

**Investigating the Representations of Postcolonial Discourse in the Journey "A year amongst the Persians" by Edward Brown**

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**1. Introduction**

Long ago when human communication was not as advanced as today, keeping track of the journey among sightseers and tourists was a way to introduce the culture, customs, traditions and the geography of different countries. Iran has been one of these countries for which many tourists have written lengthy travel stories, especially in Safavid era. Though, these travel stories contained significant information about a country or civilization, sometimes they were used as a means of spying on a county for political reasons by the agents of super power countries of the world. From this viewpoint, many travels by the European agents in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to Iran were suspected of a pre-planned journey that followed a specific aim to give a full picture of the political, economic, social, climatologic, and even cultural conditions with negative attitudes of our country. Therefore, this study aims at a case study of such journeys to find any postcolonial discourse and "self" and "other" look in it. The case study is the travel book "A Year Amongst the Persians" by Edward Brown, a celebrated researcher in orientalism.

**2. Theoretical Framework**

Postcolonial studies could be considered as one of the related areas in underdeveloped countries in the end of colonial era. The main thesis of postcolonial discourse is cultural matters in which the colonizer (self) tries to shape the identity and culture structures of the colonized (others).

This study is theoretically based on the ideas and theories of some key figures in the realm of postcolonial studies such as Edward Saeed, Frantz Fanon, and Homi Bha Bha. These scholars believe that literature and texts are not neutral, and they relate to some big or small policies. In very general terms they regard the postcolonial themes represented in most discourses as having the following characteristics: a) the postcolonial leaders (West) are to grab a thorough authority over the subordinate societies. b) Post colonialism is to control the cultural structures and affect them accordingly. c) Post colonialism tries to spread notions like: freedom, justice, and equality. d) Post colonialism has a critical view on the third world and tries to make a discourse of superiority (self) and inferiority (others).

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### 3. METHOD

The design of this study is comparative. First, the entire English text of the travel book "A Year Amongst the Persians" by Edward Brown was studied to find any discourse containing a postcolonial sign according to the theoretical basis of the study. Then, the marked texts were compared to their Persian translations to see the translation strategies applied by the translator to nullify these postcolonial signs.

### 4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The investigations on the main text showed that, there existed over 40 cases of postcolonial discourse that directly pointed to the superior-inferior (self-other) discourse. The categories of the direct hints appeared in this book were as the following: lack of culture and courtesy among the laity; an obvious difference among the Iranian tribes and nations; the rejection of Islam as a divine religion; the rejection of Shia sect; Iran's undeveloped culture and society; and not heeding the history and its heritage.

### 5. CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

Although the author of the travel book "A Year Amongst the Persians" is an orientalist who took a great interest in Iran and the language, Persian, one can suspect the real identity of this Qajrid era writer, as he expresses and compares his cultural and internalized ideas with the cultural gaps in Iran. In some parts of the book, he puts most of his focus on the political atmosphere of the country, and tries to get close to Qajarid kings and governors. In a general view, it can be concluded that, in most cultural parts of this narration he looks down on Iran's culture and society.

In terms of the strategies applied by the translator (Mansoori) of this travel book, he had mostly favored the readers' satisfaction by deleting and changing most of these postcolonial themes that appeared in the text.

**KeyWords:** Postcolonial discourse, Self, Other, Travel book.

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