

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

So far, a chance to express one culture always refers to the majority's culture, the mainstream, while the minority's culture is still hidden. In defining the minority and the majority, the society always meets the East-West notion. The East represents the minority-also called the Other or the Orient-and the West represents the superior. The West has the power to govern the non-superior and limit their actions. On the contrary, the minorities keep trying to reach their rights; they no longer follow the constructed position. It is a time when they perform their own vision instead of living under the superior's vision.

Correlation between West and East becomes an important thing to discuss in the *Orientalism* theory. *Orientalism* is a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient (Said 88). The styles for dominating are the perspective views in which those perspectives are defined by the West solely without confirming first to the East, and where the way of approach is defined by the West itself without confirming first to the East. It means that the West people consider East people less intellectual than the West, and consequently the West people consider themselves more superior, such as a hero, for East people. The meaning of hero is to save East people from themselves. Its purpose is to produce positive image of the West (the Occident) in

contrast with the negative image of the East, the Orient (Tyson 367). Although Edward Said mainly concentrates on European Orientalism focusing on the Arab Middle East, this approach to Orientalist is also applicable to other parts of the non-Western world. Various scholars have already been influenced by Said and they have expanded their approach to China. In *Orientalism*, Said expresses the hope that additional studies of other aspects of the phenomenon would follow his own, and indeed cultural critics and theorists have taken up Orientalism as an intriguing and compelling paradigm for the representation of race, ethnicity, and gender in the media and particularly in movie (Bernstein 4).

Actually, representation is also discussed in *Orientalism*. *Representation* itself is the production of the meaning of the concepts in our minds through language (Hall 17). Representation in the *Tomb Raider* movie covers technology, human resources, and geography. One representative is the geographic location of the *Triangle of Light*. The *Triangle of Light* is divided into two. In the movie the first *Triangle* is located in Cambodia which is a representation of the Orient, and the second *Triangle* is located in Russia which is a representation of the Occident. Said says that “the relationship between Occident and Orient is a relationship of power, of domination, of varying degrees of a complex hegemony”(Said 5).

In the movie, the differences between Orient and Occident are compared, as Stuart says in *Representation*, that “Difference has been marked”. How it is then interpreted is a constant and recurring preoccupation in the representation...” (230). The writer will also try to analyze Orientalist construction in this movie by

a formal style that consists of two aspects; the *Narrative and the Non-Narrative* aspect.

The writer chooses the *Lara Croft The Tomb Raider* (2001) movie in order to discuss the *Orientalism*. *Tomb Raider* is a movie adapted from the Tomb Raider video game series. Directed by Simon West and starred by Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft, it was released in the U.S. theaters on 15 June 2001. This movie is about the adventure to find the *Triangle of Light* in Cambodian and Siberia. *Triangle* is one of the fundamental figures used in Euclidean geometry. There are three elements required to make a *Triangle*. There is a three-sided, and a plane or two-dimensional figure, in which the sum of the interior angles equals exactly 180 degrees. (Online).

Lara croft must fight with the *Illuminati Society* to get them. The *Illuminati* people translated as the people of the light refer to several groups and to prevailed conspiracy theories about some of these groups, importance or continuous influence in the modern world. The magic of the *Triangle* can cross of time and space. But she must destroy that *Triangle* because it will be dangerous for the world if the bad (*Illuminati Society*) people have it. This movie can be considered as an action hero movie or a generally Hollywood super hero because in that movie, the West (Lara) must save the world and destroy the *Triangle* from bad people. (Online)

The writer wants to closely see the movie through *Narrative* form. As Bordwell and Thompson said in *Film Art: An Introduction*, the prevalence of stories in our lives is one reason that we need to take a close look at how films

may embody narrative forms (Bordwell and Thompson 5). Narratives including the characters and setting that are told and claimed to us in some way represent the world. Concerning this, the writer needs to consider the fundamental nature of narratives, or stories, and the roles which are within human society.

The writer will analyze the plot and the story of the movie and also analyze about the dialogues to understand *Orientalism*. Dialogues can be used as binary opposition between East and West, so the writer can know *Orientalism* constructions in Lara Croft movie. Binary opposition, as Hall suggests in his book, also opens to the charge of being reductionist and over-simplified-swallowing up all distinctions in their rather rigid two-part structure (235). The two-part structure discusses the dominant one in the movie and the difference which is constructed in the dialogues.

Bordwell in his book explains that Non-Narrative is another type of film forms that is also important in the film analysis (89). In the different book, Mityr also states that Non-Narrative form explains how the film is constructed for and creates a viewing subject by camera movement, lighting, editing, and all the available techniques of film making (35). For *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie, the writer will analyze lighting with the character of Orient and Occident to see *Orientalism*.

In the analysis, the writer will discuss the representation between Orient and Occident and also between Narrative and Non-Narrative forms to closely see *Orientalism*. Based on the explanation above, the writer considers that it is

interesting to analyze *Tomb Raider: Lara Croft* concerning the issues of Orientalism as the Western idea to domination over the East.

## **B. Statement of the problems**

Based on the background of the study of Orientalism in *Tomb Raider movie*, two questions can be formulated as the following:

1. What is the representation of Orient and Occident in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie?
2. How are Narrative and Non-Narrative forms of Orient and Occident constructed in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie?

## **C. Objective of the study**

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the representation of Orient and Occident that is represented in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie.
2. To find out Narrative and Non-Narrative forms of Orient and Occident constructions in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that this study can serve a good discussion on the problem mentioned in the statement of the problems. The significance of the study in *Lara croft* movie is to find the *Orientalism* in a popular text. The main point of the study is to portray the domination of the West over the East through popular

media, especially movie. Narrative and Non-Narrative can be used to analyze the plot and story, the time and the cause effect. For Non-Narrative form, there are four types to discuss; categorical, rhetorical, abstract, and associational.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

Scope and limitation of the study are very important because they will prevent the writer from analyzing beyond the object of the study. To support the analysis of this study and to get some useful information, the writer applies the *Orientalism* book written by Edward Said. We can see the West and East represented in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie and such a representation described in the movie. The writer considers that by attempting to analyze the whole issues, the study will probably become unfocused. Therefore, despite those interesting issues, the writer decides to limit the study in the discussion of the colonial discourse, which is the representation of the West and the East. This representation is seen from Orientalism perspective. The limitation on the analysis is expected to gain a deeper analysis.

### **F. Theoretical Background**

The discussion of the literary work can not be separated from the theory. It plays an important role in the writer's explanation of the phenomenon in the object of the study. The relevant theory will be used to answer the prospective problems. Furthermore, it is obvious that related theory as the instrument is needed to answer the problems.

In analyzing this movie the writer applies the postcolonial theory. Peter Barry in his book entitled *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to literary and cultural theory* gives some description on postcolonial criticism. The most appropriate postcolonial theory to support this analysis is Edward Said's perspective about European cultural tradition called "*Orientalism*". Said identifies the European cultural tradition or *Orientalism*, which is to produce, which is a particular and long standing way of identifying the East as "*other*" and inferior to the West (192).

The point of the study is about the representation of the West and the East which is reflected in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*. The writer chooses *Orientalism* to analyze *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* to figure out how the representation of the West and the East seen from the West point of view is shaped as a result of *Orientalism*. The writer will study and focus the analysis on the representation of the West and the East portrayed in the movie from *Orientalism* perspective. Narrative and Non-Narrative forms are also used in that movie to more closely analyze *Orientalism*.

## G. Method of the Study

### 1. Technique of Data Collecting

The technique of data collecting is applied in certain steps; the first step is library research. In analyzing *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* Movie, library research is used to gain adequate information about Orientalism. It is applied by collecting important information from printed materials such as books, dictionaries, and critics. Collecting information from internet is also applied to gain critics, reviews and commentaries toward the movie included printed materials related to the *Orientalism*. Afterwards, the next step is close reading to explore certain data in order to understand the content of the movie and the meaning behind it. The third step is classification. The writer makes the classification of the data to differentiate the kind of the problem and determine the data that can be used in the analysis.

### 2. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis that is applied is descriptive analysis. It is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problem found in the text through the dialogue, events, and actions in the movie. In addition, the writer will use some quotations from a variety of sources to validate and support the analysis.



## **H. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Illuminati: a secret society, that finds “The Triangle of Light”
2. Orientalism: a style of thought based upon ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the Orient" and (most of the time) "the Occident."
3. The West (Occident): the white colored people; the ex-colonized countries in Europe; Europe and America.
4. The East (Orient): the people of color; the ex-colonized countries of Asia and Africa; any part of the world to the East of Europe.
5. Representation: the production of the meaning of the concepts in our minds through language
6. Narrative: dealing with how stories are told
7. Non-Narrative: Explaining how the film is constructed for and create viewing subject by camera movement, lighting, editing, and all the available techniques of film making

## **I. Organization Of The Study**

This study will be divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction which is divided into background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the study. The second chapter is theoretical framework which points out Orientalism as the theory used to support the analysis. The third chapter

is analysis. In the third chapter, the writer analyzes the representation of Orient and Occident portrayed in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* movie and also see about narrative and Non-Narrative form construction. The last chapter is the conclusion of the whole topic discussions. In this chapter the writer considers to give a result of the analysis including suggestion through the topic that has been discussed. The writer also puts quotation to make the analysis more appropriate.