



Reconstructing identity: Women's Voices in Transcultural Refugee Narrative of Feridun Zaimoglu's Leyla

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Abstract:

German-Turkish literature represents a fascinating segment of contemporary literary studies, in which this literary phenomenon gained its momentum particularly in the 1960s, when large waves of Turkish guest workers arrived in Germany and navigated life between two contrasting cultural worlds. In this way, this paper explores the representation of women and transcultural identity formation within the refugee narratives of Feridun Zaimoglu's *Leyla*. By applying Homi K. Bhabha's theory of hybridity and the transcultural paradigm, this paper will explore how the author depicts culture, gender, and identity intersect in the context of migration and displacement for the Turkish woman immigrant, Leyla, who is raised in a patriarchal society that expects women to play traditional roles until her life takes a drastic change with her family's relocation to Germany as part of Gastarbeiter migration where she experiences not only alienation and an identity crisis but also strength to find her own way in a multicultural world. In this way, one deals with the question- What are the internal and external conflicts faced by migrant women? Furthermore, it questions that—whether it is only men who uphold patriarchal concepts of culture and tradition, or do women also contribute to the perpetuation of such notions? By synthesizing Welsch's 'Transculturality' and Bhabha's 'Hybridity', this paper further analyzes the fluidity of cultural identities and the complex negotiations involved in the migrant experience and also contributes to a deeper understanding of gendered dimensions of migration.

Keywords: German-Turkish Literature, Gender and Identity, Migration and Displacement, Cultural Hybridity, Transcultural Paradigm.