



Nagini: A Representation of the Sexual Objectification of the Oriental Subject

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Abstract

Orientalism by Edward W. Said introduces the eponymous term as a critical notion in order to define the common misconceptions and prejudices of the West or the 'Occident' regarding the East that is, the 'Orient'. Orientalism is effectively employed to justify colonialism and the systematic oppression of the colonised subject, by stressing the alleged supremacy of the West in contrast to the 'Orient'. The purpose of this paper is to analyse the exploitation of Nagini, Voldemort's snake, in the *Harry Potter* series, who is later revealed to be a cursed Asian woman in *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*. The *Harry Potter* series by Joanne Kathleen Rowling, that has enjoyed phenomenal global success, chronicles the adventures of the eponymous hero, especially, his confrontations with the cardinal villain Voldemort. Nagini is Voldemort's snake and a horcrux, which implies that a fragment of Voldemort's soul has been implanted in her. Later in the recent *Fantastic Beasts* series, which is a prequel to the *Harry Potter* series, it has been disclosed that she was a woman of Asian origin, cursed to metamorphose into a snake. The paper aims to study the nuances of the narrative and reveal how her body is treated as a site for exploitation.

Keywords: Harry Potter, Fantastic Beasts, Postcolonialism, Exploitation, Objectification.