

# Colonial Entanglements and Ecological Power\_Spice Commodification in Dune Movie.docx

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## **Colonial Entanglements and Ecological Power: Spice Commodification in Dune Movie**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

This research reflects the integration of two crucial aspects in its analysis: colonial entanglement and ecological power in the context of spice commodification in the film *Dune*. The background of this journal is substantially driven by the relevance of its topic in understanding the dynamics of political, economic, and ecological forces that influence the narratives of colonialism and the commodification of natural resources.

The film *Dune*, an adaptation of Frank Herbert's classic novel, presents a fictional world rich in political and ecological complexities (Kennedy, 2021). At the heart of its plot lies a substance that is highly valuable and economically significant, known as "spice." In the film, "spice" is not merely a natural resource but also serves as a key to political power and control over the ecology of the planet Arrakis. The study of how "spice" is represented, commodified, and manipulated in the film *Dune* becomes highly relevant as it provides profound insights into how ecological and colonial powers are intertwined and how the commodification of natural resources can become a tool of political domination.

The analysis of colonial entanglement and ecological power in the film *Dune* can also be applied to real-world contexts. At many points in history, colonialism has been marked by the exploitation of natural resources, where commodities such as spices, grains, and minerals become the primary objects of colonization and power surrender (Rachmaji, 2022). By examining how the film *Dune* portrays these dynamics, this research provides a deeper understanding of how the exploitation of natural resources in the context of colonialism remains relevant to this day.

Hellen Tiffin and Bill Huggan's concept of postcolonial ecocriticism provides a valuable theoretical framework for analyzing the themes of colonial entanglements and ecological power in the "*Dune*" movie. This framework emphasizes the interconnectedness of colonialism and environmental degradation, highlighting how colonial ideologies and practices shape human-environment

relationships. According to (Ashcroft et al., 2000), colonialism often involves the exploitation and appropriation of natural resources from colonized territories, leading to environmental destruction and ecological imbalance . This process is driven by extractive industries seeking to extract maximum profit from colonial territories without regard for the long-term consequences on local ecosystems or indigenous communities.

In the "Dune" movie, the concept of postcolonial ecocriticism allows for an analysis of how the commodification of spice contributes to the environmental exploitation of Arrakis while reflecting deep-rooted issues of cultural marginalization. By examining the power dynamics between the colonial forces controlling spice production and the indigenous Fremen population, the study can elucidate how colonialism shapes environmental practices and perpetuates social inequalities on Arrakis.

Furthermore, postcolonial theory is also relevant for a deeper understanding of how this film addresses issues of power and domination (Vincent, 2018). This theory highlights the relationship between colonization and liberation, and how colonial power structures persist in new forms in the postcolonial era. In this research, postcolonial theory can be used to analyze how the film Dune depicts conflicts among the galaxies, how Arrakis is positioned in the hierarchy of power, and how the commodification of "spice" reflects colonial power dynamics.

In addition to these theories, an interdisciplinary approach can also provide valuable insights into understanding the issues discussed in this research. For example, ecological anthropology can offer perspectives on how humans interact with their ecosystems and how these interactions are influenced by political and economic power. Political sociology can also help analyze how power structures are formed and maintained, and how resistance to colonial domination can emerge.

Thus, research on "Colonial Entanglements and Ecological Power: Spice Commodification in Dune Movie" is not only relevant in film analysis but also has broader implications for understanding the dynamics of colonial power, political ecology, and the commodification of natural resources. Through interdisciplinary approaches and the use of appropriate theories, this research is expected to provide

a deeper understanding of how narratives of colonialism and commodification are reflected and questioned in popular culture.

## B. DISCUSSION

### 1. The Commodification Of Spice In The Dune Movie Contribute To The Environmental Exploitation Of Arrakis

Data 1 (menit 1.20)

The dialogue above reflects the power dynamics of exploitation within the commodification of spice in the film *Dune*, contributing to environmental exploitation on Arrakis. The portrayal of spice harvesters arriving at dusk highlights the economic urgency driving the spice collection process. The "outsiders" race against time to avoid the midday heat, exploiting the land of Arrakis to gather as much spice as possible in a short period. This illustrates how the commodification of spice reinforces the economic dominance of foreign entities controlling the production and distribution of spice. In the theory of Hellen Tiffin and Huggan, this portrayal symbolizes the role of economic colonialism, where foreign powers control natural resources and disregard their impact on the environment and local communities. Therefore, this dialogue illustrates how the commodification of spice in the film *Dune* contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis by emphasizing how external economic interests prioritize over environmental sustainability and the well-being of local communities.

Data 2 (menit 1.31)

The dialogue provides a profound insight into how the commodification of spice in the film *Dune* contributes to the environmental exploitation of Arrakis. The statement "they ravage our lands in front of our eyes. their cruelty to my people is all I've known" depicts how the utilization of natural resources, such as spice, by foreign entities or colonizers, has caused serious environmental damage in the presence of the Fremen, the indigenous people of Arrakis. The dialogue highlights how the practice of commodifying spice has led to blatant environmental destruction on the planet, where their lands are treated cruelly and ruthlessly.

In the theory of Hellen Tiffin and Huggan, this dialogue reflects deeper issues related to the cultural marginalization of the Fremen. They not only witness

the damaging environmental exploitation but also become victims of inhumane treatment by foreign entities dominating the spice harvesting on Arrakis. This indicates how the commodification of spice not only harms the environment but also creates significant social and cultural inequalities between the indigenous inhabitants of Arrakis and the foreign entities dominating the spice economy.

**Data 3 (menit 1.42)**

The dialogue above illustrates the contribution of spice commodification in the film Dune to the environmental exploitation on Arrakis. It highlights how the control of spice production by outsiders, such as the Harkonnens, has led to immense wealth for them. This indicates how spice commodification reinforces economic domination by foreign entities controlling spice production. According to environmental exploitation theory, control over spice production empowers outsiders to regulate the spice collection process without considering its environmental impact. The wealth generated from spice commodification may drive extractive practices damaging the ecosystem of Arrakis, such as over-mining, deforestation, or the use of toxic chemicals. Therefore, the dialogue depicts how spice commodification contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis by handing economic control to outsiders who may not prioritize environmental sustainability.

**Data 4 (menit 6.05)**

The dialogue above depicts the contribution of spice commodification in the film Dune to the environmental exploitation of Arrakis. The portrayal of Fremen attacks making spice harvesting extremely hazardous highlights the negative impact of such economic activities on the environment. Additionally, the dialogue reveals contrasting views on spice between the Fremen and the Imperium. <sup>1</sup> For the Fremen, spice is a sacred hallucinogen that sustains life and provides significant health benefits. However, for the Imperium, spice is used by navigators of the spacing guild to find safe paths between the stars. Without spice, interstellar travel is impossible, <sup>5</sup> emphasizing its status as the most valuable substance in the universe. Although spice holds significant cultural and medical value for the Fremen, its commodification by the Imperium leads to environmental exploitation on Arrakis.

This exploitation may include the use of damaging agricultural techniques or destruction of natural habitats to increase spice production. Therefore, the dialogue highlights how spice commodification in the film *Dune* contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis by portraying differing perspectives on the value and use of spice, ultimately reinforcing the drive to overexploit natural resources and damage the environment.

**Data 5 (menit 50.34)**

The dialogue above illustrates how the commodification of spice in the film *Dune* contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis through the development of infrastructure and irresponsible economic practices. The emphasis on filling spice silos highlights the importance of spice production in the planet's economy. However, the hindrance caused by Harkonnen sabotage underscores the challenges in meeting production targets.

Paul's question about who is responsible for overseeing and enforcing spice production rules indicates the ambiguity in the economic governance system and resource utilization on Arrakis. This reflects the chaos and lack of oversight that may occur in the exploitation of natural resources, including excessive and environmentally damaging spice mining practices. Thus, the commodification of spice in the film *Dune* contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis by demonstrating instability in the resource management system and a lack of protection for the local ecosystem. This reflects how uncontrolled economic practices and inadequate supervision can lead to serious environmental damage on the planet.

**2. Deep-Rooted Issues of Cultural Marginalization of The Fremen**

Data 1 (menit 1.20)

The dialogue also provides an insight into deeper issues regarding the cultural marginalization of the Fremen. Despite being the indigenous inhabitants of Arrakis and possessing rich local knowledge about their planet, they are considered "outsiders" in this process of spice harvesting. The emphasis on the **race against time to avoid the** midday **heat** suggests that **the** Fremen may not have full control over their own schedules and work processes, indicating how they are manipulated

or disregarded by the colonial powers controlling the spice economy. Within the framework of Hellen Tiffin and Huggan's theory, this portrayal reflects the systematic cultural marginalization by dominant colonial powers. The Fremen, despite their intimate connection to Arrakis and expertise in its ecology, are relegated to subordinate roles and lose agency in the exploitation of their own resources. This dynamic illustrates the power imbalances and cultural erasure perpetuated by colonialism, where the voices and knowledge of indigenous communities are suppressed for external interests. Thus, the dialogue highlights the deeply ingrained cultural marginalization experienced by the Fremen and demonstrates the comprehensive impact of colonial domination on indigenous communities.

**Data 2 (menit 1.31)**

The dialog above reveals the bitter experiences of the Fremen in facing inhumane treatment by foreign entities dominating the spice harvesting on Arrakis. This reflects deeper issues regarding the cultural marginalization of the Fremen, where they are not only overlooked in decision-making regarding the management of their natural resources but also subjected to cruel and unfair treatment. According to Hellen Tiffin and Huggan's theory, this portrayal exemplifies the cultural marginalization experienced by indigenous communities under colonial domination. The Fremen, despite their rightful claim to Arrakis and their deep connection to its ecology, are marginalized and deprived of agency in decisions impacting their livelihoods. This dynamic illustrates the enduring legacy of colonialism, where indigenous cultures are disregarded and oppressed for the benefit of external powers. Thus, the dialogue underscores how the commodification of spice not only contributes to environmental exploitation on Arrakis but also reflects broader issues of social and cultural injustice experienced by the Fremen.

**Data 3 (menit 1.42)**

The dialogue emphasizes the deep-rooted cultural marginalization of the Fremen in the Dune movie. The dialogue above highlights how Outsiders, specifically the Harkonnens, have wielded control over spice production on Arrakis for a

considerable period, leading to immense wealth accumulation. This portrayal underscores the economic dominance and cultural marginalization experienced by the Fremen, the indigenous people of Arrakis. Despite their intimate connection to the planet and its resources, the Fremen are relegated to subordinate roles and stripped of agency in the exploitation of their resources. Through analysis by Tiffin and Huggan's theory, it becomes evident that the control over spice production by outsiders perpetuates a power dynamic that marginalizes the cultural identity and autonomy of the Fremen. Thus, the dialogue reflects the entrenched issues of cultural marginalization faced by the Fremen community within the broader narrative of spice commodification and power dynamics in the Dune universe.

**Data 4 (menit 6.05)**

The dialogue above highlights the deep-rooted issues of cultural marginalization experienced by the Fremen, the indigenous people of Arrakis. It portrays how the Fremen's perspective on spice differs significantly from that of the Imperium. For the Fremen, spice holds profound cultural significance as a sacred hallucinogen that sustains life and provides immense health benefits. However, the Imperium views spice primarily as a commodity essential for interstellar travel, particularly for the navigators of the spacing guild. This stark contrast in perception reflects a fundamental cultural divide between the Fremen and the dominant powers of the Imperium.

The Fremen's reverence for spice as a sacred substance underscores their deeply ingrained cultural values and traditions, which are marginalized and misunderstood by the Imperium. Despite the vital role of spice in their cultural and spiritual practices, the Fremen are relegated to a subordinate position within the larger political and economic framework of the Imperium. The Imperium's exploitation of spice for its purposes further marginalizes the cultural significance of spice for the Fremen, reducing it to a mere commodity in the eyes of the dominant society.

This dialogue sheds light on the cultural marginalization of the Fremen by highlighting how their sacred beliefs and practices are commodified and exploited



by the Imperium for its gain. It underscores the unequal power dynamics and the imposition of dominant cultural norms on marginalized communities like the Fremen, perpetuating a cycle of marginalization and cultural erasure. Thus, the dialogue reflects the deep-rooted issues of cultural marginalization faced by the Fremen within the larger socio-political of the Imperium.

#### **Data 5 (menit 50.34)**

The dialogue above highlights deep-rooted issues of cultural marginalization of the Fremen within the context of spice commodification in the Dune movie. Paul's inquiry about who is responsible for arbitrating and overseeing the transition of spice production indicates a lack of representation or authority granted to the Fremen in the management of their resources.

The fact that there is no clear authority or representation for the Fremen suggests that they are marginalized within the power structures governing spice production on Arrakis. Despite their intimate connection to the planet and its resources, the Fremen are excluded from decision-making processes and regulatory oversight, reflecting a broader pattern of cultural marginalization. This dialogue underscores how the commodification of spice perpetuates the marginalization of the Fremen, as they are denied agency and participation in determining the fate of their own environment and resources. It reflects a power dynamic where external forces, such as the Emperor and the Harkonnens, hold authority over spice production, sidelining the indigenous Fremen population and disregarding their cultural significance and rights.

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