

<https://doi.org/10.36719/2663-4619/108/101-107>

**Narifa Mammadova**  
Baku State University  
narifemaylzada@gmail.com

## **The Consequences of Colonialism in the Psychology of Different Identity Carriers of Modern English Literature**

### **Abstract**

The topic "The Consequences Caused by Colonialism in the Psychology of the Different Identity Carriers of Modern English Literature" explores how colonialism has impacted the psychological and cultural identities of various groups represented in contemporary English literature. Colonialism, as a historical and social phenomenon, has left deep psychological scars on both the colonizers and the colonized. For the colonizers, a sense of superiority and entitlement often leads to a distorted self-image, characterized by arrogance and a disregard for other cultures. This mentality can manifest in literature through characters who grapple with guilt, moral dilemmas, and the consequences of their imperialistic actions. Conversely, the colonized populations experience identity crises, stemming from their oppression and the imposed narratives of their cultures. Literature from this perspective often highlights themes of displacement, alienation, and the struggle for self-definition. Authors from formerly colonized regions depict the psychological struggles of their characters, who navigate between traditional cultural values and the influences of colonial power structures. Modern English literature serves as a platform for these narratives, offering insights into the complex interplay of identity formation influenced by colonial legacies. Through various literary devices, writers articulate the multifaceted impacts of colonialism, showcasing the resilience and adaptability of identity carriers. The exploration of these themes in literature not only reflects historical realities but also prompts readers to reconsider contemporary issues of race, power, and belonging in a post-colonial context. The consequences of colonialism on the psychology of different identity carriers in modern English literature reflect how literature is shaped within deep social and cultural contexts.

**Keywords:** *colonialism, alienation, imperialism, oppression, social*

**Nərifə Məmmədova**  
Bakı Dövlət Universiteti  
narifemaylzada@gmail.com

## **Müasir ingilis ədəbiyyatının müxtəlif şəxsiyyət daşıyıcılarının psixologiyasında müstəmləkəçiliyin törətdiyi nəticələr**

### **Xülasə**

“Müasir ingilis ədəbiyyatının müxtəlif şəxsiyyət daşıyıcılarının psixologiyasında müstəmləkəçiliyin səbəb olduğu nəticələr” mövzusu müstəmləkəçiliyin müasir ingilis ədəbiyyatında təmsil olunan müxtəlif qrupların psixoloji və mədəni kimliklərinə necə təsir etdiyini araşdırır. Müstəmləkəçilik tarixi və sosial fenomen kimi müstəmləkəçilərin üzərində dərin psixoloji izlər buraxdı. Müstəmləkəçilər üçün üstünlük və hüquq hissi çox vaxt təkəbbür və digər mədəniyyətlərə etinasızlıq ilə xarakterizə olunan təhrif edilmiş mənlik imicinə gətirib çıxarır. Bu zehniyyət ədəbiyyatda günahkarlıq, mənəvi dilemmalar və imperialist hərəkətlərinin nəticələri ilə mübarizə aparan personajlar vasitəsilə özünü göstərə bilər. Əksinə, müstəmləkələşdirilmiş əhali öz zülmündən və mədəniyyətlərinin tətbiq edilən rəvayətlərindən qaynaqlanan şəxsiyyət böhranları yaşayır. Bu nöqtəyi-nəzərdən ədəbiyyat tez-tez yerdəyişmə, özgəninkiləşdirmə və özünü müəyyən etmək üçün mübarizə mövzularını vurğulayır. Əvvəllər müstəmləkə olmuş bölgələrdən olan müəlliflər ənənəvi mədəni dəyərlərlə müstəmləkə güc strukturlarının təsiri arasında dolaşan

personajlarının psixoloji mübarizələrini təsvir edirlər. Müasir ingilis ədəbiyyatı bu povestlər üçün platforma rolunu oynayır, müstəmləkə irsinin təsiri altında şəxsiyyət formalaşmasının mürəkkəb qarşılıqlı əlaqəsi haqqında fikirlər təqdim edir. Müxtəlif ədəbi cihazlar vasitəsilə yazıçılar müstəmləkəçiliyin çoxsaxəli təsirlərini ifadə edərək, şəxsiyyət daşıyıcılarının davamlılığını və uyğunlaşma qabiliyyətini nümayiş etdirirlər. Ədəbiyyatda bu mövzuların tədqiqi təkə tarixi reallıqları əks etdirmir, həm də oxucuları post-müstəmləkə kontekstində irq, güc və mənsubiyyətlə bağlı müasir məsələləri yenidən nəzərdən keçirməyə sövq edir. Müasir ingilis ədəbiyyatında müstəmləkəçiliyin müxtəlif şəxsiyyət daşıyıcılarının psixologiyasına təsiri ədəbiyyatın dərin sosial və mədəni kontekstlərdə necə formalaşdığını əks etdirir.

*Açar sözlər: müstəmləkəçilik, özgələşmə, imperializm, zülm, sosial*

## Introduction

Colonialism has profoundly shaped the psychological landscape of societies and individuals across the globe, leaving a lasting impact that continues to resonate in contemporary literature. The legacy of colonialism not only altered political boundaries and economic structures but also influenced cultural identities and personal psyches. In modern English literature, the consequences of colonialism manifest in various ways, particularly through the exploration of identity, belonging, and the psychological ramifications of colonization. This exploration of identity is particularly salient as writers delve into the complex dynamics of colonial power, resistance, and the struggle for self-definition. The literature of this era often portrays the psychological turmoil experienced by individuals caught between conflicting cultural identities – the colonizer's narrative versus their own. Such tensions illuminate the broader societal implications of colonial legacies, including issues of racial discrimination, cultural dislocation, and the ongoing search for a coherent self amidst the remnants of colonial rule. Furthermore, modern English literature serves as a lens through which the experiences of different identity carriers can be examined. Authors use their narratives to reflect the inner conflicts faced by characters grappling with their colonial pasts and their quest for agency and authenticity (Austin, 1962, p. 148). The psychological effects of colonialism extend beyond the individual, impacting entire communities and shaping collective memory and identity. As we delve into the consequences of colonialism in the psychology of different identity carriers within modern English literature, it becomes essential to understand how these narratives not only reflect historical realities but also contribute to contemporary dialogues on identity and cultural heritage. By analyzing these literary works, we can gain valuable insights into the enduring effects of colonialism on the human psyche and the complex interplay of identity in a post-colonial context. The significance of colonialism in shaping identities cannot be overstated. It has created a dichotomy between the colonizer and the colonized, leading to psychological ramifications that extend into the present day. The identities of colonized peoples are often marked by a sense of duality – caught between their indigenous cultural roots and the imposed narratives of colonial powers. This internal conflict has profound psychological effects, manifesting as alienation, confusion, and a struggle for self-acceptance (Benjamin, 2008, p. 159).

## Research

### Material and Method

In addition, the significance of community and solidarity emerges as a critical aspect of identity formation in the aftermath of colonialism. Many modern English literary works depict the importance of collective identity in navigating the challenges posed by colonial legacies. Characters often find strength in their communities, forging connections that enable them to resist and redefine their identities in empowering ways. As we continue to analyze the psychological legacy of colonialism in modern English literature, it becomes evident that these themes are not merely historical reflections but resonate deeply in contemporary discussions about identity and belonging. The narratives encourage readers to confront the complexities of their own identities and the societal structures that influence them (Clark, 1987).

**Table 1**  
 Authors and Themes Reflecting the Psychological Legacy of Colonialism in Modern English Literature

No.	Author	Notable Work	Key Theme	Psychological Elements
1	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Half of a Yellow Sun	Identity and belonging	Alienation, cultural identity
2	Jean Rhys	Wide Sargasso Sea	Colonial trauma and identity crisis	Loss, nostalgia, conflict
3	Hanif Kureishi	The Buddha of Suburbia	Cultural hybridity and displacement	Cultural conflict, acceptance
4	Kazuo Ishiguro	The Remains of the Day	Memory and self-discovery	Regret, introspection, identity search

*Source: Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G., & Tiffin, H. (2013). Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts (3rd ed.). Routledge.*

This table presents authors and their works that reflect the psychological legacy of colonialism in modern English literature. Each author's notable work is listed alongside the key themes and psychological elements explored within those narratives. In "Half of a Yellow Sun", Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie examines themes of identity and belonging. This work addresses the search for cultural identity shaped by the impact of colonialism, highlighting issues of alienation and cultural identity among the characters. Jean Rhys's "Wide Sargasso Sea" foregrounds themes of colonial trauma and identity crisis. The narrative delves into feelings of loss, nostalgia, and cultural conflict, which serve to illuminate the psychological difficulties faced by the characters (Edward, 2000). In "The Buddha of Suburbia", Hanif Kureishi emphasizes cultural hybridity and displacement. This work explores cultural conflicts and issues of acceptance, reflecting the psychological aspects of living with multiple identities. Kazuo Ishiguro's "The Remains of the Day" focuses on memory and self-discovery. This narrative emphasizes themes of regret, introspection, and the search for self-identity, illustrating the psychological struggle to reconcile past experiences (Kennedy, 2000, p. 155). The table effectively demonstrates the impact of the psychological legacy of colonialism within modern English literature. The authors' works reflect the long-term effects of colonial histories on individuals and societies, revealing the complex relationships between identity formation and psychological conflict. Such literature provides readers with insights into understanding the legacies of colonialism and the intricacies of modern identities (Gilbert, 1996, p. 232).

**Table 2**  
 Exploring Psychological Themes in Colonial Legacy Literature

No.	Title	Author	Setting	Psychological Focus
1	Half of a Yellow Sun	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Nigeria during the Civil War	Impact of war on identity
2	Wide Sargasso Sea	Jean Rhys	Jamaica and England	Cultural dislocation and madness
3	The Buddha of Suburbia	Hanif Kureishi	London in the 1970s	Struggle for cultural identity
4	The Remains of the Day	Kazuo Ishiguro	Post-war England	Regret and reflection on life choices

*Source: Fanon, F. (2004). The Wretched of the Earth (R. Philcox, Trans.). Grove Press. (Original work published 1961).*

This table presents an overview of significant literary works that explore psychological themes related to the legacy of colonialism in modern English literature. Each entry includes the title of the work, the author, the setting in which the narrative takes place, and the primary psychological focus of the story. "Half of a Yellow Sun" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is set in Nigeria during the Civil War. The narrative examines the impact of war on personal identity, revealing how the characters navigate their sense of self amidst the turmoil and conflict. "Wide Sargasso Sea" by Jean Rhys explores the settings of Jamaica and England, focusing on themes of cultural dislocation and madness. The story highlights the psychological struggles faced by the characters as they deal with their fragmented identities in the context of colonialism. "The Buddha of Suburbia" by Hanif Kureishi is set in London during the 1970s and centers on the struggle for cultural identity. The narrative delves into the complexities of belonging and the impact of multiculturalism on personal identity. "The Remains of the Day" by Kazuo Ishiguro takes place in post-war England and focuses on themes of regret and reflection on life choices. The protagonist grapples with his past decisions, highlighting the psychological weight of his experiences and the longing for self-discovery (Fanon, 1963, p. 187).

**Table 3**

Psychological Themes and Settings in Literature Reflecting the Colonial Legacy

No.	Title	Author	Setting	Psychological Focus
1	Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Nigeria, pre-colonial and colonial times	Cultural clash and identity disintegration
2	The Inheritance of Loss	Kiran Desai	India, post-colonial era	Loss and alienation in a globalized world
3	The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	India, post-colonial era	Childhood trauma and forbidden love
4	The Shadow of the Wind	Carlos Ruiz Zafón	Spain, post-civil war	Memory and the impact of history on identity

*Source: Bhabha, H. K. (1994). The Location of Culture. Routledge.*

This table provides an overview of notable literary works that delve into the psychological themes associated with the legacy of colonialism. Each entry includes the title of the work, the author, the setting in which the narrative occurs, and the primary psychological focus of the story. "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe is set in Nigeria during pre-colonial and colonial times. The narrative examines the cultural clash and identity disintegration faced by the protagonist, Okonkwo, as he navigates the challenges posed by colonial influences on traditional Igbo society (Gibson, 1999, p. 88). "The Inheritance of Loss" by Kiran Desai explores the setting of India during the post-colonial era. This work focuses on themes of loss and alienation in a globalized world, highlighting the struggles of characters as they confront their identities in a rapidly changing society". "The God of Small Things" by Arundhati Roy is also set in India during the post-colonial era. The narrative addresses childhood trauma and forbidden love, illustrating the psychological scars left by societal norms and historical injustices on the lives of the characters. "The Shadow of the Wind" by Carlos Ruiz Zafón takes place in Spain during the post-civil war period. This work explores themes of memory and the impact of history on identity, revealing how the past shapes the characters' present experiences and sense of self. This table effectively highlights the diverse psychological themes in literature that address the consequences of colonialism. Each work offers insights into the complexities of identity formation and the enduring psychological impacts of historical legacies on individuals and communities. Through these narratives, readers are invited to reflect on the ongoing relevance of colonial histories in understanding contemporary identities (Fanon, 1965, p. 145).

**Table 4**  
 Psychological Themes in Post-Colonial Literature:  
 Analyzing Identity and Cultural Struggles

No.	Title	Author	Setting	Psychological Focus
1	The Bone People	Keri Hulme	New Zealand, post-colonial	Isolation and cultural identity
2	The Namesake	Jhumpa Lahiri	United States and India	Cultural displacement and identity struggle
3	The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	Afghanistan, pre- and post-colonial	Guilt and redemption
4	Season of Migration to the North	Tayeb Salih	Sudan, post-colonial	Conflict between tradition and modernity

*Source: Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G., & Tiffin, H. (2013). Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts (3rd ed.). Routledge.*

This table provides an overview of significant literary works that explore psychological themes in the context of post-colonial literature. Each entry includes the title of the work, the author, the setting, and the primary psychological focus of the narrative". "The Bone People" by Keri Hulme is set in New Zealand during the post-colonial period. The narrative examines themes of isolation and cultural identity, exploring how the protagonist navigates personal and cultural struggles in a changing society. "The Namesake" by Jhumpa Lahiri takes place in both the United States and India. This work focuses on cultural displacement and the struggle for identity, highlighting the challenges faced by characters as they reconcile their dual heritage in a globalized world. "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini is set in Afghanistan, before and after the colonial period. The story delves into themes of guilt and redemption, portraying the psychological effects of personal choices and historical events on the characters' lives (Fanon, 1967, p. 162). "Season of Migration to the North" by Tayeb Salih is situated in post-colonial Sudan. This work explores the conflict between tradition and modernity, addressing the psychological struggles of characters caught between their cultural roots and the influences of Western ideologies. This table effectively illustrates the diverse psychological themes present in post-colonial literature. Each work provides insights into the complexities of identity formation and the enduring psychological impacts of historical legacies on individuals and communities. Through these narratives, readers are invited to reflect on the ongoing relevance of colonial histories in understanding contemporary identities (Fanon, 1969, p. 191).

**Table 5**  
 Psychological Themes in Colonial and Post-Colonial Literature

No.	Title	Author	Setting	Psychological Focus
1	Disgrace	J.M. Coetzee	South Africa, post-apartheid	Guilt and personal disgrace
2	A House for Mr Biswas	V.S. Naipaul	Trinidad and England	Struggle for belonging and identity
3	The Secret River	Kate Grenville	Australia, colonial period	Cultural dislocation and adaptation
4	Beloved	Toni Morrison	United States, post-Civil War	Trauma and the haunting of history

*Source: Fanon, F. (2004). The Wretched of the Earth (R. Philcox, Trans.). Grove Press. (Original work published 1961).*

This table provides an overview of significant literary works that examine psychological themes related to colonial and post-colonial experiences. Each entry includes the title of the work, the author, the setting in which the narrative occurs, and the primary psychological focus of the story (Ashcroft, Griffiths, & Tiffin, 2013, p. 11). "Disgrace" by J. M. Coetzee is set in South Africa during the post-apartheid era. The narrative explores themes of guilt and personal disgrace, as the protagonist confronts the consequences of his actions and the moral complexities of a changing society. "A House for Mr Biswas" by V. S. Naipaul takes place in Trinidad and England. This work focuses on the struggle for belonging and identity, highlighting the challenges faced by the protagonist as he navigates his life in the context of cultural displacement and familial expectations. "The Secret River" by Kate Grenville is set in Australia during the colonial period. The narrative delves into themes of cultural dislocation and adaptation, illustrating the psychological struggles of characters as they confront the realities of colonization and their own identities. "Beloved" by Toni Morrison is situated in the United States following the Civil War (Kumaraswamy, 2006, Lewis, 1995, pp. 245-263).

### Conclusion

The exploration of the psychological legacy of colonialism in modern English literature reveals a complex interplay between historical trauma and identity formation. Literary works that delve into this theme illustrate how colonial histories continue to impact the psyche of individuals and communities, shaping their experiences, values, and self-perceptions. Through the narratives of authors such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Jean Rhys, and Toni Morrison, we see that the repercussions of colonialism extend beyond mere historical events; they manifest in the characters' struggles with guilt, loss, and the search for belonging. These psychological elements highlight the enduring effects of colonial legacies, prompting readers to confront the realities of cultural dislocation and the quest for self-identity. Moreover, the narratives emphasize the importance of memory and redemption, showcasing how individuals navigate their pasts to reclaim their identities and find healing. By engaging with their histories, characters seek to understand their present circumstances and redefine their futures. This process underscores the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Ultimately, the literature not only reflects the ongoing relevance of colonial histories but also serves as a powerful tool for understanding the complexities of identity in a post-colonial world. The themes of psychological struggle, cultural conflict, and the reconciliation of tradition and modernity invite readers to reflect on their own identities and the societal structures that influence them. In conclusion, the psychological legacy of colonialism remains a pertinent issue that calls for continued exploration and dialogue. Modern English literature offers valuable insights into the nuances of identity formation, encouraging a deeper understanding of how colonial pasts shape contemporary realities. Through these literary works, we are reminded of the profound impact of history on individual lives and the ongoing journey toward self-discovery and empowerment in a world still grappling with the echoes of colonialism.

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Received: 26.09.2024

Revised: 20.10.2024

Accepted: 05.11.2024

Published: 20.11.2024