

Diverse Methods of Imperialism during the Post-Colonial Era

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Abstract

Post colonialism is the most terrible part as well as a new weapon of colonization. And it is the most effective way ruling or controlling a developing nation. Now a colonizer power can dominate another country very easily by cultural hegemony. The very method was followed by the British when they were dominating in South Asian and African countries. Nowadays the imperialist force does not need to send troops for dominating a country. Rather they can dominate through corrupting the mind of the neo colonized people. Because “Imperialism is a state of mind, fuelled by the arrogance of superiority” (Chy, Golam Sarwar 2004). After the Second World War territorial colonialism fades away quickly. But it has not abolished totally. Again the developed nations are expanding their economic trap throughout the world. And thereby the developing nations are becoming easy prey to it. So military subjugation is not the only way of dominion. There are other factors like; Culture, education, politics, sports and so on.

Keywords: post colonialism, cultural hegemony, Economical imperialism, Political influence, Colonial games.

Introduction

The era after the freedom from colonization is called post-colonial era. Till the very beginning of the 20th century, the British “covered one-fifth of the globe and governed 400 million subjects of many faiths and ethnic groups.”(Robert Johnson, 2003). But after the 2nd world war the condition of Britain began to deteriorate. Then it began to give freedom to many countries. But it did not abolish totally. Although it might seem the colonized are free from the chain from of bondage and tyranny, but they are not totally free from the chain. Imperialism exists even now. It cannot be seen because the imperialist force has changed their methods. These methods are “modern attempts to perpetuate colonialism while at the same time talking about ‘freedom’, which has come to be known as *neo-colonialism*.”(Kwame Nkrumah 2008).

Cultural imperialism

In the age of globalization, the culture of the western world is presented in the most decorated way and people of the ex-colonized countries have begun to accept the culture without knowing it's bad effect over their own culture. Most of the time the hero and the heroines of movie are presented in collaboration with western culture. And the subconscious mind begins to adopt itself with the western culture. If the present culture of some ex colonized countries like Bangladesh, India, and Africa is compared with that of their culture existed before 10 years, a lot of differences can be found. Some will say that western culture is the ideal culture that must be followed and they are going to adjust themselves with the modern world. But they do not know that how they are accepting the culture of the western world blindly. So imperialism exists in the human psychology.

Every nation has its own culture and tradition. But it is immensely influenced by the imperialist force. In ‘Things Fall Apart’ by Chinua Achebe (1994) at the very beginning, the people of Igbo society were leading a peaceful life obeying the law of their society. But it was interrupted by the brute force of imperialism. The force creates such an impression within the Igbo society that, some begun to suspect their religious beliefs and begun to accept the British culture. At the last part of the novel Okonkwo committed suicide. Even though any specific explanation is not given, it can be assumed that he committed suicide thinking that if he wants to live in the society then he must follow the rules of the white men. How culture takes an immediate change can be understood from “Things Fall Apart”. So cultural imperialism is “the economic, technological and cultural hegemony of the industrialized nations, which determines the direction of both economic and social progress, defines cultural values, and standardizes the civilization and cultural environment throughout the world.” (Matti Sarmela, 1975)

Language: Another subtle device of neo colonialism is spreading English. It is entirely related with cultural imperialism. Because language is associated with a culture. Almost 27 % people all over the world speak English all over the world. But using English consciously or subconsciously destroys the culture and tradition of a country.

Again, English medium school is also responsible for bringing western culture. If we look at the south Asian subcontinent particularly India and Bangladesh, it will not be a tough job to find a lot of English medium schools grown up here and there. Dr. Niaz Zaman (2008) states that during 1947, “education at the primary & secondary levels was in the vernacular.” But after the late 90's a number of international schools were established. Elite class of the society feels pleasure in sending their children in English medium schools. Because they think that “English is synonymously linked with development” (Phillipson, 1992)

Dr. Muhammed Shahriar Haque & Tahmina Akter (2012) has shown in their survey schools how English language is becoming more familiar to the students of English Medium School. In their survey they show that 80% teachers recommend students to use English and 85% teachers recommend students to watch “English channels like Discovery, HBO, National Geography, Star Movies, BBC, CNN, and so on.”

Again in this age of globalization learning English has become a great factor. In the survey of Haque and Tahmina (2012) it has been proved that 80% teachers of English medium schools think that “good command over English is necessary in most of the lucrative jobs but good command in Bangla is not that much necessary.” In this case also national language is denied. And it should also be mentioned many sovereign African and American countries have begun to grant English one of their official languages despite having own national languages. Again the launch of ELT in several universities of Bangladesh makes it clear that English is getting priority in job sector as well as career development.

If we go back to the history of British colonization in Indian Subcontinent, we will find that Muslims were backward in job sectors because they have “boycotted the introduction of English” (M Harunur Rashid, 2014). Later on the Muslim society begins to accept the British education along with language and to secure position in government sectors. And this mindset toward English and British education system is felt till now.

English literature

Not only English but also English literature is spreading everywhere. Edward o. Ako has also justified it. According to Viswanathan, as quoted by Edward (2004), the British had conquered India with ships and cannon; they were, however, “to rule it with Shakespeare.” It clearly depicts the necessity of English literature in the south Asian subcontinent. English literature has been introduced in India in the early 19th century. From that time till now English literature has retained its glory.

Literature deals with the human life, it tells every minute detail of social problem, social issue and so on. English literature contains western culture, philosophy. And the students of the developing countries are becoming more curious about the western culture and philosophy because this culture is totally different from them. And this curiosity is a great threat for their own literature. According to Quaderi, Saiful and Neazy (2010), “The subconscious acceptance of English literature as an element of a superior culture may be at work here”. A literature will not flourish as long as the literature will not be exercised enthusiastically. Prof Muhammad Shahidullah said in pollishahiththo (2014) that once Bengali literature used to be very much resourceful. It was full of Jari, Sari, Bhawaiya, Bhatiali, Rakhali song. But because of globalization these songs are not honored well. So it can be inferred that English literature is still dominating in the ex-colonized countries.

Literature not only brings culture but also affects the human psychology. And when the psychology will be affected by such a culture that is more different for a person than his own culture, the manner, behavior of the person will take a certain change. Freire says, “Cultural conquest leads to the cultural inauthenticity of those who are invaded; they began to respond to the values, the standards and the goals of the invaders” (Paulo Freire, 1972)

Under the private university act of 1993, more than 60 private universities have been established in Bangladesh till now. And almost every university has English Language and Literature department. But there are few private universities which offer degree on Bengali Language and Literature. The reason behind this is that the widespread use of English in Private Job sector. And students too show interest of studying English language and literature. In that case the national language and literature are neglected because it is preferred less in the job sector.

Politics

The imperialist force is dominating not only by means of their culture, education, literature but also by means of sending troops over a developing country. In the 21st century U.S is called the world’s top imperialist power. Because, it interferes in the domestic affair of almost all developing countries. One of the noteworthy invasions of the U.S during the 21st century is invasion in Iraq. After 9/11, Media has begun to preach that Iraq was responsible in the destruction of 9/11 along with Al-Qaeda. In this way U.S and UK have succeeded to keep their actual motive hidden from the world and legalized to intervene in the internal affairs of Iraq in the name of reconstruction by making Iraq a terrorism free world.

But the prime motive in the war is the natural resources processed by Iraq. Oil is an important resource in the 21st century. America attacked Iraq not for proving Iraq as a country of terrorism but for plundering petroleum from it. Because for surviving in the competitive in this competitive world, it is necessary for U.S to have as much natural resources as possible. S Naji, JA Jawan (2012) also states the argument of Clark as follows, “it is clear that the Iraq War more than terrorism and weapons of mass destruction was to gain strategic control over the energy reserves of Iraq.” So, it is clear that in the name of humanity the imperialist force interferes in the domestic affairs of a country in order to plunder resources of the country.

But the political imperialism is not expanded through military power at all. Due to internal political crisis of a developing nation, interference of a developed nation is getting much easier in the name of helping the country. As a consequence, the colonial country restructures the political, economic, cultural condition of the developing nation according to their own way, the way which will make benefit for them (developed).

Economics

Economic imperialism starts with the problem of scarcity. Developed nation needs natural resources like gas, petroleum whereas developing nation needs huge amount of fund to change its condition. The developed nation has ensured direct or indirect control over the natural resourceful country whereas the developing has “the lack of capital for the internal development of their country” (Nazreen Bacchus, 2005).

After the 2nd world war, the then world dominating countries established IMF and World Bank as a new model of Imperialism. These organizations along with some other organizations give loan or invest in developing countries in terms of some strict conditions over the domestic affair or economic affair of the developing countries. So, it is undoubtedly a new model of Neo imperialism. Even in some cases the economic plan of these developing countries are being made by these organizations.

Another noteworthy example of the neo imperialism is the influence of the developed countries in the global economy. They have made such trap that any developing nation can fall easily in that trap. One of the noteworthy examples is GSP facility. GSP (General Scheme of Preferences) facility is given to the developing countries of the world. This facility gives them the opportunity of exporting their many products without any duty. This facility has been given for the economic growth of a developing country. And the domestic as well as international market is somewhat growing up on the basis of the condition of GSP.

Comparative position of major apparel exporting countries

Country	2005 (\$ Billion)	2008 (\$ Billion)	2010 (\$ Billion)
Vietnam	2.74	5.25	5.87
Indonesia	2.97	4.15	4.55
India	3.15	3.20	3.21
Bangladesh	2.37	3.44	3.91

(Source: USITC data)

This data shows that these above mentioned countries are attempting to ensure a good place in the world market. If U.S imposes any strict laws over a country in terms of the domestic affair of the country, and if the developing country shows its reluctance to pay any heed to U.S then U.S can deny providing the GSP facility to the country. It will definitely effect on the economy of a country. And in retaining the economic condition, the country will have no other option but to obey the commandment of U.S. Kwame Nkrumah (2008) believes “aid’ turns out to be another means of exploitation, a modern method of capital export under a more cosmetic name.” In the name of aid they become very much influential in controlling the economic system of a developing nation.

Joseph Conrad in his “Heart of Darkness” deals the same message. At the very beginning of the novel Marlow says that he has “got a heavenly mission to civilize” (Heart of darkness, 2010). But the prime target is “economic and social exploitation” (Daniel Vogel, 2012). The difference is that in the colonial era the exploitation used to be done in an inhuman way but in the postcolonial era the new colonized country fell into an easy prey in front of the economic policy of the developed nation.

Games and Sports

Games and Sports carry a great deal of nation’s tradition. But in the postcolonial era native games and sports are also immensely influenced. National game in some cases related to the origin, history of a nation. Allen Guttmann has shown how modern sports like Football, Cricket, Basketball have spread all over the world.

Country	National games
Bangladesh	Kabaddi
India	Hockey
Pakistan	Field Hockey
Srilanka	Volley Ball
New Zealand	Rugby Union

These above mentioned countries are famous for Cricket. And government of these countries is investing more money than that of their national games. During Cricket world cup every participant country waits eagerly to hold the first position. This strong cultural competitive mindset is subconsciously undermining the national sports giving emphasis to the international games. Professor Satendra Nandan (2015) says “Hockey has lost its magic” because of the widespread influence of Cricket. Here the magic of capitalist economic system works which understands nothing except profit and loss. And due to the heavy chance of profit in cricket, and

Football, new forms of games (e.g T20, IPL, BPL, and so on) are introduced to the audience and the audience is accepting the new forms with enthusiasm. But it has tremendous effect over national game. Martha savendra (2010) in his poem regarding IPL said, "All eyes focused on flow of money into few pockets lot of hue and cry on the negligence of national games." Government does not provide sufficient amount of fund for national game. They are concerned about the foreign games. If this trend goes on national game will abolish very soon. Dr. Muhammad Shahidullah admitted it in Polli shahiththo that national game is under threat because of the popularity of foreign games.

Conclusion

The present analysis suggests the basic pattern of cultural imperialism, economic dependence and political interference which is gradually becoming a threat to the culture, history and economics. Because, Neocolonialism is "less direct and less visible" but "more dangerous than colonialism" (Diana Haag, 2011). It will be foolish job to think that imperialism has abolished from the ex-colonized countries. Rather it has taken a new form. Even though it cannot be seen at all but it has tremendous effect over a nation. Language, games and sports, literature all of them are interrelated. Controlling these things means controlling a nation.

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