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### Afghan woman in the mirror of literature Geographical criticism reading in A Thousand Splendid Suns and Kabul Beauty School Safoura Tork Ladani <sup>1✉</sup> 0000-0002-3086-1122 Zohre Salehzadeh <sup>2</sup>

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Article Info	Extended ABSTRACT
<p><b>Article type:</b> Research Article</p> <p><b>Article history:</b> Received: 17 November 2022 Received in revised form: 26 February 2023 Accepted: 14 March 2023 Published online: Autumn 2024</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Afghan Women, Geographic Criticism, Space, <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>, <i>The Kabul Beauty School</i></p>	<p>Afghan women have lived in difficult conditions in certain periods of time, upon hearing of which people have been moved to sympathy around the world. During the two phases of the Taliban government, the social activity and presence of Afghan women have been severely suppressed. Deprivation of education, work, and social activities, the enforcement of house arrest, forced marriages, and violent methods of punishment for disobedience are among the problems that Afghan women have faced. For this reason, writers and defenders of women's rights depict the patriarchal atmosphere of Afghanistan and defend the women of this land by writing novels and articles. Khaled Hosseini, an Afghan-American writer, tries to represent the history of these women and the patriarchal atmosphere in Afghanistan in his famous novel <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> (2007). Deborah Rodriguez is an American hairdresser who also shows the role of Afghan women and their suffering by describing her memories of her stay in Afghanistan in her <i>Kabul Beauty School</i> (2007). The role of place and space is very important in creating these two literary works by using geo-criticism, which is a new approach that examines the common place in literary or artistic works. By examining the image of "self" and "other" in these two novels and their manifestations in the atmosphere of Afghanistan, this paper investigates the influence of post-colonial studies on the analysis of the migrant's and the native's points of view. The image of "self" and "other" is placed in post-colonial studies and imagery, which helps give feedback to the reader on the image of foreign culture within the realm of comparative literature. Therefore, imagery is studied from an interdisciplinary point of view, because when the narrator talks about the "other," a different culture, history, and geography are introduced to the reader. The cultural difference of these two regions confronts the immigrant with a different environment because the western and eastern worlds are different from each other in some ways. There are things that attract the attention of the immigrant; for example, the tradition of the Orientals and the great importance of their customs, and women's lack of independence in making decisions about their personal lives. Also, the transition in the mind of a western immigrant from real space to the imaginary space in which the Afghan woman lives and its effects on the reader are finally analyzed.</p>

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