



Hak Cipta Dilindungi Undang-Undang

1. Dilarang mengutip sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini tanpa mencantumkan dan menyebutkan sumber:
 - a. Pengutipan hanya untuk kepentingan pendidikan, penelitian, penulisan karya ilmiah, penyusunan laporan, penulisan kritik atau tinjauan suatu masalah.
 - b. Pengutipan tidak merugikan kepentingan yang wajar Unand.
2. Dilarang mengumumkan dan memperbanyak sebagian atau seluruh karya tulis ini dalam bentuk apapun tanpa izin Unand.

FRENCH RACIAL PREJUDICE TOWARD CHINESE-VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN THE LOVER: MARGUERITE DURAS' ORIENTALIST IDEAS

A THESIS



STIFANNY DWI RAHAYU
06 185 043

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - FACULTY OF LETTERS
ANDALAS UNIVERSITY
PADANG 2011

This thesis is dedicated to my big family, papa Zulkani mama Netty, my brothers Andrey and Indra, mama pandang, cousin Sari, cousin Dewi, and MIta. My special gratitude goes to my best friends Aulia, Bellany, Mike, Annisa Viasthy, Betalia, Dedek Sandrely, Resti, Azizah, Mia. This thesis is also dedicated to my BG 1 family, Ririn, Rina, Rifky, Ari, and Edo. For the great memories in campus my best friends Wazir, Yufi, Ajo, Dedet, Via, Intan, Zia. A special thank you for Aan Kurr for the pray.

EVERY BLOCK OF STONE HAS A STATUE INSIDE IT AND IT IS
THE TASK OF THE SCULPTORE TO DISCOVER IT
(MICHELANGELO)

UNTUK KEDJAJAAN BANGSA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah the Almighty the owner of universe and peace upon our great prophet Muhammad as the messenger of Allah. There are many people have contributed in accomplishing this thesis. I would like to thank all people I indebted in processing this research for those who help and accompany me.

I am particularly grateful to Mrs. Marliza Yeni, S.S, MA and Mr. Drs. H. Dt.Basago, M.Hum, my first and second supervisor, who have made this thesis possible by giving me priceless guidance, supports and time. I am also grateful to all lecturers of English Department who shared much knowledge with me since my freshman year in English Department of Andalas University. I would like to express my extraordinary gratitude to my parents Drs. Zulkani and Nurbetty Rustam, BA for their love, support, pray, spirit, guidance and patience. A special 'thank you' to my best friend Mike Yolanda who always helps and understands me. Finally I would like to express my gratitude to all students of English Department 06 for all great moments during my academic years in Andalas University.

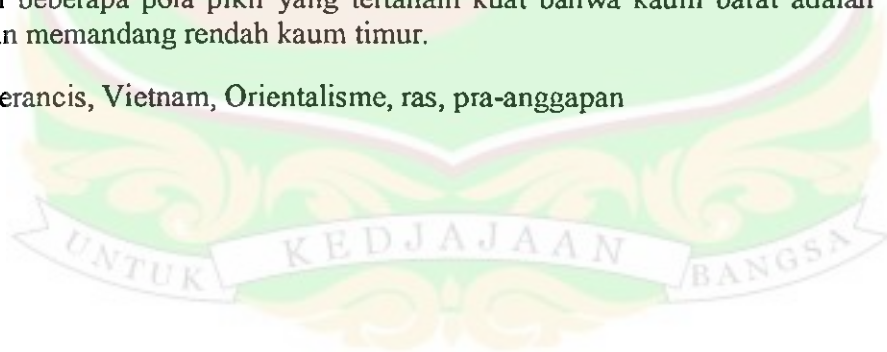
Padang, July 2011

Stifanny Dwi Rahayu

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini adalah sebuah analisa karya sastra internasional seorang penulis Perancis berjudul *The Lover*. Skripsi yang berjudul "French Racial Prejudice toward Chinese-Vietnamese People in *The Lover*: Marguerite Duras' Orientalist Ideas" merupakan analisa karya sastra yang mengungkap dampak-dampak sosial yang terjadi di Vietnam yang pernah dijajah oleh Perancis selama hampir 25 tahun. Fokus novel ini adalah pengaruh kekuasaan bangsa Perancis yang terlihat melalui karakter-karakter tokoh Perancis dalam novel ini, pandangan terhadap masyarakat Vietnam sebagai kaum timur serta pemikiran orientalisme Marguerite Duras. Novel ini menceritakan hubungan cinta tabu antara sepasang kekasih yang memiliki perbedaan ras di Vietnam. Karakter utama adalah seorang gadis keturunan Perancis yang hidup di Vietnam memiliki harga diri yang tinggi sebagai warga asing di Vietnam. Hubungan rahasianya dengan seorang pria keturunan Vietnam mewakili hubungan antara barat dan timur. Karakter utama menindas kekasihnya karena latar belakang ras. Analisa novel ini menggunakan teori orientalisme oleh Edward Said yang mengangkat hubungan pengaruh kekuasaan dan otoritas kaum barat terhadap kaum timur. Setelah menganalisa *The Lover* ditemukan bahwa identitas atau latar belakang ras seseorang menjadi masalah penting pada lapisan masyarakat di Vietnam baik saat dijajah maupun setelah merdeka dari Perancis. Kaum barat atau bangsa Perancis dalam novel ini memiliki kekuasaan dan kehormatan yang absolut meski pada kenyataannya mereka tidak terlalu baik secara status social, moral dan finansial. Marguerite Duras menuliskan novel ini dengan sangat gamblang dan kontroversial dengan cara mempertahankan dan menggambarkan keagungan bangsa Perancis. Penggambaran karakter yang kuat dan pencitraan diri yang dominan sehingga menyinggung konvensi budaya masyarakat. Pasca kolonial Perancis di Vietnam meninggalkan beberapa pola pikir yang tertanam kuat bahwa kaum barat adalah kaum yang hebat dan memandang rendah kaum timur.

Kata kunci: Perancis, Vietnam, Orientalisme, ras, pra-anggapan



CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	i
ABSTRAK	ii
CONTENTS	iii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 The Background of the Research	1
1.2 The Identification of the Problem	3
1.3 The Scope of the Research	3
1.4 The Objective of the Research	4
1.5 The Review of Previous Studies	4
1.6 Theoretical Framework	6
1.7 The Methods of the Research	9
CHAPTER 2 PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF <i>THE LOVER</i>	
2.1 Character	11
2.2 Setting	17
2.3 Plot	18
2.4 Theme	21
2.5 Point of View	21
CHAPTER 3 French Racial Prejudice Toward Chinese-Vietnamese People in <i>The Lover</i>: Marguerite Duras' Orientalist Ideas	
3.1 Marguerite Duras' Life and Orientalist Ideas	24
3.2 The Reflection of French Absolute Pride as colonizer in Vietnam in <i>The Lover</i>	28

3.3 The Reflection of French Powerful Authority over Vietnamese in <i>The Lover</i>	32
3.4 The Racial Prejudice as the Impact of French Colonialism in Vietnam As Seen in <i>The Lover</i>	35
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION	46
BIBLIOGRAPHY	



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

French has known as the great empire which colonized many countries in the world for long time. This nation expands its territory by the journey to explore the new land to be colonized. It is Indochina, the part of Asia continent located in the south of China that conquered by French empire for almost 25 years since 1852. Indochina comprises of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. French colonize Indochina focus in Vietnam leaving many impacts. It is linked to the racial, cultural, political, social, and power value between one to the other. Historically, French had big influence in Vietnam even after Vietnam got the freedom from French. The ascendancy and dominance of French to Vietnam creates some binary opposition such as colonizer-colonized, white- nonwhite, beautiful-ugly, civilized- uncivilized, etc. The binary opposition and the ideology of the western occur in the text of many literatures.

Writing about colony that exists written mostly by the European author leads the domination and the power of western to the eastern countries. It is coming from the power and dominance of French colonial, many good French authors write about the colonial. One of the literary work that written by French author is *The Lover* by Marguerite Duras, one of Europe's most distinguished writers. For the French author who lived in Vietnam in her young age (the time of French-Indochina still exist), Duras writes a story of a couple which has different racial background, the French

and Vietnamese. This work is containing the issue of racial prejudice and Duras orientalist ideas. As said by Edward Said in *Orientalism* through literature, the European author could spread his/ her ideology toward the orient or in short the text would be consist the European' ideas about the orient (1977, 17). In *The Lover*, Marguerite Duras pour her thought and view about the relationship between Vietnamese and French. The story constructs the relationship between the French to Vietnamese according to French author point of view. Duras is writing this work by her own thought about French as her original identity to the Vietnamese as the ex-colony of French. Marguerite Duras writes her colonial discourse, *L'amant* which becoming the international edition after published for International reading as *The Lover*. The thoughts, feeling, the prejudice as colonizer in Vietnam in the novel sharpens the ideology of superior images of French. The author writes the ascendancy of western (white) people as the greatest race in the world in novel *The Lover* by a simply story about a couple from different race.

The way Duras writes the story influenced by her own thought as French picturing of racial prejudice between French girl and the Chinese-Vietnamese man. This is interesting to analyze the love story between two different races; indeed it is a love affair that full of racial judgement between the French girl as colonize country and the Chinese-Vietnamese man as the colony of French. *The Lover* contains the colonial discourse since the author is French and Duras writes about the racial problem and the position of French as western to Vietnam as the eastern. The writer chooses *The Lover* as the primary data for the attractive story. *The Lover* won her the Prix Goncourt in 1984, France's most prestigious literary prize. In this research, the

writer is interested in analyzing this novel about the impact of racial prejudice between European and Asian race in French colony. French as one of dominant colonizer in the world can represent the higher one in Vietnam.

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

The racial prejudice will be the main problem in this research. The judgment of white people, in this case the French, toward the Vietnamese tends to be negative and create racial discrimination. Duras presents her French female character to be superior to her Chinese-Vietnamese male character. Even though in fact, the man is much better than the French girl both morally and financially. Through *The Lover*, Duras delivers the racial different treatment between French girl character as the representative of superior race and the Chinese-Vietnamese male character as the inferior race. The racial prejudice as the major problem shows in the novel by the different treatment that achieve by the central characters. Duras writes *The Lover* as her work deal with orientalist ideas as white author.

1.3. The Scope of the Research

The lover is an intellectual literature which written by European author contains the colonial ideology. Duras put the position of western and eastern which described in her characters in the novel. This research focuses on Duras's orientalist ideas by analyzing the way Duras describes her characters: the French girl superior images also the Chinese-Vietnamese man inferior images and his submissiveness attitude toward the French.

1.4. The objective of the Research

This research deals with postcolonial theory in some works to analyze this novel. The writer analyzes the images and the impacts of colonization for colonizer and the colony in the main character's life. The racial prejudice appears in a love affair in this novel could bear some description about the main problem of this novel. In this research, the writer is making the objective of the research in these statements:

1. To analyze the image of French and Chinese-Vietnamese people presented in the novel *The Lover*.
2. To reveal Duras oriental perspective toward the eastern people especially Vietnamese as the ex-colony of France.

1.5. The Review of Related Study

The Lover is an international work which analyzed by using different critics for any purposes. The related studies about the theory and the Lover is found in some reliable sources such as thesis, the essay and article on internet, The writer found related study written by Jane Tseng(2002) from Providence University who analyzes self- alienation of the certain characters in the two kind of novel, *The Lover* and *M.Butterfly* . A thesis entitled "The Self Alienation and Gender Identity in *The Lover* and *M. Butterfly*" using the self alienation originated "alienation" by Karl Marx. Tseng believes that alienation as the capitalist term makes the men alienated from what he creates and connected to the society will bring him to the men's oppress

existence. Both of those novel have similar point, Tseng analyzes the self alienation from different culture. Tseng analyzes *The Lover* focus on the French girl that explains herself different by other people in the colony. The French girl creates a new design of herself as a new individual different with her lover. Even she has a relationship with the Chinese, the French girl still put herself in higher status. The main character feels that she could get the ideal life if she does the alienation or be different by the other one. Jane Tseng assumes that the main character deliberately specialize herself than another people in the novel.

The writer found an essay related to *The Lover* written by Anne-Marie Cattan Medcalf "*The Lover, Blurring the Boundaries? The Sense of Time and Place in Marguerite Duras' L'Amant*". *L'amant* is the original title of *The Lover* as the writer inform before. This essay is analyzing *The Lover* on the feminist critic. The main character as a white woman in the colony is subordinated by social and political status. As the girl who born in the colony, this French girl finds some truth that woman by racial, gender, and social status is marginalized by society (1996).

Another study about postcolonialism is a thesis written by Efrizal, Andalas University grad student. The title of the thesis is "The Portrait of British Invasion Toward 'Other' in Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*: A Postcolonial Reading". He writes about the main character as a western that treat an orient as his slave and try to influence him with some western domination. In this research, Efrizal emphasize the British hegemony that used by the main character Robinson Crusoe. Efrizal takes the hegemony idea from Antonio Gramsci. In this research, Efrizal analyzes some points of western domination toward the primitive civilian that he rescued (Friday). He

successes dominate the orient (one of major orient character in the novel named Friday) by the English language, faith, and British cultural values. (2009)

Veronica Percia writes an article on internet based on novel *The Lover* "To Paint Like A Child". This article analyzes the psychological of the main character, the French girl appearance picturing the androgyny. She has the passion to use the women shoes and men' hat everytime she goes. The appearance makes her full and complete. The man's nature appear in the vedora that always used by the main character. The concept of androgyny that makes her feel complete and different with another girl really comforts her. This article also analyze about the fantasy of the main character toward her room mate, a sweet French girl. The main point of this article, Percia tries o specifically identify in full the instability of dominant and submissive roles between Duras and the Lover in terms of race, age, and sex. The main character and her lover different by the race age and sex, it builds some intrigues in *The Lover*. This article shows how the love affair destroyed by the race, age and sex difference. (1997)

1.6. Theoretical framework

The research deals with post- colonialism to analyze the colonial discourse about racial prejudice in Vietnam circumstance that written by French author. The term of postcolonial related to the research tradition, an approach, or even a paradigm in the society that is concerned with the multiple impacts of colonialism as a cultural, economic, and political practice. Post colonial study including examines how the knowledge was produced to distinguish the colonizer from the colonized country, in

short the colonizer was always place in the higher position above the colonized country(European as the higher one among others). Post colonial work studies elaborate how colonizer conveying and shaping the negative stereotyped about identity colonized people through any kind of media such as book, novel, newspaper, and another kind of text and fix it to people' mindset. "Postcolonial studies show how scientists, writers, and geographers were actively involved in the process of establishing, maintaining, and (later) defending colonial and postcolonial power relations."(*Encyclopedia Of Geography Human* , 2006: 372). Postcolonial related to specific idea about the culture, history, colony, the self and the other identity (the perspective of western and eastern), all the texts that produced by the ex-colony or colonizer as the representative of cultural effect of imperialism.

The imperialist discourse has found in many terms such as the literature, art, painting, and photographs. Lead the world believes the conceptual knowledge of western superior image and legitimized the western dominance. The colonizer created the binary division to the east. Barney Warf in *Encyclopedia Of Geography Human* (2006) writes the binary division as the west is white, powerful, progressive, rational, democratic, superior, whereas the orient is non-white, feminine, traditional, static, mysterious, irrational, despotic, and inferior (142). Different from those researches above, this research focuses on the image of western superiority and the racial inequality. The writer is using the expressive criticism to analyze this novel. As Abram. M.H states in *A Glossary of Literary Terms 7th Edition*:

"Expressive criticism treats a literary work primarily in relation to its author.

It defines poetry as an expression, or overflow, or utterance of feelings, or as

the product of the poet's imagination operating on his or her perceptions, thoughts, and feelings; it tends to judge the work by its sincerity, or its adequacy to the poet's individual vision or state of mind; and it often seeks in the work evidences of the particular temperament and experiences of the author who, consciously or unconsciously, has revealed himself or herself in it."(52-53)

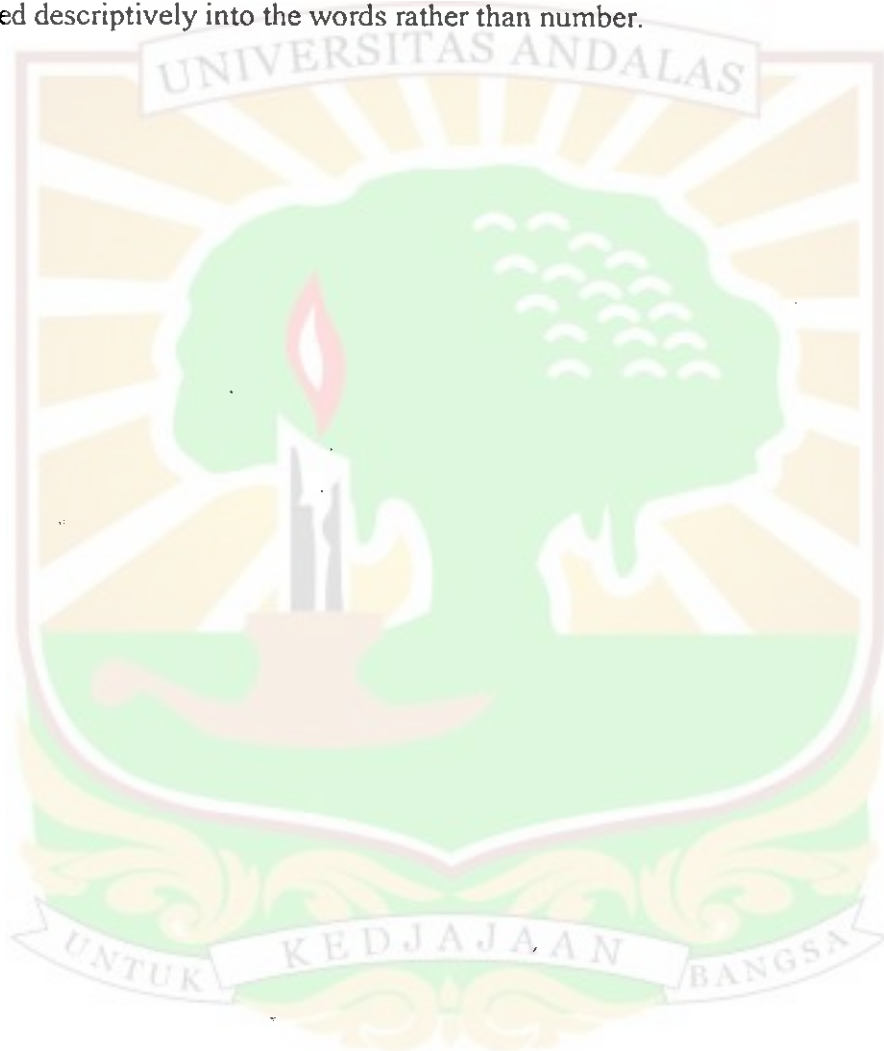
Orientalism is the major studies in this research. The western constructed and believed that they are coming from the best race of all. Seeing the colonized people as the lower position, the European tries to subordinate them. It is not just the colonizer think that they are great, the discourse and believe of the European is great race also accepted by the Orient. In accordance with Edward W. Said *Orientalism* deals with all kind of writing about the orient and occident distinction such as poetry, philosophy, political theory writers, literary work (novel), economy, and imperial administrators. Orientalism also study the mentality of occident/orient which the orient as colonized country is not have the self-government and willing to be dominated, restructured, and authorized by the occident(western). In the other words orientalism is a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient. (*Orientalism*, 1977: 3-4). " The relationship between occident and orient is a relationship of power, domination, and varying degrees of a complex hegemony."(6) the domination and power of French as powerful empire in Vietnam becoming the primary factor of racial prejudice appearance in *The Lover*.

1.7. The Methods of the Research

In collecting the data for the research, the writer has conducted library research. The writer follows some steps in writing the research. In literature the research is a process to make a systematic concrete literature research by using the theory and method formally. In purpose to find something new scientifically, the research use the library research which deals with some certain works. Based on Nyoman Kutha Ratna in *Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra*(2004) the writer applying the descriptive analytic method which describes the facts followed by the analysis and could be involved two methods as long they are supporting each other. The writer has taken the primary data, as the work itself *The Lover* written by Marguerite Duras. The other data that support this research deals with Edward Said's *Orientalism, A Concise Companion to Postcolonial Literature* edited by Shirley Chew and David Richards, Barney Warf in *Encyclopedia Of Geography Human*, also with *Post-colonial Studies Readers* compiled by Ashcroft, Griffin and Tiffin, *The Reader's Companion to Military History* Edited by Robert Cowley and Geoffrey Parker. The secondary data are taken from some thesis from Andalas University post-graduate student also from other theses that available on internet, articles, essays, and information on internet are related to the subject of the study.

In this research, the writer using the expressive approach since this work has relationship with the expression, or overflow, or utterance of feelings, or as the product of the poet's imagination operating on his or her perceptions, thoughts, and feelings; it tends to judge the work by its sincerity as stated by Abram M.H in *A Glossary of Literary Terms*

7th Ed. First is collecting, reading and comprehending this work, it help writer to recognize the characters and situation in the work. The writer indicates the western superior pride influence the entirely novel related with the real life the author. So, the writer will serve the overview of Marguerite Duras's life. The result of this research presented descriptively into the words rather than number.



CHAPTER 2

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

This research presents the intrinsic elements of the novel for better understanding of the research. This chapter will analyze *The Lover* for its intrinsic elements by find out its important part and giving some description about the story. The analysis of *The Lover*' s intrinsic elements will provide some important information to understand this research more. Here, the writer will talk about the element of fiction such as characters, setting plot, themes, and the point of view.

2.1 Characters

The Lover has no significant name for each character in it. The main character as the narrator in this novel but does not know everything, more like the observer. It is related to the main character point of view in the work. In accordance with Abram in *A Glossary of Literary Terms 4th Edition* "Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it, the dialogue and from what they do—the action." (32-33). The description of the characters in the work can be seen by the main character's opinion. notice how the author reveals some characteristics in her work by seeing some description of the characters, also by looking what the other characters in the work talk about other characters, the way of characters' respond to another can be revealed what kind the characters in the work.

Concern that the author writes the novel just like a girl's personal diary, the main character here is the girl herself. She is the major character in this novel. The writer also finds some minor characters that influencing the story. Uniquely, the author does not put the name of the major characters in her work. This is interesting point of this work, the story clearer and understandable. There are some important characters in this work. The characters divide into two kinds, the major and minor character. The major character would be the central characters and appears in almost entirely story while the minor is the characters which appears less than the major characters but related to the major character. In fiction literature, there is protagonist and antagonist to comprehend the characters' attitudes. The protagonist is the characters who always do the kindness or have the good manners in the story. Meanwhile antagonist is the character who always the evil things or against the protagonist.

2.1.1 Young French girl

The young French girl who presented as "I" in *The Lover* is the major character. Duras describes her as the teenage girl that has a rebel and overconfident thought in her head. She is a pure French girl who lives in Vietnam. The poverty of her is pretty terrible for her identity as French. The poverty does not make her follow all rules that her mother made for her. The "I" loves to do anything she likes and has own thought in her life. She is living with her educated mother and 2 brothers which always watch over her. She tells the readers that actually, she is not good enough as a

girl in that age. She is an antagonist character in this novel who has a bad attitude and thought.

The physical trait of the "I" is needed to describe, she loves to wear the androgyny appearance. She keeps her style everyday in man's hat and the woman shoes everyday. As a confident French teenage, she is a white girl with a make up already. Her physical look enforces her to fall into the love affair that she does with a stranger, the rich Chinese-Vietnamese man. She thinks that besides she is a white girl in Vietnam circumstance, she has a good looking too. Her mental trait could be described in the way she thought about herself, the main character has a good confidence as French. Being a white French girl in Vietnam makes she despises the native people (the Vietnamese). Duras also describes the main character as an arrogance, material, stubborn, and brave girl. That behaviour is because she is a white, poor, and educated girl. Her family is poor but never show their poverty to the public. The young girl never shows the poverty to society because they are too shame to admit their poverty as white people. Living as a French in colony area makes them believe their dignity and blood as French. Even though she is still young, the pride as a French people is strongly constructed in her mind. This will be the main focus in this research later on.

2.1.2. The Chinese- Vietnamese man

This character is a flat one. The narrator describes him as a lover, it is about his love to the girl, and the author does not tell much about his personal life. He is a Chinese-Vietnamese man who is falling in love with a French girl in Vietnam. He is

about twenties years old with higher social class. Different with the young French girl, he is a protagonist character. Mentally, he is a gentle and caring person. He is a Chinese-Vietnamese man who wears the European suit in a fancy limousine because he is a rich guy (21). Although he loves his girl so much but at last he obeys his father order to end his relationship with her lover. He believes that his love story will face many problems because they are racially different. It could be said that the Chinese-Vietnamese man is the first one who attracted to the main character. He adores her for the love while the girl just attracted by his money. The Chinese-Vietnamese man considers that they will get serious problem if their family know about their relationship.

He believes for his love, but he realizes that there is no path for them to be together because they have different background. This character is flat character in this novel. There are no further descriptions about the other desire of him except to love the young French girl until the end of the story. He does not care with her girl treatment toward him. He realizes that the girl watch him as the inferior race but still love her.

2.1.3. The mother

The author writes the mother as an educated woman that has many plans to her children. She is a French also single parent with three children living in Indo-China. She cares her children with full responsibility of motherhood. Similar with the main character, the mother is a stubborn character too. The arrogance and French pride in the colony country also be hers. The mother actually does wrong in planning

the education of her daughter, her children have the rebel thought. The way she takes care her children as single parent make some extraordinary psychological development of her children, her sons and daughter. In the other hand the mother loves to see her sons more success in education. The good reputations of her daughter still not satisfy her yet (26).

That quotation shows the disappointment of the main character in this novel as the only one daughter in the family. The mother does not care with the effort of her daughter. Different to the family life, the mother inherited the arrogance of being white people to her children. She lets her daughter to do as she likes because her daughter is different and special, she is France. Her stubbornness and discipline behaviour contrast with the French pride that she has. The mother claim that the headmaster of her daughter school must let her daughter to do anything she wants. No matter it would break the school rules, it just because her daughter is too special (a French student is needed in native school to increase the reputation) (75-76). The mother is an educated woman and very discipline. In fact the quotation above shows that the mother is treating the principal (as representative of native school) as she wants. Her discipline sensibility is not big as her pride.

2.1.4 The younger brother

The younger brother is a minor character in this work. The existence of the younger brother in this novel not much, he is kind of flat character. The author writes this character as protagonist character that reveals the main character's personality inside. This character has an important part in this novel. From the respond of the

main character in the novel, it really clear that she loves her younger brother and hates the elder brother. The position of the younger brother in the main character's family structure, enrich a conflict and family also create a special view of the main character. The younger brother has a big part of feminine quality in his personality. Even the younger brother is the weak ones but similar with the other family member, he has a white privilege as France. When the family meet the Chinese man, he does the same act like the other family member do, despise the Chinese man. The younger brother is a flat character and takes little part in this novel. Some part of this novel tells that he is a beloved brother of her sister (the "I")

2.1.5 The elder brother

This character is an antagonist in this work. The main character does not have good behaviour toward him. Entirely this novel, the elder brother is the number one trouble maker in the family that the main character always says. The elder brother's character makes his own rules in the family. Everything that he does really disturbing the main character. It creates a strange feeling between the main character and this character. A passion of the young French girl to kill her elder brother several times showed in this novel. So, the main character hates every elder brother's behaviour toward her family.

Growing up without a father in their family make he does what he wants and always gets the love of her mother. The elder brother is the mother's beloved son. The main character (the young French girl) has a jealous feeling to his elder brother (10-11). The mother gives much love to the elder brother, even she has a very bad

son. She loves the elder brother more than the other two. Their poverty does not matter with her mother to give what her oldest son wants. Duras describes the elder brother as an evil brother and indifferent. He does some oppression to the younger brother.

2.2 Setting

In accordance with MacMahan et al in their book *The Element of Writing About Literature and film*, "The setting of a piece of fiction, like the point of view, can sometimes be of consequence, sometimes not. Setting includes the place and time during which the action occurs." (12). this work takes place in Saigon, a little town in Indo- China or now called Vietnam around 1930s. "I'm at a state boarding school in Saigon. I eat and sleep there, but I go to classes at French high school." (8). The author writes about France girl that lived in the Vietnam in 1930s.

The author also makes a specific place in this story with description of that place "So it's during the crossing of a branch of the Mekong, on ferry that plies between Vinh Long and Sadec in the great plain of mud and rice in southern Cochinchina." (14) Most of the time setting used in this work is flashback. The narrator tells the story in past. According to Abrams, The overall setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs; the setting of a single episode or scene within such a work is the particular physical location in which it takes place" (284). From the data the time setting is around 1930's until 1940's, the novel tells that the story is around Saigon from 1932 until 1949.

French people who go to Vietnam in the early 1990's could be categorized as the middle class. Officially, they have to work for the French government to be part of the ministry colonies in French. The other French people are the coming with different aims. The French higher class would not live in Vietnam, they choose living in France because Vietnam can not categorized as a fancy place for them. Vietnam people live as the French government worker in their own land. The Vietnamese is controlled by French authority and being the part of French-Indochina. Vietnamese still living as the French colonized people because the power of French not faded even Vietnam already got the freedom. The rest of Vietnamese are the communist who arranging an important plan to make Vietnam totally separated from French. Economically, Chinese powered the Vietnam by their capability. The Chinese successfully works in Vietnam in many sectors such as textile, banking, manufacture, and the many industries. Chinese-Vietnamese actually the part of Vietnam middle class. Mostly Chinese-Vietnamese worked as entrepreneur, mechanic, manager, or skilled labour. The information is taken from article *Dilema Etnis Cina* by Leo Suryadinata in Tempo magazine 1994. So, both French and Chinese-Vietnamese who live in Vietnam in 1932-1949 could be categorized as the middle class.

2.3 Plot

The author write the work uniqely including the plot. story about a young girl in the beginning of the story quit clear. the introduction is interesting with description of the characters, problem, and setting in this work. after some description of the main character it is suddenly jump to the climax. related to the time setting, the plot is

move and change irregularly. it is not clear how the raising action happen. the interesting one of this work, the resolution is clear enough.

According to Mikics on *A New Handbook Of Literary Terms*, plot orders events so that they go somewhere, make significance; it is the narrative sequence presented by a book as we read it from first page to last. Often, the plot begins at a later chronological point and doubles back to an earlier one. Story, by contrast, is the raw material that precedes (so to speak) the making of the plot sequence: the reservoir of happenings that the author chooses from, and that gets referred to or used, at some point, by the plot. (236)

2.3.1 Introduction

In the beginning of the story, the author introduces the main character as she describes about herself, situation, and her family. First the author tells the facts, circumstances and actual live. In this part there is no conflict appear. The story describe about her ordinary life of the main character. What she does everyday just going to the dormitory school and home in weekend. She has a cold-hearted family, a mother that does not really care of her dreams, an evil elder brother that she hates most, and the weak younger brother. The main character gives description that she has no passion in her life. The main character tells her life as a different teenage in Vietnam that has no passion and desire (11). The main character introduces the situation of her. The "I" as the main character tells how different she is in the colony and realizes it well. In the beginning of the story, Duras tells more about the appearance, the status, identity and the feeling of the main character.

2.3.2. Raising Action

The raising action comes in the early relationship with the Chinese man in the colony. In the journey to school dormitory, the "I" is approached by a rich Chinese man on the ferry when across the river Mekong. The "I" sure that the Chinese man is attracted by her and she taken for granted to love him by the money. The main character starts her love affair with the Chinese man that she met in the ferry. They do a forbidden love affair. They realize that they will be separated by social condition at that time. The main character as the France is superior to him as an orient person. The difference background makes them hide their relationship. They enjoy the hidden love affair but always afraid that their parents someday would know something with the relationship.

2.3.3. Climax

The climax of the novel is showing up when the two different background families know their love affair. The mother is very angry to her also the father of Chinese man does not like the France girl. The mother hates to know that her daughter has relationship with the lower race man, and the father of the Chinese man wants his son to marry a girl that has same background to them. The mother can not accept this relationship and being so angry to his daughter's choice. In that time, this kind of relationship is so low in the society.

2.3.5. Resolution

After the big anger of the two families, the "I" and the Chinese man do not give any objection toward their parents. They choose to be separated and do their parents will. They believe that the east and the west can not be together because it is a

very uncommon and low relationship. The resolution of this novel is finally they are commit to obey the society norm and separated. They realize that they must not be together. The Chinese man still keep the love to the French girl until they are growing old even though he married a Chinese girl as his father's will.

2.4 Theme

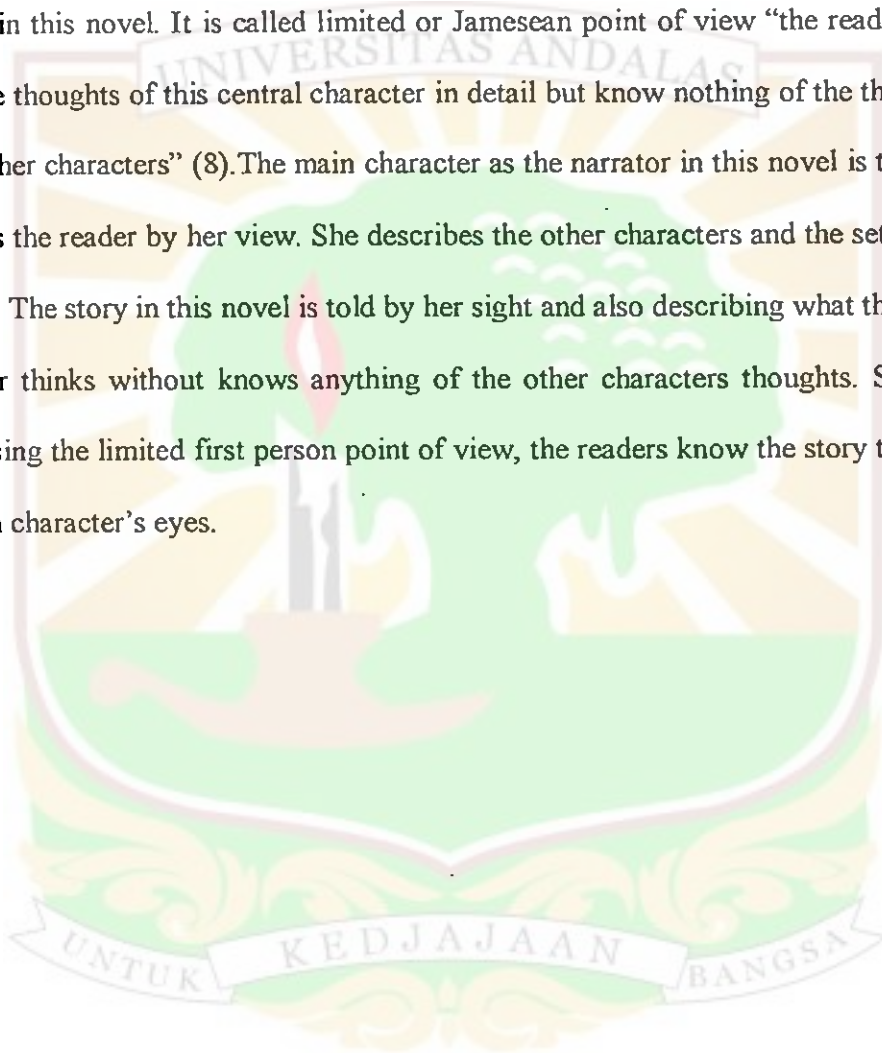
The author brings the reader to a girl's life in 1930s which has some problem in her family and the young age. Living as a white people in the colony area makes this novel shows some facts related to racial classification. This novel so close to the arrogance of white people that living in its colony. The main theme of this novel is the belief and arrogance of French as the superior race in the Vietnam as the colony of France. Western has power to do all. This novel concerns to arrogance of white people who always believe that they are the best race in the world and could treat another race especially their colony as they like. It is just like taken for granted that white people is the best one in the world.

The superiority of white people in their colony, here it is Vietnam shows that the domination of France as white people is acceptable for the native (colonized people). The orient in Vietnam does not care while they are despised by white people in their own land. Even after Vietnam already get their freedom of France.

2.5 Point of view

According to Mikics on *A New Handbook of Literary Terms* point of view A term applied to fictional narrative (and, of course, to cinema, with its point-of-view

shot). At given moments in a narrative, we may see through the eyes of a character: from his or her point of view—just as a cinematic point-of-view shot gives us a character’s perspective. The point of view of this novel is the first person point of view. The author uses pronoun “I” in narrates the story. The main character is the narrator in this novel. It is called limited or Jamesean point of view “the readers are given the thoughts of this central character in detail but know nothing of the thoughts of the other characters” (8). The main character as the narrator in this novel is the one who tells the reader by her view. She describes the other characters and the setting as she sees. The story in this novel is told by her sight and also describing what the main character thinks without knows anything of the other characters thoughts. So, *The Lover* using the limited first person point of view, the readers know the story through the main character’s eyes.



Chapter 3

**FRENCH RACIAL PREJUDICE TOWARD CHINESE-VIETNAMESE
PEOPLE IN *THE LOVER*: MARGUERITE DURAS' ORIENTALIST IDEAS**

Commonly people in the society have tendency to spread their knowledge and understanding about anything. Many literatures produced in order to explain author's understanding or even personal ideas. The literary work becomes a media to share what kind of life the author had and explain more about the society, the literary work could be the reflection of it. The value of ordinary life and certain ideas of an author reflected in her/his work. The analysis of *The Lover* consists of Duras's orientalist ideas and the French-Indochina prejudice. The colonial French-Indochina especially in Vietnam leaving some impressions, prejudice, unclear opinion, inequality and exaggerating judgments in colonial society for both side, the colonizer and the colonized countries.

In analyzing colonial text especially literary work contented orientalist ideas like *The Lover*, first the writer needs to elaborate Marguerite Duras's life and her orientalist ideas. Seeing Duras's biography is important to reveal her thought about *The Lover*. The writer thinks Duras's personal background has a big influence in producing *The Lover* to be a fictional literature contented with colonial discourse. From the biography of Marguerite Duras, the writer will analyze Duras's point of view as the French who lives in Vietnam in her childhood. The description of French superior image in *The Lover* is needed to reveal Duras's orientalist ideas.

3.1. Marguerite Duras's Biography and Orientalist Ideas

The Lover is a novel which closely related to the real life of Marguerite Duras as the author of *The Lover*. Producing *The Lover* in Duras's 70 old, she published it as her semi-autobiographical novel which tells about her young live in Vietnam. Duras has known as the French novelist, scriptwriter, and movies director who writes the works mostly about her thought/ ideas and life experience. Along her life she has made numerous successful fictions. Internationally, her work *The Lover* along with the film script *Hiroshima, mon amour* became most knowing works outside of France. Both of them are known as her work which talking about difference race love stories of couples French-Asia couple. *The Lover* as the focus in this research is one of many Duras works which gain a big success in her old age. This research provides the Duras' biography to make the analysis of *The Lover* become more understandable.

Marguerite Duras is a pseudonym of Marguerite Donnadiieu (1914- 1996). She is a daughter of a French couple that born and spend her childhood in Vietnam (part Indo-China). Her father's name is Henri Donnadiieu a principal in a French school in Saigon-Vietnam. Duras describe her father as a mathematical genius and idolize him a lot. In Cochin China Duras' father married a French teacher Marie Adeline Augustine Josephe Legrand, Duras' mother. Marie was born in an extremely poor French family who has high dreams and her lifelong passion for education. She loved to learn and later she decided to become an elementary school teacher, later she was appointed to teach in a school for girl in Saigon where she met Henri Donnadiieu.

Her mother actually her father's second wife, the first wife Alice died and left 2 sons Jean and Jaques. At her 4 aged, her beloved father died of amoebic dysentery in a little town called Duras in France, later Marguerite Donnadiou uses Duras as her penname and for memorizing her father.

Living in Vietnam in her teen age, she was involved in a love affair with a wealthy Chinese man, whom she called Monsieur Jo and also Léo. There is no data about her relationship with young French male in Vietnam. When she was 17 years old, she went to France studied law and political science at the Sorbonne, graduated in 1935. She worked for the ministry of colonies until 1941. , LES IMPUDENTS was Duras's first book, appeared in 1942. Her early novels were influenced by Ernest Hemingway, Virginia Woolf, and François Mauriac. Later she worked as the journalist and the writer, she did not stop writing and producing many works.

From the data above the readers could compare the real life of Duras and the story of *The Lover*. Through her eyes, Duras writes her two step brothers as the elder brother and the younger brother, her mother as a teacher as stated, her dead father, and her mother's desire to make her get a degree in mathematic which is inspired by her dead father. There are more similarities between Duras's actual life and the French girl's life in *The Lover* such as the Duras's Asian lover. Both the French girl in the novel and Duras have an Asian man in her young age, the setting is totally similar with her actual life in Saigon, Vietnam. The financial condition in this novel also describes the financial condition of young Duras, she is poor French. By describing this situation, Duras shows that *The Lover* is kind of her personal

autobiography in her young age. Duras is using the repetitive method in writing *The Lover*. She is picturing herself in this work. As explain by the next quotation from a compiled anonymous articles *How Does The Form Which an Autobiography Takes Affect The Way Self is Understood* on internet

The character that Duras is playing in the novel "L'Amant" or "The Lover" is a fragmented autobiography; the novel is not an autobiography in the traditional sense. We are not made to go through the writer's or character's entire life up to a certain point. We are only brought into the novel and given details of the character's life and circumstances as the author deems fit. Thus it is an autobiography for the self to please the self and make her the central character. Duras only highlights the points, visions and circumstances she wants to make the reader aware of, as it aids in the development of her story and puts her character in the limelight. (2)

Mostly Marguerite Duras's works contain the racial issue. Her personal life influences and inspires her works. The love between two different races occurs in her works. Starts from 1970's, Duras was concentrated in directing and making movies. In 1984 Duras claimed *L'amant (The Lover)* as the semi-autobiographical novel about her youth in Indo-China and gained the instant success for sold about 1.5 million copies and won the prestigious literary prize in French. Duras also known as an alcoholic person, she admits that she becoming addicted to alcohol since she drinks it in the first time when she was teenager. Duras's first husband is Robert Antelme and divorced in 1946, later she has an affair with Dionys Mascolo, bear her

only child, Jean, in 1947. Her alcohol addict makes her to have a physical disorder in her old age. Duras died in Paris on November 3, 1996.

The biography and her colonial view of Marguerite Duras are taken from the book by a historian and journalist Adri Laurer, *Marguerite Duras: A Life*. The journey and the history of Duras's life are written in this book. Duras is a pure French author who lived in the French colony (Vietnam- Indo china). Living as a French people, she has her own thought and learned about the colonial effect toward colonizer and colonized countries (especially Vietnam and French). Marguerite Duras argued and believed in her vision. As Duras thought, Cochin China an annexed colony and French territory with parliamentary representation, always considered itself to be superior to the other regions of Indo-China.

Any Frenchman who went there automatically had the moral authority of his race. Every Frenchman represented an elite, whether of character, intelligence, energy, knowledge, or benevolence. A colonist was believed to be a superior being, with a highly develop brain and a better physique than the native people. Marguerite Duras writing *The Lover* inspired by her own life and her ideas as a colonist. The way she tells the story is picturing her colonial discourse and her faith about her life. For her belief that French are the great race, Duras writes *The Lover* with full colonial discourse. Duras's work qualified as colonial literature. Duras's work emphasizes the inferiority of oriental and describes the French (western) as powerful people. The Duras's orientalist ideas is reflected in *The Lover*, she writes that French characters has a strong power even they are in the lower class and The Vietnamese as the colonized people would never reach the equal position to French people because they

are racially different. The storyline of *The Lover* is picturing the Duras's orientalist ideas. The French characters in her novel described as the better ones than The Vietnamese. Duras does not write anything good racially about Vietnamese in *The Lover*, this is because she has big pride as French and believes that Vietnamese is a group of orient people that not so well at all. This pride affect *The Lover* as a colonial work which emphasize Duras's orientalist ideas.

Marguerite Duras since her childhood in Vietnam see the different position of French and Vietnamese in society. She does not wonder it and never has a problem with it. Duras's work describes her thought about colonized people' oppression and the great French in ordinary life. It is because the colonial discourse already created for long time and no one has a problem with it. The discourse of French as powerful and dominant empire never gets any objection from the native colonizer. The Vietnamese can not find the reason why this phenomenon happened. Duras's works is an influencing work which is written by an author who lives in the colonizer's land and spread the colonial discourse to the world.

3.2. The Reflection of French Absolute Pride in Vietnam in *The Lover*

The superiority of French in Vietnam is constructed by these two countries. As a powerful colonizer, French has its power to create certain doctrines, image and life styles for Vietnam. The power of French in Vietnam as the effect of colonialism makes French and Vietnam accept different attitude. Historically, French colonized Vietnam for almost 25 years and has constructed some images in colony circumstance. It states that white people are superior than the native people in

Vietnam. The strong discourse spread by French author such as Marguerite Duras constructs the society mindset in interracial interaction.

The French characters in *The Lover* by Marguerite Duras get over confident with their position, pride of being French. The main character as French that live in Vietnam believed that the white people absolutely higher than orient, the Vietnamese. Both colony and colonizer are believed that the white skin is more superior to them. Politically, historically, and socially, there is a concept of the superiority of western in any aspect. The main character's family as French in Vietnam is actually poor. However the main character who lives with her mother and two brothers, still have a servant for her family. French identical with a fancy lifestyle, even they live in critical poverty. The French family always keep their dignity in front of public. The Vietnamese would see the poor French family as the higher ones because there is different racial level between Vietnam and French. The French is always considered better than the local people. The limitation of Vietnamese characters in this novel shows that Duras as the author of *The Lover* has no interest toward the native people. The identity as the superior race is able to mask the poverty of her family. The point of this novel, the French girl who has a lower financial status is not viewed as the weak one in Vietnam society, the focus of her background as French people could hold a power to dominate and disregard the native people in Vietnam. Nobody calls and look her as the poor one or lower class. The Vietnamese respect and look the existence of her as the beautiful one. Since the beginning of the story, Duras does not tell the other Vietnamese people in this novel. This work full of the description about

the great French. Duras emphasizes the power of French. The content of *The Lover* influenced by Marguerite Duras' Orientalist ideas.

The condition and the dignity of French family could be seen in the next quotation:

" Children like little old men because of chronic hunger, yes. But us, no, we weren't hungry. We were white children, we were ashamed, we sold our furniture but we weren't hungry, we had a houseboy and we ate. Sometimes, admittedly, we ate garbage, storks, baby crocodiles, but the garbage was cooked and served by a houseboy, and sometimes we refused it, too, we indulged in the luxury of declining to eat" (10).

From the quotation, it is a clear picturing of poverty in her French family. Even they are hungry, they must pretend that they are healthy enough, they cannot show what their suffering of. It is contrast with the French superior status. They have a big power and privilege to cover their actual condition. The dignity of being white people in the colony forces them not to show their weakness in the public. The quotation above shows Duras's thought that French, even if they are living in critical poverty, they are always be the elite race. It is totally different with non-French (the native people, Vietnamese) which "permitted" to be "poor". Mentally, the French characters never get tormented in this situation because they realize their position as the great people from the great race. They believe that they are so special and commit it by judge themselves too high. Duras describes in her novel that French people have their absolute pride. The racial things in *The Lover* hold the important value. The image of French is always absolute superior than the colonized country.

The description of Chinese-Vietnamese man when approach the French girl at the first time also picturing Duras's racial prejudice toward the Chinese-Vietnamese man. The main character as French frankly despises her lover in her mind at the first meeting. It shows in a quotation, "his hand's trembling. There's the difference of race, he's not white, he has to get better of it, that's why he's trembling" (36). The French girl stressed the point in white-nonwhite. As state by Albert Memmi in *The colonizer and the Colonized*:

The distinction between deed and intent has no great significance in the colonial situation. In the eye of the colonized, all Europeans in the colonies are de facto colonizers, and whether they want to be or not, they are colonizers in the same ways. By belong into the political system of oppression, or by participating in an effectively negative complex toward the colonized, they are colonizers" (130).

Duras' work makes a strong discourse about the great European toward Asian people. The French girl as described by Duras has the powerful appearance because her white skin and being special in Vietnam circumstance. The Chinese-Vietnamese man is trembling because he realizes that he approaches a French girl who has higher level status as the colonizer. The French girl has absolute pride which always be the greatest one. Automatically the French pride is constructed in every French character in *The Lover*. French people will always judge as the beautiful, smart, elite, priceless, important, educated and fancy people.

3.3. The Reflection of French Powerful Authority over Vietnamese in *The Lover*

From the time setting although politically, the power of French almost faded in Vietnam (around 1930s), the French family still regarded as the superior race in the colony. The existence of French in the colony still influences the prestige of a community, for example to the main character's school. As the quotation below:

"I'll do it again. My mother will be informed. She'll come and see the head of boarding school and ask her to let me do as I like in the evenings, not to check the time I come in, not to force me to go out with the other girls on Sunday excursions. She says, she's a child who's always been free, otherwise she'd run away, even I, her own mother, can't do anything about it, if I want to keep her I have to let her be free. The head agrees because I'm white and the place needs a few whites among all the half-castes for the sake of its reputation." (75-76).

The quotation above also shows the French authority as the superior race when her mother order the headmaster to let the main character do as she wishes accepted by the headmaster just because she is French. The mother as an ordinary(financially poor) French get her power to set the school rules over because the principal is a Vietnamese and it takes for granted that Vietnamese automatically believe that French are supposed to be better than them. The principal is a person who believes the French students in her school would be upgrading for the school reputation. A poor French mother could interfere the school rules since her identity as French. It creates a special rule for the French girl because the Vietnam school

principal needs French student. The mother's order not to force her daughter to do the ordinary activity such as Sunday excursion with the other girls emphasize that her daughter is a special. It is because her daughter is French who goes to native school for which almost filled with Vietnamese students.

Despite the mother has just a little care toward her daughter, she prefer to blame the school's rule toward her daughter. The French students existence in native school would help the school to upgrade its status. The mother as the French could authorize the native school because her privilege as the French. The main character gets the higher position and can help the native school for upgrading the reputation in the colony. The quotation shows how the orient believes that French much better than the Vietnamese as the native ones.

Living in colony, Duras describes that the main character gets her privilege in this circumstance. It is automatically for all people there both French and Vietnam to put the French in the primary position. As describing in her ordinary day in this novel, where white people are more special than yellow people in public facilities could be seen in next quotation; "As usual the driver had me sit near him in front, in the section reserved for white passengers" (13). The colony has willingness to put the white people to sit in front, different with the yellow skin. There is no statement in this novel, why the white passengers automatically sit in front. In this quotation, the racial inequality between colony and colonizer clearly stated. The French and Vietnamese realizes that they are different each other and must be treated differently too. To put the French people in the front section seat shows that French people have higher position than native people. The seat position also describes the

submissiveness of Vietnamese people because they are not disturbed by this treatment. The only possible reason in this phenomenon is just because French are the part of European and superior than them. The colonial discourse already constructed in society.

As seen in the novel the position of French people in Vietnam considered as the most important thing politically and culturally. There is no objection from Vietnamese in French treatment for themselves. In interaction with French people, Vietnamese politically believes that French is fancy in many aspects. Even though the French girl is poor, she has a full authority in treating the rich Chinese-Vietnamese man. She is described by Duras as a French girl who is able to control the Chinese-Vietnamese man because she thinks they are not in the same level. The Chinese-Vietnamese man also realizes his position as inferior race. They are agreed that the relationship is disgraceful because they are not in the same position. The French family poverty never be a problem to have authority over the Vietnamese people. The French characters in this novel described as the powerful French who has full authority in facing the Vietnamese people and treat them as she likes. The treatment toward the Vietnamese of course is not something polite. Her white privilege helps her to be someone who has big confidence although she is a very poor person.

The colonizer has to prevent their original authority by denying and disregarding the colonized people. In this novel, Duras tells the reader how easy to dehumanize the Chinese-Vietnamese. By doing so, the position of French poor girl in front of Chinese-Vietnamese man is still powerful. The Chinese-Vietnamese man can not avoid disregarding himself in facing French family and let his superior wealth

disappear when he interact with the French family. The French family treat the Chinese-Vietnamese badly.

According to Edward Said, the relationship between the western and oriental countries is the relationship of dominance and power. The French girl in her poor condition is able to dominate the Chinese-Vietnamese man and disregard the Chinese-Vietnamese wealthy status. Duras emphasizes her orientalist ideas in *The Lover*. As stated in next quotation in her work, "I'm used to people looking at me. People do look at white women in the colonies; and at twelve-year-old white girls (21)". The quotation implies that living in the Vietnam for French girl shows the layer in the society. Duras describes the French girl as the symbol of beautiful race.

3.4. The Racial Prejudice as the Impact of French Colonialism in Vietnam As Seen in *The Lover*

The orient automatically judged as weak race in front of French as its colonizer. This novel was written about some judgment of oriental(Vietnam) inferiority in the French colony circumstance. As the colony of French, Vietnam gets the impact of colonialism by French. Believing the French is superior race and Vietnam as the colony is inferior than French. The main character as the French has a love affair with adult Chinese-Vietnamese man in the colony. Even the Chinese-Vietnamese man is a rich adult guy and loves her, she still stands with the white people privilege in front of the guy. No matter how poor she is, but she has the dignity as French in the colony. The French girl believes that the man feels ashamed because they are not from equal race or background. She interprets the man's

nervousness' as a shame to be an orient. She's sure that the man understands that they are in different level in race caste. Even she knows that the man is rich and has better financial status, the French girl still feels she's better than him. The French girl knows from the first time that she meets a rich non-white man in the ferry as next quotation, "Inside the limousine there's a very elegant man looking at me. He's not a white man. He's wearing European clothes- the light tussore suit of the Saigon bankers" (21).

Duras describes the rich Chinese-Vietnamese man as very classy man at that time to emphasize her orientalist idea. Even though the Chinese- Vietnamese man is socially rich and high class, he is still an orient. Contrast with the French girl who lives poor, the Chinese-Vietnamese still has no equal position with the French girl, the Chinese-Vietnamese still a lower one. Duras as the French author release her view about the French dignity in this novel, so the racial problem is a main issue in this research. The quotation above is also picturing the French power impact in Vietnam. The wealthy non-white people will do the European appearance. It means the wealthy people in the upper class society use the European standard to be judged as the fancy people. It also means that the French emperor successfully influence the upper class of Vietnamese to believes that non-white people will have dignity and pride if they behave like European people. To behave and appear like the European people will bring some prestige in non-white people. The status of Chinese-Vietnamese as the fancy person could be known because he shows a polite attitude.

However, the Chinese-Vietnamese man gets racial discrimination from the French family in a live meeting. No one of her family wants to say something when

the Chinese man invites the family into a restaurant. They feel unequal to the Chinese-Vietnamese man, even they are in lower position in financial level. The next quotation gives the description of racial discrimination.

“My brothers never will say a word to him, it’s as if he was invisible to them, as if for them he weren’t solid enough to be perceived, seen or heard. this is because he adores me, but it’s taken for granted I don’t love him, that I’m with him for the money, that I can’t love him, it’s impossible, that he could take any sort of treatment from me and still go on loving me. This is because he’s a Chinese, because he’s not a white man. the way my elder brother treats my lover, not speaking to him, ignoring him, stems from such absolute conviction it acts as a model. We all treat my lover as he does” (55).

The last sentences of the quotation shows that the Chinese-Vietnamese man is appropriate to accept dehumanize treatments from the French family. They think there is nothing wrong with that treatment since he is a Chinese-Vietnamese man. From the quotation above, it is clearly described the French family disgraceful treatments toward the Chinese man. Although the Chinese-Vietnamese man is treated like that, he does nothing or feeling insulted in front of French family. This is because he realizes that his status as the son of colonized country. Even the Chinese man pays for the dinner and a lover for the daughter of its family, the French serve him badly. The French pretend they are not gathering with the only Chinese in the same table. Even the Chinese man is socially, morally, and financially higher than the French. Duras describe this part to show how great French racially. The quotation also shows

the French dominance to the Vietnamese. It is common in *The Lover* that people are judged by their racial background. The French family pretend they are not gathering with the rich Chinese-Vietnamese. They are not doing thankful behaviour in that condition. They are easy in dehumanizing the Chinese-Vietnamese man because his background as non-white person. As the rich Chinese-Vietnamese in Vietnam, he has certain privileges that come from his class, however he still can not get the good impression from the French family. The Chinese-Vietnamese has the inferiority complex. Both French and Vietnamese believes that French would never be the weak race and the Vietnamese must stay in the lower position.

The lover is a novel written by French woman author that describe the racial judgment in French colony. Being a white girl in the colony make the life of French girl little bit arrogance. For the beginning of the story, the main character describes her disappointment toward her family. She has no passion for life. On the Ferry in the journey to her school, a Chinese-Vietnamese man approaches her. She knows that the man coming to her because she is a white girl. "I'm used to people looking at me. People do look at white women in the colonies; and at twelve-year-old white girls"(21). Through the point of view of the main character, Duras assumes that race as the identity in colony is very important. It is described by the prejudice of the white girl on the first time she met the Chinese man. Duras describes the French girl in the beginning of the story; she writes the appearance of the French girl is something different. The way Duras describe the French girl in the Vietnam society is to show the power and the dominance of French as European representative toward the oriental society. Even the French girl financially is a poor girl, her relationship

with other Vietnamese can not change the binary opposition which already created in their interaction in that society. Being French girl in the society keep her status as the beautiful one, the master, and the smart. From the beginning of the story, Duras work implies that the position of French people is so important. French girl until her late aged is someone that never lost her charms and always adored by the Chinese-Vietnamese man. Duras believes that the position of white people as the colonizer in Vietnamese systematically and racially always have the moral authority of this race. The description of French as the European country in this novel are never lost the dignity.

This novel, entirely describes by the French author point of view. It is told by the statements of the main character in her mind. The French girl since the first time already despises the Chinese-Vietnamese man because he is not a white man. She knows that they can not be together. They hide it, because they know that gathering with different race in the colony is a taboo at that time. It is described in the main character and her lover when they think about the main character's mother as in this quotation

"I say I'm thinking about my mother, she'll kill me if she finds out the truth. I see he's making an effort, then he says it, says he understands what my mother means, this dishonour, he says. He says he himself couldn't bear the thought if it were a question of marriage. I look at him, he looks back, apologizes, proudly. He says: I'm Chinese." (48).

The Chinese is not upset with his race as a Chinese, they both know it is impossible to force a love affair between two different races. The concept of superior and inferior race already stated in colony society at that time. It is not just about the French, but also the Chinese-Vietnamese. The French people have their privilege and the Vietnamese never have equal position with French.

As the impact of their relationship, the French girl suddenly gets a big trouble with their relationship. Her mother knows their inter relationship with the Chinese man.

“There’s a sudden terror in my mother’s life. Her daughter’s in the direst danger, the danger of never getting married, never having a place in society, of being defenseless against it, lost, alone. my mother has attacks during which she falls upon me, locks me in my room, punches me, slaps me, undress me, comes up to me and smells my body, my underwear, says she can smell the Chinese’s scent, goes even further, looks for suspect stains on my underwear, and shouts, for the whole town to hear, that her daughter’s a prostitute, she’s going to throw her out, she wishes she’d die, no one will have anything to do with her, she’s disgraced, worse than a bitch.” (62-63)

Making a relationship with the orient from the colonizer side is something embarrassing. The mother as the French feels disgusting when she knows that her daughter make a relationship with the Chinese-Vietnamese man, as the lower class. The main character’s mother is totally abhorrent to her daughter because she has a close relationship with the Chinese. The girl considers her problem is not easy for

both side. She pretends she has no relationship with the man. "I lie. I swear by my own life that nothing has happened to me, nothing, not even a kiss. How could I, I say, with a Chinese, so ugly, such a weakling?" (63). even she has a relationship with the man, the racial prejudice still be the complicated problem in her relationship. Duras shows the binary opposition between French and Vietnam by telling the main character's thought about the difference between the couple. The afraid of being disgraceful because the main character as pure French already did something worst by making this kind relationship and hide it from people. Duras shows some binary opposition between the French girl and Chinese- Vietnamese man such as strong/ weak, beautiful/ ugly, graceful/ disgraceful and the French girl has a big authority after all. The French girl has a power in order to adore herself and despise the Chinese- Vietnamese.

The relationship between two different races is a taboo at that time. Not only the French as the superior race (colonizer), but also for the Vietnam as the colony. There is no other reason for their terrible relationship except racial differentiation. Socially, the French girl is inferior to Chinese-Vietnamese man, but racially she far better than the Chinese-Vietnamese man. The Chinese wealthy can not make the main character's mother change her mind. The mother always despise in the lowest position of Chinese man existence. The father of Chinese- Vietnamese man also upset with their relationship. It is stated in a quotation "They say it's a Chinese, the son of the millionaire, the villa in Mekong with the blue tiles. And even he. Instead of thinking himself honored, doesn't want her for his son. A family of white layabouts."(94). The Chinese family also does not want her as his son's lover.

Marrying a non-Chinese girl for a Chinese-Vietnamese son, will be dishonouring their ancestor. The Chinese-Vietnamese man's father also considered the French girl status. The racial background of Chinese-Vietnamese man makes him marry the native servant from Sadect. The Father arranges a marriage of his son with a pure Asian girl who has a lower class status. It is much better than makes relationship with white girl. The cultural tradition makes the Chinese-Vietnamese man does his father will and to keep believes that heaven and the northern ancestor expect this decision.

Actually, Duras describes the French girl feeling toward the Chinese-Vietnamese. The French girl loves the Chinese-Vietnamese because of his money, and the love of Chinese Vietnamese man to the French girl is pure love. However the love of Chinese-Vietnamese implied the possession of white girl who has superior image. I think, the Chinese-Vietnamese man loves the French girl because the racial background. The French always look beautiful and graceful. Later in the climax of the story, their families want them to end their relationship. They are grieved for their relationship. No one admit their relationship because they have different background as colonizer and the colonized people. Their families commit with their decision to not let them together. The French girl desperate with their condition as seen in the quotation, "She'd wept without letting anyone see her tears, because he was Chinese and one oughtn't to weep for that kind of lover." (117). She admits their love and realizes that it is a dishonoured relationship; she considers that it is impossible to against society at that time for their love.

This is a tragic different interracial love story as the impact of colonialism. Their love affair finally is over; the man obeys his father to marry a Chinese girl. It is explained in the quotation,

“She doesn’t know how long it was after the white girl left that he obeyed his father’s orders, married as he was told to do the girl the families had chosen ten years ago, a girl dripping, like the rest, with gold, diamonds, jade. She too was a Chinese from the north, from the city of fushun, and had come there with relations.” (121).

The son of Chinese must obey the order of his father and continue the Chinese heritage, of course by marrying a Chinese girl. The racial differentiation implies in the French girl statement in this quotation, “through a lie he must have found himself inside the other woman, through a lie providing what their families, heaven and the northern ancestors expected of him, to wit an heir to their name.” (122). The Chinese-Vietnamese man as the orient should follow his tradition by marrying a Chinese girl so, their tradition keep exist and avoid the subordination by colonizer. The marriage of this Chinese-Vietnamese couple is actually to emphasize Duras’s orientalist idea, the French and Vietnamese has big different and not equal. The Chinese couple marriage is the appropriate and ideal relationship because French character would never make impolite and insult act by having relationship with the Chinese-Vietnamese.

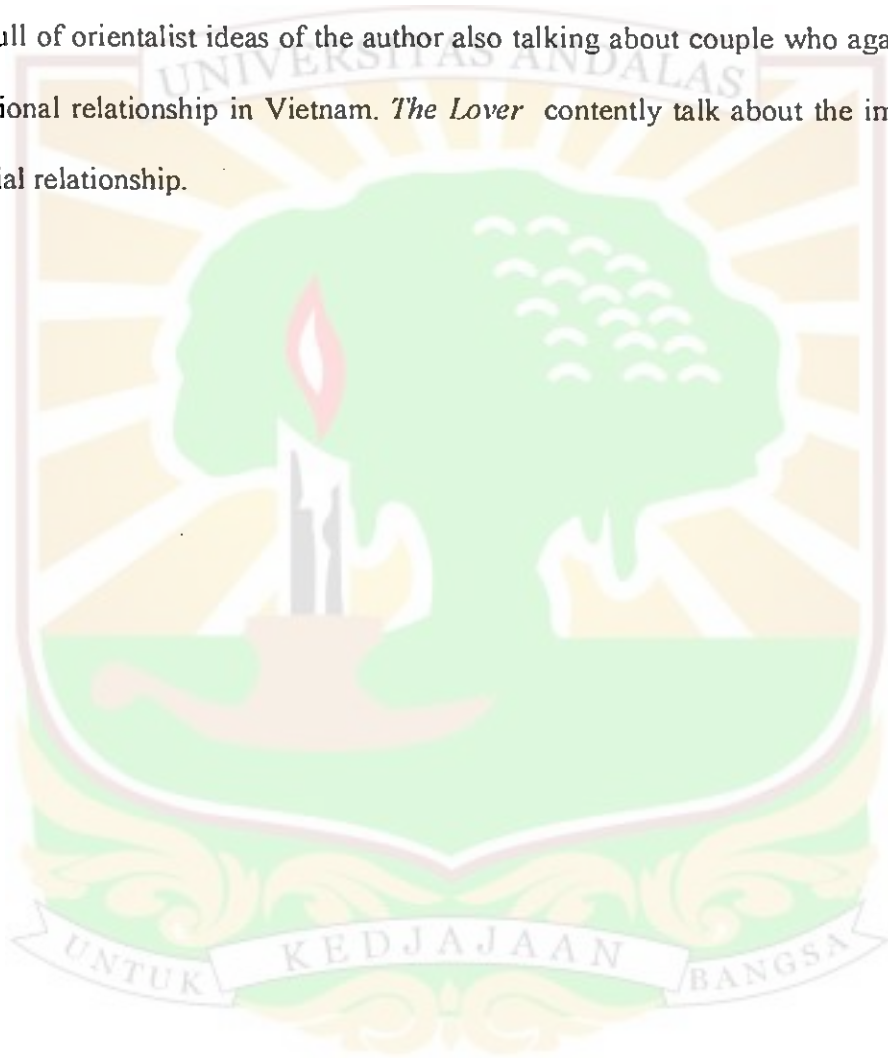
There is an important point lies in this novel. The impact of colonialism by France emperor makes the bad impact in social interaction in Vietnam. The French people are allowed to dehumanize Vietnamese. The French people treatment toward

the Vietnamese people in their land resulting strong colonial discourse for both countries. The Vietnamese is in the position to admit their weakness and submissiveness. Both Vietnamese and French people would view the Chinese Vietnamese man in *The Lover* as culturally and politically inferior. The French characters in *The Lover* treat all Asian as the same, because there is little distinction on the racial level.

The Chinese-Vietnamese attracted by the French girl possibly to fulfil his desire and the possession of superior race lover. Since the French girl is a material girl, she takes the advantages from the wealth Chinese-Vietnamese man. The treatment of French girl toward her lover can not be something polite. She briefly said to her lover that they can not be together because his inferior complex and the racial background, their position absolutely different racially.

Since *The Lover* is a kind of semi-autobiographical work of Marguerite Duras, it means Marguerite Duras is an orientalist author. Her work could be qualified as colonial literature which talks about the weakness of orient people and the superior image of western. Marguerite Duras writes this work based on her thought about racial different. That the social status in society can not make binary opposition between colonizer and colonized people changed. The French will always get the their privilege because they are white and better than Asian, whether the Vietnamese no matter socially and financially better than French would never get the equal position when they are interact with the French. It is described in *The Lover* that French identical with the fancy and educated life; they should cover the weakness to keep the French dignity in society. However, Vietnamese people never show any

objection with the weakness of French. It is because they are talking about the great French. Vietnamese as the colonized people believe that French is better than them. This discourse passes through generation. The European successfully constructs the mindset of Vietnamese as colonized country. *The Lover* is an international best seller which full of orientalist ideas of the author also talking about couple who against the conventional relationship in Vietnam. *The Lover* contently talk about the impact of interracial relationship.



CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

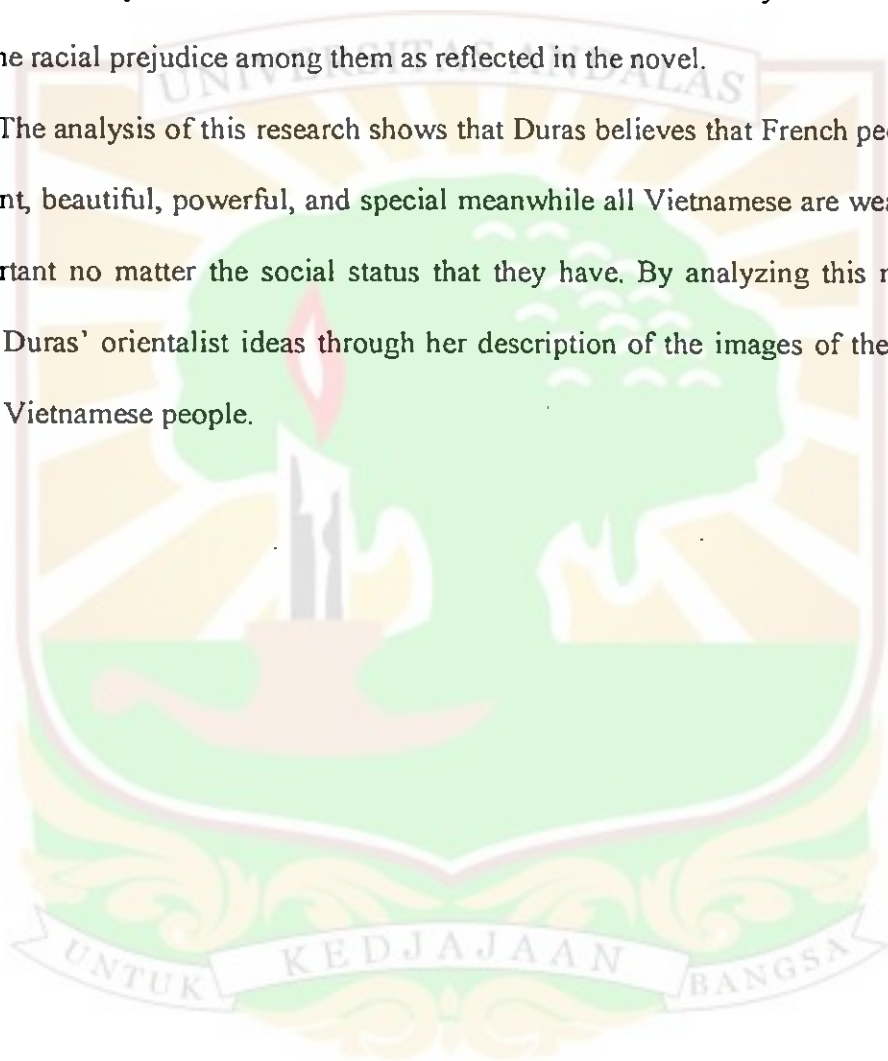
There are many European authors convey the colonial ideology through their works. *The lover* which qualified as the colonial literature contains the orientalism ideas of its author, Marguerite Duras. The story is about a young French girl and the average Chinese-Vietnamese man in Vietnam-IndoChina. Marguerite Duras is a pure French author who lives in Vietnam in her young age. The place where she grown up influences her thought in writing *The Lover*. Duras describe the story as the reflection of her actual life.

Marguerite Duras is an orientalist. She writes *The Lover* full of superior images of French people and the position of Vietnamese people in Vietnam. Marguerite Duras describes that to keep the position of great colonizer; the French people must treat the Vietnamese people badly. Duras writes that there is no French people in her story get the ordinary treatment, they all are special. Everyone in the story divided into two kinds of race, French and Vietnamese. The special treatment only for French people.

The Lover by marguerite Duras is a romantic novel about a couple that has different cultural background. The content of the novel as the impact of colonialism in Vietnam by French. The French as the superior race always subordinate the orient and despise the colony. *The lover* also describes how the colony (orient) put themselves in lower position in their land. White skins always get the primary position in society. The novel shows some important points such as Marguerite Duras' orientalist ideas; the content of this novel reflects Marguerite Duras' feeling

and thought as French toward the Vietnamese people. This novel also shows the French absolute pride in Vietnam. French as the ex-colonizer country in Vietnam has a strong authority over the Vietnamese people. The novel is a reflection of French powerful authority over Vietnamese. The French have full authority in Vietnam and create the racial prejudice among them as reflected in the novel.

The analysis of this research shows that Duras believes that French people are important, beautiful, powerful, and special meanwhile all Vietnamese are weak, low, unimportant no matter the social status that they have. By analyzing this novel, it reveals Duras' orientalist ideas through her description of the images of the French and the Vietnamese people.



Bibliography

- Abrams, M.H. A Glossary of Literary Terms. 4th ed. Hong Kong: HRW International Editions, 1987.
- Ashcroft, Bill. Gareth Griffiths. And Hellen Tiffin. Post-colonial Studies Readers. 2nd ed. London and New York: Routledge. 2006
- Burlette, Julia Alayne Grenier. French Influence Overseas: The Rise and Fall of Colonial Indochina. Louisiana: Northwestern State University. 2007
- Cowley, Robert and Geoffrey Parker. The Reader's Companion to Military History. New York: Houghton Mifflin company. 1996
- Card, Orson Scott. Characters and Viewpoint. Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, an imprint of F&W Publications, Inc. 1999
- Dibell, Ansen. Plot. Ohio: F&W Publications, Inc. 1998
- Duras, Marguerite. The Lover. Great Britain. Flaminggo. 1986
- Efrizal. The Portrait of British Cultural Invasion Toward'Other'in Defoe's Robinson Crusoe:Postcolonial Reading. Padang: Universitas Andalas. 2009
- Gandhi, Leela. Postcolonial Theory A Critical Introduction. Australia: Allen & Unwin. 1998
- Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003.
- Habib, M.A.R. A History of Literary Criticism: From Plato to the Present. Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

How Does The Form Which an Autobiography Takes Affect The Way Self is Understood.

Accessed on internet 17 May 2011

<<http://www.urgenttempapers.com/Autobiography.html>>

Laure, Adri. Marguerite Duras: A Life. London: Orion Books ltd. 1998

McMahan, E .et al. The Elements of Writing about Literature and Film. New York: Macmillan. Publishing, 1988

Medcalf, Anne-Marie Cattan Blurring the Boundaries? The Sense of Time and Place in Marguerite Duras' L'Amant. Accessed on 10 June 2010

< <http://www.mcc.murdoch.edu.au/ReadingRoom/litserv/SPAN/36/Medcalf.html>)

Memmi, Albert. The colonizer and the Colonized. London: Orion Press inc. 2003

Mikics, David. A New Handbook Of Literary Terms. New haven & London. Yale university press. 2007

Moore, Bart. Gilbert. Postcolonial Theory Contexts, Practices, Politics. London. Verso 1997

Percia, Veronica. To Paint Like a Child Association of Young Journalists And Writers Universal Journal. Accessed on 10 June 2010 < <http://www.ayjw.org/articles.php?id=653813>>

Ratna, Nyoman Kutha. Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar. 2009

Said, Edward. Orientalism. England: Penguin Book. 1977

Stier, Eliot. Dehumanization. Accessed on 2 June 2011 < <http://eliotstier.com/dehumanization/>>

Warf, Barney. Encyclopedia Of Geography Human. US: Florida State University SAGE Publications, Inc. 2006