

## ABSTRACT

Colonialism and its Influence on Patrick White's Predicament of Dispossession and Communion with his Native Land

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This paper attempts to clarify through an analysis of three novels the issue of how Patrick White whose Australian experience differs from the traditional concept of The Colonial Experience, expresses through his characters and his language, the feeling of dispossession and communion with his native land.

For White, there is a connecting link which aids in the resolution of the conflict which is termed Dispossession and Communion. Resolution involves White's powers of reason and his will to overcome obstacles which block his way towards some kind of Epiphany.

The Tree of Man, Voss and A Fringe of Leaves, manifest a progressive movement from an indispensable foundational relationship between White and Nature, to a form of reconciliation with

his native land, and his God. Therefore these books are, philosophically speaking, a reaching out by White to find a new self just as Colonialism was Man's attempt to move above and beyond his human condition.

In addition to this philosophical base, there is in these novels, a systematic structure and an association of ideas which point the way towards the integration of three areas:

1. A recognition and acceptance of the crucial role Old World dispositions have for White.
2. An understanding of the importance of New World discoveries.
3. An awareness of the necessity for the removal to a more primordial world in order to find 'true self'.

However, although in these novels White communicates his ideas extremely well, they do not entirely explain and resolve the conflict of Dispossession and Communion which is implicit in his work.

The inability of White to express the core of his dilemma leaves him still in the realm of "becoming".