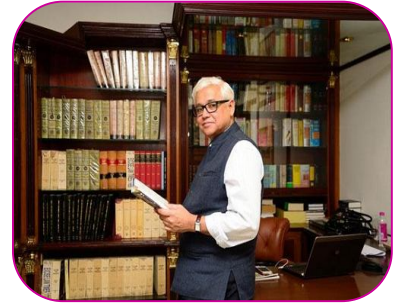




POST COLONIALITY IN THE NOVELS OF AMITAV GHOSH

Mr. Prashant Tanaji Chavare
Assist. Professor, College of Arts, Bhigwan,
Tal. Indapur, Dist. Pune.



ABSTRACT:

Colonialism has a great effect on Indian literature. The present paper focuses on the effect of colonialism on Indian English literature. Amitav Ghosh, Salman Rushdie, R.K. Narayan, Anita Desai, Rohinton Mistry, Arundhati Roy, Kiran Desai and many other novelists and writers have written about their postcolonial experiences. Amitav Ghosh is one of the most widely known and widely read Indian writers who write from a postcolonial consciousness. Amitav Ghosh reveals areas of colonial oppression that were not much highlighted earlier. The images of politically and socially changing India, reflects in his work. His novels are the best examples of post-colonial literature.

KEYWORDS : *Post-colonial, literature, colonialism, racism, changing image of India.*

INTRODUCTION

Post Colonial is a familiar term used for the literature. The term post-colonial is defined differently by different critics. According to the Oxford Dictionary, Post-colonial means, "occurring or existing after the end of colonial rule." M.H Abrams defines, "Post-colonialism as the critical analysis of the history, culture, literature." By these definitions, post colonialism is a period of time after colonialism, and postcolonial literature is normally categorized by its opponent to the colonial. However, some critics have argued that any literature that expresses an opposition to colonialism, even if it is created during a colonial period, may be coined as postcolonial. Postcolonial literature often focuses on race relations and the effects of racism and usually indicts colonial societies. Despite a basic agreement on the general themes of postcolonial writing, however, there is on-going debate regarding the meaning of post colonialism.

POST- COLONIAL WRITERS IN INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE:

The writers like Salman Rushdie, Khuswant Singh, Shashi Tharoor, Amitav Ghosh, Arundhati Roy, and Rohinton Mistry are writing in a postcolonial space, using novel as a means of cultural representation. These writers aimed at enhancing an Indian cultural identity, and projecting Indian cultural and historical legacy to enable an affirmation of the Indian self.

Women colonial writers draw a relationship between post colonialism and feminism. Some of these writers have noted that since the language of British-ruled colonies is English, literature written in English has often been used to marginalize and constrain female points of view. In the postcolonial period, however, language, and the ability to speak, write, and publish, has become an enabling tool for postcolonial authors.

The Feminist writers tried to stamp their authority in a colonial dominated atmosphere as best as it is possible to them. It was a very complex path, as the Indians had to break through years of colonial control and beliefs that had heavily impregnated the society. In addition, critics argued that colonialism operated very differently for women and for men. This was so because women were subjected to both wide-ranging discrimination as colonial subjects and specific discrimination as women addressed as double colonization. It

is from these perceptions one should view the contribution of women writers like Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Gita Mehta, Gita Hariharan, Bharati Mukherjee, Uma Vasudev and Arundhati Roy. Unquestionably, it is understood that they have perceived a good job in exposing the fallacies of the male-dominated society and letting the public beware of the various atrocities heaped upon women who dared to cross the various rigid boundaries laid on them by society.

AMITAV GHOSH: A POST COLONIAL WRITER:

Amitav Ghosh is one of the most prominent Indian writers, writing from a postcolonial consciousness. Amitav Ghosh's work reflects the truth of Indian reality. His first novel *The Circle of Reason* won France's top literary award and was the New York Times notable book of the year 1987. His next novel *The Shadow Lines* won the Sahitya Academy Award for the year 1990. The Calcutta Chromosome won the Arthur C-Clark Award. *The Hungry Tide* won the Hutch crossword Book Award in 2006. Ghosh's novel *The Glass Palace* won the grand prize for fiction at the Frankfurt International-Book Awards.

The images of the changing India, politically and socially, cast a deep shadow on Ghosh's mind. The novel *The Glass Palace* is about three generations of two families in Burmese, India and Malaya. It is a historical novel about the British colonization of Burma. In this novel Ghosh reveals the brutal greed of the people at various levels. The loot of the opening scene shows the gluttony of the colonizer. Ghosh has written about families and nations to highlight the sense of dislodgment. He has also described the defeats and disappointments of dislocated people in various places. Ghosh makes a price for internationalism. In his hands, the novel becomes a cultural tool for hopes of social betterment.

'*The Glass Palace*' is a legend about three generations of two closely correlated families in Burma, India and Malaya. It is also a historical novel about the British colonization of Burma. When imperialism divides and partitions set restrictions to freedom, the characters in the novel spilt so easily over national and family boundaries through friendship and marriage that it becomes difficult to identify a character's attachment an exclusively Indian or Burmese or Chinese or Malay. This novel is more than merely a revisionary rewriting of a segment of the history of the British territory from the perspective of the colonized subaltern. One of the protagonists in *The Glass Palace* Jaya displays the necessary intelligence to understand British colonialism better than the other male characters.

The Glass Palace opens with the Anglo-Burmese war. Two senior ministers of Burma are too eager to keep the Royal family under guard because they expected to get rich rewards from the English for handing over the royal couple along with their family. As the royal family prepares to surrender the looters, the Burmese public who earlier stood in fear now quickly move into the palace. Similarly, the British soldiers in charge of shifting the king's precious jewels and ornaments from the palace to the ship that was waiting to take the royal family into exile also pocket these things. Ghosh here strips the veils off human nature to reveal the basic and brutal greed that drives people at various levels. Rajkumar's life-story is a story of the struggle for endurance in the colonial turmoil. As a colonized subject from Bengal, he becomes a colonizer in Burma transporting indentured labourers from South India to other parts of the colonial world. He has even sexually demoralized a woman worker on his plantations. His post-colonial consciousness represents a conflict. Rajkumar, Saya John and Matthew are engaged in the task of colonizing land and people for the sake of wealth

His novel '*The Hungry Tide*' is also a typical post-colonial novel. Moreover, the theme of *Sea of Poppies* completely suits the post-colonial propositions as it presents the position of Indian women in pre-Independent and post-Independent situation of India. The colonial and the social dislodgment of Indian nobility and the kingly class in *Dancing in Cambodia*, at Large in Burma are well crafted within the post-colonial critical structure.

In the male dominated culture of *The Hungry Tide* and *Sea of Poppies* Piya and Deeti, win the genuineness to inherit the rule purely on their own. In this development, they overcome the conservative hurdles of Kabutri, the daughter of Deeti and Tutel, son of Fokir considered as the natural heir to Fokir and

heiress to Deeti. Princess Soumphady becomes the true representative of Indian Culture by ably implementing the dancing lessons and ideology of ruling the nation after the King Sisowath. Enacting the conservative role of wife and as well as mother, Deeti upholds the dignity of the Indian culture by disallowing the cunningness, brutality and distorted plotting of Chandan Singh who is a colonial representative. She also realizes that the ultimate legitimacy to rule the nation rests with the people and obliterates the patriarchal authority. The way Deepti registers protagonist is the way, which unravels the intrigues of conventional images and symbols meant for manufacturing the so called pseudo nationalism.

CONCLUSION:

Colonialism has a great impact on every strand of life in the countries ruled by British. Literature is the mirror of society. The impact of colonialism is seen on literature. In the field of literature writers presented the impact of colonialism on society. Male and female writer presented colonialism through their writing. Female witters presented the condition of woman in the Indian society. Amitav Ghosh is one of prominent post colonial writer. The novels of Amitav Ghosh have beyond a shadow of doubt, been successful in opening the reader's mind. The images of the changing India, politically and socially reflects in his work. His novels *The Glass Palace*, *Sea of Poppies*, *The Hungry Tide*, *The Shadow Lines* are the examples of post-colonial literature.

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