

THE WHITE CLAIM IN ANDREW McGAHAN'S NOVEL *THE WHITE EARTH* (2004)

PAPER

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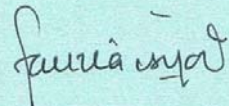
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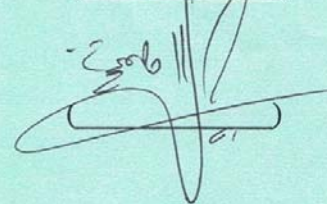
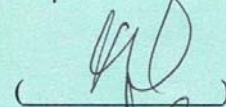
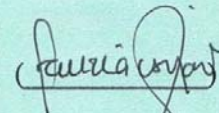
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ABSTRACT

Karlina, Desi.2013. *The White Claim in Andrew McGahan's Novel the White Earth* (2004). Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang

Makalah ini adalah hasil penganalisaan novel Andrew McGahan yang berjudul *The White Earth* (2004). Permasalahan yang dibahas adalah bagaimanacara orang White (settler) menuntut tanah yang bukan milik mereka. Tanah yang dituntut merupakan hak aborigine karena itu adalah tanah budaya. Kepercayaan dan kehausan akan kekuasaan menjadikan mereka orang yang sangat tamak. Menurut mereka tanah tersebut menjadi miliknya sebab mereka telah lama berkuasa dan bercocok tanam. Penelitian ini menggunakann konsep ideology dari Allhuthsser dan white supremacy. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menggunakan fictional devices seperti plot, setting dan karakter untuk mengemukakan cara dan usaha yang dilakukan untuk mempertahankan harta dan tanah.

Hasil dari penganalisaan ditemukan bahwa karakter menuntut property dari dua aspek, yaitu dari pemerintahan dan keluarga. Dari sisi pemerintahan, menuntut property dengan cara melawan hukum dan undang-undang. Menyuarakan pendapatnya kepada pemerintah dengan tulisan-tulisan. Dia juga berusaha menyembunyikan fakta-fakta tentang aborigine seperti waterholes, bora rings, yang merupakan tempat aborigine menghabiskan waktunya. Dari sisi keluarga, dia mengusir anaknya karena dia melawan dan menolak sifat-sifat ayahnya yang rakus akan harta. Selain itu, dia juga memanfaatkan keadaan temannya yang lagi sakit demi kepentingan harta. Mewarisi harta kepada keponakannya juga dia lakukan untuk menjaga supaya harta dia tetap hidup dan dijaga.

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Padang, September 2013

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Land is the source of conflict in the society. Many people get hurt because of the land. They kill each other in order to defend their land, and they no longer think about the safety of their people in the society. Colonial practices also the product of land. The colonialists exploit the land which can deserve them with many functions. Many natives on the land are killed and demolished. In 17th century, Aborigines were disappeared from their own and because of British (White) expansion. They authorized all Aborigines land and culture.

White people believe that the land belong to them because they have lived and buiit the land for many years. They thought Aborigine never built they land as they did. In fact, land cannot be owned by everyone. Although they works in the land, develop the land, live on the land for many years, it still belongs to the government. Thus, when the government's claim the land one day, they cannot claiming it if only they have the land certificate owner which is signed by the government.

In Australia, the society has different point of view toward land. Non-Indigenous people state that land is really important because land is their precious property. Distra (2013) states that non-indigenous people of Australia define land as their home, their mother, and their culture, and they have responsibility to care for the land. Moreover, An Aboriginal musician, Galarrwuy Yunipungu state that "the land is my backbone, and I only stand straight, happy, proud, and not shame of my color, because I still have land. I think of land is history of my nation". The

connection of land gives aboriginal their identity and the sense of belonging. Meanwhile, He adds that White define land as the commodity to be bought and sold, an asset to make profit from, a means to make living of it.

As the colonized country, Australia has been lived by many settlers for over of many years. Settler in Australia struggles to live in, to develop, and to build the land. They take the land for profit and benefit. For them, land is the commodity to be bought and sold, an asset to make profit from, a means to make living of it. When the British colonial invade Australia in 17th century, Aborigine were killed and demolish. British settlers took the possession of the land and country. Consequently, Non-indigenous people cannot build their land anymore. Not only British take land, but also their cultures were developed.

In fact, in late 1992, Government of Australia recognizes the right for Aboriginal people which called Native title Claim. The positions of settler in Australia are threatened by this issue because Aborigine may take or claim the land again. Law and culture must base on Aborigine's. For the settler, Aborigine doesn't have right for the land, for they never build the land. The white people claim the land is belong to them. They recognize the land based on their own belief or values.

A literary works explore the striveness and the ways on the White people to claim that the land is belong to them. One of the novels written by Andrew McGahan entitles *The White Earth*. This novel encloses the ways of White people to claim the land in Australia. The character in this novel has done several actions to claim the land. He tries to ignore the government decision which manage about

the land right. The phenomena of claiming of land happened because of White people believe that the land is theirs.

1.1.1 The White Claim

There are two terms that should be defined in this analysis. They are White and claim. White refers to the Europe colonialist in colonized country. Martian (1994) stated the term 'white' as applied to people was first used by slave-owning colonialist in 17th century. Colonial used the term 'white' to distinguished between European and servant from African one. 'White' has mean to have access to certain forms of preferential treatment and exemption from racial oppression, solely on the basis European and (allegedly) "white" skin. In Australia 'white' refers to the settlers who live in for hundred years.

Meanwhile, the term 'claim' has many meaning. According to Webster dictionaries (2012) claim means asserting something as own but without providing the evidence or proof. The term 'claim always appears in the society when people assert something as theirs without any evidence.

White claim in this analysis refers to White people for asserting that the land is theirs but they couldn't provide the evidence. They do many efforts to claim the land is theirs. In this analysis, it is represented by John. He claims the land in two aspects; from the government and family. These practices lead him become greedy as long as the land is Aborigines.

1.1.2 A brief of Andrew McGahan

Andrew David McGahan was born on October 1966 in the small town of Dalby, situated in Queensland wheat belt 211 kilometers northwest of Brisbane. He

grew up surrounded by the books, thought mostly nonfiction and as an adult he still professes to factual reading. In 1984 he entered an University in Queensland, unfortunately, he leave before he could complete the degree. After that, he worked in Brisban for unskilled job like a job sorting the outgoing mail for the department of social Security.

He had wanted to be a writer since childhood although he frequently admits he was more attracted by notion of a “writer’s life style” than by the idea of actually producing literature. The central theme of his writing ranges widely from the personal to the more broadly social. His writing begin by focusing closely on the lives of particular character, tracing their attachment to alcohols, drug, sex as well as their struggle with unemployment, boredom, self loathing and nihilism.

McGahan novels have received many awards. His first novel praise won the Australian Vogel Award in 1991. This novel garnered favorable commentary from older reviewer and was awarded the commonwealth writer prize from the best first book in the pacific region. This novel was also presented throughout the movie. The movie was also generally well received, winning the international Critic’s Award at the 1998 Toronto Film Festival. While, *The White Earth* (2004) has received many prestigious literary prizes including, Miles Franklin Award 2005, commonwealth writer’s prize for the best book for the South East and the South Pacific Region, the age and carrier Mail book of the year Award, and the international IMPAC Dublin Award Literary Award.

1.1.2 The White Earth

The White Earth (2004) written by Andrew McGahan explores the White claim. It shows the ways and efforts of a White to claim the land in their weather that they can't to prove it. Claiming the land is described through the action and words of the character in this novel which represented by John. Claiming of the land appears in the government and family.

Refusing to the government law and rules is one way of claimland. He joins an organization to promote his aspiration to the government, however, this organization exist in order to influence the society to support his willing. He writes several articles which contain of his ideas, his voice about the society rejection of the government rules; in fact, these articles are function to provoke the society to operate his vision. He influences his nephew to accept his false story about the property and the history of the land. Moreover, he discover up the evident about aboriginal history.

He purges the close people around him. John chase out his daughter in cases of she resist john rules and decision. He divorces his wife because she doesn't like john desire of the property. He lets his friend getting sick without any medicinal treatment. He means that when his friend died he may get the property.

1.2 Problem of Study

There several issues can be exposes in the Andrew McGahan's *The White Earth* (2004). Nevertheless, the White claim as an intersting issues to analyze. Hence, there are several research question to revealsthe White claim. The qoestion are:

1. How far does the white earth disclose the issues The White Claim
2. To what extent do fictional devices; plot (conflict) and characters give contribution to disclose the white claim

1.3 Purpose of Study

This study is intended to disclose the white claim in the white earth novel written by Andrew McGahan. This is also going to investigate to what extent fictional devices, which are plot (conflict) and characters, give contribution in disclosing the white claim

1.4 Previous Study

The analysis of the White Earth novel which focuses the White claim has not been found yet. However, there are some studies in essay or article that give contribution to this analysis.

The first Journal that give contribution to this analysis is written by Delrez (2011). He analyzes the White Earth novel entitled *Setter Envy and Historical Resolution*. This study uses the concept of radicalism and traumatism. The main focus of this essay is to show the anxieties about the political and religious extremism. This study argued that the terminology of trauma describes the residence populations' growth of awareness. It says that "trauma authorizes the materiality of exploitation and allows the speaker to achieve legitimacy".

The second study which gives contribution to this analysis is done by Christian (2002), entitled *An African-Centered Perspective on White Supremacy*. This article engages the idea of White supremacy and its ideological companion, racism, from the standpoint of critical analysis. This journal reveals

the nature of White supremacy as it has operated in the United States and in the United Kingdom. Using an African-centered paradigm, the article demonstrates that the existence of White supremacy marginalizes African people within both societies. Only by utilizing an agency analysis where Africans see themselves as subjects can White supremacy be overcome.

The two studies above give contribution and inspiration to the topic, maintaining property right in *The White Earth* Novel by Andrew McGahan. The studies above help to analyze the characters, setting, and plot of the novel. The first study helps in analyzing the character in the white earth novel. Meanwhile, the second study gives contribution on the concept of white supremacy since it is used in this analysis. The difference between this analysis and the first study is the ways the characters think about. The second study is how people perspective on white race. Meanwhile, this analysis shows the ways and effort of character claim the land as his.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

This analysis is supported by the concept of White Supremacy. The term of white supremacy appears after the expansion of Europe. It focuses on the difference of race. It is a belief that white people are superior to those of all other races, esp. the black race, and should therefore dominate society. White belief in superior to the society leads them become greedy. They claim that every aspect of life must be determined by their willing.

White dominates the activities in the society. White Supremacy is a belief that all the cultural and socio cultural based on White point of view. According

tochristian (2002) white supremacy manifests in the social, economic, political, and cultural history of European expansion and the development of new world. It manifests all the aspect of life, such as economic, culture, education. It is inextricably intoven with the global cultural expansion of Europe from the 15th century to the present. This belief lead the white people do many thing to assert the something as theirs. In this analysis, something refers to the land. 'White' believe that the land belongs to them as long as the live in the land. It must not be given to the Native or indigenous people.

The analysis of the text also uses the concept of ideology from Lous Althusser. Each individual has its own ideology which he/she hold for her guide to live in. They define everything by their own belief. Althusser in Bennet and Rotle (2004) stated that "ideology is bound up with the constitution of the subject, that 'man' is an ideological by nature which means that people constitute or define themselves as human through ideology".

Althusser in Felluga (2011) promotes four concept of ideology. First, ideology represents the imagery relationship of individuals to their real condition. Ideology doesn't reflect the real world but represent the imagery relationship of individuals to the real world; the thing that ideology misrepresents is itself already at remove from the real one. Second, ideology has material existence. Althusser said that ideology has material existence because "an ideology always exists in apparatus, and its practice or practices. Third, all ideology hails or interpellates concrete individuals as concrete subject. The main purpose of ideology is in constituting concrete individuals as concrete subjects. So, ideology may state that

in its constitution of subject form our reality and appear to us as true or obvious. Fourth, Individuals are always already a subject. It means that ideology has existed in human since they were born even before they born. However, most subjects accept their ideological self-constitution as reality or nature and thus rarely run afoul of the repressive State apparatus, which is design to punish anyone who rejects the dominant ideology.

Ideology is really important to support human life. Human know who they are through ideology. Hand (2002) remains us that

Ideology convinces us that we are the whole and real that we are the concrete subject we want to be. No wonder then that we see whatever ideology makes us see as natural, as belonging to the natural harmonious order of thing.

Althusser argue that ideology hails or interpellates concrete individuals and concrete subject. Human define or call themselves as subject and recognized themselves as subject is the effect of ideology. Human belief toward ideology that they hold creates them as subjective which lead them become rude and arrogant. They define themselves as the one in reality.

In this analysis, the use of concept ideology from Louis Althusser and the concept of white Supremacy helps to analyze *the white earth* novel which written by Andrew McGahan entitled the white claim. In this analysis, the third and the fourth concept of ideology which promotes by Althusser are used. The characters which represented by John keep a hold to ideology which define himself as subject and the one; everything is based on his own values. Consequently, even though, the land is cultural, he does many efforts and ways to claim the

land which leads him become greediness. He refuses the law or government rules and careless toward his family.

This form of analysis is also supported by the text and context-base interpretation. It means that it is not only focus on the works or text itself but also the issues, conflict and phenomena that appear in the real world. According to madden (2002), text-base interpretation focuses on the text and require close reading. It breaks down the whole text to deconstruct the meaning.

The analysis of this novel is done by examining the fictional devices. It focuses on the plot (conflict) and characters. Robbert (1999) states that the conflict is confronting forces inter characters, characters with themselves (internal conflict), and characters with the society and its environment (external conflict) which cause doubt, arouse curiosity, create tension, and produce interest. Conflict brings out human energy, causing characters to engage in the decisions, actions, response, and interaction that make up fictional and dramatics literature. The conflict of this novel is really important. Conflict of this novel is internal conflict. Internal conflict experience from the characters itself. In this analysis, the conflict appear between the character and his desire over the property. He believes that the land is his eventhought he knows that it is cultural. Thus, He does many ways and effort to maintain the land from goverment claim.

Another element used to analyze the text is character. A character is the most important element of the literary text. Robbert (1999) defines characters as a verbal representation of human being which is show trough the action, speech, description and commentary. In analyzing the character, it should be know the

cracter trait. Robbert reminds that a trait is a quality of mind or habitual mode of behaviour. For instance, he or she never repaying borrowing money, or thinking oneself the center of attention. A trait is usually the person's primary charateristic; thus, they may be ambitious or lazy, serene or anxious, careful or careless and so on.

Moreover, Robberts (1999) also add that there are five of characterization in analyze a literary work. First, the character action. It reveals the qualities of characters such as naivete, weaknese, and they also demonstrate a character's new awarnese of the devolopment of prticular character strenght. In this analysis, the character's action to maintain the the property eventhough he know this property is not his. His action shows his greediness to the property. Second, the author description, both personal and enviromental. Apperance and environment revelas much about the character's social and economic status and they also tell us about the characters trait. Third, what the character say such dramatic statement and thoughtful describe what they are like. Fourth, learning about character based on whay the other character say. Fifth, the author speaking to describes the characters.

In this analysis, five of characterization are used to analyze the text. They are used to shows the ways and effort to claim the land by John. He is the character who has ambitious to a property which is a cultural or related to human right.However, this condition forces him to do many efforts to claim the land when he live in.

1.6 Methodology

The analysis of the text will be done through text-base and context-base interpretation. In the text base interpretation, it will be done by emerging and analyzing the fictional devices such as plot (conflict) and characters. They cannot be separated because there are correlated to each other. By using context-base interpretation, this analysis appears with the social and political issues in the text.