

## Diversity in multicultural London - Review of the novel „White Teeth” by Zadie Smith.

What is culture? Culture is the whole material and spiritual output of humanity, as well as all the values, principles and norms of coexistence adopted by a given community. Culture creates a canon of thinking, behaviour and perception of reality. The people who shape culture are also its donors and recipients. This mix of many cultures, which takes place in the „White teeth” is some kind of a promise of a better life, it is sometimes fascinating but at the same time terrifying. Each new value introduces changes. Each new habit raises anxiety that may or may not disappear with time. Multiculturalism in a given society can be an inflammatory fire, a cause of conflicts, and it does not always support the development of the society.

In her novel, Zadie Smith presents a multi-generational story about three very different families, immigrants living in London, whose fates intertwine with each other due to fortune, history and a certain mouse. Each of the protagonists comes from a different country, a different culture, a different religion and lives according to different rules. Everything starts with an unsuccessful suicide attempt of Archibald Jones, who instead of saying goodbye to his life, begins a new chapter of it. In „White teeth” Zadie Smith first takes the reader on a journey through the life of Archie -middle-aged Brit, who makes decisions, even the most important ones, by throwing a coin, and his friend Samad Iqbal - a Bengali Muslim, who all steps in his life based on the principles of religion and tradition, reaching roots to the beginnings of their acquaintance, to World War II, and then its history is spreading an even wider circle, hooking on the way for Jamaica and Bengal. Then new characters appear - Archie’s new wife a Jamaican, Clara Bowden and Samad’s young wife Alsana - women as different as it is possible. Subsequently, new generations emerge which is presented in characters of Archie’s and Clara’s daughter Irie - who is intensely looking for her roots and Samad’s and Alsana’s twin sons Millet and Magid. When the Chalfenes - English intellectuals of Jewish descent, join the extremely colourful group of characters, the lives of the protagonists that they have met change dramatically. The strong influence of Chalfen's personality on the psyche and behaviour of Irie, Millet and later Magid does not really go any good for them. The lives of these young people become even more „twisted”, which results in new relationships between characters.

The world of "White Teeth" protagonists is a multicultural, multinational world, a world in which generations, cultures, religions and beliefs collide. I adore when the author mixes different conventions - here pathos is mixed with the grotesque, the seemingly distant past has a huge impact on the "here and now" of characters. The language of Zadie Smith is so incredibly fresh, flexible and vivid that it is impossible not to get caught up in her prose. Ruthless, slightly brazen, mocking. Everything has been served in a very digestible mixture and despite the accumulation of a multitude of threads - everything seems to make sense, its place. And even a slightly exaggerated final scene in the context of the whole makes sense and fills this basket of diversity.