



Critiquing Imperialism and its Effects on Humanity in Science Fiction with Reference to H.G.Wells's *The War of the Worlds*

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Abstract: The researcher aims at bringing out the nature of imperialism and how it is highlighted in Science Fiction especially in H.G.Wells's *The War of the Worlds*. The text projects the galactic imperialism. The researcher studies the text from the imperialistic point of view by illustrating the social, geo-political, psychological and cultural relation and also the similarities and difference between the Martian society and the European society depicted in the text.

Keywords: Science Fiction, Imperialism, Galaxy, Narration.

INTRODUCTION

H.G.Wells's *The War of the Worlds* is an impression, taken from life, of the conquest by the European whites of a certain portion of the world, an impression in particular of the civilizing methods of a great European trading company face to face with the non-Europeans. In this story, human life, both Earthmen and Martians, is presented as an unusually serious affair. Wells's art here lies in his catching of the infinite shades of the Martians's uneasy disconcerted and fantastic relations with the Earthmen. The weirdness, the brilliance, the psychological truth of this masterly analysis of two worlds in conflicts, of the deep gulf between the Martians' technologically superior system and the Earthmen's comprehension of its results is conveyed to us through a rapidly moving narrative of war events. The novel begins with Martians visit and attack the Earth with their powerful weapons. They have had specific purpose

behind visiting. The purpose is to conquest. This is exactly the modern symbol of imperial world- 'the conquest of nature'. This symbol is advocated by modern Science Fiction writers in to the form of galactic imperialism. Ironically in the text Martians attack on the nation England which itself is conqueror of the Earth. Man has established a space travel that is why he is very anxious to establish his significance or presence in the universe. Apart from this he actually aspires to dominate the whole Universe by conquering one planet to another by Time Machine or Space aircraft. He has already established Space Stations in the Galaxy.

Galactic empire may be controlled by humanity and threatened or menaced by alien or it may be an alien oppression threatening the earth. H.G.Wells projects the 20th Century imperialistic violence, self –assertion and brute facts establishing power in this work. The text presents the concept of 'Galactic imperialistic vision' of the author.

The novelist H.G.Wells embodies the persistent fallacy that science can be made to do everything for man. Wells' work dealt almost always with the actual possibilities of invention and discovery .Many of his ideas of inventions have 'come true'. His works such as *The Time Machine* (1895), *The Invisible Man* (1897) and *The War of the Worlds* (1898) are examples of scientific romances.

The relationship between the theory of imperialism and basic element of science fiction i.e. space travel-an exploration of domination of new world of galaxy has been examined in Wells's *The War of the Worlds*. The projection of 'Galactic imperialism' ¹ in the text is very vivid.