

## RECONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY WITH A NEW LANGUAGE AS THE RESTATEMENT OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE

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The article discusses the restatement of traumatic experience of great loss (home, language and culture) in Eva Hoffman's autobiographical novel *Lost in Translation: Life in a New Language* (1989). Eva Hoffman (b. 1945) is a Polish American author, currently living in London. In her first novel *Lost in Translation*, Hoffman analyses formation of her new identity through restatement of her Polish one. The aim of the article is to examine the role of languages in the formation of the person's identity. Language is seen as a fundamental component of one's identity; thus, it can also serve as a gateway into the new identity. At the same time, the bilingual identity (Polish-English), which at first is the chaotic matrix of inner struggle, later may become a key to disclosing the personal trauma and can aid in the painful process of restatement of trauma. The narrator of the novel is torn between two different languages: Polish, although complete and fulfilling, becomes a language of the past, while newly acquired English is yet a fragmented medium. Thus, the narrator struggles searching for a language that could disclose her real self. Grounded in trauma fiction theory, the article questions the role of traumatic memory in the linguistic process of restatement of trauma and examines the cross-cultural dimension in the formation of the immigrant's identity.