

Colonialization in Bird's Eyes

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Abstract: *In the contemporary global scenario, the aspects and attributes of post-colonial theory has encapsulated almost all the major echelons of our society ranging from popular media to international economics. The dialectics of the 'oppressor' and the 'oppressed' has become one the most important topic of deliberation since the nineteenth century so that, it has been both exemplified and trivialized in popular culture to great extends. This paper is an attempt to analyse the 2016 animation movie The Angry Birds from a postcolonial perspective. Although the movie is a comedy, primarily intended for the child audience, it has strong implicit undercurrents of colonization and independence wars. The clan of birds symbolizes the native people who are the 'colonized' and the green-coloured pigs represents the 'colonizers'. This paper also examines the movie's close parallelism with the history and course of British colonization in India.*

Keywords: *Post colonialism, imperialism, culture, independence, Indian colonization*

Colonialism is an enormous problematic concept. Colonization has been an aspect that made one country dominated over the other in the name of Supremacy. The word "colonialism" comes from the Roman term "Colonia" which means "farm" or "settlement" to refer to the Romans who settled in lands. Sociologist Ronald J. Horvath considered colonialism as: "a form of domination and exploitation. The idea of domination is closely related to the concept of power." Thus, colonialism is directly related to domination, exploitation and power. When the power of colonizers came, the power of the colonized country has declined. The colonizers started to have interventions on the life style and trade of the colonized country. The lack of unity was a major cause for the colonizer country to dominate. This topic which was dealt with utmost care and caution has breached over even animation movies that led children watch and analyze that no country is supreme than their own. In the Angry Birds, flightless birds are living in a state of Utopia but exceptions are made in such a land too where anger yet prevails. It can be seen in the case of birds, the worst punishment they are given is to remain in angry management classes which was supposed to take the anger out of their system. This ideal land can be seen to be superficial on the outside since the Owl assumes a height by climbing on another bird. It's a pseudo right that is granted to him since people believe that he is great despite him appearing in a manner of greatness. When Red brings out this petty issue and states that he knows the real Owl is, thereal judge of the ideal land is seen to have unshielded his own weapon of anger and declared that Red should go to anger management classes.

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The arrival of the Pigs has their own significance since they come in a majestic ship from across the sea though they make fool of themselves in the beginning, the birds are awestruck by the newness of it all. The ship, the takes from lands across the seas, the latest inventions that are introduced all become a lure for the people of the land to be biased and to innocently trust the people who just came. It was only the people who knew change and who were shunned to anger management classes in order to fit into the society who understood that the Pigs might actually have some other plan than just being friendly. This approach is portrayed with contempt since Red is almost always suspicious of everything and accused Everything that he came in his way. His always see deeper things in people than what they expressed and it might be because of this very reason that he find friends in the anger Management classes than anywhere else in the land. The colonial aspect that is prevalent would be the manners and mannerisms of the people who arrive, swiftly buying awe and sympathy which is rolled into a sense of oneness with the country thereby incurring no doubts. The scheme was such in the movie that the natives were horribly distracted from everything they valued the most and their attention was divided between all the new things that were brought into the country which supposedly made life easier. When in the movie the latest inventions include catapult, the triviality of the matter can be imbibed. The Pigs claim at first that there were just two of them and the people welcomed along with the news of the world. The contamination in culture and values can also be observed after the period of colonization. In the movie, the invaders have come to steal the eggs of the birds which could be the way in which the generations born during colonization are killed mentally being torn between the past and the future. The invading land would have brought values of their own which would have been in contrast with the culture present to the natives. But the next generation would have a mixed culture thereby killing the progeny of the natives. This could be the reason why the Pigs in the movie had taken away the eggs of the natives only to kill them. In the course of the movie, the invaders have taken up the trust of the natives so much that even when a native tries to explain the situation, it dismissed authoritatively without considering the pros and cons of their action. They go disarmingly charmed that their own values are forgotten and they are fallen prey to the intentions of the invaders. The identities mentioned by the Pigs are also false since the chief Pig turns out to be the King and when the mission is complete; the birds get devastated as to how their eggs have been taken away. When in the animation movie the whole of colonization takes place in a matter of weeks, the actual system would take decades or centuries and the effects made out would never be reversed. There is also the fact that the countries which only uphold the value of peace cannot survive since the whole world is not keen only on peace-making. Anger is supposed to be an emotion prevalent that doesn't let a person get sidetracked into



believing that everyone is truthful. In systems where innocence prevails the most and emotions of anger and cunningness are totally eliminated, the chances of get thwarted and exploited by others would be high. Here, it is only because of the interference of Red, who is doubtful of everything and who criticizes his own system, that the land gets saved. This is often not the case in the world since when colonization starts unfurling itself; it is only later that people realize of their mistake and by the time they want the colonizers to leave, they would have been already enslaved. The attempt to escape with the eggs that is the progeny is opposed by red and his friends though they fail in the attempt. But the factor than can also be considered would be the way in which after the colonizers leave, the natives get attached to each other than ever before. Their system gets renewed and a total change can be witnessed in their mannerisms. They acknowledge both the good and the bad and instead of thrusting on innocence and rejecting the rest of the emotions, they now also practice self defence from the people who are bound to attack them even in the future. They are more realistic and the idea of Utopian land is reduced to making a happy land that cannot be destroyed by the others. This is what had happened in India. The British entered India as traders. They did trading and later started to take control over the political affairs, slowly the power of the local kings begin to decline. Thus the kings and their ministers became puppets of the British. India was seen as a centre for trade and raw materials. This is why scholar Stuart Cary Welch explained: "Like the Mughals, and other foreigners who came to India, the British were attracted by her legendary riches." The British colonial rule in India began with trade and ended with around 200 years control over the subcontinent. The Indians benefited from Colonial rule in terms of goods and industrial mills. They also experienced negative effects. Professor Amita Gupta stated "the process of colonization in India began with the physical conquest of territories followed by the conquest of minds, selves and cultures." Indians experienced scarcity of food epidemic diseases which killed millions of Indians. For their purpose of management, commerce and vocation, they need a common language. For that they brought English as a medium of instruction in schools and colleges. It was introduced as an official language in schools and colleges in 1835 by Governor General Bentick following Macaulay's infamous minute that criticizes oriental languages and literature. Scholar Stuart Cary Welch assumed. In the movie angry birds, like the pigs came to the land of birds that cannot fly with lot of innovations. They try to attract and convince them with their innovations. The birds believed them blindly. Like that the British came to India; they also brought many things that made the poor Indians to believe them. Like the red try to made the other birds to induce the fake behaviour of the pigs, there were great leaders who fought against the Company's rule. They fought and fought against the British rule and finally they gain their success over the British rule. Even though there had many negatives impacts, there were many positives also. The innovations the British brought to India is still celebrated. Man tough rules were changed that the women was practiced. English education and western ideas had benefited all parts of the subcontinent. It also improved the social, cultural and economic conditions of the untouchables or dalits. Thus colonization involved concepts that were often hard to grasp by commoners and required great deals of study in

order to be breached. The animation movie Angry Birds directed by Clay Kaytis and Fergal Reily portrays the concept of colonization in the simplest means possible. This paper endeavours to analyze and tease out the elements of colonialism in the movie. Further the intentions and means in which the decadelong process of colonization is pictured for the young audience is also analyzed in detail.

REFERENCE

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