

The central focus of this work is the aspects of bilingualism in the writings of the Egyptian writer Ahdaf Soueif. Bilingualism is a very broad topic and encompasses a large scale of cultural and linguistic connotations. The combination of my two majors, English and Arabic studies, has enticed my interest in exploring bilingual features in the literary works created by authors in a language different from their mother tongue. Moreover during my university studies I have sought to interconnect my two majors. I have built up a strong relationship to both of them and I wished to make use of the acquired knowledge in a thesis which would comprise both languages, English and Arabic, and their cultures.

While studying English literature I have come across authors of predominantly AngloSaxon origin, which means representatives of literary and cultural life using their mother tongue for their writing. However my Arabic major has opened a new perspective to me. Just like in the case of the British and American literatures I have got to know Arab writers producing their literary works in their mother tongue, the Arabic language, but I have also discovered the realm of authors of Arab origin writing in English.

The phenomenon of non-British or non-American authors whose literary medium is English has appeared relatively recently with the rise of resistance to colonial expansion and the subsequent postcolonial condition of the numerous ex-colonies of the British Empire. It was the British Empire with its long and successful colonial history, which grounded the dominant position of English as the global language in today's world. This dominant status is often the primary motivation for Arab authors to write in the English language. ...