

Postcolonial Study of Ahmad Mahmoud's *The Neighbors* in the Light of Spivak's Ideas

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The present essay attempted to consider Ahmad Mahmoud's *The Neighbors* in the light of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's concept of Subaltern, who is known as one of the three "Holy Trinity" critics of Post-colonial theory. The economic and cultural as well as the military interventions of the colonizing powers were present during previous centuries. Colonization then changed its path more toward the cultural and economic rather than the military domain. This novel is regarded as Post-colonial text, and attempts are made to investigate and prove the claim that the main characters of the novel under scrutiny experience subalternity and that their survival depends on the resistance of the committed intellectuals. Mahmoud depicted societies where the intellectuals have the major role in resisting colonization. However, the results of their attitude towards their society in different cultures are not the same. The protagonists of the novel under the cultural and economic pressures coming from the colonizers and colonizing agents face many predicaments and their life circumstances become more and more difficult, until they leave the country or are imprisoned. Some intellectuals understood the circumstances of their society, and because of their commitment, helped their people out of trouble. On the contrary, some intellectuals preferred to leave the country in the hands of the dictators, and consequently the processes of Othering and Worlding of their society persisted. In the light of Spivak's ideas, this study attempted to indicate that the conditions of impossibility, the hopeless and negative feeling for the Subaltern (that nothing will change for the marginalized into a condition of possibility) can be transformed on condition that the Subaltern is represented by native and committed intellectuals.

Key words: Subaltern, Colonization, Othering, Worlding, Third World.

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