

Enriching Post-Colonial Discourse: An Appraisal of Doms Pagliawan's Fire Extinguisher

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Abstract : Post-colonial theory, post-colonialism, or Poco is a recently established literary theory. Consequently, not many literary works, local and international, have been subjected to its criticism. To help intellectualize local literary texts, in particular, through post-colonial discourse, this qualitative inquiry unfolded. Textual analysis was employed to describe, analyse, and interpret Doms Pagliawan's Fire Extinguisher, a regional work of literature, grounded on the postcolonial concepts of Edward Said's Otherness, Homi Bhabha's Unhomeliness or Paralysis, and Frantz Fanon's Cultural Resistance. The in-depth reading affirmed that the story contains those postcolonial attributes, revealing the following; (A) the presence of the colonizer, who successfully established colonial control over the colonized, the other, was found; (B) through power superimposition, the colonized character was silenced or paralyzed; and, (C) forms of cultural resistance from the colonized character were shown but no matter how its character avoids 'postcolonial acts', the struggle just intensifies, hence inevitable. Pagliawan's Fire Extinguisher is thus a post-colonial text realizer between two differing cultures, the colonizer and the other. Results of this study may substantiate classroom discussions, both undergraduate and graduate classes, specifically in Philippine and World literature, 21st Century literature, readings in New English literatures, and literary theory and criticism courses, scaffolding learners' grasp of post-colonialism as a major literary theory drawing classic exemplifications from this regional work.

Keywords : cultural resistance, otherness, post-colonialism, textual analysis, unhomeliness/paralysis

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