



## REFIGURATION OF MIGRANT TEMPORALITY: ANALYZING HAMID'S *EXIT WEST* THROUGH TEMPORAL DISPLACEMENT THEORY

Zahida Parveen  
[zebzaheer900@gmail.com](mailto:zebzaheer900@gmail.com)

Government Graduate Collage, Gojra Road, Jhang (Pakistan)

Ghania Tabasam  
[ghaniafaisal38@gmail.com](mailto:ghaniafaisal38@gmail.com)

Government Graduate Collage, Gojra Road, Jhang (Pakistan)

Aliza Gulzar  
[alizagulzaralizaaa@gmail.com](mailto:alizagulzaralizaaa@gmail.com)

Government Graduate Collage, Gojra Road, Jhang (Pakistan)

### Abstract

This research focuses on Mohsin Hamid's novel *Exit West*, a contemporary work that portrays the realities of conflict, migration, and forced movement. The novel presents how ordinary lives are interrupted by violence and how people struggle to adjust when their sense of place and time is disturbed. This research aims to examine how displacement affects human experience, particularly how individuals understand time, identity, and belonging. The study also seeks to explore the emotional and psychological effects of migration on the characters. Another objective is to analyze how moments of uncertainty create a sense of temporal confusion, in which the past and future lose clear meaning. This research uses a qualitative approach based on close textual analysis. The primary source is the novel *Exit West*, while secondary sources include critical writings, scholarly articles, and theoretical texts related to migration and time. The study applies Temporal Displacement Theory to explain how time becomes fragmented when people are forced to leave their homes. According to this framework, time is experienced emotionally rather than chronologically during periods of crisis. This research uses a qualitative approach, where findings suggest that displacement changes not only physical location but also the inner perception of time. Characters exist in a suspended condition, caught between memory and uncertainty. The study shows that *Exit West* presents displacement as a powerful force that reshapes human identity and lived experience.

**Keywords:** *Belonging, Displacement, Fragmented, Identity, Migration, Psychological, Time*

**Corresponding Author:** Zahida Parveen ( Government Graduate Collage, Gojra Road, Jhang (Pakistan) .)

**Email:** [zebzaheer900@gmail.com](mailto:zebzaheer900@gmail.com)

## 1. Introduction

*Exit West* (2017) by Mohsin Hamid, a Pakistani writer, explores war, love, cultural conflicts, identity and migration in the circumstances of civil war. Novel portrays human conditions through migration in such a way that how people face crisis, both mentally and physically by leaving their land, taking refuge in strange countries and surviving in difficulties. This migration is not just physical movement but a transformation of identity. Novel revolves around two main characters, Saeed and Nadia, who faces circumstances of war and violence. Novels show how people feel traumatized because of war and violence. Novel has fictional and realistic elements both. By using “magical doors”, novel explores how sudden migration can be possible in real life.

Novel explores how migrants and refugees feel like outsiders in western countries and faces different challenges of judgment because of their language, background and religion. Novel further explores that migrants and refugees are not dangerous or criminals. They just want safety and protection. They come from different places, cultures or religions but they have same fear, hope, feelings and pain. Novel exposes their conditions, their sufferings and their struggles. Novel also depicts traditional rules, psychological and emotional differences and role of women in the circumstances of war and violence. This novel doesn't show all the painful circumstances but also conveys a beautiful message that we all are human and have right to safety and freedom. Novel teaches to be kind to those who are forced to leave their land. Overall, this novel is a true representation of unity and humanity

### 1.1. Research Objectives

The aims and objectives of this research are;

- To explore how memory and nostalgia continue shaping a compromised migrant identity in the novel.
- To trace how migration shapes psyches of the individual's living out of time.
- To explore how individuals' mentalities of individuals are shaped by past experiences and how do they affect their future.

### 1.2. Research Questions

1. How does the novel *Exit West* show the disturbance of time in the situation of war and displacement?
2. How does instability in physical space tend to instability in temporal perception in the novel?
3. In what ways does the novel *Exit West* represents Paul Ricoeur's concept that time is shaped through human experience

### 1.3. Problem Statement

Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* tells the story of Saeed and Nadia, who face the circumstances of war in their country and escape through magical doors into other

countries. These doors instantly carry them to different places. Novels expose war, migration, love, and memory. Previous research has chiefly drawn on diaspora studies, magical realism, trauma theory, globalization, and postcolonial theory. These theories discuss the difficulties refugees face, the loss of identity, and the social effects of forced movement. But a critical perspective is still unexplored, that is, “The way the novel reshapes and disturbs the sense of time”. Its shifting memories, mixed timelines, and sudden journeys create a feeling of being “out of time”, but most studies have no focus on this perspective. The primary concern of this research is the gap in applying Paul Ricoeur’s “Temporal Displacement Theory,” which explores how real time and story time interact. This theory highlights how disrupted time influences the migrant experience. It focuses on how the novel rearranges and blends time. It explores mixed memories, sudden movements, and broken timelines. Overall, its goal is to reveal the psychological experiences of “living out of time” in the migration.

#### 1.4. Research Significance

War, migration, and the feeling of being an outsider have persisted throughout history and continue to do so today. Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West* portrays these enduring issues by depicting how conflict, migration, and displacement shape human experiences across time and place. Many earlier studies have analyzed the book through diaspora studies, magical realism, postcolonial theory, ecocriticism, and globalization, primarily focusing on climate change, emotional struggles, and refugee issues. Scholars have also studied the meaning of magical doors and the effects of forced migration. However, very few researchers have examined the story through Paul Ricoeur’s concept of “Temporal Displacement,” drawn from his book “Time and Narrative”. This idea is unique because it explores how broken timelines, mixed memories, and sudden movements change how migrants experience time, and how readers experience time differently than they read. Ricoeur’s concept fills a clear gap in current research and connects philosophical ideas about time with modern migration literature. This research helps future Scholars, students, and educators explore migration through a fresh perspective, compare refugee narratives, and gain a deep understanding by revealing how narrative time reshapes our view of human displacement and the emotional experience of moving across borders and histories.

#### 2. Literature Review

The novel *Exit West* is not only about refugees escaping war but also about how people everywhere are connected through time and movement. Hamid’s idea that “we are all migrants through time” can be compared to Salman Rushdie’s famous idea that everyone has emigrated from their past. This shows how Hamid uses magical realism, for example, the mysterious doors that instantly move people from one country to another. These doors show how migration today can feel fast and global, like the movement of money, information, or images across the internet.

Mir (2018) examines how Hamid portrays the pain, fear, and hope of refugees in a modern global context. The writer explains that the novel mirrors the current refugee crisis, where countless people are forced to leave their homelands because of war, social conflict, or political violence. Through the experiences of the main characters, Saeed and Nadia, the story shows how migration deeply affects people's emotions, identities, and relationships (Mir, 2018).

Mir further discusses the novel's use of magical realism, especially the mysterious doors that instantly transport people from one country to another. These doors symbolize both escape and uncertainty. They offer freedom but also bring feelings of loss and alienation. The article also explains that Hamid's writing connects migration to universal human experience, suggesting that movement and change are part of everyone's life story. Furthermore, Mir notes that Hamid's purpose is not only to highlight the refugee issue but also to elicit empathy and understanding toward displaced people. The novel transforms the refugee crisis from a political subject into a deep human story of survival, love, and belonging.

Bilal (2020) studies how Hamid's novel fits into the idea of a world novel, a story that speaks to readers across different cultures and nations. Bilal explains that *Exit West* goes beyond the story of one country and addresses global issues such as migration, identity, and belonging. The novel's characters, Saeed and Nadia, move through several countries using magical doors, which symbolize the borderless movement of people in today's world. The article shows how Hamid combines local experiences from his Pakistani background with global themes that affect people everywhere. Bilal argues that Hamid's simple, emotional storytelling makes the novel accessible to international readers, allowing them to connect with the pain and hope of refugees from diverse parts of the world. Bilal also discusses how Hamid's use of magical realism and universal language removes national boundaries, making the novel a story for all humanity. The article concludes that *Exit West* reflects the modern world, where technology, migration, and cultural mixing have made nations more connected. It is both a story of refugees and a comment on global human movement and unity in the twenty-first century (Bilal, 2020).

Liaquat (2022) explores how Hamid's novel depicts the deep pain and trauma migrants experience in the modern world. The writer analyzes the novel through semiotic analysis, which involves understanding the hidden meanings behind symbols, metaphors, and language. Liaquat explains that Hamid uses powerful images and symbols, especially the dark, magical doors, to represent the suffering, fear, and uncertainty that come with migration and displacement. Perfect's (2019) article highlights that *Exit West* presents a world where migrants face injustice and cruelty, often from powerful nations and local mobs. These people are deprived of necessities such as food, safety, and shelter. Abbas (2025) points out that migration trauma are not only physical but also emotional and

psychological, leaving permanent scars on the minds of refugees. The study mentions that new military and surveillance technologies, such as drones, tanks, and robots, make migrants feel constantly watched and treated like criminals. In conclusion, Liaqat argues that Hamid's novel exposes the dark reality of migration and calls for global humanitarian action to protect refugees' dignity and rights in an increasingly hostile world (Liaqat, 2022; Abbas, 2025).

Iqbal (2025) examines how migrant identities are formed and reshaped in a globalized world. Using Homi Bhabha's theory of hybridity, the study explains that identity in *Exit West* is not fixed or singular but constantly changing as migrants move across borders and cultures. The writers discuss how Hamid uses magical realism, especially the symbol of the mysterious doors, to show that migration is not just a physical journey but also an emotional and psychological transformation. Through the characters Saeed and Nadia, the article explores how migrants develop hybrid identities blending their traditions with new cultural experiences. These identities are shaped by personal history, memory, gender, and choice. The study also shows that Hamid challenges traditional ideas of home and belonging, suggesting that people today live in a "third space," a space between cultures where connection and creativity exist but also bring loss and confusion. In the end, the article concludes that *Exit West* gives a deep understanding of how migrants build new identities in the modern world and highlights Bhabha's hybridity theory as an effective tool for studying migration (Iqbal, 2025).

Mendes (2018) explores how both the novel and its film adaptation deal with issues of identity, culture, and representation after the tragic events of 9/11. The authors explain that in today's connected world, there is no single version of history or shared memory; instead, people and nations choose which connections to highlight or hide. The article shows how Mira Nair's film seeks to foster a dialogue between the East and the West rather than a clash. Nair wants to challenge the traditional Western image of Muslims and Pakistanis as "the other." She presents 9/11 as a global trauma, not just an American one, showing how fear and misunderstanding affect both sides. However, Lau and Mendes (2018) argue that while Nair's film promotes understanding and conciliation, it still struggles to completely break away from Orientalist ideas, such as the habit of seeing the East as strange or inferior. Similarly, Hamid's novel also reflects this tension, showing how both Pakistan and America remain caught in cycles of misunderstanding and self-othering (Mendes, 2018).

Morrison (2020) examines how contemporary writers represent radicalization and terrorism in literature, especially in the wake of 9/11. Morrison explains that many contemporary novels explore why and how young people become radicalized, showing the personal, social, and emotional reasons behind their choices. Rather than simply blaming religion or politics, these stories try to humanize characters that face identity crises, racism,

or feelings of exclusion. The article discusses how authors, including Mohsin Hamid in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, use fiction to question the Western media's simple image of the "terrorist." Instead of portraying extremists as purely evil, Morrison argues that these novels reveal the complex struggles that lead individuals toward anger or rebellion. Morrison also notes that this kind of fiction helps readers understand the psychology of fear and misunderstanding between the East and the West. By doing so, such novels open up a space for empathy and dialogue rather than hatred and division. In conclusion, Morrison sees jihadi fiction as an important literary form that challenges stereotypes, explores the risks of modern identity, and helps readers think critically about violence, ideology, and globalization (Morrison, 2020).

Claudia Perner (2010) examines how Hamid explores the idea of fundamentalism in his novels. Perner explains that Hamid tries to explain Pakistan to Western readers, who often see it only as a country linked with terrorism. Through his stories, Hamid helps readers see the real struggles and emotions of the people in Pakistan. In *Moth Smoke*, the idea of fundamentalism is not clear at first. The main character, Daru, is not religious, but he feels angry and hopeless, as many poor people in his country do. His frustration with the rich and powerful class shows the same feelings that can lead to violence or extremist thinking. In *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Hamid shows how the word "fundamentalist" is often used unfairly for Muslims after 9/11. The novel prompts readers to consider what this term truly means and how it connects to identity, fear, and misunderstanding. Perner concludes that Hamid's work helps readers better understand both Pakistan and the West, dispelling false ideas and showing the real human side of these issues (Perner, 2010).

Abbas (2025) analyzes Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* through Homi Bhabha's theory of hybridity to explain how migrant identities continually change. The author finds that identity in the novel is not fixed; it keeps shifting as the main characters, Nadia and Saeed, move through new places and cultures. This illustrates Bhabha's idea of the "third space," where people create new mixed identities as they live between different worlds. Bock explains that migration in *Exit West* is not just a physical journey, but an emotional and mental process filled with confusion and growth. The magical doors in the novel symbolize sudden change and the uncertainty of living between homes. The article also shows how memory, language, and community help migrants build new forms of belonging and reconnect with their past. Bock notes that Nadia and Saeed respond to migration differently. Nadia is open and adaptable, while Saeed holds on to his traditions. Finally, the article concludes that Hamid's novel reveals both the beauty and pain of hybrid identity, offering a deep understanding of migration, globalization, and human resilience in the modern world (Abbas, 2025).

### 3. Theoretical Framework

War, migration, and the feeling of being an outsider are issues that have persisted from the past and continue to this day. Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* portrays these long-standing issues by depicting how conflict, migration, and displacement shape human experiences across different times and places. Paul Ricoeur's concept of "Temporal Displacement" explores how disrupted timelines, mixed memories, and sudden movements shape how migrants experience time. Ricoeur's concept fills a clear gap in current research and connects philosophical ideas about time with modern migration literature. The aim of this research is to explore how memory and nostalgia continue to shape a compromised migrant identity in the novel. The research relies on close reading, textual analysis, and interpretation of the novel along with secondary sources such as journal articles, books, and previous studies. This method is chosen because it allows a deep understanding of how narrative time expresses emotional and psychological aspects of migration and identity.

Temporal Displacement Theory by Paul Ricoeur (1980) explains how human experience of time is not simple or linear but is shaped through memory, imagination, and storytelling. Ricoeur introduced this concept in his book *Time and Narrative* (1984), where he connected philosophy, psychology, and literature to show how narratives help people make sense of time. He believed that we live time differently in our minds than how clocks or calendars measure it. In stories, time often moves backward or forward, mixing memories, hopes, and imagination, which he called temporal displacement. It means people and characters can feel as if they are living many times at once, the past, present, and future blending together.

Ricoeur (1980) theory overlaps with other major philosophical and literary ideas. It connects with phenomenology because it focuses on lived experiences, with hermeneutics because it deals with interpretation and understanding, with psychoanalysis because it studies memory and trauma, and with postmodernism because it accepts the idea that reality, identity, and time are fragmented and unstable. Martínez (2004) states that Ricoeur argued that narrative gives shape to time. Without stories, time would feel meaningless; through them, we understand life as having a beginning, middle, and end. However, in modern and postmodern fiction, this order often breaks down, showing time as flexible, distorted, and emotionally charged. Ricoeur (1980) described this through three stages: prefiguration (how humans already live with a sense of time), configuration (how narratives organize events), and refiguration (how readers reinterpret their own lives after reading).

Paul Ricoeur's Temporal Displacement Theory perfectly suits Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West*. The novel's structure, themes, and narrative movement reflect the same ideas that Ricoeur discussed. The story follows Nadia and Saeed as they escape their home through magical doors that take them to different parts of the world. These doors are not

only a symbol of migration but also a symbol of dislocation in time. When the characters step through the doors, they move to another place and also to another emotional and temporal state. The novel's time does not follow a straight line. Memories appear suddenly, moments from the future are hinted at, and the story flows like human thought, not like a calendar.

Temporal Displacement Theory fits this novel because it explains how people who are displaced by war or migration experience time differently. Migrants often feel trapped between memories of their past home and the uncertainty of their new life. They cannot fully live in the present because the past is always with them, and the future seems unstable. Ricoeur's idea helps explain this feeling of living many times at once. In *Exit West*, Nadia and Saeed are physically crossing borders, but they are also mentally and emotionally traversing different stages of time and identity. This connection between migration and time displacement makes Ricoeur's theory an ideal framework for studying the novel. Other theorists have also applied Paul Ricoeur's ideas to study time, memory, and identity in modern literature. For example, Hrólfsson (2023) uses Ricoeur's theory to explain how memory and authorship shape personal identity in narrative texts.

Temporal Displacement Theory examines time from multiple perspectives, including philosophical meaning, emotional memory, and narrative structure. It brings together philosophical reflection and literary analysis, making it especially useful for studying modern fiction like *Exit West*. In the novel, the characters' journeys are not only physical but also temporal and emotional. By applying this theory, researchers can understand how Hamid uses time to express the psychological and emotional effects of migration. The broken structure of time in the narrative reflects the migrants' fragmented sense of belonging and identity. This shows that the disruption of time is closely connected to the disruption of self.

This theoretical framework is significant because it offers a new way to read *Exit West* beyond its surface story of refugees and migration. It helps readers see migration not only as movement across geographical borders but also as a disturbance in time and memory. Ricoeur's ideas allow readers to understand how characters live between what they have lost and what they have not yet gained. This understanding highlights how displacement affects identity, emotions, and the sense of continuity in life. Through this framework, the novel becomes a powerful exploration of how human beings experience time when their lives are shaped by conflict, movement, and uncertainty.

#### **4. Analysis and Discussion**

The main aim of this research is to explore how time, memory, and identity are disturbed when people face war, migration, and instability. This research fills the gap between ordinary time and the disrupted experience of time experienced by displaced individuals. It focuses on how movement from one place to another breaks the characters'

sense of continuity, the past and future blur, and they live in moments of uncertainty. The research deals with the relationship between displacement and time, showing how feeling “out of time” affects identity. Using Temporal Displacement Theory, time is understood not only as a sequence of events but as a lived emotional experience. When people are uprooted, their connection to time breaks. They exist in a suspended state, neither fully in the past nor yet in the future.

Hamid’s narrative style, symbolism, and setting reveal the emotional and psychological effects of displacement. At the start of the story, Saeed and Nadia’s city is still mostly calm, but is slowly moving toward conflict. This calm before the storm shows how time feels fragile and unstable in the face of looming danger. The writer captures moments where ordinary life continues even when the world is on the verge of chaos. Hamid in *Exit West* states “It was as if they were bats that had lost the use of their ears, and hence their ability to find things as they flew in the dark (Hamid, 2017, p.).” Mohsin Hamid shows how Saeed and Nadia feel lost and disconnected after losing access to communication. The metaphor of bats illustrates their inability to navigate the city or maintain contact. This reflects the emotional confusion caused by displacement, where ordinary routines no longer provide stability, and every action becomes uncertain. As war intensifies, people’s daily routines and environments change. Windows, which once symbolized normal life, become dangerous barriers through which death could come. “One’s relationship to windows has now changed in the city. A window was the border through which death was possibly most likely to come (Hamid, 2017, p.).”

Hamid further shows how ordinary objects, like windows, transform into symbols of threat. The fear of being attacked at any moment fractures people’s sense of safety and time. Saeed and Nadia adjust their surroundings, arranging furniture, tapping windows, reflecting how displacement forces people to live in constant alertness. The ordinary passage of time is replaced by heightened awareness of every moment, where survival dictates experience. Funerals and death also become markers of the disrupted flow of life. Ordinary rituals and ceremonies shrink, and human connections are constrained by danger. “Some families had no choice but to bury their dead in a courtyard or at the sheltered margin of a road, it being impossible to reach a proper graveyard, and so impromptu burial grounds grew up (Hamid, 2017, p.).” This quote shows how war disrupts social norms and alters human relationships with time and space. Burial practices, which normally follow traditions, are forced into improvisation. Displacement and conflict fragment not only daily routines but also cultural and social continuity. Every act, even mourning, is compressed, rushed, and uncertain. Time is no longer predictable or linear; life and death merge into moments of survival and improvisation. The writer uses realistic and emotional descriptions to show how ordinary people struggle to survive in extraordinary conditions, both physically and mentally. “Others stared out at the city with what looked like anger,

or surprise, or supplication, or envy. Others didn't move at all: stunned, maybe, or resting. Possibly dying (Hamid, 2017, p.)."

This representation reflects the helplessness and silence of people living in a city destroyed by war. Hamid shows that citizens have lost their emotions and energy; they only stare blankly, as if life has stopped moving for them. Their stillness symbolizes the freezing of time; people are alive, yet emotionally and mentally stuck. The writer expresses how the continuous presence of death and destruction creates a state where time loses meaning. The characters cannot move forward or look back; they exist in a suspended moment of fear and despair. This scene highlights the emotional paralysis and loss of time caused by violence. "In times of violence, there is always that first acquaintance or intimate of ours, who, when they are touched, makes what, had seemed like a bad dream suddenly, eviscerating real (Hamid, 2017, p.)." Here, the writer explains how violence becomes personal when someone close is affected. Hamid shows this through Nadia's cousin, whose death turns fear into painful truth.

The moment violence touches someone familiar; it destroys the illusion of safety and changes the entire experience of time. The writer uses this situation to show that trauma transforms life into a single painful moment. The past happiness and the present loss become mixed together. The death of Nadia's cousin marks the point where her sense of time and normal life breaks completely, showing how personal grief can trap a person in emotional displacement. "She stood her ground, looking at him, visor down, heart pounding, but with her grip firm on clutch and throttle, her hands ready to speed her away, surely faster than he could follow on his tired-looking scooter (Hamid, 2017, p.)." The writer portrays Nadia's encounter with the man on the street as a reflection of how fear has become a permanent part of her life. Even during ordinary events, she remains alert, cautious, and emotionally tense. Hamid's description of her firm grip and racing heartbeat reveals a life constantly under threat. The writer highlights how fear creates a distorted sense of time, every second feels longer, and every moment is filled with uncertainty. Nadia's life is divided between the wish to live freely and the fear of danger. This constant tension shows how psychological displacement keeps her trapped between courage and anxiety, unable to live peacefully at any moment.

The writer uses detailed descriptions and the experiences of characters to show the emotional and physical impact of living in a city under conflict, emphasizing fear, uncertainty, and adaptation. "It was as if they were bats that had lost the use of their ears, and hence their ability to find things as they flew in the dark (Hamid, 2017, p.)." The writer describes Saeed and Nadia's difficulty in contacting each other after their phones and internet stop working. He compares them to blind bats, showing their helplessness and confusion in a city that has become unpredictable due to war. In this way, the quotation explains how communication breakdown and uncertainty disrupt personal connections and

daily life, making ordinary tasks challenging and stressful. “One's relationship with windows has now changed in the city. A window was the border through which death was possibly most likely to come (Hamid, 2017, p.).” Hamid shows how even spaces, once considered safe home, now carry danger. People must adapt by rearranging furniture, blocking windows, or taking other protective measures. This quotation explains the constant threat of violence and how it affects living spaces, emphasizing how people modify their behavior and surroundings to survive in conflict-affected environments. “Some families had no choice but to bury their dead in a courtyard or at the sheltered margin of a road, it being impossible to reach a proper graveyard, and so impromptu burial grounds grew up (Hamid, 2017, p.).”

The writer highlights how war and danger disrupt traditional practices, including funerals. Families adapt by creating makeshift burial sites when normal options are unavailable. This quotation explains the loss of normality and security in social and cultural practices, showing the broader impact of conflict on communities and human routines. Displacement deeply affects individuals' sense of time, identity, and emotional stability. Through the experiences of Saeed and Nadia, it becomes clear that when people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, they experience a fragmented perception of the past, present, and future. Normal routines, relationships, and daily activities are disrupted, creating a sense of uncertainty and emotional instability. The research shows that temporal dislocation is not just a physical experience but also a psychological one, as individuals struggle to maintain continuity in their lives while adapting to new environments. The analysis demonstrates that social and cultural practices are profoundly affected by instability and migration. Events that were once meaningful, like funerals or gatherings, are altered or hurried due to insecurity, reflecting how war and displacement disturb social norms. This disruption forces individuals to negotiate between safety and tradition, which highlights how displacement impacts both communal and personal life. The study also reveals that the roles of individuals and their interactions are influenced by these circumstances, showing the tension between maintaining normalcy and responding to danger. Further research finds that human resilience is central in navigating displacement.

Despite the threats and challenges, characters like Saeed and Nadia adapt and make strategic choices to survive. Their actions show that people attempt to preserve their identity, relationships, and routines even in unstable conditions. The study illustrates that displacement requires constant negotiation between vulnerability and agency, as individuals attempt to protect themselves while sustaining a sense of belonging and purpose. The discussion indicates that displacement, as examined in this research, is both an emotional and temporal phenomenon. The findings confirm that migration and conflict disrupt time, social life, and individual identity, forcing people into states of uncertainty

and adaptation. The study aligns with Temporal Displacement Theory, showing that time is experienced emotionally rather than linearly, and that displacement reshapes the perception of life, relationships, and personal continuity.

### 5. Conclusion

Displacement deeply affects individuals' sense of time, identity, and emotional stability. Through the experiences of Saeed and Nadia, it becomes clear that when people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, they experience a fragmented perception of past, present, and future. Normal routines, relationships, and daily activities are disrupted, creating a sense of uncertainty and emotional instability. The research shows that temporal dislocation is not just a physical experience but also a psychological one, as individuals struggle to maintain continuity in their lives while adapting to new environments. The analysis demonstrates that social and cultural practices are profoundly affected by instability and migration. Events that were once meaningful, like funerals or gatherings, are altered or hurried due to insecurity, reflecting how war and displacement disturb social norms. This disruption forces individuals to negotiate between safety and tradition, which highlights how displacement impacts both communal and personal life.

The study also reveals that the roles of individuals and their interactions are influenced by these circumstances, showing the tension between maintaining normalcy and responding to danger. Further research finds that human resilience is central in navigating displacement. Despite the threats and challenges, characters like Saeed and Nadia adapt and make strategic choices to survive. Their actions show that people attempt to preserve their identity, relationships, and routines even in unstable conditions. The study illustrates that displacement requires constant negotiation between vulnerability and agency, as individuals attempt to protect themselves while sustaining a sense of belonging and purpose. This discussion indicates that displacement, as examined in this research, is both an emotional and temporal phenomenon. The findings confirm that migration and conflict disrupt time, social life, and individual identity, forcing people into states of uncertainty and adaptation. The study aligns with Temporal Displacement Theory, showing that time is experienced emotionally rather than linearly, and that displacement reshapes the perception of life, relationships, and personal continuity.

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