

A Question of Body: Study on Colonial; Post-Colonial Perspective

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Abstract: *This study examines the representation of corporeal difference as one of the fundamental ideologies on which the power dynamics of colonial and postcolonial policies are based. The analyses in this study are anchored on postcolonial theory concerning issues such as power, race, center/margin, and decolonization while the various notions of corporeality discussed here are informed by the works of theorists like Friedrich Nietzsche, Michel de Certeau. With textual examples from novels by authors such as Chinua Achebe and Ngugi waThiong'o, the paper argues that the body is a pertinent starting point for reflection on subjectification given that (apart from its analogical efficiency) it represents the vital entity on which basic considerations of self and other are imagined and refracted in concrete political practices. African novel constitutes a central and critical locus in the debate on the decolonization of the mind and the deconstruction of epistemological grounds of difference. This is carried out through a variety of narrative structures, one of the most effective of which is the postcolonial dictatorship novel form. The textual inscription of the body underlines the consistent role of African literature as an artistic intervention in colonial and postcolonial political practices, thereby foregrounding human equality as an indispensable pre-condition for a democratic and egalitarian society.*

Keywords: African, body, power, subject, postcolonial, hegemony, subversion,

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