

The Potrayal of Orientalism and Occidentalism in the Novel “APassage to India” by E. M. Forster : Post Colonial Approach

Delis Aprianti

Putera Batam University

E-mail: pb151210015@upbatam.ac.id

Abstract

This research was conducted to analyze the influence of orientalism and occidentalism on the lives of western and eastern people in the novel "a passage to india" by e. M. Forster using a post-colonial approach and the theory of edward said, namely Orientalism and Occidentalism. According to Said, Orientalism is the study of Eastern world in the perspective or Western people and Occidentalism is the study of Western world in the perspective of Eastern people. This study used qualitative methods to analyze the potrayal and influence of the two theories in their respectivesocial lives. Based on the analysis that has been done in the novel “A Passage to India”, Western people in India still monopolize the government and look down on Indian. Although there are some characters that have welcomed and treated Indians well but their initial interest in coming to India was to rule India.

Keywords: Eastern, Occidentalism, Orientalism, Post-Colonial, Western

INTRODUCTION

West and East each have different strategies to strengthen their position. Like the West who built Orientalism as a tool to learn all about the East. And so is the East who uses the concept of Occidentalism as a tool to fight against the superiority of the West. Occidentalism emerged to fight Orientalism which was first proposed by Edward Said.

The concept of Orientalism which the West has positioned itself as the center of world civilization that has power over other countries/ the Other. In Orientalism, the West also positions the East as inferior and must always be under the control of the West. According to Edward Said (1978) in Nurrachman(2017), who re-explained Orientalism based on Edward Said's point of view in his/her article, Orientalism could be interpreted as a tool to dominate, reorganize and dominate the East.

According to Hanafi. H (2000) in Feriyadi (2018) who quoted Hanafi's explanation of Occidentalism in his/her journal, said that the concept of Occidentalism was created to elaborated the inferior relationship between East and West. Occidentalism was also created not to fight the dominating Western civilization. Orientalism tends to stereotype the east by the west which tends to be lame. The West is willing to build a new narrative about the East in order to appear superior.

In Occidentalism, the position of Western as the observer or researcher. One of the phenomenon of Occidentalism that can still be seen until now is the number of Eastern people who study in Western countries as a form of struggle or resistance of Eastern people in seeking equality in order to make them more easier and flexible in increasing their knowledge. The concept of Occidentalism based on Hassan Hanafi is to fight the hegemony of Western civilization over the East. Hassan hanafi's Occidentalism also aims to end the myth that the west as the representative and holder of power over world civilization (feriyadi, 2018, p. 47).

One of the phenomena that illustrates the effects of Orientalism is the emergence of a stigma which thinks that Eastern people are synonymous with terrorism. The continuity Europe being in constant conflict with the countries of the East explain the permanent interest of the West towards the Orient. According to Rahimah et al., (2017) in his/her journal stated that the role of the mass media is what strengthens the stigma that says that Eastern people are synonymous with terrorism, because of the great influence of the mass media that can affect society with its wide spread.

One of the writers of historical novel is E. M. Forster with his novel entitled “A Passage to India”. His story, set in the 1920s, shortly after World War II, looked at racism and the impact of British colonists on India. The book depicted the difficulties that occur when a visiting Englishwoman, Adela Quested, accuses a well-respected Indian man, Dr. Aziz, of attempting to abuse her on an outing. "A Passage to India" is a story set during the post-colonial era. This tale is about the connection between India and the United Kingdom after the British ruled India

in the 1920s. In this story the author giving the reader a portrayal of Orientalism and Occidentalism between the Indian and the English people. How those two influence the two countries in all aspects.

Post-colonialism is a period after Colonialism. According to (Sharma, 2016) this concept is the result of Colonialism and other political and social concepts. The term of Post-Colonialism cannot be understood without mentioning other approaches such as post-structuralism, psychoanalysis, marxism, feminism, etc. This term also connected with capitalism and imperialism.

The ending of colonialism created high hopes for the newly independent country. A historical period or state of a country that represents post-western colonialism is known as postcolonialism. Post colonialism directed to the problems and consequences of the decolonization of the country, particularly about the political, social, and cultural independence of the colonizers. " post colonialism matters because decolonization is far from complete and colonial mentalities, including the inequalities they nature, die hard. " (Kohn & McBride, 2011, p. 8) . It means even once the colonized nations have become politically free from colonizers but in the field of economy and mentality they are still under european power. The novel of " A Passage to India" by E. M. Forster which took place after the world war II is written using Post -Colonial concept. The reason why the researcher choose this novel to be analyze is because this novel contains the life after the British colonial period in India, describing how the relationship between West and East and the influence of British domination on India.

1.1 Orientalism

One of the study that greatly influenced the emergence of Post-Colonialism is Orientalism. Edward Said is credited with coining the term "Orientalism." Orientalism is a way of coming to grips with Europe's material civilisation and culture as a whole (Orient). To put it another way, Orientalism is a Western strategy for conquering, reforming, and controlling the Orient (Yahya et al., 2020). According to (Fatima, 2016) in his/her journal, the Occident in Europe defined the Orient as a militant fanatic, terrorist, fundamentalist, and strange land. The West is attempting to reinforce its status as a superior and dominating culture by creating this binary conflict.

1.2 Occidentalism

Another study which effecting the relationship between Western and Eastern is Occidentalism. Occidentalism is a study about West from the eyes of the East. According to (hasan hanafi, 1993) Occidentalism is a research which can be developed in the Orient in order to study the West from the Eastern point of view. Occidentalism brought by Hassan Hanafi is also a tool to fight the hegemony of Western over Eastern civilization. Hassan also brought this concept to end the myth circulating that the West is the representative and hold. According to Hassan Hanafi in (Izza, 2017) he/she explaining that Occidentalism is a study of the West covering the fields of Western thought, Western philosophy, Western sociology, Western anthropology, Western history, Western religions, Western traditions and also covering Western Geography from the point of view of the West. Eastern view. Occidentalism was created not to vilify the West or want to dominate, but Occidentalism was built as a form of Eastern resistance to Western domination.

1.3 Previous Research

The first, the researcher found previous research from (Fatima, 2016) with her journal entitled *Orientalism, Occidentalism and Islamophobia Deconstructing "the other" A Case Study of East vs. West*. The aim of the research is to deal with the theory of deconstruction which is Orientalism and Occidentalism are deconstructed to find the "other" and boundaries of the differences between them. The similarity of the researches are both researchers used the same theory of post-colonial's perspective which are Orientalism and Occidentalism. Then the difference of the both researches are the previous research used Orientalism and Occidentalism to observed Muslim world and the present research used a novel by, E. M. Forster " A Passage to India" as the source of the datas.

The second, the researcher is (Roth, 2017) entitled *Feminism Otherwise Intersectionality beyond Occidentalism*. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate the argument of a critical Occidentalism and radical intersectional practice approach that is critical of hegemony and built on a relational understanding for conceptualizing feminist practice and theory. Both studies employed the Occidentalism idea for additional explanation, which is a common thread between them. The difference of the both researches are the different source in collecting the datas. The previous research focus in using the feminism theory, and this researcher used Edward Said's concept which are Orientalism and Occidentalism.

The last researcher is (Dewi, 2018) with the research of *Postcolonial Hermeneutics : Concepts and Contribution to Understanding Socio-Religious Problems in Southeast Asia*. The aim of the research is to give a

brief overview of different terms regarding to the word 'Post-Colonial' and to discuss Post-Colonial hermeneutics as a reading tool to examine various worldly practice in Southeast Asian Post Colonial society. The similarity between the both of the researches are the researches both used Post-Colonial theory to analyzed the relation between The West and The East. The difference between the researches are the previous research focusing in Southeast Asian and this research focusing in showing the portrayal of Orientalism and Occidentalism during post colonial period using novel as the datas source.

METHODOLOGY

According to (Leavy, 2017) in her book *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based and Community-Based Participatory Research Approach*. Deductive techniques to the research process characterize quantitative research, which aims to prove, disprove, or support current theories. In order to uncover patterns, correlations, or causal linkages, this form of research involves measuring variables and testing relationships between variables. Meanwhile Inductive approaches to knowledge construction characterize qualitative research, which aims to generate meaning, explore; rigorously investigate and learn about social phenomena; unpack the meanings people ascribe to activities, situations, events, or artifacts; or develop a depth of understanding about some aspect of social life. Based on the preceding argument, this study employs qualitative research to learn about social phenomena by examining the portrayal of Orientalism and Occidentalism in the book during the Post-Colonial period.

The researcher applied the theory of Orientalism and Occidentalism by Edward Said which portrayed in the novel of E. M. Forster "A Passage to India". The theory itself emerged during the Post-Colonial period or Post-Colonialism. Post-Colonialism is a period after Colonialism. According to (Sharma, 2016) this concept is resultant of Colonialism and other political and social concepts. "A Passage to India" is a novel which taken time after the colonialism, or during Post-Colonial period.

The first step to analyzing the data is the researcher identify the highlighted data which already found in the book, the next step the researcher classified the data according to research problem. Then as the result the data will show the potrayal of Orientalism and Occidentalism in the novel A Passage to India by, E. M. Forster.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher will analyzed the data found in the novel using the theory of Edward said. The researcher also will find the answer to the research formulation as written above.

1. Western domination over the East as the potrayal of Orientalism

It cant be denied that until now the Western world is still dominating other countries eventhough the Colonialism era has been passed. The effect of Colonialism changed the thought or perspective of Western people about the Eastern people. In the novel *A Passage to India*, E. M. Forster describing the purpose or aim of the Westerner when they come to India. It can be shown from the dialogue between the characters in the novel:

" you are **superior** to them, anyway. Dont forget that. **You're superior to everyone in India** except one or two of the Ranis, and they're on an equality." (E. M Forster, 1924, p. 22)

From the quotation above the Orientalism portryed between the character named Mrs. Turton with Mrs. Moore at the Bridge Party. She emphasized the word of 'superior' is how the way they are. The English people in India were the superior to India except if the Indian are someone with the high ranking or educated person such as the Ranis (the wife of Raja). This is what the purpose in coming to India, which is to dominate and rule them over. As what Edward Said said that with Orientalism, they build the binary opposition in order to strengthen their position as a superior country compared to the Eastern countries

"The triumphant machine of civilization may suddenly hitch and be immobilized into a car of stone, and at such moments **the destiny of the English seems to resemble their predecessors', who also entered the country with intent to refashion it**, but were in the end worked into its pattern and covered with its dust." (E. M Forster, 1924, p. 123).

From the quotation above, the author mentioning about the intention of English people came to India was to refashion the country and to prove their power and influence of their polieces in governing India. but in the end after the case of Adela and Dr. Aziz have been dismissed, the English people feeling humiliated and leave them feeling defeated by the country which they thought was inferior. The main focus of Western Occidentalism is to reconstructing and to dominate India to be considered that the West is the center of world civilization.

" Ronny had not dislike his day, for it proved that the **British were necessary to India, there would certainly have been bloodshed without them.**"(A Passage To India, 1924, p. 68)

Ronny as a City Magistrate in India, thinks that they indeed need India to make them more stonger and to prove that they are indeed superior. It shows how dominant British people over Indian and clearly stating the position of both of them in society. That eastern as an important part of european civil material and culture.

Eastern effort for equality as the potrayal of Occidentalism

The influence of Westerners in governing India has its pros and cons. In this novel, the author explains from the perspective of Eastern people who want fair and equal treatment. As in the following qoutation:

"Oh, kick you out? Why should I trouble over that dirty job? Leave it to the politicians. . . . No, **when I was a student I got excited over your damned countrymen**, certainly; **but if they'll let me get on with my profession and not be too rude to me officially, I really don't ask for more.**" (E. M Forster, 1924, p. 93)

From the quotation above, there is a portrayal of occidentalism from the perspective of Dr. Aziz as an Indian who admits to his Western friend, Mr. Fielding that he once liked Westerners when he was a student. He said that he wanted them, Westerners, to be polite and not interfere with their profession, if it is like that there was a possibility that Westerners and Easterners could live side by side together.

The aim of Occidentalism is to learn everthing about The West but not to make them look bad but to break away from the power of the West against the East as potrayed in the quote below:

"All ladies are far from alike." Their mood was changed, and they **recalled little kindnesses and courtesies.** "She said 'Thank you so much' in the most natural way." "She offered me a lozenge when the dust irritated my throat."

Mahmoud Ali's character in the conversation with his other Indian friends is the one who observes the lives of westerners, especially English women in socializing in society. What Mahmoud Ali doing is a form of Occidentalism, where the East is the observer who learns everything about the West.

CONCLUSION

Orientalism and Occidentalism are two opposite phenomena. in the novel "A Passage to India" these two phenomena can be found in the conversations between the characters. This novel also tell the relationship between Western people who came to India to rule India with the natives of the Indian state or what are called Eastern people. Western people use Orientalism as a tool to establish their identity as a more powerful and dominant country, while Eastern people use Occidentalism as their way of fighting the hegemony of western civilization over the east in seeking equality. This Novel also shows the relationship between Dr. Aziz and Mr. Fielding, the Western man who welcome India poeple well. The effort of Dr. Aziz to be able to get justice in the midst of British rule that dominates the Indian government can be found in this novel. There is also a character named Ronny who is a city magistrate in Chandrapore who sees Indian people are still backward that need to be ruled, but they also a necessary part of Western material civilization and culture.

This research is still far from perfect, but the researcher wants to give some suggestions for future researchers who will use the post colonial theme to be analyze.

1. The researcher hopes that future researchers can use Edward Said concept more deeply, with the same novel as the present researcher which use a novel by, E.M Forster "A Passage to India" as the object of the research or with different data objects to be analyze either by using a post colonial approach or another approach.
2. The researcher also hope that this research can provide useful information regarding the post-colonial concept by using the theory from Edward Said, Orientalism and Occidentalism especially for future researchers.

REFERENCIES

- Dewi, N. (2018). *Postcolonial Hermeneutics : Concepts and Contribution to Understanding Socio-Religious Problems in Southeast Asia*. 2(1), 47–66.
- E. M Forster. (1924). *A passage to India*. Penguin Books.
- Fatima, D. M. (2016). Orientalism, Occidentalism, and Islamophobia Deconstructing "the Other": A Case Study of East vs. West". *Research Journal of Language, Literature and ...*, 3(4), 10–15.

- Feriyadi, H. S. (2018). HASSAN HANAFI'S RESPONSE TO WESTERN HEGEMONY IN MUQADDIMAH FĪ 'ILMI AL-ISTIGHRĀB THROUGH HEGEMONY THEORY OF GRAMSC. *IJISH (International Journal of Islamic Studies and Humanities)*, 1(1), 1–8.
- Hanafi, H. (2000).
- Izza, Y. prana. (2017). Oksidentalisme ; Membuka Kedok Imperialisme Barat. *At-Tuhfah*, 5(9), 1. <https://doi.org/10.36840/jurnalstudikeislaman.v5i9.46>
- Leavy, P. (2017). *Research Design: Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed Methods, Arts-Based and Community-Based Participatory Research Approach*.
- Nurrachman, D. (2017). Orientalisme Vs Oksidentalisme : Benturan dan Dialogisme Budaya Global di saat melemahnya kekuasaan Daulah Usmaniyah (Turki Usmani) negara-negara Timur . Dari sisi kesejarahan tersebut , orientalisme. *Lecture Keagamaan*, 15(2), 377–389.
- Rahimah, R., Hanief, L., & Alif, M. (2017). Stereotip Terorisme Dalam Film Traitor. *SEMIOTIKA: Jurnal Komunikasi*, 11(2), 433–471.
- Roth, J. (2017). Feminism Otherwise. Intersectionality beyond Occidentalism. *InterDisciplines. Journal of History and Sociology*, February. <https://doi.org/10.4119/UNIBI/indi-v8-i2-178>
- Yahya, Y. K., Untung, S. H., & Mahmudah, U. (2020). Orientalisme sebagai Tradisi Keilmuan dalam Pandangan Maryam Jameelah dan Edward Said. *Mengkaji Doktrin, Pemikiran, Dan Fenomena Agama*, 21(1), 1–9.