# REVIEW OF RESEARCH



ISSN: 2249-894X IMPACT FACTOR: 5.2331(UIF) VOLUME - 7 | ISSUE - 6 | MARCH - 2018



# ROLE OF POSTCOLONIALISM IN LITERATURE: A BRIEF STUDY

#### Mrs. Michel A. Kharbas

#### **ABSTRACT**

Post-colonialism in literature includes the study of theory and literature as it relates to the colonizer-colonized experience. Edward Said is the leading theorist in this field, with Chinua Achebe being one of its leading authors.

**KEY WORDS:** Post-colonialism , colonizer-colonized experience , leading theorist.



#### WHAT IS POST-COLONIALISM?

In many works of literature, specifically those coming out of Africa, the Middle East, and the Indian subcontinent, we meet characters who are struggling with their identities in the wake of colonization, or the establishment of colonies in another nation. For example, the British had a colonial presence in India from the 1700s until India gained its independence in 1947. As you can imagine, the people of India, as well as the characters in Indian novels, must deal with the economic, political, and emotional effects that the British brought and left behind. This is true for literature that comes out of any colonized nation. In many cases, the literature stemming from these events is both emotional and political.

The post-colonial theorist enters these texts through a specific critical lens, or a specific way of reading a text. That critical lens, post-colonial theory or post-colonialism, asks the reader to analyze and explain the effects that colonization and imperialism, or the extension of power into other nations, have on people and nations.

# **EFFECTS OF COLONIZATION**

As mentioned, post-colonialism asks the reader to enter a text through the post-colonial lens. The chart will help you see how to approach a post-colonial reading of a text. As a reader, you would look for the effects of colonialism and how they are addressed through the plot, setting, and characters' actions.

#### WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Post-colonial literature comes from Britain's previous states in the Caribbean, Africa and India. Numerous post-pioneer authors write in English and spotlight on regular subjects, for example, the battle for freedom, displacement, national personality, fidelity and adolescence.

\_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT IS POST-COLONIAL THEORY?

Postcolonial theory is an literary theory or basic approach that arrangements with writing created in nations that were once, or are presently, provinces of different nations. It might likewise manage writing written in or by natives of colonizing nations that takes states or their people groups as its topic. The hypothesis is based around ideas of otherness and opposition.

Postcolonial theory turned out to be a piece of the basic tool kit in the 1970s, and numerous experts credit Edward Said's book Orientalism just like the establishing work.

Normally, the advocates of the theory examine the ways in which scholars from colonized nations endeavor to expressive and even praise their social characters and recover them from the colonizers. They additionally look at manners by which the writing of the pioneer powers is utilized to legitimize expansionism through the propagation of pictures of the colonized as substandard. Notwithstanding, endeavors at concocting a solitary meaning of postcolonial hypothesis have demonstrated dubious, and some writers have strongly critiqued the whole concept.

#### **SOME ISSUES IN POSTCOLONIAL THEORY:**

Post-colonial theory deals with the perusing and composing of writing written in already or right now colonized nations, or writing sent in colonizing nations which manages colonization or colonized people groups. It centers especially around the manner by which writing by the colonizing society contorts the experience and substances, and engraves the mediocrity, of the colonized individuals on writing by colonized people groups which endeavors to verbalize their personality and recover their past even with that past's unavoidable otherness. It can likewise manage the manner by which writing in colonizing nations appropriates the dialect, pictures, scenes, conventions et cetera of colonized nations. This page tends to a portion of the complexities of the post-frontier circumstance, as far as the written work and perusing circumstance of the colonized individuals, and of the colonizing individuals.

# THE LITERATURE(S) OF THE COLONIZED:

- Postcolonial theory is worked in huge part around the idea of otherness. There are anyway issues with or complexities to the idea of otherness, for example: otherness incorporates doubleness, both personality and contrast, so every other, each not the same as and barred by is persuasively made and incorporates the qualities and significance of the colonizing society even as it rejects its energy to characterize; the western idea of the oriental is based, as Abdul Jan Mohamed contends, on the Manichean purposeful anecdote (seeing the world as separated into commonly barring contrary energies): if the west is requested, levelheaded, manly, great, at that point the orient is disorganized, nonsensical, female, abhorrent. Basically to turn around this polarizing is to be complicit in its totalizing and character annihilating force (all is decreased to an arrangement of divisions, dark or white, and so on.); colonized people groups are very various in their temperament and in their conventions, and as creatures in societies they are both developed and changing, so that while they might be 'other' from the colonizers, they are likewise unique one from another and from their own pasts, and ought not be totalized or essentialized - through such ideas as a dark cognizance, Indian soul, native culture et cetera. This totalization and essentialization is regularly a type of sentimentality which has its motivation more in the possibility of the colonizers than of the colonized, and it serves give the colonizer a feeling of the solidarity of his way of life while perplexing that of others; as John Frow comments, it is a making of a legendary One out of many... the colonized people groups will likewise be other than their pasts, which can be recovered yet never reconstituted, thus should be returned to and acknowledged in incomplete, divided ways. You can't go home once more.
- Postcolonial theory is additionally worked around the idea of obstruction, of obstruction as subversion, or restriction, or mimicry - however with the unpleasant issue that opposition dependably writes the opposed into the surface of the opposing: it is a two-edged sword. Also, the idea of obstruction conveys with it or can convey with it thoughts regarding human opportunity, freedom, personality, distinction,

and so on., which thoughts might not have been held, or held similarly, in the colonized culture's perspective of mankind.

- On a straightforward political/social level, there are issues with the way that to deliver a writing which
  reconstitutes the personality of the colonized one may need to work in at any rate the methods for
  creation of the colonizers the composition, distributing, publicizing and generation of books, for
  example. These may well require a unified monetary and social framework which is at last either a
  western import or a crossover shape, joining nearby originations with western originations.
- The idea of delivering a national or social writing is as a rule an idea unfamiliar to the customs of the colonized people groups, who (a) had no writing as it is considered in the western conventions or in actuality no writing or composing by any means, or potentially b) did not consider craftsmanship to be having an indistinguishable capacity from developing and characterizing social personality, as well as c) were, similar to the people groups of the West Indies, transported into an entirely unique geological/political/financial/social world. (India, a fractional exemption, had a since a long time ago settled convention of letters; then again it was a profoundly balkanized sub-mainland with little if any normal personality and with numerous disparate sub-societies). It is dependably a changed, a recovered however cross breed personality, which is made or called forward by the colonizers' endeavors to constitute and speak to character. (hybridity = blending of societies; ex. twofold awareness one goes to an American University and gets instructed then comes back to local land just to find that he/she can't relate to the way of life any longer)
- The exceptionally ideas of nationality and character might be hard to consider or pass on in the social customs of colonized people groups.
- There are complexities and perplexities around the trouble of considering how a colonized nation can recover or reconstitute its personality in a dialect that is currently however was not its own dialect, and kinds which are presently yet were not the class of the colonized. One outcome is that the writing might be composed in the style of discourse of the occupants of a specific colonized individuals or region, which dialect utilize does not read like Standard English and in which writing the standard artistic references and regular analogies and images might be wrong and additionally might be supplanted by inferences and tropes which are outsider to British culture and utilization. It can turn out to be exceptionally troublesome then for others to perceive or regard the work as writing (which idea may not itself have pertinence see next point).
- There other are times when the infringement of the tasteful standards of western writing is inescapable, as colonized scholars hunt to experience their way of life's old yet changed legacy, and as they endeavor to manage issues of social request and importance so squeezing that the ordinary stylish changes of western high writing are not applicable, have neither rhyme nor reason. The possibility that great or high writing might be immaterial and lost at a point in a culture's history, and hence for a specific social use not be great writing by any means, is troublesome for us who are brought up in the way of life which solid tasteful beliefs to acknowledge.
- The advancement (improvement itself might be a totally western idea) of half breed and recovered
  societies in colonized nations is uneven, unique, and might resist those ideas of request and sound
  judgment which might be focal to western reasoning as well as to artistic structures and customs created
  through western idea.
- The term 'half breed' utilized above alludes to the idea of hybridity, a critical idea in post-pioneer hypothesis, alluding to the joining (or, blending) of social signs and practices from the colonizing and the colonized societies ("reconciliation" might be too precise a word to speak to the assortment of stratagems, frantic or sly or great willed, by which individuals adjust to the necessities and the chances of pretty much onerous or obtrusive social inconveniences, live into outsider social examples through their own particular structures of seeing, in this way creating something recognizable however new). The digestion and adjustment of social practices, the cross-treatment of societies, can be viewed as positive, enhancing, and dynamic, and also onerous. "Hybridity" is additionally a valuable idea for separating the

false sense that colonized societies - or colonizing societies besides - are solid, or have fundamental,

- The portrayal of these uneven and regularly mixture, bilingual, multivalent social destinations (recovered or found colonized societies hunting down personality and significance in a complex and somewhat outsider past) may not look particularly like the portrayals of middle class culture in western workmanship, ideologically molded as western craftsmanship is to speak to its own facts (that is, managing fictions) about itself.
- To quote Homi Bhabha on the perplexing issue of portrayal and significance from his article in Greenblatt and Gun's Redrawing the Boundaries, Culture as a technique of survival is both transnational and translational. It is transnational in light of the fact that contemporary postcolonial talks are established in particular chronicles of social uprooting, regardless of whether they are the center entry of slaver and arrangement, the voyage out of the cultivating mission, the laden settlement of Third World movement toward the West after the Second World War, or the activity of financial and political displaced people inside and outside the Third World. Culture is translational in light of the fact that such spatial narratives of dislodging - now joined by the regional aspirations of worldwide media advancements - make the subject of how culture means, or what is implied by culture, a somewhat complex issue. It winds up essential to recognize the similarity and likeness of the images crosswise over assorted social encounters - writing, workmanship, music, custom, life, demise - and the social specificity of every one of these preparations of significance as they circle as signs inside particular relevant areas and social frameworks of significant worth. The transnational measurement of social change - relocation, diaspora (societies who have been spread forward = Egyptians move to Jersey-they are not Americans but rather they can't return to Egypt. they are no Egyptian-Americans. This connects to hybridity which is generally a positive response to contrasts) removal, movement - makes the procedure of social interpretation a mind boggling type of implication. the natural(ized), bringing together talk of country, people groups, or genuine society custom, those implanted fantasies of societies distinction, can't be promptly referenced. The considerable, however agitating, preferred standpoint of this position is that it makes you progressively mindful of the development of culture and the innovation of custom.

## **KEY CONCEPTS IN POSTCOLONIALISM**

Othering: Othering involves two concepts — the "Exotic Other" and the "Demonic Other," The Exotic Other speaks to an interest with :the natural poise and magnificence of the crude/undeveloped other, as depicted n Yeats' Byzantium lyrics; while the Demonic Other is spoken to as substandard, negative, savage and malicious as is portrayed in books like Heart of Darkness and A Passage to India.

Diaspora: Diaspora alludes to individuals who have been dislodged or scattered from their countries, and who have and share an aggregate memory and fantasy, and the nostalgic memory of "home" ("nonexistent countries," to utilize Rushdie's term) or an acquired belief system of "home" turns into an individual way of life and in addition an aggregate personality of individuals from a specific group. They are not established in one area, and live in the recollections of their "Envisioned countries." In the new topographical area, they arrange their way of life and that of the host country. Indian diasporic encounter, for example, has been broadly archived by creators like Bharati Mukherjee, Meena Alexander, Menon Marath, Dom Moraes, Farrukh Dhondy, Kiran Desai, Jhumpa Lahiri, and numerous others. Diasporic scholars, for example, Avtar Brah and Robin Cohen propose the possibility of a home as a mythic one, a position of want in the diasporic creative energy, a place to which there can be no arrival, notwithstanding the conceivable outcomes of going to the place that is viewed as the place of source.

Hybridity/ Syncretism: The Schizophrenic condition of the transient as s/he endeavors to consolidate the way of life of birthplace with that of the host nation, without forsaking either is called 'Hybridity" or "Syncretism". The focal subject in postcolonial diasporic writing is the arrangement of two personalities the split cognizance of being both, yet neither totally; the different characters or solidarities; or in extraordinary cases, reassertion of local social way of life as show in social fundamentalism. Hybridity in

\_\_\_\_\_

postcolonial thinks about has been affected by crafted by political scholars like Will Kymlicka who places a "multicultural citizenship" in the globalized world. This prompts the development of new personalities where the first character, verifiable encounters and recollections are not deserted but rather is usefully converged with the host culture, to move past the "built" furthest reaches of both, producing solidarities against basic racial persecution. Social scholars, for example, Stuart Hall have contended for "new ethnicities" that prevent thoughts from securing fundamental dark or basic white personality, proposing a "genuine heterogeneity of interests and characters."

**Double Consciousness:** A major concept formulated by W.E.B. Du Bois, twofold awareness echoes Frantz Fanon's conflict of the partitioned self in Black Skin, White Masks that the dark dependably observes himself through the eyes of the white.Du Bois depicted twofold cognizance as "two spirits, two musings... in one dull body", which Meena Alexander later adjusted as "numerous spirits, numerous considerations... in one dim body"— indicating the transient's involvement in various subject positions — an intermittent topic in the works of Ben Okri, Amitav Ghosh, Derek Walcott, Salman Rushdie, Caryl Phillips and others.

**Subaltern**: Subaltern is a term acquainted by Antonio Gramsci with allude to the common laborers, and utilized and polpularized by Gayatri Spivak in the postcolonial setting, in Can the Subaltern Speak?. In this paper, Spivak raises issues about the voice of the subaltern in resistance to the colonizer, and the credibility of the voice of the subaltern — whether s/he talks or is represented? Along these lines Spivak scorns the lip service of postcolonial talks that claim to raise the voices of up to this point unheard, while they coincidentally serve to propagate the negligibility and the subalternity of the persecuted. Spivak's paper was an evaluate of crafted by the Subaltern Studies assemble including Ranajit Guha, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Shahid Amin and others.

Mimicry: Mimicry exhibits an undecided connection between the colonizer and the colonized. The colonized subject copies the colonizer by receiving the colonizer's social propensities, dialect, clothing, values and so forth. In doing as such, he derides and spoofs the colonizer. Mimicry hence finds a break in the sureness of frontier strength, a vulnerability in its control of the conduct of the colonized. Homi Bhabha takes note of that mimicry is the procedure by which the colonized subject is duplicated "as nearly the same, yet not exactly" — it contains both joke and a hazard; it uncovers the constraints in the specialist of the provincial talk, nearly as if the frontier expert unavoidably typifies the seeds of its own decimation.

History: Writing in the wake of decolonization, after long a very long time of magnificent concealment and destruction of personality, the journalists of the Third World countries are progressively intrigued and enthused about expounding on their local accounts, issues of colonization; they have composed contextual analyses of social colonization, local character and hostile to frontier obstruction. Hostile to pioneer composing of the main stage is in this way of the culturalist patriot assortment — encapsulated in developments like Negritude, Africanite, and African Esthetic. These battles were gone for freeing themselves at the person and the frontier level, from pilgrim states of mind and types of reasoning. The postcolonia fixation on history, firmly connected with the all-encompassing objective of decolonization, addresses issues, for example, 1) cross examining the impacts of expansionism, particularly as far as social distance; 2) the counter pioneer battles of the Third World and the ascent of patriotism; 3) the making of copy men in the pilgrim culture; 4) the apportionment of history by the frontier ace; 5) endeavors to recover and re-compose their own particular chronicles by the once in the past colonized societies; and 6) methods of portrayals. Recovering history for a postcolonial culture perpetually incorporates an extraordinary mindfulness that local history without pilgrim sullying isn't conceivable. The Subaltern Studies venture tries to find, underneath the layers of frontier historiography, the nearby protection from expansionism. It is a history from beneath, using assets in local dialects and non-frontier types of history-recording, for example, folksongs, ballads etc

Nation: The postcolonial authors are aware of their part in country building. In postcolonial writing, the country building venture tries to eradicate the pilgrim past by dismissing and opposing the Western developments of "alternate" as crude, savage, devilish and so on and by looking to recover a pre-pioneer past that would enable them to rethink a country and task a fate and future. Nonetheless, the postcolonial

philosophies and epistemologies are quite often intervened and controlled by Western ones, and the local

understands that the fate of the postcolony isn't as perfect as had been longed for before. Postcolonialism carries with it another procedure of prohibition, minimization and "subalternisation", as Gyanendra Pandey contends, "minorities. are constituted alongside the country", and a continuation of expansionism through the arrangement of elites. Writing of postcoloniality that constitutes nationhood underlines the methods of developing, envisioning and speaking to the country, the part of region, space, group, religion, Oirituality, social character and the legislative issues of nativism really taking shape of a national personality.

Race: According to Michael Banton, race is an idea that has been the premise of segregation and debilitation. Race has turned into a focal classification in social, political and social hypothesis. Basic race examines, which incorporates investigations of race in writing and culture, ethnicity ponders, investigations of minority literary works, and particular conventions in writing and theory, expressly addresses inquiries of race and racial segregation. Issues of race and ethnicity prompt group, collective characters and have a bigger political and social importance. The political perusing/basic routine with regards to racial examinations has included noteworthy effect inside Cultural Studies, Media Studies, Black British Studies, Asian American Studies and so on. The race turn has additionally been instrumental in the improvement of social developments like Black Arts and Harlem Renaissance. W.E.B, Du Bois in his compositions like The Souls of Black Folk scrutinizes the logical prejudice — Eugenics, Social Darwinism and Nazism — which offers ascend to "organic segregation!' He likewise contended that bigotry was socially built, that it developed through social talks and rehearses and was not deductively self evident.

Gender: Postcolonial sex talk examines the twofold colonization of ladies by both government and male centric society. In postcolonial writing, sex and sexuality have turned out to be conspicuous topics in the most recent many years of the twentieth century. Sexual orientation and the part of ladies in the postcolonial nations have been the concentration in the works of Anita Desai, Ama Ata Aidoo,. Suniti Namjoshi, Buchi Emecheta, and Nawal El Saasdawi. The linkage amongst sex and the racial/ethnic personalities has been the subject of various self-portraying works by local Canadian and African-American ladies like Gloria Anzaldua and Maria Campbell.Postcolonial sex ponders inspect how class, station, economy, political strengthening and proficiency have added to the state of ladies in the Third World nations, Another fascinating territory of study is the effect of "First World Feminism" on Third World journalists while investigating the potential outcomes of Third World Feminism.

Black Feminism: The control of the dark male in the social equality development and the white lady in the women's activist publicity required the rise of Black Feminism enumerating the inseparable association amongst sexism and bigotry. Alice Walker's Womanism, Angela Davis' Women, Race and Class and Kimberle Crenshaw's Identity Politics talks about the minimized, intersectional situation of the Black ladies. The Black women's activist lesbian association, Combahee River Collective, began by activists like Barbara Smith, is ideologically isolated from "white women's liberation." The CRC questions regular social order with the white man at the middle and started making hypothesis which talked about the mix of issues, sexism, bigotry and so on that they had been doing combating.

**Neocolonialism:** Neocoionialism alludes to the proceeding with monetary strength and abuse of the "sans politically" Third World nations by the European supreme powers. Neocolonialism is regularly accomplished not just through state control by Euro-American forces, yet by a nexus between government officials, investors, commanders, and the Chief Executive officers. Worldwide guide and formative activities are all the time lined up with financial approach diktats that debilitate Third World economies. Neocolonialism, subsequently, is a more hazardous type of expansionism.

## **REFERENCES:**

- Boehmer, Elleke. Colonial & Postcolonial Literature. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1995. Print.
- Zang, Benzi. "Identity in Diaspora and Diaspora in Writing: the poetics of cultural transrelation." Journal of International Studies. Vol. 21, No-1, 2000. Print.
- Boehmer, Elleke. Colonial & Postcolonial Literature. United States: Oxford University, Press. 2005. Print.

\_\_\_\_\_

- Innes, C. L. The Cambridge Introduction to Postcolonial Literatures in English. London: Cambridge University
- Press. 2007. Print. Azim, Firdous. The Colonial Rise of the Novel. England: Routledge. 1993. Print.
- Chew, Shirley and Richards, David Ed. A Concise Companion to Postcolonial Literature. United Kingdom: Wiley Blackwell. 2010. Print.
- Bery, Ashok. Cultural Translation and Postcolonial Poetry. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2007. Print
- The Routledge Companion to Postcolonial Studies. London and New York Routledge. 2007. Print.