



Identity Crisis as Intergenerational Trauma Progeny in Shafak's *The Island of Missing Trees*

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Abstract

The current study seeks to highlight the role of magical realism as a literary technique in communicating and processing the neurosis of intergenerational trauma to overcome the protagonist's identity crisis in Elif Shafak's novel, *The Island of Missing Trees*. In her latest novel set in Cyprus and the UK, the Turkish-British novelist pictures Ada's identity confusion as a progeny of repressed collective memories and traumas. Shafak funnels such a psychopathological load by inserting magical realism as a medium to convey and likewise liberate such repression. To unearth and surface the traumatic repression that was intentionally subdued into the abyss of oblivion- this analysis brings about the conception of the uncanny as theorized by Sigmund Freud, for whom the unconscious construction of the psyche is asserted as the engine behind one's fluid identity formation. Accordingly, Shafak incorporated an uprooted talkative fig tree, to voice traumatic narratives and surface the buried-alive psychic accumulations that have been silenced and evaded by Ada's parents for years. Even though such a plant has been a displaced outgrowth of a small branch from the original tree, its perseverance of the mother tree memories incarnates Ada's belief of collective memory as an inevitably inherited legacy.

Keywords: Collective Memories, Identity Crisis, Intergenerational Trauma, Magical Realism, Uncanny.