

# Postcolonial Literature

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Postcoloniality	
An overview of the current state of postcolonial theory and criticism and a discussion of definitions in the field. The chapter also considers the theoretical debates from their beginnings to the present, examining key thinkers such as Frantz Fanon, Edward W. Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak and Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin.	
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This examines the cultural constructions of 'difference' as it is represented and queried in postcolonial discourse and literature. The chapter explores how discourses of difference are linked to various forms of power. Among the critics and writers discussed are Edward W. Said, Jacques Derrida, Henry Louis Gates, David Malouf, Tayeb Salih and June Jordan.	
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Language	
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## CHAPTER FOUR 40

## Orality

Focuses on the tradition of oral storytelling in postcolonial writing. With reference to the writings of Thomas King, Walter Ong, Mudrooroo and Patricia Grace, among others, this chapter explores the hierarchies and divisions associated with orality and textuality.

## CHAPTER FIVE 51

## Rewriting

This chapter addresses postcolonial rewritings of canonical texts and historical narratives. Criticism by Judie Newman, John Thieme, Gayatri Spivak, Benita Parry and Gauri Viswanathan, among others, is discussed alongside literary texts by Jean Rhys, E. M. Forster, Ruth Praver Jhabvala and Salman Rushdie, and Patricia Rozema's film of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*.

## CHAPTER SIX 62

## Violence

This examines a range of key critical, theoretical and literary texts that analyse or represent the violence of colonization and resistance, as well as the fight for independence and internalized expressions of violence within a colonized community. Among writers considered are J. M. Coetzee, Patricia Grace, Frantz Fanon, Shimmer Chinodya and Toni Morrison. Gayatri Spivak's theory of 'epistemic violence' is also discussed.

## CHAPTER SEVEN 74

## Travel

Discusses the links between travel narratives, the rhetoric of empire and the expansion of European colonization. This chapter reflects upon how such narratives allowed Europeans to conceive of areas outside Europe as being under their control, as an extension of their nation's territory. Critics, travellers and writers explored include Jamaica Kincaid, Henry Morton Stanley, Mary Louise Pratt, Mary Kingsley, Amitav Ghosh, Tabish Khair and Caryl Phillips.

## CHAPTER EIGHT 85

## Maps

This chapter looks at representations of space, place and power in postcolonial literature and criticism. The establishment of a centre and periphery as well as the power dynamics of mapping territories and imposing borders are examined. Among the critics and writers considered are Brian Friel, Benedict Anderson, Michael Ondaatje, Graham Huggan, Margaret Atwood and Shani Mootoo.

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## Gender

Here, the masculinist assumptions found in some postcolonial criticism are highlighted with reference to the critiques by Reina Lewis and Jane Miller of Edward W. Said and Frantz Fanon. The feminist and postcolonial approaches of Gayatri Spivak, Chandra Talpade Mohanty and Trinh T. Minh-ha are presented as documenting issues confronting non-Western women. Fiction by H. Rider Haggard, Joseph Conrad and Tsitsi Dangarembga is also considered.

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## Queer

Traces how postcolonial issues of race, nationalism and gender intersect with queer theory on questions of power, oppression and hierarchical relations. This chapter scrutinizes debates about queer subjectivity, as well as the limits and strengths of queer theory, to inform an understanding of same-sexuality within a postcolonial context. Critics and writers discussed include John C. Hawley, Christopher Lane, Dionne Brand, Peter Dickinson, Jarrod Hayes, Tahar Djaout, Gayatri Gopinath and Hanif Kureishi.

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## Haunting

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## CHAPTER TWELVE 129

## Memory

Examines the importance of memory, remembering, trauma and historical narratives in postcolonial writing. The focus is on the significance of remembering the traditions of local (native) cultures and remembering the devastating effects of imperialism. Considers critics and writers such as Jamaica Kincaid, Benedict Anderson, Kali Tal, Joy Kogawa and Michael Ondaatje.

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## CHAPTER FOURTEEN 150

## Diaspora

Explores criticism and literature about the conflicting ties and demands, confusions and distances involved in diasporic conceptions of identity. Concepts such as home and belonging, displacement and migration are discussed. Critics and writers considered include Paul Gilroy, Caryl Phillips, Sunetra Gupta, Hanif Kureishi, Shyam Selvadurai, Stuart Hall and Arjun Appadurai.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN 160

## Globalization

Elucidates literature and criticism about the contemporary international economic system that perpetuates many of the same power relations established between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. Economic disparities and borderless form of 'Empire' are also discussed. Among critics and writers examined are Fidelis Odun Balogun, Jamaica Kincaid, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Lisa Rofel, Arundhati Roy and David Punter.

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