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**CAUSE OF CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO INDIGENOUS CHARACTER AS THE IMPACT OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN ORWELL'S *BURMESE DAYS***

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**Article History:**

*Received: 05-07-2021*

*Revised: 15-08-2021*

*Accepted: 27-08-2021*

**Keywords:**

*Conflict, Indigenous, European Club, English Men, British Imperialism, Burmese Days, George Orwell.*

**Abstract:** *This study aims to outline the cause of conflict between two indigenous character in Orwell's Burmese Days. During the process of its creation, the writer believes that this novel is created as a response from the author to the social phenomenon at that period. Qualitative is used in this study and genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann is the theory which will be applied. The main source of this study is collecting the description and utterances of the characters and the narrator. The result of this study indicates that the main conflict between two indigenous is caused by the new regulation of the English Men by announcing that they will accept on an indigenous to be a member of European Club. European Club portrays as the spiritual citadel, the real seat of the British power, the Nirvana for which native officials and millionaires pine in vain. By joining this Club, the indigenous self-regard will be the same as well as the English Men. An analysis of the cause of conflict between two indigenous is the main object of this research, it is suggested to other writersto analyze other aspects in Orwell's Burmese Days, such as: social inequality, gender, obedience, racism, and other social aspects.*

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**INTRODUCTION**

As a social being, most of people have capabilities to contact one another. It indicates that people could not live alone, they need each other to share their lives with in order to fulfil their needs and their personalities. It is such the people are the member of the social group. Cramb argues that when we are grown up, we interact with people and go into a group larger than our families. We become a member in the group, such as school, sport club and social recognition (1991). In addition, as a member of society or group, it is necessary to understand fully that each person has its own personality background, race, social class, culture which influence each life style. Further, (Mann, 1969: 27) states that it is from the group we get an assessment of self, the acceptance in a group improves our self-confidence, pride and prestige. By viewing the differentiate of the society, it may lead the society to enrich

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and broaden their knowledge about life one another. On the contrary, it may cause a problem and conflict among the society if some of the society try to be superior than others by assuming their educational background, social class, race, and physical appearance are better than others.

This study aims to describe the conflict between two indigenous character in Orwell's *Burmese Days*. One of the interesting parts in the story is a conflict and a story without conflict inside is a boring story and it makes the readers feel bored. Jaffe and Scott states that conflict means "... a story together two opposing forces which we call a protagonist (that is "one who struggles for") and antagonist ("one who struggles against") and then resolves the resultant struggle between these forces" (1968:2). In addition, Stanton adds that there are two kinds of conflicts, the internal conflict and the external conflict. The internal conflict which happens between two desires within a character, and the external conflict which happens between character or between a character and his or her environment. In *Burmese Days*, Orwell presented the external conflict between two indigenous character who compete to get a membership of European Club. "It has been suggested that as there are as yet no oriental members of this club, and it is now usual to admit officials of gazette rank, whether native or European, to membership of most European Clubs, we should consider the question of following this practice in Kyauktada..." (Orwell, 1962: 22).

European Club, a place where the British gather every single time, and no one native can join that Club unless as a servant to serve them. The British claim that European Club is as the real center town along the British Imperialism in India include Burma. "... European Club—a dumpy one-story wooden building—one looked at the real center of the town. In any town in India the European Club is the spiritual citadel, the real seat of British power, the Nirvana for which native officials and millionaires pine in vain. It was doubly so in this case, for it was the proud boast of Kyauktada Club that, almost alone Clubs in Burma, it had never admitted an Oriental to membership" (Orwell, 1962: 17). Even, the British shows vividly that their superiority can be seen by the Club they have. The precious Club which triggers the Burmese people being ambition to join that Club. This Club was built to show the difference their superiority to the Burmese people that will always be the inferiority.

By reading this, the writer assumes that the main goal of the Burmese to gain club membership is to eliminate the impression of superiority and inferiority between the British and the indigenous. The Club will accept one person only to be a member, so that two indigenous compete each other to get a membership of the Club. The two indigenous who will compete are U Po Kyin as a Subdivisional Magistrate of Kyauktada and Dr. Veraswami as a doctor in getting a membership. U Po Kyin is described as a man of fifty, so fat. His face was vast, yellow, and quite unwrinkled, and his eyes were tawny, while Dr. Veraswami is described as a small man, black, pump man with fuzzy hair and round, credulous eyes. In addition, U Po Kyin has bad attitude, as Magistrate, he abuses his power levied a ceaseless toll, a sort of private taxation scheme, from all villages under his jurisdiction, then, Dr. Veraswami has good attitude, loyal to the Europeans, has a European friend. By seeing the difference both U Po Kyin and Dr. Veraswami, they both take a different way as to gain membership.

George Orwell is one of the leading novelists of modern age. The political and social hypocrisies are the powerful satire in his some novels. *Burmese Days* was his first novel

published in 1934, written when he worked in Indian Imperial Police in Birma, now is Myanmar, from 1922 until 1907. During the involvement in the police, he did a lot of torture on the prisoners, the peasants and an old advance and the servants and laborers whom he had beaten with his stick. His great quality of writing delivers him to achieve international fame and recognition. Orwell emphasizes a relationship between literature and politics and economic issues in most of his works. Through his fiction writings, *Burmese Days*, *Animal Farm*, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, declare him as a political thinker and it is undoubtedly.

*Burmese Days* is set in Burma, Myanmar in 1920s Imperial Burma, in the fictional district of Kyauktada, based on Kathar, a town where Orwell served. Like the fictional town, it is the head of a branch railway line above Mandalay on the Irrawaddy river. Right under the British Imperialism, there some impacts were given to the Burmese people. As the colonizer and the white skin men who have power in Burma, they build some buildings. At the time, Burma was portrayed as the slum town under the British Imperialism which is Kyauktada as the government center, "Kyauktada was a fairly typical Upper Burma town... in 1910 the Government made it the headquarters of a district and a seat of Progress- interpretable as a block of law courts... durable jails which the English have built everywhere" (Orwell, 1962: 18).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Genetic Structuralism Theory by Lucien Goldmann

Goldman also admits: "sociology is a science based on an aggregation of categories forming an intellectual structure, then these categories and this structure are themselves social facts that sociology brings in to relief" (qtd. in Boelhower 55). While Laurenson and Swingewood state that sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question how society is possible, how it works, why it persists (1972). In the literary works, literary sociology focuses on people and society, understanding human relationships and the processing that occur from these relationships in society. The difference is, if sociology does an objective and scientific study of human and society, study of institutions and social processes, find out how society is possible, how it takes place, and how it remains; then literature infiltrates and penetrates the surface of social life and show the way of life of people with their feelings, the subjective and personal conduct studies (Damon, 1979). In the end, the writer consumes that the existence of literary works cannot be separated from the social itself which occurs in the society. This research, Orwell's *Burmese Days* is the main source and the data are the result of analyzing the cause of conflict between two indigenous character in Orwell's novel, *Burmese Days*.

The theory by Lucien Goldmann, genetic structuralism, is the theory which is used to this research. Goldmann oriented his approach to the worldview of the author or world vision. All human behavior leads to the relationship of rationality, which indicates that human behavior is a response to the environment (Goldmann, 1973). Genetic structuralism recognizes individual actions that are determined by their status, norms and social groups. Social groups have a tendency to create certain patterns that are different from existing patterns (Goldmann, 1973).

According to Goldmann (1977 & 1981), the world view (vision du monde) contains the thoughts, aspirations unified, complex, and thoroughly contradictory,

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interrelated and mutually give meaning round and intact so that it gives birth to a concept that can be used as a universal reference. This happens because world view is the result of a literary observation of the world around him (concrete social reality) and the process requires a long time. Lucien Goldmann defined world view as all structures over individual consciousness, social and historical. Lukacs himself also added that literature is not only just an imaginative artistic power that is separated from the reality of people's lives, but also rearranges the inter-vision relationship from an experience of the power of motion that revives humans which can provide a fundamental basis for literary power in changing human consciousness (Goldmann, 1981).

## METHOD

This research is a qualitative descriptive method using genetic structuralism theory by Lucien Goldmann. This method is used by collecting the whole data then explained in details, and words, descriptions, and dialogues were the data. Library research was the first step for collecting the data. The writer read the main source of this study, Orwell's novel *Burmese Days*, published in 1962 by Harcourt, New York. Besides reading the novel, the writer also read some journals, articles, some thesis, and books related to this study in order to add some sources. Then, the writer marked the descriptions in order to collect the data related to the women portrait in the novel.

### Result and Discussion

In this study, the writer would like to show two Burmese who are struggling for getting a membership of European Club, because the Club only accepts a person of Burmese, and will be represented by U Po Kyin as a Subdivisional Magistrate of Kyauktada and Dr. Veraswami as a doctor in getting a membership. It has been noticed in the beginning of this study that both of them have different view. U Po Kyin is viewed as the cunning man while Dr. Veraswami is viewed as the kind man. Both of them have different way to get a membership of European Club. Kyin has a plan to get a membership of European Club, he has to ruin his rival, Dr. Veraswami in order to make himself to be elected by the European as a member of that club. "We are going to make a concerted attack on Dr. Veraswami, who is the Civil Surgeon and Superintendent of the jail. We are going to slander him, destroy his reputation and finally ruin him forever" (Orwell, 1962: 11). A sentence shows that U Po Kyin chooses a cunning way to defeat the doctor. By seeing this sentence, U Po Kyin does not merely do alone, but he does by getting many helps from his loyal partners.

Another proof from U Po Kyin seriously ruin Dr. Veraswami can be seen by the illustration which was illustrated by the narrator. "You see how it has all gone according to plan! Eighteen anonymous letters already, and every one of them a masterpiece" (Orwell, 1962: 135). "It was not only the letters. Rumours about the doctor had been pouring in from every side. U Po Kyin fully grasped that to call the doctor a traitor was not enough in itself; it was necessary to attack his reputation from every possible angle. The doctor was charged not only with sedition, but also with extortion, rape, torture, performing illegal operations, performing operations while blind drunk, murder by poison, murder by sympathetic magic, eating beef, selling death certificates to murderers, wearing his shoes in the precincts of the pagoda and making homosexual attempts on the Military Police drummer boy" (Orwell, 1962: 136). "I have accused Veraswami of raising a rebellion against the Government. Well, I

must have a rebellion to show, must I not?" (Orwell, 1962: 139). The three quotations show that U Po Kyin's actions are beyond the control of humans generally, even the doctor's friend who is also a European is the target so that his efforts are not in vain in winning membership in the upcoming European Club and These sentences show obviously that no one can U Po Kyin do unless make some rumors to defeat the doctor because to make the Europeans believe that the doctor is totally mistaken by making some rumors which can lead to suspect toward the doctor.

On the contrary, Dr. Veraswami has known about Kyin's plan. "A villainy unparalleled" — and here the doctor outlined the plot for a sham rebellion" (Orwell, 1962: 148). "Ah, I have a few friends left. But now do you see, my friend, what ruin he is preparing for me? Already he has calumniated me right and left. When this absurd rebellion breaks out, he will do everything in his power to connect my name with it. And I tell you that the slightest suspicion of my loyalty could be ruin for me, ruin! If it were ever breathed that I were even a sympathizer with this rebellion, there is an end of me" (Orwell, 1962: 148-149). "There is nothing I can do. Simply I must wait and hope that my prestige will carry me through. In affairs like this, where a native official's reputation is at stake, there is no question of proof, of evidence. All depends upon one's standing with the Europeans. If my standing is good, they will not believe it of me; if bad, they will believe it. Prestige is all" (Orwell, 1962: 149). Three sentences describe that Dr. Veraswami has already known the rumors which U Po Kyin has done for him. He becomes worry after knowing it, he tells his European friend angrily. Nothing he can do unless hope that everything will run well or his name is being proposed his name among the European.

"Well now, look here, doctor, I tell you what. I'll propose your name at the next general meeting. I know the question's got to come up then, and if someone comes forward with the name of a candidate ... Ah, my friend! If I should but be elected! What an end to all my troubles!" (Orwell, 1962: 150). This passage shows that Dr. Veraswami can be calm this time after hearing that his name will be proposed by his European best friend for the next general meeting. Dr. Veraswami's hope lies on his European friend, John Flory. He hopes that he can save from Kyin's rumours outside and all of the European men never believe Kyin's rumour. He hopes his name could be accepted by the all English men to get a membership of European Club. Being a membership og it is the one way for him to win from Kyin.

Unfortunately, something was happening. His European friend, John Flory was death. It makes him very shocked. He imagines that himself will ruin as soon as possible by Kyin. "Flory's death had several results. The first and most important of them was that Dr Veraswami was ruined, even as he had foreseen. The glory of being a white man's friend — the one thing that had saved him before — had vanished...U Po Kyin waited the necessary time, and then struck again, harder than ever. It was barely three months before he had fixed it in the head of every European in Kyauktada that the doctor was an unmitigated scoundrel... The dreaded nod and wink passed somewhere in high places, and the doctor was reverted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon and transferred to Mandalay General Hospital" (Orwell, 1962: 283-284). This sentences shows that in the end, Dr. Veraswami has to acknowledge the greatness of U Po Kyin. After being left by his European best friend, he realizes that his reputation will be ruined as soon as possible. Of course, his reputation has been ruined by U Po Kyin, and U Po Kyin wins this fighring. "U Po Kyin realized all his dreams except one. After the doctor's disgrace, it was inevitable that U Po Kyin should be elected to the Club, and

elected he was, in spite of bitter protests from Ellis. In the end the other Europeans came to be rather glad that they had elected him, for he was a bearable addition to the Club" (Orwell, 1962: 285). In the end, this sentence shows completely that U Po Kyin proves that his power could not be unmatched. Everything has been done by him and he gets what he wants. Being a member of European Club, the highest level in Kyauktada, a place where you can be as the same as the European social class even if the colour of the skin is different, but the position is overall same.

## CONCLUSION

Genetic structuralism considers literature as a human fact, thus literary works are inseparable from basic human behavior (1981). It shows that the literary works reflect the human behavior in the past which are pouring into the story. Orwell's *Burmese Days* is one of the historical record by the author when he became a police in Indian Imperial Police in Birma, now is Myanmar, from 1922 until 1907. Being a police, he expresses his anger toward the British which colonized the Burmese in the past, and *Burmese Days* novel is his masterpiece work to express and illustrate the complicated situation in Burma under the British Imperialism.

The English men come to colonize them under the British Imperialism. Besides colonizing their country, robbing their natural resources, and ruling them through their law, and separate themselves through European Club. They reject all the Burmese who want to join that club. They make that club for the European only. In the end, they very forced to accept that Burmese's presence in that club.

In *Burmese Days*, Orwell illustrates many problems in the past among the English men and the Burmese people. As the result of the cause of conflict between two Burmese people performed in the story, the writer concludes that the author through its fictional story concerns toward the situation which was faced by the Burmese people, one of those cases and problems which were faced by the Burmese is ambition of two Burmese people which caused conflict between them.

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HALAMAN INI SENGAJA DIKOSONGKAN