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**AN ASPECT OF COLONIALISM AND ANTI-COLONIALISM IN  
ENGLISH LITERATURE (BY THE SAMPLE OF GRAHAM GREEN'S  
WORK – THE QUIET AMERICAN)**

Muazzam Turaeva

Student of master's degree Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages

**Abstract**

This article analyzes the terms of colonialism and anticolonialism in English literature and the features of them by in works by the sample of Graham Green's work "The Quiet American".

**Keywords:** Colonialism, anticolonialism, colony, Graham Greene, "The Quiet American", Osterhammel J.

**Annotatsiya**

Ushbu maqolada ingliz adabiyotida Kolonializm va Antikolonializm atamalarining paydo bo'lishi hamda uning asarlardagi unsurlarini Gram Grinning "Sokin Amerikalik" asari asosida tahlil qilingan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Kolonializm, antikolonializm, koloniya, Grem Grin, "Sokin amerikalik", Osterhammel J.

**Аннотация**

В данной статье анализируется возникновение терминов колониализм и антиколониализм в английской литературе и его элементы в произведениях по мотивам произведения Грэма Грина "Тихий американец".

**Ключевые слова:** колониализм, антиколониализм, колония, Грем Грин, "Тихий американец", Остерхаммел Ж.

**Theory of Colonialism.** The term colonialism derived from the superior traits over the inferior inhabitants. Colonialism is the notion of acquiring power from one



powerful territory to the another territory. As we as colonialism denotes the atrocity, expansion and the exploitation of colony. The period of European colony was the era from 16<sup>th</sup> century to the mid- 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this time the European superlative realm established and spread their powers in Africa and Asia. Jürgen Osterhammel gave his theory about colonialism. Jürgen Osterhammel's colonialism: A Theoretical Overview, Roger Tignor says, "For Osterhammel, the essence of colonialism is the existence of colonies, which are by definition governed differently from other territories such as protectorates or informal spheres of influence". Osterhammel asks in the book and remarks, how can colonialism be defined independently from colony? He came to the settlement of his curiosity and delivers a -three - sentence definition: "Colonialism is a relationship between an indigenous (for forcibly imported) majority and a minority of foreign affecting the lives of the colonized people are made and implemented by the colonial rulers in pursuit of interest that are often defined in a distant metropolis. Rejecting cultural compromises with the colonized population, the colonizers are convinced of their own superiority and their ordained mandate to rule".

As a whole, it is to be noted that, colonialism is the mighty force to rule their subsequent colonies. They consider the colonized people as a barbaric, savage, peasants, ignorant, uncivilized. They also feel that, the colonized inhabitant's way of leading life is anomaly. Hence the superior colonizers think that they need to clean and polish the standards of the colonized nations. Their pride is certain to notice because of the ruling conduct towards to inferior subordinates. The colonizers are totally indifferent and consider the colonized people as the beggar of their British wisdom, they also feels the those inferior subjugated people got the dire needs of expertise from the colonizers which is salient. As a result the white Europeans feel the wanderlust into the so called underdeveloped regions such as Africa and Asia. The white rulers started to imprison the inferior natives to inflict the European cultures, languages and other stuffs. In the mean time they plundered the wealth of natives and set up their supremacy above all.

**Theory of Anti-Colonialism/ Imperialism.** Anti-colonialism/ imperialism is the term to roar the voice downtrodden people. Its the national movements and show the



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patriotism to stand against the despotic Colonizers. This phrase started after the second world war and the onset of the cold war as political movements in colonies of European powers. The first Anti-imperialist groups who opposed the United States and this was thought as social imperialism. Anti-imperialism originated in Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In the mid- 20th century and later the variety of national liberation movements occurred. These movements were the basic foundation in the decolonized process of the 1950s and 1960s. In this time limit most European colonies in Asia and Africa achieving their independence.

Anticolonialism in the twentieth and twenty-first century refers to two interconnected concepts: a historical event and a critical analytic. As a historical event, anticolonialism means the struggle against imperial rule in colonized countries, mostly during the first half of the twentieth century. As a philosophical movement and critical analytic, anticolonialism is the under-acknowledged predecessor to postcolonial theory. In addition to agitating for national independence and postcolonial nationalism, anticolonial thinkers and activists debated the necessity of political solidarity as well as international cooperation – from Afro-Asian Solidarity to the Non-Aligned Movement (both of which were debated, together, at the 1955 Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung, Indonesia). Consequently, the history of anticolonialism as a theoretical and political practice illuminates an historical and analytical trajectory between the colonized world, the Third World, and the contemporary Global South.

One of the best writers on the topic of anticolonialism was English writer Graham Greene. Graham Greene was born on October 2, 1904, in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, England. Greene was the fourth child of six children to parents Charles and Marion. Greene began teaching in Berkhamsted, where his father was the director of the school. During the school in Berkhamsted, Greene had a difficult time since he had suffered of depression. His parents seeing his condition sent him to London for treatment. Later, Greene continued his studies at Oxford College, where he published short stories, articles and poems in the students' magazine, Oxford Outlook. In 1925, Greene published a volume of poetry, Babbling April (Wise 2012, p. 5). In 1925, Greene converted to Catholicism. In 1926, Greene returned to London, where he continued to work as a journalist and editor of "The



Times". In 1927 he married Vivien Greene Doyrell Browning. Vivien Greene and Graham Greene had two children, Lucy and Frances. Their marriage did not last long, he left Vivien Greene for Catherine Walston, in 1948. His career began with the success of his first work, "The Man Within" (1929). In 1936, Greene travelled to Europe, in Liberia, where he lived and worked for several years. By the end of his life, Greene moved in Vevey, Switzerland, where he died on April 3, 1991 and was buried in Corsier-sur-Vevey Cemetery. Greene had a dynamic life, where he never stopped creating. Wherever he went, everyone discovered his talent. He had a tendency to create very special works, special themes, interesting characters. He had an educated family, and he tried to be like them.

Greene belongs to the period of modernity. Modernism has its own features and characteristics. The term "modernism" in terms of its literature became known in English literature immediately after the First World War, to describe the experimental literature, important works by T.S. Eliot, James Joyce, Ezra Pound and Virginia Woolf. What makes Graham Greene different from other modernists is the other way of creating. Greene faced some changes, but he turned from artificial prose to a natural prose based on clarity and precision. Greene expresses what is most important to the writer, the prose. According to him "The danger to the novelist is that he should write with his mind on the subjective response of his readers instead of being concerned only to express his idea with the greatest accuracy and the greatest economy"

**The Quiet American.** The novel "The Quiet American" is one of the most popular works of Graham Greene. "The Quiet American" is a novel of great importance. This novel is very popular. Even today, this novel is read by many readers and is highly rated. Events take place in Vietnam at the height of the conflict in the former French colonizers, before the US invasion. "With "The Quiet American", Graham Greene left his explicitly his religious novels behind and returned to the political novel". This novel is a political novel and different from other works of Greene. This novel was first published in the UK in 1955 and then in the United States in 1956. Greene was inspired to write this novel during 1951 while a war correspondent in Vietnam, which included his experiences during the years 1951- 1956.



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The novel has three main characters: Fowler an English reporter entirely cynical and persistent to be neutral, Pyle a gentleman, but a politically naive and inexperienced and Phuong, Fowler's girlfriend. The entire novel revolves around these three main characters, the other characters are more to complete the puzzle. Broadly the novel "The Quiet American" is a novel about an amorous conflict and a political conflict, a formula that often encountered. These are so intertwined with each other that it is hard to see who dominates. For example, Fowler wanted to be neutral in the war not only as a political creed, but also as a defense mechanism against emotional problems that has majority and despite this, he is a war reporter who reports. His most important steps are undecided and without enthusiasm. Faced with all this he chose to be a cynical extremist as far as his cynicism flowing like a waterfall in every page of the novel. On the other hand, Pyle is a good man with his enthusiasm and naive goodness does evil, whereas, Phuong is a natural woman with little to say as she is controlled by her older sister. However, she is the girl who does what it comes naturally. This novel is about the war in Vietnam, between the French and the Vietnamese. The novel is narrated by the protagonist Thomas Fowler, a British journalist who has lived in Vietnam for a long period of time. Fowler did not want to form opinions or engage in the conflict during the war, but wants to report the facts. Alden Pyle working for the social assistance mission. Pyle is very sincere in relation to Fowler but when it comes to Phuong, he is confronted with Fowler because he wants a better and safer life for Phuong. First, they were friends, then rivals, Pyle attempts to steal Phuong by persuading her to leave Fowler and live with him together. Fowler notes that Pyle is involved in a deadly espionage supported by General "The" and the "Third force" where many Vietnamese people are killed. In the last chapter, Fowler's wife sends a letter where she accepts to divorce, so Fowler and Phuong can live happily. Also, we recently discovered that the advantages inherent Fowler helped a Communist leader in the murder of Pyle, he is Heng and his associates, as Pyle was involved in the bombing at a political square where many people got killed. The title of the novel "The Quiet American" refers to Pyle, who is one of the main characters of the novel. Pyle is a 32-year-old American. He is a CIA agent, who works undercover. Pyle is mild and serious. He is an American with an intellectual family background: his father is a



known professor. Pyle studied government and social theories; he is very inspired by York Harding's books on his vision regarding the need of a third force in Vietnam, Pyle shares York Harding's opinion on this matter. Pyle differs from other characters in the novel, because he is polite, quiet, educated and thoughtful. Pyle is a serious man and very sincere, he is enthusiastic about his ideals and beliefs. His character is patriotic, he is an idealist American, who believes he can do something positive in a country that he knows little of (Vietnam). Fowler compares Alden Pyle with other Americans who live in the Continental Hotel.

This novel does not indicate how the war ended. Pyle tries to help, but unfortunately only cause's damage, while Phuong, though war takes place in her own country, is not impressed by anything and she is influenced only by others because she never makes decisions for herself but others decide for her. There are many sins in this war, like women's betrayal, corruption, murder of innocent people, Pyle's murder. As seen in the novel, Fowler is married, and also has a lover in Vietnam. He wants to be divorced from his wife, but she does not want to divorce because the Catholic religion does not allow separation. Fowler wants her divorce several times, and at the end of the novel, his wife agrees to divorce, and he is now free to marry Phuong and they live together. The other sin is the murder of innocent people in the war. Fowler goes to report to the war and sees many dead people and he is terrified of what he sees. It is also the explosion of the bomb at the center of Saigon, where innocent people are killed. In corruption, General "The" is corrupted. Pyle believes that he is doing well for his country. The next sin is Pyle's assassination. Fowler, seeing that many people are dying because of Pyle's naivety he decides to kill Pyle along with Mr. Heng. It was not supposed to kill Pyle, but to inform the court authorities and leave the case to them.

To sum up, it is clearly noted that, the colonizers from the west are always possess dominating attitudes which we can see through Graham Green's "The Quiet American". This novel is distinguished from other novels by its unique style. This book is fraught with conflicts and tense situations between the characters. The theoretical and research aspect is realized by concluding that this novel has high literary, artistic and aesthetic value and it is very valuable novel that indicates the features of anticolonialism among Graham Green's works.





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