

**Citation information.** *in esse: English Studies in Albania*. Volume 2, Issue 1, Page 114-131.  
ISSN 2078 – 7413.

## **Istanbul: Orhan Pamuk's melancholic city**

**Mehmet Ali SEVGI**, *University of Bremen, Germany*

[mehmetalisevgi@hotmail.com](mailto:mehmetalisevgi@hotmail.com)

### **Abstract**

The leading Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk claims that Istanbul has its own unique melancholy (*hüzün*) that can be related to the history of the city. The remains of the past in Istanbul, like the great mosques, monuments, palaces, arches, fountains, and neighbourhood mosques, are not proudly displayed, unlike a Western city where those remnants would be preserved like museums of history. These ruins, for the inhabitants of Istanbul, are reminders of the fact that “the present day is so poor and confused compared to old good days and that it can never dream of being in wealth and power like it used to be” (Pamuk 2005, 89). Pamuk's novel *The Black Book* is the manifestation of Istanbul's unique melancholy. This paper focuses on the representation of the city in literature and studies the streets and the atmosphere of Istanbul through the eyes of Orhan Pamuk and his characters.

**Key words:** *the city, melancholy, Istanbul, Orhan Pamuk*