CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

The notion of Orientalism has been spread in the nineteenth century and is mystifyingly used to legitimize colonization and imperialism of Westerners toward East/Orient (Oldmeadow, 2004). Orientalism itself, as Said (2003, p.202) puts it, refers to the Occident's imperatives, perspectives, and ideological biases that misleadingly describe and explain the Orients in the form of regularized writings, visions, and studies. In this case, Said uses the term Occident to explain the West, while the term Orient is used to explain the Middle East and Far East. Therefore, Orientalism can be defined as western people's representations of the eastern people in which the representations often times regard the eastern people as inferiors.

Regarding the issue of Orientalism, Gifford (1999) says that the authors such as novelists or the poets become the vehicle of the creation and the perpetuation of Orientalism that is commonly served through the construction of binary opposition between the Orient and the Occident. The authors (novelist and poet) have power to spread certain ideology through words in fiction because they can control what

happens in the story and construct a kind of hegemony that align the readers, consciously or unconsciously, to what the authors tell and construct. In the works of fiction by Westerners that represents East (Orient) culture; the westerners are the side who hold the power over it, this is in line with what Said (2003, p.40) believes that the westerns, in Orietalism's manner, is the source of knowledge about the Orient due to the fact that they create the Orient, the Oriental and their world. In this way, the western authors can construct, manipulate and control the representation and description of the eastern people, even if they are created in misleading ways.

The term "Orientalism" started to spread since Edward Said published his book entitled *Orientalism* in 1978 and has been applied to many aspects of society, philosophy, and culture. Said, in his book concerns on how European Colonialism constructs knowledge, "truth" and beliefs on identities between colonizers and the colonized. The book is written to criticize the objective that West have in seeing the East. In writing the book, Said examines some of British and French scholarly works, political tracts, religious and philological studies, journalistic texts, travel books and works of literature to see how these texts construct and represent the East/Orient. Said found that these representations constitute a Western discourse that has traditionally served hegemonic purposes: to legitimize the imperialism to the government and to convince the Orient that West will bring them to a 'better' civilization (Bertens, 2008). The present study tries to see the representation of the East culture in a novel

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entitled *Gardens of Waters* which is constructed by a western author, Alan Drew, within the theoretical framework of Orientalism proposed by Edward Said (1978).

Several studies have been conducted within the theoretical framework of Orientalism. One study had been conducted by Addison (1993) entitled *Saving Other Women from Other Men: Disney's Aladdin* that analyzes the representation of Arabians in the movie Aladdin which is produced by Disney. She uncovers that many ideologies of Orientalism are presented in the movie. For example is the representation of Aladdin who is illustrated as a non Arab people/occident that comes as a hero to save Jasmine, an Arabian woman from the Barbarian Arab. She also uncovers that in *Aladdin*, Arabian people are portrayed and stereotyped as bad people. Another study had been conducted by Winegar (2005) entitled *Aspects of Orientalism in J.R.R Tolkien's The Lord of The Rings*. In her study, Winegar finds that Tolkien often uses some discourses that indicate Orientalist/racist construction to present some terms related to geography in Middle-earth and also the interaction between each races in her novel. This present study tries to see some aspects of orientalism in a novel written by an American author that represents East culture that sets in Turkey.

1.2. Reason for Choosing the Topic

In this study, the writer tries to analyze the representation of the East (The Orient) in the novel written by an American author, Alan Drew, entitled *Gardens of Water*. The novel is chosen because the setting of the story in the novel is in Turkey and puts Kurdish as the main characters and as the representative of non-western culture. The author in this novel also uses the point of view of Kurdish characters; Sinan and Irem in representing what happened in the novel rather than using the point of view of Americans. The representation of the characters and the culture might be different in which Alan Drew does not experience the culture by himself, but rather uses his imagination and research in representing it. The novel also brings about binary opposition between the orient and the occident.

In this study, the writer tries to find the representation of non-western culture and characters which are constructed by a western author in the novel. The writer is interested to uncover binary oppositions between the East as the Orient and the West as the Occident that are represented in the text.

1.3. Research Question

In guiding the study, the writer formulates the question as follows:

1. In what way(s) does the western author represent non western culture in the novel *Gardens of Water* by Alan Drew?

1.4. Aims of The Study

In conducting the study, the writer tries to:

1. Find out the way(s) in which the western author represents non-western culture in the novel *Gardens of Water* by Alan Drew.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The study is limited only to investigate the ways culture and characters of non-western people are described and presented in the novel *Gardens of Water* by Alan Drew. The Orientalism framework theory proposed by Edward Said (1978) will also be used to investigate the ways the author represents non-western characters in the novel.

1.6.   Significance of the Study

The results of the study are expected to give some positive impact both on English Department's students and the larger society. Since novel is representative of real life, the analysis of the study also expected to give positive impact as it can give lessons to the readers.

1.7.   Research Methodology

1.7.1.   Research Design

The study uses qualitative approach due to the data collections are in the form of words or text. Bogdan and Taylor (1975, as cited in Moloeng, 1999) says that qualitative method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words of people and behaviour that can be analyzed. In addition, Strauss and Corbin (1998) assumes that qualitative approach can be used to uncover and understand what lies behind any phenomenon and the data found is described, analyzed and interpreted. Descriptive text analysis then will be used to interpret the data gained from the novel.

1.7.2. Data Collection

The data are compiled by reading the novel *Gardens of Water* by Alan Drew (2008). It is because the study mostly deals with narrative text analysis. Several major characters of both non-western and western, events, settings and physical appearance in the novel will be chosen. Each finding will be put in some forms of table. Then, by leaning on the information obtained from reading the novel and literary research, the stury tries to meet the research objectives.

1.7.3. Data Analysis

The data that the writer collected from the novel then will be compiled and categorized in to three general illustrations of the attitudes, various events and settings and physical appearances. Then the data findings which are collected will be analyzed and interpreted using Orientalism theory proposed by Edward Said.

1.8.   Classification of Terms

1) Representation   : an important process of producing and exchanging meaning between one and other members of culture (Hall, 2003). In this study, the term is employed to see the depiction of the orients/the east characters in the novel.

2) Orientalism : a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction between 'the orient' and (most of times) 'the occident'. (Edward Said's *Orientalism,* 2003)

3) The Orient : the depiction of non-European people (the Eastern), its outlook, places and appearance (Edward Said's *Orientalism,* 2003) which are represented by Westerns. In this study, this term is pinned in to the non-western characters such as the Kurds or the Turks in the novel.

4) The Occident : The Western in the opposite of the Eastern (Edward Said's *Orientalism,* 2003). In this study this term is pinned in to the western characters in the novel.

1.9. Organization of the Paper

The paper will be organized as follows:

CHAPTER I

This chapter contains background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the terms, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II

The chapter covers some related theories which stand as the foundation of the study.

CHAPTER III

This section provides the research methodology, discussing the steps and procedures of the study, and the data resources in conducting the study.

CHAPTER IV

In this part the result of the study will be presented. This chapter contains the research findings and discussion.

CHAPTER V

This last chapter contains the interpretation toward the result of the study in a form of conclusion and suggestion in accordance with the study.