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# The Struggled Livelihood Of Colonized People In Amitav Ghosh The Glass Palace

**K. Sathishkumar<sup>a</sup>, Dr. V. Govindarajan<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Research Scholar, Maruthupandiyar Arts and Science College, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu, Southern India – 613 403.(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)

<sup>b</sup> Research Advisor, Assistant Professor of English, Maruthupandiyar Arts and Science College, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu, Southern India – 613 403 (Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli)

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### Abstract

The present study examines colonizers' repressive activities on colonized people in Amitav Ghosh's very innovative novel *The Glass Palace*. The study yet prepares how far colonized people suffered much from the colonizers in the name of imperialism. British came to India in the name of imperialism. It identified that Indians are having no unity and fully with diversity from religion, caste and little countries. It was helped them to establish their ideology to catch the country and steal the wealth of the nation. So, the imperialism and its impact gave a complete political change in all the commonwealth countries especially in India, Burma and Bangladesh. By the intrusions of colonizers, the British, the colonized, the Burmese included for repressiveness and have to loss their identity. By the intrusions of the invader are colonizers, the colonized people would have to become as refugee in order to leave their home land by force. So that, colonizers try to win their aim against the colonized and both hit each other in all sides. Both try to implement their power. So, colonized verses colonizers each other.

**Keywords:** Introduction, Colonizers, Colonized, Colonial Hit and Conclusion.

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## 1. Introduction

Amitav Ghosh as a talented Indian English novelist has focused most his novels deal with colonial operations. He is also innovative then an experimentalist, who framing his novels by the strong support of histories from world and India and substantially has brought out his themes in search of past things which are shown in all his novels from the history. His novels are dealt with travelogue, alienation, searching a new land, a long journey etc. *The Glass Palace* is novel regard geographical entities. Further, the novel is the story of an Indian boy, namely Rajkumar, an orphan, is stranded in Mandalay, which is located in Burma. He, there works in a tea stall owned by a woman called Ma Cho, a half Indian. The author develops enough hints for the legitimacy of his choice of a protagonist. Colonization, re-colonization, neo-colonization and decolonization are the major themes of Amitav Ghosh's novels. The novel represents about India and her spirits have been crushed by British domination. The novel is the theme of European greed and the cruelty of colonization. The British came to India and Burma in the name of imperialism and with an insatiable greed. From their intrusions, the royal families were suffered most. The kings and queens were reduced to puppets. Connoisseurship, luxury and abundance come to

an end with much suffers. There was an alluring face of human existence changed. There is a cruel in the novel that British were ruthlessly cutting of jungles through systematized, mechanical ways feels so cruel.

## 2. Colonized and Colonizers

Colonialism is actually defined as that troops on the march, drastic changes in administration, large scale transfers of goods and services and reconfigurations of political boundaries. Compare with other writers, Amitav Ghosh has focused his novel under colonialism. The people are living generation to generation in a particular place called as colonized. Initially, colonized people unaware and lack in acquiring caliber in all sides of protection when in invade. But colonizers have perhaps a special power to dominate colonized easily. That special power may be a weapon, new invention or a huge regiment etc.

According to the Indian history, Aryans are colonizers, and Harrappans are colonized. Aryans dominated colonized Harrappans by the special power of a long battle experience from Central Asia to India and permanently settled in this rich country. But in later, British colonizers dominated colonized India for four hundred years with a special power of inventing and using guns other scientific weapons. Colonized Tamilans were dominated by Srilankan colonizers. The whole country is occupied by Srilankans and permanently dominated Tamilans till present. In the history, mostly, colonizers only have won colonized and some of colonized won colonizers, e.g., America lost their victory in Vietnam War during the Second World War. It is the only reason that colonized and colonizers have to fight each other, colonized tries to safe their home land and colonizers try to catch it. In this root, colonized after losing their victory, they have to wander from a place to another place for a survival. Colonial powers usually win through superior power, manipulative skill and weaponry. Amitav Ghosh's *The Glass Palace* also deals with colonial operation that British verses Burma.

## 3. Colonized verses Colonizers

The characters of the novel *The Glass Palace* are Thebaw, Queen Supalayay, the Burmese Princess and the common people are Dolly, Rajkumar, Saya Jhon and Uma. All the characters of the novel suffer from colonial displacement. These characters are driven from Burma to India, Malaya, Singapore. The novel opens in the lands of colonized territory. The novel portrays about two families over three generations, that struggled by the forces of capitalism, colonialism and insurgency movement. So his characters are moving with the nature of colonialism. The novel is symbolic of imperialism. The novelist brings the meaning for the title 'Glass Palace' it functions in a metaphor, 'Glass' is brittle and implies transparency. 'Palace' is in fact the symbol of power.

Hence 'Glass Palace' is an allusion which is created around power. The people of the glass palace do not acquire the freedom to throw stones at others. Rajkumar is the protagonist of the novel *The Glass Palace*. He works in a tea stall, which is owned by a matronly lady Ma Cho. He is an orphan boy and more experienced with travel. British occupy the kingdom of Burma. So, Rajkumar comes to know that British wish to control Burmese territory for wood. So, he decides to plan his future now. He is known very well about the usage of teak. Burma is rampaged by the British, so, Indian soldiers come on orders of their colonial masters. So, the Indians become the target of mob frenzy suddenly. Rajkumar is also attacked along with other people. Lastly, Saya Jhon saves Rajkumar then he perceives something new in Rajkumar that day.

There was something unusual about the boy-a kind of watchful determination. No excess of gratitude here, no gifts or offerings, no talk of honor, with murder in the heart. There was no simplicity in his face, no innocence: his eyes were filled with worldliness, curiosity and hunger. That was as it should be. 'If you ever need a job, Saya Jhon said, 'come and talk to me'. (*The Glass Palace* P. 3)

Change, make-shift arrangements along with temporary homes seem often, so it provides its contemporary flavor. The process of colonization and the state of colonized are very relevant themes

of the novel. Rajkumar used one word in this novel that 'Kaala' actually it is objectionable to our generation, because, it is decolonized at least in the political sense of the world. Aggressive, capture and colonization are the main things and a witness for the novel. Burmese people are here colonized in the novel and they robbed of all grace with guns and artillery. The British are colonizers here in the novel only giving commands. Indian are the soldiers here who are invading Burma on behalf of British. The British, the Burmese and the Indians are fighting one another instead of fighting their common enemy. In victory the British had decided to be generous...the British Government wished to provide them with an escort of attendant and advisors...But now it was time to leave, the guard of honor was waiting. (P. 40-43) Apart from these scenes of colonization, Ghosh deals with the Europe's greed in his novel. All the things are exploited as a resourceful one, woods, water, mines, people etc. Burma comes to the mine wealth of British.

Mental colonization is considered as worse. Saya does not mean the English as usurpers. Saya considers that they are superiors. He does learn the art of using everything for his own benefit from them. The Europeans stand for an efficient exploitation for him. He earns there a profit. He does not understand anything beyond his immediate gain. After many decades, Arjune joins with the westerner's style. He feels that western style is better than Eastern style. Dinu understood that it was through their association with Europeans that Arjun and his fellow-officers saw themselves as pioneers. (P. 279) Rajkumar is being convinced that until British Government, the economy of Burmese would be collapsed. Hence the colonial people are always imprisoned in the glass palace and they unable to have lost the capacity to throw stones at the colonial masters, the colonizers. The colonized people endeavor to explain the exploitation of colonizer's and violence, which they reflect on the colonizer's complicity with the colonizer's ideology. So, the colonized have lost the capacity speak on their own. The view in the conquest of Burma at the hands of colonized Indians. The process of colonization and the state of colonized are very relevant thought components of this novels. Ghosh has portrayed regard history and it is to be remembered in all his novels. The colonial experience and its memories are loaded with a sense of pain and suffering of the many people who occupied a place in the phases of history. Thus the novel relates Indian and Burma in the shared colonial experience. Crossing the fences between the two countries, the historical characters like King Thebaw and his family and purely fictional characters like Rajkumar, Dolly, Saya Jhon and Uma reflect upon the historical events and their impact upon the colonized people. Finally, the novel depicts about decolonization of the images. Many stances are provided where the author Amitav Ghosh has shown the cruelty of colonization and its impact of the lives and minds of the colonized. The novel *The Glass Palace* is short listed from Common Wealth Prize. Common wealth is a remnant of colonization. The spirit of the book is anti- colonial.

#### 4. Conclusion

It is a very good novel about human contradiction. It further says that any human being cannot be fully explained. Thus the novel reveals the serious issues facing contemporary ex-colonies in Asian continent. The novel is concerned with the impact of the colonial encounter on the political, social and cultural lives of the commonwealth countries like India and Burma etc. So, one can easily understand the colonial oppression and depression applied on colonized people by the colonizers in a vivid manner in this novel by Amitav Ghosh. The novelist zoom the black pages of colonized people and expresses like a picture lively in front of the eyes of the readers. Literature is merely a tool for correlate anti-social things that is happen and happened in the history. Amitav Ghosh is a historiography meta-fiction writer is no doubt. Hence, the novelist has focused regard colonization and decolonization it leads to colonized verses colonizers in this novel and giving a new Western style life for the new colonized is cleared well in this novel. At the end, the novelist wins in his aim to produce what happened in the history, which is beautifully reflected in his novel *The Glass Palace*.

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