

A POST-COLONIAL PERSPECTIVE OF KHUSHWANT SINGH TRAIN TO PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Colonialism exerted a great influence on the lives and literature of the ex-colonies; and that postcolonial literature of these former colonies and their descended addresses the issues pertaining to colonialism. “Train to Pakistan” is a historical novel by Khushwant Singh; it was published in 1956, with the backdrop of Indian partition holocaust of 1947 that displaced around twenty million people and killed over a million. Instead of chronicling the partition of British India in terms of only the political events surrounding it, Khushwant Singh digs into a deep locale providing a human dimension which brings to the event a sense of reality, horror and believability. The present study offers a discourse analysis of Khushwant Singh’s novel “Train to Pakistan” to ascertain the colonialism and its impact on postcolonial writings, particularly writings of postcolonial India. The novel is analyzed in the backdrop of colonialism and highlighting some of the major issues and debates of postcolonial discourse with particular focus on issues of representation and resistance, and appropriation of language.

Keywords: colonialism, postcolonial discourse, representation, resistance, appropriation.