



**A STUDY OF ORIENTALISM THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN
ANCHEE MIN'S *PEARL OF CHINA***

THESIS

Composed by:

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**FACULTY OF LETTERS
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

2015



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Submitted to English Department,
Faculty of Letters, Jember University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Sarjana Sastra in English Studies

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

1. My super power father, Darta, for all his every single of bloody sweat hard work guidance, unstopped inspiring memories of togetherness and being an irreplaceable role model;
2. My super wonder mother, Masiyah, for her every single of love, prayer, patience, support and affection;
3. My elder brother and sister, Eka Patriotno and Sri Asih, for their never-ending spirit.
4. My younger brother and sister, Cahyanto and Dini Anani, for their endless shining hope.
5. My aunt and family, Wayimah and Agus Susilo, for the financial support and prayer.
6. All my close-friends.
7. My Alma Mater.

MOTTO

“Simple, not sample!”

(Anonymous)

“The world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page.”

~ St. Augustine ~

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

~ Frederick Douglas ~



DECLARATION

I hereby state that this thesis entitled “*A Study of Orientalism through the Main Characters in Anchee Min’s Pearl of China*” is an original piece of writing. I state that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any helps received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, August, th 2015

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Hopefully, this thesis can give contribution towards the English Studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of literature.

Suhron

Jember, August, th 2015

SUMMARY

A Study of Orientalism through the Main Characters in Anchee Min's *Pearl of China*; Suhron, 110110101019; 2015: 45 pages; English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University.

The research analyzes some issues related to the representation of orientalism between the West and the East. It is portrayed in Anchee Min's *Pearl of China* by its characterization. In literary work, character can be used as an equipment to deliver the idea of the author through the story to the reader. To support the observation, I use the theory of postcolonialism, hegemony and stereotype in conjunction with the orientalism by Edward Said's point of view.

The research is qualitative research. It has no numeric data as the discussion and conclusion. This research is divided into two kinds of data, primary data and secondary data. The primary data are taken from the narrative and descriptive dialogues in Anchee Min's *Pearl of China*. I use literature journals, essays, articles, relevant books and e-sources as the secondary data.

As the result of the discussion, it can be inferred that orientalism happens through Min's work. By looking at the data have been proceeded, in connection with what Said (1977:71) explains, the analysis has proven the position of the East is nature and the West is culture. The construction of orientalism in the novel is very close to the author empirical experience. The influence of Pearl S. Buck as the real character in real life is very clear seen on the story line. By the novel, the critical idea of Min reminds her readers that the East needs to learn from the West, but still not to consider the West as the almighty and the superpower.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of study the ongoing research. The background of study elaborates the primary rationale dealing with the topic. Thus, to take a straight step-forward, this chapter conducts the research topic, the problem to discuss, the research questions, and the purposes.

1.1 The Background of the Study

A literary work is a product of a mankind. Hudson states that literature is the experience of human life through medium of language (1965:10). Furthermore, it is evidently displayed exactly on manuscripts. In some points of view, it could simply be said whether reciprocal and historical products. Whereas a man writes down a literature text, there must be something that is mirroring the real condition at a particular time. It is because man's creation is likely a result, cause-effect, or imitation from his nearby society. It may contain a social criticism or political condition.

In China, in 1957, a great Chinese-American novelist Anchee Min was born in Shanghai on January 14th. At seventeen she was sent to a labour collective, where a talent scout for Madame Mao's Shanghai Film Studio recruited her to work as a movie actress. She came to the United States in 1984 with the help of actress Joan Chen. Her memoir, *Red Azalea*, was named a New York Times Notable Book of 1994 and was an international bestseller, with rights sold in twenty countries. Her novels *Becoming Madame Mao* and *Empress Orchid* were published to critical acclaim and were national bestsellers. Her two other novels, *Katherine* and *Wild Ginger*, were published to wonderful reviews and impressive foreign sales. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in Fine Arts. She is married to author Lloyd Lofthouse (Sandra, 2012:07).

Min wrote passionate works. Her works in literary deal mostly with a fabulous thought and deeply focus on woman true friendship and nationality encouragement. It can be seen on one of her works, *Pearl of China* (2010). In this novel, she describes a strong fellowship between two young girls at Mao era. The big problem that they face is to fight out the political view. The time where communist was a powerful figure for Chinese people, Mao was viewed as a God. As on Werner Meissner's journal describes in the following sentences that:

During the period of Maoist "patriotism", communist historiography did not regard classic Chinese culture as an important element of Chinese identity. On the contrary, the nation was based on classes (class nation), the peasantry, the proletariat and the petty and national bourgeoisie. In the 1980s, after the so-called Cultural Revolution, when large parts of China's cultural heritage were destroyed, the Chinese Communist Party's approach to culture slowly changed. Step by step, the Party began to reinstate Chinese culture as an element of Chinese nationalism, together with ethnic aspects and Confucian ideology. (2006:11)

The citation argues that the ethnic aspects and Confucian ideology could not be separated from each other. It is covered as a bouquet of nationalism spirit. According to the time, China's people were struggling for a cultural revolution. While in handling the identity as a nation, they faced between the classic culture and class society. Communist party came and gave the solution which was brought by Mao Zedong, also transliterated as Mao Tse-tung. As China's intellectual elite, he developed a new cultural and national identity. He built a revolutionary through Communist. Then, he coloured China into red (army). Furthermore, he is considered as the founding father of People's Republic of China. He governed as a chairman of the party. In modern world history, Mao is regarded as a controversial figure but one of the most important individual. In his hand, China belonged to be an independent nation and left all everything about the other styles of culture, moreover Western style. Indeed, in other hand, it was recognized as a failure like what Professor Maurice in his paper (2005:2-4) said, because there were an acute and painful

awareness of all horrors and crimes following the “Revolution”, such as massive genocide or even civil war like what happened in French Revolution.

And insofar, by considering the main characters in the novel, *Willow* and *Pearl*, there is a gap when the fact that, *Pearl* was born from an American missionary, *Absalom*. Even though she was raised up in China since three months infant, still she did not belong to it because of her physical appearances. Furthermore, Min the genius covers the story in a complex way. It seems like a real one. The solid relationship is pictured as her own experience and her real mate. It is a magnificent work of Min.

In this case, the character *Pearl* has a close relation to a real character in a real society in a certain China’s time. It is because the author is inspired by *Pearl Sydenstricker Buck* as an American girl and young woman that dedicated herself to Asian culture study, especially China. It is proven in *Good Earth, 1931*. As addition, Min symbolizes them in the characterization. It is described when in the southern town of Chin-kiang, in the last days of the 19th century, the two girls bump heads and become thick as thieves. *Willow* is the only child of a destitute local family. *Pearl*, the head-strong daughter of zealous Christian missionaries, in fact, will become *Pearl S. Buck*, Nobel Prize-winning writer and activist. Their friendship will be tested during decades of great tumult, by imprisonment and exile, bloody civil war and Mao’s repressive Communist regime (Buck, Pearl S. 1931:xx).

As far as I concern, Anchee Min talks much between Western and Eastern culture through the characters inside the story. So, in a short definition, she tries to briefly elaborate both cultural study and historical study. This is what makes my will go further to analyze it academically. I found that the problem is necessary to discuss by applying Orientalism theory. In addition, the material to analyze in this research is based on the novel dialogue and related references by experts.

1.2 Problem to Discuss

Topic is an important thing in conducting a research. This is like a work dealing with constructing a house. The first step is to make sure that the building concepts are well-done prepared. As far as I focus, to start doing a research, knowing what the topic to discuss is highly needed. It is because a topic in a research is the main discussion. Moreover, it is a vital foundation that can determine the next specific step ways to the researcher. So, there I have an importance to make a limitation to the ongoing analysis. This purposed research focuses on Orientalism study. It analyzes how “the orient” and “the occident” make a contact through the main characters in the novel.

In reading *Pearl of China* novel for the first time, it may seem that there is only an epic aspect showing two young village girls living in a memorable childhood time. The aspect merely entertains us. There, the readers (as society of literature) will just find a scenery of what a beautiful places, dirty fields, farmers activities, breeding smell, wavy roads, shapes of hills, etc. However, I searched another aspect. It is called *Orientalism* aspect. It is constructed behind the characters’ conversation and dialogue through the main characters in the novel. It is an indirect message. The ideas are hidden. For the reason, I conclude that the problem of Orientalism aspect is told not transparently, from which I assume there is a criticism toward the writer’s surroundings, China’s life and culture in nineteenth century.

Therefore, the research problems in this thesis are mentioned below:

1. How is Orientalism discourse constructed through the main characters?
2. How do the main characters in the novel represent the China social condition?
3. What is the writer’s critical idea toward the China’s real social condition?

1.3 Purpose(s)

These are the following purposes in implementing the research:

1. To enrich the knowledge of Orientalism by breaking down the main characters in the novel.
2. To encounter that Orientalism is actually represented through the main characters among the social condition.
3. To expose the writer's critical ideas toward the China's real social condition and relationship between real Pearl S. Buck as a Nobel Prize-winning writer and as a character in the novel.
4. To prove that in a literary work there exist a construction of Orientalism discourse.

The thesis is organized into five chapters; they are introduction, theoretical review, research methodology, discussion and conclusion.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In a research, literature review will help the researcher's way in analysing the topic. It may be a previous research or theoretical framework. In this section, the researcher uses two previous researches and some related and compatible theories by experts. There are the thesis of Freddy Widya Pratama and Chris Richardson, theories of Postcolonialism, Orientalism and Hegemony.

2.1 Previous Researches

Literature review is an important framework in conducting a research. It can determine the gap and similarities of the analysis between the previous ones. Blaxter (2006:111) states that the main functions of literature review are to discuss relevant research carried out on the same topic or similar object, and to a conceptual and theoretical context in which is suitable. For this reason, the literature review of this thesis is offered, consisting of the prior researches, the explanation concerning with the subject matter and the theory.

The first previous research is Freddy Widya Pratama's *Orientalism and Religious Aspects on Characters and Objects in J.R.R. Tolkien's the Lord of the Rings: A Semiotic Analysis* (2013). In his thesis, he focuses on orientalism study by semiotic approach. Based on the project, the writer proves that behind the story of the novel *The Lord Of The Rings*, there stand some symbols having a tendency to imply the problem both orientalism and religious aspects. Committed to the thesis, he tries to reveal the signs following the characterization. Wherein, as an end, he gives a proof that "the occident" and "the orient" evidently happen implicitly.

The second previous research is Chris Richardson's "*Canada's Toughest Neighbourhood*": *Surveillance, Myth and Orientalism in Jane-Finch*" (2008). He is an advance student of Faculty of Social Sciences, Brock University St. Catharines, Ontario. In this thesis, he examines coverage of Jane-Finch in popular Canadian newspapers in 2007. Then, he talks about three different major topics. He explores the often-negative

representations of the community through conceptual frameworks based on the work of Michel Foucault, Roland Barthes and Edward Said.

By reviewing both researches, this thesis is intended to be designed talking about the similar issue. Then, the used topic is based on Anchee Min's *Pearl of China* that is *The Passionate Fellowship between Two Young Village Girls in China* as the valid and the primary data. To support this research, books, journals, articles, and other related sources are applied as the secondary data.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Postcolonialism Study

At the turn of the twentieth century, John (2000:7) states that the British Empire covered a vast area of the earth that included parts of Africa, Asia, Australasia, Canada, the Carribean and Ireland. Britain remained a colonial period with several possessions. Those parts are considered as British colonies. In addition, Judd in John McLeod (2000:8) argues that colonialism was first and foremost part of the commercial venture of the Western nations. In this case, the world is separated into two parts: the West and the East. The West belongs to European and America, while the East is non-European and Latin America. The reason of the colonialism was caused by the desire of profitable trade, plunder, and enrichment.

The colonialism has taken many different forms and diverse effects. John (2000:9) support that the term colonialism itself has close relationship between two other terms: capitalism and imperialism. Then, Juddith (2003:115) also says that colonizer has a desire to somehow take place of the colonized. Afterward, this importance becomes the beginning of the imperialism in which by the way of stereotyping the cultural and the peoples of the colonized group. As a canon ball, it goes through the hegemony that is the West way to do transliterate the generic idea among literature and discourse. Afterwards, the idea is used for taking off the sunglasses in the eye of the East. From this time, the East looks the West as more magnificent than the East. And as time goes by, there exist some fragmental effects in

the way of thinking of the inferior group. Then, as a huge result, postcolonialism study is produced and develops by the time aftermath colonialism era. This study is not only focused on the impact, but also speaks about the process and the progress even until it has reached and spread out to the victims.

Moreover, as an alternative target, the minds and the way the East pointing out the West are selected to be placed to down the bomb of hegemony. Literature and culture are set to be a short-cut to face down the East. The way is another trick to get close to the East easily without using any physical violent. So, it finally builds a big paradigm to East that everything coming from the West is always sophisticated and modern. In contrast, all East products are depicted as ancient and old-fashioned. This trick then shows a critical idea that represents what happens. The idea is to be called as Orientalism. Based on this assumption, the East is made by the West discourse and literature.

2.2.2 Orientalism Study in Edward Said's Theory

A certain approach is highly-needed in order to get detail and clear discussion. In connection with the main problem, orientalism is suitably applied. Orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the orient" and most of the time "the occident" (Said, 1979:2). Said (1977:50) describes that the study of orientalism is focused on the very notion of a field study of based on a geographical, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic unit called Orient. The Orient signifies a system of representations framed by political forces that brought the Orient into Western learning. The Orient exists for the West, and is constructed by and in relation to the West. The Western makes this hegemony through their literature during the colonization times. Moreover, Said stated that the East is a Western product, in terms of how they are to make a point of view. The Eastern is made to be "the others" because of the strange appearances based upon the Western life experiences. The orient is assumed as thing coming from past yet already existing in the present and future. Then, this rhetoric continually walks in a

line with Western superiority in the Eastern. For the result of this hegemony, it builds a big paradigm and mind-set-war like or psychological war. As addition, the victims are not really aware of this situation. So, the victims do not feel hurt physically. On the other hand, they are really broken in the way of thinking.

Said (1977:71) argues that the way the West discusses, depicts and “knows” the East is far from objective. Said argues that how one speaks about “the Orient” do more than describe it. At one and in the same time, the East is characterized as an alien or the strangest ones. In addition, for a writer to use the word *Oriental* was a reference for the reader sufficient to identify a specific body of information about the Orient. Furthermore, as a cause-effect, it makes a kind of distinguished appearance and physical action. In other word, the West (Europe and America) is considered as the superior while the East belongs to the inferior. It is probably easier to make an analogy about the discourse with a play performance. For instance, in a theatre, the East as metaphoric is used as the stage of the playwright. And from this stage, the West is of course pictured as the director. Whereupon, in a hand, the East is presented to the audiences which come not only from the West itself, but also to everyone who agrees the played-scene written by the director (The Western). Based on the story of the novel, the main characters are divided into two different genetic appearances. One is identified as an American girl born in China with her blonde hair and another one is the native, a Chinese-girl.

2.2.3 Hegemony in Said’s Point of View

Henceforth, following Richard (2014) notes, that Said stresses the discursive construction of the Oriental serves a vital purpose: that is, the idea of European identity as a superior one in comparison with all the non-European peoples and cultures. The method is another way of Western imperialism which happens through the discourse. It is what in other word called as hegemony. An invisible equipment happens to destroy thing but the objects itself feel nothing. Hegemony on Said’s (1977:7) point of view is defined as an idea that is brought by Western through

literature to dominate the notion of political importance into the Eastern. Thus, the relationship between Occident and Orient is a relationship of power, of domination, of varying degrees of a complex hegemony itself. The ruling class, however in any society, in certain terms predominates over others. The big case in this section is European trying to identify them as “us” and to identify non-European as “them”. This is the way dominant groups are able to maintain their domination over the less powerful group without any physical touch to force, but instead are able to actively gain their consent.

Again, this idea is rather supposed to be a system of knowledge about the Orient. Thus, pilgrimages coming from British and French have a big cause-effect of the hegemony determination. In order to fulfil the importance, the case of hegemony is slowly generated in connection with Biblical Christianity world-wide spread-out. As a matter of fact, orientalism discourse has a close tie to the enabling socio-economic and political institutions. The religious aspect is the softest way to get in touch with the orient. This method is applied to control the mind of the Eastern. The belief is something that every one holds. Yet, in this form, there must be something stands for an implicit purpose that is lay down behind to steer up. So, in a short definition, the texts exist in contexts, vice versa.

Hegemony throughout the cultural stereotype is one of the complicated matters in orientalism. The East in the West point of view is always considered to be another side of it. The Orient becomes a subject as the sub-ordinate intellectual illustration. Due to this practice, hopefully, Orient can be the European achievements. The perspective built by Western have a tendency to force the East far into a corner. Moreover, the West has a big chance to handle down the East as their will. The stereotype itself as media based on Said's (1979:27) explanation, means a social judgements which point out a negative assumption created by the superior to some particular developing communities or peoples in a certain place in order to set up the inferior's way of thinking. It seems clear that stereotypes of race can endure over long

colonial periods of time until nowadays. As addition, borrowing the Macklin's (2002) table in his journal about stereotypes, the idea he pictures that the world is defined as two parts and no middle-way, such as mentioned in the following term:

Occident (The West) White	Orient (The East) Black
Culture	Nature
Good	Evil
Male	Female
Master	Slave
Adult	Child
Purity	Pollution
God	Satan
Reason	Emotion
Law and order	Chaos
Civilization	Savagery
Us	Them

Afterward, while forming stereotypes, Ford & Stangor (1992) support that people often make extreme trait and evaluative judgments of a group even on the basis of sparse information about group members. Agreed with Said (1977:58), Steele & Aronson (1995) add, the threat refers to being at risk of confirming, as a self-characteristic, a negative point of view about one's social group. People who have enormous power can easily conduct the determination through the hegemony. In order to control their importance, all the way is applied. In another side, people who are powerless have no choices to ignore it. For, the hegemony is something untouchable. It is a new kind of imperialism. Literally, it cannot be seen. Yet it attacks deep inside of mind and feel, even though the victims are really fine in physical appearances. This is how the way of brain-war works.

Biblical Christianity is used as a weapon to purify the Eastern people way of thinking in the way of believing God. People living outside the Europe and America are considered as Satanism and uneducated. The perception is built and raised up aftermath even long before the colonialism era. This is the work of the stereotyping the Eastern like what has been explained by Macklin. The desires to control the "the

other” country depend on the main purpose of the Western. In this war, the Western send the pilgrims as the bomb. It is planted to many countries around the new places that belonged to “the other”, to the far places. It has so many different cases. Some natives of the orient are accepted, but some more are rejected the ideas of the pilgrimages. Furthermore, even though the Adam’s and Jesus’ story are pointed to be the reference of goodness to the Eastern, the Western have another mission behind it. In every single aspect, there is not only about religion brain wash, but also something hidden to develop a self-centered Eastern point of view to the West. Eastern is force to be looked as a traditional and ancient, while Western puts themselves as a modern and super-magnificent.

As the end, the orientalism study in this research is to know how Western draw and depict the Eastern. The research interrogates why and what the goal of the orientalism discourse is used. The Eastern is the person who has to obey the rules made by the Western. And the Western is the superpower figure to be honoured in all every single point.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The chapter describes how the research is conducted. Some steps mentioned hereby are the suitable ways of processing the data. It tells the reader the type of the research, how the data are collected, how the data are processed and how the data are analysed.

3.1 Type of Research

This type of research is a qualitative research. According to *Blaxter, et al*, qualitative method focuses on collecting and analysing data as much as possible without using numeric data (1997:60). Meaning that, the data cannot be completely counted on numbers scale. Meanwhile, the data are essentially sentenced. The main field as the medium is taken from library research. By doing library research, the researcher can design the methods, approaches, theoretical frameworks and finishing concepts in connection to the data. In this research, textual narrative is used to investigate the main discussion in the novel. Finally, the analysis will absolutely be explained and concluded in sentences.

3.2 Data Collection

Data are the important thing in conducting a research. To collect the data, the researcher has to get all the related information of it. Without knowledge of the information, it is impossible to do an observation. As the primary data, the novel *Pearl of China* (2010) is the main source. Then, to continue the analysis, the data are supported by the secondary sources. According to the data, I need some steps to get a closed-touch to finish it up. *Blaxter, et al* (2006:154) describes that, there are four steps of collecting data. There are interview, observation, questionnaire and documentary method.

The data in this research are based on library research references. It is taken from some related books, internet sources, literary work reviews, such as literature journals, essays and any other. The data sources used in this analysis are derived from e-books and printed books. Besides, the one is printed on a hard-copy file and another one is typed on electronic form. Furthermore, this observation is also supported by some additionally information taken from e-sources.

3.3 Data Processing and Analysis

In the research, briefly, the ongoing analysis process uses interpretative method. Blaxter *et al* (1997: 197), says that interpretation is the process by which researcher puts his own meaning on the data he has collected and analyzed. It makes the researchers free to express their own point of view. There is no boundary or border in doing analysis and making an argument. As far as the research, still the thesis is composed in scientific ways to result a hypothesis. Furthermore, the description of the thesis remains constructed by the writer's argument which is supported by expert references. Henceforth, the thesis is factual.

In the way of processing the data, there are several steps to do. It is completely explained in the following steps. To be the first one is close-reading. The reading activity in this case is done by more than once. It can be so many times. For this will ensure and strengthen the understanding the whole parts of the novel. In addition, the data are collected from the novel itself, Anchee Min's *Pearl of China*. By breaking down all the factors in the novel, afterward, the activity is briefly continued to a routine close-reading to the theoretical criticism by experts and any researchers. So, at the end of this study, there will appear a result not only as a pleasure comment but also an academic achievement. The reading in this activity is largely due to expert guidance to accomplish applying the suitable theoretical framework.

Secondly, it goes to choosing-action. This activity deserves the analysis some linked and compatible theories or concepts. Thought, the major discussion in the research is orientalism study. So, to continue the research any further, the researcher has a direction to be followed. The work is systematically finished, then.

The third turns to dividing or classifying. To encounter the problem discussion, I myself divide every single point of view. The part one is talking about the relationship between the writer's social background, Anchee Min and Pearl S. Buck as a Nobel-winner. Then, it will discuss the novel based on the main characters. According to historical events in society, the activity separates the vividness of *Pearl* as a main character in the novel and as a Nobel-winner.

Then to be the fourth, the step goes to analysis. When all the data are collected, the further step is to operate them. This process needs to take a serious and deep understanding of the material. Focus and concentration are specially needed. It brings the researcher to the scientific thoughts through the observation. So, at the end of the research, it can be clearly proven. The purpose of this action is to break down all the aspects which have close relation to the research questions. It is important to limit the scope of the research in order to put it as a planned goal. So, it does not go out of the guide-line pathway and does not make any disambiguity research. In the same time, this activity will take the researcher to elaborate the discussion as his assumption. The business is dealt on how to prove the orientalism discourse from the very first step of the analysis to the end, breaking down all parts of the main characters and its setting. In doing the analysis, the applied theory is according to Orientalism by Edward Said to analyze *Pearl of China*.

The analysis is started by studying the main characters in the novel, *Pearl* and *Willow*. Wherein, *Pearl* in the story is told as an American Christian missionary daughter who lived to be a native of China, and then she really met a native China, *Willow*. As the time flies, they become united as one even the political condition (communist party) at that time was so hard for foreigners, especially for people

coming from West. All the things about Western were forbidden. The conflict rises between the idealism of the China's leader and his people, and strangers. The country, China kept the nation only for the natives. This will bring the life of the *Pearl's family* into a hard position in China. The nation is closed for outer influences. By the condition, they suffered from the regime. At this point, they have similar struggle to fight for. In this case, both *Pearl* and *Willow* reflect the symbol of freedom to strive out the problem that there is no different at all even though they were coming from two-sides of the world. The analysis will answer the first question, how the orientalism discourse is constructed.

The next analysis focuses on the result of the political transition to the main characters' and the social condition based on the novel. Slowly, the writer's ideas toward the real China condition will appear. The point of this section is to know what the writer's main concept is for.

Hopefully, the problem that is linked between the main characters, its setting and the writer itself can be straightforward followed up and well-solved. Furthermore, based on the observation of the characters, I attempt to describe the critical ideas and the relation of the work among the China's real social condition. In this step, the data collected from novel are linked to the theoretical framework and some other comprehensive references by experts and the researcher ideas. To finish the analysis, I will build an academic point of view as my own opinion through the work.

As the final of the step, I make a single conclusion. There is a tentative argument of the research as the result of all those processes mentioned above. On the other hand, this observation can helpfully be a reference for the next researchers. In a short statement, concluding is a simple noted-summary of the research. This is what can be said as the writer's assumption.

CHAPTER 4. A STUDY OF ORIENTALISM THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN ANCHEE MIN'S *PEARL OF CHINA*

This chapter description discusses how orientalism is constructed through the main characters in *Pearl of China*. The discussion will be divided into three sub-chapters. The very first is intended to expose the characterization in the novel. Any further, the actors are highly needed to know. For almost all the source of information can be collected from them. Also, this sub-chapter deals with the supporting generic idea through the characters' physical appearances, speech and dialogues. Then, orientalism aspects can be folded from the characters' display.

The second sub-chapter goes to analyze the representation of the China social condition. To make the method easily done, the technique used in this section will divide into two life dimensions between the society based on the real and general history and the setting of the novel itself. For missionaries, at some period time in China, were something extremely prohibited. Yet, still there must be a similar issue in talking the defragmenting trauma in both forms. And finally, the last sub-chapter explains the differences of Pearl S. Buck as Nobel Prize-winning writer and Pearl as a main character in Anchee Min's *Pearl of China*.

4.1 Characterization

4.1.1 Main Characters

Character is an investment of the author with certain distinguishable attributes in a convincing way to his work on stage or writing, Russel says (1966:40). Characters are divided into many difference styles and forms. The purpose is to serve the reader an imagination of the characters' attitude and characters' personal action. The concept of characterizing is not a simple way. It needs a highly systematic scheme to draw them to be a whole part in a plot. Indeed, they are looked by observing closely their actions and behave in different situations and or setting. At

this point for the audiences, reading a literary is no longer a pleasure, but a criticism. Then, at least the reader knows the depth, for instance, characters speak about each other and themselves among the setting in a story.

According to Diyanni (1894:54), characters are people in the “text”. It can be whether god, human, animal and thing. As a study, this is a method which writer uses to reveal a character’s values, feelings, goals, etc. to the reader. It is most likely an agency of somebody’s representation. In other word, it can be said as the vehicles of the author to deliver his ideas. In order to convey the writer world, the readers are directed to ride the story through the characterization.

Talking about the characterization, there are several kind of characters classified to it. There are two ways to reveal the characterization. One is by tracking the *direct* characterization and another one is *indirect* characterization. As Peterson (1999) explains in his journal, in case of direct, the narrator exists in a story as somebody who knows everything to guide the characterization while in case of indirect the author lets the characters reveal themselves by what he says, does and thinks within the story.

In a literary work, inside of a playwright or writing based on Diyanni (1894:54-55) there are several types of characters. There are *major, minor, static, dynamic and typed (stereotyped)* characters. First, it is the *main/major character*. This is placed as the centre portion of a story. They dominate the whole part from the very beginning until the end. They can be seen almost in every page. And the second goes to *supporting/minor character*. The purpose of this character is to help the main character’s movement in the story. This kind of character is supposed to be the partner in building the story. Even though, their appearances are in short-portioned narration and not really intents as well as the main character. Moreover, both characters are important role and so linked in a plot to result a good story.

In major characters, there are two kinds of role. One is protagonist. The role is always considered as the hero in a story. The second one is antagonist. It is the

opposite form of the protagonist role. Antagonist refers to person or thing having a negative sense while the protagonist is stated as good and positive role. So, the conflict will arise from both diverse roles.

Furthermore, the minor characters have function to support the domination of the major character. They do not appear intensively, but their role is also an important thing to develop the progress of the main character. Their appearance in a story is always infrequently. It is far different with the main characters role.

In addition, static character is a flat role. During the story, they do not make any change. For the reader, it can be easily seen from one or two revelation. On the other hand, dynamic character is a changing role. It grows through the event among the story. Because of having some characteristic, the readers will find more than one side of a character. And finally, the typed or stereotyped characters are known by how they do and act. So, the author does not need to tell us much information of it. It is caused of we have encountered the typical of them before making any inference.

Focusing the main character, in *Pearl of China* there are two figures that can be assumed as it, *Willow* and *Pearl*. Because both of them are the individuals who dominate the story line from the beginning until at the end. In Rusmawani's thesis (2012), as the result, the analysis of the main characters are concluded both Willow and Pearl. Moreover the two characters become important caused by their action struggling for freedom of expression in Mao era. Willow is represented as the native who wants to get better life of prosperity while Pearl is represented as the Westerner who wants to live in China in the time of Mao era or the hard time for the foreigner. So, Min transfers her ideas among these two different personalities. Beyond the name of Willow, literally it is meant as a plant which grows near a river or lake while Pearl is meant as a kind of jewelry. From this simple argument, I assume that the native is pictured as cheap thing and the West is depicted as an expensive one. So far these are the hidden ideas of the author to represent the Chinese condition at the time I can find. In the next analysis, I put my focus on them to reveal how orientalism is

constructed with the help the other characters. It is because behind characterization there is an idea trying to deliver. The author has an ideological interest through her work. It may be whether to give an explanation of historical memoir or an imagination of her surroundings.

4.1.2 Orientalism Construction through the Main Characters *Pearl* and *Willow*

Said (1979:1) shows that Americans will not feel quite the same about the Orient, which for them is much more likely to be associated very differently with the Far East (China and Japan, mainly). This is why then the West judges the East as the other kind of them. The word “us” is used to define the West and “them” for the Orient. The distinction is clear, the West point the East as thing has no much power but they do. It is because they have interest in order to get down the East on their feet.

Min (2011:i), as the author has an experience living in America as scholar right after as the political prisoner in Mao era. A little of her knowledge about Chinese in the novel is influenced of her empirical experience. She lived in the time where Communist party was a super power figure. It was the time where the Western people were hard to live and stay in China. In *Pearl of China* there are two different main characters, *Pearl* and *Willow*. Both them come from place like coin sides, separated in a big contradiction. Willow was the native of China where she lived so hard and so pity. She grew up in a poverty condition.

In other side, even though Pearl believed that she was raised up in China since three months infant, she did not belong to Chinese community because of her appearances. She still looked as an American girl as addition she was in connection to her father occupation, Absalom the missionary who spread out Biblical Christianity over the world. No matters she could eat Chinese food, wear Chinese clothes or even speak Chinese language, she still would be different. The simple reason why she was rejected by the natives was her looks remained in her blonde hair. Despite of the appearances, there exist a really big problem more than what it seems. Behind the construction, by using Edward Said’s orientalism theory, the case shows that there is

an importance by the Pearl's father to make his beliefs being adopted by Chinese people.

According to Edward Said (1979:53), orientalism study focuses on both knowledge assessment of geographical boundaries and cultural aspects. Moreover, Said explains that Asian people which is labelled as "the Orient" is result of European imagination. It because of a line which is drawn the two continents, Europe is powerful and articulate; and Asia is defeated and distant. What happens to Pearl and Willow elaborate how cruel the West describe and depict the East

Discussing orientalism through main character in Pearl of China is not an easy case. It begins from the characterization of Willow, the native Chinese, is depicted as a poor subject living in a village wanted to get better life. In fact, she is only the daughter of a jobless man who had rented her wife to pay off his debts, Min (2011:3). Furthermore, the thing about orientalism in the story can be found on how the author makes the characterization of starving China people in the middle of Absalom speech. The East is illustrated as pity human while the West is believed as the Lord who can give everything, especially material thing.

"It was hard for Absalom to concentrate. He was interrupted by people's cries."

"When can we have food, Master Absalom? Would you ask God to bring food for us now?" (Min, 2011:12).

The speech done by the West itself is a kind of moral teaching to the East by religious lecture. Implicitly it says that the West can give everything the East wanted to, so the East has to follow the West way. The West is perceived as the "have" and the East is the "have not". By Biblical spread out, the process of colonizer takes control the mind of the colonized. It is considered as the softest way to get close to the natives. According Said (1979:7), it is exposed that the West are the European and America, while the East are all no-European and Latin America. China belongs to the East, factually. In the work, such as an easy simple, the Willow as the native Chinese described as thief where in the West point of view the East is uncivilized and barbaric. In this case, it is also Willow sketched as a devil-like, and Pearl as the

daughter of an angel. So, it is actually structured when Absalom the missionary speaks to China people about Jesus, at the same time Willow does steal his wallet (2011:12). And Pearl in the story is pictured as the West, where her father was at first as a victim of stealing by Willow. Absalom is defined as man who has known all about the highest God in the universe by Biblical Christianity. So he came to China to purify the people beliefs by Jesuit lectures. This is why then the West judges the East as the other. It is also a part of the West to get down the East. By a soft way, religious aspects, the colonization happens without any physical touch.

It can be seen in more detail while Absalom personally talks to Papa to recruit him as the Jesus follower. Referred to plot, the West superiority is shown by Pearl and her family. As consideration, they are constructed as the human who has a higher religiosity status. In other words, the East is the devil. So the coming of the West is like an angel to freeze the land from the wildfire. Just as what Absalom did say to curious Willow's father, that is;

“Listen, foreigner, my suggestions might help you. Put clothes on Jesus and give him a weapon. Look at our god of war, Guan-gong. He wears a general's robe made of heavy metal, and he carries a powerful sword.”

“You are a clever man.”, Absalom told Papa, “but your biggest mistake is that you are knowledgeable of all gods but the true God.” (Min, 2011:9).

In this citation, it is clear that there is a sarcasm comment, an underestimate statement by the West which is represented by Absalom to the East representation, Papa. The construction of the East is softly lowered. Since colonialism period, the history makes a distinction between the West and the East. No doubt, according Said (1979:54), the East is assumed as the land of barbarian. Henceforth, the situation becomes worst while the East is sentenced as uncommon thing, like foreigners, mutants, or abnormal behaviour. To a certain understanding, this information defines how tricky the West in the way taking a control the East. It is why then Europeans send pilgrimages to Asia, non European. This is the evidence that one of the characters is associated as the representation of the West, Absalom the missionary.

“I have taught, labored, and suffered all the troubles of instilling the fundamentals of Christianity into the heathens! It is nothing short of religious thievery when my future members would be added to the Baptist’s glory!” (Min, 2011:38).

In contrary, the West people coming to China is pictured as person who has power and undefeated in case of the way of thinking even though they lived in a force of the native while the East is represented as weak and desperate. It is what has been written by American people about China. The place is considered as something new, strange and weird. The people living in the land are considered as poor and ancient. And in the land, the people are underestimated as left-behind and uncivilized.

“I would wake hungry every morning and go to sleep hungry every night. Sometimes the clawing in my stomach would keep me from sleeping. Having to constantly scavenge for scraps, I existed in a delirium. Unexpected luck or a good harvest might bring food for a while, but the hunger would always return.” (Min, 2011:6).

By picturing the East as the weak, the West has a big chance to dominate the land. In other words, if the East want to be like the West (great, modern, well-educated), the East has to follow the West rules. The East needs to behave and believe what the West does, then it is to become. This action happens through the literature for a couple centuries. The idea of handling down the East is not clearly shown up on what West really wanted to. The situation is seemed as usual and common. In contrast, the war happens to their way of thinking. Yet, the character Pearl is the subject of West god agency. So, she precisely would be a priest with no one’s agreement to spread the belief. Even, after Willow stole Absalom’s wallet and spent his money, Pearl knew it.

With a little anger, Pearl only grasped it on her hand. In a denial reply, when Willow explained “No, I didn’t” (2011:13), in her point of view was imaging the money in the wallet could buy the food. But then, the anger becomes a kind of empathy. It seems that the activity refers to a way of West examining the East as something must be given a vitamin of soul to care about. The role of Willow, as a sample of barbaric behaviour, is considered as what a common activity of the East does. The point becoming worst when the fact that, the reason Willow and Papa

coming to the church is for getting the food. It can be seen very clear that the position of the East is really dishonour and not good at all in the eyes of the West. Henceforth, the problem appeared is supposedly to take the East as person who has no power so they come to the West place, the church, to beg a better life. It is proven by the citation:

“I wanted to tell Absalom that people were not interested in his God or his church. Food was the reason we came. We waited for Absalom to finish preaching. We had to endure.” (Min, 2011:15).

Nonetheless, the progress is made. There was still a long way to go. For Absalom dedication as priest is an expensive price. He stays in the way to ensure the natives which has been stereotyped as the “other”. Beyond, as the story flows, based on an accidental moment, Willow and Pearl make a good friendship. They walk together. At first, in the age of seven, it is uneasy to be friend with Pearl for Willow. Pearl is a stranger and not only what it can be seen from her appearances. But then something more serious waits around. Then, it what has been assumed, the Christianity contacts to Willow at this section. Pearl introduces her family background coming to China from America.

The way is really unseen as the West purpose to get close to the East. At this time, Pearl as the West perspective begins to want to know more everything about Willow which is pictured as the native East. Pearl is depicted as one who has humanity. So she cares about Willow with all what she did, stealing. By the action, stealing is a kind of bad behaviour. This is always assumed belonging to the East people culture which has no good education. So when talking about the attitude, the West is implied to be the “higher”. Borrowing Macklin’s table in his journal (2002), the Occident is the role of goodness while the Orient is pointed out as evil. Again, it is because the East is captured as something far, the West as well as his will classify the East to be something unacceptable but they want to control it. Simply, in the story, the West experience of the East is proven. It is on the citation below:

“Thank you for the rescue, my friend,” I uttered.
“Who is your friend?” She turned away. “Liar!”

“Please forgive me, Pearl. I’ll do anything to make it up to you.” (Min, 2011:23).

On the other hand, they would be a good friend each other. The friendship endured for a long time. Beginning from the very small thing such as, Pearl introduced the Western musical instrument “Piano” in her house (Min, 2011:16). Until going through the time of rebellion, they had faced everything together. Even though the rebellion did not touch the village yet, Chinese people at the time believes that American people were the cause of the China’s destruction. So China could not develop independently. Pearl was highly aware. Almost all the foreigners living their surrounding were executed to go out of China permanently. And this action was consolidated by natives wearing red turbans. It is named as the Boxer Rebellion. The information is based the quotation found by the researcher, here is:

“The Boxer Rebellion hadn’t hit Chin-kiang until the first years of the new century. It had spread like a wildfire. Peasants from inland came wearing red turbans. They believed that foreigners were destroying China. (Min, 2011:61).

As time flies, by the growth, on the way Pearl commenting and sharing her story of China, she felt she did not accepted although the writings contained her story with Willow and Chinese. For Pearl, it is a special thing that she could do for China. Unfortunately, in the eyes of Chinese people, Pearl as the West character is depicted as visitor coming from America who determines the role of the native could not be acceptable. It can be inferred from what she could do, writing essay or notes. In China, this is something rare to find people do writing and complaining the leader. It is not their culture. They have the literary only to be guidance of life as well as God’s verses or leader verses as the symbol of God’ son. It is why the Chinese people reject Pearl’s writing. Pearl really almost surrendered. In other hand, her mate Willow was the reason she stayed. The Pearl’s feeling was revealed by Losing to Willow in a short conversation. This is the evidence,

“But who wants to read her stories? The Chinese don’t need a blonde woman tell their stories, and the Westerners are not interested in China. What makes Pearl think that she stands a chance of succeeding?” (Min, 2011:108).

This statement is an implicit message if the Pearl position in China is no longer safe. But it is also a proof that the West is depicted as super power figure even if they are in the wrecked ship position. As the West she has to leave soon. The West is forced far into corner. Moreover, it is also shown that the West have no any interest to read what Pearl has written in her notes and essays about China. The implication is clear if the rates of China in the eyes of the West are weak, unusual, boring and not fancy. But then in the next citation, as the best friend, Willow with her tight and strong character enlightened Pearl full of patient until Pearl leaves. Willow changed into the girl who has West point view a while after she just arrived to the town. Even, at time when Pearl leaving China, at the same time Willow had a fight with the local girls. Willow believed that she had an odd character when she was making a conversation with the native in the town. It is caused the Willow's mind has slowly fulfilled with the way West point out China. Willow began complaining herself and her native friends. The role of Pearl has reached a small of the West purpose by her father Biblical Christianity spread out. It does not change only the belief, but also the way Willow looks at her own identity, herself, a Chinese woman. The Willow's changes describes below:

“Since I'd begun to attend the church school, I had changed. I didn't like the town girls, whom I considered narrow-minded and shallow. I couldn't help but compare them with Pearl, who was kind, curious, and knowledgeable. The town girls fought over food and territory, and they fought among themselves.” (Min, 2011:68).

The orientalism construction is very clear shown up. Based on the natives narrative description, there is a construction developed to be no trustworthy among each other. In this description, the native Chinese is pictured as men who are not kind, flat and uneducated. Furthermore, the natives are depicted as barbarian people who fight for rate of place. The touch toward Willow and Pearl for couple years had big significant impact to how Willow sees her native friends. Any further, Willow indirectly agrees what Pearl implicitly says about China through the Christianity if Chinese people are left behind and need to enlighten by Westernization or Biblical

lecture. She is in line with the idea what Pearl tries to cover up Chinese people thoughts. Both characters then strive for freedom of the foreigners living in China. Shortly, Willow fully supports to fight together for the dream of the West to live in China.

At the end, it is no doubts I choose those two characters as the main character. The role of both is very significant as the centre idea of the story. They can be found in every single sentence. They cover the story plot by their acts, sentences and feelings. And the ideas of orientalism are constructed among them indirectly and hidden. In the eyes of a common people, it is only a reading book for pleasure. But for critic, scholar and expert, this is a way they travel to another world to another point of view. It is because the real travelling is not how far the body moves along, yet how wide the minds think around. I find out the scenery what common people cannot see.

The main characters are the people who act as the centre of the story. Willow and Pearl are belonged to this point. They together bound to be the main idea and discussion on the setting and plot. To support the analysis, some important and related data are collected from the novel. It is implicitly told that the West has a power and the East has not. The construction of the East if it is not the same kind with the West is extremely shown up through the story. It appears on how the role of the native is characterized as a servant while the West, as foreigner, is the lord. In Pearl's house, it can be found that

“I learned that she had one living sibling, a younger sister, Grace. The Chinese servant who took care of the girls, Wang Ah-ma, had been with the family for a long time.” (Min, 2011:14).

It is really clear how the native is pictured as the weak and powerless. They are depicted only to serve the foreigners as servant or maid. While Willow just let it go without any complaining or comment without any awareness and in other hand she bound to be Pearl's best friend, notably American.

4.2 The Representation of Chinese among the Main Characters related to Social Condition

4.2.1 China as the Setting

At the simplest form, Kennedy and Goia (2007:112) say that setting is where and when the story is taken. Unfortunately, not all authors tell story with a direct explanation. Sometimes, the idea of setting is hidden and told in detail as the point of reference. It might be based on the chronicles and big day momentum. It might include historical background, time and local colour. Kennedy continues, local colour is a typical characteristic that sets a place apart and different from the common. It is like a special term of a certain place. It can be seen from uniform, clothes, instrumental music and food. It is a special feature of a region, city or town and not belonged to other.

In *Pearl of China*, the setting takes place in a small town named Chin-kiang, far away from the capital, Peking, on the south side of the Yangtze River in Jiangsu province (Min, 2011:4). Based on the story, the town is not prosperous, barren and infertile. In the place, the social condition is so pitiful. It is from the natural phenomena, disaster, flood until the barbarian human, bandits, happen there. This is like what Said (1979:119) has said, the East in the eyes of Europeans is a cursed land and full of barbaric man. The evidence can be found in Willow when she was seven years old, in 1897 (Min, 2011:6), like what Lydia tells on her note (2002:1) that the time is in the beginning of Boxer rebellion of China's real social condition. As the evidence, this is the main character's statement "For generations my family worked the region's thin and unfertile soil and struggled with famine, flood, locusts, bandits, and debt seekers" (Min, 2011:4).

It is what the West does picture the East through the literature in the time of colonialism era. The homeland of the East always assumed as a dirty and muddy place. The cause of the hard condition, the East depicted as left-behind, traditional and non-metropolitan country. For European people, they cannot live here easily. But

on the other hand, they are aware that the potential place in the world to stay is the East because of the richness of the natural source. The term is shown from how many European countries colonizing the East. According to Said (1979:41), it explains that how wide the Western colonization on earth. In 1815 to 1914, 85 percent of the earth's surface was covered by the European colonial domination.

As the superior one, the West has equipments to use in war. The tools are countless. In this case, the West tries to use an invisible weapon to paralyze the East, in terms of seeing the world, through hegemony of beliefs. The East is pictured like man wearing sun-glasses at noon and the West puts it down to see them. Through the literature, the occupation of the natives is described as not a classy job in the world. Based on the novel, the typical job for Eastern people is indicated as peasant or farmer, breeder and labour while the West is mostly drawn as traveller, trader and priest, the hand of God. In simple words, the West work uses brain while the East uses physical body. This stereotype is bound toward the setting of the story, which:

“I ran through the rice paddies and the cotton fields into the hills and hid in the bamboo groves.” (Min, 1979:6).

“Around this time, Papa and I worked as seasonal farmhands. He planted rice, wheat, and cotton and carried manure. My job was to plant soybeans along the edges of the fields.” (Min, 1979:6).

“Absalom teaches Bible history, philosophy, religions, Greek, and Hebrew. He spreads the Gospel.”

“How far does he travel?”

“As far as he is able to reach.” (Min, 2011:39).

Those three citations define how was like the scenery of Chin-kiang town where Willow lived. The place was a village in the middle of forest, behind the hill and beyond the fields, for Absalom it was a place with unknown direction. This place was then for West people said as an isolated place and far from the coverage. The place was uneasy to reach. Based on Said (1979:17), by following the Absalom experience the East is what has been mentioned by some Western experts if the particular areas of the Orient are Egypt, Arab, Africa, Japan and also China.

Looking at the characterization, on the contrary, the West people are assumed as traveller, people who is so brave to come to a new place to discover something. In this case, they come to the place belonged to the new people they saw in the way of their journey then named it Orient through the writing they noted. The Orient homeland is described as the area where the nations without territory, *patrie*, rights, laws, or security (Said, 1979:179). Moreover their coming to the East territory is anxiously supposed to find out the shelter of European occupation. As a reference, in the middle of their vacation, the West people make an observation. They make notes not only as a guidance book for the next traveller, but also a study of new things. On this note, the functions are used to investigate or examine the way of the new people do based on what they have seen. The investigation notes always take the East position under control of the West or lower than the West. This is what then named as the result of the Christianity hegemony which results stereotyped people for the East. After the scene-script is done, the West stage is ready to perform a play. The play is a kind of judgement. It may be whether a generalised judgement or stereotyped, mostly the second term. That is why then appeared a term the West is the actor, the Orient a passive reactor. The West is the spectator, the judge and jury, of every facet of Oriental behavior (Said, 1979:109).

As the setting of time, there are many historical moments that had influenced the characterization in the story. The Opium war in real condition had related to the coming of the pilgrims and missionaries to China (Lydia, 2002:2). It was not only a case of economical trading, but also political and cultural development. Since China defeated by British, European countries were easy to visit the land. The trend at the time was much more than about trade mark, it was a kind of colonialism through the way of thinking called idealism. However, the fight of the colonization is not clearly seen by eyes but in mind. It caused by the religious activity which is consciously not considered as a part of colonialism.

Henceforth, it is clear that the East is believed as the Western product. So when the story is pictured as “it”, the East just only agrees yes “it” without any force feedback response. Such as missionaries, they mostly were coming from France and America to China. To respect China, American government send the softest way of imperialism through the priest and pilgrims. The reason is a purpose of purifying the Chinese people’s belief. As result of their coming and some other linked cases in China, Americans settle a new form of belief, Christianity. It is because they consider themselves as the “have” of developed thoughts over the world.

The most historical moment influenced by the foreigner happens in China. So the place and the characterization in the novel are quite adapted from the real time. As the Boxer rebellion (Lydia, 2002:1), the time was extremely tight and tense. Not only the foreigners were the target, but also the natives were. It happens through the time of the story that Willow and Pearl lived in the novel, too. They felt into a disposition and forced into corner.

“But times had changes. There had been incidents where foreign missionaries had been in the northern provinces. Carie made sure that Pearl dressed like a Chinese girl and wore her black knitted cap all the times. (Min, 2011:61).

“Once the Boxers discovered that the “monks” were Christian covert, they were slaughtered. A member of the Wan-wan opera was dragged out in the middle of their performance and killed in front of Papa’s eyes.” (Min, 2011:74).

From this accident, all the West people in China were in an uneasy period. They had to flee away. Both in the novel and the real story, the case of church raiding was helped by the natives who had become the follower of Jesus. The church was built by the West in the novel, at the time was the target of the native’s rebellion. Meanwhile there was a strange action by some natives who had been given doctrine by the new belief. It is a proof that the doctrine had been transferred to the East and they accepted it. They would have to take times to camouflage the Christian church. They changed the view of church to be like a temple while the rebel came to raid. It is represented on how Willow’s father was so tricky to deceive them, “the Boxers”.

“When the Boxers raided the town. To save the church, Papa had replaced the statue of the Jesus Christ with the sitting Buddha. Papa told he was a Buddhist and that the church was his temple. To strengthen his lie, Papa dressed like a monk.” (Min, 2011:74).

The effect of the West invading the land had been successful. The hegemony through Jesuit was tolerated. Some natives were changed. They sacrificed their life to keep the setting of place safe, the “*church*”, the Western god home, even though they had to keep it by cheating the others. It is because of not all natives were in the same boat. It reflected that the spread of the Christianity was not fully accepted. Back to the descent belief, Chinese people hold it very tight. Both the culture and the belief, Chinese were not easy to defeat. But in the eyes of the West, they were considered as something weak and powerless. Moreover, the West who came to new land was stereotyped themselves as the conqueror. Judith (2003:115) says, the West as the colonizer coming to the East has a desire to somehow take place of the colonized. Caused by many varieties of the reactions of the colonized, so the easiest ways to handle down the East people among the belief.

Otherwise, the natives were aware that the foreigners were dangerous to their own roots. In fact, the problem was not only about defeating the belief of the natives, but also defeating the sum of the territory, then. The source of the East land was highly potential to grow an investment up. Even though the East people stereotyped as underclass state in all every term, they had unpredictable power. Borrowing Said’s statement (1979:2), the Orient exists for the West. It means that the West still depends on the existence of the East. Also Pearl, in the novel was described as the West needs the East help when facing the rebellion. The West needs place to hide, at least. And the West hide on the East uniform like what Min has explained on the story (2011:61).

Again, the fact that, the West is not really what it has been assumed before if the West is always a person who has an infinite power and undefeated. The case of Pearl and the family has shown that they are still like a common human being who

needs help. In another view, the frame of Papa (Min, 2011:96), Willow's father is depicted as someone who had been trapped in the name of "*church*" and "*money*". Notably, the building belonged to Western field. The money was the new emperor of the colonized and made a new lifestyle for Chinese people. It happened since Absalom paid for Willow's grandmother medicine through her father. Willow's father, Papa changed his belief just after Absalom did give the money to him. It is described on Papa conversation with NaiNai,

"I am no longer the same rotten character you think," Papa said. "I'll not be the one to bring Absalom's church into contempt. Absalom will win."

"I just want to be able to have a clean conscience when I die." Tears filled NaiNai's eyes.

Papa took out a string of copper money and laid it by NaiNai's pillow.

"Absalom paid me for your medicine, Mother." (Min, 2011:39).

This is the evidence that the power of money could change the people belief. As addition, it is so clear that by building a church in the middle of the natives' place, there is a hidden interest or purpose expected by the West. This is a kind of colonization code. The expectation dream is to reinforce the West superiority in the East. Or in other word, the East is manipulated to wear and follow what the West has brought to the new land. The West believes that they are developed-men and deserved as a role model in this world. This is then what makes Pearl writes about China and its people. Through the togetherness with Willow, Pearl increases her knowledge of China. Pearl makes critique toward the leader of the People, Mao Zedong. It has to agree that the time which Pearl and Willow had faced is a long term of cultural and political revolution of Chinese people. Then it gained a conflict that, the West people and all foreigners are prohibited to stay in China.

"Enough, Willow. This is 1963, not 1936! The proletarians rule today. Our Chairman is following Stalin's footsteps. One wrong word and you can lose your tongue, if not your head." (Min, 2011:203).

"Madam Mao set Pearl Buck as a negative example. She was getting ready to help her husband launch the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. The goal was to secure Mao's power in China and beyond. (Min, 2011:206).

Based on these two citations, the description of the West position is clear that they are in a slender in the middle. Willow who stood in line with Pearl position was also in a danger peak. It was very clear that the Westernization in China was highly rejected by the leader. Notably, the leader trusted only on its own peasants and farmers to be in motion of the nation movement as part of the identity. The Cultural Revolution was the way of Mao Zedong to protect China from Western influence in every single aspect of the nation. The leader was aware that China does not need the West. They wanted to stand on their feet alone. The domination of the West slowly decreased.

As result of the change, Pearl as the representation of the West forced into corner and finally left China to move to America. Mao believed that Pearl was a dangerous threat. It is because of Mao Zedong knows the Pearl's strength, as a Western writer, she is assumed like a nuclear bomb (Min, 2011:206). Even though at the time there was not only Pearl existed, but also Edgar Snow, Mao felt sure to have flee the Western and foreigners away from the land. The case of Western hegemony almost totally stopped by the action. But by this moment, the world view of China is constructed as the place of barbaric and something far from the civilization.

The main idea of Pearl is connected with what the West people brought to China. Even though Pearl was born and raised in China, still she did not belong to China because of her appearance, for instance her blonde hair. Moreover her father was a missionary of Christianity. It strengthened by her father activities in purifying the natives by the new belief. The belief is the way the West to make the East being the same as well as the West. As addition, it can be seen how enormous the power of literature in changing an empty space in the mind to build a perspective. In doing the world globalization, the West hegemony faced a big wall named Eastern culture. By full of confidence, the superpower West claimed their-selves as the winner and the subjugator of World Existence because of their ideas and thoughts have been discovered. So in a short word, the East is constructed to be like the West through the

belief of Christianity. So, it can be concluded that the novel is like an autobiography of Pearl and Willow. In a long way of life, they grew their mind in the West point of view. But it is not easy to change fully part of the orient to be like the occident. And so the West draws the East through literature to be like what they wanted to, ancient, barbaric and weak, etc.

The literature power can be seen on how Pearl writes down her novel about China and Chinese, and it makes a reaction from the leader which assumes Pearl knows China too much but it is not what is like in the real time of the Mao era. The position of Pearl as a representative of the West is depicted as a man in contradiction with the leader of the native leader. It is because she believes that Mao does not stand for his people. It pushes her around the corner. The citation bellow show how Pearl then gets into far from China.

“Pearl was knowledgeable about China to be fooled. The novels she wrote during the 1960s depicted the tragic lives being led under Mao although she wrote them from across the sea and was only guessing. It seemed that her senses were growing sharper as she aged. (Min, 2011:206).

Henceforth, although Pearl had moved to America, she still could write about China as well as the natives. Meaning that it is clear the knowledge man title is for the West and another side of it belongs to the people living in China. It is inferred from what has been indirectly told in the story. Even the leader of the China was written and constructed as person who could not face the West power, Pearl. Moreover, Pearl wrote China as a nation needs to help. In the hand of Mao, China and its people were in a fragile life. It is explained on how the description of the novel about China she had written with the phrase *tragic lives* (Anchee Min, 2011:206). Moreover, while the character Willow taken to a prison, the place was so awful and terrible. It is what in the eyes of the West perspective of the East.

“The prison was called Donkey’s Crotch by the inmates. The area was desolate and rocky and covered with snow year-round. The inmates were forced to do hard labor before their execution.” (Min, 2011:255).

Hereby, I simply assume that the character Pearl is created as representation of the West and Willow as representation of the East. It is easily, as postcolonialism and orientalism study, in line with Said (1977:71) William and Chrisman (1994:5) say the West codified and produced knowledge about the non-metropolitan areas and cultures. Willow the owner of the land, is forced to be like the West by Pearl. The setting is clearly in the time of colonialism by Western in China. No matters what the reason their coming to China, the purpose is just the same, dominating. The construction of orientalism can be derived from characterization and its setting, the owner of the land, natives as barbaric and nature and the newcomers, the West as traveller, conqueror, and culture. Based on this case, the East is considered as a place out of coverage by the Western people. It is represented by the belief of the Chinese people which is very strange for American people and so the coming of the West is to purify them like the West does.

4.3 The Critical Idea of Min toward China's Real Condition

The author of the novel, Anchee Min was born in Sanghai in 1957. She lived in China for twenty seven years. She grew up during Mao's Cultural Revolution (1964-1976). At age seven she was taught to denounce Pearl S. Buck as an American culture imperialist. At age seventeen, Min was sent to a labour collective, where a talent scout for Madame Mao recruited her to work in propaganda film as an actress because of her proletarian look. Min arrived in Chicago in 1984. She first learned English through American public radio, children's televisions program and talk shows (Min, 2011:i).

To relate between the story in the novel and the real social condition I need to link it on how the way author writes the main characters in the novel. It does have any relationship between her own self and the characterization or not. Starting from the character Willow, in the story, the point of view of the writer uses the first person method by using "I" in all every single plot. Starting from this point, the writer is the

narrator who presents only one character's consciousness which limits the narrative to what the first-person narrator knows, experiences, infers, or can find out by talking to the other characters. And also based on the whole story, the writer elaborates the story like a biography. The use of "I" for Willow seemed as what Anchee Min have experienced it in the real life. Or in other words, when Min tells about Willow, she indirectly tells about herself through the characterization.

Min grew in a time where the Communist party was a super power figure. It is the same time she uses to take it to the novel setting. As far as I concern, I assume that the story is completely influenced by the real history. Just like what she had friend with an American missionary's daughter, Pearl, where she grew in the period of post-colonial era, the era which Chinese people face the new kind of style of life called modernization by Western people through trade colonization and rebellion by the natives. Historically, the West first came to China was to open up a trading partnership. But because of the trade is an illegal, Opium trade, then Chinese government at the time did not allow it so there was a war won by the Britain Empire. By this moment, there was a treaty to agree by both countries. The West believed that China was a good and potential market for World trade.

The first coming of European countries is raised from the Turkestan (Fairbank and Goldman, 2006:192). In this case, Chinese people have made a contact with Islam from Arab in order to trade spice and pepper. The trade is transported through Turkey, the Silk Road of Euro-asia trade track. This trade then would motivate the other European countries coming to China, such as Britain. Furthermore, by following their interest, British extensively expanded to Far East. They made deal with the government of China. In 1793, British Empire requested for a broader trade in China with an invitation to join the Modern World (Fairbank, 2006:197). The diplomacy was smoothly rejected by China. And the British understood it.

As following the time, the trade was no longer satisfying for Chinese government tax. It was caused of the trade of Opium. The Westerners forced to

legalize the Opium trade, China denied it. In this time, the British forced and so the war was fired, named Opium war (1839-1842). At the end of the war, China defeated. In a port called Canton, there was made a treaty between the native and the outcomers as the terms and conditions. The treaty was named "Treaty of Nanking". These are the agreements:

- "a. Extraterritoriality (foreign consular jurisdiction over foreign nationals),"
- "b. An indemnity,"
- "c. A moderate tariff and direct foreign contact with the customs collectors,"
- "d. Most-favored-nation-treatment (an expression of China's "impartial benevolence" to all outsiders,"
- "e. Freedom to trade with all comers, no monopoly (long custom at Kasghar)." (Fairbank and Goldman, 2006:200)

Based on the treaty, it results some effects from the Westerner to China movement. The treaty opened colonization-like condition for the natives. It could be seen on the change of the culture, laws and rules (Fairbank, 2006:203). The very significant change was coming from the religion invasion and industrialization (Fairbank, 2006:205), such Christianity spread and its Bible history. And then, this made a kind of imperialist rivalry among Russia, France, German and Japan. This was China for the first time very opened-up for the outcomers.

This invasion made a reaction. Chinese people who were in anti-Westernization faction gathered and made a rebellion for the current government called the Great Taiping Rebellion. Since under Western control, some internal conflicts exploded. This contradiction with the government appeared after a big flood, famine and the growth of the population in 1846-1848. The technique used by the natives was cutting off the routes of the trade. After the incidents, there was a continuously tragic moment for China. As following Fairbank and Goldman (2006:188), there were long term struggle for Chinese people at the time such as Nian Rebellion (1853-1864), French War (1883-1885) China defeated, Sino War (1894-1895) Japanese victory, and the Boxer Rebellion (1898-1901), Qing reforms or March Dynasty (1901-1911), Sun Yat-sen established the Koumintang (KMT) Nationalist Party, Chinese Communist Party, Nationalist Party reunited the country in

1928, Japan defeated in World War II (1945), Communist Party encountered Nationalist Party in 1945, Mao proclaimed the People's Republic of China (PRC) in October, 1st 1949 (Fairbank, 2006: 206-343) .

Anchee Min lived in the massive movement of Communist Party. By looking at her date of birth, she was in the period of anti-Westernization. So, it is not a weird moment when she was at seven she taught to denounce Pearl S. Buck, the Nobel Prize-winning Writer coming from America. Buck herself grew up in China. Moreover talking about Pearl, nonetheless she was a white American teacher while in China. She defined herself in relation with China (Karen, 2005:14). By reviewing both story of Pearl, in the novel and her story of life, there is a similarity. In fact, both Pearl in the novel and in real life are characterized as a daughter of American missionary coming to China by reason of her father to purify the unsaved people in the land. Beyond the writer idea from this point, the construction of Pearl is depicted as a person who would be the big enemy of Mao era with her criticism writing to the government.

In Karen (2005:14), the coming of Pearl family to China is described as a symbol of the superpower of the West to conquer another world. Based on the statement, it is clear the West desire is to get the East down on their feet. Especially in real life, when Absalom, Pearl father could build a church, it means that physically the West could reach the East but the minds of the East are not really touched yet. So after that, the doctrines and the learning of Jesus could spread out over China. By building the holy-place, it can be inferred if the people living in China at the time of their coming were an unsaved and uncivilized. It is the same like in the novel (Min, 2011:39) the role of Absalom is like what it is in the real life. He strives for the religion of God, Jesus. Even he does not care if dead is the bet. It tells how the Chinese people were uneducated and needed to give enlightenment.

Min who lived in the Mao era really felt how the regime hates the Westernization. Moreover, she also was brain-washed by the regime to denounce her

teacher in the school. And the teacher was Pearl, the Nobel winner. It reflects herself into her writing based on her empirical experience. As time flies, further she had a chance to fly to America. This opportunity would bring her to think China outside the country. Even more, it was a big benefit for her, caused she learnt China based on non-China perspective. On this side, her view of China develops broader and wider. She uses writing as media to tell her long lasting of her homeland. But then it became a kind of effort and struggle. As following statement in Steves' journal (2002:3), she has said in an interview that she wanted to use her fame to promote education for women and children in China, but the head of the Cultural Bureau held a meeting. He banned Min's name from the media, which basically killed her campaign.

Back to her work, the role of Willow cannot be separated from the role of the author itself. It is because the struggle of Willow and Min has a similar issue, campaigning better education for Chinese children. But because of her experience living in America she is black-listed in China. And as Willow, it is because of her friendship with Pearl, she is considered as the agent of imperialist culture by Western people. In the epic of the story, it tells how pity the native people life behind the Chairman Mao. Her experience in America guides her to write the story as what the West wanted to.

Almost all the native characters are depicted in an uncivilized and uneducated condition. Moreover the role of the natives is always pictured as a domestic people who follow their leader without any complain. By showing Willow, it makes different sense that Mao should not be followed all the time. Somebody had to take their own footsteps. In addition, Min believes that the role of the West was very important to help the character Willow. As the way to the illumination, the pilgrims and missionaries are set to purify them. Steves (2002:2) explains more that it also cannot be discharged from the Min background that, her mother actually was a Christian.

Furthermore, Willow is used as a medium of Min to deliver her ideas not only for telling her own story in another way, but also a kind of protest to the current

regime. Chinese people really need a place to take a deep breath. She believes that everyone has the same rights in getting education and life. The way she writes her works is like mocking the regime by telling the truth that Chinese people were poor, uncivilized and unsaved. By taking this action, Min implicitly reconstructs the form colonialism of the West in her story expecting the government would give her a chance to demonstrate her critique. She is aware that the change of China was very close to the Westerners coming. The effects of the West were very huge. Such rebellion happened.

Based on the analysis above, it can be inferred that the orientalism construction is conducted by the Eastern people itself. It is done by Anchee Min, the author. Notably, Min is a Chinese native yet she has an experience living in America. She graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a B.F.A. and M.F.A. (Sandra, 2012:07). So, referred to the citation, in a short assumption, Min has been influenced by the Western thoughts since her study. In this point of reference, it can be seen that the Western reading books have an impact to Min's works and ideological interest. Unconsciously, the way the West looking at the East is constructed on Min's mind. Min agrees with the idea of orientalisising the East through her work without any awareness. The role of Western study she has taken is clearly seen on the works. By characterizing the Eastern as the pitiful men and the West as the helper, Min has done her work as form of agreeing the Said (1979:54) statement that the East is assumed as the land of the barbarian. Anchee Min toward her work is like a confession of the Eastern if what has already described by the West is really true. So, the empirical experience of the author brings evidence that the Western hegemony through the texts is successful.

On the other hand, I assume that she makes her literary work to make a better man of Chinese life. In this term, the government should realize that the West was not always invading the East. But sometimes, they come to help and solved the problem. Indirectly, Min says that the East people need to have a direct learning from the West

people, but she believes that the West is not the stake holder of this world. The fact about her is that she has been touched the real Pearl's story. She draws it through the story in the novel as an inspiration and motivation.



CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

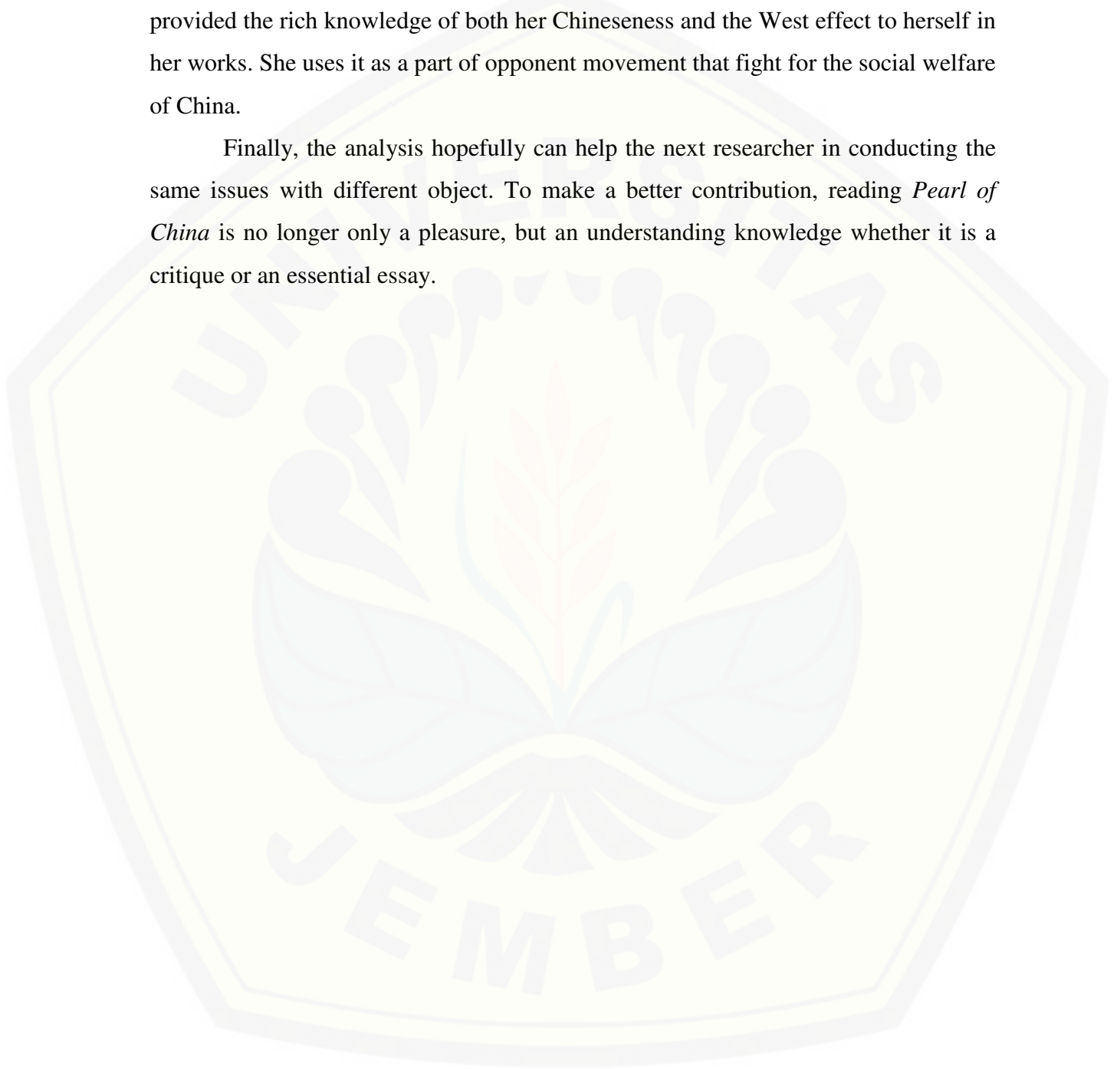
Based on the discussion on the previous chapter, the analysis of orientalism study has greatly shown the concept of orientalizing the East. The concept shows how the West builds the mind of the East through literature. It is apparently on the characterization of the novel. The natives Chinese are always seemed as uncivilized people while the Westerners are described as the helper and the superpower figure. It can be simply seen on two main characters of the novel, *Willow* and *Pearl*.

As the evidence of orientalism study, Willow as the native Chinese is created as a poor and pity person from the beginning of the story because of the current regime. Otherwise, Pearl is narrated as American young girl who lives in better place with her father mission, Biblical Christianity spread out. By the following moments, both characters become good friend. The case is not over yet when they gather. In this section, the importance of the West starts to appear by Pearl. Implicitly, Pearl wants to know more about China by their meeting and conversation. At the same time, Pearl and her family slowly transfer the ideology of the West. Especially for Willow, the reason she first gets close to Pearl is to exploit Pearl's food.

As the time passes by, the form of hegemony unconsciously happens through the Jesuit Christianity. It expands by medium of the stereotyped case by the West if the East people are uncivilized. The way Min describes the story is so powerful. By her experience living America for a couple years has given her a big perspective of the West through the work. The novel *Pearl of China* depicts how the struggle of Chinese people during the rebellion of anti-Westernization by the Chairman Mao, the leader of communist party. In her work, Min does not only try to show the description of the Chinese people, but also the morality of the leader toward his people. Moreover, Min actually regards her writing with the passionate soul. Even though the position of the East is depicted as the uncivilized, the West cannot easily to stay in China. In some cases, the West succeeded to build their symbol of victory colonizing China such as church. But still their life is shadowed by the terror of the native

rebellion. It is interesting that the construction of orientalism gives the readers the knowledge of another way the West pursues the East by reading text. Min has already provided the rich knowledge of both her Chineseness and the West effect to herself in her works. She uses it as a part of opponent movement that fight for the social welfare of China.

Finally, the analysis hopefully can help the next researcher in conducting the same issues with different object. To make a better contribution, reading *Pearl of China* is no longer only a pleasure, but an understanding knowledge whether it is a critique or an essential essay.



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