

Hybridity in the Novel “The Lowland” by Jhumpa Lahiri

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Abstract

This research discuss about the Hybridity in the novel “The Lowland” by Jhumpa Lahiri viewed from Postcolonial Theory. The research focused on the hybridity culture in the novel and the impact of hybridity culture that reflected to the character in the novel. The method of this research used descriptive analysis method to describe problems in the forms of narration and analysis. This research used postcolonial theory of Hommi Bhaba hybridity to help on understanding the hybridity, or mix of two or more culture in the primary data, then to match with the real condition in India from the library research and internet search about the important events that related to postcolonialism theory about the postcolonial era that effected into the Indian culture in the novel then caused a hybridity culture. The result of this research is, the researcher finds the forms of hybridity which is reflected through the character in the novel. The forms of hybridity in the mix of British and Indian culture are hybridity culture, hybridity language and hybridity in race and between three forms of hybridity the researcher found the dominant one is hybridity culture. The researcher also found the impact of hybridity culture that created the blurred copy of first and second culture, and then, make the domination position of one another and inferior culture Alienation and discriminate on the “third space”.

Keywords: *hybridity, third space, postcolonialism approach, Jhumpa Lahiri*

Introduction

The analysis of literary works include some aspects of analysis, elements of the story— intrinsic and elements outside the story—extrinsic. This kind of analysis still involves the whole elements of the story. Nowadays, some research of literary works which neglect the element of the story, which is called postruc turalism. Postructuralism is an intellectual tradition as a deconstruction of structuralism that focuses on literary theory such as postcolonialism theory, the basic concepts such as large narrative rejection, binary opposition, and monolithic processes. (Agger in Ratna 2008 : 80)

As the pioneers of postcolonialism, Edward Said, Franz Fanon , Homi Bhabha, concern themselves with the social and cultural impact of colonization. They manipulated Marxism, new historicism, psychoanalysis and deconstruction to served their purposes. The study of postcolonialism is tendency In orientalism as particular way or paradigm based on epistemology and ontology which absolutely distinguish between the paradigm of eastern and western it is create the stereotypes and ideology of “the orient” mean as “the other”

and “the occident “ mean as “the self”. West is logical, mature, advance, civilized, and masculin. Than, East is mhyth,primitive, retard, barbarian or uncivilized and feminin”

Historically, even mythologically, from medieval times to the present, the western is almost in all fields considered to have a superior position against the eastern world. The ability to think which create technological advences in various fields for instance race stereotype which typicaly the white skin is have more power than another race, logically they absolutely have power in all fields. The western is expanding into new territoryn and create dichotomies reaction which is the separation that exists between two groups that are completely opposite to and different from each other.

The history and experience become a colonies country of course have a crucial impact on the native people who live in physical and mental aspect. Colonization as a historical context can not to separate from the story of struggle and bloodshed. But on the other side there is a mutual story “Benefit” both sides, through culture, religion, education, and other social life sides. According to Bhabha (1994:111), “Stereotyping could be an essential component of colonial discourse. It is utilized as a source of discriminatory practice for authorities, a part between different cultures; “mother culture 3 and its bastard” Colonial authority requires forms of segregation, cultural and racial which disallow a stable unit. To prevent the non-Europeans from becoming dark-skinned Europeans, qualities that were ordinarily of the Europeans were created by the colonizer. Westerners were stereotyped as individuals with high morals who were rational and heroic than the colonized labeled as barbarians.

Culture is fundamental thing in society. Each society has uncommon culture and those culture nearly different. The assortment is lawful. Since their encounter, view of point, histories are diverse. Cultural differences and stereotyping result in two topics that are current in postcolonialism and hybridity.

The outcome of that experiences between distinctive societies is hybridity, a mix of different cultures, which is both cultural identity is always in the area of contradict and ambivalence that make claims against a hierarchy of “purity” culture become untenable in another hand it formed the “third culture” which equally valid with colonial culture. (Pratt and Bhaba in Gandhi: 1998 :170) The blend can be interpreted as something positive and dynamic but it can also be oppressive. (Lye, “Some issues in postcolonial hypothesis). In spite of the fact that a half breed could be a blend of diverse societies each component within the hybrid cannot be recognized. Because of the joining of history and hybrid as a result, culture can not be recognized from the point of view of information and moral reflection; it has ended up a much more complex feature. (Bhabha: 1994: 37).

In hybridity, the old identity ordinarily will not vanish effortlessly in spite of the fact that the new cultural identity will strongly influence it. Here, what is called by Hommi Bhabha, hybridity concept, which happens as the uncertainty of personality that brings an individual in a position of “Inbetween” or in the middle. As Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin said that, “it is the in-between space that carries the burden and meaning of culture, this is what makes the

idea of hybridity is so critical. Hybridity has frequently been utilized in postcolonial discourse to cruel basically cross culture exchange". (2002: 119) it implies that hybridity demonstrates the position of "in-between" that happens to the person as he stand between two cultures.

The Lowland tells about two brothers in Kolkata. One of them gotten to be included within the naxalite movement in the late 1960 until he was killed in front of their parents. In another hand, the old brother, go abroad attempting to adjust to new lives in the United States. Exploring between the Indian traditions they have acquired and the baffling new world and changes of personality, crossing point of the political and personal live. Besides that, The Lowland is one of the shortlisted for the National Book Award in 2013, the Man Booker Prize 2013 and the Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction 2014.

Related to discussion above, the researchers interested to analyze the novel The Lowland for some reason, First The Lowland, give us portrait of India from many aspect of live such as cultural diversity, education, politic, social, etc. The researcher carry out post colonialism in this research due as it is common matter to occur in our surrounding. It is real case to be discussed has complex issues of Postcolonialism, Where the story growing up in a country which has been under colonial rule, the impact of western colonialism since their habit and ideas are adopted in India behavior till in the present.

Literature Review

Postcolonialism studies was influenced by Edward book Orientalism. In Orientalism Said applied Michel Foucault's technique of discourse analysis to the production of knowledge about Middle East. The Orientalism depicted a structure set of concept, suspicions, and discursive practices that were utilized to produce, interpret, and assess knowledge approximately non-European peoples. evaluate knowledge about non-European peoples. Said's analysis made it conceivable for reasearcher to deconstruct literary and historical texts in order to understand how they reflected and reinforced the imprealist project. Unlike previous studies that focused on the economic or political logic of colonialism, said drew attention to the relationship between knowladge and power. The term of Orientalism uses First, Orientalism is a spesific field of academic study about the Middle East and Asia, albeit one that antropology and particularly philology. He also recognizes it as a practice that makes a difference characterize Europe by creating a stable depocion of it is other, it is constitutive outside. Orientalism is a way of characterizing Europe by drawing a differentiating image or idea, based on an arrangement of parallel oppositions (rational/irrational, mind/body/order/chaos) that manage and displace European anxieties.

In the humanities, postcolonial theory tends to reflect the impact of postructuralist thought, while theoriest of decolonisation focus on social history, economics, and political institutions. While postcolonial theory is related with the issues of hybridity, diaspora, representation, narrative, and knowladge/power, theories of decolonization are concern with transformation, economic inequality, violence, and political identity of some researchers have started to address the value of the concept of postcolonial theory.

Additionally, the term colonial as a creator of this domain of inquiry is also problematic in so far as it recommends verifiably improbable commonalities over domains that experienced exceptionally distinctive strategies of domination. In this way, the critical impulse behind postcolonial theory has turned on itself,' drawing consideration to the way that it may be marked by the utopian desire to transcend the trauma of colonialism.' (Gandhi : 1998 : 17)

Postcolonial criticism is built from the colonial encounters of colonized people who locked in liberation struggles around the world, especially in the colonized countries of Africa, South and SouthEast Asia and Latin America. It Is born out of the colonized peoples" disappointments, their direct and personal cultural clashes with the overcoming culture, and their fears, hopes, and dreams about the future and their own identities (Bressler, 1999:265). Only after colonization happen and the colonized people have had time to think and then to compose about their oppression and misfortune of social personality does postcolonial theory come into presence.

Homi Bhabha, Edward Said and Gayatri Spivak are the real defender of hybridity theory, whose work reacts to the increasing multicultural mindfulness of the early 1990. A key content in the development of hybridity theory is Homi Bhabha's The Location of Culture which investigate the liminality of hybridity as a worldview of colonial anxiety.

Agreeing to postcolonialism, identity is an unstable entity. It is constructed through interaction with the other. The colonizers get their character identity by making the contrast between them and the other visible. The contrasts have in a few senses been developed previously of the colonized other. The result of these encounters between distinctive societies is hybridity, a blend of distinctive societies. The mix can be interpreted as something positive and dynamic, but it can also be oppressive. (Lye, "Some Issues in Postcolonial Theory") in spite of the fact that a mix of different cultures, each component within the hybrid can not be perceived. Because of the interlacing of history and the hybrid as a result, culture can no longer be distinguished from the perspective of knowledge and moral reflection; it has become a much more complex feature.

The key argument above is that colonial hybridity, as a cultural form, produced ambivalence in the colonial masters and as such altered the authority of control. Whereas he developed his theory with respect to narratives of cultural imperialism, moreover creates the concept with regard to the cultural politics of migracy within the modern city. But no longer is hybridity related fair to transient populations or border towns it is additionally utilized in other settings when there is a flow of different cultures and both deliver and get from each other. Here are some kinds of Hybridity; Hybridity culture, Hybridity Language and Hybridity in Race.

Therefore, the researchers summarized that Postcolonialism theory is critical theory that attempt to reveal the negative impact and that caused by colonialism, such as mentality and trauma degradation than material damaged aspects. So that the impacts of postcolonialism could not be stoped at the moment after the colonization but rather, it continue until now.

More over even ten to hundred decades later. That is way there are corelation between the colonies and colonizer country and the changes and create of new culture, identity and theory studies the “effect of cultural displacement” (Bertens: 2001: 200). It analyses the relationship between the colonizer and colonized from a non-Eurocentric point of view. The centre focus is on how individuals were influenced by colonization and on the resistance towards the colonial power.

Method

This research used descriptive analysis method. Descriptive method of analysis focuses on describing the facts and then continuing with analysis process. the descriptive analysis method can be concluded that descriptive analysis method offers a study concept that effective to describe the object to gather the crucial data and then describe the evidence of fact that available in the objective of writing, and then, followed with analysis as a way to get understanding.

By colecting data that related to the title, written source and web source to aquire data, makes some notes related to the title based by the novel the lowland, reading technique, by reading and separated the data that related to the title.

Findings and Discussion

Hybridity Reflected in the Novel

To identify the Hybridity culture that reflected in the novel, researcher will provide it by using Homi Bhabha’s form of hybridity culture in the book *Location of Culture* which will be discussed. Hybridity refers to a combination of two or more culture which, then, together create a “third space” of culture (Hammond: 2007: 222). In this case occurred because of the process of colonization itself create cultural interaction between the colonizers and colonized people and then produced a new culture that is similar but not same which known as third space. Here are some examples of Hybridity that found in a narration of the novel “The Lowland” by Jhumpa Lahiri:

1. Hybridity Culture

Hybridity Culture has gained prominence within a broad range of cultural and social aspect which related to an increased awareness of global culture impact, influence and interdependences, both historically and contemporarily. Beside that, hybridation is a way of conceptualizing distinction that point to maintain a strategic distance from and weaken thoughts of bondedness and closed identity and subsequently also avoid the essentialism that frequents theories of multiculturalism.

“The Lowland” by Jhumpa Lahiri is a novel that talks about how Subhash, Udayan and other character navigating between the Indian traditions, they have inherited and the

baffling new world and reforms of identity, intersection of the political and personal life in postcolonial era of India.

In developing an analysis of hybridity culture in the novel, the researcher deciphers the discussion into several categories, namely identify cover in style, marriage, arrange marriage, widow remarry, rules, sport and lifestyle. Lifestyle is expressed of behavior patterns and on an individual basis in activities, attitudes, interest, opinions, values, also reflects people's self image or self concept; the way they see themselves and believe they are seen by the others. Lifestyle also a composite of motivations, needs, and wants and it influenced by factors such as culture, family, reference groups and social class.

In this novel, the lifestyle is influences by Western culture also, which illustrated in the quotation bellow:

"She avoided situation where she might be introduce to someone, adopting the Western custom of wearing a wedding band during the day" (Lahiri: 2013: 236).

Based on the quotation above, it shows that western custom of wearing a wedding band during the day is adopted of Indian woman. And this situation created which is called hybridity.

2. Hybridity Language

Hybridity in language is the mixed of two social languages within the limits of a single utter once experience within the arena of utterance, between two different linguistic conciousnesses , separated from one another by an age, by social differentiation or by some other factory.

Hybridity describes about the condition of languages fundament ability to be simultaneously the same but different. Hybridity describes the process of thre authorial unmasking of anothers speech, through a language that is double accented. Interaction as languages between Indians officialy language is Hindi. The holy book of Hinduism is in Sanskrit and Urdu which is the language of the Muslims. English is the official language of India. The government also recognizes other languages (Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Nepali, Manipuri, Konkani, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Telugu, and Urdu). Separated from these languages, approximately 1652 dialects are utilized in this nation. In the novel *The Lowland* the hybridity language is show in the quotation bellow:

"And yet she remained, in spite of her Western clothes, her Western academic interest, a woman who spoken English with foreign accent and against the backdrop of most of America, still unconventional. She continues to introduce herself by unusual name, first given by her parents....her appearance and accent cause people to continue to ask her where she come from." (Lahiri: 2013: 236).

Based on the quotation above it illustrated the hybridity language in the character of Gauri, who spoke English with Indian accent and make people continue to ask her origin and they form certain assumption about her.

3. Hybridity in Race

Hybridity is a cross between two separate races or cultures. It is something that is blended and a straightforward blend. So, Gauri is obscured duplicate of the West or colonizer which has dominant power than East or colonized race. Hybrids were seen as an abnormality, the inferior races, a powerless and infected transformation, also as a concern for racial purity reacts of colonialism where despite the background of the humanitarian age of enlightenment, social hierarchy was beyond contention as was the position of Europeans. The illustration of hybridity in race in the novel is shown in the quotation below:

‘There were a few other Indians at the university, mostly bachelors like him. But as far as Subhash could tell, he was the only one from Calcutta. He met an economics professor named Narasimhan, from Madras. He had an American wife and two tanned, light eyed sons who looked like neither of their parents.’ (Lahiri: 2013: 36).

Based on quotation above, it illustrates the hybridity which mix of two race by Narasimhan as Indian race and his wife with American races both race created the new race which different from their parents races or “Blurred copy”.

The Impact of Hybridity Culture

Based on the illustration of Hybridity above, here are the researcher describes of hybridity impact towards the characters in the novel such as The dominant power, and cultural alienation which is described below;

1. The Dominant

The researchers describe the impact of Hybridity of dominant power in the novel comprising of several aspects such as: education, rules and culture. The Dominant in this section of the researcher refers to a gene that will show itself by creating a characteristic that can be acquired and also refers to a person who is in a position of power or who is showing powerful or controlling within the education aspect and the rules. Education as process of inviting the truth and possibility, of empowering and giving time to disclosure and as process of living and not a planning for future living. Education which is given by west to the east is to create stereotype if education in European country is better than in their country. The dominant of education aspect will be shown in quotation below:

“Subhash decided to apply to a few Ph.D. programs in the United States. Immigration laws had changed, making it easier for Indian students to enter. He suggested that Udayan should go abroad, too, where there were more jobs, where it might be easier for both of them.” (Lahiri: 2013: 30)

As the quotation above, Subhash is one of character that believes that with education they can change their life; they can get the right of being freedom. The statement shows that the colonization still life in their mind, which the education in European country is better than in their country. This is one of evidence if colonization still exists even they was get their freedom, where colonization live in their ideology, believe and think. Exactly

hybridity itself is a formed of Indian society to fight colonization in their country, by mimic the education of West or British they have power to create the true freedom.

Another illustrate of rule that accepted by society especially the tribal peasant which would be describe below:

“They were manipulated by wealthy landowners. They were pushed off fields they’d cultivated, denied revenue from crops they’d grown. They were preyed upon by moneylenders. Deprived of subsistence wages, some died from lack of food. That March, when a sharecropper in Naxalbari tried to plough land from which he’d been illegally evicted, his landlord sent thugs to beat him. They took away his plough and bullock. The police had refused to intervene.” (Lahiri: 2013: 20).

In the quotation above, illustrate of how people who have no power will be get rid of in their own land, but they have choice to opponent or silence. Show they arise they sacrifice everything, they have nothing and the people in power do nothing to protect them.

2. Culture Alienation

Cultural alienation is the process of abandoning one’s possess culture or cultural background. A person who is socially alienated places little value on the own culture and instead hungers for that of a colonizing country. The Alienation Culture describe in the novel is about discrimination. Indian culture is Indian identity; the culture has been passed down from generation to generation that even the international world admired. Especially in postcolonial era a lot of foreign culture that enters uncontrollably with process of domination to the origin culture in ideology. Often create stereotype of foreign cultures are cool and make it a trend in their own country. Starting from music, clothes, lifestyle, and soon. Even, European-style clothing is contrary to the Eastern custom which is upheld the State of Indian. And create discrimination of East culture, the description can be seen in the following quotation:

“And yet she remained, in spite of her Western clothes, her Western academic interests, a woman who spoke English with a foreign accent, whose physical appearance and complexion were unchangeable and, against the backdrop of most of America, still unconventional. She continued to introduce herself by an unusual name, the first given by her parents, the last by the two brothers she had wed. Her appearance and accent caused people to continue to ask her where she came from, and some to form certain assumptions. Once, invited to give a talk in San Diego, she’d been picked up by a driver the university had sent, so that she would be spared the effort of driving herself. She had greeted him at the door when he rang the bell. But the driver had no realized, when she told him good morning, that she was his passenger.” (Lahiri: 2013: 236)

Based on the quotation above, shows that Indian race is discriminated and unfear response of the West race to the East. Which there is stereotype of white race is rational, mind, order than, east is irrational, body, and chaos. So that the researcher concludes that Gauri is Blurred copy of the West or colonizer which has dominant power than East or colonized race. Hybrids were seen as an distortion, the inferior races, a powerless and diseased mutation , moreover as a concern for racial purity reacts of colonialism where in spite of the backdrop of the humanitarian age of enlightenment, social hierarchy was beyond contention as was the position of Europeans.

Conclusion

The Hybridity Culture reflected in the novel *The Lowland* is created by the communication between British and Indian people in the colonization era. In this case the native unconsciously adopted western manner, including the culture and language as futuristic and sophisticated things to apply in daily life. The researcher found three kinds of hybridity in the novel such as hybridity culture, language and race. In short, British colonization took control India people in various scope of life in compliance with their interest in obtaining more profit. In a row with the occupation, and the mental effect of hybridity in ideology, paradigm and culture is dominant than race and language. Hybridity is a gun for the character in the novel to fight the colonialism. The hybridity was reflected to the character, Subhash is hybrid man by paradigm to fight with used education as the gun, and his brother Udayan was a mix culture of ideology by Naxalbari movement by Mao which changes China. Then, Gauri is the reflection of British in appearances, style and the way of thinking and her child Bella is the symbol of hybridity in culture, language and race.

The second is impact of hybridity, British policy run out some impact formed in a number of areas which occurred even after the British left India. The Hybridity in the novel *The Lowland* created the stereotype or domination, and cultural alienation between West and East or Dominant and Subaltern. The dominancy could be seen in a number sector of India life, such as rules and education system than give influence to the ideology and paradigm of the colonized people. From the rules, it describes that British colonizer took benefit in practicing slavery by employing colonized people with low salary even without any payment. In education, British colonizer infused its influences in English language use in formal education in India and also by education they create stereotype of European education is the best than their country so it can increase the immigrant to the colonizer country. The aims to create a model of colonizer in the face of colonized people so they have same way of thinking and their attitudes, and appearances.

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