



**EXTENDED ESSAY ON ORIENTALISM IN *THE PAINTED VEIL* BY
WILLIAM SOMERSET MAUGHAM**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by her without taking any results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in references.

Semarang, January 2016

Mj Rizqon Hasani

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Hidup adalah menjaga kepercayaan”

(My Father)

This final project is dedicated to the writer's parents, family, and friends

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The writer

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Abstract

In this paper, the writer discuss orientalism in William Somerset Maugham's *The painted Veil*. The purpose of the paper is to analyze how West describes the East and how the East looks at the West. The conflicts, the settings, and the characters in the novel are also shown in order to supporting the orientalism. It also discusses how the orientalism works in this novel and how the relation between the occident or the west and the orient or the east.

In doing this research, the writer uses method of library research. The object of the paper is William Somerset Maugham's *The painted Veil*. The writer also uses postcolonial approach to help explain the issues in *The Painted Veil*. To investigate the issues, the writer uses orientalism theory by Edward Said.

From the discussion in the paper the writer finds that there are some parts that show the British view towards Chinese. The orientalism in this novel is also shown in some parts such as the policy of British in China, the purpose of conquering China, and in comparison of The West religion and The East Religion.

Keywords: Orientalism, The West, The East, The Orient, The Occident

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Literary work is the matter of art. The matter of art is also about the understanding of the world and the civilization. Understanding literature means understanding the world and the problems in the civilization. By reading literary work, we can also find the solving of problems in the civilization.

Such phenomena can be seen in the literary work that will be discussed in this paper, that is William Somerset Maugham's *The Painted Veil*. It is about a love story of British couple, Walter Fane and Kitty Fane, in China during Cholera epidemic. Living in China as a new couple is not easy. The couple must also deal with the problems involved in China society. The problems are so complex. The British couple finds difficulties to adapt with China society since the China residents consider them as a part of British colony. As British persons, the couple also have their own assumptions about China.

William Somerset Maugham as a British author who has life experiences in China writes *The painted Veil* based on his experiences. The author as a British man uses the narration in the novel to create the assumptions and the doctrines that China is like what the author describes.

Orientalism, as one of the object of postcolonial study can be defined as the conquest and control of other peoples's land and goods involving practices such as trade, plunder, negotiation, genocide, enslavement, and rebellion. The phenomenon of orientalism analyzes on how the colonization happens, how the response of the colonized nation towards the

colonizer, and how the perspectives, assumptions, and opinions from the West toward the East implied in the literary works.

1.2. Research problems

- How does the British colonization work during the Cholera epidemic in China?
- How does the response of China residents toward the British Colonization?
- How does the orientalism imply with in this novel?

1.3 Purposes of the study

- To analyze how the British colonization works during the Cholera epidemic in China
- To analyze how the response of China residents about British colonization
- To analyze the orientalism implied in this novel using orientalism theory by Edward Said

1.4 Method of the Study

1.4.1 Method of Research

The writer uses library research method to gather data. Library research is a research using source that is accepted and provided in a library. Library research involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/ expert opinion on a research question; necessary component of every other research (George, 2008:7). The research is based on the main and the supporting data. The main data is obtained from books, articles, journals, etc related to the object of the research. The object is William Somerset Maugham's *The Painted Veil*. The supporting data are any information related to the analysis of the object which are taken from the library or internet.

1.4.2 Method of Approach

The writer uses the theory of character, setting, and conflict in this study to analyze the intrinsic elements. The writer uses postcolonial approach to help explain the issues in *The painted Veil*. Postcolonialism can be defined as an approach to literary analysis that particularly concerns itself with literature written in English in formerly colonized countries (Bressler, 2003:199). Postcolonial approach and its theory investigate the culture clash with the ideological, economical, political, and social power as the accessories between two nations. Postcolonial approach is a suitable approach to be used in this project. Using this approach the writer will be able to analyze the problems in *The Painted Veil*.

1.5 Organization of the writing

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter contains the background of the research, research problems, purposes of the study, method of the study, and organization of the writing.

Chapter II: Author and His Works

This second chapter of this paper contains the biography of William Somerset Maugham and his work *The Painted Veil*.

Chapter III: Theoretical Framework

The writer reviews the study from intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements are character, setting, and conflict. The extrinsic elements are orientalism.

Chapter IV: Analysis

This chapter discusses the intrinsic elements of the novel and the result of the study analyzed with postcolonialism theory.

Chapter V: Conclusion

In the last chapter, the writer summarizes discussion and conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER II

AUTHOR AND HIS WORK

2.1. Author and His works

William Somerset Maugham was born in Paris, January 25th 1874. His father was a wealthy solicitor who worked for embassy in France. He was well educated in Germany as a medical student. He also worked as an obstetric clerk during his college life. He joined Red Cross in ambulance team during the First World War. He had sexual relation with both woman and man. It was complicated relationship that he lead. He believed that there is true harmony in the contradiction of mankind and that the normal is a reality the abnormal. William Somerset Maugham is well known for his play *Lady Frederic* in 1907. The successful of his play pushed him to stop his career in medical world and devoted to be a full writer. Another work such as *Of Human Bandage* (1915) and *The Moon and Sixpence* (1919) were also known as a successful book. William Somerset Maugham died in 1965 without having children and spent his life with the man he loved.

2.2. Summary *The Painted Veil*

Kitty, a British woman, married Walter Fane, a bacteriologist, who works as government doctor in Tching Yen, China. Actually, Kitty does not agree with the idea to marry Walter Fane but she has no choice since Kitty wants to live separately from his mother. In Tching Yen, Kitty meets Charlie Townsend, an assistant of secretary government. They conduct a love relation secretly. Finally, Walter Fane knows what happen between them. He is threatening Kitty that he will divorce her if she does not come with him to move to Mei Tan Fu, a place with Cholera epidemic in China. At the beginning, Kitty rejects his threat but she changes her mind because she does not want to raise a scandal between her and Charlie

Townsend. In *Mei Tan Fu*, Kitty struggles to adapt with the environment. It is a savage area for a woman like her yet in this area Kitty finds her spiritual awakening with the guidance from Mr. Waddington, a deputy commissioner, who marries a Chinese girl. She realizes about what love is and she can understand his husband more and more. In *Mei Tan Fu*, Kitty is pregnant but she is not sure who the father is. Before she knows who the father is, Walter died because of Cholera. Kitty moves back to England and lives with her son who is named after Walter.

CHAPTER III

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Intrinsic Elements

3.1.1 Character

The important part of the story is character. Sometimes it is more difficult to read a character than read the whole plot in the story. The character in a story struggles with conflicts. Perrine states “The central character in the conflict, whether it is sympathetic or unsympathetic, is referred to protagonist character while the forces arrayed against him is antagonist character” (1988: 42).

3.1.2 Setting

Setting is one of the important elements of fiction. According to William Kenney in *How to Analyze Fiction*, “setting refers to the time and space at which the event of the plot occur” (1966: 39).

“The elements of setting are the actual geographic location, the occupation and modes of the day to day existence of the character, and the time in which the action takes place, and the religious, moral, intellectual, social, and emotional environment of the characters” (1966:40).

3.1.3 Conflict

Every story has its plot. The plot has conflicts that will build the story. Laurence Perrine in *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense* describes “conflict as a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills” (1988: 42). The conflict can happen between a person against the other person or group (man against man). The conflict is also between the person against some external forces such as physical nature, society, or fate (man against environment) or between the person against the element in his own nature (man against himself). The conflict in the story can be physical, mental, emotional, or moral (1988:42).

3.2 Extrinsic Theory

There are many views about postcolonialism study. One of them is *Orientalism* by Edward Said. Theory of Orientalism explains the creation non-europe called orientals is indolent, immoral, and thoughtless. Edward W. Said in *Orientalism* states that “Orientalism is affected by the imperialism of The West”. According to Edward W. Said, “Orientalism is a thought based on the difference between ‘The Orient’ and ‘The Occident’ ”. The Orient identically points out to Far East. The Occident and The Orient is integrated yet. The Orient is identically the inferior while The Occident is the strong one who conquers The Orient.

Said also stated that “Orientalism expresses and represents that part culturally and even ideologically as a mode of discourse with supporting institutions, vocabulary, scholarship, imagery, doctrines, even colonial bureaucracies and colonial styles. Orientalism is not only the matter of politics but also the matter of The West geopolitical awareness to conquer The East” (1977: 2).

The geopolitical awareness is supported by imperialism power, intellectual power applied in policies, cultural power, and also morality power.

Culture is the whole of human’s way of life include social descends obtained from an individual of his group, (Kluckhohn, 194) social value involved religion, arts, law, language, usage, and morality and etc. Those are created to make the values as the tool for deciding attitude, way of thinking, and perspective.

“Culture refers to te total of all ways of life-belief, feeling, language, art, philosophy, law, custom, morality, skill, tools, and machine etc- that are created and shared by individual of a particular society of social group” (from Dr. Mudjahirin Thohir, M.A.)

CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

4.1 Intrinsic Elements

4.1.1 Characters

The characters in this novel are Kitty Fane, Dr. Walter Fane, Charlie Townsend, and Mr. Waddington.

Kitty Fane is a twenty-five years old woman. Her family lives in South Kensington. She is raised in the middle class family. Her father is a King's Council while her mother is a housewife who rules over the whole family. Kitty is beautiful. She has large and dark eyes, brown curly hair, and a lovely skin, as described, *but Kitty was a beauty..., for she had large, dark eyes, liquid, and vivacious, brown, curling hair in which there was a reddish tint, exquisite teeth and lovely skin* (Maugham, 1934:20). She likes dancing, party and talk active. She is a flexible woman, she can adapt with her new rural society in Mei Tan Fu although it is very difficult. She is a strong woman, she struggles to raise her only son without knowing who the father is. She is also an open-minded woman, she can take lessons in the past.

The other character is Walter Fane. The character of Walter Fane is considered as a protagonist character. He is Kitty's husband and a bacteriologist. He has brown sort hair, an oval face, brown eyes and sharp features. He is rather a tall and thin man. Walter is shy, but also smart and self-confident. He has a heart of gold because he goes to China when there is an epidemic of cholera. He is very devoted to his job. Walter puts himself at risk and treats sick people. He never talks a lot so that makes his wife bored. He says "I've gotten used to not speaking unless I have something to say". Walter Fane cannot express his feelings, he shows his feelings by his actions for examples when he meets Kitty at the flower store and he has feelings with Kitty and directly wants to marry with Kitty.

The minor character who represent the East is Mr. Waddington. Mr. Waddington is a nice and wise man. He teaches Kitty a lot about the life and the spiritualism. He helps Kitty to find what love is. He is really close with Kitty and Walter. He helps them to adapt with the culture in Mei Tan Fu.

4.1.2 Settings

The setting of this story are in Tching Yen, Mei Tan Fu, and England during the Cholera epidemy in 1925.

The first act is takes place in Tching Yen, China. It was a small town where the British lived during their time in China. In this town, Kitty struggles to adapt with the environment. This setting has function as the building start of conflict in the story because the affair between Kitty and Charlie Townsend that cause a lot of problem is started here.

The second act is takes place in Mei Tan Fu. It was a rural area where the Cholera epidemic happened. In Mei Tan Fu, there is a chapel where Kitty helps the nurse there to take care of the children. In this place also, Kitty finds her life and her love too. She finds her spiritual awakening in this place. In Mei Tan Fu, there is a bungalow where Kitty and Walter live. The bungalow in Mei Tan Fu is placed by a missionary who dies because cholera. The bungalow is not big building, the interior is quite simple, and it is garnished with the scenery as described below:

“The bungalow stood half away down a steep hill and from er window she saw narrow river below her and opposite, the city. The dawn had just broken and from the river rose a white mist shrouding the junks that lay moored close to another like peas in the pod....through the river it was light so that you could discern palely te lines of the crowded junks and the thick forest” (Maugham, 1934:108)

The third act is takes place in England. It is the place where the relation between Kitty and Walter is started and the place where Kitty raises her son. The setting of England is also

the representative for the west side while Tching Yen and Mei Tan Fu are the representative of the east side. It has a function as comparison between the east and the west.

4.1.3 Conflicts

The Conflicts happened in the story are the conflict between man against women and the conflict between man and women against environment.

4.1.3.1 Kitty vs Walter

The cause of their conflict is the affair between Kitty and Charlie. Walter feels his self pride is betrayed by Kitty. He always gives everything that Kitty wants but Kitty never looks at him and Kitty loves another man. Finally she thinks that Walter has punished her by bringing her to Mei Tan fu. She sometimes gets nightmare since she is actually afraid to move to Mei Tan Fu, but she never tells Walter as quoted below:

“Her night was tortured with strange dreams... she entered the cities, vast and dim, where the multitude thronged about her with curious eyes. The streets were narrow and tortuous and in the open shops, with their strange wares, all traffic stopped as she went by...” (Maugham, 1934:107).

4.1.3.2 Walter and Kitty vs Chinese

The conflict is also happened on between Walter and Kitty vs the Chinese. It is a conflict between man and woman toward the environment. Kitty is not only having a problem with the Chinese but also with the surroundings where she lives in. The conflict here is about the unacceptable feeling of Kitty as western people who lives in eastern society. Besides, the Chinese also shows unfriendly manner towards western people, they believe that western people come to their land for exploring and taking all of the resources. Although Mei Tan Fu is surrounded by river and hills. And that is the beginning of the conflict between Walter and Chinese. It happened when Walter wants to inform that the river is contaminated by cholera epidemic because the Chinese society used the water of the river to their life everyday.

Walter didn't want the Chinese people contaminated by cholera epidemic so he gave the solution by informing the doctrine but the Chinese people didn't like what Walter did.

4.2 Extrinsic Elements

Orientalism is the view from the west in this case, British towards the east in this case, Chinese. The British called it The Occident, while The Chinese called it The Orient. The Occident purposely conquered The Orient.

4.2.1 British colonization in China

In the world history, British colony had conquered almost the several Asia and Africa. The British had three main purposes in conquering other nation. Gold, gospel, and glory were their purposes. Gold is all about money and the sources in the country, gospel is also called Christianization, and glory is the pride for conquering the other nation. In this novel, it is shown literally how the British, as the west, conquers the East. The word *Amah* is spoken many times by the character in this novel. *Amah* is the way they called Chinese servant. It is one of the ways the British states their power among China. It shows their purpose of conquering China that is gold. Another purpose of conquering China is gospel or christianization. In this novel, British builds some chapels in China.

4.2.2 The response of China residents towards British colonization

The response of China resident towards British colonization is not good. The character of Kitty describes how the China residents look at the British,

“It was very difficult in Tching Yen. It was a curio dealer's; and the Chinese who were sitting about stared at her unpleasantly; she hated the ingratiating smile of the old man who took her to the back of the shop and then up a dark flight of stairs” (Maugham, 1934: 8).

The China residents hated the British who came to their land in order to conquering their land and took their sources such as silk and tea. Besides conquering their land, the policy made by

British colony was making the China residents lost. The China residents also thought that the policy such as the China residents should kneel to give respect to British making them losing their pride as China.

4.2.3 Orientalism in *The Painted Veil*

The view from British towards Chinese is shown in some parts of this novel. There is a part where Kitty indirectly said that The Chinese is barbar,

“Then, with the ghaſtlineſſ of the ſupernatural, in the ſame ſtealthy, noiſeleſſ and horriſying manner, they ſaw the white china knob of the handle at the other window turn alſo” (Maugham, 1934: 4).

Then Charlie Townſend ſaid, “...Only a Chinese would turn a handle in that way” (1934:4).

Thoſe ſtatements ſhow their thought that Chinese is unmannered becauſe if they have manner they will knock the door firſt before they turn the door knob. Indeed, it is wrong ſince the one who tries to open the door is Walter Fane and he is a weſtern. This ſtereotyping is ſhown by the weſtern ſince they feel they are very good in every way.

There is alſo the claſh in picturing the images of the weſt believe and the eaſt believes. The chapel is ſaid peace althogether there is not many picture and new paint.

“The chapel was no more than a long low room with whitewashed walls and rows of deal benches; at the end was the altar on which ſtood the image; it was in plaſter of Paris painted in crude colors; it was very bright and new and garish” (Maugham, 1934: 137).

The eaſt is placed near river and foreſt, the God, Buddha called it remote and ſad.

“They came to the monaſtery, ſtraggling low buildings by the ſide of the river, agreeably ſhaded by trees, and were led by ſmiling monks through courtyards, empty with a ſolemn emptineſſ, and ſhown temples with grimacing gods. In the ſanctuary ſat the Buddha, remote and ſad, wiſtful, abſtracted and faintly ſmiling. There was about everything ſenſe of dejection; the magnificence was ſhoddy and ruined; the gods were duſty and the faith that had made them was dying. The monks ſeemed to ſtay on ſufferance, as though they awaited a notice to quit; and in the ſmile of the abbot, with his beautiful politeneſſ, was the irony of reſignation” (Maugham, 1934: 171).

According to the text above we can find the purpose of the placing Buddha near the river and forest actually is that Chinese people need to pray in peaceful place. The river near Buddha statue is a symbol of the pureness. The water in the river has its own stream, the same thing also happens to the human life. In Chinese religion, it is also taught about the balance. The river and the forest is a symbol of balance. The river refers to the world after life. The Chinese believes that the stream whether in river or in the sea will lead the spirit of death people into the world after life. While forest is a land where human lives. It symbolizes the world where human lives.

How the west conquered the east toward the religion is also stated. The nurse is taking care of the babies who lost their parent because of Cholera. The babies also will baptize. During the cholera epidemic in China, many children lost their parents. The children and babies who lost their parent were brought to the hospital. There they are given western education. If the children are learning about western education, they will forget their eastern education and start to adapt the western education to their life like the nurse said, "They seem very lively. Sometimes they are brought in only to die. Of course we baptize them the moment they come." (1934: 139). There is also discrimination toward the east. When Mr. Waddington does not want to eat, the nurse said, "Monsieur's palate is ruined by Manchu cooking" (1934: 134). The word Manchu is referred to the wife of Mr. Waddington who is a Chinese woman. It is unfair because they judge the Chinese only from their cook. Indirectly, they said that the Manchu cooking is not healthy because of their way to cook. Like the nurse said,

"I have no business to say such things. He lives with a Chinese woman, that is to say, not a Chinese woman, but a Manchu. A princess, it appears and she loves him to distraction," (Maugham, 1934: 167).

Then the nurse also said,

“Did you not hear, when you first came to the convent and he would not eat the madeleines that I had made expressly, that notre bonne mere said his stomach was deranged by Manchu cooking? That was what she meant and you should have seen the head that he made.....” (Maugham, 1934: 167).

Manchu dynasty was the one who took the responsibility of the poorness in China. During the colonization in China, Manchu dynasty failed to protect the nations and to apply their policy in China. The policies of Manchu dynasty was not strong enough to hold the country so that it caused inflations and western products started to spread in China. Mr. Waddington never says anything to that comment because he knows how the Chinese lives and he respect his wife. Mr. Waddington understands that Chinese is not like what the people think of.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In *The Painted Veil* novel, there are some parts that show the British view towards Chinese. It is one of the evidences that the British had conquered almost the whole Asia and spread their power in their colony. Orientalism in *The Painted Veil* is shown in how the character, Kitty, adapts with the new society. Besides, how the west nurse's view about the Chinese woman that Mr. Waddington married with and also how the image of the west and the east believe is captured. The orientalism in this novel is also shown in some parts such as the policy of British in China, the purpose of conquering China, and in comparison of The West religion and The East Religion. The characters, the conflicts, and the setting are represent in picture the orientalism in *The Painted Veil*.

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