Postcolonial Resistance of Western Imperialist Ideology: Constructing Identities of Others as Violent Savages

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Abstract

This paper examines how hegemonic discourse, or the ideology of a dominant society has essentialized, fixed, and divided identities through the construction of binary division of Western's ideology as civilized and Others as savages. The development of postcolonial theory will be introduced with special consideration to Said's (1995) theory of Orientalism and Spivak's (1988) concept of "silencing the Others." Sample Western literary texts will show a concerted expression of colonial ideology supporting the concept of binary divisions. These will include *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare (1990), *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (1899), *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (2001), and *Passage to India* by E. M. Foster (1985). In contrast, literary works by minority authors, mainly postcolonialists, will be examined and considered according to how effectively they resist Western imperialist ideology.

Keywords: constructing, identities, ideology, others, postcolonial

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