

## Orientalism in the Kite Runner Novel by Khaled Hosseini

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### Abstract

*Nowadays there are some countries still get interference and new colonialism style from other countries that have more power, it has happened since long time ago until now, especially Asia dan Africa countries. This thesis analyzes orientalism in The Kite Runner novel by Khaled Hosseini. This study intends to show their superior and inferior as The West and The East and the effects of orientalism in the novel The Kite Runner. The story happened when Russia attacked Afghanistan. This thesis used descriptive qualitative method that consist of collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the data. In this study, the researcher used Orientalism theory by Edward Said. In this thesis the researcher analyzes selected novel The Kite Runner (2013) by Khaled Hosseini. The researcher finds some samples that shows in the novel there are part about The West, The East, and effects of orientalism. The West according to the novel are Assef and Russia because they delegated side that had more power to oppress weak side/ The East. The East according to the novel are Hassan and Afghanistan because they delegated side that had less power and get oppressed by strong side/ The West. The effects of orientalism during and after the war and conflict are Afghanistan became the country that had many problem like rubber, beggar, poverty, suffering and fear.*

**Keyword:** *Orientalism, The West, The East, Superior, Inferior.*

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### A. Introduction

Nowadays, colonialism term is still mentioned by many people. Colonialism is the establishment of a colony in one territory by a political power from another territory by a political power from another territory, and the subsequent maintenance, expansion, and exploitation of that colony. Colonialism is done by the country that have power to colony the country that have no power. Colonialism has been a recurrent feature of human history. The history of colonialism has existed since ancient times. By 1900 almost every country or region in the world had been subjugated by European colonialism at one time or another. Loomba, Anita (1998) marks, Colonialism was the midwife that assisted the birth of

European capitalism, or that without colonial expansion the transition to capitalism could not have taken place in Europe.

Postcolonial approach appears as response from post-colonial phenomenon that represented by some media, like literature. Post-Colonialism emerges as a result of colonialism. It refers to the discourse which deals with "the effects of colonization on culture and societies", Ashcroft (2007). Post-colonial comes from Britain's former colonies in the Caribbean, Africa and India. Many post-colonial authors write in English and focus on common themes such as the struggle for independence, emigration, national identity words. There are three possible points of emphasis in prose fiction. Each point can be emphasized in either a long or a short narrative. As you can see from the above table, the novel is one form of an extended fictional prose narrative. It differs from allegory (which functions to teach some sort of moral lesson) and romance (with its emphasis on spectacular and exciting events designed to entertain) in its emphasis on character development. The novel, however, arise from the desire to depict and interpret human character. The reader of a novel is both entertained and aided in a deeper perception of life's problems.

The Kite Runner is the first novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, it was published in 2003 by Riverhead Books. The story is set against a backdrop of tumultuous events, from the fall of Afghanistan's monarchy through the Soviet military intervention, the exodus of refugees to Pakistan and the United States, and the rise of the Taliban regime. The Kite Runner novel became a bestseller after being printed in paperback and was popularized in book clubs. It was a number one New York Times bestseller for over two years, with over seven million copies sold in the United States. A number of adaptations were created following publication, including a 2007 film of the same name, several stage performances, and a graphic novel. It became bestseller novel because there are some reasons such as in this novel told about extraordinary friendship because full of sacrifice, suffering, and affection.

## **B. Methods**

### 1. Research Instruments

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. The data source is The Kite Runner novel. The process of data analysis in qualitative research began with all data collected from various sources, ie from observations that have been written in the field notes, personal notes and so on. The techniques of the data analysis are used to analyze the orientalism in the novel are: 1. Reading the novel to understand the storyline. 2. Selecting utterances, sentences or paragraph which indicates the orientalism, in the course of the scene and conversation. 3. Analyzing the contexts of dialogues. 4. Concluding the results.

### 2. Data Collection

The Researcher used postcolonial approach, According to Young, R.C (2001) Postcolonial is a theoretical and political position which such oppressive circumstances, oppressive circumstances is condition when there are two sides, oppressor and oppressed. It combines the epistemological cultural innovations of the postcolonial moment with a political critique of the conditions post coloniality. In the sense, the post of postcolonialism, or postcolonial critique, marks the historical moment of the theorized introduction of new tricontinental form and strategies of critical analysis and practice. It attacks the status quo of hegemonic economic imperialism, but also signals an activist engagement with positive political positions and few form of political identity in the same way as Maxism and Feminism. Concentration theory of the research is orientalism. Said (1978) explained Orientalism' as "Western style for dominating, restructuring having authority over orient". Orientalism is how western always become "judged" or determinant "definition of Eastern" all of thing like ideology, culture, religion Eastern is shorter or worse than Western.

The Primary data was taken from The Kite Runner novel the first novel by Afghan-American author Khaled Hosseini, published in 2003 by Riverhead Books. Secondary data is the data that resercher found from another sources, like: Postcolonialism an Historical Introduction by Robert. J. C. Young, An Introduction to Post-Colonial Theory by Peter Childs and R. J Patrick Williams, Orientalism by Edward Said. The Empire Writes Back by Bill Ashcroft, Garith Griffith and Helen Tiflin. Journal entitled Analysis of Feminist Effect in The Kite Runner novel Khaled Hoedini by Mehri Shahzeidi

### 3. Data Analysis

According to Orientalism theory, Said made two terms, they are The West and The East (The Orient). In this novel the researcher divided The West become two types, they are Assef character and Rusia. First according to the character, Assef, he delegated as The West because he was symbol superior character with his body, his act, and his mind in The Kite Runner novel.

#### C. Result

According to Orientalism theory, Said made two terms, they are The West and The East (The Orient). In this novel the researcher divided The West become two types, they are Assef character and Rusia. First according to the character, Assef, he delegated as The West because he was symbol superior character with his body, his act, and his mind in The Kite Runner novel. It can be found in some page, like:

*If you Khan were section a kid living of Kabul, in you the Wazir Akbar knew about Assef and his hopefully a German mother famous stainless-steel brass knuckles, not through personal experience. Born and Afghan father, father, the to blond, blue-eyed Assef towered over well-earned reputation for the savagery other kids. His preceded him on the streets. (Page: 31)*

In this novel, the author described Assef as a boy with big body and has power. Other kids in Assef's street fell fear if they meet Assef because he often bothers them. According to Assef's personality and appearance, the researcher chooses Assef as The West because he showed his superior.

In another passage the author also wrote about Assef that showed how he delegated as The West in The Kite Runner novel.

*Tell him what I told my mother. About Hitler. Now, there was a leader. A great man vision. With I'll tell Daoud leader. Khan A to remember that if they had let Hitler finish what he had started, the world be a better place now"(Paragraph: 2).*

In this passage, author also wrote when Assef said to Amir about Hitler. He said Hitler was great leader, it showed how Assef was a supporter Hitler and Communism. As we know Hitler as a dictator leader of Nazi in Germany and had communism ideology. He had many followers and soldiers to influence some country in the world. If Assef was so proud with Hitler, we can conclude Assef has "The West ideology".

In another passage the author also wrote about Assef, it happened when Assef met Amir and Hassan. Hassan got insult from Assef; it was:

*His blue eyes flicked to Hassan. "Afghanistan is always the land of Pashtuns. It always has been, will be. We are the true Afghans, the pure Afghans, not this Flat Nose here. His people pollute our homeland, our watan. They dirty our blood." He made a sweeping, grandiose gesture grandiose gesture hands. "Afghanistan for Pashtuns, I say. That's my vision."(Page: 33).*

Afghanistan there were two class people, Pashtun and Hazara people. Pashtun was majority class people and Hazara was minority class people in Afghanistan. In this novel Hazara people often got torture from Hazara people. Hassan and his father, Ali was Hazara people. At the time, Assef said to Hassan that Hassan could not live in Afghanistan, because he was from minorities class in Afghanistan, it was Hazara. He had bad body, Afghanistan only Pashtun people. It reflected that Assef was The West, he said insult to Hassan.

Next passage that showed how Assef do to Hassan. He wants to do is to revenge to Hassan.

*Assef knelt behind Hassan's hips and Hassan, lifted put his hands on his bare buttocks. He kept one hand on Hassan's back and undid his own belt unzipped his buckle jeans. With his free hand. He Dropped his underwear. He positioned struggle. himself Didn't behind Hassan. Hassan didn't even whimper. He moved his head slightly and I caught a face. Saw the resignation in in it. it. Glimpse It was a look of his I had seen before. It was the look of the lamb. (Page: 64)*

Assef had revenge to Hassan because Hassan hit Assef with his catapult. One day, when Hassan got a kite from kite competition, he met Assef and his friends. Assef asked that kite to Hassan but Hassan did not give that kite. Assef was angry and they do sodomy to Hassan, Hassan could not do anything.

In this story told how Assef show his superior to Hassan. He was doing to Hassan because he taught he had big body and big power so he could do anything to Hassan.

Second the researcher analyzed The West as a country that colonize Afghanistan. Russia delegated as a country from Europe that had power in soldier. It shows in some paragraph, like:

*If not quite yet, then at least it was the beginning of the come coup the official the end. end, first in April 1978 with the d'état, Russian tanks would roll end, would communist 1979, when into the very same bringing the marking and then in December streets Hassan where and I played, death of the Afghanistan and the start of a still ongoing I knew era of bloodletting (Page: 28-29).*

In this novel told Rusia started colonize to Afghanistan in 1978. Rusia sent soldierto attack Afghanistan. Afghanistan people became familiar to gun and explotion sound after Rusia attacked Afghanistan. Almost every day they saw corpses because the war. That attacked including city that Hassan and Amir lived. The condition made Afghanistan changing to era of bloodletting. In another passage also that showed how Russian soldier looked Afghanistan people as country that they attacked and colonized.

In the novel there were some effects that happened because of colonialism. The researcher divided the effects of Colonialism about the physical and nonphysical. Physical is existing in a form that you can touch or see. The researcher found some effects according physical of colonialism in Afghanistan, they were:

*"Because you ragged clothes wanted to know," he spat. He pointed to an old man dressed in trudging down a dirt path, a large filled with scrub grass tied to his burlap pack back. "That's the real Afghanistan, Agha sahib. That's the Afghanistan I know. You? You've always been a tourist here; you just didn't know it." (Page: 197)*

In this novel the author wrote when Amir asked to Farid about old man dressed in ragged clothes, Farid said it was the real Afghanistan. From this conversation after the war and conflicts the people group in Afghanistan.

became the country that had many problems like poverty, suffering, fear, etc. The Oldman was a real effect of colonialism in this novel. In another passage also there was a conversation between Amir and Farid about condition people of Afghanistan after war and group conflicts.

*RUBBLE AND BEGGARS. That Everywhere I I looked, was what I saw. I remembered beggars in the old days too Baba always carried an extra handful of Afghani bills in I'd his pocket just for them; seen him deny a peddler. Never though, they squatted at every street dressed in shredded burlap rags, mud caked Now, corner, hands held out for a coin. And the beggars were mostly children now, thin and grim-faced, some no older than five or six. (Page: 208).*

In this conversation the author wrote about condition of Afghanistan, the author wrote with rubber and beggar. Rubber was description to the home and building which had destroyed after war and conflict. Beggar was description to the almost people of Afghanistan that had no job after war and conflict. Many people became peddler in the street Afghanistan, almost of peddler was kid because adult died because war and conflict.

*There was a statement from Amir about Afghanistan, he had statement about condition of Kabul. Returning to Kabul was like running into an old, forgotten friend and seeing that life hadn't been good to him, that he'd become homeless and destitute. (Page: 210).*

In this passage the author wrote statement Amir about condition of Kabul. He compared condition Kabul between condition when his kid in Kabul and current condition that many people became homeless and destitute.

Another paragraph there was condition after war and conflict.

*I saw a dead body near had been a hanging. a hanging. A young the end of a rope the restaurant. There young man dangled from tied to a beam, his face puffy and blue, the clothes he'd worn on the last day of his of his life shredded, bloody. Hardly anyone seemed to notice him. (Page: 222)*

The author wrote when Amir saw a young man dead body with bad condition after he has got torture from Talib. In this passage told young man was a sample of victim from conflict in Afghanistan. It was an effect of orientalism in this novel.

Another paragraph there was condition after war and conflict.

*A few blocks north of Pashtunistan Square, Farid pointed to two men talking animatedly at a busy street corner. One of them was hobbling on one leg, his other leg amputated below the knee. He cradled an artificial leg in his arms. "You know what they're doing? doing? Hagglng over the leg." "He's selling his leg?" Farid nodded. can get good money for it on the black "You market. Feed your kids for a couple of weeks." (Page: 222)*

In this passage was a conversation between Amir and Farid about a man that want to sold his leg. From the selling he could feed his kids. It was condition Afghanistan after war and conflict, many people was so hard to find job. They sought other way to get money, one of them was selling his leg. It was an effect of orientalism in this novel. Beside according physical the researcher also find the effects of orientalism according to non-physical.

#### **D. Discussion**

The researcher found some examples that showed domination The West to The East. It is included to Orientalism that is part of postcolonial. There are some examples are showed The West how they judge about The East. First, The West delegated with Russia, It happened when a Russian's soldier met a Afghanistan's girl and he want rape that girl. It showed a Russian soldier judge Afghanistan's girl as a weak girl so he can do anything to that girl.

Second, The West is delegated through Assef character. It is also included to Orientalism because there is an example that showed his supported Assef to Hitler. He said Hitler who a leader of Nazi was a good leader, so he thought Hitler can lead Afghanistan.

According to story in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini, the researcher concluded that the author took ide on The West. The reasons were in the novel story there was Afghanistan people doing migration to United states when conflict were happened, it liked United States saved some people of Afghanistan. In that story, it was also told that there was a group of people, it was Taliban. The Taliban people hit a man and woman with stone because they did sexual act outside of marriage. For Islam law that punishment was right, because the person that hit by stone could repent their mistake and for the people that saw punishment did not same mistake.

#### **E. Conclusion**

According to the finding and analysis chapter, in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini there were some examples about orientalism. According to Said, he divided between The West and The East. In this novel there were some gap, Edward Said made term with The West and The East according to the power. First, the researcher analyzed that The West do to show the superior in *The Kite Runner* novel. The researcher divided the west became Assef character and Russia. Assef showed his superior in *The Kite Runner* novel by his act and his talk, like when he was proud about Hitler and his act to Hassan. Russia showed its superior in *The Kite Runner* novel by their act to Afghanistan, like when Rusia attacked Afghanistan in 1978 and 1979 and when a Russian soldier wanted to rape Afghanistan's girl. Second, the researcher analyzed that The East do to show the inferior in *The Kite Runner* novel. The researcher divided the East became Hassan character and Afghanistan. Hassan showed his inferior in *The Kite Runner* novel by his suffered, like when he got pressure and insult from Assef and other people because he was as Hazzara people and about his appearance. Afghanistan showed its inferior in *The Kite Runner* novel with the condition of Afghanistan during oppressed by Russia, it became suffer country because.

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