



Does Hosseini Portray Western-Centric View of Afghanistan in His Novels?

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Abstract : *Western-centrism (also Eurocentrism) is a worldview centered on the West and biased against the East. The concept of Eurocentrism places the Western world at the centre, and interprets the cultures and histories of non-Western societies from a Western perspective. This often leads to the creation of stereotypes, and the portrayal of non-European societies as 'Others'. This study is an attempt to analyse and critique Khaled Hosseini's portrayal of Afghanistan in his novels The Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and And the Mountains Echoed. This study presents an understanding of how fiction can serve to*

reinforce and emphasize stereotypes and misconceptions. We also try to understand whether Hosseini presents a Western-centric view of Afghanistan in his novels. The analysis deals with Orientalism and diasporic identity in order to highlight the impact of the West on the writings of Khaled Hosseini.

Keywords: *Western-centrism, stereotypes, Orientalism, diasporic identity.*

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Introduction:

We are accustomed to thinking of literature as mimetic, as a representation of reality as it exists.

But the relationship between reality and literature has been distorted by some writers for their own convenience. Khaled Hosseini is one such writer. He is an Afghan-born American novelist. In speeches, in the media, and in various narratives, a stereotypical image of Afghanistan is propagated by him. Situated within this portrayal of Afghanistan as a country of suicide bombers and female oppression, Hosseini's work does little to counter this kind of discourse. He claims that his narratives are the representations of the stark reality, but they are actually based on newspaper reports, hearsay