



A Semi-Annual Peer-Reviewed Scientific Journal –  
Issued by the Faculty of Arts at Zawia University  
Issue Forty-Two - December - 2023



## Comparison of Colonialism and Post Colonialism Theories

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### ABSTRACT

The literary theories and ideologies of colonialism and post-colonialism are discussed in this paper. The concepts and meanings of colonialism and post colonialism are presented from many angles. The various aspects of theories addressing them. Then provide, a comparison of the similarities and differences between these theories. Also speaking about how contemporary writers and analysts have criticized these notions.

### مقارنة بين النظريات الاستعمارية وما بعد الاستعمار

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### ملخص البحث:

هذه الورقة وصفت النظريات الأدبية المتعلقة بالاستعمار وما بعد الاستعمار وشرح معاني مفاهيم الاستعمار وما بعد الاستعمار من وجهات مختلفة وتم عرض جوانب مختلفة من النظريات الأدبية وأيضا تم تقديم مقارنه هذه النظريات مع بعضها البعض من حيث التشابه والاختلاف وأيضا مناقشة الانتقادات الموجهة لهذه النظريات من قبل الكتاب والمحليين المعاصرين.

**Introduction:**

The word Colonialism comes from the roman word “Colonia” that means settlement or farm. This concept is associated with European countries who established their strong community outside Europe during 15<sup>th</sup> century till 20<sup>th</sup> century. The notion of colonialism is targeted towards settlement in a new country aiming to stay connected with the native homeland and establish the similar culture and society trends as in the parent country (Loomba,2015, P.20). The word Colonialism doesn’t include any kind of domination of newly established people in other countries. Their objective is simply cementing their traditions in new places to broaden their community horizon (Loomba,2015, P. 21). The process of colonialism progressed through reforming the already established communities through trade, negotiation, plunder, genocide, warfare, rebellions, and enslavement. These practices were introduced with the help of writings in the form of government records, trade papers, public articles and novels, scientific and fiction literature. These writings provide the foundation of colonialism theories. Colonialism theory is defined as the writings of various forms that portray, analyze, and provide critical information about colonialism period in various parts of the world.

The aim behind promoting colonies, culture, and communities outside native country is to boost religion, health, economics, and other characteristic traits of nations. The colonial period commenced from 15<sup>th</sup> century till as recent as 1914 when several European countries like Portugal, Spain, France, Britain, Netherlands, and Germany expanded their colonies outside Europe mostly in Asian countries. As the people moved to other countries, they started trading goods with their native land to strengthen their economy. The strong nation tends to dominate other countries for their materialistic interests and goals. By expanding colonies outside homeland borders, the colonial nation utilizes resources of the new country to expand its economical base.

The concept of colonialism is understood from a huge volume of literature in the form of scientific reports generated from sculptures in museums of ancient times and also from remnants of public and private records (Lyons and Papadopoulos,2002,P. 5). These theories provide us clear view about the perspectives of colonialist countries. The dominance and empowerment of European countries in their

colonies stayed firm till early decades of 20<sup>th</sup> century. After that period, the resistance from native people increased to such elevated levels that colonies tore apart and post-colony period started. The period after surrendering of colonialism is explained in literature in the form of Post Colonialism theories. Formally, postcolonialism theories are defined as the literature and writings used for critical analysis of period after decolonization (around 1960s in most of the world).

The comparison of colonialism and post colonialism theories reveal that the strength of colonialism weakened gradually as the colonies started promoting trade with other than the native countries. In colonial period, trade was established only with the parent country so as to boost the economy. However, the traders resisted this policy and eventually became successful in shattering trade restrictions and became involved in dealing with other countries also.

Since the period of colonialism is over, the descendants of the colonized countries are found in various parts of the world and their horizon keeps on expanding. It can be safely said that the major part of the world belongs to post-colonial period (Loomba,2015, P. 26). The concept of decolonization and post colonialism refer to formal demise of colonialism. If we consider the modern world of today, we cannot say that the colonialism is wiped out from the world completely. This is due to the fact that colonists spread all over the world, but still many countries are not completely independent in terms of their economy and trade (Loomba ,2015, P.26). The globe can be divided into first and third world countries. The former category is dependent on the former one for its economy. So, post-colonial period is formal end to the forceful implication of colonies, but not its effects in terms of trade. The modern form of colonialism is referred to as neocolonialism.

There exists an intriguing comparison of colonial and post-colonial theories. The major part of colonialism theories is related to exploitation, domination, and cultural imposition of European countries over other parts of the world. The historical literature also shows the effects of dominance of colonialism and its effects after the period of colonialism is over. The theory also reflects on the modern day distribution of social and economic values. The theories of post colonialism are quite diverse and also differ in their notions. These theories are not only related to events and effects after decolonization in most parts of the world. They also exhibit a variety of political

aspects of the contemporary world under the umbrella of neocolonialism and modern forms of economic domination. The politics of post colonialism also discusses the modern forms of race, nationalism, gender, ethnicities, and class (Young,2001, P. 11). The key point is that the theories focus on liberation and independence of nations in the face of post colonialism as compared to the formal decoupling of nations from their trades and economic matters. The perfect decolonization is not yet achieved as the inequalities they grow, are still alive and nurturing fast (Kohn and McBride,2011, P. 8).

Although, colonialism and post colonialism are markedly different from each other in terms of their notions and definitions, yet theories describing them do have some similarities. Firstly, these theories present perspectives from European writers who commanded and controlled the situation in other countries and established their colonies there. They relate history of colonization and its demise from point of view of dominance of colonizers in various niches of colonized countries. These theories pay little regard to the feelings and emotions of the sufferers of colonization and decolonization. Secondly, both colonialism and post colonialism theories have similar ethical considerations with respect to society norms. They spread negative and discriminative politics among various nations that include race, gender, and ethnicity. This similarity is primarily again due to the similar type of academics that see history from one side only and not from the mirror that shows the thinking of deprived and affected people in Colonialism and post colonialism periods.

The differences in colonialism and post colonialism are plenty and most of these differences are due to the perspectives from which they are written. In essence, differences arise due to way of approaching the literature. Colonialism theories are written in different time periods as compared to post colonialism theories. Thirdly one of the major differences is that colonialism theories often refer to colonization as positive or correct approach in ethical considerations. This is due to the fact that most of the literature belongs to Western part of the world that imposed their culture on other nations. On the other hand, post colonialism theories mostly criticize the actions taken during colonialism periods and these theories support more independence for countries than it was observed in colonialism periods. Post colonialism theories also discuss the impact and consequences of colonialism.

Fourthly, another major difference that lies in theories of colonialism and post colonialism periods is that the former created the

stereotypical images of indigenous people who cultivated their norms, traditions, and other society practices in other parts of the world. The latter opposes these concepts and presents views, people, and practices that criticize the image of colonialism portrayed by the former type of theories.

Fifthly, a very crucial point in comparison of colonialism and post colonialism theories is their focus on trade, business, culture and traditions. The major transition in literary theories occurred due to obvious change in method of analyzing attributes of colonies from business to cultural facets (Sharp,2008, P. 5). The modern post colonialism theories contain critical analysis of colonies as compared to colonialism theories that had more political flavor.

Sixthly, Colonialism and post colonialism theories differ in treating the notion of establishing the cultural practices as part of creating colonies in other countries. The writers during colonialism period heavily favor expanding boundaries of nations while still favoring the same kind of traditions, norms, practices, and cultural regimes. These theories oppressed independence of nation for adopting their own styles. Modern theories oppose these concepts and nurture independence of living pattern and style. Post colonialism theories see history from wider perspective and mostly oppose the practices adopted in colonialism periods.

Seventhly, another strong argumentative point of comparison of colonial and post-colonial period and their relevant theories is portraying the two sides of colonialism. The colonialism theories of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and even earlier indicate that the cultural traditions, norms, trading and other society movements could be boosted within colonies and there is no need to flourish businesses outside colonies. Colonial theories promoted self-reliance in terms of brands and global products. As the colonialism ended due to severe resistance of affected people, post-colonialism theories provided the other facets of colonialism that were mostly negative. It clearly indicates how the colonialism led to differences in race, gender, class and ethnicity (Young,2001, P. 11). The modern theories provoke global business and trade opportunities so that developing countries could capture market and flourish in lesser restricted world as compared to that in earlier centuries.

In addition of differences among theories of colonialism and post colonialism, diversity and variations also lie among post colonialism theories themselves. From early 1970s to beginning of modern era, the combination of post colonialism theories has been

quite a mixture. The period of 1970's saw the contribution of women writers sharing their views regarding colonialism and post colonialism. During 1980's, the literature focused on disruptive aspects of postcolonial theories that gave air to criticism from supporters of post-structuralize theories (Boehmer,2005, P. 237). The post-structuralize concept is related to aftermath of structuralism era that promoted nations based on their language. The people who favor structuralism argue that human culture could be based on their languages. These theories gave new color to conventional meaning of colonialism. The post colonialism theories during 1990's and later periods govern the modern western concept about colonialism. The latest literature promotes independence and criticizes the ancient colonialism approaches.

The feathers of post colonialism also cover the theories related to imperialism. This term is closely linked with colonialism and refers to gaining control of others' territories with the help of power or political influence. Colonialism is restricted or light version of imperialism. Post colonialism integrates the periods of imperialism, colonialism, and neocolonialism during the modern age. It provides answers to many questions that remained unaddressed in colonialism theories. It highlights the issues of gender, hybrid culture, identity, language, race, trans-nationality, and cosmopolitanism.

As a methodology, post colonialism plays a key role. It offers key ideas and theoretical framework for trans-disciplinary research for studying relations, traditions, cultures, practices, knowledge, representations, and many other areas that are silent in historical text of colonialism theories. It studies how colonized people started developing them slowly for providing resistance to colonizers and finally gaining sufficient independence.

Post colonialism theories are getting published at faster pace in recent times. These theories increase our awareness about historical perspectives of colonialism. They inspire studying identities, subaltern cultures, and hybridizations. Post colonialism theories are in limelight in Western countries in recent times, especially USA. The equivocations of the literature are termed as alibi to avoid dealing with the theories of imperialism, colonialism, genocide, and racism on one side and rise of the literature from England related to colonialism on the other side (Krishna,2009, P. 107). Another reason for popularity of these theories is that they deal with more than just the third world countries that were colonized. Post colonialism literature is more generalized that affects cultural representations around the globe that

includes first world countries like USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some others.

The rising popularity of post colonialism theories has also sprung criticism from various schools of thoughts. Firstly, the post colonialism literature focused on changing the status attached to the English literatures that emerged from colonialism concepts without incorporating the root-cause that resulted in structural changes. Critical analysis would reveal that the practices of colonialism and imperialism in economy and differences of colonialisms between colonizers and colonized people are the root-causes for changes in representational realm of countries (Krishna,2009, P. 9). Secondly, the notion of “post” in post colonialism is misinterpreted. The meaning of “post” indicates that the colonialism is left behind and the relevant theories will discuss aftermath of colonialism. This is not entirely the case. Post colonialism theories deal with effects of colonialism and its linkage with its modern forms of neocolonialism, Marxism, and related notions. Thirdly, the origin of most of the post colonialism theories is from scholars of the third world countries who have limited scope for prevailing conditions in western countries. The literature lacks in-depth analysis and critique of the latest and most recent forms of neocolonialism, imperialism, and neoliberal globalization (Krishna,2009, P. 112). Fourth, postcolonial theories lack discriminative characteristics from some other forms of the modern theories like post-structuralism and post-modernism. The discussion about cultural practices, race, gender, and ethnicity are common in all these theories that lessen the significance of postcolonial theories. Postcolonial literature is just the third-world version of the post-structuralism concepts and practices.

The critiques of post colonialism theories also argue that the theme of these theories have lost their relevance in the face of contemporary western culture. The questions answered by the postcolonial theory don't hold much water now and correspondingly the answers to them also hold little importance. These theories reflected on the criticism of ancient colonial approaches, particularly the political aspects and provided explanations of the history from third world point of view. The important feature of postcolonial studies is that ideas of teleology, anti-essentialism, and the integration of western nationalism and anti-colonist way of thinking played a significant part in comprehending limitations of decolonization (Krishna,2009, P. 119).

The growing awareness about colonialism and its after effects is attributed to the internet availability around the globe. The indigenous politics regarding the imposing and enforcing concepts of colonialism is spreading all over the world. The literary assets of post colonialism period are shared easily for the purpose of information sharing and critical analysis.

The complexity of post colonialism can also be assessed from the confusion whether to put hyphen after “post” or not. If you indeed put hyphen, then the meaning of the theories will change altogether. The term is mostly used without hyphen to emphasize that the theories are not entirely based on after effects of colonialism period. It integrates the historical perspective of colonialism with various modern world concepts. The post colonialism theories changed the method of analysis from typical political and economical perspectives of colonialism to discussing the cultural aspects and output of the colonialism (Sharp,2008, P. 5). The effects of colonial period still exist and they cannot be ignored. Instead, they need to be carried together with the contemporary movements in western and other nations. This is the reason why post colonialism theories expand their method of analysis from typical political perspectives of things.

The post colonialism and colonialism differ in their approach greatly from their method of cultural analysis. During colonization period, the colonizers introduced their cultural values, norms, practices in colonized places. The native residents of the colonized countries became aware of the policies of the colonizers and slowly resisted the economic and cultural changes and fought for independence. However, the academics and knowledge sharing about colonization spread among the minds of all people and their descendants. This is the reason why after colonization period, the enforcement of colonizers has finished but the information embarked on the minds of the people still exists and this information is reflected in their actions. These reasons make post colonialism theories very important that they assess the mindsets of the people from first and third world countries regarding ancient culture and modern approach towards colonialism and imperialism.

The most critical point in comparison of colonialism and post colonialism theories is their approach towards education at various levels. During colonialism periods, the academics included the part of colonialism trends and cultural embankments. The point of views and notions of colonialism were emphasized a great deal. As a result, the effects of colonialism still exist in post colonialism theories. The



modern era provides critical analysis of colonialism in their academics. The contemporary theories target approaches and practices followed during colonialism periods. The strategic management perspective of developing has changed altogether in recent times. Therefore, the two types of theories: colonialism and post colonialism are both important from realizing the importance of two crucial periods of history. These theories enhance our realization and familiarization with pros and cons of establishing colonies in various countries. Moreover, both categories of theories are necessary for complete realization of literary theories.

When you study literary theories from different times, you will come across an interesting fact that colonialism and post colonialism literature is dominated by European writers. This is one of the major similarities in these utterly different types of theories and definitely a critical analysis point. The colonialism theories grew from all parts of the world especially countries like England took an active part in establishing foundation of literary theories (Krishna,2009, P. 107). The writers of developing countries provided clear picture of the aforementioned two periods. As a result, the awareness about drawbacks of colonialism become common and people started adopting global traditions, cultures, business and trading chances.

The integration of colonialism and post colonialism is important from understanding the transition of behavior, resistance, mindset of people who were affected from colonialism to overthrow the concept of colonies and explore opportunities across the boundaries. The resistance against the concept of colonies grew slowly and steadily to a level at which the natives could manage their own businesses and become part of the international affairs instead of staying isolated.

In short, the effects of colonialism and post colonialism can be studied together with the help of their literary theories. The negative aspects of colonialism like discrimination based on gender and other factors are not completely eliminated (Kohn and McBride,2011, P. 8). The modern world still has suffers from after effects of colonialism.

### **Conclusion**

This paper described the literary theories related to colonialism and post colonialism. The meanings and notions of colonialism and post colonialism are introduced from different point of views. Then, we provided different facets of the theories dealing with them. Also provided comparison of these theories with each other in terms of

similarities and differences. Also discussed the criticism over these theories from modern writers and analysts. The conclusion is that the style and pattern of thinking depicted in colonialism theories is pointed towards political and economical aspects of colonizers in colonized countries. Colonialism is considered from eyes of enforcing nations instead of deprived and oppressed people. Post colonialism provides detailed analysis and integration of ideas and modern theories after independence of colonies. The postcolonial theories are quite complex and diverse. They contain all kinds of approaches of seeing the after effects of colonialism period.

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