

A POST-COLONIAL READING OF MARGARET LAURENCE'S THE DIVINERS

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Abstract

The paper studies the post-colonial poem written by Margaret Laurence in the novel "The Diviners". The novel and the poem draw on the impacts of the colonizers and the backlashes felt by the colonized. Margaret Laurence meticulously describes the feelings of Métis in the poem. The poem consists of words that have lost their meaning due to colonization and their descendants being unable to grasp its content. The theme of the poem criticizes the teachings of the colonizers and the colonized tracing their lost identity. The poem highlights how the colonials lost systematically to foreign powers.

Keywords: post-colonial poem, backlashes, Métis, lost, meaning, identity, systematically, foreign powers.

Post Colonialism is a study of the colonized region. The colonizers over determine the factors of the colonized region like the socio-political conditions, culture and economical wars which were the direct result of the ideologically and politically clash of powers. Post Colonialism gives voice to the narratives of the colonized region like their resistance to the hegemonic political and economic imperatives. The post-colonial study gives them a chance for the oppressed to respond against the mainstream agendas. Scholars often see post-colonialism as associated only with third-world nations like Africa, India, South America and the Caribbean Islands. But war and foreign oppressors never fail to take charge against the weak. According to the Icelandic saga, Canada's indigenous people were the First Nations, Metis, and Inui; and the early Viking settlers were the inhabitants of the land. The French and the English came to colonise these lands much later.

Margaret Laurence is a writer best known for her Manawaka series. In her novels she seldom makes her move against the social constructs and their ideologies. She speaks of lost identities and abandoned homes, voices the pains and sufferings of her ancestors and champions the forgotten people in her Manawaka novels. Laurence also mentions the racial discrimination that prevailed in Canada by incorporating them into her stories. The existence of the Métis, half breeds and the others in Manawaka shed light on the historical tension between them. Laurence in many instances sympathies with the Highlanders. Thousands of people were left lost and devastated. These were violent crimes, murders, and rape and yet they endured great trauma and protected their beliefs, culture and tradition.

Laurence visited Scotland, the homeland of her ancestors, in the late 1960s. She wanted to reconnect with her Scottish ancestry, but she quickly discovered that her true forebears were Scots-Presbyterian pioneers from Neepawa. Laurence found her true calling in Canada, as she noted, "My true roots were here."¹ The fictional town of Manawaka is more than simply a single representative of a prairie town; it is a mash-up of several cultures. This paper deals with the poem in the novel "The Diviners" by Margaret Laurence. The poem and its content stimulate novel conversations that speak about the colonizer's mentality as well as the colonized feeling about their lost language. The apt descriptions of images and their use of words retain the emotions that were felt in the heart. Ever since the death of Morag's father, Christie was the one who took care of Morag. The old hermit one day stumbles upon twelve-year-old Morag and reads what she was reading. He gets furious when he learns she is reading a white man's poem and finds it repulsive. He being true to his nature speaks.

What in hell is this crap? I wandered lonely as a cloud. This Wordsworth, now, he was a pansy, girl, or no, maybe a daffodil? Clouds don't wander lonely, for the good christ's sake. Any man daft enough to write a line like that, he wanted

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