

**MANIPULATIVE REPRESENTATION OF CONGOLESE BY WESTERN
PEOPLE IN CONRAD'S HEART OF DARKNESS**

A POST - COLONIAL CRITICISM

Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini merupakan analisa terhadap representasi masyarakat asli Congo oleh masyarakat barat. Masyarakat asli Kongo direpresentasikan oleh masyarakat barat sebagai masyarakat yang tidak beradap, sebagai kanibal, dan tidak berpendidikan. Representasi masyarakat barat yang demikian sebenarnya tidak berdasarkan bukti dan fakta yang substantif sehingga representasi yang dihasilkan cenderung memarginalkan budaya dan peradaban masyarakat Congo itu sendiri. Selain menganalisa isu representasi masyarakat Congo oleh masyarakat barat, penulis juga memaparkan tentang kedudukan Joseph Conrad sebagai pengarang Heart of Darkness secara ideologis di dalam karyanya sendiri.

Dalam Skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan teori mimesis yang akan membandingkan antara kejadian-kejadian yang benar-benar terjadi dengan apa yang ditemukan didalam novel. Pendekatan Postcolonial dengan terminologi Orientalisme digunakan untuk mengetahui bentuk pandangan barat yang digunakan dalam merepresentasikan masyarakat asli Kongo. Metode kualitatif yang dijabarkan secara deskriptif digunakan penulis dalam menganalisa data karena data yang dianalisa dan hasil analisisnya berbentuk kata-kata yang berisi kutipan-kutipan untuk mengisi materi analisa.

Setelah menganalisa novel ini, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa representasi masyarakat barat terhadap masyarakat asli Kongo hanya berdasarkan perspektif dan imajinasi masyarakat barat semata, representasi yang dihasilkan hanya bersifat manipulatif, berat sebelah, sembarangan dan tidak dapat dipercaya. Representasi yang demikian tidak hanya memarginalkan budaya dan peradaban masyarakat Congo, tetapi juga merusak wacana tentang masyarakat Congo itu sendiri dan hanya menjadi alat bagi masyarakat barat untuk mendapatkan berbagai intervensi terhadap masyarakat Congo. Sebagai pengarang, Conrad di dalam Heart of Darkness sangat mendukung ide - ide kolonialisme dan Imperialisme Inggris, oleh karena itu penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Joseph Conrad merupakan agen kekuatan kolonialisme Inggris yang menyebarkan ideologi - ideologi kolonialisme Inggris melalui karyanya.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Of The Research

People live in the world always deal with various commodities, representations, their production, circulations, histories and interpretations, all of them constitute the very elements of culture. European colonial power exists its domination not only by means of material, military and technological superiority, but also by manipulating the representations of colonized subjects through discourse. The control and manipulation of colonized representations constitute an effective instrument of coercion; and ideological representation of the colonized subject as deviant or the other is a key strategy of colonial discourse. These matters are absurd and intricate; therefore to uncover them, a research is urgently needed. This research is intended to fulfill such a need.

The writer uses post-colonial approach to reveal the shapes and various effects of colonization that existed in literary works and culture. Sometimes, in colonizing an area, the colonizer not only does it by defeating the area and its people physically, but it also might be done by defeating the thought of colonized people. One of the ways that usually used by the colonizer to conquer the thought of colonized people is by giving some representation toward the colonized itself. The western representation usually practiced just by using western perspective, hence, the result of this might be one sided point of view that produces a blur,

manipulative, imbalanced and unreliable representation that could damage the discourse of the colonized country and people. This kind of issue sometime could not be realized by the readers that read literary works contained with related issues, and such of condition might manipulate the readers to adore western values and marginalize the colonized people. Therefore, this research is conducted in order to uncover this matter.

The writer chooses Conrad's Heart of Darkness as object of his research because of several reasons. First, the writer finds that this work comprises with some representations of the Congolese by western people. The writer observes that the representations in this work tend to be a blur, manipulative, imbalanced and unreliable representation since it was done just based on western perspective. The representation provided in this work just represents the Congolese from the western point of view which sees the Congolese as the other. In the story, even though the western people did not have any knowledge and never live cooperatively with the Congolese, but they just represent the Congolese as uncivilized, cannibal, and as uneducated people, so the case in this novel is appropriate to analyze by using post-colonialism. Second, these representations not only give some unfair and blur images toward the Congolese in the story, but they also marginalize the Congolese culture and manipulate the readers perception toward the Congolese, then bring the reader into western culture and western learning. The third is because the writer finds that Heart of Darkness actually a manifestation of Conrad's endorsement toward British colonialism and

imperialism, so this work might be used by Conrad to strengthen British colonialism and imperialism.

There are some researches that had analyzed the post – colonial subjects; they are Mimicry Phenomenon in Chingua Achebe's Things Fall Apart (2007) by Francisca Pamela and The Hybridity and Changing of National Identity in David Malouf's Remembering Babylon (2006) by Deni Endriani. These researches were done by the student in our faculty. These researches only explain about the effect of the colonization to the colonized people. It does not explain about the way of colonizers get their domination, especially in the way by giving some representations toward the colonized people.

Beside the researches above, the writer also found some students in our faculty that had conducted researches toward this work with a different theory. They are Two Dark Sides of Whites as Reflected in Conrad's Heart of Darkness by Yulhenli Thabran and the Form of Colonialism in Congo in The Eyes of Joseph Conrad by Husna Dewi. These researches are not applied post – colonial theory, they conducted by using reader response and historical method. These researches only provide the explanation about the effect of colonization toward colonized people and the imperial form of colonization in this work. Those researches never discuss the issue of representations of the Congolese by western people in this work.

From all explanation above, the writer believes that it need to conduct a research that discuss more about this work, especially about representations of the Congolese by western people. The writer assures this research might give some

contribution to the development of literary studies that related to the post-colonial subject in our country generally, and in our faculty specifically. The writer also hopes that after doing this research, he can get some values and lessons about post-colonial issues especially about western representation toward the native people and also could helps the reader in understanding the literary work with this related case.

Therefore, the writer entitles his research with "Manipulative Representation of Congolese by Western People in Heart of Darkness By Joseph Conrad: A Post – Colonial Study"

1.2. Identification of the Problem

This research is concerned with the issues of western representation toward the Congolese, the representation itself mostly related to:

- a. How the western people represent the Congolese in Conrad's Heart of Darkness?
- b. How manipulative representations of the Congolese by western people in Conrad's Heart of Darkness?
- c. How representations of the Congolese by western people in Conrad's Heart of Darkness could strengthen the western position toward the Congolese?
- d. How did Conrad as the author of Heart of Darkness become an agent of British colonial power in the story?

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Conrad's Heart of Darkness the writer realizes that the western representation toward the Congolese that practiced in this Conrad's work is a manipulative, blur, imbalance and unreliable representation. The western representation here just based on western perspective that ignores the values, culture and the civilization of Congolese. That such of representations approved Said's argument that how intensive western representation toward the native people, they will never divest it from their western perspective.

In Heart of Darkness, Conrad through his western characters applies some deceptive representations toward the Congolese, he represent the Congolese as uncivilized, cannibal, and as uneducated society. The first representation that Conrad applies is the Congolese as uncivilized society. In representing the Congolese as uncivilized, Conrad never perceives the Congolese's values and culture as a civilized matter. In the story, the molding of civilization just constructed through western ideas, therefore it just produces a one side representation. The representations tend to be manipulative, blur and unreliable since Conrad never perceives the Congolese as distinct society that has lived cooperatively and have had their own values, culture and civilization. In the story Conrad never admit the differentiation that lay on between the Congolese and the western people, he just represents the Congolese to his reader as western other that have no values, custom and civilization. Those representations actually are

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