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## The investigation of place implications as cultural codes in the novel "Love in Exile" written by Bahaa Taher

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### Introduction

The achievements obtained from cultural studies act as a criterion for investigating the place implications in this research. This approach studies the place in the modern novel as a cultural code, and its purpose is to discover the implications in light of the cultural relations governing the text. Cultural studies are one of the consequences of post-structuralism that marginalizes the centrality of the text and investigates the "relationship between the literary text and the cultural context" (Herman et al., 2011: 127) to understand the hidden layers of meaning. This approach requires a wide range of knowledge such as sociology, history, political science, and philosophy to help in the paraphrasing and interpretation of the text; therefore, it is considered an interdisciplinary knowledge. If culture is considered a collection of "values, ideas, beliefs, worldview and the like" (Aghagolzadeh, 2015: 134), then the relationship between these sciences will be better defined using this method.

### Methodology

The novel "Love in Exile" by Bahaa Taher (1935) narrates the life of a well-known cultural figure (Egyptian immigrant journalist) in Europe, whose events take place in the framework of an international conference. The socialist tendencies of the narrator, his intellectual confrontation with the pro-imperialism front, his separation from his first wife and his remarriage in exile, as well as his presence at the international conference, have caused many cultural confrontations and interactions and created many discourses in this narrative work. Also, the anonymity and non-introduction of the city where the conference is held, in which most of the events take place, has caused the element of place to become a cultural code in this novel. The method of using cultural studies in this research has been selected considering the main theme of the novel "Love in Exile", i.e. migration; because this is among the social phenomena that are considered as the context for cultural confrontations and the formation of intercultural relations and provide the basis for "globalization space" (Aghagolzadeh, 2015: 291) and the clash of cultures and different implications of linguistic units. In this essay, an attempt is made to investigate this novel in terms of investigating the place implications, using the achievements of cultural studies.

## **Discussion and Results**

Considering the multifaceted nature of the approach of cultural studies, fundamental categories such as hegemony, multiculturalism, and dual confrontations have been selected for analysis. Each of these processes has a decisive role in intercultural communication. These connections provide some cultural exchanges or the "inclusion/exclusion" processes (Sojoudi, 2011: 145), which ultimately lead to the creation of new implications for the signifiers. Places, as an important part of signifiers in narrative texts, get new implications in the course of cultural exchanges and interactions that cultural semiotics tries to discover. Kurt emphasizes the importance of studying place in the novel based on cultural studies: "Space and place, which have always been present in the narration, have gained special importance in modern stories not only because of the connection with space, texture, and text but because of their presence in the cultural structure of language. (Kurt, 2012: 24)

## **Conclusion**

What makes the place have a high level of symbolism in this novel is the introduction of the city where the conference is held as an unknown city with the abbreviation "N". In addition, the presence of the narrator as the central character of the novel, and the movement from personal places to public and international places in the process of migration, make place codes find wide implications.

The symbols and the codes of the place in the novel "Love in Exile" can be classified into three levels. In the order of scope, these three levels include global places, public places, and personal (private) places. Each of these places is represented in the form of a cultural code in the novel and gets a special implication based on the intercultural relations that govern it and the interaction of different discourses.

The narrator, as a supporter of the socialist discourse, although he is opposed to the imperialist discourse, sometimes accepts the centrality of Western imperialism. His confrontation with Western culture aims to remove the Western authority, rather than treating it fanatically. The narrator's point of view suggests that to destroy the other party's authority, one should first be armed with the tools of his authority, and finally destroys his authority; as this point of view can be found in the analysis of the implications of codes such as university, European passports, and newspapers in the English language.

Understanding the layers of meaning in the above novel, especially the concept of place, requires a broad level of information and awareness about the political and cultural currents of the contemporary world, especially the relationship between Western imperialism and socialism of the Eastern Bloc. This also requires sufficient knowledge about the relationships between nations and people in the world and cultural elements and symbols.

**Keywords:** *place, intercultural relations, cultural codes, Bahaa Taher, "Love in Exile"*

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