

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The 19<sup>th</sup> century has given birth to many types of new novels. If before 19<sup>th</sup> century there were only historical, religious, or heroic novel then in 19<sup>th</sup> century new types of novels were born such as detective and adventure novels.

Two of the 19<sup>th</sup> century writers who wrote adventure and detective novels are Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Henry Rider Haggard. Although both of them wrote different stories, Sir Arthur wrote about detective stories and Sir Henry wrote about the adventure in the far end of the world, they have something in common, which makes me decide to analyse the works of these two writers.

First, both of them have enriched the English literature with their timeless characters, Sherlock Holmes and Allan Quatermain. Roger Lancelyn Green, in his introduction to Allan Quatermain comments, 'Allan Quatermain, like Sherlock Holmes,...seem to have stepped out the realm of fiction and won a place among mortal men by reason of their immortality' (Green, 1995:13). From this quotation it is clearly seen that both Sherlock Holmes and Allan Quatermain are considered

immortal because they will never die, literally, since their stories have passed two centuries and are still reread and retold.

Second, both of them reflect the belief of their time that white people is superior than the Orient (coloured people). This belief is later analyzed by Edward Said in 20<sup>th</sup> century and termed orientalism. Orientalism is ‘a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between “the Orient” and “the Occident” ’ (Said,1979:2). The result of this *style of thought* is ‘the large mass of poets, novelists, accepted the basic distinction between East and West as starting point for elaborate theories, epics, novels, social description, and political accounts concerning the Orient, its people, customs, “mind”, destiny and so on’ (Said,1979:2-3). In other word, orientalism creates the stereotyped Orient, which is cruel, sensual, lazy, poor, intuitive and all other negative thing contradicts with the positive side of The West (Webster,1997:120).

In Doyle’s The Sign of Four and Haggard’s King Solomon’s Mine, like in other 19<sup>th</sup> century writer’s works that portray the Oriental characters, I find out that the oriental characters in these two novels are portrayed as uncivilized people. They are portrayed as slave, savage, intuitive and stupid. In this thesis I would like to analyze the portrayal of the Orient characters by using the post structuralism approach, deconstruction. By applying deconstructive reading on these two novels, I find out that the portrayal of the Oriental characters in the two novels is inconsistent. The ultimate meaning of those characters are never reached, because there are two contradicting portrayal that appears at the same time.

Deconstructive reading itself is the movement that emerges in Paris in 1960's. Its purpose is to reveal the contradictions, paradoxes in the text. By revealing these contradictions and paradoxes, deconstruction wants to show that a text is actually a disunity in itself. Further explanation about deconstruction will be included in chapter two.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

1. How are the Orient characters in The Sign of Four deconstructed?
2. How are the Orient characters in King Solomon's Mine deconstructed?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To show how the Orient characters in The Sign of Four is deconstructed.
2. To show how the Orient characters in King Solomon's Mine is deconstructed.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

I use library research to write this thesis. First I read the primary texts, after that I read some other books as references. Then applying the deconstruction method in reading the novels and finally draw some conclusion from the analyses that has been done.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I organize this thesis into five chapters. Chapter one is Introduction which consists of the Background of The Study, Statement of The Problem, Purpose of The Study, and Method of Research. Chapter two is Theoretical Background.

Chapter three is Deconstructive Reading in Doyle's The Sign of Four. Chapter four is Deconstructive Reading in Haggard's King Solomon's Mine. Chapter five is Conclusion. I also include the biographies of the two authors, the summaries of the works and the references books in Appendices.

