

**EXILE AS ALIENATION, EXILE AS REDEMPTION
IN LESLIE MARMON SILKO'S *CEREMONY***

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Abstract: The novel Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko is the story of a quest for cultural identity. The paper will discuss the main character's journey from initial complete alienation to final redemption in terms of the representation of the spaces he "inhabits" along his journey as symbolic of different cultures – the mainstream culture and the traditional Indian culture. I will regard Tayo's identity quest progressing from self dismantling exile into the other's culture, to the redeeming exile from Western culture into his own, exile as a space of resistance and rebirth. Ethnic identity is closely related to place: all the more interesting is the character Tayo, a mixed-blood, whose choice of Indian identity I will discuss in ecocritical terms, showing how place (land) becomes cultural space in every stage of Tayo's story.