

SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR THESES OF MONTH

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Department : English

Branch/Area : Canadian Literature

Sub Subject Heading : Canadian Postmodern literature

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Title of the Thesis:

A Study on the Disoriented Postmodern World in Select Novels of Michael Ondaatje

Nomenclature of Degree : Ph. D

Month & Year of Enrolment : August 2009

Month & Year of Registration : August 2009

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Month & Year of Award : 2014

Name of Supervisor (s) : Dr. Chitra Sivasubramaniam

Designation of Supervisor(s) : Assistant Professor (SG)

Contd

Centre/Department/School in which Research was conducted: English

University's Name & Address : Avinashilingam University for Women
Coimbatore – 641 043

Abstract : Annexure1

i) **Major Objectives:**

ii) **Hypothesis:**

iii) **Methodology:**

- Sample
- Instruments/tools used
- Statistical techniques/designs
- Experimental
- Observation
- Inference
- Any other (Please Specify)

iv) **Findings :**

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A Study on the Disoriented Postmodern World in Select Novels of Michael Ondaatje

Abstract

The research on the select novels of Michael Ondaatje such as *Coming Through Slaughter*, *Running in the Family*, *In the Skin of a Lion*, *The English Patient*, and *Anil's Ghost* intends to assess Ondaatje as a foremost practitioner of postmodern elements who has utilised his fiction as a powerful weapon to bring about reforms in the society. The thesis highlights how the grand hopes associated with global or totalising forms of modernist social theory have lost credibility with the realisation that the scientific knowledge, socio-economic, cultural conditions and human experiences are subjected to the changes in the world. So the research analyses the condition of the postmodern world from the sociological, psychological, and historiographical aspects of postmodernism. Barry Smart's *Modern Conditions, Postmodern Controversies*, Stuart Hall's *Questions of Cultural Identity*, Jean Francois Lyotard's *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge* are few among the many books that substantiate the research and help in comprehending the condition of Ondaatje's characters in the postmodern world.

The study explores how his novels consider violence, poverty, marginalisation, and sense of displacement as the major threats to mankind in the postmodern world. It stresses the effort of his protagonists to grapple with the convulsions and the hybridisation in the society to live a balanced life. The research proposes to affirm exquisite reorientation in the political scenario of the present society by demanding recognition and equal status of his characters belonging to diverse races and class. Moreover, it offers hope and courage to the future generations by advocating a democratic form of governance with the evolution of amiable society.