Identity Malaise of Exiled characters in Ethnic Fiction
Case study: Mohja Kahf's *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* (2006)

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Abstract

This paper presents a critical study of how a contemporary ethnic writer presents exile cases and counter-hegemonic discourses throughout it as regards to notions of belonging and identity. The process of identity-making is discussed through an examination of the protagonist's development in *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* (2006). This study focuses on how the protagonist constructs a new meaning of exile that challenges previous conventions and seeks to recuperate the sense of pride in cultural difference. It also attempts to highlight how this literary work is a counter-narrative regarding the cultural practices that hitherto have been regarded as archaic; backward; and yet fit to adapt the new changes of the Western World.

Keywords: belonging, dislocation, ethnic fiction, exile, home, identity, Mohja Kahf

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