

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

The era of European colonialism started in the 15th century and lasted until the mid-20th century. During that time people in many European countries invaded the Eastern parts of the globe, in the interest of trade and to spread their culture in their colonies. By 1921, the country with the greatest number of colonies was the Great Britain with about a quarter of the globe. However, most of its empire had the same problem, their natives in the colonies could not have a good relationship with the settlers. The colonizers acted as superiors and underestimated the natives.

There were different perceptives of colonialism in the British society, some people supported the colonialism but some were against it. Then people found some ways to express their ideas. Some of them showed their perceptions through literature. Kim and A Passage to India are two novels written by two English writers, Rudyard Kipling and EM Forster respectively. These novels are about the relationships between the natives

and the settlers with its problematic conflicts in India, one of the British colonies, in which the natives objected to the coming of the settlers because they could not have a good relationship with them. In the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, native is defined as 'a person who was born in a particular country or area' ;while the second definition is 'a person who lives in a particular place, especially sb [somebody] who has lived there a long time.' (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2000: 848). On the other hand, settler, in the same dictionary is defined as 'a person who goes to live in a new country or region.' (P.1171). Although the two novels have a similar topic, *Kim*, the protagonist in Kim, seems to have been able to settle his conflicts with the settlers. While Azis, the protagonist in A Passage to India, does not have a good relationship with the settlers due to the conflicts. These conflicts are the unifying elements of the two novels and this will be the focus of my thesis as I would like to analyse the cause of the conflicts and to compare the different conflict resolutions between the natives and the settlers found in the novels.

The two writers, Rudyard Kipling and E.M. Forster, spent a lot of time in India so they knew exactly what had happened in India and the relationships between the natives and the settlers. Rudyard Kipling was a pro-imperialist, while EM Forster supported Indian independence. Thus there are two objective points of view about the relationships between the natives and the settlers in India.

In analyzing the conflicts between the natives and the settlers in both novels I would like to concentrate on the element of conflict. In Dictionary of Literary Terms, Harry Shaw defines conflict as 'the opposition of person/forces upon which the action depends in drama & fiction'. (Shaw, 1972: 91-92) There are three types of conflict,

namely social conflict, physical conflict and internal conflict. In this thesis I would like to focus on social conflict only. Social conflict is ‘a struggle between man and man or man and society’ (p.91).

To understand the reason why there are two different relationships between the natives and settlers in the same colonized country in the two novels I would like to use the theory of Orientalism by Edward Said. According to Said, the world is divided in two parts, the Orient and the Occident. The Orient is inhabited by people such as Africans, Indians, and Indonesians, and the Occident by people such as the British, French, Americans, and Australians. The images, ideas and personalities of people in the Occident are in contrast with those in the Orient. Moreover, ‘The relationship of Occident and Orient is that of power, of domination, and varying degrees of a complex hegemony’ (Said, 1978:5). The main idea of Orientalism is that the Orientals cannot represent themselves because their existing ideas or images adopted in the world are Occident-made. These ideas or images are very poor, untrue and manipulated. The images or identities of the Orient are made by the Occident for a certain purpose, that is for the sake of the Occident themselves. Because Orientals and Occidentals are supposed to be in contrast, thus by giving the Orient the image of bad, evil and weak race, the Occident will be the good, kind, and powerful race. The existing representations of native Indians make most Occidentals react towards the Orientals with some kind of disrespect or disgust. This is the trigger of most conflicts between Orientals and Occidentals.

Statement of the Problems

The problems that will be analyzed in this major thesis are:

1. What conflicts happen between the natives and settlers in Rudyard Kipling's Kim and E.M. Forster's A Passage to India ?
2. What are the causes of those conflicts that happen between the natives and the settlers in Rudyard Kipling's Kim and E.M. Forster's A Passage to India?
3. How does the theory of Orientalism help to give a better understanding about the relationships between the natives and settlers in the two novels?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the purpose of this study is:

1. To describe the conflicts that happen between the natives and the settlers in Rudyard Kipling's Kim and E.M. Forster's A Passage to India
2. To know what causes those conflicts that happen between the natives and the settlers in Rudyard Kipling's Kim and E.M. Forster's A Passage to India.
3. To know how the theory of Orientalism helps in giving a better understanding about the relationships between the natives and the settlers in the two novels.

Method of Research

The method of research used is library research. First of all, I read the two novels as the primary texts. I then gather the information needed for the major thesis through library research and the internet to support the analysis of the primary text. Next, I apply the Postcolonialism approach to have a better understanding of the conflicts between the natives and the settlers. Finally, I draw some conclusions from the analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide this thesis into four chapters, which are preceded by the Preface and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two deals with the analysis of the conflicts between the natives and the settlers in EM Forster's A Passage to India, whereas Chapter Three deals with the analysis of the conflicts between the natives and the settlers in Rudyard Kipling's Kim. Chapter Four is the Conclusion, in which I conclude and compare my analysis of the conflicts in the two novels. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendix, which consists of the summaries and the biographies of the two writers.