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Inner Darkness and Despair as a Manifestation of the Enigmatic Psychic and Cultural
Insecurity in Tayeb Salih's *Season of Migration to the North*

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Abstract

Salih's "*Season of Migration to the North*" explores the evils of colonialism and it is regarded as a different form of resistance. This novel narrates the quest for self-identity since it portrays Mustafa Saeed' psychic trauma, the reflective image of the narrator's subconscious which haunts him as his double whom Saeed incarcerates in this metaphysical postcolonial purgatory. This paper tends to exhibit the ways in which colonialism can lead to a sense of cultural confusion, identity crisis, and therefore expelling the individual out of the Western and colonial spaces. These feelings of alienation and detachment from reality create the sense of cultural and territorial insecurity in Mustafa Saeed's psyche since security and insecurity are inextricably linked to notions of geographical, cultural, and ontological belonging. Thus, we will examine how security and insecurity are negotiated and reconstructed between spaces of different cultures through Saeed's psychic, cultural and spacial dilemma that parallels how the colonial mentality has envisioned Africa, a realm that only appears in the colonial inner self imagination. Accordingly, this multidisciplinary study will be based on the postcolonial approach; to mention Frantz Fanon *Inferiority Complex* and Albert Memmi's theory of *the Colonizer and the Colonized* that are used to highlight the psychological aftermaths of colonialism. Meanwhile, Bhabha's theories of *Hybridity, Ambivalence and Mimicry* are used to explain the author's use of mimicry and hybridity as subversive tools whereby the oppressed people may challenge the heterogeneous modes of oppression. The traumatized Mustafa is a mental phenomenon as a symbolic outcome of imperial power, contextually delineating the epoch of colonialism's peak and collapse from 1898 to 1939, in light of Sudan's ever-shifting national identity, socio-political, and cultural context.

Key Words

Alienation, belonging, cultural security, psychic trauma