

# Redefining Theories of Communication

21<sup>st</sup> Century Perspectives in Language and Literature



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## Man as the Oppressor and the Oppressed: A Postcolonial and Psychological Perspective on the Malayalam movie *Guru*

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### Abstract

*Movie as a mode of literary expressions and as a reformative medium functions with full effects ever since it has been normalized as a genre of literature. As a visual medium it has a special privilege to mingle with the soft emotions of human beings. It makes man think or reflect on his actions and the acts of society. Writers and directors with humanitarian sentiments have tried increasingly to bring about these reflections that may keep humanity away from the many social and environmental evils. Socially and environmentally important topics have been used by these writers to open the otherwise blind eyes of human beings. The director Jiju Arackal and the writer C.G. Rajendran Babu had tried to bring about these reflections in human mind through their thought-provoking 1997 Indian Malayalam Language fantasy drama like *Guru*. It ranges from all levels, i.e. psychological, spiritual, environmental and more closely on postcolonial elements. Man as a victim of circumstances becomes the oppressor and the oppressed. In most of the cases he himself is the cause of his troubles and turmoil. When this postcolonial cause is identified, he will be isolated from the ignorant multitudes, the hero of the movie experiences this isolation and alienation due to his newly earned wisdom. This paper tries to analyse the underlying truth and its negligence as the root cause of human misery.*

**Keywords:** reformative medium, fantasy drama, postcolonial cause, ignorant multitudes

### Introduction

Man has been shown as the most complicated of all the species as he is the one who creates changes in the created world and he is the only one who uses an acquired language rather than the innate one which all the other species use. He makes everything complicated, his life and the lives of all the other creatures. He calls it development and boasts of his talents and achievements, mastering all the other beings enslaving them. The theories on which most of the researchers are done analyse these complexities on which human world is built. Whether it is post colonialism, existentialism, psychoanalysis, gender theory, archetypal or any of this sort, it delves deep in to the man-like human world in which man himself is the oppressor and the oppressed as it happened from the time immemorial since his origin. Man's conscientious wisdom regarding his own frivolities might have caused him create stories regarding his own origin based on his own weakness and irrationality. The scriptures of all the religions in the world reflects on this frivolities and complications in his behavior.

Post Colonialism states that a study of human society in the modern world should have a base on European imperialism and its effect upon the human society. This theory emerged in the 80s and many other theories came side heading it. The concept of the colonizer and the colonized, the oppressor and the oppressed is basic to it and these terms are relative to various circumstances. The Palestinian American critic Edward Said in his work *Orientalism* discusses this as a theory first and it is taken over by Homi K. Bhabha, Gayatri Spivak etc. Post Colonialism is a theory which is used to analyse the selected movie, i.e. Malayalam language drama fantasy movie *Guru* in this paper. Another theory which is also used to analyse this movie in connection with Post Colonial theory is Psycho-Analytical theory first laid out by Sigmund Freud in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The first realm of human psyche 'id' that is the repository of all animosity in human psyche and superego which is the purveyor of all moralities are more focused in this paper than ego or the normal state. Movies sometimes act as the voice of human conscience and to fulfill its directions man is inefficient at times. Various characters in the movie proves that individual human being is responsible for individual suffering and the speciality of the unconscious mind make man the oppressor and the oppressed.