

Abstract

In the nineteenth century, the British power held control over many countries of the world. It was undoubtedly proved to be very cruel towards the indigenous people, bringing about brutality and oppression. The Caribbean islands are ones of the territories where the English ruled and exploited the people and their lands. Caribbean women suffered even more because they experienced another level of dominance imposed on them by men; patriarchal society, itself, is a colonization for them. The present study aims at investigating the issue of double colonization in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*. This novel is considered as a masterpiece of the Caribbean resistance literature as well as a narrative of female fall down in a male-dominated society. For this purpose, the postcolonial feminist theory is used to examine how the main character in *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Antoinette, is doubly subjected by colonialism and patriarchy. In doing so, an analytical method is conducted to analyze the different forms of oppression the creole protagonist is subjected to throughout the novel, and which of these forms lead to her madness. This study reveals that women are not genetically fragile and weak but the different cultural, emotional or physical factors they face contribute to this fragility. Thus, colonial and patriarchal forms of subjugation, as the two are inextricably entwined, are responsible for the identity crisis and mental breakdown of Antoinette in *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

Key words: Double colonization, colonialism, patriarchy, identity crisis, *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

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