



**ORIENTALISM IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S
*AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED***

THESIS

Written by:

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS JEMBER**

2020



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Submitted to English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember,
as one of requirements to obtain the degree Sarjana Sastra in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my great father, Sentot, for all his every single of bloody sweat hard work guidance, my wonder mother, Eny Widayati, for her every single of love, prayer, patience, support and affection, and my beloved sisters, Resty Satya Yunita and Fonin Dinovita, for their never-ending spirit.



MOTTO

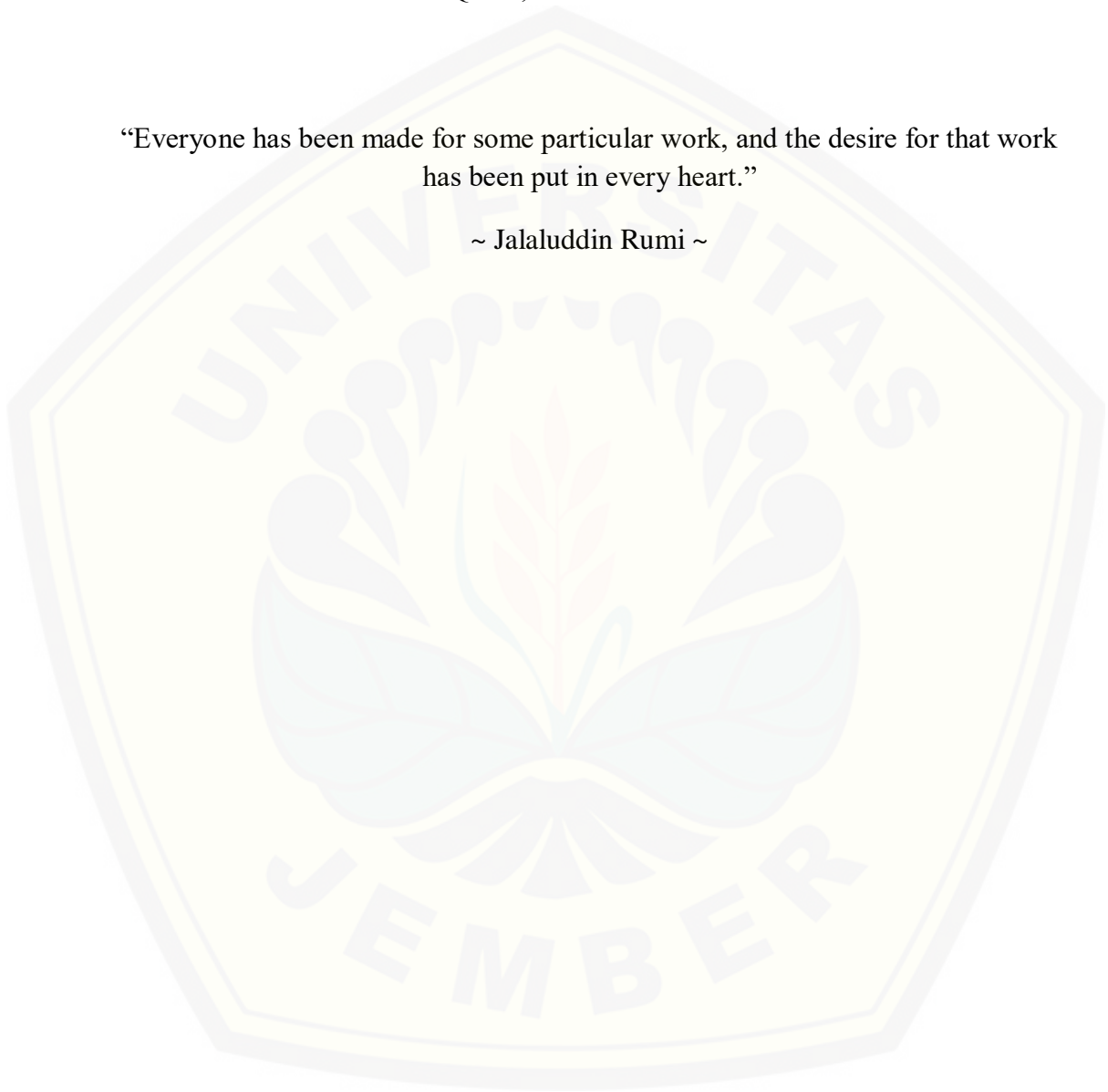
كُلُّ يَعْْمَلُ عَلَىٰ شَاكْرَتِهِ

“Everyone acts according to his own disposition.”

~ Quran, Al Isra’ verse 84 ~

“Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart.”

~ Jalaluddin Rumi ~



DECLARATION

I hereby state that this thesis entitled “**Orientalism in Khaled Hosseini’s *And The Mountains Echoed***” is an original piece of writing. I state that the analysis and research contained in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or publication. I also certify that all sources used and any helps received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember,
The Writer

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SUMMARY

ORIENTALISM IN KHALED HOSSEINI'S *AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED*; Adhistanul Karim Tsulatsa; 150110101075; 2020; 41 pages, English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

This research discusses Orientalism discourse in *And The Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. The Orientalism discourse in this novel is done by a westernized-eastern subject who moves to France during troublesome in Afghanistan. Further, this thesis is required to break down the construction of orientalism which appears in the novel. To discuss the problem, I use the theory Orientalism by Edward Said's point of view.

This thesis is qualitative research since the data in the form of utterances or words. The data are divided into two types- primary and secondary data. The primary data are taken from *And The Mountains Echoed*. The secondary data are taken from books, journals, articles, and website from internet which show the condition of Afghan culture.

As the result of the discussion, it can be inferred that orientalism is constructed in the novel. By looking at the data have been proceeded, the analysis has proven by stereotyping and hegemony to deliver the orientalism discourse toward the eastern subject. Hosseini created some characters who mention the negative side of Afghan culture and also Nila as supporting character who holds strong role that she tends to France culture. The construction of orientalism in the novel is very close to Hosseini's empirical background as the author. The influence of Afghanistan war is very clear seen on the story line. By the novel, the critical idea of Hosseini reminds the readers that certain Muslim regime is considered as the bad and cruel. The author also reminds that the East needs to be helped, even by the West as powerful subject.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, an overview of the whole thesis is conducted in order to give the readers a distinct description about the study in the research. The topic is about the Orientalism in *And The Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. This chapter provides background of the study, the topic of discussion, research question, and the goal of study.

1.1 The Background of the Study

The colonialism had a long history about dominating each other which has been experienced by both western and eastern. Colonialism has brought the impact in cultural, political, economical, ideological interest in the East as orient. Orientalism is interesting to discuss because it is a part of history of colonialism. The existence of orientalism in relation between western and eastern makes statements of binary opposition over both. It can be said that the Eastern is represented as the inferior group and Western as the superior group.

Colonialism was started when western came east nations. Thus Western found the culture which suggested it has a potential that Western has not. After that, western tried to enter through ideological and enervate the foundation of its nation. Orientalism discourse is also able to manage and even produce the Orient politically, sociologically, militarily, ideologically, scientifically, and imaginatively during the post-Enlightenment period (Said, 1978:3). Then there existed a phase which is called orientalism, means a politic doctrin which states toward East, because East is powerless toward West, and West conquer the East with its weakness (Said, 1978:265). Western realized there were many interests to be conquered in East. They wanted to dominate East for cultural and ideological ways. It can be argued that East is born to be the isolation area from Europe advancement in science, art, and trading. All values, whether nice or bad, that

propose to East, has function from Western's interests toward the East (Said, 1978:268).

Orientalism has its own interest to discuss. Orientalism is a system of rules or procedure on intertext which arrange something can be thought, written, and imagined about the East. Description about the meaning of orientalism then is to know or directly to deal with non-West, is centered by tendency to give partition between "West" and "East" to be different then to give essentially the "another" results to talk generally about the East's character, East's thinking, and etc (Clifford, 1988: 258). One of colonial strategies is to construct the hegemonic idea, as results European has the position as superior. Now, all statements about East which product to construct the orientalism discourse are not only come from the Western people.

Hosseini wrote passionate works. He told a story mostly came from his own homeland. *And The Mountains Echoed* brings setting in Kabul, Afghanistan. *And The Mountains Echoed* (2013) concerns siblings separated when the latter is given up for adoption because of their family's straitened circumstances (Pallardy, 2013). It is not too different from his previous novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* which brings a social and political condition in Afghanistan through the relation between mother and daughter in marginality of Afghanistan. The author has been running from Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. He grew up in American society which is far from his first land. He began to write and finished his first novel in 2001, *The Kite Runner* which also takes place in Afghanistan.

And The Mountains Echoed tells about sibling separated in their childhood for adoption because the social condition in their family cannot make up their lives enough. Then the young sister, Pari, is adopted by the rich couple in Kabul. The woman of its couple is French-Afghan. And they live in Afghanistan which is in chaos. It makes Nila Wahdati, the woman of the couple with Suleiman Wahdati, decide to go to Paris which purpose to find the new life and to run from the chaos in Afghanistan. Nila Wahdati has the assumption and bad experience about Afghanistan.

Obviously, the condition in the novel depicts some different culture, ideology, religion, and attitudes between West and the East. Identically, France represented as Western is rational, logic, has a good society and political condition, and is the better place than Afghanistan at that time. Afghanistan is depicted the East which is colonized by Soviet invasion, then followed by Taliban regime which rules over Afghanistan government and brings Afghanistan into wars.

From the explanation above, it can be assumed that the novel has the message about the difference between two subjects. The Western as a superior subject and the East as subordinate one. The difference of social and political condition brings the impact toward people who even has the nation as the East, they will prefer choose the West as a better place. Although the author also has the blood of Afghanistan, it does not mean he is in the East position. The author has been living in America more than in Afghanistan, and I found that all his novels tell about the tragedy and social condition in Afghanistan. Therefore it will be interesting to analyze further and discuss the problem I found. I argued orientalism need to be discussed in case from this novel. I use the data based on *And The Mountains Echoed's* quotes, dialogues, some books, journals, and other references related to my analysis.

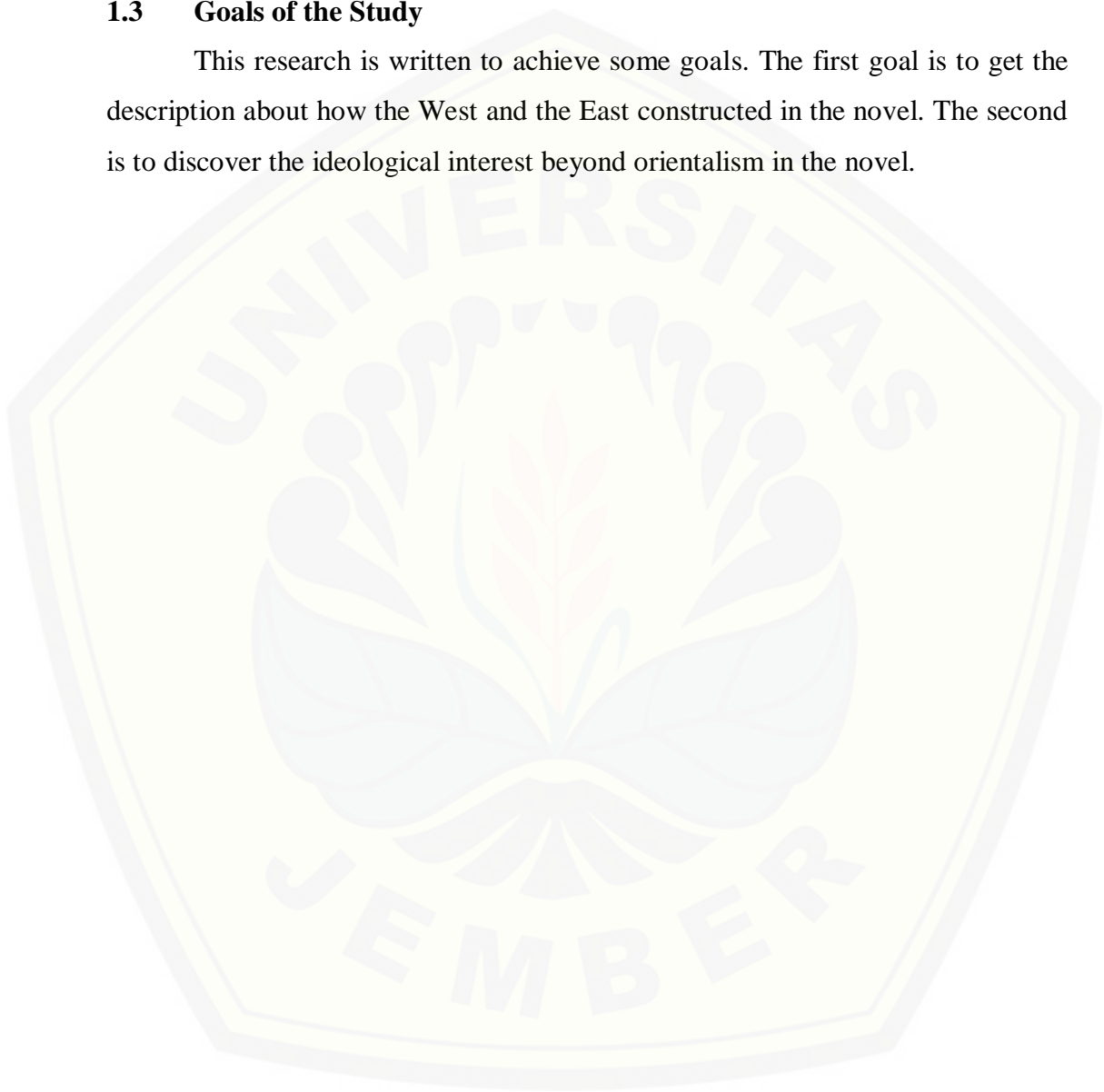
1.2 Problems to Discuss

Through the novel *And The Mountains Echoed* shows the West has interests to dominate the East. Khaled Hosseini is a master in arranging sentences to be a good storytelling. Firstly he tells about the two brother-sister tragic story, in other cases he puts other character to judge Afghanistan's social and political condition in middle of colonization by Soviet invasion and civil war inside Afghanistan government. The sad story about the main character, Pari, also has the tragic ending in Afghanistan. Besides the story about Afghanistan, Khaled ties the ideological interest in various ways through the novel. Therefore, based on the explanation above, there are some research question:

1. How is Orientalism discourse constructed in the novel?
2. What is the ideological interest beyond the text?

1.3 Goals of the Study

This research is written to achieve some goals. The first goal is to get the description about how the West and the East constructed in the novel. The second is to discover the ideological interest beyond orientalism in the novel.



CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In a research, literature review is a systematic, explicit, and reproducible method for identifying the research by researchers. In this chapter, several literature reviews are used to support the analysis. This chapter explains some of previous researches and theory related to the analysis. Theory of orientalism by Edward Said is applied to analyze the orientalism in *And The Mountains Echoed*. These previous researches are taken from Malik Fahad, Sita Murti, and also Suhron.

2.1 Previous Researches

Previous research is used to make this research in the context which is linear with what has done to compare. Thus, the ability to carry out the linear context in previous research is the basic limitation for doing the detailed analysis about the topic. It also helps me to discuss the same issues that have been discussed by using the same perspective or the same topic. Besides, it helps the readers to get the better knowledge about the subject. Therefore, I have chosen three researches which are related to my research, those are “An Orientalism Discourse in Neil Grant’s *Indo Dreaming*” by Sita Murti (2016), “A Study of Orientalism Through The Main Characters in Anchee Min’s *Pearl of China*” by Suhron (2015), Ambrish Khare’s journal article entitled “Estrangement and Alienation in *And the Mountains Echoed*” (2017), and Abdullah Muhammad Dagamseh and Olga Golubeva’s journal article entitled “Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns* as a Child-Rescue and Neo-Orientalist Narrative” (2017).

In Sita’s thesis analysis entitled “An Orientalism Discourse in Neil Grant’s *Indo Dreaming*”, the research analyzed the novel *Indo Dreaming* which constructs the binary opposition between Australia and Indonesia. Goog in the novel, is represented as the Western. It constructs the East as inferior and takes his position as superior from Australia. He finds the Indonesia’s role cannot be applied in world lens. He finds the Indonesian culture is not expected to the world.

Grant as the author put the ideological interest to represent Indonesia as degenerated views of nation. Indirectly Goog in the novel takes a role as western that has the superior position, and Indonesia take a role as East nation which is inferior. This is also linear with Edward Said's orientalism that the West is superior and the East is inferior.

The second previous research is Suhron's A Study of Orientalism Through The Main Characters in Anchee Min's *Pearl of China* focuses on the characterization of the main character Pearl as an American young girl who lives in such better place, and Willow as the native Chinese is narrated as a poor and pity person. This novel depicts how the condition of Chinese people during the rebellion of anti-Westernization by the Chairman Mao, the leader of communist party. In his thesis, Suhron proves that behind the story of the novel *Pearl of China*, there are implicitly some symbols depicted by the author to transfer the ideology of the West. As *And The Mountains Echoed*, the author of *Pearl of China* is Eastern which moves and grows in America.

The third is Ambrish Khare's journal article entitled *Estrangement and Alienation in "And the Mountains Echoed"*. The journal focuses on characteristics which is dismantled in the novel *And the Mountains Echoed*. The research aims to analyze the impact of displacement on people and in what way people feel alienated outside their homeland, and also how the author Khaled Hosseini tries to reflect the feeling of estrangement through his third novel *And the Mountains Echoed*. This research focused on postcolonial study in general based on the thinking of Leela Gandhi. In the similar novel, I use orientalism as more specific term of postcolonial study.

The fourth is Abdullah Muhammad Dagamseh and Olga Golubeva's journal article entitled *Khaled Hosseini's A Thousand Splendid Suns as a Child-Rescue and Neo-Orientalist Narrative*. They argue that Hosseini represents the children affected by war contributes to the neo-Orientalist and child-rescue discourse, justifying the foreign involvement in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Dagamseh and Golubeva also argue that American establish the good side as protector along the war of Soviet invasion. This research use the term of neo-

orientalism as a tool that mentioned Middle Eastern women and men who use their native subjectivity and new-found agency in the West to render otherwise biased accounts of the region seemly more authoritative and objective (Behdad, Williams, 2010). As similar author, it can help me to analyze the author's ideological interest.

Those previous researches may help me in formulating appropriate theoretical framework. One of those serves as comparison for issue which I discuss. Therefore, it can help me to study about orientalism and make it easier to collect and analyze the data based on that theory by other researches. There is a research in journal article which discuss the same novel "*And the Mountains Echoed*", which using focuses on postcolonial issue. So it can be analyzed using more specific term, it is Orientalism.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Edward Said's Orientalism

Edward W. Said's *Orientalism* (1979: 3), explains that colonialism is a system that holds full or partial control over politics in other countries, occupies it with settlers, and exploits it economically. Understanding of colonialism discourse is still an interesting study up to now. The habits of the West to dominate the East are still very pronounced from the economy, education and culture. This proves that the West as colonizer is the superior subject and the East as colonized is inferior subject.

Power is omnipresent and structures the field of action for others (Foucault, 1982; 221). Power is not possessed, but rather circulate in a web or network. Primarily, Foucault concentrates on power-establishing institutions such as schools, prisons, and hospital, etc., that monitor and coerce society. Later on, Foucault shifts his attention towards power-producing knowledge that is passed on to society through the very same institutions. So orientalism could be recognized as a discourse, then it can be delivered about what discipline which exists systematically: how Western controls, even produces the Eastern world

imaginatively, systematically, ideologically, and logic (Said, 1979: 3). The East is often compared with expressions formed by Western writers. That phrase which then obtains a strong truth in the orientalism discourse. There is a doctrine about the Orient in it, which is constructed from the experience of Westerners who have ever met aspects of the Oriental. In essence, according to Edward Said, orientalism is basically nothing more than a political doctrine that not only makes the East an object of study, because the East is weaker than the West, but also that can unite Eastern differences with its weaknesses. (Said, 1979:204)

Orientalism also had discovered from what Gramsci's thought, which is called as hegemony. In Said's point of view, hegemony is culture takes a role to operate the civil society, and there will be some certain cultural forms pre dominate the others. Afterwards, cultural hegemony itself takes a role to empower orientalism discourse so far.

Said (1979: 2-3) argued orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the Orient" and "the Occident". A very large mass of writers, among whom are poets, novelists, philosophers, political theorists, economists, and imperial administrators, have accepted the basic distinction between East and West as the starting point for elaborate theories, epics, novels, social descriptions, and political accounts concerning the Orient, its people, customs, "mind," and destiny.

Moreover, Said argued (1979: 21) every writer on the Orient assumes some Oriental precedent, some previous knowledge of the Orient, to which he or she refers and to which he or she relies. It means there is always the relation between discourse of orientalism in a particular literary text with other discourses of orientalism in various contextual works; literary works, research reports, journals, books. Imaginative texts have reached some functions; those can help to own the imperial, and second those give the colonial culture with the great image about geographical and material resources. (Said 1993: 84)

Said (1979:52) explained that even the report between an Orientalist and the Orient was textual, so that it is reported of some of the early-nineteenth-century Germany Orientalists that their first view of an eight-armed Indian statue

cured them completely of their Orientalist taste. When a learned Orientalist traveled in the country of his specialization, it was always with unshakable abstract maxims about the "civilization" he had studied; rarely were Orientalists interested in anything except proving the validity of these musty "truths" by applying them, without great success, to uncomprehending, hence degenerate, natives.

I analyze a way describing the author's position in a text with regard to the Oriental material about what he writes. This location includes the kind of narrative voice he adopts, the type of structure he builds, the kinds of images, themes, motives that circulate in his text—all of which add up to purposeful ways of addressing the reader, containing the Orient, and finally, representing it or speaking in its behalf. In other words, through their works, writers construct discursive practice in normalizing and naturalizing the existence of Orientalism. (Said, 1979: 20-21)

Said describes that there are some meanings of orientalism that can guide me to analyze the superiority power of the western subject in my study. In exposing the colonial discursive formation, Edward Said adopts and modify Foucauldian discourse theory and Gramscian hegemony. Taking the late eighteenth century as a very roughly defined starting point, historically and materially, Orientalism can be discussed and analyzed as the corporate institution for dealing with the Orient—dealing with it by making statements about it, authorizing views of it, describing it, by teaching it, settling it, ruling over it: in short, Orientalism as a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient. (Said, 1979: 3)

The second sense of orientalism, as a structure of thought or “imaginative geography” dividing the world between “East” and “West,” “Orient” and “Occident,” might seem rather older.

“Generalities about the East or Indies were attempted by numerous encyclopedists, cartographers, and cosmologists who were working out of classical and early medieval traditions but were challenged by travelers who ventured east from the mid-thirteenth century.”

(Philips, 2014:18)

Thus one can identify only a limited medieval “Orientalism” in Said’s second sense, and furthermore this would have to be modified by uncertainty about the existence of an opposing “West.”

“Nonetheless, if we limit our acceptance of his stereotype to some novelists, artists, and travel writers, we may observe that this tendency in modern western perceptions of oriental cultures was little shared by the travelers of our present study.”

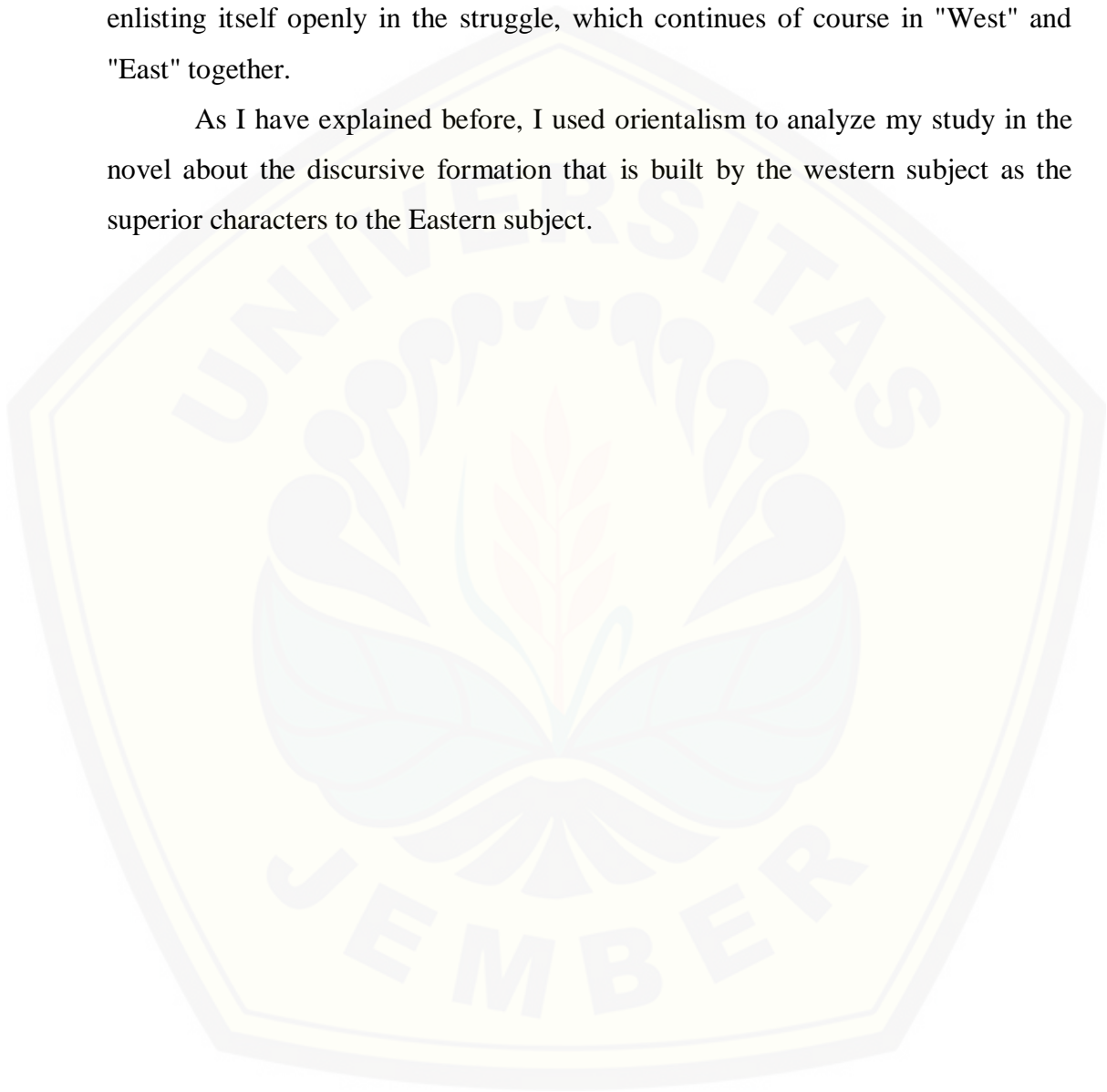
(Philips, 2014:22)

Said (1979:4) pointed that orientalism derives from a particular closeness experienced between Britain and France and the Orient, which until the early nineteenth century had really meant only India and the Bible lands. From the beginning of nineteenth century until World War II France and Britain dominated the Orient and Orientalism; since World War II America has dominated the Orient; and approaches it as France and Britain once did. Out of that closeness, whose dynamic is enormously productive even if it always demonstrates the comparatively greater strength of the Occident (British, French, or American) comes the large body of that it call Orientalist. On the contrary, almost none of the easterners were able to make a significant resistance to what the Europeans had done to them. That is, almost none of the studies that were successfully made by the East were able to match the study of orientalism that had been made by Westerners (which in this case was "Occidentalism").

The results that have been studied, Said described (1979: 252) aside from the pictures characters offered European readers in the exotic fiction of minor writers (Pierre Loti, Marmaduke Pickthall, and the like). He is either a figure of fun, or an atom in a vast collectivity designated in ordinary or cultivated discourse as an undifferentiated type called Oriental, African, yellow, brown, or Muslim. The explanation about orientalism based on Edward Said is completely said that although the animosities and inequities from which my interest in orientalism as a cultural and political phenomenon still exist, there is now at least a general acceptance that these represent not an eternal order but a historical experience

whose end, or at least partial abatement, may be at hand. Looking back at it from the distance afforded by fifteen eventful years and the availability of a massive new interpretive and scholarly enterprise to reduce the effects of imperialist shackles on thought and human relations, orientalism at least had the merit of enlisting itself openly in the struggle, which continues of course in "West" and "East" together.

As I have explained before, I used orientalism to analyze my study in the novel about the discursive formation that is built by the western subject as the superior characters to the Eastern subject.



CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Type of Research

This research is qualitative research. In a qualitative research, the using of method is through observations and the utilization of document. The qualitative data are taken from the quotations, dialogues, and other statements of the novel *And The Mountains Echoed* which has been selected in accordance with the topic of the research. By mixing concrete data together with the theory using orientalism by Edward Said, the analysis will produce an objective result.

3.2 Data Collection

The most important part of process of conducting a research is collecting the data. The information is used to expand our perspective related to the topic of the research. It is hard to conduct the research without collecting and gathering information related to the topic. If there are not enough data, it will be difficult to conduct the research.. There are two kinds of data to conduct my analysis, there are primary data and secondary data. Primary data are taken from Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed* (2013). The data are selected from the dialogues and narrative structure in the novel related to the research questions - how are the West and the East constructed in the novel, and what is the critical position of the author. Afterwards, I search for supporting data , it is called secondary data. They are taken from books, journals, thesis, and internet sources related to the problems. By using many references, those will be enriching the knowledge or information to expand the view in the analysis.

3.3 Data Processing and Data Analysis

There are several steps to do in the way processing the data. The first step is close reading. As I have explained before, I do close reading the novel *And The Mountains Echoed* many times to understanding what Khaled wants to say to his

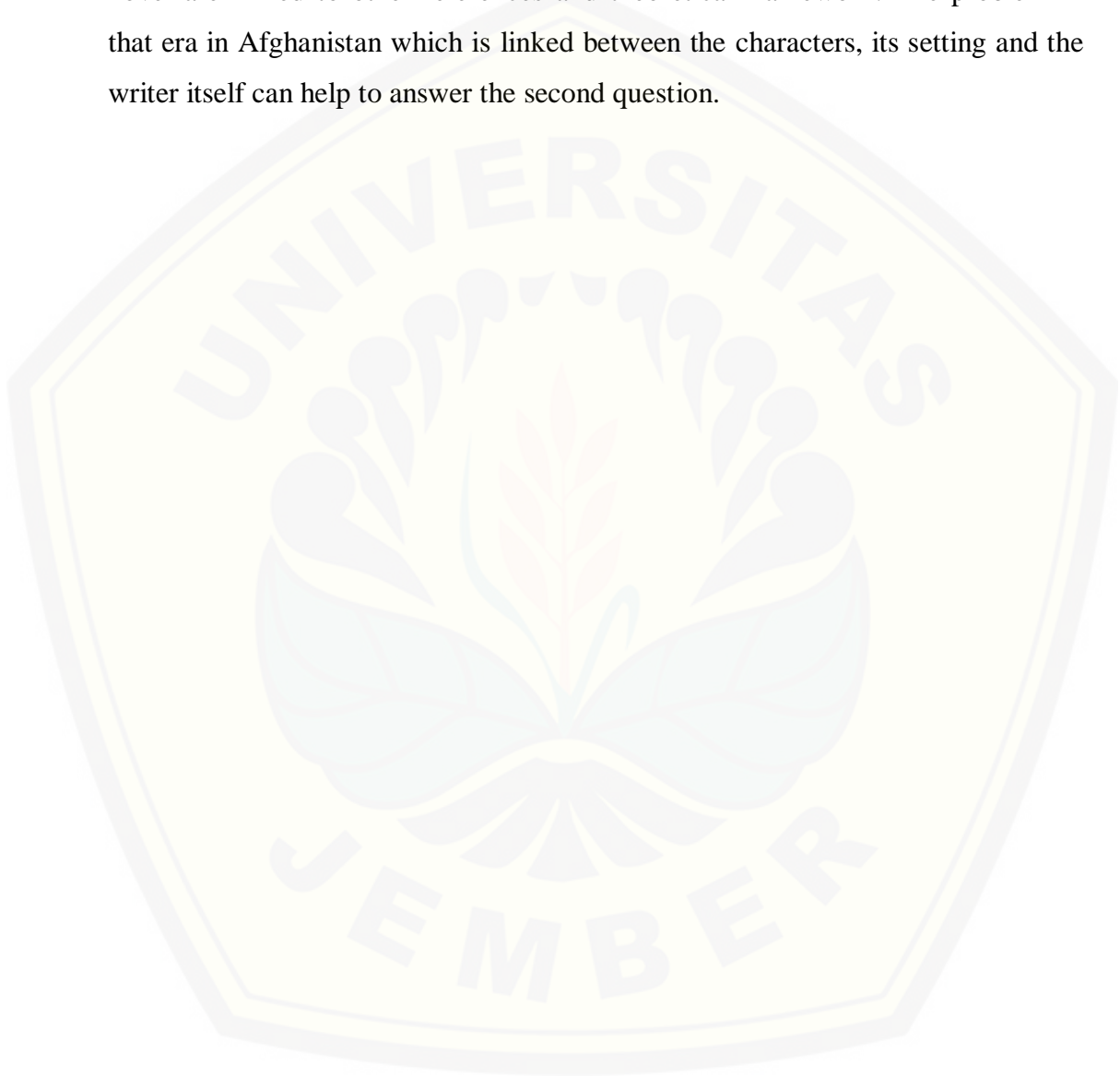
readers. However, reading the story is not enough to guide me comprehend the content of *And The Mountains Echoed*. Hence, to enrich my knowledge and get more information about the novel, I read some sources related to the theoretical criticism by experts and other researchers.

The second must be classifying data. This part has the function to encounter the discussion. It will be classified according to historical events in society in the text and the activity of the characters which indicate the orientalism discourse through characterization. Afterwards, I need to classify the data about the author's social and cultural background, Khaled Hosseini.

The third is analyzing the data. After all the data are collected and classified, next further step is analysing them. This step needs to take a serious attention to bring me to process the collected data into critical thoughts. So, this research can prove all the data corelated with the issue in research question. The purpose of this step is to break down all aspects which have close relation to the reseach question in a way to elaborate the discussion as the assumption. The discussion deals on how to discover the orientalism discourse constructed in every ways the author narrate the novel, including the characters and settings. So this analysis applies the Orientalism theory by Edward Said to analyze *And The Mountains Echoed*.

In analyzing the data, I search the orientalism discourse based on Said theory through some characters and settings. It is important to know well about the characters and the settings in the novel. Main character Pari will lead her tragic story towards orientalism discourse, from the poor condition of her life in the setting of the story which in Afghanistan, then the discourse of orientalism is strengthened by supporting character, the stepmother of Pari, Nila Wahdati who has France blood and bad experience about Afghanistan. In this case I will analyse how the characters are stereotyping toward Afghanistan and its people as a bad subject, and also the war in Afghanistan that makes Afghanistan as destroyed region. This analysis will answer the first question, how is orientalism discourse constructed.

The next analysis focuses on what happen in Afghanistan at that time in which the novel used as the setting. This section means to get what ideological interest beyond the novel. Khaled Hosseini as the author also takes a role to show ideological interest through his cultural background. The data collected from the novel are linked to other references and theoretical framework. The problem in that era in Afghanistan which is linked between the characters, its setting and the writer itself can help to answer the second question.

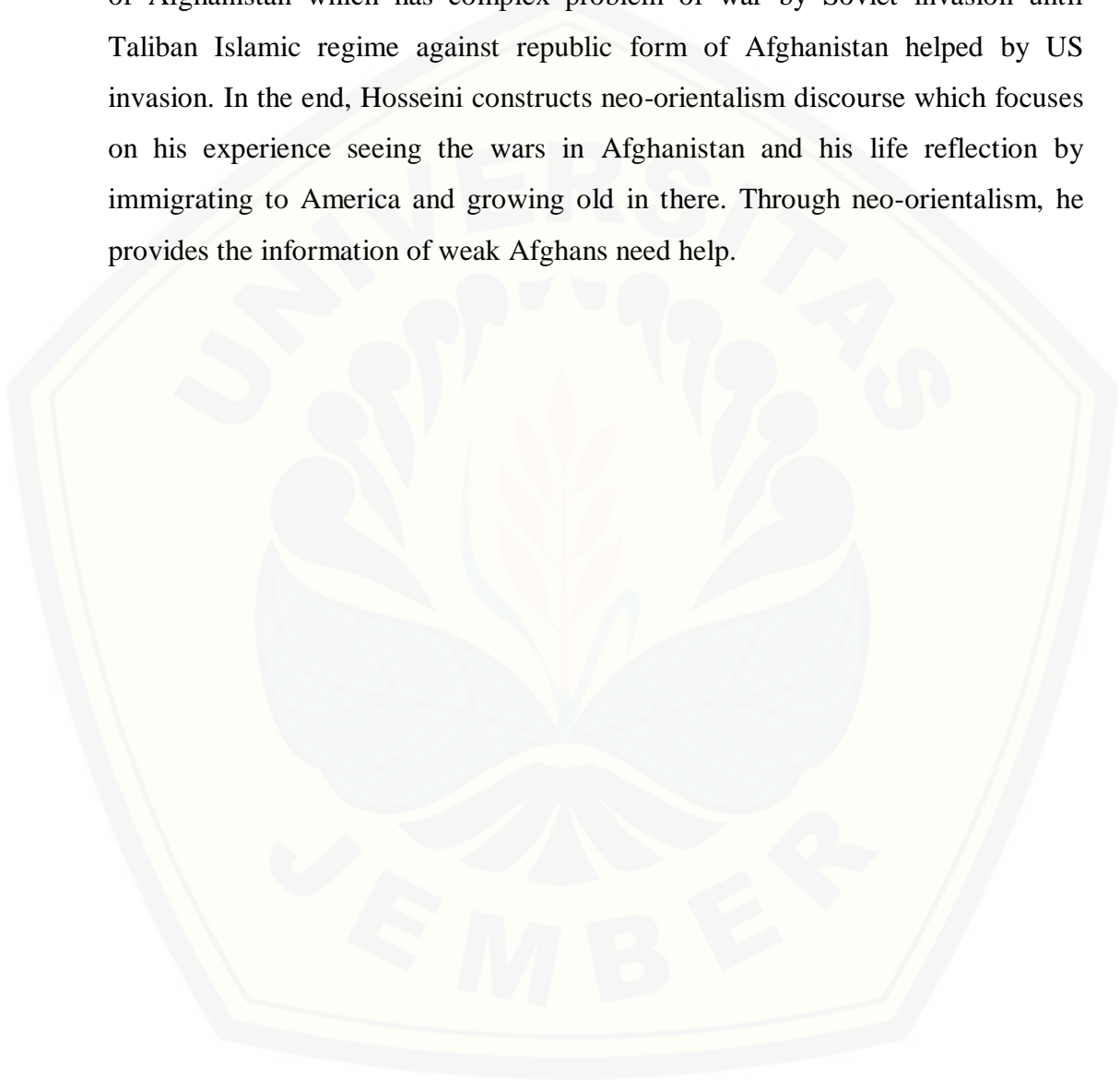


CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the explanation in the previous chapter, the research focuses on the construction of orientalism discourse and the purpose behind it. In the novel, it is clearly showed that Hosseini as the author of westernized-Afghan builds the mind of the East, especially Afghanistan that has mostly Muslim people. The character Afghan-French is always seemed as subject who makes contrast acts than other natives Afghan. It can be simply seen from the character Nila. Nila also rebels by herself toward Afghan culture which subordinates women rights.

Afghanistan culture is the main point that Nila wants to criticize. From her whole life represents she does not get her right as a woman, so she tends to be French and deals it to subordinate the Afghan culture as the orient one. Another discussion deals with the character of Pari as the product of hegemony strategy. It shows that Pari as Afghan, lives and grows in France. As time passes by, the form hegemony unconsciously obsesses herself through her France environment and her career. She chooses having a good life and career in France than knowing her homeland in bad condition during the war. In this case, hegemony has been transferred to Pari who consumes a lot of knowledge and environment in western country. As results, she thinks and acts like western people, uses French language and accent. In Nabi's point of view, he tells how he admires Nila who behaves with western culture. It is also the form of hegemony that Nabi as native Afghan sees Nila as French to be superior subject. A lot of narratives construct stereotype of cruelty of Afghanistan wars, failure of ruling government, and ruthlessness of Taliban regime, such as Nabi's point of view. Nabi tells the process of wars, since Soviet invasion until al-Qaeda or Taliban regime exists. It becomes negative side of Afghanistan as middle East country that Hosseini points out. The narratives also come from Nila, Idris, and Odie Varvaris. They express bad image of Afghanistan.

By linking to real condition happened in Afghanistan that in fact has experienced a long time war, and historical background of the author that was Afghan, then moved to America, I conclude Khaled Hosseini tries to show the superiority of western which contains good vibes to live and to show the dark side of Afghanistan which has complex problem of war by Soviet invasion until Taliban Islamic regime against republic form of Afghanistan helped by US invasion. In the end, Hosseini constructs neo-orientalism discourse which focuses on his experience seeing the wars in Afghanistan and his life reflection by immigrating to America and growing old in there. Through neo-orientalism, he provides the information of weak Afghans need help.



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