

The inter-cultural clash in Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and Zadi Smith's *White teeth*

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Abstract:

Both authors Hanif Kureishi and Zadi Smith deal with many issues connected with living in a multicultural society with the gab between the first and the second generation of immigrants. Both novels have been analysed as the diverse and multicultural society of the present day city of London. The roots have made identity issues for the second generation in both works. The main goal of this paper is to demonstrate the aspects of multi cultural social space and instability of hybrid identities and family relations depicted in the novels . The second generation of immigrants ,who live in London, tries to mix and mingle the dominant culture (English culture),with their familial culture in order to have a different identity.

Key words : Hybridity, Multiculturalism, Multiracial , Englishness, Migration Racial discrimination

ومفاهيم عن الهوية الهجينة والتعدد الثقافي

في روايتي بوذا الضواحي ل حنيف قريشي و"أسنان بيضاء ل زادي سميث

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نبذة مختصرة:

كل من الكاتبين حنيف قريشي وزادي سميث يتعاملان مع العديد من القضايا المرتبطة بالعيش والتواجد في مجتمع متعدد الثقافات من خلال الفجوة الموجودة بين الجيلين الأول والثاني من المهاجرين .

كلتا الروائيتين تسعيان لتحليل التنوع الثقافي والعرقى الموجود حتى يومنا هذا في مدينة لندن. العودة إلى الجذور والوطن هي المعضلة الأساسية للجيل الثاني من المهاجرين، الهدف الرئيسي من هذا البحث هو عرض الأوجه المختلفة للتنوع الثقافي المجتمع والهويات الثقافية الهجينة المتغيرة باستمرار من خلال العلاقات العائلية في الروائيتين .

الجيل الثاني من المهاجرين والذي يعيش في لندن يحاول بشدة الاندماج في المجتمع البريطاني من أجل الحصول على هوية جديدة تعبر عن ذاتهم .

الكلمات المفتاحية : الهوية الهجينة ،التنوع الثقافي، التنوع العرقى، الإنجليزية، الهجرة، التمييز العنصري.

In the last decades, mainly from the 1950s to now adays ,there have been a new approach to the formation of culture.

The determination of the definition of culture in general, becomes more and more varying. It is not a question of defining a term , but more importantly, the distinction and position this term has to be analysed when reading post colonial texts and novels ,such as Zadi Smith's *White teeth* and Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia*, the question arises as to what specific kind of society and culture is depicted and in how far it affects people's every day life .

Before analyzing the elements of hybridity in both novels , it is important to know that there exists more than one definition of the term whether in a social or racial context. Nevertheless, the following is what is mentioned in

Dictionary of Sociology:

Hybridity refers to the process of the emergence of a culture, in which its elements are being continually transformed or translated through irrepressible encounters . Hybridity offered the potential to undermine existing forms of cultural authority representation (cited Warner ,2007:5)

According to this definition , hybridity is described as a culture of it's own. Furthermore, Edward Said, a Palestinian-American theorist added to this saying ,”Cultures are hybrid and heterogeneous.and interdependent”(Said 1995:347)

Thus, hybridity can be seen as not only a result of globalization, immigrations and colonization ,but as a constant necessity in the development of any culture. Moreover, it is nearly impossible to determine or define any culture without considering hybridity. Homi Bhabha further developed the concept of a hybrid culture and identity . He” uses the term hybridity to mark the interdependent construction of post colonial identities, which combine and intersect binary oppositions in complex and ambiguous ways “(Meyers .171)

The Indian post_colonial scholar gives a more ambivalent insight into the structure of culture in comparison with the approaches of other post-colonial writers like Edward Said and his concept of Orientalism .

A significant aspect of Bhabha's studies is the concept of mimicry which means that the “Other “(Meyer ,:171) ,initiates different aspects of the culture that is dominating.

Bhabha's mimicry and the "Other" were concepts related and linked with committing racist attitudes as well as degeneration, weakness and bastardization (Hadjetian ,:51).

Further more, there are different views on hybridity 's position in a social context on the proper localization of this term within a culture.

According to the literary theorist Gayatri Spivak there should be a much greater focus in power relations within hybrid Culture in order to overcome social and political injustices..

Other post_colonial authors such as Ashkroft , Griffiths and Tiffin have their own illustration of the occurrence of hybridization in post-colonial societies:

Hybridity occurs in the post-colonial societies both as a result of conscious moments of cultural suppression as when the colonial power invades to consolidate political and economic control , or when settler-invades disposes indigenous peoples and force them to' assimilate 'to new social patterns. It may also occur in later periods when patterns of immigration from the metropolitan societies and from other imperial areas of influence (e.g. indentured labourers from India and China)continue to produce

complex cultural palimpsest with the post-colonialized world (183).

Multiculturalism can be defined as the co-existence of certain cultures in one place . The quality of these cultures and even power relations among them are crucial for the definition of multiculturalism. The term, beyond any negative or positive connotation , can imply and revolve around different ethnic groups melting with in one society. This multicultural society is described as a “salad bowl “(Burgess ,2005:31), which means , more clearly ,that these distinct cultures which are melting together inside what is called the melting-pot ,are defined separately.

In the United kingdom and during the last decades , the term multiculturalism has been intertwined with politics . The former Prime Minister David Cameron has stated that “under the doctrine of state multiculturalism ,different cultures have been encouraged to live separate lives “(BBC,2012)..

Analysing both *The Buddha of Suburbia* and *White teeth*, one cannot force one cultural group to merge with another , especially when the extrinsic culture is already in a dominant position. The people of a minority culture might feel threatened by being ultimately forced into subalternity .

The construction of National identity: the case of Englishness:

There has been a transformation when analyzing “the self and subjectivity that identity , nowadays , is mentioned more and more in accordance with political issues . This this change can be observed in the term ‘cultural identity ‘ which refers to the influence of culture in shaping identity and to its relationship to power (Gilroy 224).

Considering the concept of cultural identity, we can define it according to two different aspects . The first aspect describes cultural identity as one single culture shared by people who have a same history or ancestry (Hall ,2003:234). However , there is another aspect of cultural identity which suggests that it is not fixed and stable but is continuously transformed. Cultural identity through out the 20th century has been linked with political issues ,especially in relation to colonial history . Further more to legitimize one country's colonial interests and actions , cultural identity has been employed to shape the identity of the colonized as different from his own native culture.

According to Alessandra Marzola ,”the identity of the colonized tended to be unified with out considering the cultural and racial differences existing amongst the various populations :(61).

English national identity, which is referred to by using the term Englishness was in fact constructed according to Hall's concept of cultural identity. Through out the first two decades of the Twentieth century . The British Empire has gone through a political and economic loss of power which made it crucial to reshape Englishness (Marzola,:55-56)

To do so, England highlighted the concept of otherness among immigrants forming the new demography of England epecially of the former colonized peoples . After the second world war and due to the political and economic consequences of the war , England was forced to reshape its national identity the relationship between the former British colonies with England has gradually changed, with the colonized having hybrid identities and ambivalent feelings. On the one hand, they feel attached to their own cultural identity they feel a strong bond with their home land and cannot turn back on their roots . Due to political and economic changes, From the 1950s onwards in the UK as well as the effects of immigration on England's national identity, there have been a major reshaping of multicultural and multiethnic environment.

Throughout the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher attempted to re establish England as a cultural centre and retrieve the importance of Great Britain ignoring the cultural changes which has taken place with in the nation .

Furthermore, it has been made clear that cultural identity was politically used to shape its national identity. Following World War II , Englishness was challenged because of decolonization and independence, the current multicultural an multiethnic society ,which is a result of decolonization and migration, actually reminds Britain of its former condition as a colonizer.

Zadi Smith was born in North London in 1975 to an English father and a Jamaican mother:as a result she is half British, half Jamaican and represents synthesis of two cultures . Smith's own struggle with a dual identity is reflected through out his works mainly *White Teeth* ,the character of Irie represents the case of Zadi Smith. Smith's portrayal of the British society is realistically multicultural and critical. In *White teeth*, *Smith* draws our attention to the fact that contemporary society in London is made up of mixed races ,cultures, languages and customs:multiculturalism is not artificial, it is normal .

In *White Teeth*, Smith offers a picture of the post colonial London from the 1970s to the millennium. She portrays a wide range of backgrounds of mixed families in North London, particularly focusing on the lives of three of them, the Anglo-Caribbean Jones, The Bangladeshi Iqbals and the English Chafkens in the multicultural city of London. Smith provides the reader with social satire, by narrating the stories of these three ethnically different families living in the same area in North London.

Zadi Smith's first novel *White Teeth* which was published in 2000, was considered to be a great example of the diversity and multiculturalism in the city of London. The novel also analyses characters' hybrid identities and the lack of the sense of belonging among the first and the second generations of immigrants. The novel represents a myriad of ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse characters, mainly Anglo-Jamaican, Bangladeshi and Jewish adjusting, negotiating and creating the sense of "Britishness" and the sense of belonging at three different historical periods of time: The Second World War and post-war years, the period of social changes of the 1980s, and the late 1990s. Many reviews on the novel highlight the multicultural, multi racial and multiethnic aspects in the novel as well as the effects of the spacial dimension "the third

space”, hybridity and cultural diversity in forming the identities of the characters.

The sense of space that *White Teeth* is very close to Homi Bhabha's “third space “ and Massey’s understanding of space as a set of social relations (1994,2005). Moreover, Smith's portrayal of the social configurations of multicultural space since the early 1950_s to the late 1990_s can be argued to develop around the relations of a variety of characters. The friendship between Archibald Jones(British)and Samad Iqbal (Bangladeshi) characterises the novel with hybridity and multiplicity of identities. The years that followed the Second World War from the 1945 to late 1950, are considered to be the beginning of forming a new British society marked by the presence of citizens of other different ethnicities mainly from the former British colonies which coloured the white British society.

Zadi Smith's *White Teeth* was a huge success. The main factor in achieving this is Smith's youth since she was still undergraduate. She even completed the first chapter during her senior year at Cambridge University (Russo:n.p) . The final book was very impressive, therefore Smith was described as the new sensation of the millennium comparing her work to

that of Salman Rushdie and Hanif Kureishi. M.O'Rourke defines Zadi Smith as "an impressive versatile prose stylist at ease with a variety of voices and breeds of urban slang , and in her panoramic approach to multiculturalism she resembles Salman Rushdie, whose influence is obvious "(O' Rourke:166).

According to Joseph Mullan "Smith

has allowed herself a certain imaginative freedom "(Mullan :n.p). This imaginative freedom allowed Smith to give an honest account of British multicultural and multiethnic reality in the city of London .

Being the daughter of a Jamaican mother and an English father Smith assumes that the novel is a space for ethnically-diverse identities. According to Merrit who quoted from Smith :

"It is a kind of fantasy book "(Zadi)agrees .

"there is alot of pessimism currently about race

relations in this country. I think the relationships

in the book is something to be wished for , but I think

they might exist now , and certainly in the future , with the amount of mixing that has gone on . My generation and

my younger brother's generation even more , don't carry the same kind of baggage “(Merrit n.p).

Smith addresses the multiplicity of identities and characters that are to be found in contemporary British society through the inclusion of three different models of family life with their own particular configurations of space . Moreover , Zadi Smith doesnot only acknowledge the existence of such “other “spaces but presents them as an ongoing process of negotiation change.

In this sense Smith's novel unearth the presence “other” Citizens in the city of London, when it focuses , from the period of the 1980s onwards , on the plurality of British society by presenting three families of diverse ethnic origin: one Anglo-Jamaican (Tge Joneses), another Bangladeshi (The Iqbals), and a third one White-Jewish (The Chafkens). These families can be said that they are the outcome of the flow of migration from the 1950s on wards:Asians, Afro-Caribbean and European. The first two groups of immigrants were mainly seen as a threat for Britain and , accordingly, a whole discourse on their aloneness was built upon them encouraging their exclusion from the concept of Britishness (Solomos 1993;Jackson 1993)

The third group is composed of Europeans who came mainly

from Poland and Ireland . They were much more accepted than the other two groups , an especially welcomed and encouraged by the British government from the 1945 to 1954. Nevertheless, it is obvious that even at this period of time “the view on black migration and settlement was different from that of European migration”(Solomos:56).

Notions of hybridity and multiculturalism in Zadi Smith's novel :

According to Tim Warner , “hybridity is a concept settled between

multiculturalism and the concept of melting -pot”(2007:5). However, this raises the question of how far multiculturalism and hybridity can be separated, and how one has to position multiculturalism.

One could generally agree that multiculturalism is a particular circumstance a society finds itself in, namely the co-existence certain cultures in one place. According to Von Meien , the wualirtcof cultures and even power relations are fundamental for the definition of multiculturalism, and thus it can be

referred to as a “public policy” (:3) in which a mutual respect and tolerance “(2007:3) are emphasised . However, the term signifies a strong categorization of different ethnic groups , which can divide a society into multiple parts and create a disunity.

Beyond any negative or positive connotation a multicultural

Society is described as a “salad bowl”(Burgess:31), meaning that the distinct cultures that are found within a locality donot merge into each other, but are to be observed and defined separately. There for , it becomes evident why Warner locates hybridityin between the idea of multiculturalism and the melting-pot concept (cf.2007:5).

Indeed the concept of multiculturalism in many respects problematic . It is barely possible to control the results or outcome of co-existening cultures . Thus one cannot force a cultural group to merge with another one and melt withinthe society . People who belong to a minority feel threatenedby the culture of the majority, .especially since they are forced into being a sub culture.

In *White Teeth* , there are several notions of hybridity,
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Only people who are in a hybrid situation and ultimately have a new hybrid identity, but also other things are hybrid as well .

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Further more, there are several examples of hybridity and

Multiculturalism in both Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and *Zadi Smith White* . The characters in both novels are actually the co-existence of different groups, without the domination of one, which is compatible with the definition of hybridity according to Bhabha. Never the less , they are neither purely hybrid, nor multicultural in the sense of a salad bowl . The reason for these differences are many due to the gap between the first and the second generations and their different approaches on cultural identities.

Zadi Smith depicted these themes and ideas through the depiction of three types of family relations : The Joneses , The Iqbals and The Chafkens.

Archibald Jones and his wife Clara Bowden Jones are interracial married couple . Both Clara and Archibald seem to have been affected by an identity crises when they got married . Archie breaks up with his wife and takes Samad's advice to get married again . In other words, he attempts to improve his character and live without the thought of tomorrow.

While Clara appears to be rather conflicted in the beginning, She is desperately trying to escape the life her mother has planned for her . She doesnot love Archie, but accepts to marry him just to have a new beginning 'when she is pregnant,

she decides to name her future daughter ,”if it’s a girl, I think I like Irie . It Patois . Means everything is ok , cook peaceful, you know ?”(Smith ,2000.4)

In fact , there is no better example of hybrid identity than Irie,

for she is not only of mixed race but also behaves in a particular way that is naturally hybrid . She becomes more and more attached to the Chafkens , which makes her mother Clara afraid that white culture would dominate her . Throughout the novel Irie collects what she learns from society and develops her own view on culture and identity. Yet , she is neither Jamaican nor English .

The Chafkens ,on the other hand , appear as the typical English family . They are Jewish immigrants themselves . Further more , their behavior and their culture is exclusive and cannot be generally described as typically English .

The novel sheds light on two aspects that might contribute to

the multicultural context of the story : on the one hand ,Chafkenism is unique and excluded anyone who is not part of the family; they represent an isolated culture . On the other hand , it displays the possibility to develop an own culture .

The Chafkens serve as an example for the fine line between

Multiculturalism and hybridity . Although the parents are trying to

Preserve their family's culture , their son Maged who is the twin of Millat ,he becomes a vegetarian and starts a relationship with a Mulato girl .

Last but not least , the Iqbals , in contrast to the Jonses, they

are not an interracial family. In fact , the marriage of Samad and Alsana is very conservative and traditional. They have never met before wedding and their marriage has already been arranged before Alsana was even born .

However , their children are born in England , the head of the family Samad , clearly represents the archetypical England.

He doesnot accept any assimilation although hd finds himself in non traditional situation throughout his life .

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The third group is composed of Europeans who came mainly from Poland and Ireland . They were much more accepted than the other two groups , an especially welcomed and encouraged by the British government from the 1945 to 1954. Nevertheless, it is obvious that even at this period of time “the view on black migration and settlement was different from that of European migration”(Solomos:56).

To conclude, all of the previously mentioned terms such as hybridity, multiculturalism, multiethnic, multi racial as well as prejudice and discrimination actually marked the lives of different generations throughout the 1970s and the 1980s in

England . Kureishi 's and Smith's characters have changed the face of Britain culturally, ethnically and demographically, while they were searching for their own space and identity in society and struggling to do this.

Conclusion:

Britain is a diverse country. Many people have come to Britain over the centuries and multiculturalism became a part of a British policy and ideology as well. Most immigrants had come to from the former colonies and they include Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi immigrants , Black Caribbean , China and Black Africans . The significant wave of immigration had started at the end of the Second World War. There were labour shortages in Britain and the government has begun looking for immigrants to fill the gap on the labour market. After 1945, the economically successful countries of Western Europe had faced shortage or unskilled labourers as well as offering riches from entrepreneurs in areas of business which indigenous entrepreneurs were unwilling to occupy. They also needed living in a multicultural society which has led to questioning the costs and benefits of multiculturalism. Although these ethnic minorities have enriched this country immensely, especially in areas such as culture , economic

prosperity or social life , still many problems occur particularly now with Islamic immigrants. Great diversity can lead to many conflicts based on social and economic inequality , racism, differences of culture and religion, prejudice and discrimination. Therefore, there is a need of a policy which would produce one united society made up of many ethnic communities without trying to destroy or alienate their cultural traditions and identities. Living in the white racist society had helped to create a black identity where such an identity didnot previously exist . Britain had made them” feel “black . Although the first generation of immigrants in Britain experienced racism and they were on the lowest level of social hierarchy in Britain. Majority of them stayed in Britain, either because they did not have enough money to go back and start again or they were aware that the standard of living in Britain was higher than in the country of their origin.

However, some of the immigrants still dream of going back to their country. Various institutions were set up to deal with the racial in equality of black Caribbean migrants but later they were extended in Britain to deal with the problems of South Asians .

The first generation's ambiguous past makes things problematic for their children. *White teeth* represents a myriad of ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse characters mainly Anglo-Jamaican, Bangladeshi and Jewish -adjusting , negotiating and creating a sense of belonging in the city of London at three different historical periods of time in the Second World War and post-war years ,the period of social changes of the 1980s and the late 1990s .

Smith has focused on the conflict between the conflict between the first and the second generation of immigrants as well as the third generation. . She has presented this problem into two-dimintions ; that are cultur history and personal history which has reflcted by both the first and the second generations. This has taken back the issue of space and time ;history is something that the second generation escapes from. It is understood that not only the complexity of identity occurs but also the conflict between generations

Racism and discrimination prove to have important effects on young people's sense of identity. The mixture of cultures and their co-existence in the city of London lead to social conflict . The absorption of minority migrant communities into the majority community had no noticeable effect on the culture

and the way of life of the majority , while expecting that the culture and the way of life of minorities has brought with them would disappear .

The issue of identity was very common in the 21st globalized world . As we move into the third millennium, the future of identity and ethnicity is very uncertain. On the one hand, nsociety tends to be homogeneous and other rhomogeneous and other processes such as globalization and industrialization leave little space for sub-national ethnic identities. Some of the immigrants wanted to earn money and return back , some of them searched for a better standard of living and settled down in Britain. However, they have all brought their ethnic identity which includes their cultural heritage, beliefs and memories.

These elements of identity have enriched Britain but have brought about many problems and questions to be answered . Every one has their own specific identity that differs from the others, such as Samad's sons , Millat and Magid in *White teeth* as well as Karim Amir and Jamila in *The Buddha of Suburbia*. Although every one of the first and second generation of immigrants has the same cultural background, each of them has its own identity. Furthermore, identity allows people to know

themselves better, who they really are and who others are . It is for sure that identity is a process ,it is not a “thing “that can be possessed or not but you either belong to a place or you do not.

Identity is eventually ,based on the life experiences that construct one’s individuality . However, the main issue is maintaining and preserving an identity and the differences in their views of the world between the first and the second generation of immigrants. Young people like Karim od the twin-brothers Magid and Millat Iqbal are torn between the modern British society they are living in, and their ethnic and cultural background as well as family roots . Although the second generation is aware of their roots and the land they belong to , they struggle to find out an identity of their own.

Both authors Kureishi and Smith have created characters of mixed races , mixed cultures and mixed cultures and mixed languages. In short they created a portrayal of hybridity and multiculturalism in the city of London.

Smith’s and Kureishi ‘s novels offer new ways of interpreting Britain ‘s relationship with its colonial past and

explore the creation of contemporary ethnic , racial and religious identities. They both play with the meaning of Englishness. Therefore, both novels revolve around what it means to be English in contemporary London and shows that Englishness is now made up of hybrid identities.

In both novels , the second world war is presented as a great water shed that has led to the migration of many people (Indian ,Bangladeshi and Caribbean as described in both novels)to Britain, who left their countries for political or economic reasons in search for freedom or a better standard of living . All of which resulted in the formation of contemporary British multicultural society.

Eventually, due to The United Kingdom's long history of colonization and imperialism, its capital has become one of the most diverse and multicultural cities in the world . Indeed , the city of London is considered a main source of British and culture ,but especially in the last decades , many sub-cultures have emerged through immigration from mostly the West Indies and Southern Asia . Hence , residents of tge United Kingdom faced a post_colonial development with in their culture, eventually leading scholars and authors to address certain issues , for instance , the concepts of multiculturalism

and hybridity that have newly emerged within British society. In addition to the protagonists 'personal experiences and life events .

Both novels focus on the second generation of immigrants and their approach to accept the culture they live in .The novels also address the characters' self consciousness and unsteadiness. They are torn in-between two or more cultures through their parents' background and the society they live in . The main challenge of each character is the definition of one's identity. Both Kureishi and Smith managed to give an insight into the challenges of these individuals in a multicultural and hybrid society .

They specifically did this ethnic and religious backgrounds as well as by focusing on their intra-familial conflicts of relations. *The Buddha of Suburbia* revolves around two characters , Karim Amir and his father Haroon . Karim resembles the second-generation of immigrants . His father Haroon exemplifies the problems of the first generation of immigrants experienced with social , religious , racial and cultural hybridity.

Further more, to highlight these two works properly, one cannot ignore major works which had its effect on both

Kureishi and Smith and on their ideas . Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* ,which was published in 1988, won several awards and was one of the most controversial novels of its time. The novel has many things in common with Kureishi 's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and Zadi Smith's *White teeth*, most importantly with the feelings of alienation connected to the issue of cultural hybridity of South Asian immigrants in Britain. However , Rushdie 's controversial work specifically ignited an international struggle between Britain and many former Muslim colonies such as India ,Pakistan , Bangladesh ,Seylan but most importantly with the Islamic Republic of Iran . Rushdie ,the author, describes his novel as follows :

If *The Satanic Verses* is anything , it is a migrant's eye view of the world . It is written from the very experience of uprooting , disjunction and metamorphosis (slow or rapid , painful or pleasure) that is the migrant condition, and from which , I believe ,can be derived a metaphor for all humanity. (ibid :394)

The supernatural journey of Rushdie's two main characters ,Saladin Charma and Gibreel Faishta , is very much similar to the two first generation of immigrants in Kureishi 's novel *Haroon and Anwar* and their process of migration from Bombay to London as well as their experienced process of hybridization. The author *Joseph Anton* writes in his memoirs

about the effects of migration .”The act of migration puts into crises everything about the migrating individual or group , every thing about identity and selfhood and culture and belief“(Rushdie 2013:72)

Rushdie himself declares that *The Satanic Verses* is a novel that celebrates hybridity as a subversive,yet positive and productive contamination of an absolute pure , a definition very similar to Homi Bhabha's “third space , a term that is fully consumed in both of the discussed novels of Kureishi and Smith . The term actually reflects the main struggle of the first and second generations of immigrants in Britain.

To conclude, all of the previously mentioned terms such as hybridity, multiculturalism, multiethnic, multi racial as well as prejudice and discrimination actually marked the lives of different generations throughout the 1970_s and the 1980_s in England . Kureishi ‘s and Smith's characters have changed the face of Britain culturally, ethnically and demographically, while they were searching for their own space and identity in society and struggling to do this.

Hybridity and multiculturalism in *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Young people like Karim Amir Amir questions the life that his father and many others among his generation chose to live and strives for something different for him self ,a different wag

where he can find his own identity .Society plays an important role in forming identity ,Karim Amir and many other young people suffered alot while searching for a place and identity in the British society “the word Pakistani had been made into an insult .It was a word I didnt want used about my self .I couldn't tolerate being my self “(Kureishi, *Dreaming and Scheming*, p.28)

These were the exact words of Hanif Kureishi describing his own life experiences in England .He also describes the racial abuse he lived ,as well as the lack of identity and the lack of belonging, in which he is neither British nor Pakistani,this becomes clear during his first visit to his home country where people don't consider him a Pakistani, “we are all Pakistanis but you will always be a Paki”(*Dreaming and Scheming*, p.34).This tone of racism made him feel neither a Pakistani nor British,rather ,he lives in-between .The author Salman Rushdie defines the identity among Asians as “Our identity at once plural and partial .Sometimes we feel that we straddle two cultures;at other times that we fall between two stools .”(Salman Rushdie, *Imaginary Home land* ,1992).In *The Buddha of Suburbia* ,Karim Amir feels that he has to break away from his family and have a new and fresh start in the city ,away from the suburbs .Perhaps “the city would feel what’s he is going through “ ,he wouldn't be excluded there ,rather he could find ways in which he could belong. Karim Amir like other generation immigrants feel that they have multiple identities and selves within them ,rather, Karim is not able to make choices and decide”which was his real ,natural

self?”.Like other teenagers of his age, he is looking for the right path in life .

However ,he is experiencing a dilemma ,searching for his appropriate place in the society on the one hand and his own true identity on the other .Consequently ,he has a feeling that something he lacked .According go Adrian Jones Karim Amir goes through a shift from his Pakistani background to his desired British identity Hanif Kureishi, through out the character of Karim Amir ,expresses the different areas in life he experienced to find his place such as religion ,race and cculture.Furthermore ,according to Kenneth C.Kaleta ,Kureishi’s characters redefine and reshape British national identity through experiencing a transformation, a development and a growth of him self as a person although Kureishi him self indicates the fact that these second generation immigrants lack the presence of role models in their immigrant society which can help forming and reshaping a person's identity :

We had no life guides or role models among politicians, military types or religious figures

Or even film stars for that matter ,as our parents did ,if coming from the wrong class

restricts your sense of what you can be ,then more of us though we’d become doctors ,lawyers, scientists, politicians. We are

Scheduled to be clerk's, civil servants ,insurance managers and travel agents .(kaleta,109)

According to Frederick M Holmes ;”Kureishi’s protagonist Karim,by the end of the novel ,come to accept the fluid

,multiple nature of personal identity,.....there was no fixed self;surely our several selves melted “(Holmes 304)

Throughout the character of Karim Amir ,Kureishi’s “*The Buddha of Suburbia* “shows the gab between the first and the second generations among the immigrant society in Britain .The novel will also focus on the life experiences of the first generation immigrants, Haroon(Karim’s father)and Anwar (Haroon’s friend) who face alot of difficulties due to racial and ethnical discrimination in the British society. They can neither adjust and integrate into the the British society nor feel attached to their home land and original identity .Therefore ,they are forced to find their own identity, their own space in Homi Bhabha's terms .The “third space “that Bhabha argued as one of his best theories ,is actually proved by the life experiences of the first generation of immigrants like Haroon and Anwar in England .Further more,they find themselves living in “third space “hanging between their home country and the host culture .They experiment different ways of being British and at the end they differently find the right way ,”identity is not stable or forgiven but performative “(Kaleta ,293)

Kureishi’s novel shows the transformation in the nature of British nationalism throughout the struggles of the first and second generations of immigrants .Actually ,both the immigrants and the British citizens help to redefine Britishness .

Being a first generation of immigrants, Haroon tries to be accepted and treated as an English citizen.However ,coming

from an aristocratic social class in India makes him feel less inferior to the colonizer. His wife ,Margaret was even proud of his aristocratic family, “they’re higher than the Churchills ,he went to school in a horse drawn carriage “(Kureishi, 2000,24)

Furthermore ,his son Karim explains “Dad was sent to England by his family to be educated. Like Gandhi and Jinnah before him ,dad would return to India a qualified and polished English gentle man ,lawyer and an accomplished ballroom dancer”(Kureishi 2000,24)

However ,Haroon was shocked and disappointed by the fact that the British are actually ordinary Citizens:

London ,the old Kent Road ,was a freezing shock to dad ,it was wet and foggy ,there was never enough to eat .Dad was amazed and heartened by the sight of the British in England ,though, he had never seen the

the English in poverty ,as road weepers ,dustmen ,shopkeepers and barmen.He’d never seen an English man stuffing bread into his mouth with his fingers ,and no one had told him that the English didn't wash regularly because the water was cold ,if they had water at all”(Kureishi 2000,24-25)

All of these details actually shocked Haroon and his image of Britain and the British people is vanished .Haroon’s hybrid identity as the brown skinned English man “strongly challenges the Thatcherite concept of Britishness of the time which only includes people with British origin.This hybridity is shown through out the contrasts in Haroon’s character ,on the one hand ,he is devoted to his Indian habits and social customs.On

the other hand, he doesn't seem to be one of the Asian immigrants or in other words doesn't want to ,since he works as a civil servant (a typical English job)he also reads *The Daily Mirror* and starts practicing Yoga.Haroon is more English than he is Indian ,although he never denies or ignores his Indian roots and racial background. To confirm his "Englishness "in the British society, he starts impersonating "an Oriental-Hindu,Buddhist guru"(Yousaf 2002:40)

Being an Indian Muslim Haroon was never interested in Buddhism and he learns about it only from reading books published in England and to play the role more convincingly as "The Buddha of Suburbia " he begins to change his English accent to become more as an Indian .karim talks about the changes in his father and the dramatic Choices he takes :

The thing that made me realize that "God"as I now called dad ,was seriously Scheming, was the queer sound I heard coming from his room as I was going up to bed .I put my ear against the white paint work of the door .Yes God was talking to him self but not intimately.

Conclusion:

Britain is a diverse country. Many people have come to Britain over the centuries and multiculturalism became a part of a British policy and ideology as well. Most immigrants had come to from the former colonies and they include Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi immigrants , Black Caribbean ,

China and Black Africans . The significant wave of immigration had started at the end of the Second World War. There were labour shortages in Britain and the government has begun looking for immigrants to fill the gap on the labour market. After 1945, the economically successful countries of Western Europe had faced shortage or unskilled labourers as well as offering riches from entrepreneurs in areas of business which indigenous entrepreneurs were unwilling to occupy. They also needed living in a multicultural society which has led to questioning the costs and benefits of multiculturalism. Although these ethnic minorities have enriched this country immensely, especially in areas such as culture , economic prosperity or social life , still many problems occur particularly now with Islamic immigrants. Great diversity can lead to many conflicts based on social and economic inequality , racism, differences of culture and religion, prejudice and discrimination. Therefore, there is a need of a policy which would produce one united society made up of many ethnic communities without trying to destroy or alienate their cultural traditions and identities. Living in the white racist society had helped to create a black identity where such an identity did not previously exist . Britain had made them” feel “black . Although the first generation of immigrants in Britain

experienced racism and they were on the lowest level of social hierarchy in Britain. Majority of them stayed in Britain, either because they did not have enough money to go back and start again or they were aware that the standard of living in Britain was higher than in the country of their origin. However, some of the immigrants still dream of going back to their country. Various institutions were set up to deal with the racial inequality of black Caribbean migrants but later they were extended in Britain to deal with the problems of South Asians .

The first generation's ambiguous past makes things problematic for their children. *White teeth* represents a myriad of ethnically, culturally and religiously diverse characters mainly Anglo-Jamaican, Bangladeshi and Jewish -adjusting , negotiating and creating a sense of belonging in the city of London at three different historical periods of time in the Second World War and post-war years ,the period of social changes of the 1980s and the late 1990s .

Smith has focused on the conflict between the conflict between the first and the second generation of immigrants as well as the third generation. . She has presented this problem into two-dimintions ; that are cultur history and personal history which has reflcted by both the first and the second generations. This

has taken back the issue of space and time ;history is something that the second generation escapes from. It is understood that not only the complexity of identity occurs but also the conflict between generations

Racism and discrimination prove to have important effects on young people's sense of identity. The mixture of cultures and their co-existence in the city of London lead to social conflict . The absorption of minority migrat communities into the majority community had no noticeable effect on the culture and the way of life of the majority , while expecting that the cucçlture and the way of life of minorities has brought with them would disappear .

The issue of identity was very common in the 21st globalized world . As we move into the third millennium, the future of identity and ethnicity is very uncertain. On the one hand, society tends to be homogeneous and other and other homogeneous and other processes such as globalization and industrialization leave little space for sub-national ethnic identities. Some of the immigrants wanted to earn money and return back , some of them searched for a better standard of living and settled down in Britain. However , they have all

brought their ethnic identity which includes their cultural heritage, beliefs and memories.

These elements of identity have enriched Britain but have brought about many problems and questions to be answered . Every one has their own specific identity that differs from the others, such as Samad's sons ,Millat and Magid in *White teeth* as well as Karim Amir and Jamila in *The Buddha of Suburbia*. Although every one of the first and second generation of immigrants has the same cultural background, each of them has it's own identity. Furthermore, identity allows people to know themselves better, who they really are and who others are .It is for sure that identity is a process ,it is not a "thing "that can be possessed or not but you either belong to a place or you do not.

Identity is eventually ,based on the life experiences that construct one's individuality . However, the main issue is maintaining and preserving an identity and the differences in their views of the world between the first and the second generation of immigrants. Young people like Karim od the twin-brothers Magid and Millat Iqbal are torn between the modern British society they are living in , and their ethnic and cultural background as well as family roots . Although the

second generation is aware of their roots and the land they belong to , they struggle to find out an identity of their own.

Both authors Kureishi and Smith have created characters of mixed races , mixed cultures and mixed cultures and mixed languages. In short they created a portrayal of hybridity and multiculturalism in the city of London.

Smith's and Kureishi 's novels offer new ways of interpreting Britain 's relationship with its colonial past and explore the creation of contemporary ethnic , racial and religious identities. They both play with the meaning of Englishness. Therefore, both novels revolve around what it means to be English in contemporary London and shows that Englishness is now made up of hybrid identities.

In both novels , the second world war is presented as a great water shed that has led to the migration of many people (Indian ,Bangladeshi and Caribbean as described in both novels)to Britain, who left their countries for political or economic reasons in search for freedom or a better standard of living . All of which resulted in the formation of contemporary British multicultural society.

Eventually, due to The United Kingdom's long history of colonization and imperialism, its capital has become one of the most diverse and multicultural cities in the world . Indeed , the city of London is considered a main source of British and culture ,but especially in the last decades , many sub-cultures have emerged through immigration from mostly the West Indies and Southern Asia . Hence , residents of tge United Kingdom faced a post_colonial development with in their culture, eventually leading scholars and authors to address certain issues , for instance , the concepts of multiculturalism and hybridity that have newly emerged within British society. In addition to the protagonists 'personal experiences and life events . Both novels focus on the second generation of immigrants and their approach to accept the culture they live in .The novels also address the characters' self consciousness and un steadiness. They are torn in-between two or more cultures through their parents'background and the society they live in . The main challenge of each character is the definition of one's identity. Both Kureishi and Smith managed to give an insight into the challenges of these individuals in a multicultural and hybrid society .

They specifically did this ethnic and religious backgrounds as well as by focusing on their intra-familial conflicts of

relations. *The Buddha of Suburbia* revolves around two characters , Karim Amir and his father Haroon . Karim resembles the second-generation of immigrants . His father Haroom exemplifies the problems of the first generation of immigrants experienced with social , religious , racial and cultural hybridity.

Further more, to highlight these two works properly, one cannot ignore major works which had its effect on both Kureishi and Smith and on their ideas . Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* ,which was published in 1988, won several awards and was one of the most controversial novels of it's time. The novel has many things in common with Kureishi 's *The Buddha of Suburbia* and Zadi Smith's *White teeth*, most importantly with the feeling s of alientation connected to the issue of cultural hybridity of South Asian immigrants in Britain. Hiwever , Rushdie 's controversial work specifically ignited an international struggle between Britain and many former Muslim colonies such as India ,Pakistan , Bangladesh ,Seilanka but most importantly with the Uslamic Republic of Iran . Rushdie ,the author, describes his novel as follows :

If *The Satanic Verses* is anything , it is a migrant's eye view of the world . It is written from the very experience of of up rooting , dis juncture and metamorphosis (slow or rapid , painful or pleasure) that is the migrant

condition, and from which , I believe ,can be derived a metaphor for all humanity. (ibid :394)

The supernatural journey of Rushdie's two main characters ,Saladin Charma and Gibreel Faishta , is very much similar to the two first generation of immigrants in Kureishi 's novel Haroon and Anwar and their process of migration from Bombay to London as well as their experienced process of hybridization. The author *Joseph Anton* writes in his memoirs about the effects of migration :”The act of migration puts into crises everything about the migrating individual or group , every thing about identity and selfhood and culture and belief“(Rushdie 2013:72)

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