

Vol II Issue VI Dec 2012

Impact Factor : 0.1870

ISSN No :2231-5063

Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal

Golden Research

Thoughts

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RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

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Indian Streams Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

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GLOBALIZED SOCIOCULTURAL MILIEU: FURTHER SCOPE FOR POST COLONIAL LITERATURE

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Abstract:

The contemporary literary scenario is in such a way that the works of art and literature from various parts of the world, especially from the third world countries, is gaining momentum. After the process of decolonization started in literature, Eurocentric notions of the so called 'universalized' and 'canonized' texts are put into question. The postcolonial writers are preoccupied with portraying the traumatizing experiences of the colonized and delineating the existing state of affairs in the countries once exposed to colonization. Looked from a different perspective, one can easily recognize that the decolonized world is a myth and colonizing process still continues in terms of economic and political control, religious and ideological practices etc... The colonies once physically occupied by colonizers have become the western markets that are forced to consume the western products by the pressure of some legal or cultural impositions. The invisible as well as the invincible power structures between the colonizer and the colonized have bound the colonized society in such a way that even mere the thought of decolonization itself has become unimaginable. The writer tries to put forth the idea that the colonial endeavours by the colonizers are not the things of past with harrowing experience, but they are still being proceeded and seeking new pastures, thereby causing immense evil consequences.

INTRODUCTION

The decline in the influence of British Empire by the end of Second World War and the rise of new independent countries made tremendous changes and impacts not only in social and political arenas, but in the literary milieu too. In other words, the changes in the political structures and shifts of social and political control from one place to another played a pivotal role in shaping and moulding literary scenario. A close look at the history of the fierce brutalities and tortures perpetrated by the colonial countries reveals that the colonizer has used ideological apparatus as well as physical mode of suppression and torture. The introduction of western education and the propaganda of Christianity went hand in hand with the military occupations in the process of colonization. Ngugi wa Thiong'o in his *Petals of Blood* says that, "the missionary carried the bible, the soldier carried the gun, the administrator and the settler carried the coin. Christ, commerce, civilization, the bible, the coin and the gun" (Thiong'o 38).

The writers in the countries once colonized have recognized the colonial strategies inherent in the western literary works with a garb of universality attributed to them by the West itself. The post colonial critics clearly identify the role of literature in maintaining and perpetuating power and restricting it to an elite class. They also deal with how the oppressed are silenced and misrepresented in the western literary works. The colonized are stigmatized as the illiterate, uncivilized and the irrational. It necessitated the West to 'enlighten' the non-west through the establishment of churches to propagate Christianity and English medium schools to spread their language, culture and ideology. This project of 'Enlightenment' always preceded the military expeditions and the heinous kind of exploitations of recourses in the host country occupied by the colonizer. In this process of colonization, nature and women are the worst affected. The

Title : GLOBALIZED SOCIOCULTURAL MILIEU:FURTHER SCOPE FOR POST COLONIAL LITERATURE
Source:Golden Research Thoughts [2231-5063] ABDUL KAYOOM . V yr:2012 vol:2 iss:6

lack of the national integrity and of the unity among the victims facilitates the colonial advancement in a wider and deeper way so that they could easily suppress the isolated individual protests. The colonizers try to get their servants and boot lickers from the colonies themselves.

Though these atrocities are said to be part of colonial era and the independent countries are now assumed to be deprived of the colonial brutalities, the colonization still continues through more detrimental means than how it was in the past. Even without any task of military expedition, the western countries control the world. They hold the economic control and political dominance over the third world countries. They destroy the indigenous culture and way of life through the process of globalization and liberalization. The old colonies are now turned to be consumer colonies of the western products. The independent countries once colonized are still dependent upon the political and economic security warranted by the laws and regulations created by the western countries. Nowadays, the technique of colonization has changed in such a way that the third world countries are economic slaves to the developed countries from the West. Elleke Boehmer in his *Colonial And Post Colonial Literature* says, “despite anti-imperial developments, despite the apparently subversive energies of post colonial writing, in a world order powered by the multinational companies, colonization is not a thing of past” (Elleke 10). Governments all over the world acquire acres of land from its real and natural inhabitants to form some territorial space orchestrated for some industrial purposes (Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as an instance in India) for the multinational companies that squeeze mineral and water resources to its maximum. If the inhabitants are not willing to vacate their living place, they are threatened to evacuate and rehabilitate them in some barren lands which are unfit to farmers, fishermen etc so that these people find difficult to meet the ends of their lives, there by leading to poverty, anarchy and suicidal tendency, that is to say, the government itself colludes with the representatives of the former colonizers. The indigenous people are deprived of their own soil, water, natural resources and the basic means for sustenance. So, the very existence of the ecological system itself is put to question. The large scale investments made by the foreigners pave the way for them to enter in our own development projects in education, tourism, defense etc. The recent proposal for the advent of foreign universities in India and forien direct investment (FDI) in Indian retail sectors, and the culture of sex tourism in the name of eco tourism are some of the signals that herald the strengthening grip of foreign powers over us. These indirect ways of slow and silent killing of neo colonization is far more dangerous than the physical oppression during the colonial period because, during those times, there was no incident such as levying the toll for moving from one place to another on a road made in our own native land or charging money for a bottle of pure water taken from our own resources.

Many critical works have dealt with the impact of colonization. For instance, Franz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* unravels the psychological impact of colonization on the psyche of a nation as well as its wider implications for stirring a movement for decolonization. He also analyses the role of language in molding the position of the colonized. Edward Said's *Orientalism* deals with how the orient is misrepresented by the orientalist so as to 'civilize' the orient. *The Empire Writes Back* jointly written by Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin gives an impetus to post colonial writing and explores the canon formation of the west as a strategic position taken by the colonial powers to relegate the non west in to the background. It also puts forward the ironical process in which the periphery itself becomes the unending source of creative writing thereby outrunning the so called 'centre'. *Mad Women in the Attic* by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar encapsulates how the women are ill-represented in the western canons. M.A.R.Habib's *Modern Literary Criticism and Theory; a History* ruminates what critics like Fanon and Said already discussed. But, these critical studies don't deal with the complex and intricate neocolonial aspects in the contemporary scenario. There are also some works that discuss the neocolonial capitalism and its impacts on former colonies. Timothy Brennan's *From Development to Globalization: Post Colonial Studies and Globalization Theory* that appeared in *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Literary Studies* deals with the complex state of affairs in the neo colonial period of globalization. Manfred B. Steger's *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction* explores economic, political, cultural and ecological dimensions of globalization. So, more literary productions underlying the traps of neocolonial propensities are still needed to be propagated from the third world countries once squeezed by the western powers. It is high time these countries reduced their dependence upon their former colonizers by gaining self-reliance and being proud of the indigenous cultural artifacts.

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