

## CHAPTER III

### CONCLUSION

In this Chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions from my analysis. I have analyzed the authors' contrasting views on human nature in Ballantyne's The Coral Island and Golding's Lord of the Flies as intertextual texts. First of all, there is intertextuality between both novels. Intertextuality is the idea that every text is tied to another text. Both novels suggest a view on human nature, but Lord of the Flies gives a contrasting point of view on human nature. In other words, Lord of the Flies gives a reinterpretation to The Coral Island; therefore Lord of the Flies is tied to the latter.

Both novels suggest views on human nature and they are influenced by the authors. The Coral Island implies that men are naturally civilized and good-natured. On the other hand, Lord of the Flies implies that men are naturally evil and civilization is the device that represses the evil within men. In order to find out why these intertextual texts have such contrasting views on human nature, I apply some biographical information and historical backgrounds of both authors.

R. M. Ballantyne lived in the nineteenth century when Britain was still a great empire. It became a prosperous country under the reign of Queen Victoria. The rapid improvement of the empire gave a sense of confidence and optimism to its people. This can be seen in the literary works such as romantic works. The Coral Island is a romantic story about a group of teenage boys who experiences fun and exciting adventures after being stranded on an unknown island. I conclude that the glory of the empire as well as the events that happened in his life influence Ballantyne to write such an optimistic adventure story which also hints at men's good-nature.

Lord of the Flies has the same story line as The Coral Island, but it is pessimistic compared to The Coral Island. It was written in the twentieth century when Britain began to lose its glory. In this period, Britain suffered from wars and lost many of its colonies. Golding's childhood and some experiences in his life led him to believe that men were naturally evil. He wrote Lord of the Flies as a reaction to The Coral Island; furthermore, he put his own point of view in this novel.

Both authors present their views on human nature through various literary elements in their novels. These literary elements are setting, characters, conflict, symbol, and foreshadowing. Both authors present their views on human nature through various literary elements in their novels. These literary elements are setting, characters, conflict, symbol, and foreshadowing. Ballantyne has succeeded in portraying his setting as a pleasant place to help him build fun atmosphere to the boys' adventure, while Golding has portrayed his setting in such a way as to give an impression that it hides from its true form of an evil place. The first impression given to the readers concerning the island refers to civilization. Civilization acts as a façade of its true form of a dark, evil, and

mysterious place. The true form of the island refers to the unleashed evil of human which strengthens Golding's view on human nature.

Both authors also show their views through the different portrayal of both Jack Martin's and Jack Merridew's characters. In The Coral Island, Jack Martin is portrayed as a good-natured boy who stays civilized all the time. Jack Merridew is portrayed as a brilliant boy who turns into a savage. Golding shows the effect of being away from the society and all its rules by giving the portrayal of Jack Merridew who is taken away from the society and its civilization. The result is Jack Merridew resorts to savagery, since there is no civilization to restrain it. Golding also shows that every character has the same dark inner side although they may not resort to it in the same time.

The conflicts in both novels also suggest the views on human nature. The conflicts in The Coral Island happen as the cause of the good-will of helping others while the conflicts in Lord of the Flies are based on the character's personal importance or interest. Ballantyne shows the good-nature of these characters through their good actions of helping other people although they are not even related to them and do not bear the responsibility to save them. In Lord of the Flies, I conclude that Golding tries to show how a person can become morally degraded when he is separated from the society and the rules that bind him. Jack is clearly described as a person who is so savage that he even tries to hunt Ralph. Some other boys also behave like Jack; they kill Simon and Piggy, who are their friends, and they even join Jack in his evil doings. This is in contrast with Ballantyne's characters, who are kind and civilized.

The symbols used in the novels used in both novels help support the authors' message on human nature. In The Coral Island, a telescope symbolizes the attachment to

good things like civilization and order. In Lord of the Flies, the main symbol is a severed head of a sow or known as lord of the flies. Lord of the flies is a reference to something evil like Beelzebub or prince of evil. This symbol helps to strengthen Golding's view that men are naturally evil. Another symbol which presents order and its practice is the conch. The breaking of the conch at the exact moment of Piggy dies symbolizes the complete destruction of order and civilization.

The last element is foreshadowing. The foreshadowing in both novels suggests a later event or even an idea the author tried to give. The foreshadowing in The Coral Island shows that the boys hoped to bring civilization to the island and they succeed. The foreshadowing in Lord of the Flies suggests an idea that an evil force exists in the island among the boys, but they do not realize that they cause the horror to themselves.

I conclude that The Coral Island suggests that men are naturally good-natured and civilized while Lord of the Flies suggests that men are naturally evil—evil comes within oneself. These views can be seen through the literary elements of both novels. These intertextual texts bear different views on human nature because the authors have completely different belief and experiences in their lives. The conditions of the periods they lived in are also different from one another, and it helps build the authors' different point of views.

In my personal opinion, men are basically good, such as the major characters in The Coral Island. However, I also believe that men are capable of doing things beyond their imagination especially in a desperate or an unusual condition. Lord of the Flies gives me this perspective—there is a possibility of men doing cruel things in such a condition. Both views have their reasonable points. In comparison with The Coral Island,

Lord of the Flies gives a more realistic story because its characters seem more life-like than those of The Coral Island. The characters in The Coral Island are flat characters and they seem occupied with goodness. This is contradictory to my personal opinion that everybody makes mistake. In all, The Coral Island and Lord of the Flies are both adventure novels that give entertainment as well as a serious insight on human nature.