

POSTCOLONIALISM

**POST – “AFTER”, “LATER”, BEHIND”
COLONIALISM – THE PRACTICE OF GAINING CONTROL OVER OTHER COUNTRIES
AND OCCUPYING THEM WITH SETTLERS**

**THE POLITICAL OR CULTURAL CONDITION OF A FORMER COLONY ;
THE ACADEMIC STUDY OF THE CULTURAL LEGACY OF COLONIALISM AND IMPERIALISM**



- ❖ Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak are the postcolonial critics.
- ❖ They have produced work about European Colonialism and anti-colonial struggle. (It came in the late 1970s)
- ❖ Ania Loomba says that modern European Colonialism established with the rise of capitalism in the western world.
- ❖ The various nuances (variations, different meaning) of Colonialism is 'colonial', 'imperial', 'colonialist', and 'postcolonial'.
- ❖ Boehmer defines 'Imperialism' as authority of a state over another.
- ❖ It was about the expansion of European states in the 19th and 20th century.
- ❖ Colonialism involves the 'consolidation of Imperial power' and to govern the inhabitants of occupying lands.
- ❖ Boehmer describes colonial literature as writings of colonial perceptions by views and expressions by metropolitans and also by natives (indigenes).
- ❖ Colonial literature to literature that was specifically concerned with colonial expansion, it describes theories of European racial and cultural supremacy.

- ❖ Albert Schweitzer (European Writer) proclaimed that 'African is, in fact, his junior brother.' In this context, Chinua Achebe gave acerbic comments in his essay 'Colonial Criticism' saying - "the latter-day colonialist critic, sees the African writer as a somewhat unfinished European who with patient guidance will grow up one day and write like every other European, but meanwhile must be humble, must learn all he can and while at it give due credit to his teachers in the form of either direct praise or, even better since praise sometimes goes bad and becomes embarrassing, manifest self-contempt."
- ❖ In this way, the attitude towards the colonised subject was of arrogance and condescending. It only describes the superiority of Europeans who suppressed the native culture.
- ❖ The desire to write back to empire, to have their own voice in the master's language became strong in the anti-colonial resistance movement.
- ❖ The term post-colonial indicates an era after decolonisation.
- ❖ The decolonisation of Africa, Asia and Carribean began in the 1940s and continued well into the 1990s.

- ❖ Robert Young defines the function of postcolonial criticism when he remarks : ‘Postcolonial cultural critique involves the reconsideration of those who suffered its effect and social and cultural impact.
- ❖ According to Boehmer, ‘To give expression to colonized experience, postcolonial writers sought to undercut the discourses which supported colonization - the myths of power, the race classifications, the imagery of subordination.
- ❖ Most of postcolonial criticism and theory is produced in English
- ❖ A lot of the great works of literature written in the various languages of Africa and Asia are simply not accessible to a wider audience because of a lack of translation.
- ❖ Veteran (a person with long experience) critics like Makarand Paranjpe, rightly questions the privileging of English language texts in postcolonial studies and ardently pleads that India must be repossessed by those who live here and belong here.

- ❖ There is an exploration of new and emerging concerns in the field of postcolonial studies, primarily the increasing emphasis on Globalization (the process by which businesses start to operate globally), Multiculturalism (involvement of several cultural or ethnic groups) and Neo-colonial (use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries) politics in contemporary and diasporic novels. (noun. Diaspora = dispersion of people from their homeland)
- ❖ Postcolonial literature is sometimes referred to as Commonwealth Literature (English language works written in the former British colonies or place which had the status of dominions), Third World Literature (Literature produced by writers from post-colonial nations), New Literature in English, etc.
- ❖ The events of 11 September 2011 irrevocably altered the global landscape.
