**A Theorization of Truth-telling and its Threats in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist***

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**Abstract**

Revolving around the question of post-9/11 truth, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, with the subjects of Muslim experience and diasporic subjectivity at the heart of it, offers an account of the entanglement of power relations between the United States and Middle-East that influences not only the military but also civilians. The sui generis narrator of the novel voices his concerns and criticism of the American foreign policy and its self-righteousness, believing that it was aggravated after the 2001 attacks. Whereas critics have majorly focused on whether his critique of the Eastern/Western relations holds true or not, they have failed to consider the quiddity of the very act of *speaking out one’s truth*. Therefore, moving beyond the true/false dichotomy, this study will conduct an assessment of the narrator’s practice of truth-telling and fearless speech, also known as *parrhesia*. To attain this objective, I rely on Michel Foucault’s formulation of this concept developed in his later works. For Foucault, parrhesia is an activity associated with candor, risk-taking, and accountability. Accordingly, I will examine the significance and implications of parrhesia in Hamid’s novel and explicate the ways this mode of speaking out sheds light on his politically charged narrative. Plus, it will be argued that in analyzing the relations of power in a novel permeated by local and global politics, verbal communications and confrontations must not be taken for granted; parrhesia is a quintessential verbal resistance that challenges the grand narratives.

Keywords: *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, *Mohsin Hamid, Truth-telling, Fearless Speech, Parrhesia, Michel Foucault.*