

**MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURALISM IN TURKISH AND AMERICAN  
LITERATURE**

**Deniz Emre, Istanbul University**

**Mehmet Mustafa, Istanbul University**

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**ABSTRACT**

Multiculturalism refers to acceptance that multiple cultures exist and promotion of these cultures in society. Multiculturalism can occur when different cultures are combined, for example, French English or when people immigrate into an area that has a different culture from theirs. Multiculturalism and interculturalism include acceptance of various cultures within society through advocating for equal respect, creating and enacting policy that promotes cultural diversity, and policies that ensure the needs of different ethnic and religious groups are met. As cultural diversity increases, the question on the best way of promoting intercultural communication and harmony is asked more and more often. One possible answer may be multicultural and intercultural literature. Literature has been a way of opening up the world to those who wish to learn and grow. Therefore, intercultural and multicultural literature can be useful in educating and improving understanding of different cultures. These stories include characters from different cultures and show how people from different cultures can interact peacefully and coexist in the same space. *Americanah* by Chimamanda Adichie and *The Three Daughters of Eve* by Elif Shafak include a variety of cultures and show how the different cultures differ while also showing how people from different ethnic backgrounds can interact and form strong bonds. Adichie uses the protagonist in the book, Ifemelu, to show the cultural diversity in America and expounds upon the experience of living in a country that includes multiple races and cultures. Ifemelu takes the reader through the dynamics of the different races, cultures and ethnicities and how they interact with one another. Similarly, Shafak uses Peri, the protagonist to portray Turkey's cultural diversity and the issues that arise as a result of this diversity. The books also touch on the issues that arise when different cultures come together, such as discrimination and pressure to assimilate.

**Keywords:** *Multiculturalism, Interculturalism, Literature, Turkey*

## **1.1 Introduction**

All societies are made up of people from different cultures and ethnicities. Globalization has resulted in the migration of people into different cultures, creating a more diverse global society than ever. However, in a multicultural society, while various cultural groups exist alongside one another, their interaction is limited. Although people accept the existence of different cultures and may even enjoy some aspects of the cultural diversity, such as visiting ethnic restaurants, the interactions between the groups. As global cultural diversity continues to grow and bring different people together, the need for interculturalism becomes more evident (Thobani 161). Interculturalism means providing support for dialogue between different cultures and fighting the tendency of different cultures to self-segregate. Interculturalism includes encouraging cultures to move towards promoting interaction and dialogue between cultures. Multicultural and intercultural literature is important in introducing people to all the cultures that exist in the world we live in. *The Three Daughters of Eve* and *Americanah* are examples of multicultural and intercultural literature as each book introduces the reader to several cultures and shows how these cultures interact and sometimes clash. *The Three Daughters of Eve* introduces the reader to the cultural diversity in Turkey and how different cultures interact when the protagonist of the book goes to Oxford. In the same way *Americanah* showcases all the cultures and ethnicities in America and how these cultures interact showing the issues that arise as a result of having multiple cultures in the same country. This paper discusses interculturalism in Turkish and American literature points towards the similarities and differences of the two cultures through *The Three Daughter of Eve* and *Americanah*, respectively.

## **1.2 Multiculturalism in America**

Multiculturalism has a long history in the United States. From its foundation, the nation has included immigrants coming from different cultures. Most of the groups who immigrate into America ask themselves whether they can be true Americans. The first to question this were the Germans, then the Chinese, Irish, and then immigrants from Eastern Europe. Today, the Hispanic-Americans are the ones questioning whether they are true Americans.

When the question has been raised in the past, grossly exclusionary policies that limited the rights and power of certain cultures and races were fought and overcome, making people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds as American as those who descended from the

Mayflower passengers (Thobani 164). Different definitions of multiculturalism and interculturalism have been suggested over time.

The current multiculturalism in America is a term that increased in popularity in the 1960s at a time when cultural narcissism was infused with multicultural movement. Groups that had been oppressed started to demand the same rights as whites. They demanded the same political and cultural rights as whites and wanted their status in the country to be validated. Americans who had descended from Africa were the first to demand their political and legal rights and acceptance as true Americans. They lay the foundations for other groups to demand the same rights and freedoms.

The other groups began to demand to be accepted into mainstream American society. They wished to gain social acceptance, validation and wanted government policies to address and correct historical wrongs (Firdaus, Anggreta, and Yasin 132). Other groups, including women, used the civil rights revolution as a basis for demanding their rights and cultural acceptance. These movements succeeded in many ways as they managed to get policies amended and their rights recognized. Multiculturalism arose from the acceptance of these groups as every group was now recognized. However, multiculturalism is still a controversial issue in the nation. Some people believe that multiculturalism is negative, while some take the stance that it is positive. Multiculturalism is a controversial issue because it is about who we are. People's identities are very important to them, and some die and kill for it (Firdaus, Anggreta, and Yasin 136).

Some researchers have defined multiculturalism as the expectation that individuals will assimilate to the host country. Although assimilation does not require immigrants to completely abandon their culture and values, it does require them to integrate their traditional beliefs with the general American culture. People from different cultures are allowed to keep their own distinct cultures, but they are expected to suppress the individuality of their cultures (Thobani 165). However, some believe that multiculturalism is dangerous and should never be embraced.

### **1.3 Interculturalism**

Interculturalism includes several elements that are also included in multiculturalism. According to Thobani, Interculturalism endorses the largely accepted idea that having a legal framework, official language and territorial unity are insufficient in creating cohesion within a nation (Thobani 15). Instead, the three must be combined using a symbolic element that improves

collective memory, fosters identity and fosters a sense of belonging. The principle of recognition as described by Charles Taylor is another part of interculturalism. A pluralist mindset is another element of interculturalism found in most Western democracies meaning that all forms of discrimination are rejected and being sensitive to ethnic and cultural diversity.

Interculturalism refers to communities where individuals have a deep understanding of all the cultures within their society. Intercultural communication is based on the mutual respect of different cultures and exchange of ideas in order to develop deep relationships (Firdaus, Anggreta, and Yasin 12). Interculturalism results in all cultures becoming transformed as all individuals and cultures learn from each other and grow together.

#### **1.4 Interculturalism and Multiculturalism in American Literature**

The United States is a highly diverse nation that includes multiple races and ethnicities as people from across the globe immigrated into the country over several centuries. Although the first people to immigrate into the country were from Western Europe, most of those who entered North America came from Northern Europe, then Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Asia. African slaves were brought into the country by force, and Native Americans who were the original inhabitants of the country were displaced as a result of the immigration of all the different cultures.

America has been described as a melting pot as a result of all the cultural and ethnic diversity in the nation. America is the third-largest country in the world which has allowed it to accept and grow different cultures and subcultures. The subcultures are sometimes located in different regions because of the settlement patterns of the immigrants (Firdaus, Anggreta, and Yasin 169). America includes various lifestyles, dialects, languages, and cultural values all blended together.

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a story about gender and race that follows the story of a self-assured young woman named Ifemelu. Ifemelu moves from Nigeria, which is under military rule to America in search of higher education and more opportunities. The story shines a light on how different races interact in America as Ifemelu is forced to discover what being black means.

Ifemelu grew up in Lagos, Nigeria, and goes to a University there, but as a result of many strikes, the university is shut down. Ifemelu decides to go to study in America, getting a visa and

scholarship to a Philadelphian university. She experiences a culture shock as, for the first time, she has to find her identity as a black woman. She is treated differently because of her race and has to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. When she needs to find work, her aunt Uju gets Ifemelu a fake identity card (Adichie 125). Adichie writes, “*American racial minorities—blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Jews—all get shit from white folks, different kinds of shit, but shit still*” (Adichie 180) showing that America is culturally diverse, the cultural diversity results in oppression of some groups. A friend from Nigeria, Ginika, introduces her to American culture and the racial politics surrounding it. Ifemelu realizes that her culture separates her from the whites and other cultures that have been assimilated into American culture. She finds that when she uses an American culture, people are more receptive to her. However, she does not disconnect from her African roots completely, making friends with other African students in the Philadelphian school.

The United States 2020 Census revealed that the nation is becoming more diverse at a rate that is higher than was estimated. According to the new estimates, almost four of ten Americans state they belong to a state or ethnic group other than white. The numbers also show that for the first time in America’s history, the population of white people declined between 2010 and 2020. However, the nation is still plagued with discrimination and a lack of interculturality. Immigrants such as Ifemelu and Obinze, who left the African continent filled with people of the same color, don’t even recognize race or racism until they move to America and England, where racist acts force them to realize the label that has been assigned to them (Landry 127).

Immigrants have made major contributions to the American experience providing the nation with useful and required industry and culture enriching it. America includes a diverse group of cultures, all of whom have their own particular history. However, when it comes to immigrants and their mother countries, the rhetoric can be manipulated in the host country as they consider the mother country inferior as America is an egocentric nation. The need to conceal some of the cultures in the nation through cultural integration is a form of xenophobia. Some researchers have argued that making the immigrant feel isolated from their own cultures and isolating them from the major culture, and limiting the social support they receive creates a sense of rejection which may result in low self-esteem (Landry 129). Adichie reveals the prejudices that immigrants face and how they affect them as human beings as they try to navigate new complex

societies. *Americanah* explores the negative perception the West has regarding African immigrants and questions the Western norms that force immigrants to culturally assimilate to their culture.

Ifemelu finds a way of counteracting the negative psychological effects of culture loss by retaining all the important Nigerian cultures and values while embracing some aspects of the American culture she interacts with, causing her Nigerian friends to refer to her as *Americanah*. Ifemelu's biculturalism is evident when she identifies as Nigerian American instead of American or Nigerian and when she mixes different parts of the two cultures, such as her acceptance of traditional Nigerian values like the respect of elders as well as the American values of materialism and individualism. Ifemelu does not lose her culture irrespective of the fact that she accepts some parts of American culture. She identifies as Nigerian like Aunt Uju and Obinze and American just like Kimberly and Blaine (Landry 141). However, although she experiences some comfort in America and its culture, Ifemelu is still an outsider who is not wholly accepted by American society. When she first moves to America, she feels the need to adopt an American accent as she feels this will help her fit in better, "*And in the following weeks, as autumn's coolness descended, she began to practice an American accent*" (Adichie 118). Most of the other Africans who have moved to America including Ginika and Aunt Uju had adopted an American accent and Ifemelu feels compelled to do so in order to succeed in America.

Adichie is able to observe and critique the different cultures she observed in Nigeria, America, and England through Ifemelu. When discussing Nigeria, mainly focusing on Lagos, the author points out how corruption and materialism are ingrained within the culture. Adichie notes that most individuals in Nigeria gain wealth through corruption, government officials need to be bribed to perform their duties, and women often entertain the attentions of men based on their wealth and social status. Ifemelu's Aunt Uju, who she's very close to, agrees to become the mistress of an older rich married man referred to as The General (McMann 200). She only gets involved with The General because of the wealth and prestige he can bring to her and even has a child with him. When Adesuwa and Uche come to visit she states that she knows the only reason they are friends with her is "*because she was The General's mistress*" (Adichie 74).

People are expected to bow to the rich, and the wealthy are expected to show their riches through traveling to Western countries and paying for their children to study in Western schools. This

accumulation of wealth and power by a few people means that most Nigerians go without essentials; in fact, it is very rare to consistently have water and electricity. Moreover, Western culture and white people are highly valued compared to Nigerian culture. In America, Ifemelu discovers the racial hierarchy and prejudices that exist in the country, as well as the anxiety and depression that ravages American society. Ifemelu observes as liberal white Americans criticize their country while still claiming that it remains superior to other nations as it provides other nations with charity rather than receive it (McMann 205). She observes that “*Americans who copiously criticized America but did not like you to do so; they expected you to be silent and grateful, and always reminded you of how much better than wherever you had come from America was*” (Adichie 166-167).

Adichie uses Obinze, Ifemelu’s main love interest, to critique London. Obinze moves to London to find more opportunities, but he finds it difficult to make it. He ends up living as an illegal immigrant in London. In the novel, it is clear how immigrants work together to lift one another up when they are living in a foreign country. Obinze’s friend connects him with another Nigerian named Vincent. Vincent offers Obinze his national insurance card that he can use to find work if he is willing to offer him some of his earnings (Adichie 133). It is clear that immigrants have a difficult time finding opportunities in London as Obinze is well educated and is willing to work hard yet can barely make ends meet. Eventually, Obinze is deported back to Nigeria. Iloba, Ifemelu’s friend clearly states that, “*It’s not easy, this country is not easy, but we are managing,*” (Adichie 218) when Obinze asks about what work he does in England.

#### **1.4 Interculturalism and Multiculturalism in Turkish Literature**

Turkey has so much diversity that people would be shocked by it when they first visit the country. Although most places have multiple cultures, Turkey has greater cultural and ethnic diversity than most others. This is clear in many aspects of the country, which often overlap.

Turkey is a cultural melting pot where multiple cultures are mixed and interact with one another. Turkey’s core cultures were obtained from a variety of cultures from Central Asia and Eastern Mediterranean, as well as traditions from the Caucasus and Eastern Europe to a lesser degree. These cultures and traditions have been blended together, separated, and then mixed again to create an even more diverse culture with different flavors.

There is also diversity in the populations living in the rural and urban areas of Turkey. With a population of more than 15 million people who live in Istanbul and millions of others living in big cities, Turkey is mainly an urban country. However, approximately 25 percent of the nation's population lives in rural towns that are sparsely populated (Kaya, Robert, and Tecmen 361). Around the globe, there is always a cultural difference between individuals living in the city and country-folk, including their attitude in life. This disconnect is particularly important in Turkey, where the divide between the country and city is increased by other important splits.

Turkey includes a division between the traditional and modern both in the East and West parts of the country. There are traditionalists throughout the country, including cosmopolitan areas such as Izmir. The differences between the modernists and traditionalists include superficial ones such as the form of dress and men with a mustache. Some differences run deeper such as the 2013 debate on whether unmarried male and female students should be able to live together and if women should be able to wear the headscarf with the ban on headscarves being lifted in 2017 (Kaya, Robert, and Tecmen 361). However, Turks are accepting individuals where modernists live alongside traditionalists.

Turkey's culture is highly diverse, including a blend of a variety of elements of Ottoman, Anatolian, and Oguz Turkic and Western traditions that begun with the Westernization of the Ottoman Empire and is taking place to this date. The mix of cultures found in Turkey resulted from the interaction of Turks with the people and cultures they encountered in their migration from Central Asia to the West. As Turkey became transformed into a modern nation with a separation of nation and state, moving away from its former religion-based Ottoman Empire, the country experienced a strong increase in artistic expression.

Turkish literature and music are an example of the cultural diversity and multiculturalism. Many music schools teach music that is a blend of Islamic, Turkic, Central Asian, and European traditions as Turkish culture interacted with the Islamic world, the Ottoman Empire, and Europe. During the Ottoman Empire era, Turkish literature was highly impacted by Persian and Arabic literature. However, as the Ottoman era came to an end, the influences of Turkish and Western literary traditions were felt more populated (Kaya, Robert, and Tecmen 361). Turkish literature dramatizes the interlacing cultures and how they clash and connect.



*The Three Daughters of Eve* by Elif Shafak is a novel that was released at precisely the right time. It includes relevant issues in our culture such as Islamic terrorism, sexual harassment, and the increasing tension between those with faith and secular individuals, as well as the clear gap between the wealthy and destitute. The novel takes the reader through several decades in one evening. All the events in *The Three Daughters of Eve* occur on one spring evening in 2016 in Istanbul. Peri, a wife, and mother is stuck in traffic as she is heading to an elaborate dinner party. Due to her life being filled with disappointment, Peri has worked to become flawless. However, as Shafak writes, life does not always go as planned, “*the traffic turned minutes into hours, humans into brutes and any trace of sanity into sheer lunacy*” (Shafak 132) being stuck and becoming increasingly late to her party, Peri was losing her grip on the well-crafted outward demeanor she had created.

Turkey is in the middle of the East and West in multiple aspects, including culture. The nation has gone through a myriad of cultural changes through the centuries. During the Ottoman Empire, the territory was both multinational and multicultural; however, it became more homogenous in religion and language when Ataturk took overpower. Turkey started becoming secular and Western-oriented, and the trend could be clearly seen in the reform of the Turkish language as well as the separation of church and state. However, Islam has a major influence on the lives of many Turks and impacts how the sexes relate and family interactions.

Religion is an important part of Turkish culture. Although the country’s constitution is secular as there is a separation between religion and state, 99 percent of Turks are Islam, and 75 percent of 75% of whom are Sunni Muslims, who are the most flexible sect of Muslims. Religion greatly impacts people’s lives, although most Muslims are more casual about their religion. Alcohol consumption is prohibited in the Islamic faith, but many Turks partake, especially in the West part of the country (Bilal 365). Most young people cohabit, but only 2 percent of births take place outside of marriage. Devout observers of Islam have to fulfill many duties. Both men and women are required to keep themselves pure, fast during Ramadan, pray five times a day, and work to visit Mecca at least once during their lifetime. Islam provides individuals with the basic ideas of charity, reward, how men and women should relate, and morality (Kaya, Robert, and Tecmen 376).

The material culture in the urban areas in Turkey cannot be fully explained in a few words. Turkey's towns and cities have been greatly impacted by European technology and fashions. However, almost all towns have markets with small, simple shops standing side by side. The larger towns in the country are more Westernized with modern shops, factories, and offices. Women's roles in urban areas are based on social class. One of the Westernization aims of Atatürkism was to emancipate women and women living in urban areas and have been educated and achieve major success. Women can now be found in medicine, the arts, and science, and many women have joined and continue to enter the workforce.

Elif Shafak represents all the diversity within the nation. Shafak tells the story of a Turkish woman named Nazperi Nalbantoglu but is nicknamed Peri. Peri is suffering through a religious crisis because of the instability in which she was raised. After going through a traumatic incident on her way to a dinner party, Peri's mind begins to wander into the past. Peri was raised by a religious mother and a liberal father who constantly fight. This clash between Peri's parents is a symbol of the clash between modernity and traditionalism, liberalism, religiosity, and secularism going on in Turkey. The conflict between the parents causes Peri to struggle with her own identity. She can't take a stand about God and is always searching for answers.

After high school, Peri is accepted to Oxford, but she fails to finish her higher education due to a series of events. Oxford symbolizes the quiet Peri wants that is so different from the city she grew up in. Shafak writes, "*The first thing that struck Peri about Oxford was the silence...the absence of noise*" (Shafak 78). Istanbul was always loud and boisterous, and Peri does not believe that she would get used to the quiet at Oxford.

Peri cannot seem to get away from the religious conflict she grew up in. At Oxford, she makes two friends, one who is a religious Muslim and the other is a hedonistic atheist. The three women from different parts of the globe jokingly refer to themselves as "*the Sinner, the Believer, the Confused*" (Shafak 92). The three daughters of different faiths and cultures all come together to form a bond. Shafak shows the need for different cultures to look beyond any prejudices and stereotypes and look at people using a humanity lens.

Shafak's novel does not offer any answers for the issues she addresses; she only shines a light on them and allows the reader to answer the questions in their own way. No solution is offered for the religious conflict, shattered identity, and societal differences. However, Shafak emphasized

that it is crucial for people to ignore religious and social differences while making connections with others for the purpose of maintaining peace (Bilal 137).

### **1.5 Similarities In Turkish and American Culture in Literature**

*The Three Daughters of Eve* and *Americanah* clearly show that Turkey and America are ethnically and culturally diverse countries. *The Three Daughters of Eve* highlight the cultural clash between the East and West, traditionalists and modernists and the religious and non-religious. At the dinner party, it is clear that most of the people at the party are traditionalists who want to maintain the status quo that allows men to hold all the power and gives women minimal rights over their own lives. However, Peri is a modernist who wants to fight for a more modern Turkey where women can be treated the same as the men in their societies. However, it is clear that traditionalism still has a stronghold in the country as even Peri consistently stops herself from pushing too much when arguing with the other dinner guests. While thinking of the Advanced Learners Guide to Patriarchy and how the guide limited her, she thinks to herself, “*But she sorely wished to cancel her membership – and if she could not resign, she should be sacked*” (Shafak 120) In the same way, *Americanah* highlights the different races and cultures in the US including Whites, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans among others. Ifemelu learns the importance of race in America. In Nigeria, she had lived among black people and she never felt the need to identify with some people but not others, but in America, she finds that even black people are divided. Wambui informs her that there is a divide between African Americans and African immigrants. She tells Ifemelu that, “*If an African American calls you a Mandingo or a booty scratcher, he is insulting you for being African. Some will ask you annoying questions about Africa, but others will connect with you*” (Shafak 124). Instead, Wambui advises that immigrants are more likely to relate better with other immigrants such as “*Koreans, Indians, Brazilians*” (Shafak 124). The cultural diversity in America is so vast that Ifemelu is confused when she first encounters it and for some time after.

### **1.6 Differences Between Turkish and American Culture in Literature**

Turkey is a collectivist nation, while the United States has an individualistic culture. In Turkey, one’s personal space is not as valued as it is in America. In *Americanah*, Ifemelu finds that Americans keep to themselves and are even family members are not as connected as her family at home is. In America, everyone had to help themselves, and there wasn’t a sense of

community. This is not the case in *The Three Daughters of Eve*, where everyone in Turkey openly interacts with one another, and there are very few boundaries between the characters.

The highly sexualized culture of the United States is made clear when Ifemelu gets a job to help a tennis coach “*destress*” (Shafak 157). The coach touches Ifemelu in a sexual way and pays her \$100 for helping him “relax.” This greatly impacts Ifemelu, who has never been in that situation before. Ifemelu becomes very guilty and depressed and even cuts contact with Obinze because of the incident. On the other hand, sexuality is a taboo topic in Turkey, Peri consistently refers to the “*Advanced Learner’s Guide to Patriarchy*” which included rules on proper conduct. As Peri is discussing issues in Turkey during the dinner party, she states that she desires for Turkey to become more civilized like countries like “*Finland, Norway, Denmark*” and is silenced because the guideline states that “*members of the Decent Turkish Ladies Club*” could not defend in public the merits of ‘desire’ (Shafak 120).

In Turkey, the social relationships between men and women are significantly influenced by the social segregation between the sexes. The segregation is in relation to the Turk’s attitude about sex and sexuality, which are at times viewed as impure and shameful. Although some traditions remain when it comes to courtship in Turkey, many individuals from the urban educated classes implement both Western and traditional courtship styles. Peri stated that although her parents treated her as an equal to her brother, she knew that people in her town were always watching her. There were boundaries that she couldn’t cross that applied to her but not her brother, “*there were eyes behind every lace curtain, watching and judging, she was mindful of the boundaries not to cross, what not to wear, how to sit in public, when to return home from an evening out*” (Shafak 148). However, in America, this segregation based on gender is non-existent. Ifemelu could easily interact with the men she found in America and was sometimes astounded by how open and touchy the men could be.

Religion is a large part of Turkish culture as evident throughout *The Three Daughters of Eve*. Peri’s mother’s life is completely dependent on her religion, Peri explains that “*her fear of coming into contact with any pig extract that instead of shampoo she used raw olive-oil soap; instead of toothpaste a miswak stick; and instead of a candle, a wad of butter with a wick inserted*” (Shafak 24). Additionally, the fact that Peri’s father was not religious was a big deal that caused great tension between Peri’s parents. However, religion is barely ever mention in

*Americanah* after Ifemelu moves to America, Ifemelu was never very religious and feels at home in America where religion is not a large part of people's lives.

### **1.7 Importance of Multiculturalism Literature**

Multiculturalism and Interculturalism literature is essential in allowing students to understand their own cultures as well as the cultures of other people in a better way. This increased knowledge can be significant in strengthening relationships and help in bridging the gap between diverse cultures. Research shows that through intercultural literature, students can learn about global events and assist them in understanding these world issues.

Intercultural literature leads to increased self-esteem and prevents students from different cultures from feeling isolated. This type of literature can foster respect for other cultures and encourage acceptance of the diversity in the country. Many intercultural stories show that people are inherently the same no matter what culture they come from. They show that people feel the same emotions irrespective of their ethnic backgrounds, language, or race (Arafin and Susanto 67). Intercultural literature shows that although there are many differences between people, there are also universal traits among all human beings. For example, in *Americanah*, all the characters are shown to have emotions and suffer when they face suffering, no matter where they come from.

Intercultural literature also encourages cross-cultural friendship among people with different backgrounds. Stories that show cultural diversity can show individuals that race should not be a barrier to interaction, but the existence of different cultures should be viewed as contributing to the beauty in the world. This is evident in the *Three Daughter of Eve*, where three different women from very different parts of the world come together and become the best of friends, accepting one another and embracing each other's differences.

Intercultural literature also allows individuals to develop a critical understanding of the world by introducing them to cultural problems. Literature evokes emotions and feelings in the readers, encouraging them to view the world as a global community (Arafin and Susanto 16). *The Three Daughters of Eve* shows the cultural and religious issues that Turkish people deal with every day. The book shows the hardships that people living in Turkey go through and allows the reader to empathize with them.

### **1.8 Final Remarks**

Shafak does not give any solutions for the cultural issues she addresses in her books, instead, she points out the problems and leaves it to the reader to determine the best way forward. I believe that Shafak's motivation was to highlight the issues that plague her home country and appeal to readers both in Turkey and across the world to ponder these issues and come up with feasible solutions.

Adichie suggests that biculturalism should be encouraged as it encourages immigrants to find comfort in their own culture and become proficient in another. Immigrants embrace biculturalism as a method of dealing with the discrimination they deal with by showing pride in their own heritage and maintaining their legacy by retaining major cultural attributes. Ifemelu decides to stop using the American accent and keeps her natural kinky hair in order to celebrate and affirm her Nigerian heritage. Her preference to use broken English and the Igbo language for communicating with close friends and relatives shows her bicultural identity (Arafin and Susanto 136). Ifemelu's biculturalism shows that she adapted to her American experience but retain her original culture creating an individuated adaptable culture.

### **1.9 Conclusion**

It is important that people learn about cultural diversity from when they are young. We live in a world that has numerous beautiful and wonderful cultures that people strive to understand and appreciate. The United States includes numerous cultures that have their own distinct backgrounds and culture. While differing cultures have the tendency of segregating from one another, multicultural and intercultural literature can be essential in allowing individuals to learn about various cultures from around the globe. The US alone includes many different cultures that most Americans do not understand. American literature, including books such as *Americanah*, can educate people on the different beautiful cultures that exist in the world and the issues that can occur when the different cultures interact. Through Ifemelu, the reader views Nigerian and American cultures and shows how these cultures interact and clashes that sometimes occur between the different co-existing cultures. Turkey also has vast cultural diversity as a result of its history and position between the East and West. We can see this diversity in *The Three Daughters of Eve* as Peri flashes into the past and present, showing the reader her life and the diverse cultures in Turkey. Peri shows the importance of religion in Turkey, the prevalence of

sexual violence, and the interaction of different cultures. Intercultural literature can be a powerful tool in teaching individuals about the myriad of cultures that exist in the world. These stories can show the reader that different cultures are not scary but beautiful and only need to be understood. The characters in books portray the world we live in and are a reflection of who we are. Learning about different cultures through the eyes of diverse cultures opens up the reader to the rest of the world. A single book can include characters of different cultures such as *Americanah*, which shows the cultures in Nigeria, America, and England.

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