

THE REPRESENTATION OF “THE OTHER” IN ANDREA LEVY’S *SMALL ISLAND* NOVEL

Tusri Juni Asmara, Indah Sari Lubis, Nita Maya Valiantien

English Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences,
Mulawarman University
Email: tusrijuni97@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study examined *Small Island* novel by Andrea Levy as the object of the research. The aims of this research are to analyze the representation of “the Other” and how it portrayed in *Small Island* novel. To figure it out, this research used Orientalism theory to see how the orient was represented, especially used Tyson’s developmental theory from Said’s Orientalism as the indicators for the analysis. Moreover, this research used Kenan’s characterization theory to reveal how the representation was portrayed in the novel. This research used descriptive qualitative research method and Post-colonial approach to analyze the social issue of “the Other” that affected by European rules and colonization reflected in the novel. The result of this research shows that there are five negative representations of the orient. Those are difference, inferior, savage, backward, and undeveloped. Those representations were portrayed in two ways; direct and indirect presentation in the way of the character’s speech, external appearance and environment in the story.

Keywords: the other, orientalism, post-colonialism, characterization

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji *Small Island* novel dari Andrea Levy sebagai objek kajian. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa representasi dari “the Other” dan bagaimana hal itu digambarkan dalam novel *Small Island*. Untuk menemukan jawabannya, penelitian ini menggunakan teori orientalisme untuk melihat bagaimana orang timur di representasikan, khususnya penelitian ini menggunakan teori pengembangan dari teori orientalisme Said sebagai indikator dalam analisisnya. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori karakterisasi dari Kenan untuk mengungkapkan bagaimana representasi itu digambarkan didalam novel. Peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif-deskriptif dan menggunakan pendekatan Pasca-kolonialisme untuk menganalisa isu sosial tentang “the Other” yang dipengaruhi oleh kekuasaan dan kolonisasi bangsa Eropa yang tercermin dalam novel. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada lima negatif representasi yang dibuat orang barat kepada orang timur. Representasi-representasi negatif tersebut adalah; berbeda, inferior, biadab, tertinggal, dan tidak berkembang. Semua representasi

tersebut tergambar melalui dua cara yaitu; secara langsung dan secara tidak langsung dari cara berbicara, penampilan fisik, dan lingkungan dari karakter yang diceritakan.

Kata kunci: *the other, orientalisme, pasca-kolonialisme, karakterisasi*

A. INTRODUCTION

In this world, we still find some forms of oppression based on superiority and domination which cause various marginal conditions in geographical, social life and even in the formation of personal or communal identities. One of the subject matter is the attitude of western superiority over other cultures including some area of the eastern world, holding up the beneficial advantages in many aspects such as religion, economy and politic. This attitude emerges as the consequences of the European domination and colonialism in the past.

European empires extended themselves around the globe causing marginalization to the culture that subjugated. During the nineteenth centuries Britain emerged as the largest imperial power, and by the turn of the twentieth century the British Empire ruled one quarter of the earth's surface. British colonial domination continued until the end of World War II, when India gained independence in 1947, and other colonies gradually followed suit (Tyson 418). On August 15 1947 when India gained independence from Britain, the majority of Anglo-Indians had either left or would leave soon after. Many within the Indian Civil Service would write of the trauma that they experienced from witnessing the violence of the years up to the end of British rule and the bloodbath that would follow as the lines of partition were revealed (Alexander 1). British colonialism in India was both benefited and harmed. The beneficial consequences are such as the unifying of the country under one central government; the influence of modern economic ideology, production techniques and technology (Carey 45).

On the negative side, much of the Indian political and economic power was held under the British ruled. Also, Indian-owned industries such as cotton textiles were restricted by the British. Many villagers loss their self-sufficiency caused by the emphasis on cash crops. The conversation to cash crops reduced food production, causing famines in the late 1800s. Moreover, The British officially adopted a hands-off policy regarding Indian religious and social customs. Even so, the increased presence of missionaries and the racist attitude of most British officials threatened cultural Indian life (Classzone 358). It seems that impact of the colonialism may have done more harmed than good to the Indian. Here, the consequences and impact of that European colonialism raises many colonialist and anti-colonialist critiques to studies it in post-colonialism. Post-colonialism itself is an interest to spies what happen of European colonialism on colonized contemporary cultural life that affected by the domination of European rules (Dobie 111). In line, the European colonialism affected the orient cultural life that can be seen by the attitude of "Othering" or deeming the orient as different or "the Other", therefor

inferior contrast to the western as the superior one. The term “the Other” relates with those remaining elements that exist outside the self (European), objects and people that the infant comes to know before becoming aware of its own “other”. It carries with it the negative view of them held by their colonizers, who assume that those who are different from themselves are inferior beings (Dobie 354).

One of the literary works represents the concept of “the Other” is *Small Island* by Andrea Levy, she is one of the British postcolonial writers, publishes her historical novel *Small Island* in 2004. The novel tells a story about the lives in around colonial era (World War I) and after colonial era (1948) and following World War II. In some part of the novel, the story let us to see the effects of imperialism on the colonized people and the west perspective towards the orient sets in India. It tells from character perspective named Bernard when he describes his experiences as an RAF (Royal Air Force) soldier deployed in India. In the story the character describes that the Indian race, tradition, and even their attitude have such negative representations which shows the inferiority of the East. Over all, the researcher choose *Small Island* novel to be analyzed is because the story describes about the western perspective towards the orient (East) and it shows that western has represented the east and those non-European as “the Other” .

Based on the illustration of the background above, the purpose of this research is to explain how is the representation of “the Other” towards the main character depicted in *Small Island* novel.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Character and Characterization

A story must have certain important elements to perform the actions and speak dialogue that the author tries to convey to the readers through the plot line in the story. Character as Abrams in *Glossary of Literary Terms* define that characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing 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 (42)

Character in the story has its own identity. The character can be identifying by their appearance, action, thought, and speech of the character in which is called as characterization. Characterization is how the character is made up by the author through words of each character to define who they are (Gill 127). According to Kenan in *Narrative Fiction* there are two basic types of textual indicators of character there are; 1) Direct definition; this type explicitly tells the reader about character traits. This type names the trait by an adjective, an abstract noun or possibly some other kind of noun or part of speech (61). 2) Indirect presentation; The second type, on the other hand, does not mention the trait but displays and exemplifies it in various ways, leaving to the reader the task of inferring the quality they imply (61). A presentation is indirect when rather than mentioning a trait, it displays and exemplifies it in various ways namely; action, speech, external appearance, and environment.

2. Post-colonialism

The term postcolonial refers to all aspects of culture that is influenced by the process of colonial occupation, until recently. Tyson, postcolonial criticism analyzes literature produced by cultures that developed in response to colonial domination, from the first point of colonial contact to the present (209).

Additionally, post-colonialism in which known as colonial discourse is the construction of knowledge that works in a binary opposition that is spread through a system of representations. It contains of ideology that places Europe superior to the colonized. Binary opposition explained as paired opposites in which the first named is dominant figure. For example, male/female, white/black, making opposing elements are always unstable, however, they can be interved (Dobie 347). Binary opposition that constructed by western are crucial not only for creating images of the outsider (the orient) but equally essential for constructing the insider (the European). The example of binary opposition of west and the east can be seen in the table below as it refers to Maclin's (2002) categorization in Hariani's article (10);

3. Table 1.1 Binary Opposition of the West and the East

	"The West"	"The East"
o	White	Black
u	Culture	Nature
r	Good	Evil
c	Male	Female
e	Master	Slave
:	Adult	Child
	Purity	Pollution
H	God	Satan
a	Reason	Emotion
r	Law and Order	Chaos
i	Civilization	Savagery
a	Us	Them
n		

i, Dewi. "The Representation of Orientalism in Salman Rushdie's Haroun and the Seas of Stories". The study of humanities journal. 2016, pp. 10.

4. Orientalism

Orientalism can be defined as a tendency in western representation of the east. In 1978 Edward W. Said published Orientalism, in which he explains this tendency in Foucauldian terms as a mode of discourse with supporting

institutions, vocabulary, scholarship, doctrines, even colonial bureaucracies and colonial styles (1-2). This discourse dominated the representation and conception of the orient, as the ideas tied to this viewpoint explained the behavior of orientals.

As Said stated that the west was ‘always in a position of strength’, and this position was justified by the perception of the orientals as irrational, depraved (fallen), childlike, “different” in contrast to the rational, virtuous, mature, “normal” Europeans (40). These characteristics shape the image of an underdeveloped and uncivilized east, a constructed knowledge of the orient, which has helped legitimize western dominance and colonization.

5. The Representation of “the Other”

The term “the Other” is used by postcolonial theorists to refer to colonized peoples. It carries with it the negative view of them held by their colonizers, who assume that those who are different from themselves are inferior beings (Dobie 354). Dobie said that “The Other” refers to those remaining elements that exist outside the self, objects and people that the infant comes to know before becoming aware of its own “other”(354).

In Critical Theory Today as the developmental strand in post-colonial studies, a progression from the work of Edward Said’s Orientalism. Tyson argued that colonized people (the East) were defined with negative representations such as;

The Representations of the Other	Reasons
1. Backward 2. Undeveloped	Because the western believed of their technology and that their whole culture was more highly advanced than the people they subjugated (419).
3. Different 4. Inferior 5. Savage	Native people were considered as other, different, and therefor inferior to the point of being less than fully human. This practice divides the world between Us “the civilized” and, Them (the others or savage) The “Savage” is usually considered evil as well as inferior (<i>the demotic other</i>) (420).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used descriptive-qualitative research in this study, which this method relates with the object analysis of this research. As Vanderstoep and Johnson examines that descriptive method focuses on cultural, social, personal identity and its goal is more descriptive than predictive (167). In this research, the researcher describes about cultural values of the western to the Eastern and

other non-European that stereotyped as marginal cultures which reflected in *Small Island* novel using Postcolonial Approach. In addition, the qualitative research according to Hancock., et al. in *An Introduction to Qualitative Research* that qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are (7).

1. Data and Source of Data

Data conveyed through words have been labeled qualitative (Merriam 85). Thus, the data of this research are the words, sentences, dialogues, and utterance in the form of narration from data source that is *Small Island* novel which reflect about orientalism that the western representations of the orient “the Other” through the character in the novel.

2. Data Collection

In the way of collecting the data, there were several steps to do. The first was close reading. In this process, the researcher read the novel more than once. It can be re-read several times to ensure that the data is suitable with the topic analysis due to the theoretical framework. The next step was taking note. To collect the data, after all, during the close reading activity, the researcher was taking notes to the aspects that considered as the data from the novel.

3. Data Analysis

After the data are collected, the researcher analyzed the data by doing several steps according Miles and Huberman (4). The first was *Data reduction*. In this process, the researcher was selecting, focusing, and transforming the raw data that written in the field notes. From those data, only a few is considered as the suitable data with the subject matter of the analysis. The second was *data display*. In this case, the researcher displayed the data in the form of narration from the words, dialogue, and sentences in the novel based on the classification that have been reduced and organized. The data that have been reduced are the data display for the analysis. The last step was *drawing conclusion*, in this process, the researcher was drawing a conclusion based on the description and observation from the possible classification. In addition, it also to verify the analysis process for collecting the suitable data based on the orientalism aspects and the specific form of “the Other” that have been reduced and displays.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

1.1 Difference

The first representation of western to the orient is difference. The first evidence of difference was about race. It was portrayed when Bernard had a conversation with Maxi, Bernard’s partner during his duty in India. During their duty in the British camp, Bernard and Maxi saw a Japanese pilot and two army men pass through the camp. Bernard noticed that they as foreign themselves, black, and knew that they were an Indian. Maxi told that it was

Gurkhas the Japanese pilot. He may not look like the British but Gurkhas seemed different, he was a good one. So, Maxi warned Bernard not to do mess with the Gurkhas, the Japanese pilot. The evidence is shown through the following narration;

“A Japanese pilot. Hands on his head. Two army men with rifles fixed beyond- pointed at his back. Nudging him along. Shouting. Not in English. Foreign themselves. **Black. Indian.** ‘Gurkhas,’ Maxi said. ‘**May not look like one of us but they’re good sort.** You don’t mess with the Gurkhas.’

He was young, this Japanese pilot.” (288).

From the narration above, the representation was shown through indirect presentation, specifically in the way of the character’s external appearance. The orient’s external appearance influenced the British perception towards them. As they recognized the differences through the orient’s external appearance in which the Indian are black and not using English. It was the proof that they were not part of the British. In the conversation, they conversed about the Gurkhas (the Japanese pilot). The British argued that the orient not like one of them. The British used the word “they” for the orient which is refers to the people outside them (the western) and “us” which meant to states their distinction from the other (non-European).

1.2 Inferior

The second representation is inferior. Firstly, this representation talked about race. Throughout the story, when Bernard first arrived in India, he was astounded at the chaotic multilingual atmosphere of Bombay, which he interprets as the evidence of Indian inferiority. The evidence is proven through the following narration;

“we were packed like cattle on to the train in Bombay when we first arrived in India. We walked three abreast into the station but were quickly outnumbered. **Brown people all around.** At my back, at my front, under my arms. Hands out. **White palms begging.** ‘**baksheesh, baksheesh,**’ in my ear. Some held up wares- colourful cakes, drinks, trinkets of all kinds. **Others had no pride,** wanted something for nothing, behind me someone was shouting, ‘**please, sahib, my mother and father dead, rupees.**’ To my right a father was trying to sell his daughter to a Tommy, ‘**Pretty girl- very clean, sahib.**’ (281).

From the evidence above, we can see the orient was represented as inferior as it shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character’s external appearance. The orient’s external appearance influenced the British perception towards them. It started by judging the Indian skin tone. The orient were de-individualized by constantly called as “brown people” which considered as lower society. As in the story, Bernard told that

native came to the British troops and tried to sell everything they have and begging. They were considered had no pride begging to the British troops to get money. In other side, a father was trying to sell his daughter for a thrown of rupee. It makes they looked miserable and disgusting in Bernard perspectives. Sorts of thing that he knew only belongs to eastern people. Therefore, all of these aspects were interpreted as the Indian inferiority in the eye of the British.

1.3 Savage

The third representation of west to the east is savage. The evidence that shows the representation of savage was in term of race. As it shown when Bernard was in prison. He was taken to the cell along with other four Indians. He was accused for violence. Thought of living in the cell with the Indian was hard for Bernard. He thought it was not a fair play that he as an Englishman which he considered was having higher standards must be surrounded by the criminal Indians. Hence, it was proven by the following narrations says;

“Then the RAF shut me in a cell with four Indians. **Coolies**. This leading aircraftman. This Englishman. Locked up with the loose-wallahs, **the thieves**, the scoundrels the RAF took such pains to guard against. Every one of my cellmates was a common **criminal**, caught with his little brown fingers in something.” (329).

From the narration above, the representation was portrayed through direct presentation, in which the narrator explicitly mentioned about the character's traits. It was shown in the way the character told in narration about the orient savagery in the aspect of race. The Indian were mentioned as the coolies, the thieves, and the criminals. Moreover, he told the different standard between him as an Englishman and the Indians. For him as "an Englishman", a "leading Aircraftman" with higher standard was not proper to be surrounded by the coolies and criminals Indian. He as a highly Englishman, which he consider must be treated better than the Indians. In this case, it become clear from the way Bernard told in the narration that he was regarding his English identity as a civilized man while he talked about the chaotic and brutal attitude of the Indians which known for their criminal attitude.

1.4 Backward

The fourth representation of western to the east is backward. The first evidence of backward was in the aspect of race. It was portrayed in part when Bernard had an argument with Maxi, his partner during the duty in India. Bernard and Maxi wonder what kind of race that could only watch their men withered in the battle. They were also happy to see British get home while their race was just powerless, easily lose by their enemy unlike the western. Bernard proud to belong to a civilization which bring them to the top stage of conquest makes them never surrender from the Japanese troops. The evidence is shown in the following data says;

“Every man was happy to stand aside to let these flimsy scraps of Englishmen get home. What race of people could watch flesh wither on a man until he was no more than a framework? **Left me proud to belong to a civilization** where even the most aggrieved was held back from raising a hand to our Japanese prisoners.” (300).

In the data above, the representation as backward was shown in indirect presentation through the character’s speech. In line, through the character’s speech in the narration he was comparing his western identity that belongs to a civilization and not so for the orient which belongs to the backwardness. He was proud of belongs to the civilization that could bring a conquest for them. Belongs to a civilization means that they were trained to be more powerful and has many ways to get win because they had more advance technology or more powerful human resources. Otherwise, unlike the India that only could watch their men withered and surrender to their enemy. The backwardness of India makes them weak and surrender because lack of knowledge. In case, they were weak in aspect of technology and human resources. So, they were easily dominated by others. From this view, it was proven that the Indians are regarded as backward in which was portrayed through the character’s speech in the narration.

1.5 Undeveloped

The last representation of “the Other” in this research is undeveloped. The representation as undeveloped was about the orient’s behavior. It was shown when Bernard reminded about the thunderboxes that they uses during their duty in India. It was an emergency toilet which was not worth to use. The latrines at the base were disgusting. Bernard thought there may be diseases were incubating in that old thunderboxes. The Indian wallah usually cleans the thunderboxes. However, he argued that only fire can sterilize the latrines because the dirt is worse. The evidence is showed in the following data say;

“It was only a matter of time before he brought up the business with the thunderboxes.

‘remember the tinderboxes?’

‘Not that again,’ I said. The chaps wouldn’t let me forget it.

I still insist it was a good idea. Timing was wrong, thast was all. The latrines and the base were **disgusting**. Hundreds of men defecated into a trench of old thunderboxes with a roof on. The stink, the flies, the maggots. **Who know what disease were incubating? Bowels in India open more than most.** The wallah do their bit. But every so often only fire can clean, to sterilize it until the next time.” (291).

From evidence above, the representation as undeveloped was shown in indirect presentation characterization through the character’s speech, like the way that Bernard expressed his dislike towards the Indian’s behavior. He talked about the Indian bad living condition. The Indian behavior was

worst. The view was worse and disgusting, especially the base, the latrines and also the smell. It might be contained many diseases were incubating. He worried that they will be contaminated of a disease comes from the Indian's bowels. From this view, it shows the Indian bad living condition. It indicates that they still an undeveloped one. Their ways of live did not show as a civilized man. Sorts of thing they only found in the undeveloped place. In this case, the situation showed the chaotic condition and bad living condition of the Indian. Hence, the British considered it as the representation of their undeveloped country.

2. DISCUSSION

Based on analysis of the representation of "the Other" in findings, it shows that there are five representations such as difference, inferior, savage, backward, and undeveloped that became the indicators for this analysis are represented in *Small Island* novel. The first representation is difference. The differences are found in term of race, place, and behavior. In case, the representation in term of race was portrayed through indirect presentation characterization in the way of the character's external appearance because it mentioned about anything refers to the race like their skin tone or their appearance. The different skin tone was the basic criteria to recognize one another as different. This analysis also has similar result compared to Annisa's research in the previous study. Hence, it proves that the orient was represented as different.

The second representation of the orient is inferior. The inferiorities are in term of race, intelligence, power, and quality of the people. The inferiority in term of race was revealed through indirect presentation in the way of the character's external appearance. It mentioned about race where the people had no pride and begging which it proves that they were had a lower status in society. This analysis also has similar result compared to Hariani's and Annisa's research in the previous study. It proves that the orient has represented as inferior.

The third representation of the orient is savage. The savagery of India was seen from the situation and in term of race, behavior and even the quality of the people. Many things about India were considered as evil. The inferiority of Indian behavior was portrayed directly in the story. It shows that they were considered as evil or the criminals. This analysis also has similar result compared to S.R Moonsavania., et al. and Annisa's research in the previous study. From those analyses, it proves that the orient has represented as savage.

The fourth representation of the orient is backward. The backwardness is in term of race, quality of the people, and intelligence. The backwardness in term of race was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character's speech. As in the narration or in conversation, through the character's speech it indicates that the orient was considered

backward by the British. This analysis also has similar result compared to Khasanah's research in the previous study. It proves that the orient is represented as backward.

The fifth representation of the orient is undeveloped. The undeveloped are in term of the use of yet sophisticated tools, the facility, behavior, and quality of the people. The undeveloped in term of the facility was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character's environment. Specifically, the character's human environment and the character's physical surrounding which give the evidence of India as the undeveloped. It proves that they were less in advance and having low human resources. This analysis also has similar result compared to Annisa's research in the previous study. It proves that the orient is represented as undeveloped.

In conclusion, from the explanations above, it proves that five representations such as difference, inferior, savage, backward, and undeveloped that became the indicators for this analysis are represented in *Small Island* novel. It shown based on the similar analysis found in the previous studies. The evidences and explanations show the same objective with the analysis of this study. It confirmed the researcher that the data are valid as the data analysis of the indicator of "the Other" in *Small Island* novel.

E. CONCLUSION

Through all the explanation in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the orient has represented with five negative representations refers to Tyson indicators for the representation of "the Other". They are; difference, inferior, savage, backward, and undeveloped. The representation of difference was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character's external appearance and speech. The inferiority was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character's external appearance and speech.

The savagery was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the environment, specifically the character's physical surrounding and through direct presentation. The backwardness was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the character's speech and through direct presentation. The undeveloped was shown through indirect presentation in the way of the human environment, specifically the character's physical surrounding, and through the character's speech in the story.

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