

***BLOOD DIAMONDS* MOVIE THROUGH POST-COLONIAL  
LENS**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

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## ***Blood Diamonds* Movie Through Post-Colonial Lens**

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### **ABSTRAK**

Film adalah salah karya sastra baru yang memiliki pengaruh di masyarakat pada era modern ini. Pada penelitian ini, film *Blood Diamonds* menjadi objek utama penelitian. Film ini menyajikan isu kolonialisme seperti penjajahan dan dominasi. Pada periode 1990-an, perang saudara yang terjadi telah membawa kehancuran bagi masyarakat. Hal ini akhirnya menarik perhatian berbagai pihak. Maka, terjadinya eksploitasi sumber daya alam, yaitu berlian, menjadi penyebab utama konflik di dalam film. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori post-kolonial sebagai teori utama dan teori film sebagai teori pendukung. Fokus penelitian ini adalah penggambaran orang yang terjajah dan penjajah seperti yang digambarkan pada dua karakter, yaitu Danny Archer dan Solomon Vandy. Kedua karakter tersebut menunjukkan atribut oposisi biner dan karakteristik post-kolonial seperti dominasi, penjajahan dan eksploitasi. Film ini juga menyajikan masyarakat jajahan sebagai masyarakat dengan beberapa karakteristik; brutal, kekanak-kanakan, dan tidak berakal. Sementara itu, penjajah digambarkan sebagai orang yang dewasa, licik, dan cerdas. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa masyarakat jajahan digambarkan sebagai masyarakat lumpuh yang sulit menentukan yang terbaik bagi mereka, perjuangan dan masa depan mereka. Sementara itu, penjajah digambarkan sebagai penguasa dan penentu hidup masyarakat jajahan.

**Kata kunci:** *Blood Diamonds, Sierra Leona, eksploitasi, jajahan dan penjajah.*

## ***Blood Diamonds* Movie Through Post-Colonial Lens**

**By: Buyung Ade Saputra**

### **ABSTRACT**

Movie is a new form of literary works which has a big influence to society in the modern era. In this research, *Blood Diamonds* movie becomes the main object. The movie presents the colonialism issue such as colonization and domination. In 1990s, the civil war brings people of Sierra Leona to the chaotic condition. This condition attracts many attentions. Thus, the exploitation of natural resource, which is the diamond, becomes the main conflict in the movie. In this research, the writer aims to reveal the colonialism process in the modern era. This paper is qualitative research. It applies the post-colonial theory as the main theory and movie theory as the supporting theory. It focuses on the portrayal of colonized and colonizer people as seen on both of characters; Danny Archer and Solomon Vandy. Both characters show the attribute of binary opposition and also show the characteristic of post-colonial such as, colonization and domination. The movie presents the colonized people as people with some characteristics; brutal, childlike and disordered mind. Meanwhile the colonizer is presented as mature, crafty and clever person. The writer concludes that the colonized people are shown as paralyzed people who are hardly to determine their own best, struggle and future. Meanwhile, the colonizer is shown as the ruler and the determiner for the colonized people's live.

***Key words:*** *Blood Diamonds, exploitation, colonization, domination.*

## **MOTTO**

**Learn, understand and try hard, everything will be okay someday**



**DEDICATION**

*To my lovely mother, thank you  
for being my mother.*

*To my father, I know we never  
meet but hope you hear my voice.*



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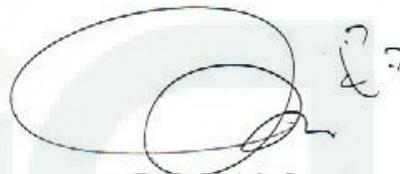
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Finally, the writer realizes that there are many lacks and mistakes in this paper. However, the writer hopes every reader of this paper send any suggestions, comments, and advice to make this research better.

Yogyakarta, 24 September 2015

The Writer



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

The meaning of literature has been changed as the time passes. Many researchers or writers have their own definition about literature. Carter says the words 'literature and literary' have also changed their meaning over time. Before about 1800, literature meant all kind of writing, including history and philosophy, and it is possible to trace the gradual shifts in meaning all the way up to the present (2006:17). In other side, Abrams suggests the literature as fine letter to designated fictional and imaginative writings such as poetry, prose fiction, drama and so forth (2009:177-178). Later, Carter convinces the literature is what a given society at a given time considers it to be (2006:17). Thus, literature is result of society that comes from the human works.

Literature is a kind of human works. It is classified to variety of forms such as prose, poetry, drama and non-fiction. It provides pleasures and illumination for the reader or devotee. Literature also offers the new experiences which have not been found before. According to Roberts, literature can help us to grow both personally and intellectually. Literature provides an adjective base for knowledge and understanding. Literature enables us to recognize human dreams and struggle in different places and times that would never know (1993:68). From Roberts' view, there are advantages to take from learning and knowing literary work such as

knowledge, experience, pleasure and so forth. Then, one of form of literary work is movie.

As the new form of literary works as suggested by Turner, it peaks at 1930's compares with other form like prose that have been many centuries ago (1999:6). Movie or film is presented by visualization and sound effect. It is a combination of the technology development and have same intrinsic elements of drama, but the movie is basically recorded. Cleve argued that movies portray the life although the setting is nowhere to look true and convincing the spectators (2006: 1). Besides, Turner claimed the movie as the seventh art and it seen as analogous in the literature (1993:2).

The writer considers many reasons to analyse the movie. First, movie is popular culture, which means it is also popular consumed. According to William, movie becomes popular culture because people for themselves make the popular culture and even though it displaces folk culture, it is important since it is modern emphasis (1963: 35). Second, movie presents human life and it can influence the society around the world. Third, movie presents the filmmaker ideas, works and issues. On the other hand, it can be media study about the culture, history, religion and so forth.

Furthermore, movie is classified into many genres such as comedy, horror, thriller and so forth. Turner suggests that the term of genre is form of entertainment to describe the narrative conventions such as plot, character and setting (1993: 44-45). As a form of entertainment, genre is used to be a tool that has function to describe the plot, the character and the setting. In this paper, the writer prefers to

choose the thriller genre. As Aguado has suggested, Grant claimed that thriller is all films dealing and preventing the crime. It is different from horror, because it is too vague (2002:163). In other hand, thriller presents many possibilities of problem resolution. It emerges the misunderstanding to the audiences more than horror movie present.

The writer is interested to analyse the *Blood Diamonds* movie because of some reasons. First, the title; *Blood Diamonds*, it refers to the main conflict of movie. While, in the real life it become main conflict on the sierra Leona in 1990's. *Blood Diamonds* also refers to the conflict diamonds. According to the World Diamond council, Conflict or "blood" diamonds are illegally traded to fund conflict in war-torn areas, particularly in central and western Africa (<http://edition.cnn.com>). Second, the movie shows the process of diamond trade especially the conflict diamonds. Third, the quality of diamond, it has relation with the post-colonial issues such as colonization, domination and racism in the movie. On the other hand, the movie showed an implicit practice of colonialism in the end of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The writer also aims to examine the practice of colonialism. It is still exist in this modern era among the people around the world. Moreover, the writer wants to show that the colonization can be occurred in wide area. It can be nation, group and individual. In other side, this graduating paper intends to show that the kindness of foreigner to the native people have implicit meaning.

Besides, as the Muslim, the writer concerns from Islamic perspective. Islam does not allow persecution and assassination. Every criminal among human is clearly forbidden and every action must need right reason to deal because every single demeanour must require a responsibility. As it is stated in surah Al-An'am, verse 151 and Al-Hujurat, 13.

قُلْ تَعَالَوْا أَتْلُ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّيَ عَلَيْهِ مَا حَرَّمَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَيْكُمْ إِلَّا تَشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ مِنْ إِمْلَاقٍ نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُمْ وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَّنَ وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا النَّفْسَ الَّتِي حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ ذَلِكُمْ وَصَّيْتُكُمْ بِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَعْقِلُونَ.

Which means: Come, I will recite what your Lord has prohibited you from: Join not anything in worship with Him; be good and dutiful to your parents; kill not your children because of poverty - We provide sustenance for you and for them; come not near to *Al-Fawahish* (shameful sins, illegal sexual intercourse, etc.) whether committed openly or secretly, and kill not anyone whom Allah has forbidden, except for a just cause (according to Islamic law). This He has commanded you that you may understand (Alhilali and Khan. 1996: 196).

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ

لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَاهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ.

Which means: O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you with Allah is that (believer) who has *At-Taqwa* [i.e. one of the *Muttaqun* (pious - see V.2:2)]. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (Alhilali and Khan.1996: 700).

In the first verse, Allah teaches us about good behaviour. The verse orders the people to be kind and to be honest to every people, parents and child. Murdering each other with indistinct reason is forbidden by the verse. In the second verse, Allah creates human being into many tribes and many kind of nations for the understanding among people and other creations. Overriding, both verses are prevention, the exploration, domination and colonization as showed in *Blood Diamond* movie.

In this graduating paper, the writer restricts the post-colonial study to both of characters; Danny Archer and Solomon Vandy. Archer and Solomon are different in their skin, behaviour, experience and ability to determine their own best. Moreover, this differences bring them to unique relationship. The relationship shows both of characters are crucial to each other. Archer uses Solomon to get Solomon's diamond, while Solomon wants his family back with Archer's help. Thus, Archer creates Solomon as his source of wealth and he is very dominant on every decision even for Solomon's future. Furthermore, Archer who is an ex-machinery controls Solomon with his ability and skill. On the other hand, Solomon considers himself to follow Archer's order because he wants his family back.

## 1.2. Research Question

According to the background of study, the writer formulated the research question as follow:

“If post-colonial operates with binary opposition of its own, how can *Blood Diamonds* movie be explained?”

## 1.3. Objective of study

The objective of this paper is to explain *Blood Diamond* movie with operation of binary through Postcolonial theory.

## 1.4. Significance of Study

Based on the objective of study, this paper certainly has several significances, such as:

1. Theoretically, this paper can be used as an additional reference to other researchers who are interested to analyse using post-colonial theory. This research can also be used by students, especially for English Department students, lecturers and literati on literature analysing.
2. Practically, this paper intends to encourage the students on analysing movie, additional references for the lecturer on the post-colonial study, persuading the literati on analysing same object or same theory.

### 1.5. Literature Review

After searching some relating topic about the object, the writer does not find other researches and graduating papers which analyze the *Blood Diamond* movie. Therefore, this paper is the first research of the *Blood Diamond* movie. However, the writer finds some researches which apply post-colonial theory to analyze different object as reference in this paper.

The first literature review is a graduating paper entitled “A Study of Post-Colonial; Western Representation of the East in *Unleashed* Movie” by Septian Donna Prasetyo (2013) from State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga. The paper focuses on the western representative of east particularly on stereotype issue of the character Danny. Prasetyo applies post-colonial theory and orientalism approach in the object analysis. The topic is to find out the kind of construction of the east and the west representative in the *Unleashed* movie. Prasetyo concludes that Bart and Danny are representative of the west and the east in *Unleashed* movie.

The second literature review is a graduating paper from University of Indonesia entitled “The Dynamic of East and West through A character, Boonyil Kaul Noman, in Salah Rushdie’s *Shalimar the clown*” written by Chysanti (2012). It focuses on the analysis of the east and west representation that occurs on the main character of the novel. The paper applies the orientalism and occidentalism perspective on analysing the main object.

On the other hand, this paper is different from the previous research above. In this paper, the writer use *Blood Diamond* movie as the object of the post-colonial

study. This paper focuses to the colonized people and the colonizer portrayals on the main characters; Solomon Vandy and Danny Archer.

## **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

In this graduating paper, the writer applies Edward Said's view, post-colonial theory, as the main theory. The writer also uses the movie theory to the analysis of the *Blood Diamonds* movie.

### **1.6.1. Post-Colonial Theory**

The term of the post-colonial theory refers to the construction of the western about the non-western world. It appears to be contest for the colonialism struggle for all aspect such as culture and power. According to Young, Post-colonial cultural analysis has been concerned with the elaboration of theoretical structures that contest the previous dominant western ways of seeing things (2003: 7).

Concerning the cultural legacy that happens among the societies around the world, western and especially non-western world, and the study of the post-colonialism is an important discourse due to the globalization. The development on every aspect of technology and civilization pretends to lead the human losing on the culture and identity. It also gives the third world people to have their destiny on the way of thinking. As Sethi says, the reason why post-colonialism became integral to cultural studies lay in its endeavor to reform the institutions of social democracy by adopting an intellectual and political stance that sought to counter all imperial designs. The analysis of power and social possibilities thus became part of its cultural agenda (2011:3).

On the other hand, the post-colonialism is used to be an examination of all imperial effect from the all of social aspect, especially the culture agenda. The term 'post-colonial' has come under a great deal of scrutiny ever since it was used to refer to 'all the culture affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day' (Ashcroft, Griffiths and Tiffin 1989: 2).

The post-colonial discourses is labelled in the few of principles such as colonization, domination and exploitation.

#### **a. The Colonizing and Colonized**

The concept of Imperial-colonial is one principle characteristic that discussed in the post-postcolonial theory. Postcolonial theory thus pose a powerful challenge to dependency theories – which view underdevelopment as a result of the exploitation of the 'peripheries' by the wealthy 'core' countries – by suggesting that the colonizer–colonized relationship is a two-way street, since the contamination of both cultures is mutual (Sethi, 2011:19 ).

#### **b. The Dominating and Dominated**

Since the term of the colonialism is referring to the controlling one country or state, there is side that becomes dominating and one side to be dominated. This critical field would be better-served if it sought to break down the fixity of the dividing lines between domination and subordination, and if it further questioned the psychic disempowerment signified by colonial encounter (Ashcroft 2003:112).

### 1.6.2. Movie Theory

Relating to the research which is the movie, the writer applies movie theory to support the analysis. As Kowalsky explained, the dialogue and image portrayed in the sequence picture of the movie captured in how the film engaged and illuminated profound questions regarding the human condition (2012:1). The term of human condition that portrayed in the *Blood Diamonds* is various such as domination, exploration and colonization that are interesting to analyse. As Strinati defined the movie as one of mass media that has important role in the society because they portrayed many issues and ideas such as culture, phenomena, moral ethic and human relation (1995: 70).

Villarejo provides four basic elements of movie analysis they are mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing and sound (2007:28-53). Furthermore, the writer uses cinematography because it gives more availability of data for the analysis of characters in the movie. There are five components of cinematography as Villarejo suggests as following:

1. Framing is the composition of images within the physical boundaries of the shot (turner, 2003: 62). Besides, Villarejo explains the term of framing is camera that places to include some elements and to exclude others (Villarejo, 2007: 36). On the other hand, framing is everything that camera shot or recorded.
2. Angle is used to analyse the distance of camera and its object (Villarejo, 2007:38). The function is to give an impression for

the viewer over the figure of the movie. It also gives the sign of emotional condition and helps to identify how emotional the character or object. Besides, Turner suggests camera angle is the use of lighting to highlight certain aspects (2003:54). Furthermore, Villarejo divides the distance into seven parts and uses human body as the references, they are:

- a) the extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure.
- b) the long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background.
- c) the medium long shot (MLS), or plan americain, in which the human is framed from the knees up.
- d) the medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from the waist up.
- e) the medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up.
- f) the close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently).
- g) and the extreme close-up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips).

3. Focus is used to direct the audience's attention from one character to another as suggested (turner 2003:62). On the other hand, Villarejo defines the focus as the manipulation of light and of focus upon the selection of a camera's lens (2007:39). There are three focuses of lens. They are Short focus length, middle focal length lenses and long focal length.
4. Movement is usually used to describe the setting of figure, it also has elements to analyse such as panning, tilting, travelling, dollying, tracking, trucking and craning. Besides, Turner suggests that camera movements tend to keep pace with the movement of the spectator's eyes, and perspective is maintained as if there were but one spectator (2003:181).
5. Composition or process shot is the use of special effect to layer multiple images or strips of film into a single shot (Villarejo: 2007: 41).

## **1.7. Method of Research**

### **1.7.1. Type of Research**

A Qualitative research is applied to this paper because it is more available for any possible of information in the object of the analysis. "It tended to focus on exploring in as much detail as possible. Smaller numbers of instances or example which are seen as being interesting or illuminating. And aims to achieve 'depth' rather 'breadth' "(Blaxter, Hughes and Tight, 1996:61).

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

In this graduating paper, the data are divided into two as the main data and supporting data. The main data is taken from the screen of the object of analysis, *Blood Diamond* movie that is released in 2008. As suggested Loftland via Moleang, the main data source of data in qualitative research is the words and actions, and the rest is largely additional data such as documents and other (2007: 47). Supporting data is taken from some electrical source that add and support the main data. It is including to the written sources such as book, journal and any references that are relevant.

### **1.7.3. Data Collection Technique**

Documentation is the method of collecting data in this paper. The writer watches the movie, *Blood Diamond* movie, repeatedly and intensively to more understand in the every element and cinematography. Then, the writer collects the data that are proper to be analysed. They are the script and the screen-shot. Besides, the writer also finds the supporting data such as book, journal, dissertation that are connected to the main data.

### **1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique**

Descriptive qualitative method is used in this paper. As suggested Bogdan and Biklen via Sugiyono, “qualitative research is descriptive, which the data collected are in form of words or figures rather than number “(1982). The writer conducts the analysis by six steps:

First, the writer identifies the binary opposition of the movie, it focuses on both of characters; Danny Archer and Solomon Vandy. Second, the writers divides the role of both characters. Third, the writer applies the post-colonial and movie theory. Fourth, the writer selects the data that proper to the research question. Fifth, the writer classifies the data. Sixth, the writer states the discussion to the whole analysis with the certain conclusion.

### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into four chapters. First chapter is the introduction. It consists of the writer's reason to analyze the colonial system to that appeared in the *Blood Diamond* movie. It is elaborated in background of study, research questions, objective of study and significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, methods of study, and paper organization. In the Second chapter, it is presented the elements of the movie. Third chapter is the discussion that includes the analysis of the movie. Fourth chapter is the conclusion from the entire of discussion and the writer's suggestion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the writer finds three categories presenting the colonized people and three categories presenting the colonizing people. Solomon is presented as brutal, childlike and disordered mind, while Archer is presented as mature, crafty and clever. Thus, childlike is dominant categories which is presented to portray the colonized people. There are three dialogues and one picture showing the childlike category. Besides, there are two dialogues showing the disordered mind category. Then, there are two pictures for the brutality. In other side, the colonizer people is presented dominantly as crafty with two pictures and one dialogue. While, clever is presented in two dialogues and one picture. Then, mature category is only showed in one dialogue and one picture.

Based on the conclusion above, the writer also assumes these categories are relating to the condition of sierra Leona on *Blood Diamonds* movie. The civil war that is occurred brings disaster to the society and attracts some interests from the foreigner. It is the exploitation of natural source and slaves the native people on their own land as presented by Solomon. Moreover, the foreigner, Archer exploits and masters Solomon to get his desire.

On the other hand, *Blood Diamond* movie implies the post colonialism values as the focus of this paper. The journey of Solomon and Archer to mining camps and the treatment they receive and give each other are different. Their

ability to take their own possibilities is also different. In the *Blood Diamonds* movie, the colonized people are seen to be paralyzed people to determine their own best, future or struggle. While, the colonizer people are seen to be expeditious people to solve the possibilities of colonized people.

#### **4.2. Suggestion**

There are some of possibilities area to analyze this movie for the future researcher. First, by using Marxist theory and it is focused to Archer. Second, by using the psychoanalysis theory and focusing on Solomon since he receives many treatment with different characters. Third, by using the moral value since there are some issues like a child soldier which is presented in story.

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### B. Formal Education

1995-1996: TK Beteombari

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2003-2007: Pondok Pesantren GONTOR 7 Kendari

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2008-2010: SMAN 5 Kendari

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**C. Activities and work experiences**

2011-Present : Member of HMI (Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam)

2014-2015 : Traffic office in KotaPerak 94,6 FM

2014-2015 : Writer in Gudangpenulis.com

2013-2014 : Member of BEM SI ( Badan Eksekutif Mahasiswa Sastra Inggris)

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**D. Interests**

Playing football and watching movie.