

**The Crisis of Identity as the Impact of Hybridity of Indian
Immigrants in England As Reflected in Hanif Kureishi's
*The Buddha of Suburbia***



A Thesis

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment to the Requirement
For the Degree of Sarjana Sastra**

By:

YULINA SUSANTI
05985048

MILIK
UPT PERPUSTAKAAN
UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS
TERDAFTAR
TANGGAL : 9-3-2011
NOMOR BI : 211080794

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTER- ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

PADANG

2010

ABSTRAK

Penulis dalam penelitian ini membedah percampuran budaya atau hibriditi budaya hibrid dalam komunitas imigran India di Inggris dalam novel *The Buddha of Suburbia* karya Hanif Kureishi. Aspek-aspek kultural utama yang diungkap dalam penelitian ini terkait dengan masalah gaya hidup dan dampak hibriditi tersebut terhadap identitas nasional masyarakat India di Inggris.

Penulis menggunakan kajian poskolonial yaitu teori hibriditi dan mimikri dalam pendekatan mimetik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dalam proses analisa data, dan menggunakan metode kajian pustaka dalam proses pengumpulan data.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa kedatangan imigran India ke Inggris pada abad ke-19 memberi dampak pada lahirnya budaya baru di Inggris, yaitu budaya campuran antara budaya India dan Inggris. Hibriditi diawali dengan mimikri (meniru), yang mana imigran India melihat budaya baru (Western), kemudian menirunya dan menerapkannya tanpa meninggalkan budaya asli mereka. Hibriditi (percampuran budaya) yang terjadi di Inggris yang juga tergambar dalam novel, bisa dilihat dari gaya hidup dan pendidikan. Konsekuensi dari percampuran budaya antara Inggris dan India adalah terjadinya krisis identitas, atau kerancuan identitas seperti yang tampak jelas pada tokoh Karim dan Jamila terkait dengan gaya hidup dan pendidikan mereka. Krisis identitas tersebut menyebabkan Karim dan Jamila ragu akan identitas nasional mereka. Pada akhirnya Karim memutuskan untuk menerima budaya Inggris, menolak budaya atau adat istiadat India, akan tetapi ia tetap mempertahankan identitas nasionalnya sebagai orang India. Jamila memutuskan untuk kembali pada budaya aslinya, yaitu budaya India.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

The colonization done by British Empire had rendered the gradual effects in ex-colonies. It did not only influence the developments of economic and politic, but simultaneously it resulted in emergence of a new kind of literature, that we call it then, Postcolonial literature. Postcolonial literature can be categorized as the result of the interaction between imperial culture and true complex colonial culture when the colonizer comes to the colonized country. Ashcroft, Griffith and Tiffin in their Book *The Empire Writes Back: Theory and Practice in Post-Colonial Literatures* states, "...the terms 'postcolonial literature' finally preferred over the others because it points the way towards a possible study of the effect of colonialism" (2002:23). It shows that postcolonial literature not only studies the literary work itself, but also gets any attention to the impact of colonialism.

As also supported by Porter in *Literary Theory: Research Training Module XI* that "post-colonialism attacks the same ideas where they have given rise to and justified Western imperialism" (1998:48). Then, postcolonial as a new term becomes very popular and is discussed in literary works in which it concerns on colonialism. Actually, some aspects of post colonialism look at the identities in colonized countries and the difficulties to find a national identity as the impact of colonization.

One of postcolonial study discussed about the issue of identity is "hybridity" that become popular discussion among researchers. We can learn that hybridity is a problem of mix-culture. Here, I conduct on research by using post-colonialism that the crucial focus is about hybridity. I am interested in conducting this research because I see there is a solid problem that occurs after the colonization, particularly in culture. It is only showing two cultures that becomes one, but above all the changing of culture can influence people identity.

Therefore, this research done to pull back the problems of hybridity and the identity crisis that happens to Indian immigrants in England in 20th century. In essence, the impact of the colonization is not only depicted by the colonizers that colonize people, but the arrival of people into a new place can make them colonized, so their identity begins to harass.

In this research, I use *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990) written by Hanif Kureishi as the object of analysis. *The Buddha of Suburbia* is Kureishi's first novel, won the Whitbread First Novel Award and became an international bestseller. This novel has been translated into 20 languages and was also made into a four-part drama series by the BBC in 1993, with a soundtrack by David Bowie. *The Buddha of Suburbia* reflects the problem of ambiguity of identity among Indian immigrants in England, it constitutes the obvious aspects of hybridity. Therefore this novel is definitely important and appropriate for this research.

Then, the advantages of this research are to enrich the domain of literary criticism in Faculty of Letter Andalas University and Indonesia. I also want this

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Hanif Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia* depicts the identity crisis that happens in two major characters: Karim and Jamila. Such an identity crisis occurs because of the cultural mixture between Indian and English culture. This phenomenon triggers the process of mimicry and hybridity which particularly occur in Karim's and Jamila's personalities. They are actually Indian by birth, but they grow up in English culture, therefore they adopt dominant values and lifestyle in England. This makes them trapped in the confusion about their real identity, whether they should be an Englishmen or an Indian. It is also happened in real life, in which the Indian immigrants that stay in England experienced with the confusing toward their national identity. It is caused by the new culture that they faced in their new environment, so it also influenced them.

There are various English lifestyles, especially the negative lifestyles that contaminate the cultural identity and personalities of the main characters as follows: alcoholics, bisexual, clubbing, etc. Those lifestyles make them confused about their original cultures, etc. While, the other influence from the English culture to Indians is in education, in which they are influenced by social environment. Here, the immigrants that educate in English institutions. They get education and lesson from White people and learn everything about foreign.

After doing the research about the crisis of identity of Indian immigrant in England as reflected in Kureishi's *The Buddha of Suburbia*, I prove that the

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and The Lamp*. London: Oxford University Press, Inc. 1977.
- Benstock, Shari & Suzanne Ferriss. *On Fashion*. Rutgers University Press, 1994.
ISBN 0813520339, 9780813520339
- Bhabha, H.K. *The Location of culture*. London: Routledge. 1994.
- Bood, Ian. Pengaruh Musik Punk terhadap Masyarakat. May 7, 2009
<http://agfian.wordpress.com/2009/05/07/pengaruh-musik-punk-terhadap-masyarakat/>. Online on May 25, 2010.
- Chiswick, Barry R, & Timothy Hatton. *International Migration and the Integration of Labor Markets*. 23 October 2001.
<http://econrssh.anu.edu.au/Staff/hatton/pdf/IntMigrIntegLabMkts.pdf>.
Online on October 15, 2009.
- Di Yanni, Robert. *Reading Fiction and Anthology of Short Stories*. New York: Random House Inc, 1998.
- Edriani, Deni. *The Hybridity and the Changing of National Identity in David Malouf's Remembering Babylon: A Postcolonial Study*. English Department: Andalas University. 2006.
- Frow, Mayerlene. *Roots of the Future: Ethnic Diversity in the Making of Britain*. London: CRE. 1996.
- Fadillah. *The Hybridity Phenomena as The Impacts of Colonialism in Rudyard Kipling's Kim: A Postcolonial Study*. English Department: Andalas University. 2007.
- Gupta, Rajan. *Education, The Key To Development: Lessons From India*. 2000.
<http://www.indianetzone.com/education/>. May 25, 2010
- Education In England (Iii). http://www.know-britain.com/general/education_in_england_3.html. May 25, 2010