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THE IMAGE OF THE OTHER IN ENGLISH-WRITTEN LITERATURE

The process of globalization forces us to examine and explore culture(s) of other nations. A clash with otherness is a part of today's world, and this phenomenon causes fear and prejudices that arise from subdued interpretations. At present, we can see resistance, especially against Muslims and Islam, which according to Edward W. Said have become a "symbol of terror and devastation" and for Europe "lasting trauma". Different factors, such as personal experience or mediated information through mass media, literary works and films, as well as values, religion, attitudes, and many others that arise from one's own culture, influence the perception of the otherness. The

submitted research is based on a corpus made up of a set of novels dealing with the topic of life in a Muslim country, particularly Iran. This set consists of the unintentional tetralogy of novels by three authors, Betty Mahmoody, the author of the novels *Not without my daughter* (1987) and *For the love of a child* (1992), her daughter Mahtob, the author of a novel *My name is Mahtob* (2013), and Moody, Mahmoody's ex-husband and Mahtob's father, the author of *Lost without my Daughter* (2013). This mixed trio controversially responds to the clash of two different cultures that have affected their lives. Iran is considered to be a part of the Orient, which is considered the world of text through books and manuscripts. The examined literary texts were originally written in English and translated into Slovak language, thus the Slovak readers became the target readers. Novels and their translations also contribute to the clarification and understanding of cultural differences. Some authors attempt an objective interpretation of reality and represent the otherness of culture without evaluative statements. Other authors uses the power of words to give readers negative images of the otherness.

Key words: Otherness, Orient, West, East, Literature, Iran, Mahmoody, Identity