

ABSTRACT

PRIMANTIO, Angelo M. (2025). **The Shift of Noa Baek's Cultural Identity as a Korean Inside a Japanese Society in Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko***. Yogyakarta: Departement of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Pachinko is a novel written by Min Jin Lee, which has been adapted into a TV series. The story tells about the life of Korean migrants living in Japan during the Japanese occupation of the Korean Peninsula. The story follows the perspective of three generations of Koreans in the family. The first generation follows the story of Sunja, the second generation follows the story of Noa and Mozasu, and the third generation follows the story of Solomon. The story highlights the struggle Korean migrants face while living under Japanese rule.

This study has three objectives. The first step is to analyze Noa, a character in the novel, through an examination of his characteristics. After the researcher's identification, the second objective will compile all evidence of oppression and resistance that affect the Korean diaspora. Finally, the researcher will identify the strategy Noa uses in response against the oppression he and other Koreans feels inside the Japanese society.

This study employs the qualitative method, using library research to analyze the novel. The primary data for this research is the novel *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee. The secondary data for this research comes from books and journal articles such as Burroway's *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (2000), Said's *Orientalism* (1979) and *Culture and Imperialism* (1994), Ashcroft et al. *The Empire Writes Back* (2003), and Bhabha's *The location of culture* (1994). There are five theories utilized in this research, such as the theory of characterization, the theory of cultural identity, the theory of cultural resistance, the Theory of "third space", and the theory of mimicry. This study will be analyzed using a postcolonial criticism approach.

This study reveals that the character of Noa Baek possesses characteristics such as studious, withdrawn, sensitive, and defensive. This study also shows that the Japanese has view Koreans as someone lower than them, incompetent, and associate them with the negative part of Japan, such as the yakuza and pachinko parlor. Some Koreans have stood up to fight Japanese negative narratives towards Koreans. Isak refuses to pay respect to the emperor and reveals the true nature of Koreans through his honest and humble demeanor. At the same time, Noa utilizes his studious nature to impress both Japanese and Koreans and attend a prestigious university. Other Koreans choose to assimilate with the Japanese culture. Noa becomes close with Akiko through her admiration for Koreans, while Mozasu befriends Haruki because of their similarity as outcasts. The researcher then analyzes Noa's strategy in shifting his cultural identity. Noa distances himself from his family and passes as Japanese. Although he succeeds in passing as a Japanese, he still lives in fear of having his Korean identity revealed, which ultimately leads to his suicide.

Keyword: Identity, Japanese Colonialism, Korean Postcolonialism, Shifting Culture, The Third Space

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Pachinko adalah novel karya Min Jin Lee . Kisah ini menceritakan kehidupan para migran Korea yang tinggal di Jepang selama pendudukan Jepang di Semenanjung Korea. Kisah ini mengikuti perspektif tiga generasi orang Korea dalam keluarga tersebut. Generasi pertama mengikuti kisah Sunja, generasi kedua mengikuti kisah Noa dan Mozasu, dan generasi ketiga mengikuti kisah Solomon. Kisah ini menyoroti perjuangan yang dihadapi para migran Korea selama hidup di bawah penjajahan Jepang.

Penelitian ini memiliki tiga tujuan. Tujuan pertama adalah menganalisis Noa, seorang tokoh dalam novel, melalui pemeriksaan karakteristiknya. Setelah peneliti mengidentifikasi, tujuan kedua adalah mengumpulkan semua bukti penindasan dan perlawanan yang memengaruhi diaspora Korea. Terakhir, peneliti akan mengidentifikasi strategi yang digunakan Noa dalam menanggapi penindasan yang ia dan orang Korea lainnya rasakan dalam masyarakat Jepang.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, dengan menggunakan penelitian kepustakaan untuk menganalisis novel. Data primer untuk penelitian ini adalah novel *Pachinko* karya Min Jin Lee. Data sekunder untuk penelitian ini berasal dari buku dan artikel jurnal seperti *Writing Fiction: A Guide to Narrative Craft* (2000) karya Burroway, *Orientalism* (1979) dan *Culture and Imperialism* (1994) karya Said, *The Empire Writes Back* (2003) karya Ashcroft dkk., dan *The location of culture* (1994) karya Bhabha. Terdapat lima teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini, yaitu theory of characterization, theory of cultural identity, theory of cultural resistance, Theory of “third space”, and theory of mimicry. Penelitian ini akan dianalisis menggunakan pendekatan kritik poskolonial.

Penelitian ini mengungkapkan Noa Baek memiliki karakteristik seperti rajin belajar, menarik diri, sensitif, dan defensif. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa orang Jepang memandang orang Korea sebagai orang yang lebih rendah, tidak kompeten, dan mengasosiasikan mereka dengan sisi negatif Jepang, seperti yakuza dan pachinko. Beberapa orang Korea telah melawan narasi negatif Jepang terhadap orang Korea. Isak menolak untuk memberi hormat kepada kaisar dan mengungkapkan sifat orang Korea melalui sikapnya yang jujur dan rendah hati. Pada saat yang sama, Noa memanfaatkan sifat rajinnya untuk mengesankan orang Jepang dan Korea dan menghadiri universitas terkenal. Noa menjadi dekat dengan Akiko melalui kekagumannya terhadap orang Korea, Mozasu berteman dengan Haruki karena kesamaan mereka sebagai orang buangan. Peneliti kemudian menganalisis strategi Noa dalam menggeser identitas budayanya. Noa menjauhkan diri dari keluarganya dan menyamar sebagai orang Jepang. Meskipun ia berhasil menyamar sebagai orang Jepang, ia masih hidup dalam ketakutan identitas Korea-nya terungkap, yang akhirnya menyebabkan bunuh diri.

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