

Wavering Between Two Worlds: Exploring Liminality in Elif Shafak's *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*

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Abstract

Anthropologists describe 'liminal space' as an in-between space or transitional space where a person belongs to neither here nor there. It indicates the threshold, a transitory space or state of ambiguity, hybridity and indeterminacy. French ethnographer Arnold Van Gennep introduced the concept of liminality in *Rites de passage* (1960) and Victor Turner elaborated it as an in-between situation in which the 'betwixt and between' condition occurs, and the structure is reversed, continuity is uncertain. It is observed as the middle phase in a rite of passage. The present paper attempts to study Turkish writer Elif Shafak's novel *10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World* (2019) utilizing Gennep's and Turner's theoretical insights on liminality to investigate the liminal status of the central character Leila who both confronts and mediates the past and the present while passing through the liminal space and period. It aims to reveal the protagonist's attainment of a liminal status in the final moments of her life and her "betwixt and between" characteristics that Turner defines as essential to the liminal state and finally her ultimate assimilation that comes at the end of liminality.

Keywords : Liminality, Transitional, Threshold, Ambiguity, Betwixt and Between.