

**THE MANIFESTATION OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN *THE TRACK TO
BRALGU* BY B. WONGAR (1978)**

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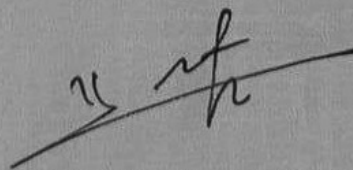


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ABSTRACT

ANDRIAN, FADEL. (2023). **The Manifestation of White Supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar (1978)**. Padang: Department of Language and English Literature, Faculty of Language and Art, Padang State University.

This thesis focuses on *The Track to Bralgu*, an anthology of Aboriginal stories written by Bozic Wongar. The novel concerns with the domination, exploitation, and discrimination of the Aborigines. The novel emphasizes on the superiority of the Whites. The aim of this study is to gain the understanding on how white supremacy is manifested in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar and how racial discrimination or racism is being implemented as the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar. The objectives of the study are: first, to explain the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar; second, to analyze racial discrimination or racism as the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar. The method that was conducted in the study is the qualitative method. In conducting the analysis, postcolonialism approach was applied. By applying postcolonialism approach, the writer is able to understand the motive of the Whites doings over the Aborigines. The result of the study shows in *The Track to Bralgu*, the manifestation of white supremacy is depicted through the racial discrimination or racism of the Whites towards the Aborigines. The implementation of the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* is marginalization and segregation.

Key words: White Supremacy, Racial Discrimination, Racism, Marginalization, Segregation

ABSTRAK

ANDRIAN F (2023). **The Manifestation of White Supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar (1978)**. Padang: Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang.

Tesis ini berfokus pada *The Track to Bralgu*, sebuah antologi cerita Aborigin yang ditulis oleh Bozic Wongar. Novel ini berkisah tentang dominasi, eksploitasi, dan diskriminasi terhadap suku Aborigin. Novel ini menekankan pada keunggulan kulit putih. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana supremasi kulit putih diwujudkan dalam *The Track To Bralgu* karya B. Wongar dan bagaimana penerapan diskriminasi ras atau rasisme sebagai wujud supremasi kulit putih dalam *The Track to Bralgu* karya B. Wongar. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah: pertama, menjelaskan manifestasi supremasi kulit putih dalam *The Track to Bralgu* karya B. Wongar; kedua, menganalisis diskriminasi rasial atau rasisme sebagai wujud supremasi kulit putih dalam *The Track to Bralgu* karya B. Wongar. Metode yang dilakukan dalam penelitian adalah metode kualitatif. Dalam melakukan analisis, pendekatan postkolonialisme digunakan. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan postkolonialisme, penulis mampu memahami motif perbuatan orang kulit putih terhadap orang Aborigin. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan dalam *The Track to Bralgu*, wujud supremasi kulit putih digambarkan melalui diskriminasi rasial atau rasisme orang kulit putih terhadap suku Aborigin. Implementasi wujud supremasi kulit putih dalam *The Track to Bralgu* adalah marginalisasi dan segregasi.

Kata kunci: Supremasi Kulit Putih, Diskriminasi Ras, Rasisme, Marginalisasi, Segregasi

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Life is full of diversity. It cannot be denied that humans are not the same. God has blessed us with a wonderful gift of diversity. The world's various races, ethnic groupings, and people are good and blessed gifts from our Lord. The creation of human is manifested into many different shapes and forms. Therefore, it then created the term multiculturalism. Fessler (2012) states that diversity, as described in the concept of multiculturalism, categorizes people into race (ethnicity), gender (or sexual orientation), and class. Multiculturalism's viewpoint is likewise relativistic. Its moral relativism creates a concerning sort of tolerance. Multiculturalism's "tolerance" embraces all cultures and lifestyles. Thus, the diversity people all have should be perceived as beauty as it colors and makes life a journey with a lot of characteristic to discover.

Apparently some people do not perceive diversity or multiculturalism as beauty but instead they perceive it as disgrace or even flaw that they consider as an abomination. With that perception in their heads, it then creates a sense of intolerance and then develops into a sense of superiority. This feeling of superiority over other races, as found in how the indigenous people or the Aborigines in Australia have been treated by the dominant race such as the Whites, compels them to dominate the race who they think are less superior than them. The act of domination over others exists because people fail to understand the concept of multiculturalism. Because of this phenomenon, critical multiculturalism emerges as a direct challenge to deal with this phenomenon. Steinberg (2009) insists the capacity to evaluate the domains of race

and white supremacy, gender and patriarchy, socioeconomic class and middle and upper-class privilege in connection to and as functions of one another is central to critical multiculturalism.

The diversity that humans have in life does not justify the act of domination. It is true that humans are different and yet we are also similar at the same time. People are different in terms of appearance but people all have the same rights, the right to be free, the right to live, the right to speak, the right to get education, and many more. Even though humans are very aware that every people all have the same rights especially in this modern era, apparently the domination of one over another still exists in this world until now because of their belief, a belief that one race is superior than any other races and they believe the inferiors are supposed to be dominated.

Despite all the campaigns that have been done to stop and omit this feeling of superiority that pushes a race to dominate other races, ironically it still exists and it cannot be overlooked that this is a very big problem or concern for all of us. The feeling of superiority that the Whites have then created a belief called White supremacy or White supremacism. White supremacy refers to views and ideologies that assert that lighter-skinned, or "white," human races are naturally superior to other racial groups. The word "white supremacist" is now used to designate various groups that advocate ultranationalist, racist, or fascist ideologies. Moreover, White supremacist organizations have frequently used violence to attain their objectives.

White supremacy is manifested in many forms such as colonialism, fascism, and racism. Colonialism is a system or policy of a nation that seeks to expand or maintain its dominance over other people or spaces. On the other hand, fascism is a far-right, authoritarian, ultranationalist political ideology and movement that is distinguished by a dictatorial leader, centralized autocracy, militarism, forcible

suppression of opposition, belief in a natural social hierarchy, subordination of individual interests for the perceived good of the nation or race, and strong regimentation of society and the economy. DiAngelo (2016) argues that Institutionally sanctioned White supremacy is the foundation of the United States, and racism is the manifestation. White supremacy is the institutional conviction that White people are superior to all other races, particularly the Black race, and hence should dominate society. Martinot & Sexton (2003) states white supremacy has traditionally asserted that White people should have better access to resources and power than members of other communities.

The domination of a race over another is often times accompanied by discrimination. Jary & Jary (2005) in Collins dictionary of sociology define racism or racialism as “a set of beliefs, ideologies and social processes that discriminate against others on the basis of their supposed membership of ‘racial’ group”. Based on the prior statement, to simply put, racism is the act of discrimination against others based on race which means that racism can also be called racial discrimination. Jary & Jary (2005) add that “discrimination” as “the process by which a member, or members, of a socially defined group is, or are, treated differently (especially unfairly) because of his/her/their membership of that group”.

Discrimination and domination are associated. The dominant group is the one who exercises discrimination and discrimination is one of the way to assert domination. Krieger (2014) remarks that discrimination is not an individual issue, even if it manifests itself in interpersonal interactions. Instead, discrimination is a historically rooted cross-generational societal phenomena that develops and maintains advantage for dominant groups at the expense of subordinated ones. Discrimination is a socially structured and sanctioned phenomenon that maintains privileges for

members of dominant groups at the expense of deprivation for others. It is justified by ideology and expressed in interactions among and between individuals and institutions.

According to Altman (2020) in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Discrimination against individuals must therefore be directed at them because of their membership in a specific social group. However, the discriminating behavior must also cause some type of disadvantage, harm, or injustice to the people targeted. Discrimination, in the moral and social sense, is more than just differential treatment. Differential treatment is symmetrical: if blacks are treated differently than whites, then whites must be treated differently than blacks. As a result, it is preferable to conceive of discrimination in terms of unfavourable treatment rather than just unequal treatment. Discrimination disadvantages some people more than others, while those who are treated more favorably are not considered victims of discrimination.

Bressler (1998) writes that Postcolonialists appeared from the inferiority of the discriminated. Postcolonial theory came forth gradually as a result of discriminated people's rage, concerns and aspirations for their future and identities, as well as cultural defeat with the invading culture. Frantz Fanon and Gayatri Spivak are some prominent figure who started to write postcolonial texts. Edward Said is also one of the prime figure in postcolonial writings. In one of his greatest postcolonial writings, *Orientalism* (1991), he talked about the perception of the West (Occident) over the East (Orient) caused by the West and the central premise of *Orientalism* is that the Orient is a fundamentally different, exotic, dangerous, unchanging, and "other" place.

Youdell and Gillborn (2000) state that two-thirds of Black students were entered for maths in the lowest tier in a study of two London secondary schools: no matter how many questions they answered correctly, two out of three Black children

could not possibly achieve the required pass grade in maths because the examination simply did not allow it. This is an example of implementation of white supremacy regarding education. The Whites dominate the blacks by limiting their access to get education. In his further study, Gillborn (2006) argues that race inequality is a temporary deviation, and race is a marginal issue in society at large, and particularly in the school system. He furthermore explains that unless and until we confront racism as a basic defining feature of the school system, the current situation is unlikely to improve in any significant way, notwithstanding superficial verbal claims to inclusiveness, civil rights, and social justice. Thus, the issue of race inequality is a very urgent issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

In this research, the term ‘Whites’ refers to Europeans who came to Australia, where as the term ‘Aborigines’ refers to native inhabitant of Australia. The Whites are Europeans, especially British descents which include Angles, Saxons, Jutes, and Frisians. The Aborigines are native inhabitant of Australia and they have been living in Australia for a very long time. Clarke (2002) observes that The Aborigines have resided on the continent approximately 60,000 to 70,000 years, and the dating of human remains and the artifacts continues to increase the time span during which evidence of human settlement of Australia may be uncovered.

The phenomenon of white supremacy as explained above can also be found in *The Track to Bralgu*, an anthology of traditional Aboriginal stories written by B. Wongar. It consists of twelve independent short stories where each story in the novel talks about the relation between the Whites and the Aborigines. They have a complex relationship and it causes conflicts. Many things in their life such as belief and culture are affected by the conflicts. These twelve stories depict the relation between the invaders and the native and it concerns with superiority, and inferiority. It is explicitly

portrayed in the stories that there is a domination and discrimination done by the Whites caused by white supremacy. The harassment done by the Whites in the novel is a concrete proof of domination. The novel also shows the superiority of the Whites and the inferiority of the Aborigine in a very explicit manner. Thus, the researcher is interested in analyzing a book called *The Track to Bralgu* that portrays the life of the Aborigines after the Whites' arrival in Australia. From the researcher's point of view, the best approach to analyze the text is by using postcolonialism theory by Edward Said and the researcher focuses on seeing the manifestation of white supremacy and the implementation of the manifestation of white supremacy that the Whites impose to dominate the Aborigines.

1.2 Focus of the Problem

This research focuses on the manifestation of white supremacy. The arrival of the Whites in Australia has caused many harms or losses to the Aborigines. The researcher focuses on revealing the manifestation of white supremacy and the implementation of the manifestation of white supremacy that the Whites impose to dominate the Aborigines in *The Track to Bralgu*.

1.3 Research Questions

To analyze the distress caused by the Whites to the Aborigines, the writer would like to elaborate the questions to analyze the novel. The questions are as follows:

1. How is white supremacy manifested in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar?
2. How is racial discrimination or racism being implemented as the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar?

1.4 Purpose of The Research

Based on the problems stated above, the purpose of the research are:

1. To reveal how white supremacy is manifested in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar.
2. To reveal how racial discrimination or racism is being implemented as the manifestation of white supremacy in *The Track to Bralgu* by B. Wongar.