**WEEK 11: Postcolonialism not finished**

**Critical**

1. What is postcolonial writing? Answer this question with reference to postcolonial narrative techniques used in *Disgrace*. Your answer must be supported with textual evidence from the reading, and it must include at least one academic reference.

...a body of writing that attempts to shift the dominant ways in which the relations between western and non-western people and their worlds are viewed.

1. Considering *Disgrace* is written from a privileged point of view, that is, the POV of a white, educated, middle-aged male living in post-apartheid South Africa, how—when considering the quote above—does the text function as a postcolonial novel? What narrative devices does Coetzee use to ‘shift the dominant ways in which the relations between western and non-western people and their worlds are viewed’? Make sure to include textual evidence from the reading, and at least one academic reference.

Postcolonial writing, in contrast to colonial writing, details the events following the decolonization of a country. Often, this is used to view how changes are made to a country or nation through the eyes of a story teller. This usually focuses on relations between the original and migrating/colonising populations, with emphasis on racism, politics and religious clashes. J.M Coetzee’s book “*Disgrace*” heavily featured on several topics which may reconsidered taboo, including racism, rape and animal cruelty. While this story is written in the point-of-view of the educated white 52 year old professor, David Lurie, living in South Africa, who would be considered privileged in other countries, this story seems to put the black population in a position of power. This is reflective of the situation in post-apartheid South Africa. Here we see how the relations between the minorities whites and dominate blacks is different from that in the Western world. In fact, this story shows a lot of the issues we see in the Western worlds, but with the roles reversed. For example, David’s daughter, Lucy, experienced a brutal rape due to her colour.

“*‘It was so personal,’ she says, ‘it’s was done with such personal hatred. That is what stunned me more than anything. The rest was. . . expected. But why did they hate me so? I had never set eyes on them.’ He waits for more, but there is no more, for the moment. ‘It was history speaking through them,’ he offers at last. ‘A history of wrong. Think of it that way, if it helps. It may have seemed personal, but it wasn’t. It came down from the ancestors*.” -- J.M Coetzee “*Disgrace*”, p156.

Quote

...a body of writing that attempts to shift the dominant ways in which the relations between western and non-western people and their worlds are viewed.

Young (2003) *Postcolonialism: A Very Short Introduction*