

**POSTCOLONIAL TRAUMA CAUSED BY RACISM AND
DEHUMANIZATION IN ESI EDUGYAN'S "WASHINGTON BLACK" (2018)**

Thesis

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain Strata One (S1)
Degree*



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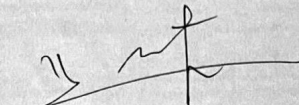


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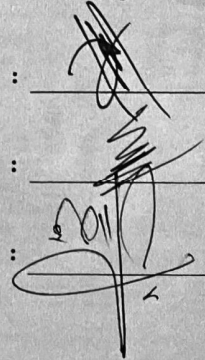
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ABSTRACT

Frianda, Septian (2023). **Postcolonial Trauma Caused by Racism and Dehumanization in Esi Edugyan *Washington Black* (2018)**. Padang: Department of English Language and Literature. Faculty of Language and Art, Universitas Negeri Padang

This study discusses the issue of postcolonial trauma caused by racism and dehumanization in the novel "*Washington Black*" by Esi Edugyan. This analysis is a text-based interpretation based on Franz Fanon's postcolonial theory. The postcolonial trauma experienced by colonized people occurred due to racism and dehumanization carried out by the colonizers. Racism refers to the practice of wrongly assigning hereditary psychological or behavioral traits to someone of a particular physical appearance. Believe that superiority or inferiority traits allegedly possessed by people of a certain physical stock can be explained biologically. Dehumanization refers to the practice of designating a group as inhuman, either through the use of subhuman categories or by the use of negatively rated superhuman creatures. Dehumanization, according to Haslam, can take two forms: animalistic dehumanization and mechanical dehumanization. The purpose of this study is to discover how does racism and dehumanization might create postcolonial trauma in colonized people. This study discovered several instances of racism, animalistic dehumanization, and mechanical dehumanization that cause colonized people to experience postcolonial trauma.

Key words: *Washington Black, Racism, Dehumanization, Colonized People, Postcolonial Trauma*

ABSTRAK

Frianda, Septian (2023). **Trauma Pascakolonial Akibat Rasisme dan Dehumanisasi dalam Novel *Washington Black* Karya Esi Edugyan. (2018).** Padang: Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Padang

Penelitian ini membahas permasalahan trauma pascakolonial akibat rasisme dan dehumanisasi dalam novel "*Washington Black*" karya Esi Edugyan. Analisis ini merupakan penafsiran berbasis teks berdasarkan teori pascakolonial Franz Fanon. Trauma pascakolonial yang dialami masyarakat terjajah terjadi akibat rasisme dan dehumanisasi yang dilakukan penjajah. Rasisme mengacu pada praktik pemberian sifat psikologis atau perilaku yang diturunkan secara salah kepada seseorang dengan penampilan fisik tertentu. Percaya bahwa ciri-ciri superioritas atau inferioritas yang diduga dimiliki oleh orang-orang dengan kondisi fisik tertentu dapat dijelaskan secara biologis. Dehumanisasi mengacu pada praktik yang menetapkan suatu kelompok sebagai tidak manusiawi, baik melalui penggunaan kategori yang tidak manusiawi atau dengan menggunakan makhluk super yang dinilai negatif. Dehumanisasi, menurut Haslam, dapat terjadi dalam dua bentuk, yaitu dehumanisasi animalistik dan dehumanisasi mekanis. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana rasisme dan dehumanisasi dapat menciptakan trauma pascakolonial pada masyarakat terjajah. Penelitian ini menemukan beberapa kasus rasisme, dehumanisasi animalistik, dan dehumanisasi mekanis yang menyebabkan masyarakat terjajah mengalami trauma pascakolonial.

Kata Kunci: *Washington Black, Rasisme, Dehumanisasi, Masyarakat Terjajah, Trauma Pascakolonial*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Dominance of a people or area by a foreign state or nation is known as colonialism. It is the practice of extending and maintaining a nation's political and economic control over another people or area. Slavery, brutality, and death were all part of colonialism's cruel treatment of indigenous peoples (Campbell et al, 2010). Colonialism has a very negative impact on the colonized country or region, limiting their economic and cultural development. Campbell et al. (2010) add "the effects of colonialism are similar, regardless of the particular colonizer, disease; destruction of indigenous peoples' social, political, and economic structures; repression; exploitation; ground displacement; and land degradation." Even after the colonizers have left or moved out of the country's borders, the devastating effects of colonization on colonized countries will not be easily reversed.

According to Fanon (in Hilton, 2016) colonization can have a negative impact on the identity and psyche of colonized people. The concepts of colonialism on the colonized can be seen in various ways: compartmentalization, dehumanization, segregation, covert and/or overt racism, cultural assimilation, sterilization, denial of religious freedom, and countless massacres. According to Fanon (2013) the psychological effects of oppression in his book by using

concepts such as racism, alienation, segregation, dehumanization, and psychopathology.

Racism, according to Giddens (1993), is the habit of wrongly assigning inherent mental or behavioral qualities to persons of a particular physical appearance. Furthermore, van Dijk (1993) defines a racist as "someone who believes that superiority or inferiority traits allegedly possessed by people of a certain physical stock can be explained biologically." Butts (1971) add, "racism is defined as the predication of racial decisions, policies, and behavior with the goal of subordinating and controlling a racial group." Racism may be both overt and hidden."

The examination of "delegitimizing beliefs" by Bar-Tal (2000) gives an essential description of dehumanization. "Extremely negative characteristics are attributed to another group in order to exclude it from acceptable human groups and deny it humanity," according to this view. Delegitimizing ideas are associated with negative emotions (typically scorn and fear), cultural support, and outgroup prejudice. Dehumanization is one of five belief types, and it involves "labeling a group as inhuman, either by reference to subhuman categories... or by referring to negatively valued superhuman creatures such as demons, monsters, and satans" (Bar-Tal). Delegitimizing ideas are thought to be byproducts of interethnic conflict, serving a range of objectives such as explaining the conflict, justifying the ingroup's violence, and providing it with a sense of superiority.

The effects of colonization that are the most difficult to overcome are the postcolonial trauma. As with other collective traumas, the traumatic effects of colonial practices are passed down through generations. Researchers have been investigating the psychological effects of colonization (e.g., colonial mentality, internalized oppression) on colonized populations, such as a negative view of cultural identity, self-rejection, low self-esteem, and depression (Okazaki et al. 2008).

Postcolonialism is a topic that is frequently explored in literary works. For instance, Esi Edugyan's novel *Washington Black* (2018), which examines postcolonial trauma experienced by colonized people. Postcolonial effect of colonial experienced by the colonial subject because of the cruelty of the colonizers is one of the issues discussed in this novel. *Washington Black* begins with a character introduction: that of George Washington "Wash" Black, who is born into slavery in the Barbados. Black is raised by a man named Kit, who remembers having freedom and having a life before slavery. Black and Kit's slave-master is a cruel man; they work in the field for hours on end with no break and endure horrific punishment. They work in the field for years but are one day invited into the main house to be servants. After a while (and a number of hardships and unfortunate happenstances), Black devises an escape plan so that he could escape all the pain and suffering he and his fellow slaves had to endure. Black eventually escapes to Virginia with the help of a German ship captain. While in Virginia, he learns some troubling news that causes him to want to go

the Arctic. He swiftly leaves the Arctic and decides to finally settle down in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. He lives in fear in Nova Scotia for three years - paranoid that fugitive slave hunters will capture him. Eventually, Wash learns that Titch doesn't die and try to find him. Wash finally finds Titch in Morocco with his new servant. By the explanation above this study has been conducted focus on racism and dehumanization affect the psychology of colonized people.

1.2 Focus of the Problem

This study has been conducted focus on; racism and dehumanization affect the psychology of colonized people in the novel "*Washington Black*" (2018) by Esi Edugyan.

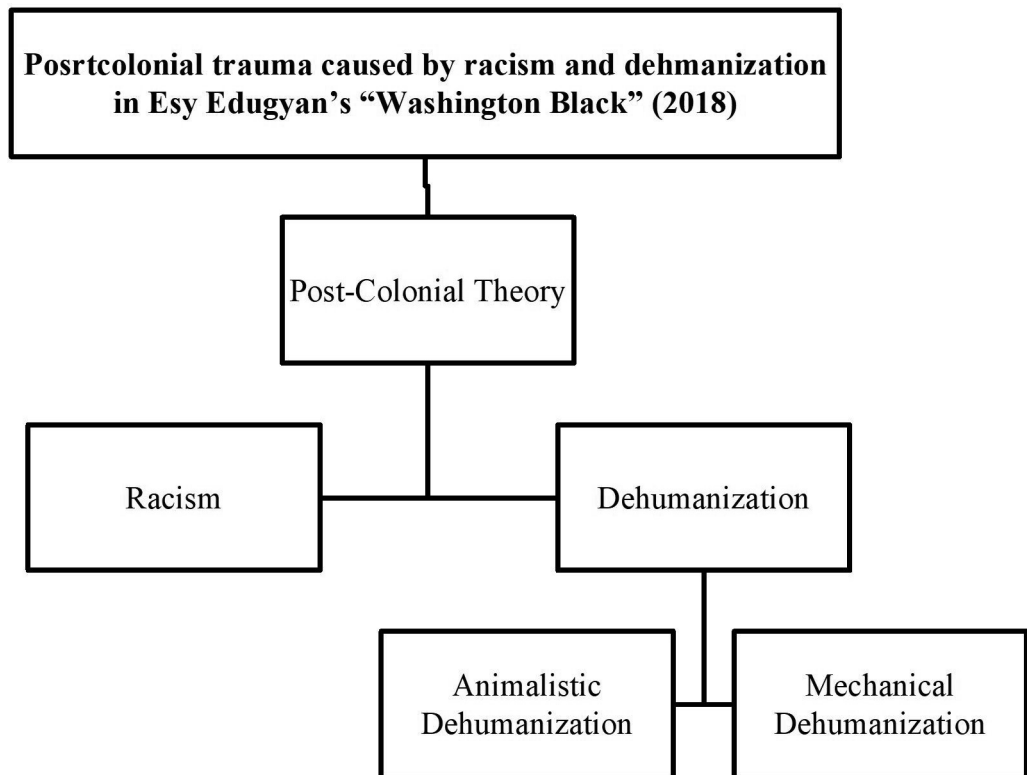
1.3 Research Questions

1. How does racism cause postcolonial trauma on colonial subject in the novel "*Washington Black*" (2018) by Esi Edugyan?
2. How does dehumanization cause postcolonial trauma on colonial subject in the novel "*Washington Black*" (2018) by Esi Edugyan?

1.4 Purpose of the Research

1. To find out how racism cause postcolonial trauma on colonial subject in the novel "*Washington Black*" (2018) by Esi Edugyan.
2. To find out how dehumanization cause postcolonial trauma on colonial subject in the novel "*Washington Black*" (2018) by Esi Edugyan.

1.5 Conceptual Framework



This thesis analyzed using post-colonial theory. Postcolonial theory is commonly used by black writers to express their opinions about colonialism through literary works such as prose and poetry. Postcolonial theory also discusses the effects of colonialism experienced by colonial subjects. The postcolonial effects of colonialism on colonial subjects can be seen from the concept of racism, and dehumanization.