

Intersectionality, Power Dynamics, and Spirituality: A Postcolonial Feminist Approach on The Color Purple by Alice Walker

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Author, Gaizzka Metsu Wilsensa

Affiliation. Universitas Padjadjaran.



INTRODUCTION

The *Color Purple* by Alice Walker is examined through a postcolonial feminist perspective in this research study to investigate the intersections of power dynamics, intersectionality, and spirituality. The postcolonial viewpoint provides for an examination of how Western dominance and colonialism influenced colonized nations as well as marginalized populations inside Western societies. The *Color Purple* examines black women's lives in a patriarchal American culture, drawing comparisons between colonial countries and colonized women. The story delves into topics of Westernized philosophy, culture, and spirituality, providing light on colonialism's lingering consequences.

1. Is *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker could be seen as a postcolonial texts?
2. How is the colonization of women's bodies is portray through *The Color Purple*?
3. How Colonialism created Periculture in *The Color Purple* narrative

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Postcolonial theory (Loomba, 2015; Taylor et al., 1992)
2. Postcolonial theory in *The Color Purple* (Barros & Almeida, 2022; Pavel, 2011)
3. Postcolonial feminist theory (Lorber, 2001; Spencer-Wood, 2016)
4. Postcolonial missionary critique (Ekon, 2014)
5. Intersectionality (Kerner, 2016; McCall, 2005)

METHOD

Using Qualitative analysis, Critical Discourse Analysis and Interdisciplinary Studies on African-American and Gender and Representation (Brooks & Hébert, 2016; Hudson, 1998; Jewel, 1976; Liberato & Foster, 2012; Woodard & Mastin, 2005)

FINDING AND DISCUSSION: Colonization of Women's Bodies

- **Patriarchal Colonialism:** Spencer-Wood's concept of "patriarchal colonialism" examines how European practices and regulations perpetuated gender hierarchies, leaving women silenced and vulnerable to abuse.
- **Second Wave Structural-Feminist Theory:** This theory highlights how patriarchy is maintained through cultural ideologies, laws, and institutions, often leading victims to be unaware of their subjugation.
- **Third Wave Feminist Theory:** The third wave, incorporating intersectional diversity, analyzes how gender and sexual ideologies are shaped by interactions with class, race, and age.
- **Celie's Father's Power:** Celie's father holds significant power, forcing her to endure abuse and later suffer the consequences of his actions.
- **Commodification of Women:** Celie's introduction to her potential husband exemplifies the commodification of women, where they are treated as objects and excluded from important decisions.
- **Tension in the Subaltern Community:** Celie's instruction to Harpo to beat Sofia causes tension within the marginalized community.
- **Impact of Colonialism on Culture:** Colonialism, spirituality, and culture intertwine to create a new societal culture, affecting the marginalized community.



FINDING AND DISCUSSION: Periculture and Celie's Rebirth

- **Periculture and Exoculture:** The concept of periculture explores the exchange of cultural identity between colonized (exoculture) and colonizer (endoculture). In the novel, Celie and Nettie view African culture as exoculture due to Western ideologies.
- **White-Centrism in Spirituality:** Celie's exposure to white-centric religious practices reinforces white supremacy in spiritual representation.
- **Nettie's Encounter with Olinka Tribe:** Nettie's experience with the Olinka tribe in Africa highlights the impact of colonial evangelization.
- **Ambiculture Phenomenon:** Nettie's journey represents ambiculture, blending Olinka culture with her existing spiritual beliefs.
- **Spiritual Rebirth and Liberation:** Nettie's encounter leads to a spiritual rebirth, breaking free from colonialist religious practices and embracing diverse spirituality.
- **Impact of Colonialism on Spirituality:** The novel examines how colonialism distorts beliefs and marginalizes indigenous spirituality.
- **Interweaving of Cultures:** The story portrays how individuals embrace and reinterpret different cultures to create a unique identity.
- **Challenging Colonial Impositions:** Characters' journeys challenge colonial impositions and highlight resilience in navigating cultural clashes.

CONCLUSION

Finally, *The Color Purple* is a significant literary masterpiece that reveals the reality of post-colonial America through the eyes of black women. Using a post-colonial perspective, we may obtain more profound insights into the novel's investigation of power relations, the commercialization of women, and the interplay of diverse cultures and spiritualities. This study adds to the larger conversation on postcolonial theory, feminism, and intersectionality by illuminating the complex and interrelated nature of oppression and resistance in a postcolonial context.

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THANK YOU!

