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1. What is postcolonialism? What are the features of postcolonial literature? Do you find them in the play *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare? How? Elaborate your answer with proper examples from the text.

Answer: Postcolonialism is a cultural, literary, and intellectual perspective that studies the impacts of colonialism and imperialism on cultures and societies. It aims to deconstruct the power dynamics and cultural representations created during colonial rule and highlights the voices and perspectives of colonized peoples. It focuses on the ways in which power and cultural, economic, and political relationships are shaped by the history of colonialism and the ongoing effects of colonialism on the present day. Postcolonialism seeks to challenge the dominant cultural narratives that arose during the colonial era, and to give voice to marginalized perspectives and experiences. The field encompasses a wide range of issues such as race, ethnicity, nationalism, identity, language, migration, globalization, and resistance to colonial rule.

Postcolonial literature is characterized by several features that reflect the experiences and perspectives of colonized peoples and cultures:

- **Decolonization and resistance:** Postcolonial literature often deals with the theme of decolonization, which refers to the process of shedding the cultural, political, and economic influence of colonialism. Postcolonial literature often depicts the struggle for independence and the resistance to colonial rule and cultural hegemony.
- **Hybrid identities:** Postcolonial literature explores the blending of cultural and personal identities that results from colonialism and the ongoing impact of colonialism on people's lives. Many postcolonial writers explore the idea of hybrid cultures, which emerge as a result of the interaction between colonizers and colonized people.
- **Re-examination of history:** Postcolonial literature often re-examines history from the perspective of colonized people, highlighting the ways in which history has been distorted by colonial narratives. Postcolonial literature challenges the dominant historical narratives that were imposed by colonial powers and provides alternative perspectives on the past. Postcolonial literature seeks to give voice to the experiences and perspectives of marginalized groups, including people of color, indigenous peoples, and those from colonized countries.
- **Reassertion of cultural values:** Postcolonial literature seeks to reclaim and celebrate the cultural values, traditions, and identities that were suppressed or marginalized during the colonial period.
- **Globalization:** Postcolonial literature also addresses the effects of globalization, which have often perpetuated colonial power structures.
- **Multiculturalism:** Postcolonial literature often explores the cultural diversity that results from the interactions between colonizers and colonized people.
- **Exploration of power relationships:** Postcolonial literature often focuses on the unequal power relationships between colonizers and colonized peoples, and the ways in which these relationships shape culture and identity.
- **Critique of colonialism:** Postcolonial literature often critiques the power dynamics and cultural hierarchies established during colonialism and their ongoing effects.
- **The legacy of colonialism:** Postcolonial literature explores the ongoing effects of colonialism and imperialism on people and cultures, including issues of identity, cultural displacement, and economic exploitation.

The *Tempest* by William Shakespeare can be considered a postcolonial text, as it explores themes of colonialism, power dynamics, and cultural encounter. The play reflects on the process of colonization and the ways in which it shapes relationships between colonizers and colonized people. It reflects many of the themes and concerns that are central to postcolonial theory. In the play, Shakespeare presents a complex portrayal of colonial power dynamics, colonial exploitation, and cultural hybridity. The play's central conflict is between the protagonist, Prospero, who is the rightful Duke of Milan, and his usurping brother Antonio, who has taken over the dukedom with the help of the King of Naples. In this sense, the play can be seen as a meditation on the ways in which colonialism and imperialism result in the displacement and dispossession of colonized peoples.

One of the key postcolonial themes in *The Tempest* is the idea of power and control. The play's central character, Prospero, is a former Duke of Milan who has been exiled to an island, and has become its rightful ruler through the use of magic. The play also features several other characters who are in positions of power and control, including Antonio, who has taken over Prospero's dukedom, and Caliban, the indigenous inhabitant of the island who has been subject to Prospero's rule. The relationship between Prospero and Caliban is an important example of the power dynamic that is central to colonialism. Prospero's domination of Caliban is a clear representation of the colonial relationship between colonizer and colonized. Prospero claims that he has taught Caliban language, religion, and culture, and that in return, Caliban owes him obedience. Caliban's attempts to resist Prospero's domination can be seen as a critique of colonialism and the dehumanizing effects of colonial exploitation. The relationships between these characters illustrate the complex power dynamics that exist between colonizers and colonized people.

In the play, Prospero is depicted as a colonizer who has claimed the island as his own and enslaved Caliban. The character of Caliban represents the oppressed and exploited masses who are subjected to the will of the colonizer. Caliban's attempts to reclaim his power and resist the colonial power are seen as acts of resistance. For example, when Caliban is plotting against Prospero, he says, "This island's mine, by Sycorax my mother, / Which thou tak'st from me. When thou camest first, / Thou strokedst me, and mad'st much of me, wouldst give me / Water with berries in't, and teach me how / To name the bigger light, and how the less, / That burn by day and night. And then I loved thee / And showed thee all the qualities o'th'isle, / The fresh springs, brine-pits, barren place and fertile. / Cursed be I that did so." (Act 1, Scene 2). This passage shows Caliban's resentment and frustration towards Prospero, who has taken the island from him and enslaved him.

Another central postcolonial theme in *The Tempest* is the idea of hybridity and cultural encounter. The play is set on an island that is a microcosm of the colonial world, and the interactions between the various characters result in a mix of cultures and identities. For example, Caliban's hybrid identity, as a native inhabitant of the island who has been exposed to European culture, is a reflection of the cultural mixing that occurs as a result of colonialism. Additionally, the play's representation of the island as a site of cultural and racial mixing challenges the idea of a pure, homogeneous cultural identity, which was a central tenet of colonial ideology. The play features a number of characters who represent different cultural backgrounds and perspectives, including Europeans, Africans, and indigenous peoples. For example, Caliban represents the indigenous peoples of the island, and his relationship with Prospero and the other characters reflects the ongoing struggle

for power and control that has arisen as a result of colonialism. Additionally, the play also features the character of Ariel, who is a spirit, and represents the hybrid nature of the island itself, which has been shaped by the interactions of different cultures.

A third postcolonial theme in *The Tempest* is the idea of re-examination of history. Throughout the play, Prospero reflects on his own past and the events that led to his exile. He also reflects on the history of the island and its people, including Caliban, who has been subject to his rule. By re-examining the past, Prospero comes to understand the ways in which colonialism has shaped relationships between colonizers and colonized people, and he ultimately renounces his magic and power, symbolizing a rejection of colonialism.

One of the most notable examples of postcolonial themes in *The Tempest* can be seen in the relationship between Prospero and Caliban. Caliban is the indigenous inhabitant of the island, and his relationship with Prospero reflects the power dynamics that have arisen as a result of colonialism. Caliban has been subject to Prospero's rule, and has been forced to serve him. However, Caliban also resents Prospero's rule, and seeks to reclaim his power and control over the island. This struggle for power and control between Prospero and Caliban represents the ongoing legacy of colonialism and its effects on the present day.

The Tempest also challenges the dominant colonial narrative through its representation of history. The play's portrayal of colonial exploitation and enslavement runs counter to the historical narratives that justified colonialism as a civilizing mission. By depicting the brutal realities of colonial rule, *The Tempest* undermines the notion that colonialism was a benevolent force that brought civilization and enlightenment to the colonized world.

Another example of postcolonial themes in *The Tempest* can be seen in the relationship between Antonio and Prospero. Antonio is the former Duke of Milan who has taken over Prospero's dukedom, and his relationship with Prospero reflects the power dynamics of colonialism. Antonio is in a position of power and control, and has used his power to oppress others, including Prospero. This relationship illustrates the ongoing legacy of colonialism and its effects on the present day, as well as the ongoing struggle for power and control that has arisen as a result of colonialism.

In "*The Tempest*," Shakespeare also explores the cultural exchange that occurs between colonizers and colonized peoples. The play portrays the island as a site of cultural hybridity, where different cultures intersect and influence one another. This is demonstrated in the relationship between Caliban and Stephano, a drunken butler from the shipwrecked party, who represent different cultural traditions. Despite their different backgrounds, Caliban and Stephano form a bond based on their shared desire to overthrow Prospero and gain control of the island.

"*The Tempest*" can also be seen as a critique of colonialism and imperialism. Shakespeare portrays the actions of Antonio and the King of Naples as a form of tyranny and oppression that are destructive not only to the colonized peoples but also to the colonizers themselves. Through the character of Prospero, the play also raises questions about the morality of colonialism and the responsibilities of colonizers towards colonized peoples. *The Tempest* also critiques the power dynamics established during colonialism and their ongoing effects. The play explores the ways in which the colonizer exerts control over the colonized and the ways in which the colonized resist this control. For example, when

Caliban tries to resist the power of Prospero, he says, "Thou didst prevent me; I had peopled else / This isle with Calibans." (Act 1, Scene 2). This passage shows Caliban's resentment towards Prospero for preventing him from populating the island with his own people.

The play also deals with the theme of decolonization, as it explores the process of shedding the cultural, political, and economic influence of colonialism. In the play, the character of Caliban seeks to overthrow Prospero and gain control of the island, reflecting the desire for decolonization and independence among colonized peoples.

In conclusion, *The Tempest* is a rich and complex postcolonial text that explores themes of power, cultural encounter, and re-examination of history. Through its portrayal of relationships between colonizers and colonized people, the play reflects on the ongoing effects of colonialism and its legacy in the present day. *The Tempest* also challenges the dominant colonial narrative through its representation of history. Overall, "*The Tempest*" is a complex and nuanced exploration of postcolonial themes that offers a critique of colonialism and imperialism, and highlights the power dynamics and cultural exchange that are central to postcolonial discourse. The play's portrayal of colonial exploitation and enslavement runs counter to the historical narratives that justified colonialism as a civilizing mission. By depicting the brutal realities of colonial rule, *The Tempest* undermines the notion that colonialism was a benevolent force that brought civilization and enlightenment to the colonized world. By exploring these themes, *The Tempest* invites its audience to reflect on the ongoing legacy of colonialism and to consider the ways in which it has shaped our world today.