

**ABROGATION AS A DEVICE TO MAINTAIN THE IDENTITY OF
JAMAICAN AS SEEN IN MICHAEL SMITH'S POEMS:
POST – COLONIAL STUDIES**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul "Abrogasi Sebagai Alat Untuk Mempertahankan Identitas Masyarakat Jamaika Seperti Yang Terlihat Dalam Puisi-Puisi Michael Smith: Sebuah Kajian Sastra Paskakolonial." Analisis yang dilakukan pada skripsi ini adalah mengenai bentuk bahasa Inggris standar yang ditolak penggunaannya oleh masyarakat Jamaika, atau bahasa yang diabrogasi, sebagai bentuk perlawanan terhadap penjajah guna membangun identitas mereka. Proses penolakan atau abrogasi tersebut disampaikan melalui tema-tema perlawanan yang terdapat pada puisi-puisi Michael Smith. Abrogasi itu sendiri telah menghasilkan bahasa baru bagi bangsa Jamaika. Selain itu analisis mengenai abrogasi yang dapat membangun identitas juga dilihat dari segi sejarah bangsa Jamaika.

Pada skripsi ini penulis menggunakan teori abrogasi dan diaspora dalam kajian paskakolonial oleh Bill Aschroft, Gareth Griffith, dan Hellen Tiffin. Selain itu penulis juga merujuk kepada esensi bahasa dalam kajian paskakolonial. Dalam pengumpulan data dan referensi penulis melakukan penelitian kepustakaan berupa pengumpulan buku-buku dan artikel yang berkaitan dengan topik analisis. Kemudian penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan mengambil beberapa kutipan sebagai pembuktian yang mendukung hasil analisis penulis. Selanjutnya hasil analisis tersebut dipaparkan secara deskriptif.

Dari analisis akhir penulis menemukan bahwa dalam puisi-puisi karya Michael Smith terjadi dua bentuk abrogasi yaitu abrogasi dalam bentuk diksi dan abrogasi dalam bentuk struktur kalimat. Kedua hal tersebut sangat berbeda dengan bahasa Inggris standar. Selain itu, abrogasi tersebut terjadi karena adanya usaha untuk memberitahukan pembaca tentang bahasa Jamaican Patois (Patwa) sebagai bentuk perlawanan terhadap penjajah melalui ideologi bahasa untuk mempertahankan identitas mereka. Dari bahasa Inggris yang diabrogasi penggunaannya lahirlah sebuah varian baru dari bahasa itu sendiri yang dinamakan Nation Language.

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 The Background Of The Study

Nowadays, literary work has become a media to represent a certain circumstance which happens in a certain age and place. Literary work is regarded as a representative media to describe a condition of the age. Literary work also represents the author's thought about something. Through literary work, the writers reveal all their idea and opinion about problems or current issue happen in society to be told. Commonly many writers expose about issues happen around them. There is a lot of meaning, messages, and social value implied in a literary work by the author. Therefore, a literary research is needed to discover those meaning, messages, and the social value in order to show to the society. As Robert Wooster Stallman wrote in his book *The Critic's Notebook*: "Literary criticism plays two roles; it reviews and describes the work of the past and by deciding which practice of future." (16), and this statement, also appropriate with Peter Barry's statement which he quote from the speech of Professor Edward Kreem in Oxford 1887: "We are told that the study of literature 'cultivate' the taste, educates the sympathies and enlarge the mind." Those two statements become the reasons why this research is conducted.

This is a literary research which objective is to reveal the meaning, message, and social value issued by the author which is implied in literary work.

This research hopefully could lead us to a better reality since it is telling us the truth of a phenomenon.

There is a lot of literary research based on the theory used by the researcher. This research is post colonial criticism. The most applicable theory is post colonial theory. The subject taken is kind of Postcolonial literature. The term Postcolonial it self means studies about the culture which caused by colonization. As Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin said in *The Empire Writes Back*:

We use the term 'post-colonial, however, to cover all the culture affected by the imperial process from moment of colonization to the present day. This is because there is a continuity of preoccupations throughout the historical process initiated by European imperial aggression. (2002: 2)

Post colonial literature is every kind of literature which is made because of the effect of colonization or which talks about colonial issue written by the colonizer or the colonized which had ever been colonized by British imperialism. Charles E. Bressler in *Literary Criticism: An Introduction To Theory And Practice* said that: "By the mid-1990s, the terms had become firmly established in scholarly writing and now postcolonialism usually refers to literature of cultures colonized by the British Empire." (? : 266)

I already found some problem which is related to post colonialism issue in Michael Smith's poems. The way Smith wrote his poems was different from other. There is something different in the form of his poems. It seems that he

wanted to tell the reader about something on his mind related to his struggling against the colonizer. Those problems is become the issue of this research.

I decide to conduct a research on Michael Smith's poems because I am really interested in post colonialism phenomena happen in Jamaica. Since Michael Smith is a Jamaican, it is appropriate to choose his poems as the object to see the postcolonial phenomena in Jamaica. There is a unique way of Jamaican's struggling against its colonizer. They use the same device as the colonizer did upon them.

The device means above is language. Jamaican tries to build their identity to be known by the colonizer through language. The analysis of this research is concern on the language used by Jamaican as performed in Michael Smith's poems. Meanwhile, the objective of this research is to figure out the messages that Smith wants to share the reader of his works through the language he used.

Language is an important element in human life. It can be said as a human basic need. Human being will face many difficulties when they do not have a language. Language is an inseparable thing with human life. It has important roles which related to all aspects of human being. Language is the only tool for communication directly. In this case language is a tool for communication which doesn't need any assist from other instrument that is produced specially for communicating. By the entire rules it has, language can be used directly written and orally by human. With the function it has, language can be brought to positive and negative usage. If language is used as it is, it will be positive which means

good for human being. On the contrary if language is used as a media of enforcement to follow one culture it will create a hierarchy in language, for example, superior and inferior language, high class language and lower class language. It can be comprehended that language can also be a media to conquer a nation.

Since this research deals with language, one of the objectives is to reveal that language has role in colonization. An overview about language in Jamaica is enclosed in this research to see the historical background of Jamaican language in order to proof that language is one of important element in post colonial study. In post colonial study, the historical background is very important as supporting data. As time goes by, the colonized starts to realize the changes in their Life aspects. They begin to think that there must be something wrong with the coming of the 'outsider' to their land. Finally, they try to strike back the colonizer to get their own identity as a nation. In this step they already know the word "freedom." They realize that they have something to maintain as a nation.

After the colonization had been done, the colonized try to know them self. They try to find out their own identity after they had been colonized. They use the same way with the colonizer in rejecting the identity that implanted by the colonizer when they were under control of the imperialism. If British used language as the media of conquest, the colonizers use it as well. This phenomenon happened in almost of Ex-British colony, for example, Jamaica.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

After analyzing the five poems of Michael Smith, it is proven that language has an important role in colonization. Language could maintain an identity of a nation as well as erase an identity of a nation. Language with its phenomenon can be a device to strikes backs the colonizer as happen in Michael Smith's works. The works of Michael Smith represents the identity of Jamaica according to the historical background of the process of the abrogation found on his works.

The abrogation found in Michael Smith's can stand side by side with Standard English. It indicates that the language which produced by the impact of colonization is acceptable. This new kind of language is called Jamaican Patois (Patwa). The Jamaican Patois has become Nation Language in Jamaica as new language.

By abrogating the language of colonizer, Smith succeeds to maintain his identity as a Jamaican. It is shown by the poems of Michael Smith which used Jamaican Patwa. This action directly shows that Smith resists colonization through language. It means that Smith is an anti colonization. By the process of abrogation done by Michael Smith as describe on his works, Jamaica has a new kind of language beside its national language, named Nation Language. It shows that many writers in Caribbean could maintain their identity through the language of their works.

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