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**"Colonialism's Chains: Breaking Free through Resistance"**

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Paper Received on 19-09-2024, Accepted on 17-10-2024  
Published on 19-10-24; DOI:10.36993/RJOE.2024.9.4.59

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**Abstract:**

The present research throws light on the devastating impacts of colonization on the Indigenous people of Canada, who faced trauma, pain, migration, abduction of children, as well as extortion of residential schools. Richard Wagamese exposes the harsh reality of colonizers on the Indigenous people of Canada through his novel Indian Horse. Here, Colonial Chains is a powerful metaphor that stands in for the brutal structure and repercussions of colonialism. Breaking free through resistance here refers to challenging the supreme narrative and power structure. The current research examines how Saul, the protagonist of the novel, faces the utmost problems throughout his life. He experiences displacement, racial discrimination, family disintegration, and mental sickness. The present research also investigates how Saul regains his Indigenous identity and breaks the chains of colonialism through resistance.

**Keywords:** devastating impacts, displacement, racial discrimination, family disintegration, resistance.

**Introduction:**

Here, colonialism's chains are institutional chains, physical chains, economic chains, psychological chains, and cultural chains. Richard Wagamese's novel Indian Horse is a striking piece of resistance writing that offers us the story of Indigenous children and protagonist Saul. Many Indigenous children, as well as Saul's lives, were changed by the supreme forces in the residential schools. The current research explores the harsh reality of residential schools. Breaking free from resistance refers to resisting against the dominant practices. Saul is the central character in the novel Indian Horse. He is oppressed in residential schools for his indigenous roots. Later, his self-discovery and marvelous execution of his performance with hockey broke colonialism's chains. Finally, he frees himself from the clutches of colonizers by

## Research Journal Of English (RJOE)

An International Peer-Reviewed English Journal Impact Factor: 8.16(SJIF)Vol-9, Issue-4(Oct-Dec),2024  
Indexed in: International Citation Indexing (ICI), Cite factor, International Scientific Indexing (ISI),  
Directory of Research Journal Indexing (DRJI) Google Scholar, Cosmos and Internet Archives.

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resisting with hockey.

The residential schools were established by the Canadian government in order to preach Christianity in those schools. Sharing the word of God is not wrong, but forcefully preaching is abundantly wrong. The Institutional chains refer to the harsh reality of residential schools. In the residential schools, many indigenous children were forcefully admitted. Benjamin is an important character in Indian Horse who is the brother of protagonist Saul. He is abducted by the colonizers and admitted to a residential school. The parents of the children are afraid of the abduction of children. The current research investigates how children are abducted without the consent of their parents and taken to residential schools. These children are stolen from their parents in order to provide them with a good education in the residential schools. The present research also examines that these children were persecuted, beaten, raped, changed their names, erased their languages, and white culture was imposed on Indigenous people. Cultural chains here refer to preaching white culture among the indigenous children. These children were forced to perform Christian prayer in those schools. Praying is not a sin, but forcing others to pray is a sin without their consent. The existing research exposes the naming practices that were at the zeniths in the residential schools. The name of Indigenous children was erased and gave them Christian names in the schools. These naming practices led to the suppression of indigenous identity. The indigenous roots of many children are curbed, and today, they are not familiar with their roots too. They were brutally oppressed in the name of religion and race. The indigenous culture was denigrated by colonizers by imposing their culture. Apart from that, many Indigenous girls were raped by the Fathers of the residential schools. The men of God in the residential schools were drenched with adultery. The Bible says that adultery is a big sin. Simultaneously, those men of God were disobeying the word of God. Saul's family migrated to various places due to the abduction of Saul's brother Benjamin in the novel. The current study also uncovers the chains of migration that led to starvation, deaths, economic depression, and family disintegration. Fear of abduction leads them to cold places where they are unable to grow crops due to immoderate weather. Benjamin dies of tuberculosis due to a cold. Migration proves the bad of thorns to indigenous people instead of the bad of roses. Bad weather caused the disintegration of Saul's family. In spite of that, they were colonized psychologically by colonizers. The psychological chain led them to self-doubt, inferiority complex, and shame. Saul is psychologically oppressed in residential schools for his indigenous identity. He is insulted and discriminated against there. The current research probes that Saul breaks the chains of colonialization through resistance. Breaking through resistance delves: defying the structure of power and dominance, gaining cultural roots, supremacy, and Indigenous identities, retrieving liberation, self-resoluteness, advocating social justice, healing, and ownership. Saul resists colonial oppression through the tremendous execution of his performance in the hockey game. Saul's tremendous career in hockey emerged as his cultural pride and resistance. He gains internal peace and resistance through hockey while he is admitted to St Gerome's residential schools. For him,

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hockey becomes the weapon to grapple with the pain, abuse, shame, and trauma that he faces. The current study explores how Saul earns recognition and respect from the viewers, his teammates, and his coaches. Saul maintains cultural pride and Indigenous identity through hockey. Resisting with hockey helps him to reunify with his Indigenous heritage. He unsheathes vigor for his forefathers and community, utilizing the game to the glory of his cultural traditions. His wounds are healed in the face of colonialism by hockey. He proves that talent cannot be measured on the basis of colors and Indigenous identity. Furthermore, playing for various teams, he discovers himself and his mighty talent. He gets supremacy and Indigenous identity by resisting with hockey. He shakes the dominant colonizers and their powerful structure with his talent. His resisting approach unsettled the colonial regime. Moreover, his resistance to hockey sets him free from colonizers and heals his trauma, agony, and bondages.

### Conclusion:

The present research has examined that true liberation lies not in fleeting triumphs but in retrieving one's identity, culture, and language. Richard Wagamesse's novel *Indian Horse* is the witness of the devastating impacts of residential schools and the adaptability of Indigenous spark. Hockey appears as an emblem of resistance, bestowing breaking from the clutches of oppression. The brutality of the residential school with indigenous children has been exposed in the present study. The existing research has also highlighted the prevalent legacies of colonialism, comprising economic enslavement, culture erasure, migration, social injustice, and racial oppression.

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### How to cite this article?

**Shri Krishan Negi**, "Colonialism's Chains: Breaking Free through Resistance" Research Journal Of English (RJOE)9(3),PP:56-59,2024, DOI:10.36993/RJOE.2024.9.4.59