

# Postcolonial Space: Platform for Resisting Predisposed Architectural Discourses

Showkat Ahmad Naik

PhD Research Scholar Central University of Punjab

## Abstract

*Study of space has unquestionably turned into an important research focus in humanities and social sciences. In earlier stages space was read as an empty abstraction without history and unable to possess or evince meaning. While on the other hand place was considered as a location with a name and an ability to corroborate significance. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century however study of the space has increasingly found a renaissance and with the result of this spatial renaissance space has emerged with greater prominence assigned by constructive terminology with the opportunity of resistance and suggestive of new possibilities and interpretations. Especially, the depiction of space in postcolonial literature added much complexity to it as postcolonial space is inscribed by differential identities that challenge perpetual (Continuous) and formalist (Framed rules) modes of narratives created by the architectural constructionists. Identity created in such a space quite often portrays the indigenous citizen as an absolute space also, because authentic and essentialist conceptions of identity are often associated with exclusivist claims to territory and space.*

**Keywords:** Space; Postcolonial Space; Renaissance; Identity; Resistance

## Introduction

The notion of space explored wider and wider and encapsulated not only physical location but also abstract conceptual space (Upstone 3). Due to such tremendous exploration great dominant philosophical thinkers interest led towards the emerging concept of space and their attention perhaps had the most tangible impact. Thinkers like Edward Soja, Henry Lefebvre and Michel Foucault defined space a step ahead than the conventional meanings related to space and spatiality and expands the scope, critical sensibility of already established spatial or geographical imaginations (Soja 1). Most notably it is Michel Foucault's comment that the present "epoch will perhaps be above all else the epoch of space" (Foucault 22) appears to have opened the way for greater consideration of

spaces as an important context for considering issues such as power relationships and negotiations of identity. So the new meaning these philosophical thinkers attached to space in a way deconstructs the dominant power structures and gives rise to a spatial turn with connotations that are direct relevant to post colonialism.

Space has emerged in recent years as a radical category in the range of related disciplines across the humanities. Until recently space has been reduced to such grand conceptual schemas as centre and periphery, and this does an injustice to the complexity of the spaces postcolonial literature describe (Moore 3). Postcolonial literature is an attempt of retrieval and reversal to own pre colonial pasts and to find ways and modes of resistance if possible. Postcolonial literature holds