

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the two novels, I would like to draw some conclusions. In these two novels, Forster's A Passage to India and Kipling's Kim, there are always conflicts in the interaction between the native Indians and the British settlers. The conflicts are varied; nevertheless, the triggers of most conflicts in these novels are actually the same.

The social conflicts in A Passage to India happen because most of the British settlers in the story believe in certain stereotypes of the native Indians. Aziz, the main character in the novel, a native Indian, has problematic conflicts mainly with Adela, some officers in the City of Chandrapore, and his settler friend Fielding. These characters have the mindset that native Indians are all the same; evil, uneducated and weak. They do not consider Aziz's personal characteristics and other objective truth, which results in Aziz's rejection towards their attitude, thus conflicts are inevitable.

Kim, like Aziz, experiences conflicts with the British settlers in the novel Kim. These conflicts are also triggered by the British settlers' tendency to use the stereotypes of the Orientals when they are interacting with native Indians and

assume whatever the British settlers do is right and vice versa. The main conflicts in Kim are between Kim and Reverend Arthur Bennett, Father Victor, and the people in the schooling institution. These people assume that their race is the better one, and they know what is right or wrong for other races. Assuming they are the better race, they believe that they have power over other races as well. That is why they have conflicts with Kim, whom they think is a native Indian, and thus he is their subordinate.

According to Edward Said in his book entitled Orientalism, the Occidentals tend to use their own-made stereotypes about the Orientals in their interaction with the Orientals. The Occidentals put themselves in a binary opposition as the better race with the attribute of being kind, educated and powerful in order to put their opposite, the Orientals, as the worse race that are evil, uneducated and weak. This theory can greatly explain the conflicts that both Aziz and Kim experience in the novels.

However, these two novels show a difference in the end of the conflicts, and this is what makes the two novels different. Aziz, in A Passage to India, turns to hate the British settlers and never makes peace with any of them. These conflicts are not settled throughout the novel. It is different with Kim, in the novel Kim, who finally realizes that what the British settlers do is not all bad. He takes the advantage of British education and after that he comes back to the Lama and continues the journey until at the end of the novel the two of them finish their search.

In my opinion the difference between the resolutions of the conflicts in the two novels are due to the personal lives of the authors themselves. EM Forster was known for his support for Indian independence. His support can be seen clearly in the

conflicts in his novel where Aziz finally fights the British settlers with their colonialism out of India. In the novel, there is a message that the Indians shall be free and gain their independence. The Indians are actually able to control themselves and do not need the presence of the British. This is some kind of propaganda telling the Indian to rise and fight for their own nation.

On the other hand, in his life, Rudyard Kipling was known to be a pro-imperialist. His loyalty to the Kingdom was unquestionable. He spent most of his time writing journals and propagandas for the sake of the British. He also wrote many columns in newspapers showing his support for British colonialism. In my opinion, the novel Kim was one of Kipling's propagandas. By giving such resolution of the conflicts, where Kim and the British settlers finally get along together, Kipling would like to deliver a message to the readers that it is possible for India to get along with its colonizers. All the Indians should do is obey the British at first, just like Kim, who finally realizes that British education is good for him and good things will follow in the end.

A Passage to India was first published in 1924, and the number of copies were later multiplied, in the era when the freedom movement in India arose. The movement continued until India's independence in 1947. It is very possible, in my opinion, that indirectly the novel gave quite a number of effects to the freedom movement in India at that time. As I have mentioned before, A Passage to India is a form of propaganda made by Forster to the people of India, as shown in how Aziz responds to his conflicts.

Nevertheless, not long after its independence, India in fact suffered declines in many aspects, unlike when it was ruled by Great Britain. Conflicts happened, the quality of education was poor, many people starved, etc. These show that the people of India were actually not prepared for its independence, despite the fact that there is an opinion saying that the decline of India was caused by the British themselves who divided India into two nations, Pakistan and India, by the time they left India. I cannot agree to the opinion saying that the separation of India was behind the decline. In my opinion, it should not have been the problem because the two nations should have been able to cope with the separation and work together as they were actually one nation. I do believe that there were some cases in which India still needs the attention of the British. This is Kipling's opinion that I think is true.

However, a nation needs its independence. Being independent, a nation can have unity in some aspects including a unity in past times, culture and views. These aspects could have been the basic identity of a nation which I cannot find in colonized India. According to Orientalism this is because the Occidentals, in this case the British, will not allow the Orientals to show their own identity; instead, they make Oriental stereotypes in order to gain advantages for their own race. The Occidentals make the bad images of the Orientals for their own sake; this is why the Orientals find difficulties to show their own identity.

In conclusion, there is the most ideal solution to this situation. At that time, India needed the attention of the British in order to be a better nation, and at the same time the British needed India to strengthen its economy and politics. The two nations should have created a mutual agreement in order to gain advantages for both

of them. In the process, the two nations should pay respect to all aspects including the most sensitive one, culture. By respecting the other race, one would let the other race show their own identity. Showing the Oriental identity is also the core of Orientalism. Orientals need to be given the opportunity to show their own true identity, instead of the ones given by the Occidentals, and that is all they need. Then, with their own different identity, together they can be part of the world without discrediting each other. This way, the two races will have the benefits of reaching their own targets. I believe that today's conflicts suffered by a number of nations can be solved in this way.