

**Postcolonialism Perspective on the Negative Impacts of  
Neoliberal Free Trade Practice in Third World Countries:  
A Case-Study of Tanzania**

**ABSTRACT**

Free trade in the framework of Neoliberalism has become dominant practice in international relations. However, empirical evidences show that free trade gives negative impacts on the lives of people in Third World Countries. In Tanzania, the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) that enforced the country to cut the trade barriers and adhere to the free trade rule cause an economic imbalance and poverty, leading the country toward social insecurity and ecological crisis. Major approaches have been proffered to explain this discrepancy between theory and reality, but it is Postcolonialism lens that this thesis chooses to use. Postcolonialist theories become alternative view to see the phenomena and deconstruct the notion that free trade is the only solution to development. Therefore this thesis is an attempt to deliver critique to neoliberal free trade practice and would like to reveal that the perpetuity of free trade practice rooted from Western colonialism project to implant its identity superiority. It is the complex traumatic legacy left in the psychology of the colonized that underpins the problematic political economy reality in Third World Countries, including the excess of neoliberal free trade. Although the objectives and conclusions reached by this thesis will aim to respond to the broader Sub-Saharan Africa and Third World Countries challenge, the specific case of Tanzania will be used to illustrate the argument.

**Keywords:** Neoliberalism, free trade, Postcolonialism, critique, Third World Countries, complex traumatic legacy, Tanzania