

**Imperialism, Colonialism and Racism in
Joseph Conrad's
Heart of Darkness: A Postcolonial Approach**

**Writer; Roman Mireki
English Department, Basic education college,
Suleimani university**

Abstract

It is not easy to explore the inner side and the hidden of nature of human beings. It is also what is strengthened the relationship between human beings and the issue of imperialism and colonialism and the final stage of colonialism which leads to racism. This paper deals with colonialism, imperialism, and racism in Joseph Conrad's novella, *heart of darkness*.

The three stages colonizers implement during colonizing African countries.

Modern age and modern literature are shed light on in general and more particularly, modern novel is focused on as it is necessary for the analysis of the novel. Then the terms of colonialism, imperialism, and racism are explored in *heart of darkness* as these are interrelated words having close links to colonization. A postcolonial approach is used to analyze the novella. Conrad demonstrates the colonization of the African countries in heart of darkness. He also shows how hard it is to legalize the illegal actions such as torturing the white people in their home countries, but this was easy for the colonizers. It is in such a way that even the white people did not realize it.

keywords: Imperialism, colonialism, Racism, African countries, Heart of Darkness.

Introduction

This study is about "colonialism in Joseph Conrad's *heart of darkness*", it covers the concept of colonialism in the novel "*heart of darkness*". In the modern age, the policy of extending and retaining authority over a broad area of the world was common among greater countries. This was reflected in literature, and great authors brought this idea into their literary works. Joseph Conrad's *heart of darkness* is one of these works and is the concentration of this research.

This study aims to explain how colonialism is questioned in *heart of darkness* and sheds light on the concept of colonialism as given in the novel. The writer's perspective of colonialism is explained in detail through the novel. The study explains how good Conrad was in illustrating the modern age's man and the policy of colonialism, and also the victims of colonialism in his

novel.

As the novel deals with the modern age, and how humans in the modern age encountered the changes in the stages of humanity, though studying this kind of novel is of great use to the reader of the current era. The link between what humanity faced, as mentioned in the novel, and what humanity faces today is quite important to know. This novel is one of the famous novels that is the subject of many literary critics and though of great matter to them, this research paper will include great volumes which covered colonialism in Conrad's heart of darkness.

Modern age

It is important to talk about modern age before getting into modern literature, whether drama, poetry, or novel. That is elaborating on non-literary factors than influenced the construction of modern literature and also the readers and the audience who cared about it and gave it high regard and value. The crucial factor that has a great impact on modern literature, taking T.S Eliot as an example, was the audience's interest in the twentieth century has been in a psychological phenomenon to an extent. Psychology and mental aspects, as a subject of investigation, has been concentrated in the works of Joyce and Proust. Another influential factor was emphasizing anxiety and insecurity, which differs this age from Victorian mood which concentrates on confidence and assurance. On a spiritual level, this era rebelled against the old traditions and this resulted in insecurity. The politics was influenced and led by this rebellion. Modern famous intellectual leaders spread a lot of conversations in the twentieth century. In the twentieth century, some ideologies spread in the world, and in this century, there was much talk about human freedom and human dignity and were put under doubt. Sigmund Freud introduced his determinism, and Carl Marx introduced Marxism. Freud suggested that humans are "determined beforehand by the formation or malformation of the unconscious parts of their minds in childhood." On the other way round, Marx claimed that economic and historical considerations preoccupied human societies and historical organizations (Barzinji 2012).

Modern literature

Modernism has got several descriptions and definitions over the years, but none has proved to be universally unique. It is widely agreed that the term refers to a body of innovative works produced during a period of extraordinary cultural, social, economic, and political chaos. But as soon as we turn to the question of modernists' precise nature as an artistic phenomenon or to the issue of its chronology; its beginning and its end. Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane stated that the argument is not only about the beginning of modernism but it is also about its causes and characters, and eventually about whether it has ended or not. Most critics would be willing to see modernist as an early phenomenon of the twentieth century, which was committed to the renewal of the arts through various kinds of experimentation, and which was under way by the 1890s or early 1900s and was more or less at an end by the late 1930s. (Gasiorek 2015)

But this view of the twentieth century has to be clarified what form its experimentation took, and it has to be acknowledged that its origins lie in the Nineteenth Century and can be traced back via various paths to several important influences. The twentieth century in England would be impossible without the poetry of Charles Baudelaire, Tristan Corbiere, Jules Laforgue, Stephane Mallarme, Arthur Rimbaud, and Paul Verlaine, the fiction of Fyodor Dostoevsky, Gustave Flaubert, Theophile Gautier, Guy de Maupassant, and Ivan Turgenev, the plays of Guillaume Apollinaire, Anton Chekhov, Henrik Ibsen, Alfred Jarry, Maurice Maeterlinck, and August Strindberg, and the philosophical or political writing of such figures as Freud, Kierkegaard, Marx, Nietzsche, and Schopenhauer. The different legacies of nineteenth-century aestheticism, moral decay, expressionism, and symbolism, to name only the most obvious European paths, all fed into modernist as it developed in England in the early 1900s and beyond. (Gasiorek 2015)

Nor is it clear that the twentieth century was finished after the second world war when several writers took their cue from modernists and its influences are still noticeable in the literature of the twenty-first century. (Gasiorek 2015)

The modernist novel, mainly concerned with contemporary life, and, as the name suggests, always after a new thing. But sometime around 1900. To be a modernist meant something more because suddenly modernism meant everything. It seemed to break the world in two, depriving all continuities with the past, putting human character and life itself into a state of continuous change. The novel also had to split to change. And so it became "the modern novel," breaking with the past, making itself new, to pursue modernist into the future. (matz 2004)

The first leading works of the modern novels as first breakthroughs might tell us about a modernist novel. It started with James Joyce's portrait of the artist as a young man (1916). And then the story of how Gertrude Stein came by the strange style of writing that made her infamous. (Matz 2004)

The third is the broken form of Jean Toomer's *Cane* (1923), and fourth is a debate, the debate about the real nature of reality that led Virginia Woolf in her novel to say that human character had changed forever. (Matz 2004)

A portrait of the artist as a young man tells a familiar story as heart of darkness: that of a boy growing too young manhood and finding a vacation. But the way begins is a surprise: "Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tucko". The first words here are quite familiar. The words seem to be derived directly from life itself, without planning or purpose; they let small nonsense talk weaken the language of literature; they make a joke of storytelling customs, and they push us directly into an unfamiliar world, without any kind of preparation that is scene-setting and introductory explanations, might normally ease us in. (Matz 2004)

Literature review

This novella by Joseph Conrad was first published in 1902 with the story "Youth" and thereafter published separately. The story reflects the physical and psychological shock Conrad himself experienced in 1890 when he worked briefly in the Belgian Congo. (Conrad 25).

Conrad's powerful writing is unique in its style and syntax. He is deliberate in telling of Marlow's journey, his slow descent from England to the continent to the mouth of the Congo, and finally to the Inner Station some eight months later. (Clarke 2017).

[Conrad's] books are full of visionary moments. They reflect a whole character in a flash the beauty of surface has always a fiber of morality within he could not write badly, one feels, to save his life. (68)

Conrad is undoubtedly one of the great stylists of modern fiction and a good storyteller as expected. His works are classified as permanent literature, that means they are read and taught and constantly evaluated by serious academics. (Clarke 2017)

Conrad brings into the English fiction of the day, not only the artistry that is vastly more fluent and delicate than the general but also a highly unusual sophistication, a quite extraordinary detachment from all petty rages and puerile certainties. (Clarke 2017)

Joseph Conrad was one of the famous novelists in the history of English literature.

His famous novel "Heart of Darkness" (1902) is the exploration of complex human nature as well as the relevant matter of colonialism. (Murfin 20)

Conrad's novel is an interesting specimen in literature, it is more of a transitional book that has a foot in the Victorian era but also has a foot in modern literature. The book is about one man's journey into madness while he travels to the Congo. (Murfin 21)

Many commentators have seen Conrad's representation of the "dark" continent and its people as very much a part of a racist tradition that has existed in Western literature for centuries. Most notably, Chinua Achebe accused Conrad of racism because he refused to see the black man as an individual in his own right, and because of his use of Africa as a setting - representative of

darkness and evil. (Murfin 22)

Heart of Darkness follows the stories of an experienced captain Marlow and a former officer Kurtz. Kurtz's character is symbolic of greed and commercialism, power, and the influence of barbarism on the civilized world. Marlow, on the other hand, symbolizes thirst for knowledge, and a spirit of adventure. (Murfin 22)

Heart of Darkness narrates the story of a sailor named Marlow, who one day decides to join a naval company that takes him from London to Africa. There he discovers how exotic the African continent is. The narrator refers to it as 'the darkness' – the obscure, the indefinable. (Murfin 23).

Joseph Conrad explores the nature of colonialism in his work "Heart of Darkness". He sarcastically shows the terror of colonialism. To accomplish this, he uses numerous emblematic characters. The main one is Kurtz, indistinguishable, and indefinable person, who is being described by Conrad as representative of all Europe (Conrad 127).

One critic called the novella a destructive experience and mentions that people must not suppose that Conrad's novella is against colonization, expansion, or Imperialism. It is above all an adventure experience, where the ending featuring the woman who idealizes Kurtz's memory acts as a way of signifying just how far the reader has travelled (Clarke 2017).

Another critic commented on Kurtz's intended and her belief in the villain's heroism (Clarke 2017).

In another review, the critic commented on the fact that Conrad has moved past the two classes in fiction. Heart of Darkness does more than just deal with movement and adventure or offer a characterization of the human mind. Conrad has both motives, adventure, and a philosophic presentation, of the human character (Clarke 2017).

According to one critic, the novella cannot be understood with one eye closed and Conrad demands the full attention of his readers (Clarke 2017).

Several critics found the prose beautiful and the novella atmospheric but one critic thought the narrative was unconvincing and felt that it too often lost its spontaneity and became too rhetorical (Clarke 2017).

One critic mentions that there is no prejudice in the novella (Clarke 2017).

There is however one early critic that does bring up the race aspect. Edward Garnett ends his review by stating that Conrad's heart of darkness offers an “analysis of the deterioration of the white man's morale when he is let loose from European restraint, and to make trade profits out of the subject races” (Murfin 99). Joseph Conrad was a thoroughgoing racist. That this simple truth is glossed over in criticisms of his work is since white racism against Africa is such a normal way of thinking that its manifestations go completely unremarked (Achebe 2006).

Colonialism

Talking about Colonial morality relates to taking savage Africans out of the darkness.

Lois Tyson thinks that the colonialist ideology came from the assumption by the colonizer that they were superior, on the other hand, they regarded the native people who were the inhabitant of the land they invaded as inferiors (2006).

Conrad expressed his idea in heart of darkness through Marlow , who wants to conceal the immoral actions of the white people in Africa: colonizers see that they are the ones to set examples for black people, as they see colonized ones as other, different and inferiors to the point of regarding less than fully human. (Tyson 2006).

The end of the novel reveals the dark side of Europe, that's dividing the world into two different parts the civilized ones "us" and the savage ones "them". The elaboration enhances the idea that Europeans are more civilized and enlightened to a great extent of intelligence and ability than the African. (Brannigan 1998).

heart of darkness relates Marlow 's story as he traveled to Congo and relates what he sees in his journey to reach Kurtz. Marlow works for a company that gathers and transacts ivory and deals with it. Muffin says that the morality of the Europeans gets worst when they are not abiding by European restrictions: "analysis of the deterioration of the Whiteman's morale" when he is free from European restraint, and to make trade interests from subject

racism (Muffin 99).

After reaching Africa, Marlow feels the place that's Africa shores are saddening and dark: while going to Kurtz and the company's station, he saw isolated and abandoned native people. He notices black people working in the jungle. He never names black people humans. In heart of darkness, the place where Europe and Africa meet is displaying the meaninglessness of the morality of colonialism as stated by Marlow. What Kurtz and Marlow talk about is imperial mastery, the enslavement of Africans and that white European took over black Africans and their wealth, their ivory, that's they think it is civilization over primitive dark continent (29). It is not only Marlow describing the natives in animalistic terms but also other characters do the same (Ali 2017).

Africa is shown as the fictional projection of European imaginations in which Europe is the only truth (Brannigan 1998). Conrad, in this novel, shows the reality behind this truth. The novel condemns the evil of colonial exploitation. A point that made the novel different from other Victorian novels, is that heart of darkness sheds light on the truth of colonialism and colonial morality imposed by England on Africa. The issue of the morality of European exploration is discussed in the novel. Through his novel and specifically its main character Conrad explores the brutal activities of white people. Booker states that Conrad through his character Marlow openly criticizes much of the European activities that he notices in Africa, specifically the brutal treatment of many of the African's by the European masters (Booker 219).

Chinua Achebe thinks that heart of darkness shows the image of Africa as being the other world, that is contrasting Europe and so of civilization (338).

This idea derives from the assumption that Conrad and Marlow are the same. Conrad in his real-life traveled to Congo too, and there saw slave trade and ivory trade. heart of darkness relates the story of ivory trade and slavery. Marlow illustrates a terrible picture of Congo. He shows the morality of how Imperialists exploit native people rather than enlightening them. The colonists wanted to practice their morality in the invaded and colonized countries but they failed to implement their morality that they

come with. (Ali 2017)

At the beginning of the novel, *Heart of Darkness*, there is a talk about darkness and gloom literally and consequently symbolically by the first and second narrator. Both want to be torchbearers of light to that darkness and saviors. Marlow who is an English seaman knows that England's achievements and civilization started by men who are dead long ago, and now he and his contemporaries relax under their achievements. What Marlow sees on the English coast of darkness reminds him of the darkness of moral vacancy. Marlow does not think that the morality of the Whiteman in Africa is simply the darkness ignorance of natives but far beyond is the darkness of the European colonizers who claim to be enlightening the natives but they blinded themselves and corrupted the natives. Marlow comes up with the comparison between the English and the romans in the exploitation of the colonized ones, as the white man exploits the black, long ago, English people, were exploited by romans. Although once the current English exploiter was also exploited, they justified their exploitation and colonization by regarding themselves the civiliziers of the black. If the reality is observed, it is quite different from what they justified. They did not justice with their morality, and they did not civilize nor change the social structure of the Africans according to their European standards (Ali 2017).

Marlow was sent to Africa by his aunt and called an "emissary of light". Africa was regarded as uncivilized, primitive, savage, uneducated, barbaric, and ignorant. So, the purpose behind Marlow 's attendance in Africa was to enlighten the black, and this becomes a typical justification of colonialism. "Wearing those ignorant millions from their horrid ways" (Conrad 30).

Kurtz goes to Africa long before Marlow , and also for the same reason of civilizing the natives, but he forgets his real mission when he gets there, and he behaves like any other European exploiters. He suggests the international society that the savage customs to be suppressed "exterminate all the bursts". The reality of Whiteman's morality is this; Marlow describes the black men as they were dying slowly, and they were nothing but black shadows of disease and starvation, yet they were not enemies nor

criminals. They were in a gloomy place, surrounded by similar sceneries, fed on unknown food, that makes them sick and inefficient. Then they were permitted to rest after crawling away. (Conrad, p: 44).

This is how Marlow thinks about the black, which means European pretend to put an end to the darkness of ignorance, savageness, starvation, and diseases. Marlow 's and Kurtz through their thought and philosophy defend imperialism and colonization in civilized expressions. For the colonized are like animals and probably to them some animals are more useful than those people of Congo, Congo here stands for all Africa. (Ali 13) Marlow was a friend and admirer of Kurtz who was educated partly in England and partly in other countries. Kurtz was a great conversationalist who could take over the hearts of the natives. Europe made Kurtz a selfish character. When Marlow and Kurtz call the natives non- human, it means that the whole of Europe is calling them such. Kurtz is a symbol of evil with a defected morality, he is worshipped by the natives. heart of darkness is almost a story of devilish possession since Marlow is forced to be convinced that there is a bond between himself and Kurtz. He is the most successful agent of the company, and at first, he was hoped to bring the light of civilization into the darkness of Africa (Ali 13).

As a result, the whole of Europe including Kurtz looted and exploited Africa. They destroyed the natural resources and traditions of Congo people for the sake of getting as much ivory as possible. Kurtz works on behalf of white people's imperialism to apply their ideal values. He sets the rituals that relived the worries of the natives to maintain his position. The ritual is sacrificing a young and vigorous mind to make the worshipped man strong. To the extent that, after Kurtz's frequent illness, the ritual was supposed to strengthen Kurtz. The heads of the victims hang on the poles opposite Kurt's hut. The barbarism and savageness practiced by the colonizers were more savages than of the black people. The exploitation by the colonizers is the worst type because the black are not in war with the colonizers and they are weak. Consequently, the Europeans fail in their mission to behave like civic people, and they only got wealth and

power in their mission (Ali 13).

What is being unveiled in heart of darkness are several possibilities including knowledge of self, of the other, of the unconscious, and violence and oppression of colonialism, and also of corruption of European civilization, and evil in human nature (Wake 48). Marlow 's tale talks about the horrific aspects of colonialism made public aware of that, while previously it was not revealed to them (Bloom 2009). Bloom also argues that Marlow 's weak defense of English colonialism is kind of a desire for the certainty once provided by religion, and also finding hope in colonialism to act humanly in the wilderness (2009).

Lawtoo believes that Conrad portrays both the horrors of colonialism and the constant greed for wealth especially ivory and consequently changing the country into a slaughterhouse for the natives to fulfill their goals (136).

There is a contradiction in the novel regarding the European colonizing mission in Africa; it shows the dehumanizing effects of colonialism on native people. Heart of darkness examines the effects of economic and social exploitation that emerged from colonialism which makes doubts over European civilization, progress, and humanity. So, he was critical of colonialism (Clarke, 16).

Edward thinks that colonialism is mainly about political and economic relationships, some of these relationships may fade after the independence of the state. Here are some excerpts about colonialism in Conrad's novel:

“They grabbed what they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on a great scale, and men going at it blind—as is very proper for those who tackle darkness” (Conrad 9-10).

The quote above shows that there were robbery and atrocities to gain more wealth. Their main goal was to earn more and more with no regard to the atrocities they conduct, “where the merry dance of death and trade goes on in a still and earthy atmosphere as of an overheated catacomb. (Conrad 25)

It tells us how black people were oppressed and treated ruthlessly, and all their energy was taken to the edge of death.

"This devoted band called itself the eldorado exploring expedition

and i believe they were sworn to secrecy." (Conrad 12)

It means that that they took all the treasure from the native people of Africa.

The cruelty mixed with greed was the picture of colonialism in Africa, digging the lands of Africa to take out all the treasure with no moral purpose backing that, they act like burglars when breaking into a safe. (Conrad 60-61).

Apart from gaining wealth and treasure, colonialism was a way to gain a reputation. The novella shows that colonialism is a cruel competition and race for power and domination on the lands of other people despite the causalities and catastrophe that it brings to the native people there. In brief Marlow 's journey to Congo and into the heart of darkness, reveals the true purpose of colonialism and the European capitalist approach. (Conrad 62)

One of the overwhelming themes in heart of darkness is colonialism. The novel tells us that the Europeans wanted to colonize African countries to civilize and educate their people since Africa was dark, but far behind this purpose they went there and darkened the heart of darkness more and more. Conrad shows the terror and horror of colonialism ironically, he wants to retell the story of colonialism through his work, and made Marlow his representative in the novel and Kurtz representing the whole of Europe. (Conrad 5)

One of the aspects that supported European colonialism was religion, the Europeans thought that Africa was dark because they even do not have a religion and so they colonize it to spread the religion and make African people enlightened through introducing them to religion. So, they wanted to change the way of life of people there, in the name of colonialism, They thought that African people have to be taken out from this primitive way into a civilized educated way. (Conrad 6)

Marlow explains that the British colonialism differs from roman colonialism, but we see it has not changed and even gotten worse. What changed was the era and the weapons. But the cruelty and merciless activities remained. The colonialism again exploited people and their wealth for their interests. (Conrad 6)

To the Europeans who were colonizers? They were superiors and the native people of Africa who were colonized ones were

inferiors, that is why they thought the natives were savages, and so they have to be taught how to live like Europeans. This idea rejects freedom and the equality of humans with no regard for their race. (Conrad 6)

Another aspect that heart of darkness reveals, is the hypocritical side of colonialism, Marlow says that the forerunners of colonialism had the goal of educating, civilizing and enlightening the colonized ones, but when they took over a place, they started exploiting the people and the natural resources of the place.

Furthermore, the morality the Europeans got worse through the colonialism, they practiced cruelty and savageness against the natives, they dealt with the natives like animals, and they even used animalistic terms for the natives. (Conrad 7)

Conrad in heart of darkness showed the very bad effects of colonialism on the native African people. It illustrated how British colonizers fought for their ambitions and interests through damaging the culture, society, nature, ethics, and economy of black native African people. (Conrad 7)

Imperialism

Human beings sometimes spoil their morality and lose their humanity, especially when there is no one around. We as humans share animal's traits and tendencies naturally. When we face violence and uncivilized situations, we also take our violent however survival actions are instinct. This theme is seen in the teaching of Joseph Conrad's heart of darkness. As the setting of the novella is Africa in the imperialistic 19th century, the environment is suited for someone who abandons his/her civility and loses their mind. But finally, we reach a point that the imperialistic dynamic that is created in the heart of Africa leads to the loss of civility. (Kanjilal 1967)

At the start of the novella, the audience are told that the setting, a ship deck that is on a visit to Africa. The main character relates the story as a storyteller, Marlow, who traveled around the world, one of the journeys is more different than others that is his journey into Africa through the Congo river. Conrad uses Marlow to interpret the narration and does that through stories within stories. Marlow starts by talking about the Romans who

conquered England a thousand years ago. He likens the conquerors' administration as a mere squeeze. (Conrad 8) To Marlow, they were brutal people who were blindly killing and robbing.

Marlow thinks that the English are different from romans on invading a foreign land because they are colonists, not conquerors. He thinks that efficiency and an idea save English as a colonist, and also an unselfish belief. (Conrad 8).

Imperialism appears in two forms here; colonialism and the conquest of the land. Marlow states that they are different and colonizing is justified due to efficiency and an unselfish idea. While in reality none of them are excused from the consequences they result in because, in the end, both have the same outcome. The conquerors and also colonists, destroy the land, the natives, and also their humanity. Marlow sees the terrific and horrible outcomes of imperialism such as slavery and extreme human greed taking over a part of Africa, and such a novella shows these through the eyes of Marlow. The novella to some extent and indirectly accuses Marlow of defending colonization while he is seeing the savage occurrences by himself. The novella makes a firm stance against all forms of imperialism and rejects the idea that it can be redeemed. Even the title, heart of darkness, suggests a moral decline in colonists' consciences into darkness as the novella portrays the terrific and disgusting actions by men, particularly Kurtz who is a colonist, as they have a corrupted mentality and they lack humanity. As the audience follow Marlow into his own heart of darkness the outcome of imperialism becomes more obvious, as it affects horrifically both the colonists and the native people. (Kanjilal 1967)

Marlow's argument to prove his excuse for colonizing is the history and using the romans to explain that. He thinks that romans who were conquerors, not colonists were merely squeezing through their administrations, and they only used brutality to invade England. (Conrad 8). On the other hand, Marlow seems to have this in his mind that the English invasion is different in a way that is efficient so the English are not conquerors but they are colonists of Africa. Marlow states: Efficiency saved English colonists while it did apply to romans.

i.e. English colonists had efficient governance and administration, on the other hand, romans merely used force and brutality, that is why they were conquerors and it is not something to be proud of if you get your strength from the weakness of the others. They took and robbed whatever they could and in any way that they managed to, regardless of others' rights, they practiced violence and murder on a great scale. (Conrad 8)

Here is the core difference that Marlow believes to be between conquering and colonizing a foreign land, conquering is linked with violence, brutality, and murder while colonization is linked with efficiency, in the way the English's invasion of Africa is excused by Marlow , at the same time notions of robbery, murder and violence are found in Marlow 's own story not only as an approved action but also legally practiced. On the other hand, the strength of both the English and the romans have accidental strength. The English's strength comes from the fact that they gave industrialized weapons and the Africans do not. So, there is a vast difference between the strengths of English and Africans. Yet, English would not face an opponent with strong weapons. Criminal acts such as aggravated murder, violence, and robbery are all found in colonized Africa through the institution of slavery where white men apply it in Africa as law. The slaves are robbed of their future, bear harsh punishment, and are murdered if they object. One of the first horrific things that Marlow sees at the company's main station is: "six black men [advancing] in a file.... [he] could see every rib, the joints of their limbs were like knots in a rope; each had an iron collar on his neck, and all were connected with a chain" (Conrad 23).

Here in Africa slavery is considered completely normal with the boundaries of the law by the English, and yet no one protests, including Marlow , at the grave dehumanization and treatment indigenous people. The civilized and efficient dehumanization is an oxymoron and yet the white man back it by their law. (Kanjilal 1967)

Through Marlow 's story, the horrific aspects of imperialism and colonialism are shown to the reader that is not previously revealed to the reader in such a way. Something should be taken into consideration that the only subject of the novella is not

imperialism and also it is not bound to a particular time, but it also exposes deep and universal issues of humanity and civilization. (Bloom 2009)

The novella is a quick overview to illustrate the legalization of slavery, which is associated with imperialism. It is clear that the novella is not showing slavery as something simple but highly disapproving of it as one of the outcomes of imperialism, Conrad uses connotative phrases to show the horrific scene of slavery, such as "iron collar" and "Marlow could see every rib" that shows the imagery of badly fed Africans being pulled with iron collar (Conrad 23). David ray papke states that law has its role in both political and economic aspects of imperialism... the law's function helped imperialist control largely... to the extent that imperialist does not only use the law but furthermore they claimed the right to define the law. (590).

They were creating the law as a model to satisfy their desires and wants; so the invaders created their laws of governing. This is also seen as accidental strength that allows English to subject the natives to their form of civilizing or in other words slavery. More terribly murder is happening simply and easily as to be something normal. (Kanjilal 1967).

The novel's criticism of imperialist and imperialism is implied at the beginning of the novel, and the second half of the novel becomes an imperialistic adventure story. (Wake 88) Marlow is pleased to see the British territory expanded on the map when he looks at the map, and Marlow often refers to the African people as inhuman and primitive, these show a pro - imperialist ideology. On the other hand, deeply thinking about the novella, it can be regarded as a masterpiece of irony, it means that Conrad supports imperialism in his novel ironically, to illustrate how terrible imperialism was. Since there is no frank attitude by Conrad about imperialism, the novel can be believed as documentation of Conrad's experiences during his voyage through Africa. What may have influenced Conrad's opinions in the novel is the social and political framework at that time, that was the popularity of imperialism so Conrad in an indirect way tried to put the ideology of imperialism off people's mind through this work and by portraying what is being done under the name of

imperialism. It is worth mentioning that Conrad did not use the word imperialism in the novel. (Firchow 2000)

It is important to consider that, Marlow raised in the era where "white man's burden" was praised and this eventually made Marlow fall into the common way of thinking about colonizing the lands. So, the blame for justifying imperialism simply comes from the period in which he lived. Anyhow, this does not prove Marlow to be correct about his thoughts, because the white men are exploiting the Africans, their manual labor, their lands, and also their beliefs instead of civilizing them. (Kanjilal 1967)

What is shown by this, is that the most crucial point is a slow mental collapse and gradual inhumanity in the colonizers. In the novella, this gradual change of the human's character till falling into inhumanity is shown by legendary Kurtz. As the title of the novella, heart of darkness, suggests the moral indecency of human's heart towards being tempted with power, As it happened to Kurtz, a colonizer. Ivory affected Kurtz and most of the colonizers and led Kurtz to mental degeneration through his obsession with wealth since to collect ivory he committed violent and murderous acts. The colonizers got unhealthy with that, so ivory represents something more than a material, it was something that took morality, humanity, and mind from the colonizers. Ivory was to be a symbol of having their wealth and escaping from economic boundaries and being only an employee. Ivory was made a way for social advancement. Here this quote tells us of how white people considers ivory:

"The word ivory rang in the air, was whispered, was sighed. You would think they were praying to it" (qtd in Kanjilal 1967)

Religion was used to justify the greed to gain ivory, which is native people's wealth, and it was associated with all forms of imperialism whether it is colonizing or conquering a land. (Kanjilal 1967)

Conrad here wants to make an impression about the difference made between imperialism and conquering through Marlow's point of view. Marlow thinks that the two are different, and Marlow thinks that what the British were doing is colonialism but Romans practiced conquering, Marlow justifies British colonialism, while colonizers did as many crimes as people against Africans.

(Kanjilal 1967)

Conrad, through depicting imperialism in heart of darkness, shows that British occupiers justified their cruelty against the Africans. Conrad tells the readers that imperialism made the British in Africa forget the real nature of humanity and this is clearly shown in Marlow 's character when he tries to convince us that British imperialism is different from what romans did before. When they saw savagery and enslaved by their fellow imperialists, they try to legalize these actions, which is to keep their humanity away from them. The robbery, murdering, and enslaving Africans is regarded as to be normal acts, and they have set laws for them. (Kanjilal 1967)

What can be confusing to the reader is that Conrad shows the crimes of the imperialists but yet in other ways justifies them. This may tell us that Conrad does not completely stand against or with imperialism. Conrad through documentation that he encountered wanted to show that imperialism is going the wrong way now. So, Conrad endeavored to break down the long and popular thought about imperialism in an ironic way. (Kanjilal 1967)

Conrad gives and reveals a universal humanitarian message through his covering of imperialism in the heart of darkness. He tells the reader that civilization should go alongside humanity; it is not only taking countries and expanding the territories. Conrad distributes a humanitarian message to his contemporaries by cleverly criticizing imperialism. (Kanjilal 1967)

Racism

Heart of darkness is a recount of a real story that is taken from John Conrad's experience in the Congo river and Conrad used Marlow as his character to tell the story. The novel depicted the terror in the colonial era and heightened the ambition of the colonizers to gain power and raw materials and wealth. The novel sheds light specifically on the hypocrisy of the colonial effort that was materialistic. Heart of darkness also reveals the justifications and decorations of the civilization which were used to conceal the real goals of colonialism while the colonizers said they wanted to help the black Africans who were considered as backward people. (Sharmin 2018)

Many European writers including Conrad tried to illustrate the issue of racism and imperialism through their literature, *Heart of Darkness* is an example. That means bringing the colonial world into an art of fiction. Those writers shed light on the issue of race, power, and economic expansion, and the conflicts between Europe and other continents. As a modern novelist, John Conrad has been preoccupied with race, cultural and national conflicts. (Sharmin 2018)

Joseph Conrad was a sailor and also a writer, and *Heart of Darkness* relates to his experience in Congo in 1890. The genre of *Heart of Darkness* is colonial literature and Conrad used Marlow as a character to tell the story and recount Conrad's experience in Africa and especially in Congo in the early-mid of the 1890s during the colonial era. The story is a depiction of the world of colonialism and imperialism of European countries in Africa and Asia. (Sharmin 2018)

Africa was the place for competing by the European colonizers who wanted to colonize more and more territories that made them long for reaching Africa. They tried to deceive the native African with the idea they had come to educate and civilize them, they put these ideas into the minds of the primitive and innocent Africans, but their actions show the opposite of what they told the natives. (Sharmin 2018)

Being ambitious to get more and more resources and wealth was common among Europeans during the 19th century, what they did was self-interest since they did give importance to how they did it. The Europeans treat Africans like animals, savages, or criminals because they thought that Africa was a dark country with no civilization nor religion. So it is true that colonialism in Africa based on racism, racial discrimination, and segregation because they wanted to gain wealth and raw materials. *Heart of Darkness* depicts what aforementioned well. It was set in Africa in the 19th century when Britain was the greatest power and controlled a great part of the world, particularly in Africa. (Sharmin 2018)

Congo is a real example that came from Conrad's experience of how much colonial power was racist. *Heart of Darkness* revealed the hypocrisy of the colonial missions in Africa. In the novel,

strong images are used to show that the colonization damaged white colonizer's souls for they treated black Africans badly and with greed. Racism in heart of darkness was clear from the beginning of the novel. Marlow relates his experience to his fellow and says: "I do not want to bother you much with what happened to me personally." (Sharmin 2018)

Marlow wants to say that his trip was disturbing and strange for what he had seen there, this statement by Marlow affected his fellows. Heart of darkness is a clear image of colonizer's ill-treatment to the Africans, and also the greed of imperialism to the extent that they treated them as slaves or objects instead of human beings. "Black figures strolled about listlessly pouring water on the glow, whence proceeded a sound of hissing, steam ascended in the moonlight the beaten nigger groaned somewhere." (Sharmin 2018)

Heart of darkness is a novel about racism, as the British saw themselves superior and believed that the blacks who they called niggers lived purposelessly because they have no civilization, education nor religion. Furthermore, they thought of black people in Congo as animals and a lot of annoyance to them. "It was paddled by black fellows... they had faces like grotesque masks these chaps; but they had a bone, muscle, a wild vitality, an intense energy of movement, that was as natural and true as the surf along their coast." (Sharmin 2018)

Heart of darkness clearly illustrates how black people in Congo were forced for hard work without any sympathy to them, Marlow had seen them falling and carrying heavy packages under the control of white maters, that treatment was like the one to animals. "They were building a railway, six men advanced in a file, toiling up the path, they walked erect and slow, balancing small baskets full of earth on their heads, and kept time with their footsteps. (Sharmin 2018)

According to it, heart of darkness, is one of the novels that are no more than a weakly racist with regards to its attitude towards Africans, the novel recognized the difference between Africans and Europeans but does not suggest any essential superiority to the Africans, however, it implies a temporary cultural superiority. (Firchow 2000)

On the other hand, other critics think that Conrad himself was a thoroughgoing racist, due to the fact the white racism against Africa is simply thought of that its manifestations go unremarked. Conrad is much more concerned about the deterioration of the European mind by encountering sickness and loneliness. So, the point of the novel is to ridicule Europe's civilizing mission in Africa. (Bloom 2009)

One of the critics who harshly criticize Conrad is Chinua Achebe, he says that Conrad saw and condemned the evil of imperial exploitation but he was unaware of the racism he used strangely (Moore 2004). He thinks that Conrad's racism demonstrated by his dehumanization of the African characters in his novel (Clarke 2017). To him, the novel dehumanized and humiliated the native people of Africa, and the novel used a human language for the Europeans while used another for the native ones. As if he portrayed the African in a nonhuman way. (Res 2013)

The colonialism without any doubt founded on racist ideology, since colonialism constructed two separate communities of fear. (Lawtoo 138)

Those who defend Conrad in the issue of racism say that Marlow's mimetic voice suggests that the words he used for the natives like "inhuman" and "ugly" have their origin in his listeners and Marlow uttered them out for us to hear. (Lawtoo 250)

Concerning Conrad's charge of racism, it is quite obvious that the historical and cultural location of Conrad's life should be taken into consideration. His views are can be shaped within that environment where he lived. (Bloom 2009)

There are long quotes which are separating the author from the character. The story shows that European colonialism was even worse than the romans, contrary to Marlow's claims. The distressing depiction of men waiting for their death: "Black shapes crouched, lay, sat between the trees leaning against the trunks, clinging to the earth, half coming out in all the attitudes of pain, abandonment, and despair. They were not enemies, they were not criminals". After this description, Marlow confesses that he is respecting collars man who comes out to get fresh air, while they are surrounded by people who made them suffer till death.

Marlow goes on with admiration that "in the great demoralization

of the land he kept up his appearance. That's backbone". He is committed to the appearances which show the difference between appearance and reality, assumption and fact, illusion and truth in this work. So Marlow does not have Conrad's complete confidence. And also Conrad's very forceful criticism of colonialism cannot be easily regarded as weak liberalism. The real enemies and rebels are the emissaries of light. (Sarvan 7). This is to say that, it is not provided for Conrad to have the same ideas as Marlow to be regarded as a racist.

The controversy over Conrad's ideology in heart of darkness concerning race matters was growing among critics. The idea of colonialism as shown in heart of darkness was to take over the one's culture and identity in the name of civilizing, in heart of darkness natives looked as inferiors to the Europeans and far worse they dealt like animals. The exploitation of the people and their wealth for the colonizers' interest is an act of racism and against the reality of just life for other races. (Sarvan 7)

Heart of darkness depicts how European colonizers competed for wealth and power in Africa, for whatever cost it took, regardless of the damage that goes to the natives. The colonial thought about the natives was considering the black African inhuman, savages, and barbarians; consequently, this means a racist attitude towards the natives. The same ideology resulted in barbarian dealing with the natives. In other words, the colonizers mercilessly acted with the Africans for them though that they are at the animalistic level or lower. (Sarvan 8)

Some critics like Chinua Achebe harshly criticizes Conrad as not only relating racism in his novel but as being a racist himself. Heart of darkness sympathizes mostly with the loneliness and deserted life of the European colonizers instead of focusing on the difficult life of the Africans. The toil and too much daily work done by the natives and the tough behavior of the colonizers towards them were justified as colonialism's civilizing mission. To Achebe, Conrad dehumanized African people in heart of darkness, to the extent the language used for them was not a language used for humans, on the other hand, it was rejected that Conrad himself to be a racist, he just depicted how Europeans around him thought of Africans at that time, and how

colonialism led to racism in a bad way, it was considered cultural superiority of British over the Africans but rather created race superiority. (Sarvan 8)

Conrad's era and location reflected in the novel, that is the colonizers at that time carelessly oppressed different races of Africa for their interest; therefore, the ideas that are shown in heart of darkness are shaped within that society. (Sarvan 8)

Methodology

The study has been conducted by a group of researchers who have used historical sources and used postcolonial approach to examine Conrad's heart of darkness. To know if Conrad supports colonialism or he just showed how colonizers behaved badly with the poor people of Africa. A number of writer's works have been consulted to support our ideas about the role Conrad had in showing the real life of the colonized people. Also examples from the text are used to prove that fact that Africans have been colonized and treated badly.

Conclusion

To conclude, heart of darkness is a good example of illustrating and depicting the era of colonialism and the attitude of European colonizers in Africa. Imperialism, colonialism, and racism are core ideas that heart of darkness tackles. Heart of darkness shows how imperialism made the British legalize their bad actions and crimes in Africa, slavery, and ill-treatment was a very common outcome of their imperialism. They exploited people and their wealth in the name of colonization, as they stated that their goal is to civilize and educate native Africans, but on the contrary, they practiced so many cruel activities towards the native. Heart of darkness also deals with racism, it shows how colonialism turned into racism, and how black people were called by animalistic names and how bad they were treated, and that never suits treating a human.

Heart of darkness informs the society about the reality of colonialism, throughout his novella heart of darkness. Conrad tells us that colonialism is a cruel and savage process to wipe out the old beliefs of people and control them with their wealth, with

eagerness and thirst to gain more and more. The novella depicts the story of colonizer of how they raced to gain more power and domination in different lands around the world and other continents especially Africa and then claiming them their own. Heart of darkness depicts the ideology and thoughts that were overwhelming in that era, therefore, what is shown in heart of darkness was a reflection of the way of thinking and dealing with Africans, and how the Europeans thought of black Africans at that time.

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