

Exploring the Fluidity of Place in the Novel “*Beirut 75*” by Ghada al-Samman and “*Who Believes Rustam?*” by Rouhangiz Sharifian

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Abstract

Migration literature plays a vital political, social, and cultural role by enabling the exchange of values and experiences between nations. Among the key components of such literature is the element of place, which holds significant narrative and symbolic weight in both Persian and Arabic fiction. This study explores how place is depicted and transformed in *Beirut 75* by Ghada al-Samman and *Who Believes Rustam?* by Rouhangiz Sharifian. Both authors, writing from Syrian and Iranian perspectives respectively, foreground migration and fluidity of place. The novels present a rich array of locations—urban and rural, public and private—including Beirut, Damascus, Shaqqa, Douma, police stations, cafés, hotels, restaurants, schools, pharmacies, and Iran. Using a descriptive-analytical approach, the research examines how these shifting settings reflect the characters’ evolving identities and cultural dislocation.

Keywords: Novel, Place, Migration, Ghada al-Samman, Rouhangiz Sharifian.