THE REPRESENTATION OF ‘THE OTHER’ TOWARDS LITTLE BEE’S CHARACTER IN CHRIS CLEAVE’S THE OTHER HAND NOVEL: A POSTCOLONIAL ANALYSIS

Awaliah Nur Annisa¹,², Singgih Daru Kuncara², & Nasrullah³
¹,²,³ Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Mulawarman
* Pos-el: awaliahnurannisafib15@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The aims of this research are to identify the representations of the Other in one of the main characters in Chris Cleave’s The Other Hand novel named Little Bee and to describe the way the author characterized those representations to the character. In this research, the researcher used qualitative research methodology and postcolonialism approach in analyzing the novel. Further, the theories that are used in this analysis are the theories of the representation of the Other in reference to four experts (Said, Bertens, Al-Saidi and Tyson) and Kenan’s theory of characterization. The result of this thesis shows that Little Bee as one of the most important character in the novel reflected the representations of the Other within herself. Those representations of the Other are different, foreign, inappropriate, inferior, irrational, passive, primitive, savage and unauthorized. In this case, the findings show that those representations are characterized in Little Bee’s character mostly in indirect presentation and it is found that only two data which are characterized in direct presentation.

Keywords: postcolonial; orientalism; representation of the Other; the East; characterization

ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci: poskolonial; orientalisme; representasi Liyan; Timur; karakterisasi
A. INTRODUCTION

In the history, literature reflects the dynamics of human’s real life. Loomba (1998) states that “Ever since Plato, it has been acknowledged that literature mediates between the real and the imaginary.” In much the same vein, Abrams (1999) states that literature is also used “to conceive the universe as possessing to inherent truth, value, or meaning, and to represent human life—in its fruitless search for purpose and meaning, as it moves from the nothingness whence it came toward the nothingness where it must end—as an existence which is both anguished and absurd.” Thus, literary work reflects human’s history which is purposeful and insightful. And one of the most important elements that builds and always presents in literary work is human character. In fact, humans are social being. They are connecting each other and sharing strong stories and emotions. In its wholeness as social being that is always connected each other, there are two possibilities that might happen in human relation. They can help each other which lead them keeping safe and together, or on the contrary, hurting each other. One of the greatest examples in the case of hurting each other in human being history is a long history of colonialism.

In this case, Wallerstein (1961) provides the definition of colonialism simply means that someone imposes in a given area a new institution, the colonial administration, governed by outsiders who establish new rules which they enforce with a reasonable degree of success. As the result of this phenomena, the most common effect that usually happens in society of colonized country is bad experience and trauma, even losses their identity and culture. They become unconfident with their identity as colonized country in front of the colonizer. In this case, the colonizer country always refers to the Western whether the colonized refers to the Eastern. It has been recorded in many aspects of life, one of the biggest examples in literature. As a response to the narration about West as a dominant and East as subordinate, postcolonialism was born in the aim of dismantling the certain intention of this oppressed binary oppression. After Said’s phenomenal book Orientalism released in 1978, this perspective widely known as ‘the Self’ and ‘the Other’ idea, which means that if the West declared themselves as a nation that has a superiority (the Self) then in the other hand, the East is a nation that always opposed the inferiority (as the Other). The idea that the researcher believes also implemented either directly or implied in The Other Hand novel.

The Other Hand is a novel by Chris Cleave which was published in 2009. In a matter of fact, Cleave as the author in his official website tells that he had once an experience of a temporary employment in an asylum detention center, and that experience is actually inspired him wrote this novel. In accordance, Cleave’s experience represents his sense of humanity in seeing what actually happens at the asylum detention center to the refugees. This is also supported the idea that Cleave’s experiences is represented in this novel and the issues of the refugees in this novel is based on something that the author experienced for. This novel has also been ranked #1 on the New York Times bestseller list and also nominated for the 2008 Costa Book Awards and a 2009 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize. This fact also proves that this novel is widely read by many people and is
considered as a novel that has the opportunity in shaping the reader’s perspective about the refugees’ issues.

Specifically, this novel tells about a personal experience towards two different character’s point of view. One of the most important characters in the novel is sixteen-years-old Little Bee. She is an immigrant from Nigeria in United Kingdom and lives in the immigration detention center for two years before she is deported back to Nigeria. Being a narrator, Little Bee is a deeply ironic character who successfully gives a portrait about living as the Other of immigrant’s struggle in the West country. In this case, by using postcolonial approach the researcher asked critically all forms of reproduction of culture towards Little Bee’s character and also prove that through Little Bee’s character, there is Eurocentric universalism that successfully contained the idea of the Other which stated the superiority of Western as colonizer country over Nigeria which represents the East (colonized country) in the novel. Further, all of the negative depictions are reflected in Little Bee’s character articulate the existence of the representation of the Other in the novel.

Based on the background above, the aims of this studies are (1) to identify the representations of the Other reflected in Little Bee’s character and (2) to describe the representations of the Other are reflected in Little Bee’s character in the novel.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Novel

Abel Chevalley in Forster (1927) stated that novel can be defined simply as “a fiction in prose of a certain extent.” Furthermore, Forster said that it may perhaps go so far as to add that the extent should not be less than 50,000 words. It can be concluded that novel is a prose in the kind of long narrative text. It describes a fictional characters and events, and usually reflect the experiences of someone’s life which might be in the case of social problems, economic, culture and so on. Thus, novel can be concluded as a long narrative work in literature which mostly tells about everyday life of human experiences in order to find the meaningful essence of the life. Further, comparing to the other kind of literature, novel also has its own specific elements which without these elements, novel often fail to make sense. Some of the important elements which play a crucial in constructing of novel are character and characterization.

a. Character

Abrams (1999) defines character as a person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, and is interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it - the dialogue - and from what they do - the action.

b. Characterization

Kay and Gelshenen (2013) argued that characterization can be defined as the way the author creates character through physical descriptions, speech, thought, actions and observation from other characters. Specifically, according to Kenan (2002) in Narrative
Fiction there are two common ways that the author can use to characterize the characters in a story. In this case, the characterizations are displayed in direct and indirect presentation.

(1) Direct Presentation
Direct presentation refers to what the speaker or narrator directly says or thinks about a character. In other words, in a direct characterization, the reader is told what the character is like. This first type actually names the characters the trait by an adjective, an abstract noun, or possibly some other kind of noun or part of speech (Kenan, 2002, p. 61).

(2) Indirect Presentation
Generally, indirect presentation refers to what the character says or does in the text, or in other words, rather than mentioning a trait, it displays in various ways. According to Kenan (2002), indirect presentation can be displayed in four biggest ways such as action (both one time and habitual actions can belong to the following categories such as act of commission, act of omission and contemplated act), speech (conversation and mind), external appearance and environment (physical surrounding and human environment).

2. Postcolonialism
James (2015) in his essay about Postcolonialism: A Brief Overview stated that “postcolonialism is a theoretical procedure used to interpret, read and critique the cultural practices of colonialism. As a theory it focuses on the question of race within colonialism and shows how the optic of race enables the colonial powers to represent, reflect, refract and make visible native cultures in inferior ways”. In more specific way, in can be concluded that postcolonial studies originally were formulated to deal with written literature whether from colonized point of view or the perspective of the colonizer. It deals with how the colonized countries build the idea of colonizer’s superiority, and see themselves as the people over that superiority.

a. Orientalism
Edward Said’s orientalism (1978) is a specific expose of the Eurocentric universalism which takes for granted both the superiority of what is European or Western, and the inferiority of what is not. Said identifies the European cultural tradition of ‘Orientalism’, which is a particular and long-standing of the way of identifying the East as ‘the Other’ and inferior to the West (Eliot & Owens, 2005, p. 186). Furthermore, orientalism can be interpreted as a way of understanding the Eastern world because of its “specificity”, according to the perspective and experience of the Europeans.

b. Representation of the Other
Under the idea of orientalism, the binary opposition between colonizer and colonized country lead us to the terms that portray about an unequal relation about the West and the East. For instance, Said (1978) refers to Balfour and Cromer’s term that the Orient typically described as irrational, depraved (fallen), childlike, “different”; thus the European is rational, virtuous, mature, “normal”. Furthermore, Bertens (2007) explained
that those basic opposition function the West as the masculine pole—enlightened, rational, entrepreneurial, disciplined—while the East is its feminine opposition: irrational, primitive, passive, undisciplined, and sensual.

However, these justifications and representation later known as othering. As what Tyson (2006) described that the colonizers saw themselves as the embodiment of what a human being should be, the proper “self”; native peoples were considered “other,” different, and therefore inferior to the point of being less than fully human. This practice of judging all who are different as less than fully human is called othering, and it divides the world between “us” (the “civilized”) and “them” (the “others” or “savages”).”

In order to emphasize the representation of the Other, the Western think that they need to confirm the identity boundaries between themselves as the colonizer and the Eastern as their colonies. So, they decided to give a special description (the other idea) to the Eastern culture, cloth, mind, color skin and so on. In this sense they can be described as the foreign: the one who does not belong to a group, does not speak a given language, does not have the same customs; they are the unfamiliar, uncanny, unauthorized, inappropriate and the improper (Al-Saidi, 2014, p. 95).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

Dobie (2012) in Theory into Practice: An Introduction to Literary Criticism stated that postcolonial analysis begins with the assumption that examining the relationship between a text and its context will illuminate not only the given work but also the culture that produced and consumed it. In this case, there are several ways in analyzing postcolonial issues in literature based on Dobie’s statement which related to this research that are summarized into in the next few steps:

In the first stage, the researcher identifies the attitudes that reflect the representation of the Other towards Little Bee’s character that exist in the novel. In this case, according to Dobbie (2012), Others record the sense of double consciousness and unhomeliness experienced by those who belong to the past and present and to neither. By noting Little Bee’s experiences and the language that used to describe her, the attitudes about the representation of the Other that reflected in the novel may become evident. In this step, the researcher analyzes what kind of the attitudes does reflect in the representation of the Other toward Little Bee’s character. The next step is noting the treatment of characters. Based on Dobie (2012), the assumption about characters, both spoken and unspoken, indicate whether the work supports or resists the ideology and practices of colonialism. In this stage, the researcher shows which narrations, action, thoughts, etc. that reflected in Little Bee’s character which contains the representation of the Other. Therefore, in the last step of data analysis by noting their treatment and the language used to describe them, attitudes about colonized peoples that have gone unnoticed, especially in canonical works, may become evident (Dobie, 2012, p. 214).
D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. The Representation of Different

The first representation of the Other that reflected in Little Bee’s character was different. In the story, Little Bee came to England as a refugee from Nigeria. She showed herself as a character that reflected the values of someone unusual and different who occasionally got a bad judgment from others because of those things. As maintained by Said (1978) refers to Balfour and Cromer’s term that the Orient typically described as irrational, depraved (fallen), childlike, “different”; thus, the European is rational, virtuous, mature, “normal”. In order to define the term ‘different’, Oxford Dictionary (2008) refers different as something which is not the same as another or each other; unlike in nature, form, or quality: it distinct and separate known as ‘different’. Furthermore, it is used when someone or something is unusual or showing bad judgment.

One of the representations of different that was reflected for the first time toward Little Bee’s character reflected when she tried to explain herself in the quotation below:

“Me, I could pin a tiara on my short fuzzy hair, and I could hold up a sceptre in one hand, like this, and police officers would still walk up to me in their big shoes and say, Love the ensemble, madam, now let’s have quick look at your ID, shall we?” (Cleave, 2009, p. 3).

This quotation showed that even if she used any properties that made her look better, it would not help the fact that she was different. The police officer would always walk to her in the first time they saw her and asked for her identity. Furthermore, even it seemed that Little Bee talked to herself in this sentence, she clearly realized that there was something unlike the nature in herself and would always be recognized in those differences by others. More deeply, her choice of an analogy about “… police officer would still walk up to in their big shoes…” instead of another analogy, gave a deeper perspective, that the differences inside her always invited a bad judgment from others.

Furthermore, the researcher found that this data was characterized Little Bee as different in indirect presentation, specifically in the form of speech (mind). In the data above, Little Bee as a colonized character indirectly illustrated the differences within herself by thinking that no matter she looked like, she would still be recognized because of those differences. Moreover, instead of saying that she was different straight away, she represented the differences in herself by describing the fact that those differences always invited a bad judgment from others in seeing herself. Through her mind, she characterized herself as a different person in England by describing it indirectly.

Further, the representation of different was also depicted through Little Bee’s conversation with Lawrence. Lawrence was an English man character who became Sarah’s affair. Their affair started before Sarah’s husband died, he was also the reason why Sarah and Andrew went to Nigeria for a vacation to fix their marriage. Lawrence was the person who rejected the idea of harboring Little Bee in Sarah’s house since the first time Little Bee came. In one morning, he had an argument to Little Bee in Sarah’s kitchen. In his argument, he stated that Little Bee was someone that never be the same as...
him, it was all simply because she was different. In this context, Lawrence saw himself as a British, while Little Bee was not. Lawrence made it clear that even though Little Bee lived in England, learned the rules and the language, or extremely admitted herself as more British rather than origin self, he made a bold-line that they were not something the same at all.

‘I have been in your country two years. I learned your language and learned your rules. I am more like you than me now.’
Lawrence laughed down his nose again. ‘I really don’t think you’re anything like me,’ he said.” (Cleave, 2009, p. 269)

In this part, Lawrence did not only see Little Bee as someone who would not be the same as him but also different and lower. In this case, his attitude of underestimating by laughing and said “I really don’t think” confirmed his judgment to Little Bee as the Other (colonized character) while himself as someone that better than her: The Western. In this case, the data above was characterized Little Bee as different in direct presentation. As a British character, Lawrence made it clear to Little Bee that she would not ever be the same as him. Little Bee was characterized as different through Lawrence’s response to her when she said that she was more like British rather than her Nigerian identity. Lawrence constituted the characterization of the Other which shaped her as different by saying it directly that he did not think Little Bee as anything like him at all. Through his words, there was a strong identity affirmation between them. In the data above, Lawrence and his West’s perception saw Little Bee as Nigerian girl that however she tried to make herself similar to British, she could not be one.

2. The Representation of Foreign

The second form of representation of the Other which also found in Little Bee’s character was foreign. In the process of analyzing, the researcher found that there was evidence of the representation of foreign that was depicted towards Little Bee’s character. As Al-Saidi (2014) argued that the colonized character can be described as foreign: “the one who does not belong to a group, does not speak a given language, does not have the same customs ...”. In accordance with the previous statement, Oxford-Dictionary (2008) also defines foreign as ‘of, from, in, or characteristic of a country or language other than one's own’. It belongs to another distinct or area, and comes or is introduced from outside. As the researcher has explained before, Little Bee was a refugee from Nigeria who came to England and lived in the detention center for two years. Through herself, the readers can see how hard it was the idea of living as an immigrant and the one that did not belong to the country.

“Truly, this is the one thing that people from your country and people from my country agree on. They say, that refugee girl is not one of us. That girl doesn’t belong. That girl is a Halfling, a child of an unnatural mating, an unfamiliar face in the moon” (Cleave, 2009, pp. 11-12).
The data above was Little Bee’s thought when she realized that the only thing everyone would agree about herself was the fact that she was the one who did not belong to the country. Other descriptions that Little Bee gave to herself such as “Halfling”, followed by other negative features like “a child of unnatural mating”, and “an unfamiliar face in the moon” showed that Little Bee represented herself as someone that had unclear status rather than being a British. This representation also proved the binary opposition wherein the British as natives have a higher status than the Nigerian in Little Bee’s perspective. By saying “people from your country and people from my country”, she made it clear that there was a contrast comparison between them that made the Nigerian as foreign people.

In this part, the representation of foreign was characterized toward Little Bee’s human environment when she described her feeling in the quotation above. It was an illustration that Little Bee gave to herself in describing how her environment actually saw herself. She described it indirectly that the only idea that everyone would agree about herself was the fact that she was the one who did not belong to the country. In her narration, she was symbolized how everyone’s perspective in seeing refugees in England. Apparently, it was actually all the same, either from Nigerian or British people.

3. The Representation of Inappropriate

The next representation of the Other that also represented in Little Bee’s character was inappropriate. One of the data that was portrayed was reflected on the day when Little Bee was released from immigration detention center. When the officer let her out, the detention officer put a voucher in her hand, a transport voucher, then said that she could telephone for a cab to bring her somewhere.

“I said, thank you, sir, my God move with grace in your life and bring joy into your heart and prosperity upon your loved ones. The officer pointed his eyes at the ceiling, like there was something very interesting up there, and he said, Jesus”. (Cleave, 2009, p. 5)

Little Bee learned English through newspaper that was donated to the detention. She admired the Queen’s English as much as she could think. In the data above, she tried to practice her English to the detention officer with the expectation that the officer could feel how happy she was. But the response of the officer was a contrast answer. His expression of “pointed his eyes at the ceiling” and said “Jesus” definitely described that he felt disturbed about what Little Bee said. Through his attitude, he clearly expressed that Little Bee was not the right person to say so. He considered Little Bee as someone who was inappropriate to say as its what natives did. A different response might be given by the guard if those words were not from Little Bee. It might be the other way around, if those words came from the British one. The officer might see the person as someone who dignified or even a royal descent. In this case, the detention officer represented Little
Bee as someone who was inappropriate in saying something which sounded like a royal British.

Further, Little Bee was characterized as inappropriate through the detention officer’s action when he responded to Little Bee in the data above. In this case, it was illustrated toward the act of commission (something performed by the character). In this part, the officer’s attitudes reflected how he felt disturbed about what Little Bee’s said. It was supported by his attitudes that clearly expressed Little Bee as the one who was inappropriate to say so. Through the action he was performed in data above, the officer as the Western character represented Little Bee as the Eastern character who was inappropriate in saying something which sounded like royal British.

4. The Representation of Inferior

The next representation of the Other that was also found in Little Bee’s character was inferior. Generally, the idea of the Other portrayed in Little Bee’s character as a Nigerian refugee in England, she constructed the idea of inferiority through herself. For instance, one of the data that was found represented when she even declared herself as the one who wanted to change her identity and wish to be a British pound coin in the very beginning paragraph in her first chapter.

“Most days, I wish I was a British pound coin instead of an African girl. Everyone would please to see me coming. Maybe I would visit with you for the weekend and then suddenly, because I am fickle like that, I would visit the man from the corner shop instead – but you would not be sad because you would be eating a cinnamon bun, or drinking Coca Cola from the can, and you would never think of me again. We would be happy, like lovers who met on holiday and forgot each other’s names.” (Cleave, 2009, p. 1)

Through Little Bee’s statement, it can be seen that she felt disturbing about her African identity when she came to England. She even stated that it would be better for her to be a coin rather than herself. Because when she was a pound coin, everyone must be happy to see her came and it would not happen when she was fourteen years-old black Nigerian. Her statement also gave the portrayal of unconfident feeling over her identity and culture. She felt less important because of her status and identity in England. She represented herself as an object that must be confirmed herself in front of something more powerful subject by wishing at least to stick with them. Moreover, her choice to be a pound coin rather than something more valuable like gold, jewelry or at least a penny was something that questionable too. Her decision to wish over a lower choice reflected herself who even did not see the value of herself. In the last quotation, she strengthened the idea of ‘less-important’ inside herself by giving an analogy of two lovers who met on holiday and forgot each other’s names. In this case, it might say that her experiences as colonized country influenced her point of view over herself, identity and even her country.
In the data above, it was also found that Little Bee was characterized herself as inferior in indirect presentation that reflected toward her mind. In this case, Little Bee represented the inferiority within herself through the way she thought about herself and reflected the power of a pound coin which indirectly was symbolized England as a superior one.

5. The Representation of Irrational

Little Bee’s character as a Nigerian refugee was also represented as someone who was irrational. In this novel, one of the irrationalities was portrayed through Little Bee’s character when she was in the detention center and imagined herself could communicate with Queen Elizabeth II of England in a pound coin,

“See how nicely a British pound coin talks? It speaks with the voice of Queen Elizabeth the Second of England. Her face is stamped upon it, and sometimes when I look very closely I can see her lips moving. I hold her up to my ear. What is she saying? Put me down this minute, young lady, or I shall call my guards.” (Cleave, 2009, pp. 2-3)

As explained in the previous analysis, Little Bee was the one who put excessive admiration for pound coin and Queen Elizabeth II of England. In this section, the irrationality was represented through Little Bee in the way she described her ability to see and hear pound coin spoke in the voice of Queen Elizabeth II. In her narration, when she saw the pound coin closely, she saw Queen Elizabeth's lips moved and made a pretty clear voice of her. In this case, Little Bee’s character reflected the irrationality values through her actions, she was presented as someone who was irrational with her unbelievable imagination. In this part, she was also described as someone who had lacking mental clarity. In deeper analysis, she did not even know exactly how Queen Elizabeth’s voice was, but she said it sure for her that the voice she heard from the pound coin was a voice of the Queen. It created a clear portrait of irrationality in Little Bee’s character who could not think clearly and reasonably.

In this case, the researcher found that the representation of irrational was characterized in Little Bee’s character in indirect presentation. In this case, the data above was characterized Little Bee as irrational for the first time through Little Bee’s action. It was displayed when Little Bee considered herself as the one who could communicate with Queen Elizabeth II in a pound coin. In this case, Little Bee’s attitudes in data above was characterized herself as an irrational person who did unthinkable actions. It was included the fact that she did not even know how exactly the voice of the Queen was.

6. The Representation of Passive

The next representation of the Other which was also represented in Little Bee’s character was passive. Little Bee as the colonized character was represented as the one who passively could not take the dominant role for herself and another. The representation of the Other which described Little Bee as passive happened for the first time when she
stood in front of Sarah’s house. Sarah’s response of her appearance represented Little Bee as the one who was passive.

“Neither of us spoke. After a few moments I let her in and I sat her down on the sofa. Black girl in a red and white Hawaiian shirt, stained by the Surrey clay. Sofa from Habitat. Memories from hell. ‘I don’t know what to say. I thought you must be dead.” (Cleave, 2009, p. 126)

Sarah’s prejudice which thought that Little Bee had died when the terror in Nigeria happened was a kind of prejudice that represented Little Bee as someone who was passive. In this case, Sarah reflected the idea that Little Bee was someone who could not do anything to protect herself. In her perspective, Little Bee must be dead after that moment happened.

In this case, Sarah’s utterance in the data above was indirectly characterized Little Bee as passive person by saying that she thought Little Bee must be dead after their meeting in Nigeria two years ago. It was displayed through Sarah’s utterance in her conversation to Little Bee. As well as Little Bee was confirmed the idea of the Other character who was presented as a passive person who could not protect herself. So, Sarah concluded that she must be already dead in the moment of terror two years ago in Nigeria.

7. The Representation of Primitive

The next representation of the Other which also portrayed in Little Bee’s character was primitive. She was described as someone who came from a distant country in the East called Nigeria. Her first experience in England made her realized that her life in Nigeria was the remnants of an old stuffs which seemed to belong to an early stage of civilization. It was very different because in England everything was seemed wonderful and beyond her imagination.

The first representation of primitive occurred when she told that if she had an opportunity to tell the story to the girls from her village back home, she had to explain every little thing that she experienced or saw in England in detail explanations,

“No, this newspaper was not for people like you and me. There was a white girl in the newspaper photo and she was topless. You know what I mean when I say this, because it is your language we are speaking. But if I was telling this story to my big sister Nkiruka and the other girls from my village back home, then I would have to stop, right here, and explain to them: topless does not mean, the lady in the newspaper did not have an upper body. It means, she was not wearing any garments on her upper body. You see the difference?”

Wait. Not even a brassiere?
Not even a brassiere.
Weh!” (Cleave, 2009, p. 6)
It happened in the first day when she was released from the detention center. She was queuing for the telephone while the detention officer sat behind his desk and read a newspaper where he did not seem interested in watching over the girls. This first data indirectly explained about the distant difference between what happened in England and in her country, even just from the perspective in understanding the meaning of one word. In accordance with the definition of primitive in *Cambridge Dictionary* (2013) which was explained as a society in which people live in a very simple way, usually without machines or a writing system. In this case, she described indirectly that newspaper and porn industry were something that did not happen in her country so everyone there would not know such things. On the other hand, newspapers and porn industry were things that commonly happened in developed countries like England.

Further, it was found that the representation above was characterized Little Bee as primitive through her human environment. In this part, Little Bee’s explanation about the girls from her back home in Nigeria was characterized the primitiveness within herself. She indirectly explained the distance difference between her country and England. The illustration that she gave in the data above about Nigerian’s understanding over a simple thing that happened in England was indirectly portrayed the living condition which was very simple and basic there.

8. The Representation of Savages

The representation of the Other that was also portrayed in Little Bee’s character was savage. The researcher found that this form of representation also represented in Little Bee’s character in the novel. Little Bee as a Nigerian character sometimes got a judgment by other characters in the novel as a savage person. It was shown on the first day when she and three other refugees were released from the detention center. It happened when one of them tried to call the taxi to pick them up, the taxi driver suddenly rejected it after knowing the place he had to go.

“She said into the receiver: *All right, listen, mister, the place I is right now is called Black Hill Immigration Removal.* Then she said, *No, please, wait.* Then she looked sat and put the telephone receiver back down on the telephone. I said, *what is wrong?* The first girl sighed and she said, *Taxi man say he no pick up from dis place. Then he say, you people are scum. You know dis word?*” (Cleave, 2009, p. 18)

The representation of savage was represented through the taxi driver’s response to the girl by refusing to pick them up and saying that they were a scum people. The taxi driver was a British character who seemed to have an experience and knew that the immigrant people were a bad idea for the taxi service. The representation above is one of the data which characterized Little Bee as savage in indirect presentation. The taxi driver’s utterances when the girl mentioned the name of the place was indirectly characterized the refugees as a savage. As a British character, he perceived the brutality within the refugees by expressing his interpretation and subjectivity over them. For
instance, the characterization of savage reflected when he generalized the refugees into one feature that was scum.

9. The Representation of Unauthorized

The last representation of the Other which the researcher found in Little Bee’s character was unauthorized. The novel itself took politics of refugees and immigrant as one of the most important themes of it. Little Bee as the main character was a Nigerian refugee who came to England without any legal documents to prove her identity. So, she put in the immigrant detention center for two years by the British government before they finally deported her back to Nigeria. After those two years in the detention center, she spent the rest of her life as an illegal immigrant in England. She became the one who always was running and hiding behind her identity.

In this case, according to Cambridge Dictionary (2013), if something or someone is unauthorized, it happened because they did not have an official permission to do something or be in a particular place. Little Bee herself, lived as an unauthorized creature in England because she could not prove herself in every official procedure that she was legal. The first representation of unauthorized in Little Bee’s character was described when she explained herself through her perspective.

“How I would love to be a British pound. A pound is free to travel safety, and we are free to watch it go. This is the human triumph. This is called globalisation. A girl like me gets stopped at immigration, but a pound can leap the turnstiles, and dodge the tackles of those big men with their uniform caps, and jump straight into a waiting airport taxi. Where to, sir? Western civilization, my good man, and make it snappy.” (Cleave, 2009, p. 2)

The idea of representation of unauthorized in Little Bee’s character reflected when she constructed the idea of the Other inside herself. Besides, she declared herself as the one who wanted to be a British pound coin rather than human because it would be easier for her to travel safety rather than Nigerian. Little Bee also constructed the binary opposition between the West and the East by symbolized a British pound coin as something that could legally travel wherever they wished. Meanwhile, it would not happen to immigrants who was illegal as her.

The researcher also found that Little Bee was characterized as an unauthorized character through her silent explanation about herself who could not even pass the immigration because of her identity. Furthermore, Little Bee also reflected the Otherness idea within herself by comparing a pound coin who had more authority to travel freely rather than her as an illegal immigrant.

Another representation of unauthorized was also depicted when Little Bee and three other refugees were released and went out from the detention center. They arrived in a vast field which owned by a British man named Mr. Ayres. In this case, an unauthorized representation was directly illustrated when Mr. Ayres questioned their legal status.
“Is there any way you can prove that you’re legal? I could be in trouble if I let you onto my land and then it turns out I’m harbouring illegal immigrants. I have a wife and three children. This is a serious question I’m asking you.” (Cleave, 2009, p. 89)

Mr. Ayres’s statement directly represented them as an illegal immigrant who could endanger Mr. Ayres’s status because if the authorities knew that Mr. Ayres let them onto his land, he would be accused of harboring illegal immigrants. According to him, if it happened it could be a serious problem. So, he tried to make sure that the girls were legal by asking them to prove their legality. Through his statement, he represented them as someone who did not have official permission to stay and could be a problem for the other legal citizens as him.

In much in the same vein, the characterization of unauthorized was directly stated by Mr. Ayres’s utterances to Little Bee and three other girls who were released with her. He shaped the representation of unauthorized within the immigrants by saying them directly as illegal immigrants. In this case, by saying the explicit presentation that he stated in his speech, he was directly characterized Little Bee as an unauthorized character (illegal) in England. Moreover, he perceived that the existence of the immigrants in his field could be a serious problem for him and his family. Through his utterances, the readers would come to a clear understanding about the attributes of refugees as the illegal one in England.

E. CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the representation of the Other towards Little Bee’s character in Chris Cleave’s The Other Hand novel using postcolonialism approach and the evidence of characterization in Little Bee’s character, the researcher concluded that the representations of the Other which reflected in Little Bee’s character in The Other Hand novel are different, foreign, inappropriate, inferior, irrational, passive, primitive, savages and unauthorized. They were represented through the way Little Bee explained herself and also can be seen through other characters in the story. Therefore, those other characters that revealed the representation of the Other in Little Bee’s character were Sarah, Lawrence, Mr. Ayres, the officers, the taxi drivers, the play leader of Charlie’s school and Yevette. In this case, the representation of the Other was reflected through the way the other character’s reacted and responded to Little Bee.

Moreover, the researcher found that the representation of the Other which reflected in Little Bee’s character was characterized in direct and indirect presentation. Further, the researcher also found that most of the data was characterized indirectly to Little Bee’s character. The characterization of the Other which was found in direct presentation just found in the representation of different and unauthorized. For instance, Little Bee was characterized indirectly in four biggest ways such as character’s actions (act of commission), speeches (conversation and mind), external appearance and environment (physical surrounding and human environment).
In addition, it is also can be concluded that in Chris Cleave’s *The Other Hand* novel, the existence of the representation of the Other in Little Bee’s character was proved. As a matter of fact, most of the data shown that Little Bee’s character was indirectly represented as the colonized character (the East character) who contained the otherness idea within herself.

**REFERENCES**


