wodak (2001).

Wodak argues that there are explicit or implicit, negative or positive traits in the discourse that signify the stereotyping in the strategy of predication. The attributes are not just stereotypical rather these are also evaluative. Because in the process of stereotyping the writer of the discourse also evaluates the characters and their traits. This strategy has also been explicitly and implicitly used by the writer in the novel.

Although beard is also a symbol of people from other religious communities like the Jews and Sikhs but it has been labelled and reserved for the Muslims of the world. The protagonist tries to do away with this labelling and tries to create the image that though he has beard but he is very much respectful of American ideals. Rather he loves America. From the point of view of the protagonist of the novel, the beard also shows the resistance by the protagonist. In the later turn of the events the readers are informed when Changez returns from Chile and experiences the behaviours of the people of America after 9/11, in reaction he starts having the beard. The beard shows the fear as well as the resistance.

In the use of the word beard, it is not the colour of the skin that is defining or distinguishing a different race. Rather it is the beard, the obvious manifestation and relation to a particular ideology that is being singled out by the writer to show that the bearded man belongs to a different race and represents Muslims all over the world. This racial element that shows altogether different ideology is not the colour of the skin rather a common heritage that is to be found among the Muslims. In this discussion, there is one important point that needs to be understood is that beard and the Muslims are singled out.

The question can be why not the Jews or for that matter the Sikhs or other communities that have beard. The answer to this lies in the intention of the powerful elite who develop attitudes and shape the opinions of the people and target a certain community. At the moment in the whole world, a particular community is being targeted and this is Muslims of the world. So the intention of the people counts a lot in the making of the particular stereotypical characters. The analysis of the word bear in relationship to fear and respect shows the real intention of the West that has made the East as target of their sufferings and interests.

The act of labelling and stereotyping is done here in two ways. One is through the mouthpiece of the central character of the novel Changez that he says about himself; the other way is the ideas and perceptions of the Westerners that Changez quotes in his language. So there are two perceptions that have been juxtaposed here. Rather these are the two realms of historical narratives that have been so boldly put forward here. Both of these narratives are the part of such powerful propagation and past that these cannot be denied.

During the course of novel, when the events lead to the fall of the twin towers, there is mockery on the might of America. This ironical situation also gives a sort of pleasure to Changez and his proudly caught up in the symbolism of the fall of America. There are certain words that have been used as irony but these words also are the labels that have been consistently used by the Americans about themselves in the past century. Changez, in resentment, now laughs upon these ideals.

The very words are “*the mightiest civilization the world has ever known; you have slighted us, beware our wrath*” (RF, Chap. 6, 2007). There used to be the proud moments of America when she boasted of her might and power. That power was deeply shaken by the acts of the terrorists who had attacked in the very heart of America. Hence the words mightiest civilization were no more for the Americans, rather, these had become the irony. A kind of pun that held the other contrary meanings for the whole world. That they were the weak ones now. They had been bruised so heavily that they would not be able to become the masters of the world anymore. The stereotyping of the characters has been challenges. Now those characteristics have been put in reverse order by the writer.

In chapter 9, there is labelling of the orientalists that they were with the beard and only those could stand against the empire who had beards. Therefore, he grows the beard in order to show the resistance that he wanted to manifest against the American nation and her policies who were attacking his kins in other parts of the world. His ironical remark that “the army of clean-shaven youngsters” (RF, chap. 9, 2007), was not enough to stand against the empire is actually the dissociation from the West and solidarity with the Muslims of the world who thought that beard was a label of their identity and it cannot be removed. It is the same label that has been used in the first chapter when Changez asks the stranger to relax himself though he has beard but he loves America. So beard is a symbol that is used to signify the Muslims of the world and all those that are against the American empire and her burden.

Hence, the answer to the first question is how has labelling been done by the writer in the novel of the social actors. The answer lied in the finding that the writer has used many words in their historical contexts that stand for certain civilizations and characteristics. There is also an attempt by the writer to reverse the labels and give the old labels of one civilization to that of the other. This kind of labelling has been done through the stereotyping and predication strategies implied in the text. The old labels that had been used for the orientalists for such a long time have been mentioned ironically in the novel and have been justified to be the characteristics of the imperialist America instead. The predicates of the sentences have been so arranged that the labels actually do not stand for the orientalists, rather these are for the oppressive rulers who are so proudly blinded by their own perception of being the mightiest.

Perpetuation of Racial Bias

The second research question is related to the perpetuation of the racial bias that has been done by the writer. According to Wodak (2001), perpetuation strategies are related to the argumentative strategies that are actually implied in the text and through these strategies, the writer tries to justify his ideology so that these ideas should be alive and continue. Hence, the justification of the ideas is actually the perpetuation of these. Now, justification is only possible after the ideas have been represented. In the previous discussion it has been found that there are racial elements in the novel that have been done also through the strategy of predication which is related to labelling or stereotyping of the characters. There are lots of dialogues in the novel that show the racial bias and justify that through the reference to the events of the past and present alike.

The racial element in the novel has also been perpetuated in another way when the writer says that he was considered as foreigner in the west. That means he was someone else. He was not the part of their us. He was not considered to be one of them. Although it gave him many benefits, but, it also created a consciousness in Changez that helped him to transform himself and get back to his original self, to the very culture where he was born and to where he belonged. This kind of consciousness comes when the pretty face of the imperialist America is revealed and opened up after 9/11.

Tenets of Racism

Decuir and Dixson (2004) argue that critical race theory focusses on certain tenets that are to be found in the writings and evaluated thus. These tenets include counter storytelling, permanence of racism, whiteness as property, interest convergence, and a critique of liberalism. The CDA of this novel shows that all these tenets have been aptly used by the writer. The first tenet is that of the counter-story telling. This tenet is actually the whole plot of the novel. The novelist has tried to present a counter version of the racial discrimination and even he has tried to reverse the label that has been for so long given to the people of the East. In counter story telling such narrative is created that puts doubts in the already existing narrative.

The already existing narrative is that the orientalists are brutal and barbaric illiterate individuals that need to be taught certain liberal and democratic principles. This idea has been challenged in the novel when the writer tries to present a narrative in which the conditions of the western people have been highlighted and they themselves have been considered as the average people who are obsessed in the self-delusion of being

the rulers. This is dangerous consciousness that would be the reason for their eventual fall. This counter narrative also stresses that the West is towards its decline because of the very policies that it has made against the orientalist and it is going to suffer a descend.

Conclusion

The findings of the research signify that the strategy of labelling and stereotyping has been used by the writer in the novel while presenting various social actors that initiate the events of the plot. The labelling has been done both in the historic perspective and in the current perspective. Historically, the illiterate barbarians of the East were actually the civilized people who were cleans and also boasted of rich intellectual heritage. On the contrary in those times, the people living in the West, the so called proud imperialists and colonizers were actually living in dirt and illiteracy. There were many customs and taboos that had engulfed the western civilization at that time. The label of illiterate barbarism truly fits in the characteristics of the people of the West four hundred years ago. The writer admits that though the situation is completely reversed in the current scenario, the label of illiterate barbarism can now be given to the Eastern people as it has been assigned in the last four hundred years.

Hence, there is constant shift in the labelling that has been presented by the writer in the novel. It goes from civilized people to barbaric people and finally to the civilized people. This is the story of the East. On the other hand, in the West, the change in the labels is from barbaric to the civilized and then to barbarism again. There is a transformation in the West about becoming barbaric again. The writer has used the strategy of predication in order to do the labeling and stereotyping and presents a counter argument against the already prevalent narrative in the world.

Another important finding is that the writer has used the strategy of argumentation in order to perpetuate the racist ideology and has focused that the perpetuation is permanent and racism is not going to end in any way. It is going to persist for long. There are many events in the novel that signify that racial element is not going to change and it is from both sides of the world. Events, labels, words, phrases and sentences have been so arranged that show a continuous flow of the negative and positive images about the Eastern as well as the western people.

All the tenets that include counter storytelling, permanence of racism, whiteness as property, convergence of interests, and liberalism as failure has been presently deliberately and efficiently by the writer in the novel. The novel is one of such important efforts to discuss the elements of racism that are inherent in both sides of the world. However, the writer also moves a step forward and says that this racism is permanent and is not going to go away. 9/11 has a very important role to play in all this. Racism is going to increase. And from both sides all those who get clear realization of the situation and experience the differences from both sides of the world are going to feel the difference and find out that everyone would eventually go back to his center. They would not be able to blend in with each other. The permanence is going to stay there forever. This kind of change is very important in the hearts of the people. Rather it is not a change.

The writings can also be further viewed in the backdrop of sociological and political viewpoints. The clash of the civilizations is a myth or reality can also be a very important question of research. There are some views that economy is one of the most powerful reasons behind this clash. Is it just economy? Or there are also other factors that are more powerful than these in the current world. All these questions can be further researched and their findings might lead to the change in the attitudes towards each other for the better and cooperative coexistence in both sides of the world.

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