



PROBING INTO IDENTITY CRISIS IN “DARK THEY WERE AND GOLDEN-EYED” SHORT STORY

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Abstract: *The present research is about the Postcolonial study of Ray Bradbury's short story "Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed." Further, this research explores the issue of identity in the short story presented by the author. In the modern world, with the increase in immigrant numbers and the constitution of countries with different cultural diversities, identity issues arise. The researchers discuss the issue of identity in the postcolonial world and how the theorists viewed and presented their ideas about constructing identity in immigrants from these countries who suffered from facing the Diasporas and the dilemma of the difficulty of growing their identity. Furthermore, the paper investigates postcolonial novelists, especially in the novel "Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed ."As postcolonial theorists considered the issue of identity as one of its essential discussions, novelists also exposed the conditions of identity crises that emerged in the postcolonial period. Therefore, the method undertakes to apply postcolonial theories to the above novel, Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed. Different aspects and elements of Post Colonialism have been described in the research to explore the Post Colonialism presented in the novel, like ambivalence, racism, otherness, and hybridity.*

Keywords: *Identity Crisis; Postcolonialism; Short Story.*

INTRODUCTION

The present research deals with the short story Ray Bradbury's "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed". The story is about the journey of an American family who traveled from Earth to Mars in a rocket, and as soon as they arrived on Mars, the rocket stopped, and the engine stopped. They heard the news about war or atomic war starting on Earth, and most of the rocket bases were destroyed completely, so they started to be confused and panicked, and afraid of not being able to come back to Earth due to this war. Many events happened; first, they started to fix the rocket and started to believe that one day they would return to Earth, and gradually they lost hope and were affected by the marching and all the elements that controlled their minds and souls on Mars. Gradually they started to ask for new names. They start to change; there is an internal and external change. The internal change was inside their souls; they started forgetting about their past and asking for new names and identities. The external change is like the change in the skin color to dark and the eye color changing from blue to yellow and then golden. At the end of this story, they completely forget that they are coming from the Earth and become real marching citizens. When the risky rocket arrived from Earth because the war ended and America, the United States won the war, they sent a risky rocket to bring back the American citizens from Mars. Once they arrived, they found or discovered that there were no earthen people; they found citizens of Mars, so these citizens of Mars are the basic American people who change gradually to Mars, and both of them cannot recognize each



other. Their funny things happened during this novel. When they brought some plants from the Earth, their size and taste changed on Mars. Before finding the issue of identity found in the selected piece of fiction, firstly, we have to understand the term Postcolonialism and its elements; then, we can easily get the idea about Identity Crises overall, and then in "Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed ."Although different critics have commented on the disclosure of segregation in their analysis and interpretation, there are some holes and invalid statements of information written on the division of the sub-continent. Different scholars and books reflect the psychological perspectives of the human mind and the social and spatial aspects of human life. The authors have the authority to prove the truth and the facts no matter how painful their surroundings are. History is preserved and described by the authors' writings through various literary poems, prose, critiques, and fairy tales. From one point of view, the author shows that life, social conditions, and the beliefs of the people around you, on the other hand, become a major source of shaping, transforming, and revisiting students' perceptions of life and the world. People believe what they read in books without knowing it. What the writers want to convey is reflected in their writings, and as a result, readers begin to make sense of whatever the books want. Many novels are marked by fear, loss, and destruction resulting from British colonialism. Postcolonialism is the most important phenomenon to identify the oppression in society. A work of literature based on previously and currently colonized countries is considered a postcolonial study. Literature is filled with colonized people and colonization. Kumar (2021) discussed the concept of Identity crises by analyzing the different characters and their related issues in his selected test. His study focuses on female characters, referring to their inner psyche and their incessant struggles for identity.

Rani (2021) highlights the issue of identity crises and explains the different oppositions faced by the people, suffering from specific dilemmas and the struggle while adjusting to foreign cultures. While facing Identity issues, the colonizers/ migrants suffer a lot, even if deprived of their basic rights.

Dizayi (2017) explored detailed information on the issue of Identity Crises in Literature. According to his idea, Identity Crises or question about identity is one of the controversial issues of post-colonialism. Colonialism's impact remains on a country, even on immigrants if they reside in a country that was affected due to colonialism once. The immigrants face two major issues in another host country, one is the sense of homelessness, and the other is the issue of their identification.

Perveen & Anwar (2020) explored the issue of identity by analyzing the character of Changez in "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" by Moshin Hamid. The latter suffered from his own identity while living in another country. His own identity was at risk in the attempt at transformation. Despite struggling very hard and living for many years in America, he faced the issue of identity as he could not be a whole part of American society due to his original belonging to Pakistan. The major issue discussed has highlighted the issue of Integration and Alienation that affected more in the quest for identity.



Jajja (2013) discussed the quest for identity by analyzing Mohsin Hamid's novel "The Reluctant Fundamentalist". He explains that people from Pakistan or other Eastern countries face many issues in Western countries, especially in America, where they suffer hatred from the natives. The character of Changez was forced to return to his homeland Pakistan due to the harsh behavior of Americans and the non-acceptance of the people from colonized countries.

Rana (2020) highlighted the dilemma of Identity Crises by analyzing the selected text of postcolonial writer Bapsi Sidwa. In addition, by presenting Parsi Community, she highlighted the issues of minorities in the quest for their identity. Both the researchers worked on the selected text *The Crow Eaters* (1978), *The Pakistani Bride* (1981), *Ice-Candy Man* (1988), and *An American Brat* (1993).

According to Ali & Ch (2018), colonizers do not allow colonized to define their own identity while living in the colonizers' country. The present article highlights the issues of migrants in the different colonies after colonialism. The post-colonialism affects the lives of colonized people, and the same impacts on the immigrants as well.

Qadri et al. (2021) explain hybrid identities. The research deals with the impact of war and migration due to the impact of war, especially for women. They face many issues due to shifting from one place to another and quest for their real identity in the course of adjusting to local culture—the study questions the different attitudes of locals towards the migrants.

Shamim Akhter (2020) explores the issue of cultural clash and hybridity that results in loss of identity. Culture impacts the lives of people, especially immigrants who try to settle in other countries. The character of Feroza experiences different issues due to her migration. The research highlights the issue of hybridity and cultural clash from the life of Feroza.

Gul et al. (2016) presented the same idea in their research. They have explained the different aspects of migrations, especially in the form of identity. The quest for identity matters a lot for people from eastern countries. They explained the life of Feroza, the main character, to present the miseries of her life being an immigrant.

Rehan and Awan analyzed the different notions of hybrid identities found in two different selected texts. First, they worked on the concept of Edward Said and Homi K. Bhabha to understand the postcolonial term. They highlighted the issues of diaspora characters living in different Western countries.

According to the research, any sustained researcher has not been inducted on postcolonial elements in "A Passage to India". The reason for applying Postcolonial theory is the voluminous existence of a book. These kinds of novels are the best representative of history. From these novels, the reader can deeply enjoy the actual happenings of that time. Postcolonialism showed some aspects of colonized people affected by the colonizer's empowerment. Violence is expressed in the colonial theory because there are a lot of cases and works where the victim of violence from the ruling power could be found. A big



element to explore is power, sovereignty, or superiority, which was the most common purpose for the ruling authorities. Behind their work, they forcefully tried to take over the whole charge of the colonized area and put them in slavery. This theory started in the 1980s, but after World War II, each material showing the postcolonial aspects can be considered under the observation of this theory.

The study explores the Identity Crises in "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed" (Bradbury, 2021). This study would help the students to work further on post-colonialism to explore the hidden expressive moves to enhance the importance of elements relating to universal problems. Furthermore, this study can provide a wide area of research to explore the other elements related to their area of interest. It also closes the gap between the various attitudes of English writers and the various effects of their writings on readers' minds. This study will use postcolonial literary theory as the fundamental approach. Ray Bradbury's short story "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed" is a primary source for completing the present research. Postcolonial theory is selected because it allows exploring the actual meaningful description and critical interpretation. To this end, the true expression of the work will be carefully organized following the postcolonial theory. As for the organization of the study, chapter two offers a summary of the literature whereby the study's theoretical framework is to be established. In Chapter 3, the novel will be examined according to the conceptual framework indicated in chapter two. Finally, chapter four summarizes the analysis and builds on the results of the studies.

METHOD

The present study explores the issue of Identity crises, one of the key terms of Post-colonialism discussed by Erik Erikson, and the nature of the research is qualitative research. After getting the idea from the concept of Erik Erikson and its evidence from the different scholarly research articles to support the present study, this research explores the issue of Identity crises found in "Dark They Were, And Golden-Eyed" by Ray Bradbury (2021). This study attempted to find different problems for an American family during their traveling and faced the issue of survival of their own real identity. Selected chunks and portions from selected science fiction have been discussed while proceedings the research because the research is purely about the postcolonial analysis of the text, so the main focus is to go through the style used by the author to present his idea. The research has been completed with proper interpretation and discussion about the postcolonial elements and the terms used by the author by keeping in mind the points discussed in the Literature review. The readers can easily get an idea of the style used by the author by going through the terms discussed in the research process. Sometimes the facts and aspects are not easy to understand for the readers, so the postcolonial analysis helps them understand the purpose and the intention of the author behind their writings, and readers get the hidden ideologies and the meanings used by the author to describe the situation of the era. The researcher's purpose is to discover and explore the hidden meanings and intentions of the author through his/her writing style. This method plays a vital role by

dividing the analysis into different levels and elements to explore writing style. This method involves closely reading the writer's style to understand his intention. From this standpoint, opinions, justification of arguments, explanations, interpretation, and discussion are focused on the researcher's thoughts.

DISCUSSION

Biography Of The Author "Ray Bradbury"

Ray Bradbury, whose complete name was s Ray Douglas Bradbury. He was born in 1920. He was regarded as a short story writer and a novelist in America's history. His most prominent literary style was his use of poetic style in his writings. He was the person who worked in the progress of science fiction in the modern sense. His work was of such a good standard that it was translated into many languages. He gained much respect and popularity in story writing as he was considered one of the most prominent literary figures in the field of story writing. He was also regarded as the most influential story writer. His master peace, "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed," is regarded by the people very much. The way he has discussed a story of a family and the sufferings they have witnessed is exemplary. In fact, though using different poetic techniques, he has given a new trend in literature in the form of Science Fiction.

About the Title of "Dark, They Were and Golden-Eyed"

The title describes the story of those who migrated from their own birthplace towards Mars for survival but ended up losing their real identity. The word dark can be related to them as they have hidden their reality in the dark skin of their own, which they got on Mars, and the word Golden means something shining; we can say that despite changing their physical state, they still have some qualities of the human being. Furthermore, golden is indicated towards that, or you can say they were of great value in the darkness. The title is about the physical and mental changes in the characters of the story. They have completely transformed into dark-skinned and golden-eyed, which were the characteristics of Mars because of the very hot climax.

Summary of "Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed"

"Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed" is a short story written in the form of a Science Fiction describing the story of a family who migrated from Earth towards another planet named Mars. Due to the upcoming war, they migrated due to unavoidable circumstances on Earth. They were afraid of that, and at that time, almost 1000 people migrated from Earth to Mars to get refuge so that they may survive in this universe. However, after a very short period, we see that Harry Bittering, the main character in the story, is about him and his family named Bittering. He was accompanied by his wife and three children on Mars. They were trying to settle on Mars while Harry was not considering it suitable for him and his family as he loved his world very much and used to like the food he brought with him from Earth. However, the rest of the people were interested in living on Mars with its environment.



A few days later, Harry learned about the destruction of New York (Their homeland), which he felt very bad over. He was further disappointed upon the news that no rocket would be on Mars now, but instead of losing hope, he decided to make a rocket by himself so that they may return to Earth, and he started work on it. However, people were not supporting him and considered it a time-wasting act. With time, Harry and his family transformed; their skins turned black, and their eyes went golden. They transformed Not only physically but also mentally; they got used to the environment of Mars, and they were interested in the people living on Mars instead of loving people on Earth and decided to shift towards the mountains. At the same time, at the start of the story, they were keen to live among the people. Finally, after almost five years, a rocket came to Mars with soldiers who declared that they had won the war on Earth, and now they wanted to take them back.

Nevertheless, on the planet, they found no people who came from Earth, and after searching for a short time, they came to know about the living of the people in the mountains. When they reached them, they saw them as different from the people of Earth, even though they could not recognize them. As I already told you, Harry's family and others also got transformed, so they were not ready to show their identity in front of the soldiers. They were feeling comfortable living on Mars. The story ended with soldiers thinking that it might be possible that some fatal epidemic has killed all the people who came from Earth.

Analysis of “Dark They Were and Golden-Eyed”

The text under research is Science Fiction; as we know them, fiction is writing which is not true, so we may say that this story criticizes the mechanical nature of man and also highlights the importance of our Earth, which is most suitable for living than any other planet of this universe. Through the story "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed," Ray Bradbury has created a story of almost 1000 people who migrated from Earth towards Mars as on Earth, Atomic war was going to be started, and they were considering themselves as un-save on this planet thus they decided to migrate towards Mars. The story's central character, Harry Bittering, instantly realizes that the climate of this planet is not suitable for them due to very high temperatures and fast-blowing wind. This story consists of mystery and is considered a horror story where the wind blows very fast and fog prevail everywhere on Mars. They build a very similar cottage to their home on Earth and start living there. Harry, the head of the family, decides that he is not going to live here. He wants to return to Earth, as he feels there is a danger in the atmosphere of the unfavorable climate of this particular planet. Unfortunately, as Harry plans all this, there is a disaster on Earth. A nuclear war starts, and New York city is destroyed. All the aircraft and the space crafts which were to take people from Earth to Mars and Mars to Earth are all destroyed, so they are in a kind of a trap, and they have to stay on Mars; at the same time, Harry starts noticing changes in the vegetation's, in the blossoms and onions and grass. He is suspicious; he feels that there is a kind of Martian virus in the soil and the



crops grown in the soil; they are making them act like Martians; they find changes in their colors and heights. Harry is very desperate and is trying to build a rocket to take his family and himself back to Earth. He starts collecting metal objects, blueprints, and drafts to construct a rocket. However, at the same time, they noticed certain changes in Harry and his own family because of living on Mars. They are becoming taller and dark-skinned, and the color of their eyes is changing to golden. Harry stops resisting this change, and he is convinced that it would be better if he spends the summer in the cold Martian villas where they can swim. They can enjoy the water canals, and these colonists completely forget their human origins and transform into Martians.

Five years later, a group of American astronauts arrive to take back the people to Earth, but no humans are left, only the buildings and a rusted rocket. They conclude that perhaps there was a play that wiped out all human beings, and they cannot recognize the people who had come from Earth and settled over there. Ray Bradbury's short story "Dark they were and golden-eyed" takes place on Mars. A family arrives from Earth as colonists. Harry, the father, is uneasy from the beginning. Shortly after the family's arrival, they get news that a nuclear war has broken out on Earth, and they are stranded on Mars. Soon, the plants they brought with them from Earth seem to be changing in small ways and Harry fears that the seemingly extinct Martian natives might still exist somewhere on the planet. By analyzing the text and the plot of the story, we see that they have to face identity crises while migrating from the Earth. Even though initially Harry was too much concerned with going back to the Earth and wanted to maintain his identity, to some extent, at the start of the play, he maintained his identity. However, with time, he was bound to live according to the environment of Mars. We see that the people who came from the Earth lost their identity while living on Mars. Initially, they transformed physically as their skin color went very dark due to the planet's hot climate. They were not used to it initially because of the difference in the climate of both planets.

Moreover, they also lost their mental skills for being human, and they were interested in living in solitude rather than living in the company of many people, which is also against the common qualities of human beings. Moreover, the best example of identity loss we see at the end of the play when a soldier comes to rescue them and take them back to the Earth, which is the real place of their birth, but the soldier cannot recognize them as they were transformed and even though they were too much stick to their new identity that they decided not to tell their original identity to the soldier and soldier went back to his office and told them that he could not find the people from Earth. Finally, he found people on Mars who were different from them, and the officer thought that Earth might be the victim of some fatal epidemic and could not survive. Hence, Harry Bittering and his family lost their identity and remained on Mars.

This work deals with the issue of identity faced by an American family discussed by Ray Bradbury to describe their journey from Earth towards another planet Mars. They lost their identity while reaching Mars. The different events presented in the short story show



that they suffered from identity crises. This research will help the future researcher in the field of literature to understand the possible meanings of Postcolonialism, its elements, and the Literary Terms used in Postcolonialism especially focusing on Identity Crises faced by different people. Studying postcolonial text and analyzing postcolonial terms and effects is a very interesting task. Due to some issues, people migrated from their birthplace and shifted to another place unsuitable for living. They are forced to live according to the present authorities' environment and the rules and regulations, and in the course of doing so, they lose their own identity. Identity is a real issue in every era, and people must suffer a lot to maintain their identity. Through the help of this analysis, future students and researchers will seek help to analyze the text in postcolonial aspects, especially Identity crises. After studying the elements of Postcolonialism, they can also seek guidance while researching postcolonial theory. As it is a broader term and easy to comprehend, it is easy to do a postcolonial analysis rather than go towards any other.

CONCLUSION

This current paper explores the issue of Identity Crises faced by an American Family discussed by Ray Bradbury to describe their journey from Earth towards another planet Mars. They lost their identity while reaching Mars. The different events presented in the short story show that they suffered from identity crises. This research will help the future researcher in the field of literature to understand the possible meanings of Postcolonialism, its elements, and the Literary Terms used in Postcolonialism especially focusing on Identity Crises faced by different people. Studying postcolonial text and analyzing postcolonial terms and effects is a very interesting task. Due to some issues, people migrated from their birthplace. They shift to another place unsuitable for their living, and they are forced to live according to the environment and the rules and regulations of the present authorities. In the course of doing so, they lost their own identity. Identity is a real issue in every era, and people must suffer a lot to maintain their identity. Through the help of this analysis, future students and researchers will seek help to analyze the text in postcolonial aspects, especially Identity crises. After studying the elements of Postcolonialism, they can also seek guidance while researching postcolonial theory. As it is a broader term and easy to comprehend, it is easy to do a postcolonial analysis rather than go towards any other.

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