Decolonization of the Self in
Michael Ondaatje’s Novel

The English Patient

By:

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Abstract

This thesis aims at examining the colonization theme in Michael Ondaatje’s novel *The English Patient* which is a work of pastiche for which the author won his Booker Prize. The desire to govern and have more authority and power leads to colonization. According to our novel, both parties the colonizer and the colonized do their best to look right and legitimize their work against each other. The colonizer, be what it may: a nation, a religious sect, a devil or a man mobilizing all his powers and sub-powers and by ‘fair’ and foul’ means, subjugating others.

‘The other party’, sooner or later does its best to decolonize, now on the defensive and then possibly and under the umbrella of the same mottoes may exchange its position to encroach upon others, and turn in its turn to be a colonizer what Ondaatje wants to say is that powers of nationalism, patriotism, officialism or any other thing with or without an ‘ism’ may mislead man to use all that is within his potential against other people. What kind of men he wants us to be? Characters are presented as examples who have decolonized like: Almasy, Hana, Kip and even Caravaggio when he himself called for all to get out of all trouble ‘together’ having already changed from being a thief, a spy and a war criminal. The author believes that the nationality which makes one a traitor to his brother human being Man, according to Ondaatje should be true to himself and his human feelings of love.