

Countering the Orientalist Discourse:
Translation as Postcolonial Resistance
in *The Translation* by Leila Aboulela

CHINNADEVI SINGADI
SHABNUR PARVEEN

The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this essay is to examine how translation may be used as a counter-orientalist research method in a postcolonial setting. Sammar, the protagonist of Leila Aboulela's award winning novel The Translator is a translator by profession in a University in Scotland. She is appointed to translate the Muslim world to the west. Sammar, therefore, employs translation as a technique for bridging the cultures of the West and the East. This study explores how new immigrant literature uses retranslation in accordance with postcolonial paradigms of gender and identity in a wide sense. Given the increasing conflicts between the various layers in middle-eastern societies resulting in identity politics and gendered exclusion, the topic of gender, identity, and cultural exchange has received considerable attention in political and cultural discourse. Finally, the paper shows how the process of translation between the west and the east help reorient the concepts of faith and assimilation.

Keywords: Culture, faith, Islam, orient, translation

Leila Aboulela, a prominent Egypt-Sudanese author depicts the new-immigrant life of Sammar, a translator, in her novel *The Translator*. This article examines the role of counter-discourses in general and counter-Orientalism in particular in Muslim author's contemporary fiction. The article focuses on the East-