**Violence in American Popular Culture: The Myth of the Vigilante in Chuck Palahniuk's
Fight Club and Sam Ismail's *Mr. Robot***

SELMA DJABALLAH

Faculty of Foreign Languages

Department of English

University of Algiers II, Algeria

Abstract

Popular culture presents new dimensions for cultural and social studies through several artistic products. Different themes and symbols in literature and movie studies provide fresh materials for cultural studies and literary criticism. The issue of violence in American popular culture, in particular, is depicted in many artistic works of fiction. This article focuses on the depiction of violence in Chuck Palahniuk's novel *Fight Club* (1996) and Sam Ismail's television series *Mr. Robot* (2015). More specifically, it analyzes the depiction of violence in these two narratives through the myth of the vigilante, a theory developed by the American critic John Cawelti. To reach its final results, this article attempts first to investigate the reasons and origins of violence as caused by postmodern conditions. Second, it draws a conclusion on the development of violence in American popular culture by studying the evolution of the myth of the vigilante from *Fight Club* to *Mr. Robot*.

Keywords: Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*, *Mr. Robot*, myth, Sam Ismail

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