THE CRITICISM ON THE IMPERIALISM IN CONRAD'S *HEART OF DARKNESS*:
A STUDY OF THE CHARACTER AND SETTING

A THESIS

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Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

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ABSTRACT


Heart of Darkness is one of Joseph Conrad’s masterpieces. It is also one of the great works in the history of the world of literature. In this novel there is one topic that is really interesting for the writer of this thesis to explore deeply. That is the significance of the major character and the setting of the novel to signify the criticism of the imperialism.

To explore deeply on those aspects, there are three questions the writer wants to answer. The first is how the main character is described in the novel, the second is how the setting is presented here; and the third is how they signify the criticism of the imperialism.

The writer uses the formalistic approach to explore more deeply the main character and the setting and to find the idea behind these two aspects. The writer takes the data from the text itself. The writer will find out how the main character and the setting signify the criticism of the imperialism. Here, Marlow, the main character as a Westerner agrees with the idea behind the imperialism, which he admits to be something good for the development of the world at least for his nation, but he reveals on the next part that the implementation is not the same as the idea he has had on his mind. He dares to reveal the experiences he has on his journey. The experiences, which are bad for him. The mistreatment of his people to the natives there. Marlow pictures the setting in almost bad situation, which makes the situation, goes darker.

On the conclusion, after examining both of the aspects the writer can deduce that there is one idea behind them, that is his criticism on the imperialism in which he is also one of the participant, his critic appears because he finds out that there is something different between the idea of the imperialism that he thinks is good but, in fact, the implementation of it disappoints him.
ABSTRAK


Heart of Darkness adalah salah satu mahakarya dari Joseph T. Conrads dan telah menjadi salah satu karya besar dalam sejarah karya sastra di dunia. Di dalam novel ini ada satu topik yang menarik untuk dikaji lebih dalam yaitu pentingnya tokoh utama dan latar belakang dalam kritik terhadap imperialism.

Untuk mengkaji lebih dalam terhadap dua aspek tersebut ada tiga pertanyaan yang dikeluarkan penulis untuk dijawab. Pertama adalah bagaimana tokoh utamanya, yang kedua adalah bagaimana latar belakangnya, dan terakhir bagaimana pentingnya kedua aspek tersebut dalam kritik terhadap imperialism.

Untuk mengkaji lebih dalam tokoh utamanya, latar belakang nya, dan ide di balik kedua aspek penulis menggunakan pendekatan formal yaitu hanya menggunakan data yang ada dalam tek saja. Penulis mencoba untuk mengetahui bagaimana tokoh utamanya, bagaimana latar belakangnya dan bagaimana penekanan mereka terhadap kritik akan imperialisme yang ada dalam novel tersebut. Untuk yang pertama yaitu tokoh utamanya mengungkapkan bahwa dia setuju dengan ide dibalik imperialism yang dia akui pada awalnya sebagai sesuatu yang membanggakan untuk perkembangan dunia membawa peradaban pada yang tertinggal. Tetapi yang dia hadapi ketika ia terjun langsung untuk bergabung ternyata berbeda dengan apa yang ada dalam benaknya, implementasi dari ide tidak sama dengan ide awalnya. Melihat hal itu dia berani untuk mengungkapkannya dalam ceritanya, ketika dia sudah kembali ke negaranya. Dia berani mengungkapkan pengalaman buruk yang dia hadapi, ketidak adilan, perlakuan buruk bangsanya terhadap penduduk asli di sana. Tokoh utama juga menggambarkan setting atau latar belakang tempat yang dikunjunginya, dia menggambarkan tempat itu secara umum sebagai tempat yang gelap, remang-re mang, yang berkeadaan buruk, bau, kotor dan lain lain. Hal tersebut mempengaruhi orang-orang yang ada disana khususnya bangsanya yang ada disana.

Dalam kesimpulan penulis dapat mengungkapkan bahwa setelah menkaji tokoh utama dan latar belakang dari yang diungkapkan oleh tokoh utama ada satu ide yang ingin dia sampaikan yaitu ingin menyampaikan kritiknya terhadap imperialism walaupun dia akui dia juga menjadi salah satu bagiannya. Kritik ini ada dikarenakan adanya perbedaan antara ide dan implementasinya.
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary work lives as well as human being does in the world. It means that literature will continue to grow along with the development of the world itself. Every piece of literature cannot be separated from a particular phenomenon in the society as Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods say in *The Reading and Writing about Literature*.

A primary assumption of the novel was that it would report the actions of individual characters with details sufficiency and abundant to create the allusion of the authenticity to the material facts of everyday world. This is why the one word most often used to describe the novel is the word 'realistic' (1971, P. 29)

Although the author does not automatically copy what happens on the real situation on his novel, but there is always the similarity between the situation on a piece of literature and the reality itself. The reader will understand what is behind the story if he pays attention on it. It is understandable, that it comes from the imagination, interpretation, and even long meditation of the author from what is happening around the author's life in a real society.

Reading a literary work does not only give us a feeling of enchantment but also brings us to real understanding of life. Connolly says on *The Type of Literature*,

We read because of a hunger of information or amusement or solace because of an appetite for truth that seems to grow by what it feeds on. Men read to discover themselves on their world to access their special role
on universe to learn the meaning of personal struggles in which they are engaged. In other word, we want to share the experience (1955, P. 1)

Reading a piece of literary work will bring us to the understanding about the truth of life although the work we read as a matter of fact is an imaginative writing. The messages we learn will inspire us to go on our life.

The reader’s understanding of the novel depends on the knowledge of the reader to articulate whatever the author wants to deliver in his novel. It is common that the messages are not clearly stated the paragraphs. Readers have their own right to articulate the aspects, which are involved in the novel, as Burton says in *The Criticism of Prose*,

The writer, however, does not even state explicitly what his proposes are. The reader must deduce intention from the content and tone responding to as sensitively as possible to language used (1977, P. 8)

It means that to get what actually the author wants to say is not merely from what is written on it, but it should consider the other aspects which are supporting or building a piece of literary work. The readers have to consider some important aspects of the novels such as setting, symbol, point of view, character, characterization, biography of the author, and so on. The quality of how deep the reader’s understanding of literary work depends on the reader himself: it means that there is unlimited rule for the reader to dig deep inside the work of literature and to explore the messages, as Burton says,

That the work of literature contains a talent or hidden sense that it is not necessarily revealed by the simple removal of difficulties. It is the task of
critics to expand this talent meaning. Which may or may not have been consciously intended by the author (1977, P. 67)

For the analysis the writer chooses Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. It is a short novel but it is unique. After reading this novel, the reader will understand that it may be a real journey of the author. This novel tells about the journey taken by a man called Marlow in the depth of African continent, especially along Congo River. It led Marlow to, what he thought to be Choice of the nightmares as seen on chapter three, very bad situation he had to pass over from the beginning to the end of his journey. The way the story goes is unique; it is unique because Marlow does not tell the story from the beginning of the novel. A man on the Nellie, Nellie is a cruising yawl, tells the introduction at first, the conversation between Marlow and the man is found there, then this conversation led to the situation that Marlow becomes the second storyteller. Then Marlow continues the story himself. He tells the man his story from the beginning of his interest to the sea, to his real journey in those what the Western people call uncivilized society. He tells his experiences dealing with his aunt, natives, cannibalism, Kurtz, the manager of the central station, the brick maker, and many other experiences. His journey becomes some kind of psychological journey because it has changed his attitude toward human being in the dark of Africa; in other words his character had develops after going there.

In this study, the writer would like to focus the analysis on the criticism of the imperialism based on the main character and the setting of the novel. Marlow, the major character, who takes the journey into the depth of Africa in the early nineteenth
century, has experienced many bad experiences dealing with the abuse of natives by Western along Congo River as the setting of the novel. The main character expresses his great sympathy for what happens to the natives Congo State. The main character here has experienced many bad things from one place to another and his experience has been going darker. What Marlow here witnesses is real situation, which is very bad, the westerners treat the natives so badly. What Marlow sees there is the real abusement of human being to the other one. He thinks it belongs to brutes. Because he is human being, he can feel that it as if he is one of the victims of the mistreatment.

Marlow pictures the condition of the mistreatment of the Western to the natives here. Marlow does not really agree to the Western Imperialism because it is the manifestations of the greedy aims are applied to the natives. It is the portrait of the attack of the imperialism by Marlow as his disagreement of the imperialism. Marlow pictures the condition in his story. It cannot be denied that it is his attack as the main character to the mistreatment of the Western especially his country. It is clear that through the main character Conrad here wants to attack the Western, especially his criticism toward Belgian new imperialism in Congo State territory. As Robert F. Hough said in his criticism on Conrad' *Heart of Darkness*,

The story was taken by some as an attack upon Belgian colonial methods in Congo as a moral track and, as a study in Race relationship (1963, P. 163)

Literature is a part of humanism, so its function is to make criticism to its society.
B. Problem Formulation

In this analysis, the writer of this thesis would like to answer these questions,

1. How is the main character depicted in the novel?
2. How is the setting depicted in the novel?
3. How do the major character and the setting signify the criticism on the imperialism?

C. Objectives of the Study

In this study the writer would like,

1. To know how the characteristic of the main character.
2. To know how the setting of place, time, and society.
3. To know how the major character and the setting signify on the criticism of the imperialism.

D. Benefits of the Study

The writer understands that there are many aspects on the novel we can explore. We can learn the themes, plot, symbolism, setting, character, characterization and so on. In this thesis, the writer wants to explore more about the significance of the major character and the setting.

On the study of the character, the writer really hopes that it will give the reader of this novel clues about a number of the characters appear on the novel. It will guide them to understand how the characteristic of Marlow, the manager, the brick
maker, Kurtz and the others. It will also give a certain understanding that each person represents different kinds of background and have different roles in the novel.

On the other hand, on the study of the setting, the writer hopes that it will also give more understanding about the settings present on the novel. It will give the reader a clue that there is a line on the setting of place, although there are not many places mentioned on the text. The setting of place starts from Brussels and on the banks of big river in Africa. The setting of time and society is around the Victorian era. The sign is the invention of the railway.

The last objective of the study is to show that the character and the setting here have significant to give a criticism about what happen on the society. The writer hopes that this analysis would help the beginner or the other students to understand about the novel as critique to the society. On the other hand, to give the reader a clue that this novel as a work of literature is not just a piece of paper, but it could take apart in the development of the society. It could present the condition of human phenomena on the work of literature whether it is good or bad.

Moreover, the writer feels the importance of this study for the students of faculty of letters. In order to get better understanding of the work of literature, so they can study more easily to Conrad’s work by examining the thesis the writer presents.
E. Definition of the Terms

There are some terms that the writer is going to define, in this case, they relate to the title of the analysis:

1. Imperialism

There are two definitions present about this term; both of the definitions indicate that it refers to the phenomena the Western country once had in the past.

(i) The first definition is taken from Encyclopedia of Americana, (1957, Vol. 14, P. 821) Imperialism often is implied to outward thrust of European Society – the carrying of political, economic, and moral practices into non-European areas which began in 15th century.

(ii) The second definition is from Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary of English Language Unabridged, (1983, P.913) The policy and practice of forming and maintaining an empire, in modern times, it is characterized by a struggle for the control of raw materials and world markets, the subjugation and control of territories, the establishment of colonies, etc.

Imperialism implies not only on the acquiring a land to expand the country territory but also on the making of the colony country as profit source. Sometimes the mother country applies dirty ways to achieve their economics goal. They use the power of soldier to maintain the colonies.

2. Criticism

According to Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary of English Language Unabridged, (1983, P.432) Criticism is the act making judgments; analysis of
qualities and evaluation of comparative worth; especially, the definition and judgment of literary or artistic work.

2. Significance

There are three meanings according to Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary of English Language Unabridged, (1983, P. 1688)

(i) That which is signified; meaning.
(ii) The quality of being significant; suggestiveness; expressiveness.
(iii) Importance; consequence; moment. (1983, P. 1688)

Significant here means that something has certain important meaning. It will arouse someone to ask what is behind this or does it suggest something.

The word criticism here is applied because in the novel the author wants to give a little evaluation of the imperialism of the Western as the setting of their society of the novel. As written on the title, the criticism of the imperialism here will explore the study on the main character and the setting of the novel. The criticism is based on the intrinsic elements of the novel.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer is going to discuss some theories related to the study. The writer is going to use theory of character and setting. The character and the setting have significance in the criticism of the imperialism. However, first the writer will present some related study.

A. Review on Related Studies

_Heart of Darkness_ is Conrad’s masterpiece. It is one of his greatest works. Some critics give their comments that actually it is the criticism upon Belgian Colonialism. Readers can understand it at the first time they read the novel because he gives clear pictures of the impact of the imperialism. One of the critics who consider it the criticism upon Belgian Colonialism is Robert F. Hough. He states in his essay found on _An Authoritative Text Backgrounds and sources Essays in Criticism_. The title of the essay is _Heart of Darkness: Problems for Critics_.

The story was taken by some as an attack upon Belgian Colonial methods in the Congo: as moral tract; and as a study in race relationship. _The Bookman_ called it “a symbolic picture of the inborn antagonism of two races, the white and black”. _The Spectator_, without indicating that it understood the story any better, praised the moral tone. Most of the other contemporary reviewers read it as criticism of Belgian Colonialism, an issue that remained alive until Conrad’s death and got attention on his obituary notices (1963, P. 163)
Another book also puts *Heart of Darkness* as one of the works that expresses criticism of the imperialism. *Documentary and Imaginative Literature 1880-1920* is one of those books; in one of the topics, this book says that it is one example that criticizes the imperialism.

One of the engineering achievements of the age was the driving of a railway into the interior of the Congo, a manifestation of Victorian progress bringing more horrors in its wage than the poverty so deplored by Henry George. It is fitting that one of the most sombrely impressive passages in *Heart of Darkness* is the description of the chain gang of African labour building the railway, allowed to crawl a way and die when they were no longer capable of work (1970, P.193)

This passage tells us that the impact of the imperialism brings more bad impact than the good one, because the enforcement happens limitless. Especially the passage tells about the description of the chain gang that has to work all the time, they are not allowed to take a rest. The western will allow them to take a rest after they can do nothing. This is the point the writer of the essay tells about the criticism of the imperialism on that book.

B. Review on Related Theories

1. Character

The definition of character is an important start to begin this talk. In relation to its importance, it is very wise to have good definition about this term.

*Abram's Glossary of the Literary Terms* says that,

Character is the person in dramatic or narrative work endowed with moral and dispositional qualities, that are expressed in what they say i.e. the dialogue, and what they do i.e. the action. The ground in a
character's temperament and moral nature for his speech and action constitute his motivation (1989, P.20)

Abram's definition of the character is clear enough, that is in the character itself there is moral or certain type of person and there is also quality of the person him/herself. This moral and qualities represent on their speech and action on the story. Therefore, characters are alive through what they do and speak on their interaction with the other character.

Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods divide types of characters in to two types, Flat and Round characters,

Characters must be credible; that is, reader must accept them as believable people. Characters can be described as Flat or Round: Flat characters are one-sided; Round characters are many sided (1971, P. 20)

Abrams gives us further discussion about these distinctions when he remarks on E. M. Foster in his book Aspects of the Novel,

A flat characters (also called a "type" or "two dimensional), Foster says, is build around "a single idea or quality" and is presented in outline and without much individualizing detail and so on can be fairly adequately described in single phrase or sentence. A round temperament and motivation and is represented with subtle particularity; thus he is as difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like most people, he is capable of surprising us (1971, P. 21)

It can be also underlining that a flat character is the character, which remains the same or unchanged from the beginning until the end of the story. His characteristic does not develop either good to be bad or bad to be good. On the other hand, a round character is character of the novel that changes on his or her
attitude of the reader toward him. It is also called complex character, so Foster says that he is capable of surprising us because of his changing of the character.

From the basis of the importance, the character can be defined into two types, as E. M. Foster says in his book *Aspects of the Novel*, main or major characters and minor characters,

On the basis of the importance, we can distinguish two types of characters. Major character is the most important character in the story. Basically, the story is about this character, but he can not stand on his own; he needs other character, to make the story more convincing and lifelike (needless to say that we need other element of the story such as setting). Minor characters are characters of less important than those of the main are (1971, P. 32)

It can be said that the story is about the main character. Most of the reader's attentions are paid for the main character because most of the story talks about the major character. Of course, the minor character has role on the story. However, once again the main character deserves the reader fullest attention because in fact the main character performs as a key of the story.

Murphy says in his book *Understanding the Unseen: an Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students*, (1972, P.161) that there are nine ways in which the author attempts to create the characters understandable, make sense, lifelike for the reader. On the other hands, the readers might also understand the characteristic of the person on the story by paying attention to those nine ways. They are:
a. Personal description

The author can describe the character’s physical appearance because each character has his individual aspects that are different to the other. The reader can imagine what he looks like from his appearance just like the face, body, and clothes they wear. It is important aspect because by understanding the appearance the reader will have vivid and clear picture what the character is like. It will be kept in the reader’s mind that the major character is like this; on the other hand, the minor characters are like this.

b. Character as seen by another character

The author can describe also characterization through the eyes or opinion or point of view of another character. Murphy takes this example from Conrad’s The Rover,

    Of course, real had remarked at once Arlette’s black profound and mysterious silences and then rare sound of her voice with made a care of every word (1972)

    From the quotation above, the author tells the reader how real Saw Arlette, the strange and mysterious girl.

c. Speech

The author can give reader some clue of the person’s character in the novel through what the character says. The readers judge the way the conversation of the character with the other. The reader will find out his opinion, comments or idea. From these, the personality can also be revealed.
d. Past life

The author can also give reader clue to the events that help to shape a person’s characterization through his past life. It can be done by direct comments produced by the author, through the person’s thought, through his conversation, or through the medium of another person.

e. Conversation of others

Through the conversation of the other people and thing they say about him.

f. Reactions

The author can also give the readers a clue to a person’s character by letting them know how the person reacts to various situation and events.

g. Direct Comments.

The author can also describe and comment on a person’s character directly.

h. Thought.

The author can give the reader direct knowledge of what a person is thinking about, what in the person mind is, what does he feel.

i. Mannerism

The author describes a person’s way of behaving that a person has which may also tell us something about his character.
2. Setting

Abram’s gives his definition about setting in his book,

The setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale and historical time in which its action occurs; the setting of an episode or scene within a work is particular physical location in which it takes a place (1971, P. 157)

Underlining this quotation, setting can be divided into two points. First, it is the place where the story takes place as the background and the second is the time when the story takes place.

Van Der Lar in his book, An Approach to English Literature, gives us further and deeper explanation about setting,

Like the character of the novel scene must be drawn some how from real life. Wholly invented scene is an unsatisfactory as wholly invented characters. But again, as with everything in the novel scene can not be taken straight from reality. It must be in some way been organized for example in some way distorted from reality to suit the purpose of the novel (1963, P. 172)

He insists that setting must not be too different from the reality because it will loose its power, or it will not convince the reader about the author’s knowledge to the real scene of the setting.

According to Nurgiyantoro in his book, Teori Pengkajian Fiksi, there are three basic elements, setting of place, setting of time, and setting of society. However, they have relationship to each other.

1. Place

It practically refers to where the story takes a place. Therefore, the locale is important, for example Congo River, London, Center station, and inner
station. The place and its own name can be the sign of place as setting or background of the action on the story.

2. Time

The setting of time is answering When the event of the novel for instance the year, the month, the week, the date, the day, morning, evening, afternoon, and night. According to Gannete (1980, p. 33; 35) as quoted by Nurgiyantoro she says that setting of time can have two meanings. First, it refers to the time when the story of the novel is written. It means that the time sequence of the novel is the same as the time when the story is written. The second, it refers to the time sequence in the novel itself.

3. The setting of society

The setting of society refers to the people in the novel. It is answering how the people in the novel are. It also refers to the social behaviors where the events of the story happen. It can be the habits, traditional beliefs and moral values of the people in the novel. More deeply, it can be the social status of the characters in the novel. They can be in upper class, middle class, or lower one.

C. Theoretical ground

In this study, there will be two aspects that are going to be explored in terms of formalistic approach. The work itself will be the only source for the analysis. Both of the aspects are the intrinsic elements of the novel, major
character and the setting of the novel. The writer will analyze them in their relation to their significance in criticizing the Imperialism.

The writer starts with finding out the major character and the settings (place, time, and society). The writer will analyze the characteristic of the major character. How he behaves, acts, handles his problems and how his opinion, thoughts, experiences are. The second element is the setting. The writer explores the setting of time, place, and the setting of the society on this novel.

What the main character tells this on the story seems that he has disapproval on the imperialism after he found out the impact of it on the natives. He is showing his disapproval of the bad treatments of the natives by Belgian representatives there. More seriously, the main character explained the condition of the setting of the society.

In the discussion, the writer tries to relate the objection of the main character to the imperialism as one of the criticism of the imperialism. He realizes that deep in his heart he does not agree to this especially to the impacts brought there.

There is relation between the setting and the criticism of the imperialism here, setting of place and society insist that something bad have occurred there as the impact of the imperialism. Setting of place, time and society on the novel is imperialism. The situation of the society at the time when imperialism is going on is pictured clearly here. The major character pictures it clearly the mistreatment of the natives who have to work in the contract without any
payments, without enough food, starvation, bad water, illness, and tortures. This setting will be part of the main character's experience dealing with the impacts of the imperialism, which will never easily get off his mind. It will remain the question in his mind what is their right to do such thing out there.
CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY

A. Object of the study

Heart of Darkness consists of three chapters. It is considered as a short novel (Novella). It was written in 1898. It appeared in print many times such as, the manuscript of 1989-1989, The Blackwood's Magazine version of February, March, and April 1899, and The Blackwood Book form of 1902, and the final version of the story was 1921. Thereafter, it has been used as the original text for the present edition. The present edition completed with its footnote to help the reader understand the novel easily. It consists of 78 pages.

B. Approach.

The writer is going to apply formalistic approach for the analysis. The writer wants to find out the character and setting in relation to their significant on the criticism of the imperialism.

Mary and Woods say in their book Reading and Writing about Literature (1971, P.7) that formalistic approach tries to analyze the literary works merely without reference to the facts of the author's life, without reference to the genre of the history, and without reference to its social milieu.
Concerning to formalistic approach, this analysis will concern to the work itself, exploring deeply the character and the setting in relation to the criticism of the imperialism.

C. Method of the study

The method of the study used in gathering the data for the analysis in this thesis was library research. The data were from the novel itself. Actually it was not enough at all, to support the writer tried to read another book as consideration on the same object.

In analyzing the novel, the writer applied Formalistic approach. As Abram’s said in his book that in this approach the writer tried to look the data from the work itself, therefore the work was the main source on the analysis. Thinking neither the social condition at the time when the story was written nor the biography of the author.

There were some steps that the writer used to do in this study:

1. Understanding about the novel

The writer tried to read the work many times to have clear understanding about the novel itself and to gain the idea about what was the writer going to study in this thesis.
2. Understanding the character and the setting of the novel.

Reading from the main source of the novel, the writer tried to understand and to
gather data about how was the main character and how were the setting of the
novel.

3. Finding the significance of both the main character and setting.

The writer related the aspects of the novel to their significance on the criticism of
the imperialism. Finally, it was the task of the writer to relate between the
character and the setting to the significances on the criticism of the imperialism.

The writer finished this thesis as he has answered all the questions on the
problem formulation and made a conclusion for what he had been done on the
analysis on chapter four.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer would like to discuss the problems of this thesis. The writer has stated previously that the writer is going to analyze character and the setting and how they signify the criticism on the imperialism.

A. The Major Character

The major character in this novel is a man named Marlow, he is one of passengers on a yawl. "Nelie" is the name of the yawl. He is one of Western wanderers or exactly he is a sailor. Another man gives a comment about what he looks like. He is the man who is telling the introduction and the closing of this novel. He is the first storyteller. He is the introducer to the story. He gives Marlow's physical description,

He had sunken cheeks, a yellow complexion, a straight back, an ascetic aspects, and, with his arm dropped, the palm of his hands outwards, resembled idol (P. 3)

This narrative informs Marlow's physical appearance, he has sunken cheeks, he has Yellow complexion, and He has straight back. Now he is trying to sit calmly to meditate himself. He tries to bring peace and harmony on his life now. He sits cross-legged in lotus position. He does this as the result of his long, difficult, bad, and mysterious journey he ever has to the darkest and blackest place on the world.

Marlow sat cross-legged right, leaning against the mizzen-mast. (P. 3)
Marlow starts telling his experience he has ever had in to the darkest places on the earth. He once has a journey there. As the introduction, he starts to tell how he has such interest to go there. He tells that his interest has grown up since he was a child, he says

Now when I was a little chap, I had a passion for maps. I would look for hours at South America, or Africa, or Australia, and loose myself in all the glories of exploration. At that time there were many blank spaces on the earth, and when I saw one look particularly inviting on the map (but they all look at that) I would put my finger on it and say, when I grew up I will go there. The North Pole was one of the places I remember (P. 5)

His interest grows because he knows the success of the world exploration a lot from the people there. The glory of the imperialism fills into his mind everyday. It inspires him to be one of the people who can bring glory of the exploration. It motivates him to take a part on that exploration. The names of rivers, lakes and names of places are very familiar for him. Day by day, it becomes his dream to go there.

True by this time, it was not a blank space anymore. It had filled since my boyhood with rivers, and lakes, and names. It had ceased to be a blank space of delightful mystery (p. 6)

Moreover, he reveals that his motivation to join the exploration grows stronger when he is looking at a map of the world in the shop-window, the map fascinates him much.

And as I look at the map of it in a shop – window. It fascinated me as a snake would a bird – n a silly little bird. Then I remembered there was a big company for trade on that river. Dash it all! I said to myself, they can’t trade without using some kind of craft on that lot of fresh water – steamboat! Why shouldn’t I try to get charge of one? (P. 8)
That is his story on his childhood; his interest really starts from his child because of his understanding about the glory of the exploration.

When he is mature enough, his dream to join the trading company grows stronger. He never gives up to apply for the position as a sailor but he gets failure. Because of his failure, he beseeches his aunt to use her influence to find him a job as a sailor. He gets a job to replace the captain of a boat; the natives kill him in scuffle. He has to go down there to replace him.

After signing the contract with the company and meeting the doctor, he meets his aunt to say good-bye. At this moment, he says that his journey will be very wonderful journey for him to take because as far as he knows he considers that in his journey, he will not only work for the company but also will be a kind of lower sort of apostle to bring civilization to the rest of the world.

Good heaven! And I was going to take a charge of a two-penny-halfpenny river-steamboat with a penny whistle attached! It appeared, however, I was also one of the workers with a capital- you know. Something like an emissary of light, something like a lower sort of apostle (P. 12)

He believes that other than, he works for the company but he also believes that on his journey actually there is a mission as an apostle does. He reacts uncomfortably when his aunt who perhaps knows the conditions there is talking about the horrid ways of the people there.

She talked about ‘weaning those ignorance millions from their horrid ways’ tell upon my word, she made me quite uncomfortable. I ventured to hint that the company was run for profit (P. 12)
It seems that Marlow hasn’t known exactly what happens there. He does not know the reality. It is his opinion about the exploration that it is normal anyway; there is nothing wrong on it.

He starts his journey on French steamer; in the beginning, he still thinks that his journey is exactly the same as what he has dreamt before that the idea behind exploration of the world is very good. The same as the idea of the imperialism he has known before, the idea that is very good at least for the westerner.

An idea at the back of it, not sentimental pretence but an idea, and unselfish belief in the idea – something that you can set up, and bow down before, and offer a sacrifice to…. (P. 7)

All he knows about the idea behind the process is very good; he does not know that the reality is not exactly the same as the idea. It can be very different. After thirty days of sailing on the ship, finally he reaches his first place to visit. It is Central station where he meets the manager of the company and meets the realities of the imperialism.

In this place, he firstly knows the reality of his journey, the realities that struck and impress him to his heart. The realities of the implementation of the imperialism on his journey so far. He meets the picture of the oppression of the natives by the authorities, and the authorities are the Westerners. When he is walking to the office on the central station, he meets a group of blacks, which are building a railway,

A slight clinking behind me made me turn my head, six black men advanced in file toiling up the path. They walk erect and slow, balancing small basket full of earth on their hands and the clink kept time with their
footsteps. Black rags were wound round their loins, and the short ends behind wagged to and fro like tails. I could see every rib, the joint of their limbs were knots in a rope; All were connected together by a chain whose bights swung between them, rhythmically clinking. But these men could by no stretch of imagination be called enemies (P.16)

Having seen this picture, he feels sympathetic for them. He is wondering how could the western treat them like that. It is normal that a group of black people is building a railway but it becomes strange if they have to put on iron collars connected to one another with a chain on their necks. It is a very nasty picture to see. His sympathy grows to see such kind of picture. How could they treat them like that, they are not their enemies actually.

Another report from the cliff made me think suddenly of that ship of war I had seen firing into a continent. It was the same kind of ominous voice; but these men could by no stretch of imagination be called enemies (P.16)

His reaction on how his people call the black people there shows that he is very sympathetic person. He really cares to other human being.

Having seen the first picture of mistreatment of the western to the natives, he reacts by showing his disapproval of that action.

My idea was to let that chain gang get out of sight before. I climbed the hill. You know I am not particularly tender; I’ve had to strike to fend off. I’ve to resist and attack sometimes—that’s only one-way of resisting—without counting the exact cost, according to the demands of such sort of life as I had blundered in to. I’ve seen the devil of violence, and the devil of greed, and the devil of hot desire; but by all the stars! These were strong, lusty, red-eyed devils, that swayed and drove men-men, I tell you (P. 17)
He tells that he is not tender to see such thing happens on his face, he has to strike and to attack sometimes. It shows his disapproval on that thing. He feels that sometimes he has to attack how the western do to the natives.

Furthermore, he insists that as if he sees the devils drive the white men to do the brutality. He does not want to hurt the white men by saying that they are cruel but he says as if the devils drive them to do that. It is a kind of softening the use of the language to describe the Western behavior there. He does not describe that the western have hot desire, sense of violence, and greed but the devils drive them. He does not say his objection frontally but he criticizes it.

On the next moment, he sees another picture that arises his deep sympathy,

They were dying slowly- it was very clear, they were not enemies; they were not criminals, they were nothing earthly now – nothing but blacks shadows of disease and starvation, lying confusedly in the greenish gloom. Brought from all the recesses of the coast in, all legality of time contracts, lost in uncongenial surroundings, fed on unfamiliar food, they sickened, became inefficient, and were then allowed to crawl away and rest (P.17)

He says once again that they are not criminals; they are not enemies because of their weakness, because of his powerless after working in long period without any rest. As the result of time contract, they have to sign under the pressure. On the next passage, he once again was wondering to see the black destinies there,

He had tied a bit of his white worsted round his neck- Why? Where did he get it? Was it a badge – an ornament – a charm – a propitiatory act? Was there any idea all connected with it? It looked startling round his black neck, this bit of white tread from beyond the seas (P.18)

Here on the next part of his journey, in the central station, he starts to meet the reality of his journey little reality of the glory of the imperialism. The reality that is
different to the first idea. He starts to ask question how it can be like that. It is different to what he has dreamt before.

During his time in the central station, he starts to know many things. He meets the manager of this place, the chief accountant, and the others. In this place he firstly hears the name Kurtz pronounced, the chief accountant tells him about this person. He is the chief of Inner Station and the first class agent. The chief accountant of the central station tells Marlow that he will meet him soon.

The second lap of his journey begins after he finished to fix his broken boat. He goes from central station with the manager to go deep inside the country to the Inner station. The manager asks him to go together to see Kurtz, actually to take him because he is seriously ill. Marlow does not know exactly the purpose of his journey down there. He just follows his manager. He finds out the purpose soon after there is an attack on the steamer. He is very sad because on the attack he loses his helmsmen to whom he starts to know well.

For the moment that was the dominant thought. There was a sense of extreme disappointment; as though I had found out I had been striving after something altogether without substance. I couldn’t be more disgusted if I had traveled all this way for the sole purpose of talking to Mr. Kurtz. Talking with ................. I flung one shoe overboard, and became aware that was exactly what I had been looking forward – a talk with Kurtz (P.48)

After the attack on the steamer, he realizes the real purpose of his journey is to meet Kurtz.

Once again, he shows his sympathy to one of his crews who dies because of the attack on the steamer. He loses him much. He is the helmsman.
But then, you see, I can’t choose he won’t be forgotten. Whatever he was, he was common. He had the power to charm and or frighten rudimentary souls into an aggravated witch-dance in his honour; he could also fill the small souls of the pilgrims with bitter misgivings: he had one devoted friend at least, and he had conquered one soul in the world that was neither rudimentary nor tainted with life seeking. No; I can forget him, though I am not prepared to affirm the fellow was exactly worth the life we lost in getting to him. I missed my late helmsmen awfully— I missed him even while his body was still lying in the pilothouse (P. 51)

It shows that he is a very sympathetic person although he has instant intimacy with his fellow. Although he has only short time spend with this fellow but he realizes his existence on his journey.

Finally, he reaches the inner station, he meets Harlequin first who tells him much about Kurtz. He tells how is he? From the conversation with this fellow Marlow finds out that Kurtz fascinates him much. He really looks forward to meet him. The opportunity comes to him when a group of blacks brings Kurtz on stretcher, he is low lying on the stretcher with no power.

Seeing such condition, the manager offers to him an idea to save big amount of ivories Kurtz has collected so far. He says that he wants to save it but actually, he wants to take them as his own properties. He asks the brick maker of the company to make a report on it. Marlow considers it as a very disgusting method. He realizes now that he is one of the partisans of that method.

'That fellow – what’s his name? – The brick maker will make a report for you,' he appeared confounded for a moment. It seemed to me I had never breathed an atmosphere so vile, and I turned mentally to Kurtz for relief – positively for relief. 'Nevertheless, I think Mr. Kurtz is a remarkable man,' I said with emphasis. He started, dropped on a cold heavy glance, said very quietly, 'He was,' and turned his back on me. My hour of favor was over; I found myself lumped on with Kurtz as a partisan of methods for
which the time is not ripe: I was unsound! Ah! But it was something to have at least a choice of nightmare (P. 63)

He compares what he gets on his journey to what he calls "the choice of nightmares", something that somebody can not invite or deny on his life. He has no other choices to do unless to do what he has chosen before. He realizes now that he is one of the partisans of this unsound method the westerns do there. He realizes in the middle of his journey.

I had turned to the wilderness really, not to Kurtz, who, I was ready to admit was as good as buried. And for a moment it seemed to me as if I was also were buried in a vast grave full of unspeakable secrets. I felt an intolerable weight oppressing my breast, the smell damp earth, the unseen presence of victorious corruption, the darkness of impenetrable night......... (P. 63)

There is a bound on Marlow back now, as the result of his awareness of his condition he has. It influences him so much but it does not make him cancel his journey. He says that he has to continue his journey to the end. He remains loyal to his choice of nightmares. He shows his strong character to never give up and faithful to what he has chosen before to join in the glory of the exploration.

Even more, he has to be loyal to Kurtz because it is a part of his duty than to save him from the wilderness. He shows it when someday he finds that Kurtz is not on his cabin. It shocks him much to see what happens. He has inside his heart that he has to save him. He tries to find him immediately,

I did not betray Mr. Kurtz – it was ordered I should never betray Mr. Kurtz. It was ordered I should never betray him – it was written I should be loyal to the nightmares of my choice (P. 65-66)
Finally, he finds him. When he is coming closer to Kurtz, he asks Marlow to get a way from him because it will get Marlow in to trouble. At the time, there are Kurtz followers who do not let anybody takes him a way from them. On the other hand Marlow can bring him back him again; he puts him in to pilothouse. He is acquainted with this man because he has little conversation with him before he passes a way. More Kurtz asks Marlow to help him to send a bundle and a photograph for his fiancée. Actually, he asks Marlow to save it from the manager and anybody else.

The climax of this story takes a place at the time when Kurtz dies, it makes Marlow realizes more about his being there. He understands that his sole purpose of his coming there is to save him. He understands that he cannot regret it anymore he should take the advantage of his journey.

However, as you see, I did not go to joint Mr. Kurtz there and then. I did not. I remained to dream the nightmare out to the end, and to show my loyalty to Kurtz once more. Destiny. My destiny! Droll thing life is – that mysterious arrangement of merciless logic for a futile purpose. The most you can hope from it is some knowledge of your self-that comes to late-a crop inextinguishable regrets (P. 71)

After Kurtz death, he realizes who he is. He realizes that he is now in condition of no hope after all, no desire. His journey is going to over soon and he thinks that his journey is useless. However, he can take the good side. He can learn something for himself.

He shows his loyal to Kurtz, when he asks Marlow to give a bundle manuscript and a photograph to his fiancée. He goes there. He feels sorry for what happens to him at the first time he meet her. It appears that Kurtz death is only

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yesterday on her house. There is still sadness and mourning in her house, although it has been months. When she is asking about last words Kurtz speaks, he decides to make a lie because he does not want her hurt more by telling it honestly. Although there is fight inside his heart but for her shake, he dares to make a lie. He really does not like to make a lie. This what he says after he finishes talking about it,

1 heard a light sight and then my heart stood still, stopped dead short by an exulting and terrible cry, by the cry of inconceivable triumph and of unspeakable pain.
It seemed to me that the house would collapse before I could escape, that the heavens would fall upon my head. However, nothing happened. The heavens don’t fall for such a trifle (P. 79)

That is what he feels after that. He proves his belief about lie he says before.

There is nothing happens for such a trifle. He says this previously, that he is a person who hates lie. In addition, his journey so far finally ends with a lie.

I would not have gone so far as to fight for Kurtz, but I went for him near to a lie. You know I hate, detest, and can bear a lie, not because I am straighter than the rest of us, but simply because it appalls me. There is a taint of death, a flavor of mortality in lies—which exactly what I hate and detest in the world—what I want to forget. It makes me miserable and sick. Like biting something rotten would do (P. 27)

He decides to make a little but important lie to Kurtz fiancée because he thinks it is good for her shake.

We have already known the characteristic of the main character that he is a sailor, he is very concern on human life or very sympathetic to others, and he is also faithful to what he has chosen before or he has brave and courage to take all the risk of life.
He shows his criticism when he meets many pictures of the western oppression over the natives; he is surprised at first to see such condition. He feels sorry for what happens to them but he can do nothing. All he can do is saying that someday he has to attack that violence. He promises to do that. The condition is different to what he has dreamt before. What he has known before is that the idea is very good for the world civilization. The evidences he sees evoke him to criticize imperialism.

B. The Setting of the Novel

There are three settings that the author presents in this novel; they are the setting of place, the setting of time and the setting of society or the circumstance.

The setting of place here is very important to describe the exact place where the story takes a place. Actually there are not many places mentioned in the text but the setting of place of this novel is entirely along Congo River. However, in his journey he has passed many different places from the beginning to the end of his journey.

The first place he visits before he starts his journey is a city what he calls sepulchral city. The city Where a whitened sepulchral lives. There is full that kind of person. The person who seems good but actually they are bad.

I flew around like mad, to get ready, and before forty-eight hours, I was crossing the channel to show my self to my employees and sign the contract. In very few hours, I arrived in a city that always makes me thinks of a whitened sepulchre. Prejudice no doubt. I had no difficulty in finding the company's offices. It was the biggest thing in the town, and everybody I
met was full of it. They were going to run an overseas empire, and make no end of coin by trade (p. 9)

This quotation is his explanation about the city he has ever visited before he goes,

I find myself back in the sepulchral city resenting the sight of people hurrying through the streets to filch a little money from each other, to devour their infamous cookery, to gulp their unwholesome beer, to dream their insignificant and silly dreams. They trespassed upon my dream (P. 72)

It describes the typical of Western city. They are doing business here without thinking that their business endangers the natives there.

Most of the places actually are on the dark of Africa along Congo River. Marlow describes that the places are very dark because he goes to the deep of African jungles, which are still very thick; there are so many big trees. They are very big, so their millions leaves close the sky. The jungles are very dark, gloomy, and misty.

The story starts from Europe, Brussels. Marlow leaves on French steamer. He passes many ports in many deferent places. The place he visits firstly is the central station. Here he meets his new colleague such as his manager, the brick maker, the helmsmen, and so on. Central station is one of the places where the westerners concentrated. Here is Marlow's explanation of this place,

I watched coast as it slips by ship like thinking about an enigma. There it is before you smiling, frowning, grand mean, insipid, or savage, and always mute with an air of whispering, come and find out. This almost featureless, as if still in the making, with an aspect of monotonous grimness. The edge of colossal jungle, so dark green as to be almost black, fringed with white surf ran straight, like a ruled line, far, far away a long a blue sea whose glitter was blurred by creeping mist. The sun was fierce, the land seemed to glisten and drip with steam (P, 13)
He recognizes that situation all the way to the central station. The place he visits and stays for a month is the central station. On the other hand, this place impresses and shocks him because at this place he knows firstly the real condition of the real world there. The condition of the real implementation of the idea of the imperialism he considers good. There are differences between what he has dreamt before to the realities he sees now. He thinks that Westerns get advantage on the other hands they do not think that they get advantage by sacrificing the natives of the Congo.

At last we opened a reach. A rocky cliff appeared, mounds of turned-up earth by the shore, houses on a hill, others with iron roofs, amongst a waste of excavations, or hanging to declivity. A continuous noise of the rapids above hovered over this scene of inhabited devastation. A lot of people, mostly black and naked, moved about like ants. A jetty projected into the river. A blinding sunlight drowned all. This at times in a sudden recrudescence of glare. ‘There’s your company station’ said the Swede (P. 15)

It is a very busy place and a very impressive place full of pictures of very touching moments because in this place he sees for the first time the abuse of western to the natives.

All the places he sees and visits are on the banks of the river, he continues his journey to the Inner Station where Kurtz dwells. All the way there, the banks of the river are jungle, settlements of natives, and jungle again. The inner station is a very impressive place. The chief of this place was a man called Kurtz. It was an ordinary post with incredible and horrible ornamentation because the ornaments are made of the stacks of heads, real heads of human being.
I had expected to see a knob of wood there you know. I returned deliberately to the first I have seen—and there it was, black, dried, sunken, with closed eyelids—a head that seemed to sleep at the top of the pole, and, with shrunken dry lips showing a narrow white line of teeth, was smiling too, smiling continuously at same endless and jocose dream of that eternal slumber (P. 58)

It is what Marlow sees there, that there is an ornament of heads in front of the post, real human heads.
The ornamentation of this place makes it very impressive, very scary for people to look for the first time.

The last place he visits is Kurtz fiancée’s house. When he is walking closer to the house, he sees Kurtz as if on the house standing on the window panel. He is looking at Marlow who is coming to see his fiancée.

I rang the bell before a mahogany door on the first floor, and while I waited he seemed to stare at me out of the glassy panel—stare at with that wide and immense stare embracing, condemning, looting all the universe. I seemed to hear the whispered cry, ‘the horror! The Horror’ (P. 75)

This house is also mourning for what happens to Kurtz as the girl feels at that time.

The setting of time is around 1898-1899, the reason is as pictured on the novel that Marlow sees there, he sees the building of the railway. It is the real evidence of the time when western especially Belgian Imperialism takes a place in this land; plants their authority in this land.

They were building railway, the cliff was not in the way or anything; but this objectless blasting was all the work going on (P.16)
It clearly pictures the effects of imperialism on the story. It is on the novel such as the building of railway, military post along the Congo River where many soldiers and a band of explorer look for a place for money. It is obvious that west’s influences take a part as Marlow said,

We pounded a long, stopped, landed soldier, went on, landed customs-house clerks to levy tool in what looked like a God-Forsaken wilderness, with a tin shed and flag pole lost in it; landed more soldiers (P. 10)

It has already known that white people come to east country to get what they needs as the impacts of the industrialization. They need bigger place to sell their products and to get more resources for their hunger machine.

On the other hand, westerners also want to take the most valuable thing in Congo, it is ivory. It is priceless kind of commodity. Therefore, it is the most profitable item to be exploited there. It is the first goal the explorers want to achieve as much as possible beside mines and spices, as Marlow said,

They were conquerors, and for that you want only brute force- nothing to boast of- when you have it, since your strength is just an accident from the weakness of other. They grabbed what could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was just robbery with violence, aggravated murder on great scale, and men going at it blind- as it very proper for those who tackle a darkness (P. 4)

It is the condition of the Westerner; their goal is to conquer the world. The main circumstance of the society here is that the westerners try to make richness of their heritage by taking the other person things.

To get great profit they apply many dirty ways. They try to make the way to get everything more effectively by using military power. They send many strong and
trained soldiers with rifles on his hands. The rifles are fired to frighten the natives and the result is predictable that they are frightened to death.

That is the background of society as the setting of the novel.

C. The Significance of the Character and the Setting to the Criticism on the Imperialism

1. The Significance of the Character

The significance of the character in relation to the criticism of the imperialism is the thing that will be explored on this section. Marlow as one of the westerner there seems to show his disapproval on that matter for what his country has been done out there.

As a human being, Marlow has certain characteristics, he is a good guy, He is a brave and strong character, he is faithful, he has strong sympathy and care to other person, and he is an honest person.

In relation to the criticism of the imperialism happening on Congo, there are some considerations that what he tells on his story becomes his criticism to the people where he belongs.

First, he is a Westerner; Event Marlow admits that he is part of this process. Because he is westerner, so it needs enough bravery for him to tell what he has experienced there himself to other westerners who have not gone there. On the other hand, not all the men are those who have the same opinion as he does. This passage is what he says when he meets two different pictures on the central station, first he
meets a chained black gang who are building railway which is very touching. The second is the portrait of western guard with rifle on his hands.

After all, I also was a part of the great cause of these high and just proceedings (P.16)

Second, his sympathy becomes his starting point of his criticism to the imperialism. His big care of human being arouse on his heart to speak out the injustice happens down there. He witnesses many times the abuse of natives, how they could become the victims. On the other hand, they bring prosperity to western. How could the western call them criminals, enemies, and outlaw? There are still questions on Marlow’s mind.

The third, his honesty, he tells the bad impacts of the process to the persons on the Nellie. Usually the westerners do not tell the reality they have there honestly. They try to cover it. Here Marlow tells it honestly, what he has seen there. He does not cover it that his journey has been a journey to the darkest place on the world.

Now let us see deeply in to the significance of the character on his criticism of the imperialism. Actually, he has known the indication that there will be something wrong there. The reality finally one by ones comes into his mind

About the imperialism or the colonialism, he does not agree with it at all. This passage can show us his disagreement on it. He expresses that there is a robbery. He opened it by giving a paradoxical sentence,

They were no colonists; their administration was merely squeeze, and nothing more, I suspect. They were conquerors, and for that you want only brute force-nothing to boast of, when you have it, since your strength is just an accident arising from the weakness of other. They grabbed what
they could get for the sake of what was to be got. It was robbery with violence, aggravated murder of great scale, and men going at it blind-as very proper those who tackle darkness (P. 4)

They are no colonists but there is great scale of squeeze, it is the same that there is imperialism. He feels that there is nothing to boast on that process. He actually does not agree because they win in the middle the other weakness.

His sympathy in fact is the starting point of his disapproval of the imperialism especially the implementation of the idea of the imperialism. In other word, it is also his criticism to the imperialism of western community to the natives of Congo and Eastern.

The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking a way from those who have different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look in to it too much. What redeems it is the idea only. An idea at the back of it; and an unselfish belief in the idea-something you can set up, bow down before, and after a sacrifice to... (P. 4)

It really can be understood that Marlow’s comment on imperialism shows us one of his disapproval. He can accept the idea behind it because he finds that the motivation is good. He often says the idea is impressive as something to be respected by people. It is something to be bowed down. Nevertheless, after realizing how is the implementation of the idea on the colonies, bad implementations happen there, he regrets it.

First, experience which strikes him to his heart is when he comes to a place he calls as ‘a boiler wallowing in the grass’. He find there is a chain gang of natives who are building railway. It is normal to work on building railway but it will be strange or
ridiculous thing when they have to work wearing an iron collars on their necks connected each other with a chain.

A slight clinking behind me makes me turn my head. Six black men advanced in file toiling up the path. They walked in erect and slow balancing small basket full of earth on their heads and the clink kept time with their footsteps. Black rags were wound round their loins, and short ends behind waggled to and fro like tails. I could see every rib; he joints of their limbs were like knots in a rope, each had an iron collar on his neck, and all were connected together with the chain whose bights swung between them, rhythmically clinking (P. 16)

This picture will arouse a pity for someone who witnesses it. How could the people put on an iron collar on their necks connect each other with a chain while they are working, it means that there is enforcement of the natives by the people who in charge in that place. The colonist puts the natives on work by forcing them to build railway. They walk alertly and weakly. It seems they have no power to do the work anymore.

Having the chain gang go off his sight, he expresses his opinion on what he sees. He shows his disapproval,

My idea was to let that chain gang get out of sight before I climbed the hill. You know, I am not particularly tender; I've had to strike and to fend off. I've had to resist and to attack sometimes—that's one way of resisting (P. 16)

He expresses his resistance toward what happens there later or now is not important. The most importance is that in his heart there is something, he doesn't agree with it. On the next passage, more he insists that as if the devil has drove the white man to do so to the natives,
I've seen the devil of violence, and the devil of greed, and the devil of hot desire; but, by all the stars! These were the strong, lusty, red-eyed devils, that swayed and drove men-men, I tell you (P.17)

This condition by another word that the black natives have been lost or defeated by an invasion and have to work without payment as refugees for the winner of war. They are the victims of the western greedy aim,

Another report from the cliff made me think suddenly of that ship of war had seen firing into continent. It was the same kind of ominous violence; but these men could by no stretch of imagination on be called enemies, they were called criminals, and the outraged low, like bursting shells, had come to them, an insoluble mystery from the sea... (P.16)

Marlow feels one more time that he does not agree to how western people treat them. They consider them as their enemies, even as their slaves. How they could treat them like that, what is their right to do such kind of brutality. He, Marlow, gives more picture of brutality of the western to the natives by showing this picture, when he approaches the manager champ,

Black shapes crouched, laid, sat down between the trees leaning against the trunks clinking to the earth, half coming out, half effected with the dim light, in all the attitudes of pain, abandonment, and despair. Another mine of the cliff went off followed by slight shudder of the soil under my feet. The work was the place where some of the helper had withdrawn to die. They were dying slowly— it was very clear. They were not enemies, they were not criminals. They were nothing earthly now—nothing but black shadows of disease and starvation, lying confusedly in the greenish glow (P.12)

Marlow's sympathy is challenged again witnessing the other implication of the imperialism. They are helplessly dying; everyone would feel exactly like what he feels watching such condition. They are dying without any help at all. They were helpless because too much burden they had to carry on their back every day, without
enough food, enough rest, and so on. He, one more time, pictures western victim of
the imperialism,

The man seemed young-almost a boy-but you know with them is hard to
tell. I found nothing else to do but to offer him one of my good Swede's
ship biscuits I had in my pocket. The fingers closed slowly on it and held-
there was no other movement and no other glance. He had tied a bit of
white worsted round his neck- why? Where did they get it? Was it a
badge- an ornament - a charm- propitiatory act? It looked startling round
hid black neck, this bit of white tread from beyond the seas (p.18)

He shows his wondering; he is asking how could this people do this to the
other people. He feels that it is not an appropriate treatment for human being. He is
shocked whether there is an idea behind the treatment. It seems that Westerns feel
that they are the chosen; people in the world better than natives are. It is a kind of
underestimation of the Western to eastern people. It seems that they had a right to do
so to this people. In this picture, it is really that the natives are not different to animal
to be badly treated. As the result will be predictable that they will die immediately
because there is no treatment for these exhausted, burdened, and despair creatures,

Near the same tree, two more bundles of acute angles sat with their legs
drawn up. One with his chin propped on his knees, stared at nothing in an
tolerable and appalling manner; his brother phantom rested its forehead, as
if overcome with great weariness; and all about others were scattered in
every pose contorted collapse, as in some picture of massacre of a
pestilence. While I stood, horror-struck. One these creatures rose to his
hands and knees and went off on all fours toward the river to drink. He
lapped out his hands then sat up in the sunlight, crossing his shins in front
of him and altered a time let his wooly head fall on his breastbone (p.18)

It is another picture of the impacts of the western imperialism. This picture
fills daily to Marlow's brain. He expresses that all the natives get are as the result of
western there,
They were dying slowly—it was very clear. They were not enemies, they were not criminals, they were nothing earthly now—nothing but black shadows of disease and starvation, lying confusedly in the greenish gloom. Brought from all the recesses of the coast in all legality of time contracts, lost in uncongenial surroundings, fed an unfamiliar food, they sickened, became inefficient and then allowed to crawl away and rest (P. 17)

He states that what they get is as the result of Western existence there. They have to work all the time, their condition is very bad. The guards allow them to take a rest until they cannot do anything. As long as they have energy, they have to work. Another expression,

There was no other movement and no other glance. He had tied a bit of white worsted round his neck—why? Where did he get it? Was there any idea at all connected with it? It looked startling round his neck, this bit of white threat beyond the seas (P. 18)

Repeatedly he says that it is the Western the cause of such result. He also asks that there must be idea at the back of it, it is the imperialism.

Western plants their system on every aspect of life such as economies, politics, and social historical and so on. Marlow pictures the economic aspect when he first comes in his new friend, the company chief accountant in central station. He says,

Everything else in the station was in a muddle heads, things, buildings, strings of dusty Niger with splay feet arrived and departed; a stream of manufactured goods, rubbishly cottons, beads and brass-wire set into the depth of darkness and in turn came a precious trickle of ivory (P. 18)

The Western try to export their manufactured goods into the colonies. They send them to the Eastern and African countries. On the other hand they also transform great number of valuable things to their mother country such as ivory, spices, many
kinds of mines and so on. The goods are arrived and departed as a stream. Therefore, they try to get profits on both processes.

Marlow states about imperialism more bitterly on his comment about a band of people who call themselves "The Eldorado exploring Expedition". The band is very economics motive; they try to make money as much as possible,

This devoted band called it self the Eldorado Exploring Expedition and I believe they were sworn to secrecy. Their talk, however, was the talk of sordid buccaneers: it was reckless without hardihood, greedy without audacity, cruel without courage; there was not atom of foresight of serious intention on the whole batch of them, and they did not seem aware these things are wanted for the work of the world. To tear treasure out of the bowels of the land was their desire with no moral purpose at the back of it than there is in burglars breaking into safe (P.31)

The application the imperialism is really clearly said by Marlow. The Western take precious things from the object of the imperialism for granted just like tearing treasure out of the earth. Their great desire is like a greedy beast that wants to eat as much as possible by opening his mouth as wide as possible, then all delicious things would be eat up.

This passage is also full of sentences, which are showing the criticism about the manner of their behaving, especially on their imperialism. Their talk is the talk of sordid buccaneers. He compares them to buccaneers, western as buccaneers or pirates. It means robbery of sort action they are trying to do to the natives. They do it without thinking about the result to the natives, as if there are limitless for them to treat the natives badly. It seems that the whole world belongs to them, on their hands.
Just like what they do of tearing treasure out of the bowels to the land, to fulfill their lust desire; morals are then the second or may be the third matter to consider.

The passages the writer has been explored here are the presentation of Marlow’s objections on the imperialism of the Western on the Dark Continent where he has ever gone through.

2. The Significance of the Setting

In this part, as the writer has mentioned before that there are not many places and there is no exact time mentioned in the text by Marlow. Actually, he has experienced and called on many places, and then it is predictable about the times when this story takes a place.

Many places from his point of departure, western town Brussels, to this dark place he has passed over. Most of the places belong to Congo State,

Every day the coast look like the same, as though we had not moved; but we passed various places-with names like Gran’ Bassam, little popo; names that seemed belong to some sordid farce acted in front of sinister back-cloth (P.13)

It means that there he has passed over many places on his journey to the center of the continent. He feels that the places are strange places as if belongs to some sordid farce acted in front of sinister backcloth. It is very strange places for him.

On the other hand, the significance of the setting, Marlow first opinion on that place will be delightful to fill his passion upon the map. For him a new sailor is his choice to live. However, when he comes to the real world of his place he had to
handle his choice, which then becomes a choice of nightmare. What he has dreamt so long before, the places will be good for him, but they turn to be the dark places for him to pass through.

Many experiences have one by one come into his mind, most of them effect badly on him as new sailor. He passes by many different places and they penetrate him so much with the pictures, the pictures of the suppression of the savages. This expression appears in his story,

Going up that river was like traveling back to the earliest beginning of the world. When the vegetation rioted on earth, the big trees were kings, an empty stream, a great silence, an impenetrable forest. The air was warm, thick, weary sluggish. There was no joy in brilliance of the sunshine. The long stretches of the waterway ran on, deserted into the gloom overshadowed distances (P.34)

Underlining Marlow's expression shows the situation of land, which is dominated by gloomy days because the sun is impossible to shine on the thick and high tress. It is the place, which seems impenetrable or hard to be coped someone hands. It seems that gloomy situation surrounds him there,

You would lost your way on that river as you would in the desert, and batted all day along against shoals, trying to find the channel, till you thought your self bewitched and cut off forever everything you had known once-some where-far away-in another existence perhaps. There were moments when one's past came back to one, as it will sometimes when you have not a moments to spare to your self; but it came with unrestful and noisy dream, remember with wonder amongst the overwhelming realities of this strange world of plants, and silence (P.34)

Going into the depth of continent, the settings influence him so much as if the setting is not the world he has known before. He comes to strange and weird world. He feels that his previous life has been cut off somewhere here, there is a distinction
between condition of the first setting where he origins and the setting he has then.

More bitterly felt is the environment; he feels the strange environment from what he has expected before when he leaves Brussels.

Sometimes we come to upon station close by the bank, clinging to the skirts of the unknown and white men rushing out of a tumble-down hovel, with great gestures of joy and surprise and well come, seemed very strange—had the appearance of being held there captive by a spell. The word ‘ivory’ would ring in the air for a while (P.35)

The strange environment must have been there because the men as though have been cursed by the word ‘ivory’, just like it hypnotizes people. They try to find it even though they have to pay it with their life. Ivory has been a priceless thing. It is so valuable for them. They will do anything to get it as much as possible. That is why the word “Ivory” always heart. It is always in the their minds. It influences them so much.

The sound of the drums as if it has been the magic spell comes to Marlow’s ears. It arouses question what is the meaning of it. It makes the situation is stranger; its stillness brings back someone’s past memories.

We penetrated deeper and deeper into the hearth of darkness. It was very quiet there. At night sometimes the roll of the drums behind the curtain of tress would run up the riverside and remain sustained faintly, as hovering in the air high over our heads, till the first break of the day. Whether it meant war, peace, or prayer we could not tell. The downs were heralded by descent of the chill stillness, the woodcutter slept their fire burned low; the snapping of a twig would make you start. We were wanderers on the prehistoric earth, on earth that wore the aspect of the unknown planet (P. 35-36)

The influence of the stillness of the setting penetrates in to human souls so much who goes through this world.
This setting, which is almost gloomy, always accompanies Marlow's feeling, his feeling is always sad brought by many bad and improper experiences he has on his journey. As if the situation feels sorry to him for what he has to choose in life to have such kind of experience. It makes Marlow is drown deeper and deeper on his choice of nightmares.

It seems, that gloomy situation influences the people who live there; their mind is as dark as their heart. This place is as if full of magic spell for white people. The word Ivory is the spell that poisoning their minds. More ivory they could get, wealthier they will be. It makes people lost their deficiency on the right feeling. They will do anything to get it. That is why they expressively oppress the natives to achieve what they want. That situation has driven the white men there into evil; so that they are brave enough to do brutal treatment to the natives, they think to be their enemies, although they are not actually. They just shock seeing the way the whites treat them. So the natives try to resist them, it is very normal. They have to stand their right because they are civilized human beings actually.

He also pictures the situation there as if it is a real hell for somebody to face. It will easy come to our mind that condition if we feel these, that it is strange, badly smell, cold, dark, moody and so on.

My purpose was to stroll in to shade for a moment; but no sooner, within than it seemed to me I had stepped in to gloomy circle of some inferno (P.17)

He feels that he comes into the gate of hell. Inferno has been built there as the result of the western brute treatments there. The settings really represent it. The
circumstance is strange for Marlow to feel. He feels that it is like hell. Marlow explained that when he steps over the land, he feels as if he steps into uncivilized place. The writer thinks that he pictures the setting he has visited smartly.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis written in the previous chapter, the writer finally can draw conclusion and divide it into three parts.

Firstly the characteristic of the major character, Marlow is a very strong character, he is brave, he is loyal to what he believes, he is an honest person, and the most important is that he has big attention and deep sympathy to other people. He shows his strong sympathy when he sees western people’s brutality to the natives. At the same time, he also feels disappointed with them. They behave out of control in Congo state. They abuse the natives. They make them as their tools to gain prosperity.

Secondly, the setting is the moment when the imperialism takes place in Congo state, it can be seen from some pictures on the novel. For example, the building of railway is the obvious one; people who have to work on time contract, the landing of the soldier on every post Marlow visits on his journey. The most mysterious about the setting is the gloomy situation surround all the way of Marlow’s journey; moreover, the circumstances are very bad. The westerners as if change their behavior after joining here. They become cruel, greedy, depressive, and so on.

The setting of place is not clearly stated here but actually, the main character passes over many different places. They are the place from the beginning to the end of his journey. The places are Brussels, Inner station, and Central Station.
The major character and the setting are important in the criticism on the imperialism on this novel. After the major character joined the real journey to the place he used to dream on his early ages, he knows that the condition is bad. It is different from what he used to dream before. Joining the exploration gives him a new understanding about the imperialism. It brings prosperity for his country. On the other hand, it brings disaster for the natives.

Both of the main character and the setting signify on the criticism of the imperialism. Marlow as the main character expresses his disappointment on his story. He agrees to the idea behind the imperialism that he considers good but he does not agree with its implementation or the realization on the colony, although he is one of western people. He realizes that he is part of it actually, but because of his strong anxiety to other human being and his bravery, he dares to express his disappointment. He tells it to some people that are listening to his story on the ship. His story indirectly is his criticism of the imperialism because he reveals his disagreement on the implementation of this process. As a western it is his critique, it will be different if the natives themselves who tell the mistreatment. It will not be a criticism but a kind of rebellion of what they have gotten from the western. They get injustice and they try to protest it. However, once again he is a western person, on the other hand his humanistic call arouses him to reveal the injustice he witnesses on his journey.

It takes long time for him to reveal the realities. As a common person, he has a common dream at that time to join the world exploration. As a common person, he also does not know what is happening down there, all he knows is only the glories of
the exploration. Moreover, the times come when he has to meet the reality, the realities that has not come into his mind before. However, because he is determined to be a very strong, brave, honest, and sympathetic character he reacts to see such condition. He tells that sometimes he will attack the method the westerns have applied there.

He dares to criticize Western people by saying that they have been driven by very big, nasty, and bad devils. Therefore, they act like that, to do that brutality. However, are there any devils? No! Who is the devil actually? It is his criticism.

The setting of the place really influences the people, especially Westerners who come there. They become wealthy oriented as the result of the country ask them to do. They will be the slaves of worldly thing. They have forgotten the first idea of their coming there because they have no other choices. It will be impossible to resign to see such bad conditions; it has been long way from their country. The only way is they do what the country asks them to do, to gain everything that will enrich the country. The country tries to get more and more things, and the people do too. They try to get valuable things as much as possible. The real example is the hunting of ivories. May be the doctor's statement about mental changes is true, that the people who comes there will have mental changes.

Moreover, the writer can see the influence on their greedy desire to get more and more richness. Their desire to get more ivory is the example, because the ivory has high value at that time. Richness has blinded them to do right thing, they will do anything to achieve it. Sometimes they do dirty ways, they threaten, force, and
manipulate the natives. It is real that Congo has become great hopes for them but the hell for the natives. On the other hand, Marlow feels that it is more like hell than his hopes.

Thus, the study on it proves one of the functions of the literature that is to take part on the development of the society. Criticism is one of the ways of evaluation to make the society better; the main character has the power to do that and the setting gives big contribution.
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Summary of the Story

Marlow is sitting together with a group of men on that yawl on the Themes Estuary; they are waiting for the turn of the tide to continue their journey. Marlow is telling his story through the late afternoon pass in to evening. Marlow is sitting cross-legged like Buddha idol He tells his experiences, the blackest and the darkest place he has ever visited.

He begins it with his interest to the sea when he is a child. His child has been filled with the story of many glories of the world explorations. They motivate him to join them someday. His aunt finds him a job as skipper of a ship to replace murdered skipper named Freslaven and he accepts it.

While he is on that company station he feels that something not quite right has happened soon after he finishes signing a contract of his work. He feels that he is involved in some kind of conspiracy. But he ignores his feeling about that.

He has to make medical check up for someone who will work for the company. The doctor gives a question for him to answer about mental changes of the person who goes there may have. But Marlow ignores it. His aunt also gives a warning for him about what happens there. He still holds his previous intend to go.

He leaves on a French steamer and makes two laps on his journey. The first lap starts from his beginning to the central station. It takes thirty days; He stops at the central station where he meets the manager and the brick maker. Here he begins to
understand the truth about the imperialism, the truth about the glories of the imperialism. He finds out that the realities are different from what he has set on his minds. The realities evoke his sympathy to attack them someday.

The second lap is his journey with the manager to visit the inner station in order to meet a man called Kurtz. He gets an attack on his steamer; one of his crew named the helmsmen dies on the attack. He realizes that his journey so far is to safe Kurtz from the wilderness. The natives set an attack on the steamer to scare Marlow and his bands away.

Marlow meets and talks to this miracle. He shows his awareness of how remarkable this person. Before Kurtz’s death of sickness he asks Marlow to give a pack of letter and manuscript of an article for his fiancée.

He shows his loyal to Kurtz, he goes back to Belgium, to visit Kurtz’s fiancée. He meets her; it appears for her that Kurtz’s death is only yesterday. She still thinks that Kurtz goes with a great mission; it is the same as what Marlow thinks before his journey. Marlow has to make a lie when she asks about Kurtz’s last word. He says, “The last word he pronounces is your name”. Marlow doesn’t want her to know the reality. He thinks that it is too hard for her to know.

Marlow is still sitting on the deck of the ship in the pose of Buddha when he finishes the story.
Biography of the Author

Conrad was born in Berdyozew in Poland with complete name Joseph Theodor Conrad Nalecz. His father was Nalecz Korzenowsky and his mother is Emilia Bobrowska. He was the only son on the family.

When he was seven years old his mother died. He was very young at that time. He saw the sea for the first time at Venice. He grew up and joined French Marine service.

After the unhappy ending of love affair he left Marseilles and sailed on a British steamer for Constantinople. He reached England in 1878 and decided to settle here. He tried to adopt the language for his writing.

In 1889, he finished his first work on Almayer Folly. He wrote it at the time he got command of riverboat on the Congo. His first novel was published in London in 1895. In the next year, he finished An Outcast of the Island. These following works appeared after that just like The Nigger of the Narcissus (1897), Tales of the Unrest (1897), and Youth (1898). Heart of Darkness was published in the spring of 1909.

He got time to visit Poland with his family in August 1914. But a war caught them there. Mr. Courtland Perfield, an American Ambassador to Austria helped them to escape and return to England in November.

He died on Heart attack on August 3, 1924 at Oswald. His family buried at Canterbury.