

Abstract

The situation of immigrants in Britain has been inspiring writers for several decades and Hanif Kureishi is no exception. His own background allows him to describe the immigrant experience from the realistic perspective of an insider and his characters reflect the conflicts that immigrants have to deal with during their life among the members of the dominant culture of the state. The thesis focuses on *The Buddha of Suburbia*, while it also makes short digressions and touches upon a number of other works which were published by Kureishi from the mid 1980s to the late 1990s, such as *The Black Album*, *My Son the Fanatic*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *The Rainbow Sign* and *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid*. The whole discussion consists of three parts and begins with a chapter which primarily concentrates on important theoretical terms and their definitions that are necessary for all analyses of diasporic literatures; the terms and concepts are then applied to Kureishi's books and scripts. The second chapter deals with the conflicts experienced by the first generation immigrants who try to find out who they are as people as they oscillate between the culture of their country or origin and England, while the third chapter focuses on the second generation immigrants born in Britain who want to gain an identity in England but are constantly stereotyped and met with hostility and prejudice towards their cultural background. In addition to the conflicts of the individual generations of immigrants, the work also comments on conflicts that are generational, i.e. the differences between the parents and their children, which are present in all of the pieces of writing the work analyses. Furthermore, the thesis explores racism and the various types and levels of racial intolerance that both of the generations have to deal with. The main goal of the thesis is to analyse all the types of conflicts which arise due to the clash of Eastern and Western cultures and the feelings of rootlessness experienced by the immigrants in the cultural environment that they find themselves in. The work illustrates the ways in which individual characters differ from each other in their search for identity and their stance in relation to racism and prejudice. The aim of the thesis is to discuss the conflicts and the ways in which they are presented in Kureishi's writing as fully as possible.