



## Migration in Extreme-Contemporary Persian Literature: *Sarzamin-e Noutch* by Keyvân Arzâghi\*

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MIGRATION has undoubtedly been a complex reality for a long time, varying from time to time and is always a hot topic. Present for a long time in social studies, it has also found a privileged place in literary studies. The theme of migration appears in different forms in the literature (the writing of exile, the diaspora, postcolonial situations, etc.). But among all these forms, the most important is that which focuses on the question of dual identity. This study will try to clarify this problem while deepening the problem of migration.

*Sarzamin-e Noutch* by Keyvân Arzâghi constituting the context of this study, allows us to study the phenomenon of migration from an extreme contemporary perspective.

*Sarzamin-e Noutch* (2012) draws the reader's attention to the socio-psychological dimension of voluntary migration through the life of a young emigrant couple, Arash and Sanam. The novel begins at Tehran airport where a young Iranian couple (Arash and Sanam) leave their country for the United States. The detailed description of immigrants with a strong tendency to leave their country shows us how literary work represents one of the cultural and identity crises of contemporary Iranian society.

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We will see that migration seems essential to them to live happily. This is what Michel Foucault said in his conference entitled *Des espaces autres*: He considers that "the current era is determined more by space than by time." (Foucault, 2004, p.3).

According to Tartarovsky and Schwartz, there are three types of motivation to emigrate: 1. Preservation (search for security), 2. Personal development 3. Materialism (financial improvement). This study tries to understand what motivation is involved in immigrants from Sarzamin-e Noutch.

We will establish an analysis of the novel at the same time on the theory of the carnival ambivalence of Mikhaïl Bakhtine, and on the ideas of Abdelmalek Sayad (1933-1998), proposed in his two works; 1. The double absence, from the illusions of the immigrant to the sufferings of the immigrant (1999), 2. Immigration or the paradoxes of otherness (1. The provisional illusion) (1991), to arrive to the answer of the following questions: Where does the trend towards emigration and expatriation from certain strata of Iranian society come from? How can a literary work participate in revealing the hidden sides of this social reality?

And through the identity strategies proposed by Carmel Camilleri in his book entitled *Identity Strategies*, we will try to answer this question: What is the psychological effect of this phenomenon on immigrants? Indeed, "whatever the types of migration, we can say that there is certainly a strong relationship between mental health and migration." (Collomb and Ayats, 1962, p.574)

Trying to establish a comparison between the behaviors of different immigrants, we will try to understand: why certain immigrants do not manage to adapt to the host society, while it is, they themselves who chose this migration without being forced to leave their country?

The interpretation of Sarzamin-e Noutch as an extreme-contemporary persian novel on migration has clearly shown that, at the present time, young people all over the world, Iranians among others, are looking for a better life. This is how personal development and materialism are the motivations for their departure. So, they leave everything behind to go to a *No man's land*.

This study showed that Sarzamin-e Noutch, far from being a fixed and restricted evocation in the genre of realistic literature, by talking about immigrant characters that have made the problem of immigration quite concrete.

By highlighting the ambivalent situation of immigrants through Bakhtin's theory of carnival ambivalence, the present study has clearly highlighted the importance of the question of adaptation in the immigrant's journey. Indeed, most immigrants disappointed with their dreams, find themselves in-between. Culture shock and nostalgia provoke an emotional crisis in them. A comparison of the attitudes of immigrants has shown that the best

way to escape this duality is to gain access to the language and culture of the new homeland. Language, the main tool of good communication, thus constitutes an identity component in migration literature.

For a final touch, we can say that the interpretation of *Sarzamin-e Noutch*, using the identity strategies proposed by Camilleri, showed us that in the integration process, the immigrant instead of favoring one cultures and to question others, must make an effort to balance their own culture with the culture of the other.

In this way, the evolution of identity becomes the index of dialogue between cultures which should complement each other instead of opposing each other.

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