**WEEK 4 – SEMINAR: MULTICULTURALISM AND THE TWO WORLDS PARADIGM**

Literature in its **social context**

* **Not a historical document-** fiction, not treated in same way as previous forms of literature.
* **Authors considers selves authors of fiction-** inspired by personal experiences and others etc. however still the case that lit is still part of social negotiations by which Germany is developing to an ethnically plural society.
* Literature articulates ideas/q- stimulates people to think about relations between ‘German’ Germans and people who have come to Germany- imagines situations people can be in, articulates q they are facing, looks at behaviours pos/neg.
* Late 70s/ - early 90s- lit marked by social debates forming around it- writers themselves did not emerge thematically from those which were current at the time.
* Looked at identity challenges people had eg. 2nd generation experiences
* Mediating between German cultural interaction w society and v different cult orientation at home and local communities- element of clustering
* Other expectations- from G society, cult and linguistic assimilation from 2nd gen into G society.
* **Individual is suspended in between 2 cultures- culturally represented in both directions, from home origin/family and some of the demands from G society. Burden of representation**
* **‘zwischen zwei Welten’- dominant theme among the literature- originated from North America, under representation of ethnic minorities.**
* Clear communities you must find a relationship between.
* Multiculturalism as political project- given more recognition, how these different comm can interact w each other in a pos way.
* Maintain indiv/ group identities and try to preserve it, have equal rights, respect free indiv self-fulfilment. Can challenge ideals in a multicultural society
* Melting pot model- intermingle as much as possible
* Salad bowl model- detain distinctiveness, yet still ‘mixed’
* Despite attempts to promote this as a political project unfortunately has not made much significant headway. (9/11)
* Germany- ‘leitkultur’ idea that one culture leads the others, Christian, broadly socially liberal
* Multiculturalism in a point of crisis.
* Collapses boundaries between communities- not gone, but more difficult to define.
* Much in the interest to preserve multiculturalism- to lead it
* People have a range of allegiances that form their identity
* **Modernism-** socially prog principals, social/ scientific certainties. Pol development- fall of comm structure.
* Paralleled with sceptical knowledge in arts, philosophy etc.
* Provided opportunity to reform ideal of cultural identity
* No longer case looking for validity, authenticity- use own imagination to compose own identity.
* **Criticise** 1st gen went to G and tried to make themselves invisible- no fuss, try to assimilate
* Rise in xenophobic violence in this period 1991, arson attacks on asylum seekers. Pos response in Germany, march in support of immigrants.
* Q of position of migration back ground in G society fell down list of priorities
* Left 2nd gen youth in limbo- integration not progressed much, peformed worse at school, under represented, few going to gymnasium

**GROUP A**

**-**exoticness- idea of someone making a kebab- how its elaborate on how it made w spices, references to magic, it’s a show making the kebab

- ketchup, waters down exoticness

- Mahmud plays on exotic nature of his kebabs, undermines his own exoticism- it’s more a performance

- depiction of Americans, perhaps stereotypical, undermining exoticism w ketchup- bring the experience into more familiar bounds.

- Reactions by Mahmud and narrator: not justified, undermines his creation yet his own interpretation is undermined; its more of a performance and is not authentic. He translates indignation into a nationalist issue- a front to Syrian national pride.

- Schami taking swipe at exoticism and undermining it at the same time/ getting people interested and taking side swipe at nationalism- making things national issues when they are not.

- gender stereotypes- men going to work, flirting w birds, - retrospectively look on harassment on women.