

TRANSNATIONAL MOBILITY AS A LITERARY FORM IN WHITE TEETH AND CLOUD ATLAS

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Abstract. This conference thesis presents a focused argument derived from the dissertation on narratives of globalization in twenty-first-century Anglophone novels.

Keywords: globalization, transnational mobility, migration, White Teeth, Cloud Atlas

This thesis examines how transnational mobility functions as a literary form in Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* and David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas*. In *White Teeth*, mobility is represented through the Jones and Iqbal families and through the intergenerational consequences of migration in multicultural London. Samad's attempt to preserve cultural continuity by sending Magid to Bangladesh demonstrates that geographical movement cannot guarantee a stable identity. The divergent development of Magid and Millat shows that transnational experience produces multiple and unpredictable outcomes. Irie Jones further illustrates that migration affects people who have never crossed national borders themselves, because the social and cultural consequences of previous movement become part of second-generation life.

Cloud Atlas expands mobility beyond migration. Adam Ewing's voyage reveals its colonial and commercial foundations; Robert Frobisher represents the circulation of artistic knowledge; Luisa Rey foregrounds the movement of information; and Sonmi-451 demonstrates the regulation of mobility within corporate power. The novel's embedded documents also move across time, linking readers and characters who never meet.

The comparison suggests that mobility in contemporary Anglophone fiction is not merely spatial. It transforms family relationships, knowledge, moral perception, and historical memory. Smith concentrates global movement within the everyday realities of one city, whereas Mitchell traces it through a transhistorical global network. Both authors show that crossing boundaries generates connection but also exposes inequality and ethical responsibility.

The analysis confirms that literary mobility connects geographical movement with generational, cultural, and ethical transformation.

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