

A POSTCOLONIAL STUDY OF JAMES JOYCE'S COUNTERPARTS

SARA ABASI, MAHJOOBEB SAFIKHANI & ZEINAB YOUSEFI

M.A. in English Literature, Islamic Azad University Arak Branch, Arak, Iran

ABSTRACT

The present paper is a post-colonial analysis of *counterparts* by James Joyce (2 February 1882 – 13 January 1941) in the light of Edward Saied's theories of post colonialism. 'Counterparts' is taken from Joyce's short story collection "Dubliners" published in 1914. The theories of Edward Saied focus on the colonial oppression, on the respective identities of colonizers and colonized. The application of post-colonial theory has been explored in this short story. It has been attempted to review and define some of major principles of Postcolonialism and then detect these principles in Joyce's *counterparts*. The short story reveals the effects of colonial power in post-colonial world that the characters face, like cultural and economic issue which is alive in the short story. Since Joyce utters the effects of colonization in the short story, he can be considered as post-colonial writer. Edward Saied insists that the only way that the East can feel equal or preferable to the West is to remain loyal and take refuge into their religious, historical, cultural and national norms and standards.

KEYWORDS: Imperialism, Post-Colonial Criticism

INTRODUCTION

James Joyce was an Irish poet and novelist best known for his epic novel *Ulysses*, as well as his collection of short stories titled *Dubliners* and one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century. He was born in Dublin, on February 2, 1882, the son of John Stanislaus Joyce and Mary Jane Murray. His father had tried his hand at many different occupations, including a distillery business, politics and tax collecting, but he had not succeeded at any of them. The result was that the family had fallen into poverty, although they tried hard to keep up middle-class appearances. At the age of six Joyce was sent to the Jesuit school, Clongowes Wood College. After this he attended Belvedere College in Dublin from 1893 to 1897. In 1898 he enrolled at University College, Dublin, where he rejected the Roman Catholic Church in which he had been raised and resolved to become a writer. After graduating in 1902, Joyce traveled to Paris, working as a journalist and teacher. The following year he returned to Dublin to attend to his dying mother. After her death, Joyce left Dublin with Nora Barnacle, a chambermaid whom he married in 1931. They had two children. His first major work was *The Dubliners* (1914), a collection of fifteen short stories, based on life in Dublin. During World War I, Joyce lived in Zurich, Switzerland. After the war Joyce returned to Paris. In 1940, after the fall of Paris in World War II, Joyce returned to Zurich. He died there the following year, on January 13, 1941.

James Joyce's book of short stories "The Dubliners" is one of his most famous works. Himself an Irish man, Joyce penned stories that centered on characters in Dublin who were dealing with the issues of the time period. The present essay attempts to study one of this short story collection stories named *counterparts*. The theoretical frame work is based on Edward Saied's theory of postcolonial study, as a new field of critical theory, as well as ideas of some colonial and postcolonial critics. In the postcolonial theory the colonized are the people who have been thought of as "other".

In the view of colonizers, these people are uncivilized, uneducated and inferior and people of the low class. They suppose that the colonized are without historical post, race and identity, whereas they consider themselves people who deserve to have control over other people. They feel superiority and self-confidence in their own past ethnicity and history.

The analysis of the short story is based on post-colonial study. It deals with literature written in or by citizens of colonizing countries that takes colonies or their peoples as their subject matters. Many prominent theorists like Edward Saied, HomiBhabha ,GayatrrriSpivak and Franz Fanon have discussed the various effects of imperialism and colonialism in the field of post colonialism. But Edward's position among others, because of his systematic studies on postcolonial has been influential.

The field of post-colonial studies has been gaining prominence since 1970. Although there is considerable debate over the precise parameters of the field and the definition of the term postcolonial in a very general sense, it is study of the interactions between European nations and the societies they colonized in the modern period.

Edward Saied theory of post colonialism is a fitting theory through which we can analyze this short story, because both Saied and Joyce are in the same opposition group against imperialism and colonialism. This thesis discusses how colonial discourses effect on the colonized people, their society, and their social customs, and also on the colonizer families who are resident in the colonized lands.

Post colonialism and the belief system of Edward Saied as one of the most important theorist who has had great influence on the postcolonial theory have been attractive for the researcher of the present study. The post-colonial theory addresses matters of identity, gender, race, racism and ethnicity with the challenges of developing a post-colonial national identity, of how a colonized people's knowledge was used against them at the service of the colonizer's interests.

Saied believes that the people's frustration in colonized countries and imperialism also rehearses in colonized countries is due to a powerful control. Culture and imperialism also rehearses a favorite topic of Saied's how should the postcolonial world react to the dominance of imperialism (Qtd,in Ashcroft and Ahluwalian8). Edward Saied was a prolific author who made major contributions to various aspects of modern scholarship. Saied believes that there is a binary opposition between the colonizer and the colonized (or the Occident and the orient) it means that there are some interactions between western colonizers and eastern colonized. These interactions are based on some discourses originated by the colonizers who are the dominant side of the binary opposition.

Westerners think that the easterners are uncivilized, barbaric, and inhuman and inferior. According to this belief everybody and everything which is related to the orient is considered inferior and vulgar, while everybody and everything which is related to the west is assumed superior and decent. Inflect Saied encourage the colonized to seek refuge in their own national, cultural and ethnic codes, norms and standards to recover from colonial attacks and to make a sense of solidarity and friendship with other individuals and nations. The purpose of the post colonialism in literature is to scrutinize literary texts by highlighting the interests of colonized and the destructive forces of the colonizer's dominance on the colonized.

Postcolonial literatures have some thematic issues in common. From different countries and cultures, post-colonial writers express the simultaneous pain and victory involved in the struggle for independence.

Post colonialism is rooted in the history of imperialism and it is worthwhile to investigate the history of imperialism. The term imperialism derives from the Latin word *imperium* that has several meanings including power, empire, authority and domination. Imperialism is a strategy whereby a nation extends its control over weaker nations and people by the use of force. Such a control is not just military but is may be economic and cultural. The invading nation imposes its political ideals, its own cultural values and also its own language.

In this short story British colonizers has an imperialistic role because in imperialism a country, nation, or tribe has influence and domination on other country, nation , or tribe; also, domination of colonial discourses and practices is obviously exemplified in this short story. It is supported by promoting and maintaining the cultural, economic and ideological assumptions projected by the colonizers.

As a young man Joyce felt trapped in Ireland and left for the European continent to become a writer. Ireland in 1904 suffered from stagnation, its population drained by famine and forced immigration and its hope for independence dashed by the death of its beloved Nationalist leader, Charles Stewart Parnell. Joyce believed Ireland was trapped in mire created by a stagnant economy, the Catholic Church, family necessity and class differences.

This is a study guide for the book *Dubliners* written by James Joyce. *Dubliners* are a collection of 15 short stories by James Joyce, first published in 1914. They were meant to be a naturalistic depiction of Irish middle class life in and around Dublin in the early years of the 20th century.

James Joyce was Irish poet and novelist best known for his epic novel *Ulysses*, as well as his collection of short stories titled *Dubliners* and one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century. He was born in Dublin, on February 2, 1882, the son of John Stanislaus Joyce and Mary Jane Murray. James Joyce's book of short stories "The Dubliners" is one of his most famous works. Himself an Irish man, Joyce penned stories that centered on characters in Dublin who were dealing with the issues of the time period. Joyce was the most prominent writer of English prose in the first half of the twentieth century. James Joyce published his collection of short stories entitled *Dubliners* in 1914.

SUMMARY OF COUNTERPARTS

Farrington works as a clerk, copying out documents. He is bad at his job. The story opens with him being in trouble with the boss. Mr. Alleyne, angrily orders the secretary to send Farrington to his office. He has failed to produce an important document on time. Mr. Alleyne warns Farrington and says that if he does not copy the material by closing time his incompetence will be reported to the other partner. This meeting angers Farrington. Farrington returns to his desk but is unable to focus on work. Mr. Farrington hates his office job and can think of nothing but getting drunk after work. Farrington leaves work without completing his project and dreading the sure backlash at the office. He pawns his watch to go out drinking with his friends. He gets six shillings and goes out drinking with his friends.

In bar one of the women catches Farrington's eye, but when she leaves she does not look back. He curses his poverty and all the drinks he's bought. He meets his friends Nosey Flynn, O'Halloran, and Paddy Leonard, and tells them of his moment insulting his boss. O'Halloran, Leonard, and Farrington move on to another place. There Leonard introduces the men to an acrobat named Weathers, who happily accepts the drinks the other men buy for him. The men are talking about strength. Leonard and O'Halloran then convince Farrington to arm wrestle with Weathers, after two attempts, Farrington loses filled with rage and humiliation. Farrington go to home. Entering his dark house but he met his son Tom.

When Tom informs him that his mother is at church, Farrington orders Tom to light up the house and prepare dinner for him. He then realizes that the house fire has been left to burn out, which means his dinner will be long in coming. Farrington begins to beat Tom. The boy "uttered a squeal of pain" and repeats his pleas or Farrington to stop beating him, "I'll say a *Hail Mary* for you.

ANALYSIS OF COUNTERPARTS

Mr. Alleyne is an imperialistic character:

The moist pungent perfume lay all the way up to Mr. Alleyne's room. Miss Delacour was a middle-aged woman of Jewish appearance. Mr. Alleyne was said to be sweet on her or on her money. She came to the office often and stayed a long time when she came. She was sitting beside his desk now in an aroma of perfumes, smoothing the handle of her umbrella and nodding the great black feather in her hat. Mr. Alleyne had swivelled his chair round to face her and thrown his right foot jauntily upon his left knee. The man put the correspondence on the desk and bowed respectfully but neither Mr. Alleyne nor Miss Delacour took any notice of his bow. Mr. Alleyne tapped a finger on the correspondence and then flicked it towards him as if to say: "That's all right: you can go." (66).

According to above sentences, it is clear that Mr. Alleyne is an imperialistic character and Farrington is under the pressure and oppression of him. Ireland, in this story, feels like an occupied country. Farrington's boss is British. The lady he admires in the pub is British. The British are everywhere. Joyce puts the blame firmly on the shoulders of the British – of what has happened to Ireland and Irish men. James Joyce paints a gloomy portrait of Ireland's capital and of an Irish culture strongly swayed by the Roman Catholic Church, England's occupation, and with a preoccupied with alcohol. Imprisonment, powerlessness, paralysis, hopelessness, and anger and resentment are all weaved together in this well-wrought story. His powerlessness comes through in his great confrontation with Mr. Alleyne. Mr. Alleyne, a little, bald man with an English last name He endures humiliation in the end. Farrington is not allowed to triumph anywhere. At work, his boss forces him into submission. As it mentioned the imperialism:

His imagination had so abstracted him that his name was called twice before he answered. Mr. Alleyne and Miss Delacour were standing outside the counter and all the clerks had turn round in anticipation of something. The man got up from his desk. Mr. Alleyne began a tirade of abuse, saying that two letters were missing. The man answered that he knew nothing about them, that he had made a faithful copy. The tirade continued: it was so bitter and violent that the man could hardly restrain his fist from descending upon the head of the manikin before him (67).

Imperialism is the policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political hegemony over the nations, countries, or colonies. In this short story Mr. Alleyne has an imperialistic role because in imperialism a country, nation or tribe has influence and domination on other country, nation or tribe. At the bar, the woman who catches his eye ignores him. He is bested by the young Weathers in a contest of strength. Emasculated at work, he is further emasculated by the woman and among his friends. He excels in no arena of masculinity. We learn that Farrington's relationship with his superior has never been a good one, partly due to Mr. Alleyne's overhearing of Farrington mocking his Ulster accent. His revelries end in two humiliations: a perceived slight by an elegant young woman and defeat in an arm-wrestling contest.

Farrington goes home in a foul mood to discover that his wife is out at chapel. He tells his youngest son, Tom, to make dinner but as Tom lets the fire in the kitchen go out, Farrington's rage explodes and he starts beating the little child with a walking stick. The story ends with Tom pleading for mercy. When he loses two arm wrestling matches to Weathers, a "mere boy," he goes home only to beat his own boy. Joyce uses adjectives like *heavy*, *dark*, and *dirty* to describe Farrington. In the end, Farrington apologizes to his boss and realizes his work life will now be "a hornet's nest." He feels, "savage, thirsty and revengeful. Farrington is a desperate man desperate for approval, desperate for attention, fearful that the night will finally end. We now recognize Farrington for what he is: a bitter drunk who beats his wife and children. This part shows the domination of the character on his wife and child:

The man jumped up furiously and pointed to the fire. "On that fire! You let the fire out! By God, I'll teach you to do that again!" He took a step to the door and seized the walking-stick which was standing behind it. "I'll teach you to let the fire out!" he said, rolling up his sleeve in order to give his arm free play. The little boy cried "O, pa!" and ran whimpering round the table, but the man followed him and caught him by the coat. The little boy looked about him wildly but, seeing no way of escape, fell upon his knees. "Now, you'll let the fire out the next time!" said the man striking at him vigorously with the stick. "Take that, you little whelp!" The boy uttered a squeal of pain as the stick cut his thigh. He clasped his hands together in the air and his voice shook with fright. "O, pa!" he cried. "Don't beat me, pa! And I'll. . . I'll say a Hail Mary for you. . . . I'll say a Hail Mary for you, pa, if you don't beat me.... I'll say a Hail Mary. . . ." (73).

Joyce maintained that the colonization of Ireland by England resulted in making Ireland not just politically powerless, but made the people of Ireland psychologically paralyzed as well. James Joyce wrote in 1906 to his publisher: "my intention was to write a chapter of the moral history of my country and I chose Dublin for the scene because that city seemed to me the center of paralysis. Joyce maintained that all of Ireland's people are paralyzed, not just the dead lying in their graves, but the very people that still walk Dublin's streets. Escape, a theme which dominates all of Joyce's works, is the prevailing theme in "An Encounter." Joyce himself realized early on in life that to fulfill himself as an artist he would have to leave Ireland. Farrington is representative of all Irishmen.

He is abused and humiliated by his Anglo boss, which could again be seen as a representation of English colonialism. The English colonization and exploitation metaphor is present again in the ending, though now turned on its head. In the end, after having blown all his money on alcohol and not even managed to get drunk, Farrington comes home. He has lost his "reputation as a strongman," and is frustrated about not talking to a girl in the pub. He takes out his anger on his son, whom Brown points out is, like his mother, "clearly Catholic," (275) as evidenced by Charlie's instruction that his mother was "out at the chapel" (93). He beats Charlie not only to vent his frustrations, but seemingly in an attempt to reassert his manhood by dominating another person.

CONCLUSIONS

This section includes what has been discussed. Analysis of James Joyce's *counterparts* is the basis of the present section which is resulting from considering aspect of post colonialism. This story shows that Ireland is under the domination of England and church and so Farrington is under the power of Mr. Alleyne.

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