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ORHAN PAMUK'S *SNOW*: A SYMBOL OF FEMINIST STRUGGLE



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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a feminist reading of Orhan Pamuk's novel *Snow* in which, women are struggling to define their identities in the patriarchal society. This inspiration and courage came to Turkish women after the Young Turkish Revolution (1908). The novel represents microcosm of Turkey, its society, its politics and its Ottoman culture, jeopardized between Eastern and Western diagonal pulls and finally the Turkish society turned into an ice lump. The complex idea is described by the novelist through an issue of banning headscarf of girls in school. By doing so the education department wants to usher in the Western Culture in Turkey.

The second aspect of this novel is Pamuk tries to mitigate the binary oppositions between man and woman. By doing so he paves the way of compromise between the political (traditional) Islam and the New Republicanism in Turkey. Thirdly, snow symbolizes freezing and isolation. So Istanbul symbolizes a city cut off from the rest of the world. It has become a

prison of the makings of the conservatives. The snow should melt by the meeting of East and West. Lastly, it is pertinent to see that Pamuk supports Westernization but with a rider.

KEYWORDS

Feminism, secularism, republicanism, east-west, snow