

MULTICULTURALISM IN J. K. ROWLING'S *HARRY POTTER*: ANALYZING THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTS OF CASTE, CLASS AND GENDER ISSUES IN THE SERIES

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Abstract

The Harry Potter series is mostly a young adult fantasy series showcasing the present dealing with all the classism, racial ideologies, alienation, and threats to disrupt the peace of society. Author J.K. Rowling also subtly focuses on the issues of class discrimination in society, and racial purification which pose a threat to the magical society. This paper also analyses the intricacies and grimness of the class and racial ideologies introduced in the seven books and how they can be equated with historical and real-world problems.

J.K. Rowling dwells on the idea of a multicultural society and presents us with a 'seemingly' multicultural blend of wizards and witches training in Hogwarts. But how multicultural is Rowling's sense of multiculturalism? We do find multiculturalism in the books or rather traces of it and a social justice approach which also instigates conflicts between the characters. On the one hand, we have a 'seemingly' multicultural and homogenous magical society, and on the other hand the demarcation between magical humans, nonmagical humans (muggle), and non-human magical beings. Rowling also demonstrates through certain characters how the institutionalized preconceived notions that the main characters struggle against are supported by a section of traditional society rigidly governed by conventional principles. Throughout the series, J.K. Rowling deploys a multicultural touch by introducing diversity among the Wizarding communities and encouraging tolerance, understanding, and cooperation.

Keywords: *race, magic-realism, fantasy literature, wizarding world.*