

The Portrayal of Male Muslim Characters in Monica Ali`s *Brick Lane*

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to analyze the main and minor male Muslim characters in Monica Ali`s novel *Brick Lane*, namely Chanu, Dr. Azad, Karim, and Tariq. Additionally, comparison is made between these male characters and other female characters in the novel, particularly Nazneen, the novel`s protagonists and Mrs. Azad, both of whose roles shed light on analyzing the portrayal of the novel`s male characters. The analysis has also been conducted with reference to some relevant critical approaches such as cultural studies, the sociocultural approach, and postcolonialism in order to provide a more comprehensive and a more representative picture of the character analysis carried out in the research. The study also considers some of the aspects that have often been ignored or neglected in analyzing the characters portrayal in *Brick Lane* especially the Muslim and the Bengali cultural backgrounds of the characters, particularly the male characters.

Key words: Brick Lane, Monica Ali, Chanu, Dr. Azad, cultural studies.