**THE WORLD IS SHOT THROUGH WITH TIME: CRIME FICTION IN THE POSTCOLONIAL WORLD– Textual Analysis**

‘The World is Shot through with time’ is an argumentative text and presents the shape of an article. The journalist is Molly Slavin and published the article on 20/09/2017.

The article is arranged into 6 sequences.

Starting from the title, the intelligent reader may realize that there are some key words (crime, fiction, postcolonial) whose function is to introduce the main concepts which will be explained in the following sequences.

At first, while reading the first sequence, the intelligent reader should approach the main thesis of the article: “the language of crime has been used to solidify the Imperial projects and European domination”. The quotation explains that there is a relationship between modern crime fictions and the episodes connected to colonialism and post colonialism.

Moreover, the journalist exploits some crime fictions’ names and some quotations to support the thesis.

First of all, the journalist refers to Joseph Conrad’s novel Heart of Darkness in which the protagonist Charles Marlow is compelled to see some cruel scenes connected to African enslavement carried out by the Belgians. Marlow realizes that Europeans have submitted Africans because they are said to be criminals and represent a danger for them, just because of their existence. That is one of the key injustices brought by colonialism.

While the first sequence’s function is to introduce the thesis, the second reports a quotation by a postcolonial scholar Frantz Fanon, who seems to denounce strongly colonialists’ actions towards colonized and overturns what has been said in the first sequences: “you are the criminals. You did this. And you owe us.”

Going on in chronological order, the journalist refers to a very recent detective novel written by the postcolonial writer Vikram Chandra in 2007, in which he seems to criticize a modern world full of evil and crime. The most important aspect he takes into consideration is that, even with the withdrawal of the colonial Empires from the current ex-colonies, corruption, exploitment of people and crimes in general still represent relevant issues in many countries of the world.

He exploits the example of a twenty-billion-dollar heroin trade through Pakistan and India to underline situation of discontent and corruption involving those countries. Countries where criminals provide logistical support and are at the same time protected by the politicians. After the fall of colonial Empires, indeed, the lack of power destabilized those countries with waves of populism which saw for example the rise of right-wind fundamentalism in India. So in conclusion of the sequence, the intelligent reader may recognize that nothing has changed, probably it’s got worse.

The fourth sequence set up what has been said in the first three sequences: in a few words, from the days of high imperialism of 1899 to the postcolonial reality of 2007, narrative techniques have continually changed, but the assumption that the concepts of colonialism and criminality are linked is always true. It is said that crime has shaped our contemporary world.

The fifty sequence offers a list of important scholars who have dealt with the relationship with colonialism and modern crime fictions: Jon Thompson’s *Fiction, Crime and Empire,* Caroline Reitz’s *Detecting the nation: Fiction of Detection and Imperial Venture* and many others.

In the last sequence it is said that there are lots of novels which hinge on episodes of crime that may not necessary belong to crime fiction. An example is given by Exit West by Moshin Hamid, whose text relies on Western assumptions about crime –that refugees might be prone to commit crime, that migrating without papers constitutes criminal action and so on–.

In conclusion, the article offers a series of example of how crime fiction has been influenced by our modern recent history of colonialism and post colonialism and invites to think about such bad actions human beings have made and are doing in this moment.