

## **Prejudice to The Inferior Races in *Heart of Darkness* Novella by Joseph Conrad**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The word Prejudice or Prejudice lately can be defined as a preconceived thought or opinion about a person or a group solely based on the particular culture, ethnicity, gender, or religion that that person or group has. In literary works, the word prejudice or prejudice can be seen through a character or a group and even forms of prejudice can also be formed from within oneself. This study aims and discusses the forms of prejudice in Joseph Conrad's novella entitled *Heart of Darkness*. The purpose of this study is to identify the forms of prejudice formed by Marlow's character towards the African Congo ethnicity and to describe how the author characterizes these forms of prejudice in Marlow. This research focuses on the experience of prejudice or prejudice that is formed in Marlow's character. This research aims to identify the superior and inferior races in the novella *Heart of Darkness*. This study uses the Theory of Prejudice from Gordon Allport and Narrative Fiction from Rimmon Kennan to apply this research. The researcher used qualitative research methods. The results of this study indicated that antilocution (negro, and black people) several brands of stereotypes or prejudices given to African society by superior race and discrimination (exile, forced labor etc). The dominant data were found such as antilocution, and physical attack and the least found is Extermination. The highlights are in the Novel in *Heart of Darkness* the forms of society that white people do prejudices to other races and still happen in the modern era right now.

**Keywords:** Prejudice, Narrative, Superior, Inferior.

## **ABSTRAK**

*Kata Prejudice atau Prasangka belakangan ini dapat didefinisikan sebagai suatu pemikiran atau pendapat yang terbentuk sebelumnya tentang seseorang ataupun suatu kelompok semata-mata hanya berdasarkan budaya, etnis, jenis kelamin, atau agama tertentu yang dimiliki orang atau kelompok tersebut. Di dalam karya sastra, kata prejudice ataupun prasangka dapat dilihat melalui sebuah karakter ataupun suatu kelompok bahkan bentuk prasangka juga bisa terbentuk dari dalam diri sendiri. Penelitian ini bertujuan dan mendiskusikan tentang bentuk-bentuk prasangka atau prejudice dalam novella karya Joseph Conrad yang berjudul Heart of Darkness. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk prasangka yang dibentuk oleh karakter Marlow terhadap etnis Afrika Kongo dan mendeskripsikan bagaimana cara sang penulis mengkaraterisasi bentuk-bentuk prasangka atau prejudice tersebut dalam diri Marlow. Penelitian ini berfokus kepada pengalaman prasangka ataupun prejudice yang terbentuk dalam karakter Marlow. Rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah menentukan varian dari bentuk-bentuk prasangka atau prejudice yang ada didalam Heart of Darkness novella. Untuk mendapatkan hasil dan tujuan dari penelitian ini ,peneliti menggunakan pendekatan Theory of Prejudice dari Gordon Allport dan Narrative Fiction dari Rimmon Kennan. Dalam literatur ini, peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Antilocution (negro, and black people) beberapa cap atau brand dari stereotip atau perasangka yang diberikan kepada masyarakat Afrika oleh ras superior (orang Kulit Putih) dan discrimination (pengasingan, kerja paksa) data yang dominan ditemukan adalah antilocution, physical attack dan yang paling sedikit ditemukan adalah extermination. Yang dapat digaris bawahi bahwa dalam Novel in Hearth of Darkness dijumpai bentuk-bentuk dari prasangka dilakukan oleh masyarakat kulit putih kepada ras yang lain.*

**Kata Kunci :** Prasangka,Narasi,Unggul,Inferior

## A. INTRODUCTION

Joseph Conrad delves deeply into significant issues of the post-colonial era in his celebrated novella, *Heart of Darkness*. The novella explores in-depth topics ranging from imperialism, oppression, and power/class dichotomies to social problems such as ignorance, slavery, and discrimination, which was creating prejudices towards them. Most of the aspects of the novella have been analyzed repeatedly by scholars without much debate about what Conrad's true intentions were behind their portrayal in the novella. However, the topic of prejudices has been a bone of contention among scholars and readers alike to this day. If *Heart of Darkness* is a racist novella, then according to most scholars this apparent classic can never be classified as a true work of art. *Heart of Darkness* belongs to the Post-Colonial Literature genre which primarily focused on the colonialism and imperialism of European nations. The colonizers believed that they were civilizing the people of the African Continent, but their primary interest was in gaining wealth and they would go to any brutal extent necessary to achieve that wealth. Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* depicted a real image of the cruelty, brutality, and racism that took place in the African continent during the 19th century.

The focus of this research is about prejudices, there are kinds of prejudices such as prejudice towards one religion to another, prejudice towards race and many others are exist in literature. One of the prejudice forms is discrimination, an act or instance of discriminating or making a distinction. Discrimination is also an abnormal behavior of someone that is usually followed by physical abuse, disturbance, or even slavery.

*Heart of Darkness* novella gives us a deep understanding and lessons about the function of literature in entertaining and educating. It also gives us an understanding of the meaning of prejudice. The stereotypes happen to eastern races, especially the African People and give them effects such as suffering struggles that they feel.

Prejudice in *Heart of Darkness* novella by Joseph Conrad is one of the interesting topics to discuss. In this research, the researchers focuses on discussing the condition of African people in Congo facing European Imperialism and seeing this problem from the theory of prejudice perspective to face this problem. Some things dominate us as the Eastern people, Knowledge, and Power that as stated by Edward Said. The Superior races in the Western Peoples or White Peoples can create brands and stereotypes races of Eastern peoples through prejudices which are Asia and African peoples. Nowadays as Eastern people sometimes believe what is being branded to us, "Using their own culture as the standard for what any culture should be, a practice known as **Eurocentrism**, the powerful justified the imposition of their own culture on those they deemed to be of lesser status, the **subalterns**." (Dobie, 2002).

## **B. RELATED LITERATURE**

### **1. Literature and Novella**

Literature is referred to as written expression. By etymology, literature comes from the Latin word “Literatura” which is derived from “littera” (letter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing. The word text is related to “textile” and can be translated as “fabric”: just as a single thread from fabric, so words and sentences form a meaningful and coherent text. The origins of the two central terms are not a great help in defining literature or text. It is more enlightening to look at literature or text as cultural and historical phenomena and to investigate the conditions of their production and reception. (Klarer,2005)

The novella is different from the common novel as usual. In literature, a novella is one of the types of prose fiction, shorter than novels and longer than short stories. Etymologically word “novella” from Latin means “new”. Usually, a novella focuses on one incident, or issue, with one or two main characters and takes place at a single location. Kercheval Lee explains that the novella is roughly anything over 50 manuscript pages and under 150 (Klarer,2005).

### **2. Theory of Prejudice**

The term prejudice is often used to refer to be preconceived and prejudgment against an individual or a group. The researchers choose the theory of prejudice by Gordon Allport to describe and define it in his book entitled “The Nature of Prejudice”. The definition of prejudice based on his statement is “Thinking ill of others without sufficient warrant”. This brief definition contains two essential ingredients, which are: 1) unfounded judgment and 2) a feeling-tone which later is connected to attitude.

#### **a. Antilocution**

Allport uses the terms of “antilocution” to refer to the negative verbal comments about a person or group. This kind of discriminatory remarks can take various forms, such as an ethnic joke or a stereotypical characterization like “Asians are bad drivers” other examples are “don’t give money to homeless people because they going to use it for drugs and alcohol” which attributes and towards to the entire group. Antilocution can also screen the use of racial or ethnic slurs, like “Mick” (Irish people), “Chang” (Chinese people), “Krauts or Jerries” (German people), and many others.

#### **b. Avoidance**

Allport explains that if the prejudice is more intense, it leads the individual to avoid members of the disliked group, even perhaps at the cost of considerable inconvenience. In this case, the bearer of prejudice does not directly inflict harm upon the group he dislikes. He takes the burden of accommodation and withdrawal entirely upon himself (Allport, 1954).

### **c. Discrimination**

Here the prejudiced person makes detrimental distinctions of an active sort. He undertakes to exclude all members of the group in question from certain types of employment, from residential housing, political rights, educational or recreational opportunities, churches, hospitals, or from some other social privileges. Segregation is an institutionalized form of discrimination, enforced legally or by common custom (Allport, 1954).

### **d. Physical Attack**

Allport explains that a person under conditions of heightened emotional prejudice may lead to acts of violence or semi-violence. An unwanted Negro family may be forcibly ejected from a neighborhood or severely threatened that it leaves in fear. Gravestones in Jewish cemeteries may be desecrated. The Northside's Italian gang may lie in wait for the Southside's Irish gang (Allport, 1954).

### **e. Extermination**

Extermination is the ultimate form of negative action which results from intense prejudice. The action was produced from this extermination form such as lynching, pogroms, massacres, and also genocide (Allport, 1954).

## **C. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used qualitative research. This qualitative research is one of the types of research methodologies that are widely known. Specifically, qualitative research-focused and more concerned with the qualitative phenomenon, and quantitative is the other hand, is focused on the measurement of quantity amount. According to flick qualitative research "is a research interest in analyzing the subjective meaning or the social production issue, events or practices by collecting non-standardized data and analyzing texts and images rather than numbers and statistics (Flick, 2009).

In this thesis, the research focused on tracing the idea of prejudice theories which contains, antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and extermination that reflected in the novella. In addition, the interpretation would be analyzed from the

perspective of historical or cultural context which is the text was created by the author: Joseph Conrad (England/Colonizer).

### D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Findings

This research are using theory of prejudice by Gordon Allport. Which are consist five scales of prejudice. Each data of the scales will be labeled or coded which are consisted, first is Joseph Conrad as an author in this subject of this research is coded as (JC),second is Antilocution which was coded as (AL) then (R) is the researcher name, (P) is page and (L) is line, the code will be combined together like this (JC-ALRP2L10-15) so the meaning of this code is (Joseph Conrad - Antilocution Rodhy Page 2 Line 10 to 15). Same goes with the other scales of prejudice will be labelled as code like Avoidance (AV), Discrimination (DC), Physical Attack (PA), and Extermination (EXT). The researcher will find the data in the novella, however researcher puted the data in the table below.

No	Elements	Definition	Manuscripts	Total [Data]
1.	Antilocution	Allport uses the terms of “antilocution” to refer to the negative verbal comments about a person or group.	- The old nigger (ALR01P13L18) - It was paddled by black fellows (ALR02P20L1)	7
2.	Avoidance	Avoidance means it leads the individual to avoid members of the disliked group, even perhaps at the cost of considerable inconvenience.	- Was it superstition, disgust, patience, fear--or some kind of primitive honor? (AVR01P60L3)	1
3.	Discrimination	Discrimination refers to Allport’s is Segregation is an institutionalized form of discrimination, enforced legally or by common custom.	- The people had vanished. Mad terror has scattered them, men, women, and children, through the bush, and they have never returned. (DCR01P13-14L35)	5

4.	Physical attack	Physical attack refers to Allport explains that a person under conditions of heightened emotional prejudice may lead to acts of violence or semi-violence.	- therefore he whacked the old nigger mercilessly (PAR01P13L18) - in the moonlight the beaten nigger groaned somewhere (PAR02P37L7)	2
5.	Extermination	Allport's explained that extermination is The action was produced from this extermination form such as lynching, pogroms, massacres, and also genocide	- They grabbed what they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on a great scale (EXTR01P10L11) - They were dying slowly (EXTR02P24L24)	2
Total				17

### a. Antilocution

Antilocution is the first scale of rejection generated from prejudice which the researcher analyzed. According to Allport in his book *Nature of Prejudice*, Antilocution was about hate speech towards another group (19). The first evidence in the novella is the negative verbal towards the Congo people that was uttered by Charlie Marlow, an Englishman ferry boat captain who sailed along the Congo River.

“Now and then a boat from the shore gave one a momentary contact with reality. **It was paddled by black fellows.** You could see from afar the white of their eyeballs glistening. They shouted, sang; their bodies streamed with perspiration; they had faces like grotesque masks--these chaps; but they had a bone, muscle, a wild vitality, an intense energy of movement, that was as natural and true as the surf along their coast.” (JC-ALR02P20L1)

The first evidence are in two data above is happened when. Marlow started to set his foot on a journey in the Congo River and talked to another Englishman. They talked about how the situation in the Congo River and the experience of the Englishman happened to him before he accepted his task and began his sailing into the deep heart of darkness of the Congo River. Marlow and his fellow Englishman as a superior race in this research expressed his negative opinion towards Congo People by saying “**Black People**” or “**Nigger**” this was also called stereotypical characterization among them or other colored people. Such as narration is in the novella “**he whacked the old**

**nigger mercilessly**” and **“it was paddled by black fellows”**, this narration was a negative verbal and created a stereotypical characterization from Marlow to the Congo people. Based on Mr. Marlow and other Englishman, the Congo people as the Inferior races were very different from them, because they thought that the British were more superior. likewise, the British believed that **blacks**, or **niggers** as they called them lived without any purpose or goal. After all, they had no civilization, education, and even religion. In addition, they believed that black people in Congo behaved look like an animal and their attitudes annoyed them a lot. There was more evidenced than a showing of Antilocution in this novella because mostly the colonizer thought that colonized country was inferior whe they compared with others.

## **b. Avoidance**

The avoidance is the second scale of Allport’s prejudice. Allport explains that if the prejudice is more intense from the first scale, it leads the individual to avoid members of the disliked group, even perhaps at the cost of considerable inconvenience. In this case Allport stated that, the bearer of prejudice didn’t directly inflict harm upon the group he dislikes. He took the burden of accommodation and withdrawal entirely upon himself (Allport,1954). The researcher found the first evidence, the evidence in this second scale of Allport’s prejudice in *Heart of Darkness* novella

**“Yes; I looked at them as you would on any human being, with a curiosity of their impulses, motives, capacities, weaknesses, when brought to the test of an inexorable physical necessity. Restraint! What possible restraint? Was it superstition, disgust, patience, fear--or some kind of primitive honor? No fear can stand up to hunger, no patience can wear it out, disgust simply does not exist where hunger is; and as to superstition, beliefs, and what you may call principles, they are less than chaff in a breeze.”** (JC-AVR01P60L3)

This evidence was shown when Marlow had already begun his journey in the Congo River. He saw some local people on the side of the river doing some slavery activity and he talked to his man to avoid contact with any other local people. He thought that local people were primitive, savage, and heavily superstitious like narrated in the novella **“...Was it superstition, patience, fear—or some kind primitive honor?”** this evidence made the second scale of Allport’s prejudices was portrayed in the novella. The researcher saw it as an avoiding attitude from Marlow as a Superior towards Congo people as an Inferior.



### c. Discrimination

When the prejudice makes a person become detrimental distinctions, it becomes the third scale of Allport's prejudice which is called Discrimination. According to Allport's one form of discrimination is segregation. Discrimination is also about denying a certain group because of the deeper prejudice and hate (Allport, 1954). The researcher found several pieces of evidence that was portrayed and related to the discrimination in this novella. Marlow tried to say that his trip to the Congo River was strange and disturbing, because after what he had seen there and his statement worked as an alert to his fellows.

**“A calamity had come to it, sure enough. The people had vanished. Mad terror has scattered them, men, women, and children, through the bush, and they have never returned.”** (JC-DCR01P13-14L35)

This quotation of “**Calamity**” means the coming of the white people is a disaster for the Congo people because they were not bringing the civilization but it was only sorrow to them. This evidence also became stronger in this quotation **“The people had vanished. Mad terror has scattered them, men, women, and children, through the bush, and they have never returned.”** This gave us a clear depiction that discrimination towards Congo people exists in this novella.

### d. Physical Attack

Physical attack is the fourth act of rejection generated from prejudice in this research. Physical attack is mainly an action that involved harmful actions because the targeted group has to suffer from physical violence. In this case, physical attack tends to be physical abuse instead of verbal abuse. Besides physical abuse, vandalism is also one of the actions from physical attack (see in pages 20). The researcher found several pieces of data or evidence related to physical attacks. In this case, the physical attack also counted as the harmful kind among the previous kinds that the researcher mentioned. In addition, each statement stated in the Novella reflected the suffering of the Inferior races which Congolese people were forced to work under the Superior races which are the European colonizer who adopted all types of violence and prejudices to create racism to frighten, or killing the African people.

**“Therefore he whacked the old nigger mercilessly, while a big crowd of his people watched him, thunderstruck, till some man,-- I was told the chief's son,--in desperation at hearing the old chap yell, made a tentative jab with a spear at the white man-- and of course, it went quite easy between the shoulder-blades.”** (JC-PAR01P13L18)

This evidence shows more than a physical attack happened in the Novella, this quotation shows that there was a white chap which was the superior races doing a physical attack towards Congolese people, as it could be seen more clearly in this quotation **“Therefore he whacked the old nigger mercilessly...”**. And it also can be seen from what happened in the middle of the crowd of people, when the white chaps beat up the Congolese people, other people of Congolese people could not help him, helpless and did not do anything, this is shown in this quotation **“... while a big crowd of his people watched him, thunderstruck, till some man...”** why they did not do anything and feel helpless? Because they were afraid of White people and because of the discrimination and physical attack were created by the Superior races.

#### **e. Extermination**

Extermination is the last act or the highest scale that generated from a form of prejudice in this research. Extermination produced the forms such as lynching, pogroms, massacres, and also genocide. In this research, the researcher found some data or evidence which is related to the extermination. In this case, extermination is also counted as the harmful kind among the previous kinds that the researcher has mentioned before.

**“They grabbed what they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on a great scale, and men going at it blind—as is very proper for those who tackle a darkness.”** (JC-EXTR01P10L11)

In this evidence, Marlow was witnessing how the Superior races bruted towards Congolese, they came to their land without bringing any civilization and enlighten the people there, they were conquerors using all of the brutal forces to take all of the resources in the Congo. The Congolese people were helpless because their technology was more backward than the Superior races, they could not do anything against it.

## **2. Discussions**

In a study of prejudice towards the Congo people described above, the researcher learned that among the five act of rejections that were generated from prejudice, every one of the actions has the evidence. Among the five actions that have been studied, antilocution, discrimination and physical attack were the most dominant action that appeared. Due to the story of *Heart of Darkness* novella, the superior races more often said unpleasant and being rude towards the Congolese. Superior races hated

speech or mockery was an antilocution type, because mostly white people often did this, then the antilocution act becomes the most dominant act found in this research.

The researcher also concluded that the conflicts that occurred between superior races and inferior races in this case the Congolese involved the Congolese (in general), superior races (the white colonizer), and Marlow as the characters in the story, these three figures showed competitiveness but the conflicts were preceded by the hatred from superior races who thinks their presence towards Congolese were more superior. The conflicts began with the prejudice which is conducted by the white colonizer toward the Congolese, and then it triggered the five rejections. The researcher also concluded that behavior and preference became the tangible culture that could start an action of prejudice, this was supported by the data which showed the prejudice of white people was because of several things of their habits and preferences.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the prejudice which is conducted and narrated by the Superior Races with the behavior that is generated and showed from the prejudice in the Heart of Darkness novella, the researcher concluded the statement. There are five scales of Prejudice that are based on stated by Gordon Allport's theory which is, Antilocution, Avoidance, Discrimination, Physical Attack, and Extermination. These actions mostly were acted by the Superior Races which is the Europeans, especially Mr. Marlow that generated the prejudices in his mind during the boat trip in the middle of the Congo River. Five scales of Allport's Prejudice are appearing in the research.

This study aims to identify the superior and inferior races in the novella Heart of Darkness. This study uses the Theory of Prejudice from Gordon Allport and Narrative Fiction from Rimmon Kennan to apply this research. In this literature, researcher used qualitative research methods. The results of this study indicated that antilocution (negro, and black people) several brands of stereotypes or prejudices given to African society by superior race (white people) and discrimination (exile, forced labor etc). The dominant data were found such as antilocution, and physical attack and the least found is Extermination. The highlights are in the Novel in Heart of Darkness the forms of society that white people do prejudices to other races and still happen in the modern era right now.

By applying Allport's theory (1954) of five variants of scales of prejudice, the researcher concludes the main character Mr. Marlow experiencing how prejudice happens in that time as he is the superior race. Based on Allport's five scales of prejudice, *Heart of Darkness* experiences prejudice in the forms of antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and extermination. His experiences during the trip to the Congo river lead him into the variants of prejudices. *Heart of Darkness*

gets the prejudice from the white people that colonized the Congo, then it leads to a form of prejudice. Mr. Marlow's experiences in the Congo river lead him through into the form of avoidance, he just witnessed all of the brutality of white people who colonized and discriminated against the Congolese.

The prejudice in the novella is mostly represented through indirect characterization. It appears through action, speech, external appearance, and environment. The most manner of indirect characterization appear that is used to represent alienation is through the speech which is achieved through conversation by the main character and the other characters in the novella.

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