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**Questioning Identity in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1914)
and Yasmina Khadra's *Ce que le jour doit à la nuit* (2008): A Cross-Cultural Study**

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Abstract

Algeria and Ireland underwent a long period of colonial occupation by the French and British powers, respectively. These settlements have had a visible impact on the Algerian and Irish societies. In recent years, this impact has been the subject matter of a great deal of literary criticism devoted to its commitment to the re-molding of the cultural identities of these countries. In this paper, we have shed light on the issue of the hybrid identities in James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1914) and Yasmina Khadra's *Ce que le jour doit à la nuit* (2008). Our primary concern has been to analyze how the protagonists' cultural identities, in a context on the intersection of two opposing cultures, have been constructed. We have taken our theoretical bearing from the postcolonial concept of Hybridity developed by Homi Bhabha in his book *The Location of Culture* (1994). In the light of this theory, we have argued that these two opposing cultures have affected the perception of personhood and the self. It was therefore found that the two cultures affected the protagonists' identity construction and contributed to the shaping of a hybrid identity which is a blend of modernity and tradition. Despite the cultural differences between the two authors, the novels under study as well as the socio-cultural contexts share many similarities that are reflected through the protagonists' personal development at the individual as well as national level, and the ambivalent aspects of their identity.

Keywords: Cultural Identity, Hybridity, Intersection, Modernity, Tradition.