



American Journal of History and Culture
(DOI:10.28933/AJHC)



Unearth the Issues of Colonialism, Anti Colonialism and Post Colonialism: A Comparative Study of English, Bengali and Australian Literary world

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ABSTRACT

This paper will explore the concept of colonial enterprise in Western world, while on the other hands, it will focus on the counterpoint of colonial attitudes through the Eastern and Australian writers. England is a country of colonizers. Unlike Australia and Bangladesh are the countries of colonized inhabitants. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte, Mansfield Park by Jane Austen, Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, all those novels are based on colonial aspect. Here I would like to focus on the superior traits of Western people, therefore will attempt to show their colonial impact on Eastern and Australian literary world. To analyse about the Western writers notion regarding colonialism all of those three quintessential novels would strongly exhibit that how charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, showed the westerners are the superior, or master over their colonized people. On the contrary, Australian famous writer Peter Carey and Bangladesh's rebel poet Kazi nazrul Islam will uphold the consolidate counterpoint against colonialism. They both are the examples of nationalism, patriotism, rebellion, and insurgence. This research will also examines the Extent to which Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens shaped colonial policy in their writing while on the other hands Peter Caray and kazi nazrul Islam stands against colonial influences through their personal life's activities and as well as in their writings.

Keywords: Colonialism, Anti-colonialism, Post colonialism, Rebellion, Power politics

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How to cite this article:

Farhana Haque. Unearth the Issues of Colonialism, Anti Colonialism and Post Colonialism: A Comparative Study of English, Bengali and Australian Literary world American Journal of History and Culture, 2018,1:7.

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Introduction

The aim of my research is to depict the notion of British's colonial zeal throughout some credible English novels from different and significant eras of colonial issue. My ultimate intention is towards the attitudes of British colonialism inside of the English literature. How the English people did rule Caribbean islands and other British satellites for creating multicultural and imperial hub imposed on the people whom they made as their subordinate. By generating the boundaries between the British people and the black people, those British people actually made their history as like the darkest history of all time in front of this world. Eventually English history got the title of scariest history hence did contaminate their reputation. However the superiority and desirability of Englishness found a narrative voice in the English novel. The reader can see, how the depiction of colonialism became present in some English novels written by Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, where they did show the predominant characteristics of imperialism and elevation of the English identity. While on the other hands, the Australian post colonial writer Peter Caray and the anti colonial Bengali writer Kazi Nazrul Islam showed this world the completely different scenario of colonialism. In their writings they have made the promise to unveiled the picture of British anarchy and to some extent they have fought for the subordinate people through their writing pieces. They are brave and rebellious and very clear to their goals. That is why post colonialism and anti colonialism did able to face the ugly sides of colonialism.

Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens's colonial attitudes deep inside of their novels.

In Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, Jane did try to to gain social equality and also gave efforts to create the proper balance between the rich and poor. Jane was busy to battle for a right in a place of high class people. Therefore she took oath to establish the notion of women's superiority over men. Throughout the novel,

Jane has come to know that she is not equal to both socially and economically to men. However we saw, Mr Rochester and St. John. Both tried to keep Jane in a docile position, and voluntarily or involuntarily deprived her 'free ' thoughts and feelings. For gaining independence, Jane did reject St. John and did marry Rochester only after knowing that she is on a equal social and economical position in front of him. By doing such Jane has shown the reader about her constant faiths on female independence through her actions and thoughts. She endorsed her feelings by saying:

“Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex. (99, Bronte).

In this novel, it is almost vivid that Jane is not a typical Victorian lady figure. Since she got her black hair, wide mouth and short stature, and as a result Jane became an outcast among other people at Thornfield. As we know the British did set ideals and attitudes for the perfect English woman, which actually reduced the status of women in the Victorian era considerably low. The women were helpless and made them captive within the morals and ethics that the patriarchal society did create. On the other hands, Bertha, Rochester's mad, savage and locked up wife can also be confined with the term as 'trapped'. The Victorian wives were lagging behind than me and they were not allowed to travel or work outside the house, moreover they were trapped by the ugly Social taboo set by the British male society. In conclusion, we can say Colonialism has created the great impact on

both the books written since colonial period and as well as the people's lives they are living in today's world. To present the theme of colonialism, Jane Eyre did not involve directly with colonialism but the themes of slavery that was predominant in the far East by using some symbols.

The plot of *Jane Eyre* is well known and it is not my intention to outline it here. Instead I want to draw attention to a number of key points which relates to the theme of colonies and colonialism. The figure of the first Mrs Rochester the insane and promiscuous creol who stands in the way of Rochester's marriage to the modest Jane is the most obvious example of Bronte's use of the colonies to provide the material for her work, but there are often moments of interaction throughout the novel. As a child, Jane is fond of likening her position to that of a slave, but Bronte distances her character from the slave trade in the west Indies by placing the model for Jane is slavery in the far East, where England has no hand in the business. The slave metaphor is repeated throughout the novel to describe the position of women in British society, but it is always distanced.

When Jane eventually comes into her inheritance from her uncle, the source of her wealth is Madeira, another slave society. Jane acts in an honourable fashion by dividing her wealth with her cousins who saved her but the means of her independence is undeniably due to the colonies. The treatment of India is important in this context. St. John Rivers wants Jane to join him as his wife on missionary expedition to India, but Jane sees discipline and severity of his character as too stifling for her to thrive in. But Jane recognises that although his discipline is too much for her, he will do extremely well in India, perhaps indicating that the Indians are in need of such a severe influence to keep them under control. Bronte never explores the double standard of her own positions where she strives to give voice to the cry for freedom of a young woman, but silences entire cultures by so doing.

Second colonial text by Jane Austen, named *Mansfield Park* is actually recognized as having colonial references. Particularly with its references to the slave trade and colony plantation.

Mansfield Park (1814) is one of the best examples of colonialism that actually did show the world about British people's superior traits and their attitudes towards their slaves. After having the desired passage of the Abolition Bill in 1807, *Mansfield Park* launched a new chapter in colonialist fiction. If we want to analyse this novel we will see that the main idea of gimmick the concept of emancipation which is opposed to abolition and only by the sound of rebel voices. In order to prolong the British rule, Jane Austen did create the character Sir Thomas Bertram of *Mansfield Park*. He was also a plantation-owner in Antigua. The plantation owners used to carry some ideologies within themselves and became one of the ugliest perpetrators. They made some rules for African-Caribbean people. First of all those African-Caribbean people had no permission to speak. African women tried to create the rebellion but they were assimilated and banished from their land in 1800s. Traditional relationships of power between the colonialists and colonized peoples, there we saw the presence of European women who were symbolised as the most elegant people while on the other hands the African-Caribbean women were considered as savage, barbaric, uncivilized human beings. Let me discuss the main theme of colonialism through the novel *Mansfield Park*. When Jane Austen wrote this novel, in that time the energetic abolition movement and parliamentary compromise with the West India lobby in 1792. the slave owners then gave their efforts to resist legal abolition. In *Mansfield Park* a transatlantic land-owner, Sir Thomas Bertram was fictionally created as one of those members of parliament who defended plantocratic interests. Directly he had no connections with the colonies but the connections between Sir Thomas Bertram and the colonies remained strong. Since the British press release the

informations of increasing atrocities in 1809, 1810, and 1811. Mansfield Park was written when the old colonial legislatures that included Antigua opposed slave registries on constitutional grounds. In that time Mansfield marked a specific point in the fortunes of the gentry. Therefore Jane Austen presented Sir Thomas as a baronet. Mrs Norris, Sir Thomas' sister-in-law, informs us that Sir Thomas' financial stability depends on maintaining his Caribbean property. To make sure that his financial position is well recognized, he felt the need of his Caribbean profits which could make him financially afloat in England. At that time sugar prices had plummeted because of a major depression after 1807. so Sir Thomas was obliged 'to go to Antigua himself, for the better arrangement of his affairs. That time the task of him was to maintain his estates at any cost whether the process is illegal. a profit and in the process, since trading was now illegal. His appearance was not only like exhausting engagement but also noisome situations. The society to which Sir Thomas travelled was dominated by aggressive oppositional relations between colonialists and colonized people. Hence after observing the notions of Sir Thomas Bertram we do understand that the centuries-long ideological battled over the humanity of Africans constantly and variously manifested itself.

In Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, sir Thomas Bertram's wealth derives from his sugar plantation in the West Indies, which he visits the course of the novel. Sir Thomas Bertram actually is the example of colonial super power who take advantages from the slave and by their hard work, pains and agony, he got his ultimate property in Mansfield Park.

In Dickens *Great Expectations*, the concept of colonialism has been seen. In this novel Charles Dickens did portray about the West and how they need help from other countries who are under the rule of British Imperialism and thus made them as their subordinate inhabitants. Inside of this novel we can see that the criminal

Magwitch got transported to Australia, where he made a fortune. Since the topic of empire and Imperialism were the favourite topic of many Victorian novelists such as Dickens. Like many other authors, Dickens found it a useful narrative device. the colonies could function as a kind of theatrical 'green room' from which characters could appear, or to which they could vanish having fulfilled their dramatic function. In other way Britain's imperial hold of so many far-off places meant that characters could appear and disappear with impunity. All these examples play very insignificant roles in Dickens' writings. Those fictions of Dickens served as narrative devices and something more than that. However, here i can add another outcome of Britain's colonial process which is the policy of transportation and thus it played a far more fundamental part in *Great Expectations*. As Donald Simpson mentioned in 'Charles Dickens and the Empire', the concept of transportation offered Dickens a perfect plot device - 'a transported convict exactly meets the need for a benefactor who can make a substantial fortune yet who has to remain anonymous, and of whom Pip will eventually be ashamed. The capital law against returning from transportation sharpens the impact of the later chapters, when Pip sheds his pretensions as well as his wealth.' Moreover like other Victorian writers Dickens used the colonies as 'places to transfer burned-out characters or from which to retrieve characters' (Jonah Raskin in *The Mythology of Imperialism* (New York: Random House,1971)

Critics of Colonization/ Imperialism

Gayatri Spivak pointed out the criticism about Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. Jean Rhys also wrote a novel named *Wide Sargasso Sea* to give the answer of Charlotte Bronte against white people's influences. Said's critical reading of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* finds the author to be condoning the imperial enterprise. In culture and imperialism he observes that Austen not only to be embracing imperialism but to be validating imperial structure of hierarchy as they are manifest within the society and paternalistic

family relationships of *Mansfield park*. Peter Carey wrote the novel *Jack Maggs* take *Great Expectations* as its starting point and looks at the life of the title character as illegally returned convict from Australia. Carey is an Australian writer and his novel is a clear attempt to re-evaluate the convict experience and its contribution to the country's history.

Anti Colonial Zeal of Bangladeshi Great Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam

Kazi Nazrul Islam had the incredible hatred towards the ruling systems of British Raj in India. Therefore he started to rebel against them through his poetic works like *Bidrohi* (The Rebel), *Bhangar Gaan* (The song of Destruction) and his famous publication *Dhumketu* (The Comet). At the same time he did show the greatest endeavour to attack the British government in India. Because his goal was to free his country from the anarchy of British colonialism. To reach towards his goal, he did plan to set up his mind about starting revolution and patriotism. As a result of his revolution he had to face much struggles and hurdles that actually led him imprisoned in several times by the British authorities. While he was staying in prison he didn't stop writing his fierce literary pieces. Nazrul's one of the significant revolutionary works was *Rajbandir Jabanbandi* (Disposition of a Political Prisoner). By writing all of his fierce literary pieces made him a true freedom fighter. Nazrul's main aim was to free the subaltern group and down trodden people from the illusion of British rule.

To sustain the revolutionary works Nazrul was attached with folk theatre group named *Helo*. He did successfully run that group. Besides of his folk group he was keep doing his poetry and music to inspire Indians to rebel against British rule in a more strong way. For this he earned the title "The rebel poet" and had several pieces of literature banned by the British government in an attempt to suppress the rebellious movements his compositions inspired.

Bidrohi, is one of his greatest revolutionary poetry of Kazi Nazrul which did make him a true

anti British poet. And soon after releasing this poetry he became the famous rebel poet in the public eye. British authorities ruled the whole India. However they did create the notion to oppress the lower class people by the upper class people in a society. the oppressive nature of the upper class over the lower class in society. In a time of rebellion and political unrest, Nazrul's poetry played a crucial role to set the oppressed people become free and also did provide them with an intense sense of nationalism.

When the revolutionary environment became prominent, Nazrul joined *swadeshi* (self rule) movement led by *subhas Chandra Bose*, and many anti-colonial movements as well as boycotts of British goods. His active participation in the fight against the British government, Nazrul composed many songs for participants to sing as they marched. In 1922, Nazrul launched his own magazine called *Dhumketu* or the comet which featured anti colonial poems that did battle with the British government against their oppression to all the Indian people. After seeing Nazrul's fierce rebellious nature and growing popularity, the British government raided his magazine, arrested him and jailed him until late 1923.

In conclusion we can say that, Nazrul's literary works were full of rebellious themes, therefore formed a striking contrast to other contemporary poets. Nazrul fought foreign rule, communalism, imperialism, colonialism, fundamentalism and exploitation. But the British government did banned his books and newspapers and also did put him behind bars. This kind of step by the British raj didn't able to stop Nazrul. Hence through his written *Rajbandir jabanbandi* (prisoner's deposition) and his 40 days hunger strike, he did protest against the harassment. His writings were full of revolutionary messages that blow up the spirit of freedom amongst the general people. This made the British government cautious about Nazrul. Kazi Nazrul Islam was very determined about what he is doing that made him a man of perennial author.

He then got the title of 'Rebel poet' in Bengali literature as well as to the world of literature. Nazrul's inflammatory attitudes against oppression. He had several pieces of literature banned by the British government in an attempt to suppress the rebellious movements.

Post Colonial Australian Writer Peter Carey's Literary Works to Decolonize the Structure of Colonialism

The arrival of Post colonial fictions denotes the system to decolonise the structure of colonialism. Like many post colonial theorists, Diana Brydon and Helen Tiffin as a famous theorists remarked that, post colonial writing basically referred towards the 'write back' against imperial fictions. In the real of post colonial literature, Peter Carey is one of the shining star from Australia. Therefore as a post colonial/ post modern writer, Peter Carey's *Jack Maggs* represent the concept of 'write back' novel and this novel actually claims the appropriate answer of Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. As like Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* is the write back novel of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*. In *Jane Eyre* the prominent thing is centered on the system of decolonising the peripheral areas of empire, thus Imperialism. In *Jack Maggs'* Australian novelist Peter Carey reconstructed the main ideas of Dickens' classic *Great Expectations* where the marginalised colonial convict figure who now the predominant focus.

Post colonial writers' main tasks are centered within the examination of Western discourse which we can call as 'writing back'. This issue of 'writing back' to the Western discourse lead to depict the marginalized people and empire from the perspectives of social, cultural and moral sides. Also this post colonial writings means to present inferior class compared to the Victorian class. In this paper i am intend to portray Jack Maggs by Peter Carey as an alternative version of the marginal character Magwitch who was transferred to the penal Australia in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. To interpret the

character of Magwitch i would like to present three types of methods. First method is a contrapuntal reading. This contrapuntal reading means the reading with an awareness of both the upper class society and the society of marginalized people against the dominant discourse acts. Second method is 'psychoanalysis' which means the divided self and how one imagines one's sense of belonging. Third method is 'poststructuralist'. This is one of the unique ways of how one interprets information and question as truth. To reveal Jack Maggs as the character of sympathetic and unsympathetic character, here my next analysis would be trying to display both emotions and present that Magwitch played the role of reflecting the faults and injustice of the juridical system in England and as a whole reference to the colonial world, where Britain did project that they are superior nation which is against Magwitch and Australia. Peter Carey also intended to investigate the issues of inferior and negative representation of Magwitch and Australia. In order to analyse the 'form' Carey imitates Dickens style and language and reverses his narrative form for dismantling the power of domination. After the term 'form' now i would proceed towards the level of content, where Carey elucidated the depression of being trapped between two cultures and then found a hybrid identity through the amalgamation of the two cultures, Carey then suggested that the reason behind the colonial subject's divided self and function which is similar of how the colonial subject has been constructed as 'other' and inferior through colonialism. Besides the character Magwitch Carey also criticized Dickens in his other literary character named Oates to combine fiction and history about Australia. At the same time remarked that Carey's version of Magwitch is no more but no less rational than Dickens Magwitch. And as a result it's vivid that Carey's novel is open for post colonial interpretation.

For the British people the access to literary discussion of the margin were easier to get a grip

of than first-hand knowledge. And the outcome proves that the marginal colonies and its marginalized people were often established through literary representations than reality. Thus in modern times there have been a great need for postcolonial authors to “write back” to colonial writers of history, because the colonial writers showed the marginalized people as the “Other” as “savages” and “barbaric” to the civilized and reasonable “Self” of the colonizer. And it is very urgent for postcolonial writers to correct the myths created by colonial authors. Some of the recent examples of re-working of Victorian novels have been *A Tempest* (1969) to *The Tempest* (1611), *Things Fall Apart* (1958) to *Heart of Darkness* (1902), *Foe* (1986) to *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), and *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966) to *Jane Eyre* (1847), which is perhaps the best known example of re-writing to date. The necessity of re-writing is the emphasis to displace the hub of the margin, in order to destroy the authority. Thus, the notion of rewriting is a way of “writing back” to use Salman Rushdie’s phrase “The empire writes back with a vengeance.”

The novel Jack Maggs has been chosen for this paper, a true recent example, which is related with a political agenda. From that point of view Peter Carey wrote his write back novel named Jack Maggs (1997) against the novel *Great Expectations* (1861) by Charles Dickens.

Charles Dickens *Great Expectations* is a classic of the predominant ideas that found within canonical texts by first-person narration. Carey as a contemporary novelist did challenge this narrative structure of Dickens. In *Jack Maggs* Carey re-tells the story of the convict Magwitch by taking up the last part of Dickens’s novel. Carey’s novel begins when the convict, in the name of Jack Maggs, after having served his time in Australia comes back to England, to see his adopted and financed son Henry Pippis. The novel is thus the telling of why and how Maggs became a convict sent to Australia in Dickens *Great Expectations*.

After the post colonial analysis of Jack Maggs, Peter Carey’s *Illywhacker* and *Oscar and Lucinda* did reflect the post colonial concerns and strategies. As we know Australian literature in particular has created the concept of imprisonment, reflecting a punishable colony. Carey’s style to elucidate the post colonial concept in a satiric manner. In *Oscar and Lucinda* it is the white Australian Jeffris who faces the exploration and distorted situation that any aborigines encountered. Oscar feels the dilemma about how to cope with Jeffris until he finally kills him that represents Oscar’s joyful solution. This is truly a conradian journey into darkness. And through this novel, Carey confirms about his main attention towards post colonial writings.

Callahan has gone for the question about Carey’s purpose, which is to raise the matter of whether Australian independence has not simply resulted “ the rape of the land, the marginalisation of the native Australians, and the denial of the feminine”.

In *Illywhacker* we can see the homelessness theme of post colonialism through Herber’s role of picaro, including his orphan status. The elements of post colonialism of *Illywhacker* also attained the theme of prison-entrapment which is specifically connected with Australian literature. Garcia Marquez said that, post colonial fabulation as (in “ magic realism”) has to do with the exotic expectations that European whites have for the colonies. While Carey adds little fabulation in *Illywhacker* or *Oscar and Lucinda*.

My Arguments about Colonialism, Post colonialism, and Anti colonialism

Here in my paper I would like to show how the Western literary world showed their supremacy through the help of their subordinate countries but they don’t agree this main thing. In the texts of Western authors they portrayed their legacy through slave trade, and the master like influence upon their subordinate countries. On the other hands, from the Australian and Bengal sides, they try to fight against the Western world

because of their nationalism through the realm of post colonialism and anti colonialism. They fell in love with the idea of replacing the foreign flags on the map with their own. Hence national liberation. Anti colonialism and post colonialism contributed to and was a product of nationalism and the struggle to create new identities for the peoples of Europe's overseas colonies, indeed true anti colonialism that is the theoretical and active resistance to colonial rule with the objective of overthrowing imperial control and establishing independent, national states.

Definition of Terms

Colonialism- colonialism is the establishment, exploitation, maintenance, acquisition and expansion of colony in the territory by a political power from another territory. It is a political set of unequal relationship between the colonial power and the colony and often between the colonists and the indigenous population.

Anti-colonialism- Anti colonialism strictly speaking is a term that may be applied to a movement opposed to any form of colonialism or imperialism.

The rebel- a rebel is a person who stands up for their own personal opinions despite what anyone else says. A true rebel stands up for what they believe is right not against what's right. True rebels know who they are and do not compromise their individuality or personal opinion for anyone. They are straightforward and honest.

Conclusion

To sum up, it is clearly noted that, the colonizers from the west are always possess dominating attitudes which we can see through Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, Charles Dickens *Great Expectations* And on the other hands, easterners are under the west as a submissive slave. Where there has raised the question of anti colonialism. Kazi Nazrul Islam from Bangladesh and Peter Carey from Australia. They both are against the European attitudes through their own fields such as post colonialism and anti colonialism. They

both have the true sense of nationalism and patriotism that is why they are known as post colonial and anti colonial writers in every possible way.

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