

### *Attack on Titan, a Study on Discourse, Subjectivity, Hybridity, and Identity*

Considering viewpoints of post-colonial theory and cultural studies, this research attempts to give a broader insight to the reading of the cultural product *Attack on Titan*, a Japanese *manga* series created by Hajime Isayama. Due to globalization, creations such as manga not only influence the society that produced it (Japan, in this case) but also reaches other audiences around the world. In addition, since manga has evolved into covering a great variety of plotlines as well as a vast quantity of readers, it possesses the validity to be considered among the new forms of literature. Thus, the study of these items is of utmost importance to understand the current cultural dynamism, mostly when it comes to stories like this one, which contains valuable characteristics worth analyzing. This investigation considers how concepts like discourse, subjectivity, hybridity, and identity play a significant role in the complex plot of *Attack on Titan*. In the case of discourse, it is used as a tool of manipulation, which in the story is portrayed by hiding past history and making influenced situations look “normal”. However, subjects (the protagonists of the series) subvert the social institutions placed by discourse, by reacting and not conforming to the imposition of these situations. This also leads to the constant reconsideration of their positions as subjects, but it is precisely this questioning that places them as such (as opposed to objects). Moreover, hybridity is depicted through two different views: racial mixture and construction of identity. When dealing with hybridity in the text, it becomes evident that the relationship between the hegemony and the margins influences directly the sense of identity of the characters, which primes in a rebellious attitude toward the hegemony. Characters are not fixed to certain features or archetypes but, along their journey, they are constructing themselves. A variety of authors are taken into account to shed light on these concepts while some sections of the story are commented in order to demonstrate the close relationship between the notions and the Isayama’s creation.

*Key words: cultural products, discourse, hybridity, identity, manga, subjectivity.*

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