

ABSTRACT

This research paper is entitled *Japanese Characters' Exercise of power in Remy Sylado's novel Kembang Jepun from a Postcolonial Criticism Framework*. This study closely looks into the issue of power between characters in the novel. In this matter, postcolonial literary criticism is used as the framework and with a specific reference to Michael Foucault's theory of power. More specifically, this study explores the construction of Japanese characters' exercise of power as evidenced in the novel.

This study applies the qualitative method which is descriptive in nature. In the analysis of this novel, conflicts are the focus because they imply power relations between the characters. In this case, the analysis is limited to the events of conflicts which involve Japanese characters. Conflicts between characters are assumed to be constituted by two parties, the oppressor and the oppressed. This study, thus, examines the conflicts not only in the view of the power exercise but also the reactions or resistances accompanying it.

It is found that there are three kinds of power exercised by the oppressing characters, those are peer power, institutional power, and personal power. Each of the power exercise brings up resistance which is manifested in the forms of physical, verbal, physical-verbal, and non physical/verbal resistances.

The findings indicate that concept of power is fluid because it can be exercised by each characters in different level and forms. In other words, everyone has power. People may exercise power to others that are not even connected by direct relationships such as parents-children or husband-wife. As long as people have vested interest in dominating others, they might attempt to gain power to be able to exercise it to others. Power is considered as fluid also because people have the ability to negotiate power both as the powerful (the oppressor) or the powerless (the oppressed).

