



Possibilities of Conversation between Posthumanism and Postcolonialism: A Case Study of Public Bus Names

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Abstract

From the title it is very clear that the paper is not going to be bibliocentric but based on cultural artefacts, precisely bus names. Now, what is so post-human in them? Why do I associate them to post-colonialism? Well, humanism and its Eurocentric dogmas have been under the critical lenses of post-humanists and anti-humanists for long. The western model of the “ideal man” (vitruvian model) has gained its universal stature depending on the hegemonic insertion of 'otherization'. In other words, the universal idea of the human and humanism is essentially a western construct and is replete with the crime of domination, demonization and othering. In this paper, I attempt to show human not as something concrete (a noun), but as a process, precisely, humanizing (a verb), that is based on the idea of privileging a particular race. It is here, post-humanism paves the way for a more emancipatory approach that critiques this idea of Europeans or the colonial masters as the moral guardians of the world. It is in this juncture I would like to bring out the conversation between post-colonialism and posthumanism to show how the insurrection of native voices works as a posthumanist approach. So, why bus names? As the argumentum folds, I would show how these bus names question the subjugation of native ‘quirks’ or instantiations of locally rooted belief by colonial modernity or its accompanying logic(s) of rationalistic knowledge perpetrated by Eurocentric humanism. Here by native ‘quirks’ I mean those so called naive, inadequate, disqualified and low-ranked knowledge’s that Foucault calls ‘popular knowledge’. In other words, in the paper, I would try to show the re-emergence of the ‘popular knowledge’ that is far from being common sense, but is actually a local form of knowledge that ruptures systematized power structures ordered by colonial rationality.

Keywords: Humanism, Eurocentrism, Posthumanism, Postcolonialism, Popular Knowledge.