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VOICING CALIBAN:
A POST-COLONIAL READING
OF *THE TEMPEST*

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the many revisionist post-colonial readings of Shakespeare's The Tempest with the particular aim of strengthening Caliban's position as the wronged Other. Often misunderstood, he had fallen victim to stereotyping and one is able to chart Caliban's evolution from something less than human to a hero of the oppressed. His words are interpreted as a critique of the colonizer and serve to highlight the human suffering constantly perpetuated by man's unbounded quest for power.

Justifications for colonialism were upheld using either conscious or subconscious strategies ranging from the supernatural, godlike sovereign power of the King to subdue his subjects to the dehumanizing of the Other. All these aspects are explored to reveal how The Tempest can be seen as a pretext for a paternalistic approach to colonial administration in which a master-slave configuration is crucial to the material aims of western imperialism.

Man's greed and excessive impulse to power has made the colonial experience horrific. The eradication of millions of people from the face of the earth along with their traditions, languages and cultures should not be forgotten by future generations who must appreciate the value of a human life.

ABSTRAK

Disertasi ini menjangkau pelbagai hasil kritikan "post-colonial" berdasarkan drama Shakespeare bertajuk The Tempest dengan tujuan untuk memperkukuhkan lagi kedudukan Caliban yang telah dianiayai. Disebabkan dirinya berbeza, Caliban sering menjadi mangsa "stereotype" dan seseorang boleh memerhati evolusi Caliban daripada sesuatu yang bukan manusia bertukar menjadi wira kepada golongan yang ditindas. Kata-katanya diinterpretasi sebagai kritikan terhadap penjajah dan penderitaan yang diharunginya mencerminkan penderitaan manusia sedunia yang berpanjangan disebabkan oleh penyalahgunaan kuasa.

Justifikasi untuk kolonialisme diteguhkan samada secara terbuka atau tersirat dengan menggunakan strategi-strategi merangkumi kuasa raja yang boleh menundukkan rakyatnya dan merampas kemanusiaan golongan yang dijajah. Kesemua aspek ini didalami supaya The Tempest boleh ditonjolkan sebagai teks yang tersirat di dalamnya kaedah-kaedah pentadbiran kerajaan kolonial di mana perhubungan tuan dan hamba adalah penting kepada kejayaan material imperialisme barat.

Kegilaan kuasa dan tamak haloba telah mengakibatkan pengalaman kolonialisme menjadi pahit. Pelupusan berjuta manusia bersertakan tradisi-tradisi, bahasa-bahasa dan kebudayaan-kebudayaan tidak patut dilupakan oleh generasi akan datang yang perlu menghargai nilai hidup manusia.