

## **Experiences and challenges of migrant children: An analysis of child migration in three theatre plays at the intersection of age and gender**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to examine the migration experiences of and challenges faced by the children through an analysis of three theater texts, “Türkland”, “I, Djuma” and “Antabus”. Migration studies have generally focused on independent adult male movement. The migratory experiences of women and children have usually been studied as a complementary part of male migration like in the example of family unification or migration based on marriage. Moreover, migrant children’s experiences have not been thoroughly examined or not taken into consideration at all. Hence, this study aims to demonstrate that next to dependent child migration, there are also movements where children are forced to migrate on their own and secondly, that migrant children have specific experiences, needs and challenges different from the adult migrants. What is more, gender also plays an important role in the differentiation of child migrants’ migratory trajectories.

For this end, the three theater plays indicated above are subjected to content analysis. These three plays were chosen since they all depict the migration processes experienced by the protagonists as children and each tells how a different type of migration (namely international labor migration, asylum migration and internal migration) is experienced by boys and girls. The plays are analyzed around the themes of childhood experiences during migration and integration, focusing on the intersection of age and gender. Based on the assumption that different age groups and genders experience sociological phenomena differently, the main argument of this study is that children and women face different opportunities and challenges in the process of migration and in adapting to the social relations in the receiving country and that their ways of coping with these challenges also differ.

### **CVs**

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