

ABSTRACT

Intrusions from other cultures or assimilation into the culture of others imply loss of identity and displacement. This thesis examines how the loss of one's identity results into the destabilization of the 'self', depriving it of its originality and unity. To gain back its sense of ingenuity and coherence the 'self' demands recognition from the 'others' that are outside and around it. With the reference to *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid and *The Cloud Messenger* by Aamir Hussein, this study analyses how through the process of identification the 'self' strives to restore and relocate the lost harmony and discovers its sense of unity.

Simultaneously post-colonial and post-modern, both novels are brilliant yet complex. The novels feature a number of significant issues presented in a very refined manner, mainly identity crisis, cultural conflict and the complications regarding acculturation. Under the title Displacement and Relocation of the 'Self' in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *The Cloud Messenger*, this study inspects the formation of the protagonists' identity and studies the problems they face in the process of identification of their 'Self'.

This thesis critically analyses the phenomena of multiculturalism and hybridity that too have their roles in the formation of identity. For a detailed inspection of the changes in Mehran's and Changez's 'self', this study theorises the Personal and Cultural aspects of identity with reference to the works of a few theorists and critics, like Stuart Hall, Homi K. Bhabha and Jonathan Rutherford. It focuses on how Hussein and Hamid have intricately assimilated the East and the West in their works and it proposes to bridge the gaps between the First and the Third world, then to highlight the diversity and differences existing amid the two.