Conclusion

ENGE 5850
Semester 2, 2016-2017
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1. Recap
2. Feminism and postcolonial literature
3. White postcolonial literature
4. Globalisation and postcolonial literature
5. Conclusion
Part 1: Recap
Module 1

- Language and postcolonial literature
- Transformation of language
- Form and function of the use of language in Sozaboy
- Violence in Sozaboy
Module 2

• Writing back to the Empire
• “The Other World” Empirical gaze in *Heart of Darkness*
• Resistance writing and identity in *Things Fall Apart*
Module 3

• Complexity of identity
• *East, West* as a reaction to binary opposite
• *East, West* as an illustration of Bhabha’s concept of “The Third Space”
Discussion

• Try to draw a mind map to illustrate how concepts / theories / texts are interconnected with each other in the course. Share it with your group, choose the best one, and present it to the class.

• Also take the time to discuss texts / ideas you find most intriguing and most challenging in the course.
Part 2: Feminism and postcolonial literature
Feminism and postcolonial literature

- The “Other”
- Oppression and repression
- ‘Double colonisation’
- The late 20th century
- The marginalised VS the dominant
- Rejects simple inversion
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (1977 – )
• born in Nigeria and studied in the US
• *Americanah* (2013)
  • the identity crisis of a young Nigerian woman studying in the United States

NoViolet Bulawayo (1981 – )
• born in Zimbabwe and studied in the US
• *We Need New Names* (2013)
  • a coming-of-age-story in which a young Zimbabwean girl moved to the US and tries to tackle with her identity as a black teenager in the US
Toni Morrison (1931 – )
• born and raised in the US
• narrates black experience within the black community (especially female)
• novels are usually set in an unjust society in which the characters struggle hard to anchor themselves to a cultural identity
• *Song of Solomon* (1977)
• *Tar Baby* (1981)
• *A Mercy* (2008)
• *God Help the Child* (2015)
• Nobel Prize of Literature (1993)
Alice Walker (1944 – )

- born and raised in the US
- writes novels, poems, and short stories
- insights on African American culture
- the search of female identity in contemporary US
- *Now Is the Time to Open Your Heart* (2005)
“One obvious and very important area of difference is this: whereas Western feminists discuss the relative importance of feminist versus class emancipation, the African discussion is between feminist emancipation versus the fight against neo-colonialism, particularly in its cultural aspect. In other words, which is the more important, which comes first, the fight for female equality or the fight against Western cultural imperialism?”
Felix Mnthali’s “Letter to a Feminist Friend”

I will not pretend

to see the light

in the rhythm of your paragraphs:

illuminated pages

need not contain

any copy-right on history

My world has been raped

looted

and squeezed

by Europe and America

and I have been scattered

over three continents to please Europe and America

AND NOW

the women of Europe and America

after drinking and carousing

on my sweat

rise up to castigate

and castrate

their menfolk

from the cushions of a world

I have built!
Felix Mnthali’s “Letter to a Feminist Friend”

Why should they be allowed
to come between us?
You and I were slaves together
uprooted and humiliated together
Rapes and lynchings—
the lash of the overseer
and the lust of the slave-owner
do your friends ‘in the movement’
understand these things? ...
...

No, no, my sister,
my love,
first things first!
Too many gangsters
still stalk this continent
too many pirates
far too many
still stalk this land— ...
...
When Africa
at home and across the seas
is truly free
there will be time for me
and time for you
to share the cooking and change the nappies—
till then,
first things first!
What are the roles played by female characters in *East, West*? Is it possible to apply feminist criticism on the text?
Part 3: White postcolonial literature
White African Writers

**J. M. Coetzee (1940 – )**
- born in South Africa
- the relationship between the coloniser and the colonised
- opposes apartheid

**Pepetela (Artur Carlos Maurício Pestana dos Santos) (1941 – )**
- born in Angola
- fought in the guerrilla war for Angola’s independence
- his works deal with history, politics, and civil war
- *A geração da utopia* (1992) ("A Generation of Utopia"): shows greater concern and criticism towards the corruption of the government and the Angolan civil war
- Lusophone
- The Camões Prize in 1997
White African Writers

Mia Couto (1955 – )

• Born in Mozambique
• studied Medicine and worked as a journalist in Mozambique
• his novels are celebrated for blending reality and fantasy, folklore and history with magical realism.
• Examples:
  • A varanda de frangipani (1996) (Under the Frangipani) and O Último Voo do Flamingo (2000) (The Last Flight of the Flamingo)
  • embraced as one of the most important Lusophone writers
  • his works were published in more than 20 countries in different languages
• The Camões Prize in 2013
Discussion

What is the significance of white postcolonial writers?
Part 4: Globalization and postcolonial literature

“postmodernism was the concept of the 1980s, globalization may be the concept of the 1990s, a key idea by which we understand the transition of human society into the third millennium”

“it is necessary to remember that Marx himself had argued that the universalization of capital requires difference; it spreads only by reconstituting otherness”
Roland Robertson

• in “Globalization and societal modernization: A note on Japan and Japanese religion” (1987)
  • “the crystallization of the entire world as a single place”
• in “Globalization theory and civilizational analysis” (1987)
  • a “global human condition”
Ankie Hoogvelt in *Globalisation and Postcolonialism* (1997)

“it groups together all formerly colonial societies despite differences in their relation to the global capitalist system, while at the same time offering a point of entry for the study of those differences. This point of entry is the ‘aftermath’ of the colonial relation and the manner in which this becomes reconstituted and contested in the process of the present transformation of the global political economy.”
“both persons and images often meet unpredictably, outside the certainties of home and the cordon sanitaire of local and national media effects. This mobile and unforeseeable relationship between mass-mediated events and migratory audiences defines the core of the link between globalization and the modern”
“Globalization cannot only be controlled but used to our benefit. It may become the creation of a universe where the notions of race, nationality, and language, which for so long have divided us, are re-examined and find new expressions; where the notions of hybridity, metissage, multiculturalism are fully redefined. I see the mapping of a new world, a brave new world”
Part 5: Conclusion
Ania Loomba in *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (1996)

“Modern colonialism did more than extract tribute, goods and wealth from the countries that it conquered – it restructured the economies of the latter, drawing them into a complex relationship with their own, so that there was a flow of human and natural resources between colonised and colonial countries.”

“By the end of the nineteenth century, colonialism had developed into a system of ahistorical categorization in which certain societies and cultures were perceived as intrinsically inferior [...] The colonialist system permitted a notional idea of improvement for the colonized, via such metaphors as parent/child, tree/branch, etc., which in theory allowed that at some future time the inferior colonials might be raised to the status of the colonizer. But in practice this future was always endlessly deferred.”


