



## ***EURIPIDES' PORTRAYAL OF MEDEA: 'THE OTHER' OF THE GREEK SOIL***

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It was before thousands of years that the Greek dramatists laid the foundation of Western Drama in ancient Greece. Euripides was a dramatist who brought change to Greek tragedy and being an intellectual dramatist, his career mirrors a modern look and many critics regard him as an explorer of human psychology. Euripides' heroes are the common men and women we meet every day: heroes in rags, when compared with the larger than life character portrayals of Aeschylus and Sophocles. 'Medea' is one such tragedy by Euripides in which he depicts Medea, the woman who came from a distant and exotic land: she is "the other", foreign, unknown, savage and superstitious. The main objective of this study is to evaluate the depiction of Medea by Euripides; her plight in this new land, her fight for survival amidst the new customs, traditions and way of life. Along with the scholarly views on 'Medea', this study has identified the instances presented in the drama which prove the fact that Euripides' portrayal of Medea is the difficult plight of being the "the other" of the Greek soil. Medea is the woman who betrayed her own land and her kin for her love for Jason and it is this same man who abandoned her for a royal marriage. According to Jason, he is not bound to be grateful to Medea for what she has done for him as he has given her the great benefits of Greek civilization in return. Through the character portrayal of Medea, Euripides unveils the Greek view of 'The Other' and the foreignness. She is identified with the attributes which are considered barbaric by the Greeks such as violence, uncontrolled emotions, and expertise in sorcery. Medea is the woman who arrives to the Greek world from the faraway land Colchis and the drama depicts Medea's emotional transformation, a progression from suicidal despair to sadistic fury.

**Keywords:** *The Other', Euripides' Tragedy, Greek World*