



**IDENTITY CRISIS AND COLONIAL DOMINATION: A
POSTCOLONIAL STUDY OF JAYE'S *ATTIC
CHILD* (2022)**

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Abstract

As a result of discrimination, the people who belong to the black community face the loss of their inner selves, which affects them psychologically. This research focuses on the inner loss of awareness of human beings who encounter the discriminatory behavior of colonizers and have experiences of enslavement. This research aims to explore the identity crisis of the novel *Attic Child* (2022) by Jaye. For the analysis of the change in the identities of the characters of this novel, Fanon's Postcolonial Theory was applied. This study explores the identity crisis of Dikembe, who was associated with the black community and suffered from displacement from his beloved to the attic, where Lowra, who was associated with the white race, suffered in her childhood and is now in the circumstances of her identity crisis. This research highlights how the lives of the characters of the novel turn into unconsciousness of their inner personalities because of the enslavement under the domination of different kinds of dominants.

Keywords: *Black People, Black Skin, Fanon, Identity Crisis, Post-Colonialism, Slavery, White Mask.*

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

White people make black people slaves physically and psychologically that directly effects on the concept of their inner identity. Côté (2018) said that Erikson introduced the term identity crisis in 1968 and he highlighted that unawareness of an individual is a state in which he senses directionless and uncertainty with his formal sense of self hood. People suffer from the identity crisis due to the circumstances in which they live and the manipulative behavior of the dominates to them as white people say black are inferior to them, which damages their identities. Young (2018) as cited in Aluko and Larey (2025) said that domination is a modifying encounter for the people of color which affects their self-awareness independently and collectively. The consequences of the domination on the awareness of self-hood of the people who associated to the black community embedded through displacement, isolation from origin and linguistically.

People of the black region go through identity devastation because of the psychological effects of the representation of their existence. Enslavement and life under oppression raise the conflict of self-awareness, and this is not limited to any specific race of this society. Anonymous (2022) argued that Lola's novel shows domination by how two children associated with each other one through white adventurer and the other one through her own past. Writer of this novel highlighted how the people who belong to white community get control on the minors of African countries through showcasing their funds. Amazon (2022) highlighted that Jaye is a registered psychotherapist who belongs to Nigeria and United States wrote *Attic Child* (2022) which got Jhalak Prize in 2023. This research is about the issue of the identity crisis of the protagonist of the novel Dikembe, his family and Lowra who somehow belongs to his past but her identity as white girl. This story depicts the enslavement of the black boy who is minor and displaced to the land of the colonizers. On the flip side of the story Lowra is a white skin girl who faced the same reality of subjugation, but her slavery's root not bound to her race.

Dikembe forcefully converted into Celestine which leads the curiosity of Lowra to find his past that marge them both at the same spot which is attic. The journey of Dikembe's crisis starts with Sir Richard but stays till the end because he lives in the society which normalized racial discrimination towards the people of color. Lowra lived in slavery of her stepmother that took her sense of self awareness that connects her with the black boy who is displaced from his homeland to the unstoppable subjugation. This story represents how enslaves try to live again, but the effects of domination stay with them till their end and the center of all this moves around the process of what a community has perspectives about other communities. The journey from representation as inferior to forced displacement and from one's own home to prison took the identities of the characters of the *Attic Child*. Lawler (2008) as cited in Rasool, Jamil, and Iqbal (2025) explored that an individual encounter with mixed culture which leads his lake of self-awareness and this occur due to the displacement.

Abdelgawad (2019) highlighted that people of black skin have knowledge of their displacement for forced labor but they not focus on their resistance against this brutal act

of white community towards their race because of their identity conflict. Celestine's character leads attention towards the tradition of mistreatment of Western society towards the people who are associated with black ancestors, and this defines how they try to adopt the lifestyle of the West but ended up on the devastation of their self-worth. Antony (2013) said that the people who stayed under the domination of the dominantes without acknowledge searching for the recommendations of the dominantes due to their low self-esteem. The dominantes psychologically molded their thoughts that they are less than them that captured them mentally even they get corporally free will this situation creates their distance with their own roots.

1.2. Research Questions

1. How does *The Attic Child* represent the construction of identity crisis within the context of colonial domination?
2. How do characters negotiate and assert their individuality within the constraints of colonial oppression?

1.3. Objectives of the Research

1. To explore how *The Attic Child* represents the construction of identity crisis within the context of colonial domination.
2. To examine how characters, negotiate and assert their individuality within the constraints of colonial oppression.

1.4. Significance of the Research

This research is important because it highlights how individuals lost their self-consciousness as a result of psychological trauma which they suffer during subjugation of dominantes. This research discusses the enslavement of people who belong to black ancestors and white individual who suffered in her own home. This study explores how the black subject's spirit faces unawareness after the encounter of the abuse of the white community due to discrimination.

1.5. Statement of the Problem

This research is about the harsh reality of enslavement under the domination of powerful humans by applied Fanon's Postcolonial Theory on Jaye's *Attic Child*. In this study the consequences explored of inhumanity of West towards the people of black skin and the sufferings of people who face abuse within their own home during slavery. This investigation highlights the experiences of colonizers and the reduce of their self-awareness due to the discrimination coming from another race.

1.6. Delimitation

This research is limited to identity crisis of characters and domination in the novel *Attic Child* by Lola Jaye and for data analysis Fanon's *Black Skin White Mask* (1952) selected.

2. Theoretical Framework

To analysis data related to identity crisis and domination of white people on the people who belong to black community Fanon's Postcolonial Theory applied from *Black Skin White Mask* (1952).

2.1. Identity Crisis of Colonized

In *Black Skin White Mask* (1952) Fanon explained that due to the abusive behavior of those who belong to white skin tone towards the people those belong to black community cause the inner conflict of their identities. And they are unable to define themselves as valuable due to the viewpoint about them which is describes as that they are inferior to other races. Dizayi (2019) highlighted that Fanon said due to the odd behavior of the dominates towards the people of color make them try to change their existence that ends them towards their identity devastation.

In *Black Skin White Mask* (1952) Fanon said that the violence of the Western community shattered the people of black origin that make them unaware of their own thoughts due to the traumatic encounters of their lives. He said the people of color give up in front the perspectives of the white community that is why they are in lake of self-identities. The inhumanity of the dominates affects identities individually and collectively. He highlighted the sense of equality of the people of the color always hit by systematically that promotes domination of Western society.

Black communities have the overwhelming urge to look like the white community due to the emotional strain in which they suffered. Through the concept of alienation Fanon pointed out that the thinking pattern of the black community is influenced by their surrounding and they feel confused within their own selves. The concept of belonging of the black skin shattered that moves them towards their emotional discomfort and inner struggle. Alienation highlights the situation in which the colonized start sees themselves through the organized stance of the colonizers.

2.2. Domination of Colonizers

In *Black Skin White Mask* (1952) Fanon identified that domination of the Western communal on the people of color takes their self-awareness and this more facilities dominates to get command on them as inferior. Fanon focused on that the people of white skin hold an opinion that they are superior to black community. He pointed out that Western has created stereotypes associated with black people to get domination on them. He highlighted that under the authority of white skin black people suffer enslavement and due to this they face identity crisis. Fanon pointed out the struggle of the black community within the white community that lead them towards the cycle of their odd sense in which they try to find their belonging with the place which is not for their existence.

3. Data Analysis

3.1. Unawareness of enslaved

In the novel *The Attic Child* throughout the novel characters are suffering from the

loss of their identity because of the domination. Jaye in this story is focused on the loss of self-awareness of both black people and white people that specified this novel as the representation of the loss of identity of humans related to different races under the control of the colonizers.

Due to racism the protagonist of the novel Dikembe suffering in identity crisis from the start of the novel to the end of the novel. The domination of white people creates the feeling of doubt towards the reality of black people and it became the reason of their loss of inner self. As “We sat under the tall limba tree that day, with no idea these were the last days of paradise” (Jaye, 2022, p. 1). This line indicates towards the feeling of his unclear thoughts that leads him towards his self-conflict. Characters are not sure that they will remain same or not after this day. This line gives the hint of Dikembe’s loss of identity at the start of the story. It shows how colonizers take control psychologically without the realization of black people. In slavery slaves have fear of capturing other family members those who are not slaves and due to this fear when Dikembe’s brother Kabili see Dikembe behind them in the forest he feels unsafe about Dikembe. So he reacted different than normal life due to the emotions of terror of colonizers which he faced in his subjugation. “Kabili had never treated me in this way before. However, in that movement, I did not recognize him” (Jaye, 2022, p. 5). Dikembe notice his changed behavior that reflects the inner conflict of slaves when they sense that may be their family members get under the domination of white’s supremacy like them. Control of white people challenges the identity and it impact on the psyche of the people those who belong to the community of black skin tone. Sometimes slaves behave harshly with those people who never faced their hard side and this occurs because of their trauma of subjugation. This situation shows that Kabili suffering from the psychological effects and he is in the conflict of identity. He changed his behavior like colonizers as colonizers have dominated nature but actually he never behaved like this at his home.

Due to the brutal acts of colonizers colonized people loss their senses of self-awareness like other people have. The continuously effects of domination create human’s inner conflict during their enslavement. Like after the murder of Dikembe’s father her mother not communicated anything for sometimes due to the shock of her husband’s loss. “Mama did not speak and no longer beckoned me into her arms for comfort. She no longer even acknowledge me or anyone” (Jaye, 2022, p. 11). She is unable to connect with her thoughts to involve in discussion with Dikembe because of the trauma of the sudden death of her partner. It specifies that she suffers from psychological damage and lost her identity as a mother that leads her towards the inability to link with her family. She is in identity crisis due to the brutality of colonizers and traumatized because of this event. This situation reflects how much hard for the family of the victim of colonized to understand that they lost their family member due to the brutal actions of colonizers without victim’s any fault.

“A different kind of life began to exist in an unfamiliar haze” (Jaye, 2022, p. 12). This line highlights that how Dikembe feels unrelated to the life after his father’s death. This indicates his identity crisis related to his previous life because he was unaware before this event from any danger for him and for his family. And the life he was living far away from the actual life of his family because they did not discuss with him about their life under the oppression of white people. This new life indicates him towards something different that was hidden from him. He sensed something was missing that not in his knowledge. Because of the death of his father he knows that this sense of new life is going to tell him something. With the traumatic effect of this event he realizes that now the life is going to happen will not be like the previous life they had. This statement shows how black people lost their past identities and how such harsh events bring a huge change in their psyche due to the racial attacks by white community. After seen the murder of his father and the pain of family members Dikembe feels odd connection with his hometown that indicates towards his crisis of self and his belongings to this place. “The familiarity of the area in which I had lived my entire life now appeared disrespectful somehow” (Jaye, 2022, p. 12). He feels disrespectful in his own home because it looks unsafe for his family. He feels the presence of domination that took their respect that means they lost their identity related to the area in which they lived. This condition reflects how white’s domination take past of their ancestors and reconstruct their whole sense of belonging to their people and land. It also highlights that slaves sense the danger in their own people that give them a sense of otherness within their own identity. “I no longer recognized my own life and those who occupied it” (Jaye, 2022, p. 13). This line shows how Dikembe suffers from the crisis of person hood after witnessing his father’s brutal death and the changed behavior of his family. He is unable to see his life as it was before this tragic incident. Now he knows that his family is under the danger of someone’s domination. He is in the inner conflict to find the reality of his life that who and why someone killed his father at work place. He does not know about the control of white people on slaves but he indirectly senses the changes in his identity. Because somehow he understands that his family is captured by some evil people that effects their lives. “The long sleeves of my robe felt itchy under the warm sun, but Mama had insisted I dress in my best clothes for the occasion” (Jaye, 2022, p.21). It indicates that the white people recreate the appearance of their slaves through imposing their own dressing style. When Dikembe’s mother wait to give her child to Sir Richard she gives clothes to her son according the life style of the white community that shows how blacks consider themselves miss fit in the society of white people if they not wear dresses like them. It highlights that to fit in their society they try to change their way of living that leads them towards their identity crisis.

Jaye focused in this novel that how white people took the essence of blacks’ ancestors by forcing their own language on them. “He insisted I learn a little English but I

found this very difficult at first, each syllable sitting uncomfortably on my tongue” (Jaye, 2022, p. 26). This line said by Dikembe shows his unfamiliar understand with the Western world and especially with white people’s mother tongue. It reflects the feeling of an outsider of him with the interaction of new language. It shows the reinforcement of new things on black people to shape the whole existence of enslaved according to the desire of colonizers. As Dikembe said “He expected me to match his excitement at learning English” (Jaye, 2022, p. 26). It reflects the desire of the colonizers to convert their slaves into the shape of their own measurements. It shows how colonizers control on the emotions of the black people and they want to make a slave excited to adopt their new identity. “He expected me to match” expressed the real meaning of the domination in which powerful person wants to bring the weak person at the stage in which he fulfills his expectations. It is clearly the representation of the white society and their inner desires to take emotionally control on the Afro people and give them a sense of identity crisis. This statement tells that the colonizers want to change their slaves according to their options without focusing on the emotional damage of slave and their inner crisis.

“Like someone looking in on another person’s existence, I started to feel like I wasn’t in my own body, disassociated from everything and everyone around me” (Jaye, 2022, p. 34). This line highlights that how much Lowra separated from her previous identity due to the psychological effects of slavery in the same attic in which Dikembe survived in the past years. She lost her self-hood as Lowra who lived with her parents that life was without any trauma. She says she see herself as an outsider in her own self that reflects her identity crisis. She is same Lowra physically but mentally she changed with her traumatic events that occurred in her past. “And everyone around me” tells that she feels safe in her new identity that she achieved through her isolation rather than connection with the things around her. It represents her isolated behavior due to the inner conflicts of her identity even with her own body. It shows how a traumatized person who faced slavery lost association not only with her previous identity even he unable to recognize with her existence as a new person. It defines the both identity crisis with the previous life and with the present life due to the psychological effect of living under the controlled environment.

“But here’s the thing: it my home, my life no longer felt safe. it felt contaminated, and I didn’t know who I had become, if that makes sense” (Jaye, 2022, p. 34). This condition of Lowra after her involvement with a boy in a relationship gives her the sense of disconnection with her comfortable life that was beyond the interference of anyone in her life. She suffers from the isolated nature because of her experiences of the past that leads her towards the psychological damage. This shows how much psychological she effected because of the domination of her step mother in her childhood and enslavement in a room. She avoids all type of relationships with humans but she got involved in this factor to distract herself but it gave her the more sense of crisis related to herself. As “no

longer felt safe” reflects her inner conflict with her previous life in which she was unconscious about this feeling of attachment with any human in her life. It shows that a traumatized person in slavery feels unsafe in the presence of another human in her own place and at the same time she feels the unfamiliarity with her own existence.

“This man, this voice, had just said my entire name, including the middle name I never used or even liked because it sounded too posh. It belonged to another person, another life” (Jaye, 2022, p. 38). Lowra do not like her full name when someone use to call her because she left her previous identity that caused her the feeling of trauma. She feels that it is not related to her current existence because in past she tries to overcome the domination of her step mother by taking the decision of leaving her entire home. This odd feeling towards her name shows her identity crisis with her real identification. A slaves see himself in the mirror as a new person mentally but psychically he stays the same because of the effects of the domination on his mind. These effects occupy more seriously on his mind rather than on his body. “The boy in front of the free-standing oak mirror wasn’t me” (Jaye, 2022, p. 68).

During slavery people suffer from inner crisis and when they see themselves in the mirror they realize the change in their lives not in their appearance. Celestine feels as another person in the mirror because he lost his identity as a Celestine who lived with his family without the knowledge of any slavery of his family in Africa. But now he lost the love of his family, origin, and his name too. That is why he observes himself as an outsider who lost his previous identity but still have the memories of the past person in his mind.

“I knew this was what I wanted, and constantly thinking of my family was a distraction with the power to thwart this part of my destiny” (Jaye, 2022, p.144). This shows that Celestine lost his previous identity that he belonged to an African family. He thinks about his family as a distraction in the way of get success. It highlights that when colonizers provide some facilities to the colonized it break their previous identities as Sir Richard gave him the opportunity to get education. Celestine not only thought his family as a distraction for himself infect he wants to become as white people. “This man was clearly very learned and I hoped to be like that one day. And even wiser than my father, for my source of knowledge was to be from more than the natural world around me” (Jaye, 2022, p. 145). He wants to get power like colonizers and considers his African people inferior than them that emphasizes on his inner crisis. His identity crisis identifies through this statement “After betraying my father by embracing my new name and thinking of his experiences as inferior to my current one . . . I had no interest in taking myself back to that part of my life” (Jaye, 2022, p. 150). That shows that he accepted his new identity reconstructed by colonizer and he do not want to bring back his previous identity. It also defines his trauma because he does not want to feel the same situation that become the cause of his current sufferings.

“When she did open the door, it was her outline I saw first. To begin with I thought this was a dream, or a nightmare” (Jaye, 2022, p. 195). This statement of Lowra indicates towards her inner conflict due to her trauma in the slavery. It shows how she is unable to accept her identity as a slave and she is considering this situation as a harsh dream. Lowra waits for her step mother who looked her in the attic but when she opens the door of the attic then she confuses in her own inner conflicts between the reality and fake situation that defines her identity crisis. On the other hand, Celestine also face this familiar situation at the same place. As he said “I questioned the validity of my memories, confused between imagination and reality” (Jaye, 2022, p. 197). He also looked in between the reality and imagines that defines his mental condition that occurred due to the time period that he spent in the attic in his enslavement. The repetition of these events for two years removed his senses of differentiate in actual events and in its own fears.

“I’d lost track of the days, weeks and months as every day had blurred into one. Each day the monotony so stark and obvious that nothing outside it made sense to me anymore” (Jaye, 2022, p. 222). This defines that Celestine feels unconscious about the present moment due to the lack of self-awareness under the enslavement of Agatha and Cyril. It shows that a slave bounded in a limited area and there is not any connection of him with the actual time and the people of his era outside the room that makes stronger impact of domination on his psyche. “Hearing these names allowed them to sound real once again and not a figment of a past that sometimes felt imaginary” (Jaye, 2022, p. 224). Celestine feels uncertainty towards the existence of his family in the past because of his inner conflicts. It highlights that slavery took the essence of family’s images in the mind of slaves. He considers his family and their names as part of his imagination due to the psychological effects on his self-awareness. “I could see her in the mirror, smiling – at me or her reflection, I did not know which” (Jaye, 2022, p. 276). Due to the traumatic effect of rape Celestine senses the reflection of Agatha as his own thoughts. This indicates that he is looked in between his consciousness and unconsciousness due to the abusive behavior of white people under the enslavement. “This money had not suddenly filled me with joy – that part of me was gone” (Jaye, 2022, p. 288). After getting freedom from the slavery of the attic and the control of Agatha and Cyril Celestine got good financial status by his hard work and the wealth left by Sir Richard was enough for his establishment. But this money not give him what he really wants and cannot return what he lost in the past because of this enslavement. This statement of Celestine shows that even a slave gets better life style but he never gets again his life that colonizers took from him. It defines the grief of Celestine created by white people’s supremacy and the empty space of his heart that has not any price tag to fill. This statement shows that slavery take all the happiness of a slave that never overcome by achieving anything because it lefts the deep cuts on the mental state of the individual.

3.2. Control of Dominance

“Would accompany our father on journeys outside the village and be gone sometimes for weeks at a time” (Jaye, 2022, p. 2). This line explains the domination of white people on black people that how they take work from them without any fixed schedule and without any limit. It highlights that how black people work under the oppression of white’s supremacy far away from their families and face oppression during their enslavement. Under the domination of slave owner’s slaves usually not raise their voices and prefer to keep quite as Dikembe’s father did. “I waited for my father to spring into action, but the silence felt piercing and prolonged because he did nothing” (Jaye, 2022, p.5). This emotion less reaction of his father creates the doubtful emotions of Dikembe because he was unaware of his family’s slavery under the domination of white people. It reflects how the supremacy of colonizers have impact on each move of the colonized against them.

“It was only now that I noticed how much he resembled our father” (Jaye, 2022, p.13). This statement of Dikembe about his brother Kabili reflects how the colonizers see all the slaves with one lens. It indicates towards their way of repression on the slaves and its impact on the mental health of the slaves. Here “resembled” means that all slaves have similar faith and they face equal hardships during subjugation that make their lives similar with each other and this aspect shows on their appearance. Black people see the domination of colonizers as inhuman act and they consider them as animals too like white people see blacks as uncivilized. “As he reeled off stories of a wild beast who had stared at him as he chopped wood” (Jaye, 2022, p.15). Dikembe points out towards his father’s words that shows that black people tells their children about the reality of beasts that give them the sense of understanding of upcoming danger. It reflects how the domination of white people have impact on the lives of black community that they feel themselves among the beasts not in humans because of their brutality. It also highlights that white slaveholders impose their commands on their slaves as they are machines not humans. It defines that Whites not only they take work forcefully from them infect they keep their eyes continually on their work to give them the realization of living under the control of their powerful structure. As “yet there it was, large and overpowering, a metal beast!” (Jaye, 2022, p.23). Here the ship that took Dikembe from his family to English society called by Dikembe a beast. It indicates towards the forced displacement by colonizers by using their characteristics of nonhuman creature. It shows their brutal nature that they take their children for childhood slavery from their hometown and treat them harshly.

“As they always appeared to have their noses elevated and their upper bodies rigid” (Jaye, 2022, p. 69). This statement shows that Dikembe is considering white people’s appearance as a tool of domination that indicates towards their domination on blacks. It defines that black people not only feel the supremacy of white community on them by their

actions even their appearance tells them that blacks are not willing to compete with them. This express the psychological effects of white's brutal personalities that they always remain elevated their control on the people who belong to the black skin tone community. It also points out the manipulative nature of the colonizers that their bodies directly speak the language that left the fear on the minds of the colonized people. Lowra's step mother always treated her with harsh words that make easy to impose her control on her. She always pointed out that now Lowra have the dependency on her to survive in her own home that indicates towards the colonizer's dominated feature to mentally disturb the victim as "I'm the one keeping a roof over our heads, me!" This was my dad's house, I wanted to say, but to make her angrier than this was a risk I no longer wished to take" (Jaye, 2022, p. 130). It shows how colonizers represents colonizer's own property under their control that effects the lives of colonized people and they feel helpless in front of their violent behaviors. "It doesn't matter where you may have started, this is where you now live, and it is a land that has given you many opportunities, one of which is attending one of the best schools in the country" (Jaye, 2022, p.148). When Celestine take his first class his teacher tried to make his identity inferior by telling him that now you are living here not in Africa. It also highlights how colonizers show that they provide the opportunities to black people that are far away from their freedom and more valuable than their statues in the society. "We go to these countries and do our best to make their lives better,' Mr. Prentice lectured. 'We civilize the occupants so they can become good, don't we?" (Jaye 2022, p.160). Colonizers commit violence on the black people and bring them in their own countries as Sir Richard did with Celestine. They say we are trying to make their lives better than their real situation in Africa by changing their whole identity. It shows their duplicity and colonizers' brutal actions behind their label of we are trying to make them like us.

"And then you will begin the household chores" (Jaye, 2022, p.186). Agatha gave the order to Celestine to work of home because Agatha and Cyril not considered him companion as Richard said to him. This indicates that white people make children of black people their servants and take work from them. It highlights the dominance on the black people by English community that they have the perspective that all black skin tone humans are their servants and this is beyond the age limit. Lowra's stepmother gives the order to her to react as normal children do after her stay in the attic for many days without any basic facilities. She is not concerned about her health that points out the harsh behavior of colonizers for the colonized. "You will wash, get dressed, you will comb that hair of yours, and you'll come down and wait for your gran and let her know that everything is fine" (Jaye, 2022, p. 200). This identify that colonizers keep all the control on the emotions of the victims and they give them order to make their emotions according to their own desires. This statement of her step mother also shows that the colonizers always remain

their image clean in front of others that help them to control the colonized in a better manner because when people see the colonizer as a good human in the eyes of others it creates the helpless feeling for the victim of the enslavement. “Now, it was once again a cycle of never-ending work without reward. My life was tinged with a growing pointlessness, becoming harder and harder to shift” (Jaye, 2022, p. 254). Agatha and Cyril get work from Celestine regularly without providing him the basic rights of their servant that indicates towards their control on his life. It reflects the brutal system of enslavement under the domination of slaveholders that they not pay anything in return of their hard work like other people of the world get. It shows the continually struggle of black people in slavery and forced labor committed on Celestine by Agatha and her husband in the novel *The Attic Child*. It highlights that Agatha and Cyril not only want to get all the things of Richard after his death even they consider Celestine the companion of Richard as their own servant because he belongs to African origin. It defines that no matter black people called companion or slaves of white people they always consider and treat as servants of white people.

4. Conclusion

This research explored the loss of self-awareness of the subjects of the novel the *Attic Child* by applied Fanon’ Postcolonial theory from *Black Skin White Mask* (1952). This research explored the identity crisis of all the characters of both races of Jaye’s novel which moved from their past to present and reshaped their psychological experiences. Dikembe forcefully transformed Celestine into the name of betterment but ended up suffering his identity crisis in Jaye’s novel. On the other hand, Lowra also faced the same damage even though she was not from his race. This investigated pointed out the universal discrimination towards black, and the experience of subjugation, became the reason of fear and crisis of self. The exposure of colonial brutality reflected through this research and highlighted how the human mind reshapes according to the encountered experiences.

This study explored that domination not only bound to the concept of imposing the language, dressing style, and culture on the people who are in enslavement even it develops the confusion between the reality and hardships of enslaves. This study also highlighted the aspects of colonial oppression in which the people who suffered loss their recognition by the deny of their own ancestors’ tradition that can be seen in Celestine’s character. This research also examined isolation of the enslaves and how their thoughts shift between past and present as psychological consequences in Jaye’s novel *Attic Child*.

This study pointed out through the character of Lowra that whenever enslaved face familiar surroundings, they feel a sense of attachment to that time when they faced all the brutality of the dominantes and this condition pointed out towards the dissociation of enslavement. This investigation explored that freedom after enslavement has no meaning

because the enslaved human limited to his experiences that promotes his present awareness towards his past identity. As both main characters of this novel Dikembe and Lowra found freedom from them dominates but bounded in their inner conflicts.

This study explored that as the result of subjugation a human's internal conflict dims his ability to stay in present that gives him scars which move from generation to generation. This research pointed out that enslaved experienced different kind of life that reshaped by fear, hunger, aggression, and discomfort of dark places. In this investigation focused that after getting escape from the attic they both never got their selfhood back and this situation of human psyche mirror the contaminated outcomes of trauma of domination.

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