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RACISM

IN

Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u>

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Abstract:

This paper deals with the concept of racism, which is considered as a dark chapter in the history of the world .Throughout history, racist ideology widespread throughout the world especially between blacks and whites. In addition, many European countries started to expand their empire and to get more territories in other countries .

Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> which is his experience in the Congo River during the 19th century dealt with the concept of racism, which was clear in this novel because of the conflicts that were between black and whites and it explained the real aims o colonialism and expansionism in Africa, which were for wealth and power.

Résumé :

Ce document traite le racisme qui est définit comme le pire chapitre de l'histoire du monde.

A travers les siècles, l'idéologie raciste c'est développée d'une maniers cosiderable et le gouffre entre les races surtout les blancs et les noirs s'est creusé, Pour leurs fins d'envahisseurs les pays européens sont adopté cette doctrine pour élargir leurs territoires dans d'autre continents ; et cela, à cause de l'industrialisation ainsi que les transactions commerciales spécialement au 19em siècle.

Dans sa <u>Heart of Darkness</u>, joseph Conrad son expérience dans le fleuve du Congo au 19em siècle il a abordé le concept du racisme qui était clair ; le racisme qui était vécu par les africains au des blancs pour exprimer l'expansionnisme des empires européens, ces empires qui voulaient exterminer les africain pour s'approprier leurs biens et s'emparer du pouvoir surtout en Afrique.

الملخص

تتناول هده الاطروحة موضوع العنف اللدي كان يعتبر اسوء جزء فى تاريخ العالم .على مر التاريخ شهد العنف انتشارا واسعا في عالمنا هدا خاصة بين الجنسين الابيض والأسود حيث اعتمدت عدة دول اوروبية على هدا المذهب لكي تحقق اهدافها التوسعية للحصول على مقاطعات والدي سببه انتشار الواسع للصناعة و تجارة خاصة في القرن19.عبرا لكاتب جوزيف كونراد عن تجربته الخاصة في نهر الكونغو في القرن 19 في روايته قلب اسوداد .حيث تطرق فيها عن موضوع العنف الذي كان منتشرا في دلك الوقت في افريقيا و دلك من طرف الجنس الابيض الذي ازداد القضاء على الافارقة الاسود و دلك من اجل التوسع و الحصول على الثروات الطبيعية.

Table of contents:

Introduction :

     This paper deals with the concept of racism in Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness.</u> Racism was considered as the darkest chapter in the history of the world which crated many conflicts between societies .From the 17th to the 19th century there was an increase in racial violence and racist ideologies, also there were different religions and different theories that supported racial worldview.

     Racist ideologies and views, widespread legally and illegally, in the United States but also in Europe were deeply entrenched in the values of many societies, in their ideologies and the religions, political and cultural sides. As a general rule, racism and discrimination were used to protect the political and economic interests of those who discriminate .

     Racism spread throughout the world especially in the 19th century and many racist groups tried to impose their civilization and their values because they believed that they had different abilities and different characteristics, so the racist powers used different strategies or ideologies in order to put down the power of the other races making them less human .In addition, people who are treated as inferior seem to feel the need to find others over whom they can claim superiority .So, slavery, segregation Nazism and apartheid, all represent the word racism but racial discrimination and slavery were considered as the darkest sides.

In the United States and in European countries, white people considered themselves superior to darker people that created many problems in the same societies .In addition, industrialization and trade led many European countries to adopt all types of racism in order to achieve their goals ,also they competed with each other in order to get more territories abroad.

So, Europeans started to adopt new ideologies that supported the white races every where and denied the superiority of non –white races which means black or brown ones .European's need for wealth and raw materials in the 19th century led them to search for territories in Africa or India and they started to establish them selves as great powers.

Many European writers and the British in a particular, took the opportunity in order to depict the world of racism and colonialism especially during the 19 century and English writers described the world of new imperialism which was caused by the British competition for trade and power.

Heart of Darkness is Joseph Conrad's experience in the Congo River and Joseph Conrad used Marlow as a character in order to recount his real story .The writer depicted terror because Heart of Darkness put light on the colonial era and on colonizer's ambition to power and raw materials and wealth .Joseph Conrad gave too much importance to the hypocrisy of the colonial efforts that was interested in material sides.

Heart of Darkness gave too much importance to the pretexts of civilization which were used in order to hide the real aims of colonialism when the colonizers

suggested that the real goals of colonialism were to help the black Africans who were considered as a backward people.

Heart of Darkness described the Africans who were the victims of European supremacy and their economic growth ,so the use of race and racism helped them in their mission. The rise of European expansionism and imperialism in Africa led to the expansion of racist ideologies because imperialists were obliged to use such racist methods in order to achieve their goals.

This paper was divided into three chapters .The first chapter discussed the concept of racism and it is also divided into two parts that are: historical background of racism and racism in Africa in the 19th century.

The second chapter discussed the concept of racism in Heart of Darkness and it is divided into two parts which are: racism in British literature, and racism in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness.

The third chapter discussed the research question, which classified Joseph Conrad as realist and racist and it is divided into two parts, which are racism and Joseph Conrad and the second part is realism and Joseph Conrad. Each chapter has its introduction and its conclusion.

This research discussed the following question:

Is Joseph Conrad really racist?

CHAPTRE ONE:

RACISM

Introduction

Racism is an act of showing difference between people according to their race .According to oxford's definition "racism is unfair treatment of other races or belief that some races of people are better than others"[1] In other words it is the belief that race account for differences in human characters or ability that a particular race is superior to others and it is a term used to describe the negative feelings of one ethnic group or people towards an other .It means that a particular race of a particular country viewed that it is superior to the other races in the world.

In addition, racism denotes race based on prejudice, violence, dislike and discrimination or oppression, also this kind of superiority is generally based on skin colour, but sometimes it is considered as a kind of discrimination against a particular race's culture, belief or traditions .As it is known, people in our world are divided into different races: whites, blacks, red, yellow, and so, this ill-treatment commonly is practised by the powerful races because they believe that they possess different abilities and different characteristics, which are determined by race.

The racist powers use different strategies or ideologies in order to put down the power of the other races, by making them less human or inferior, so they can criticize their religion, their culture or traditions and even their way of behaving.

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[1] « Racism ».Oxford: learners pocket dictionary. Oxford university press, 2003.P352.

Racism is a vivid issue that can be used to refer to the prejudice based on race against one person or group of people and it is considered as an evil that can destroy society because of its bad effects on people's life.

1-Historical background of racism:

Before the middle ages, there was no clear racism in other cultures in Europe or in the world. However, the identification of the Jews with the devil and witchcraft in the popular mind of the thirteenth century was perhaps the first sign of a racist view of the world official sanction for such attitudes came in Sixteenth century Spain when Jews who converted to Christianity and their descendents became the victims of a pattern of discrimination and exclusion. So, racism in European history was the persecution of the Jews in fifteenth century Spain.

During the renaissance period, European powers tried to increase their contact with other people such as: Africans, Asians.....and started to show a kind of superiority .Also in the seventeenth century there was a kind of racism between blacks and whites and there were laws that forbade marriage between these two different races for example in English North America because blacks were alien and inferior.

As it is said, racism is ill-treatment of other races, this problem generally existed between whites and other races and some historians believe that racism is generally associated with the clash between white and black races especially in the eighteenth century because racism was in the heart of North Americans and Europeans who ill-treated other.

The conflict that was between the Germans and the Jews is a vivid example

of racism in Europe because Germans were seen as the highest cultural achievers

and the saviours of humanity, however the Jews were considered as a race of greedy,

inferior and foreigners who lived in the midst of Europe, but behaved differently than

their neighbours.

In addition, there was a struggle between these two races because the

Germans 's hate of the Jews and their attempt to destroy them .Racism was a great

and major phenomenon in the Nazists's ideology, because they tried to make the Jews

less human and considered them as an inferior and even similar to' mice and flees'.

In the United States, racism has been a major issue and its burdens have

fallen upon Native Americans, Irish Americans and at the end African Americans .So,

it can be noticed that there were differences between people from European origins

in America of African descents who were considered as slaves in the South of the

United States because it was based on agriculture and many Americans in the southern

states owned slaves and they believed that slavery was necessary to their way of life

because they were used for agricultural labour as animals .

Racism in America was a big problem because there were people with different

races or different colours as Manning Marable stated :

       "From the vantage point of people of colour, and especially
       Americans of African descents, our collective histories
       And experiences of interaction with the white majority
       have been largely defined around a series of oppressive
       institutions and practices .While laws have changed
       regarding the treatment of racialized minorities over the
       the deep structure of white prejudice, power and privilege
       Which has formed the undemocratic foundation of most

human interactions has not fundamentally been altered "[2]

In the American south, blacks had not the right to vote because of the segregation laws and the actions of the ku.klux.klan, which showed the superiority of the white race and the inferiority of black one.

As it is said, blacks had not the right to do what the white can, because they were just slaves that is why they were not equal to each other .The majority of the Americans in the south owned slaves because of economic needs and social prestige because only a rich white southerner owned slaves. In addition, these owners pushed slaves to marry for stability in order to prevent them from running away, because they were forced to work in mines and plantation, which were hard, and white people believed that they could not do such kind of works because of superiority and because they thought that blacks can do hard works better than Americans or Europeans in general.

Black slaves were victims of their master's abuses because they were threatened by violence, sexual abuses and they had no rights. Americans in the South believed that the presence of black slaves in America was very necessary where they can get civilization and religion.

The situation of the black slaves in South America affected the blacks a lot because they were forced to leave their homelands and to travel to foreign countries where they lost their rights and opportunities to live as human beings, so racism in the United States which was a struggle between whites and blacks led to a racial

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[2]Marable, Manning .Structural Racism and American Democracy. Geneva: UNRISD, 2001.P3.

tension and conflicts in the American society because blacks had no civil rights and had not the right to participate in political, economic or social fields because they had no education and even no civilization which gave the American whites the ability to be the leaders of the American society.

Many European countries started to be great powers because of Industrialization, so they started to believe that they were superior to non –European countries, which led to the expansion of racist ideas. These great powers tried to go beyond and , they tried to expand their empires to other countries such as: India, south or north parts of Africa ...in which they thought that they had the right to expand in this countries because they were from different religion, different civilization and that is why they believed that that they had the responsibility to bring the right civilization to the savages.

These European countries tried to expand more and more in other countries as it is said before in India and different parts from Africa in order to take their raw materials and even their people as slaves.

The British empire was a great example because it tried to expand in different countries in the world under the pretext of civilising those poor and uneducated people because the British believed that it was their right to take their natural materials or resources.

In addition, British expansion included many racist ideas because, the British believed that their race was the best one. This last statement justified that the British expansion in the world especially in India or Africa was for economic reasons. The

British started to show their superiority because they believed that an Indian princes or an African chief were considered as the social equivalent of English gentleman.

Industrialization in European countries pushed them to bring slaves from other countries who were generally black skin colour in order to do hard works. So, slavery is a great sign of racism in which a man owned an other man according to his colour, his language, his customs and his place of birth, which is very important because there was a kind of presumption of moral superiority, which was largely widespread throughout the European nations.

In the United States, white domination over blacks was legal and supported in all branches of the American government because they believed that they were just slaves, they had no civil rights and no opportunities .Slaves in European countries were forced to do hard labours especially in agriculture because Europeans believed that slaves were better at doing hard works than them. In addition European countries believed that the existence of these black slaves in Europe was very important where they can get civilization and religion.

It can be noticed that the ugliness of the powerful countries who used racist methods in order to achieve their goals which was expansion more and more, so white's need for power and money damaged their souls and their attitudes which means that the white's hypocrisy and desire for power and wealth truly motivated the bad sides of their souls.

2-Racism in Africa in the 19th century:

European history was too much influenced by the idea of expansionism .So

many European countries especially France, Spain, Germany, and Britain competed with each other in order to dominate every thing and to be the leaders of the world.

During the 19 the century this idea of expansionism developed more and more because of European's need for wealth and raw material. So, European countries competed with each other to win or to get colonies in other continents especially in Africa.

Africa, which was a blank area in European maps of the world became the goal for many European countries .European explorers were able to fill in the blank area and they were able to impose their values and standards on the continent. The cause with which Europeans tried to dominate different parts of Africa is explained by the power they had resulting from industrialization and also they believed that they were superior to these Africans and they had the right to rule every thing in Africa. The rise of expansionism or western imperialism led to the expansion of the racist ideologies and the imperialists were obliged to use racist methods in order to get what they want.

Europeans tried to implant in the African minds that black race was an inferior one, and the European mission or European presence in African continent was very important to bring the right religion and superior civilization because it was their burden .So, racism in Africa had different purposes and the goals of European empires especially France and Britain who went there in order to develop their economy because Africa was colonised and pillaged by these European countries for Its resources and wealth.

In addition many African countries such as Algeria, Tunisia, Senegal, Congo Niger ....were the victims of European greed for power and money .European powers were obliged to use racist attitudes in order to get raw materials and territories which led to the expansion of religious and racial theories that supported the white race .The famous European expansion in Africa was the French and the British .The French settlement in North Africa was and it was very aggressive in its mission there, because it used racist methods in order to get more colonies.

Algeria and Tunisia in the north of Africa were the victims of French Colonizers who tried to get more raw materials and resources because it was the active colonial powers .North Africa citizens were not able to resist because they were not able to fight such great empire, which owned superior military power .France was able to take the lands from their owners, who became workers in their land without having a salary.

In addition, native workers were treated as animals, they were forced to do hard works without having the right to resist .This treatment led people to experience a feeling of pain, shame, and inferiority because they lost their identity.

So, France was the most active colonial power in Africa and it acquired the largest territories, and the first big step in European colonization was the French in Algeria and its rule extended into the Algerian Sahara. France tried to get more and more territories because of its economic needs and its greater knowledge of the continent obtained from exploration and its use of violence against the native citizens especially in Algeria .

Britain was the second European empire because it tried to expand more and more especially in the south of Africa. British superiority led them to believe that from their burdens and duties, to civilize and educate such black people . As it is known that South Africa was rich with its natural resources such as ivory and gold that is why Britain competed with other countries in order to get these natural resources under the pretext of civilizing mission and according to D.K.Fieldhouse:

> "Missionary movement was in full flood.
> Mission of all denominations moved inland
> from the coasts, and some missionaries, like
> David Livingston, were major explorers .But
> neither explorers, missionaries, nor their
>   supporters expected formal European occupation.
> They were concerned to lighten the dark continent,
>   not to govern it .Commerce was desirable as an
>   alternative to the slave trade: but European commerce
>   was thought to be compatible with the independence
>   of enlightened African states."[3]

Britain discovered a new world, new resources and new animals in Africa .The British considered Africa as a desert or a black place .In addition, and because of the emergence of imperialism, expansionism, and the discovery of natural resources especially gold and ivory Britain competed with other European countries in order to get more territories in the dark continent as they called it.

Britain was very aggressive in its expansion because the British colonisers's ambition of power and money .They used the high ideals of colonization in order to cover their real goals .They started to spread their beliefs ,their ideologies in order to dominate every thing through their missions of civilization.

1Fieldhouse, D.K.The Colonial Empires. New York .Dell Publishing, 1996.P184, 185.

The British and because of their beliefs in the white man's burden doctrine and the white man's superiority, they believed that they must occupy all African territories especially in the south and east of Africa to teach or civilize these black, savage people .The British believed that the blacks or the Africans were lost and dead even they were alive, they tried to teach them how to eat and even how to speak.

The British believed in the idea or in the theory of the super man who does not fear danger and he is able to improve his situation and the lower or inferior man who fear danger and cannot help or improve his situation .In this way, the super man was the white or the British one and the lower man was the black or the African citizen ,so the super man should control lower man and impose his rules and the super man reflected the British who were proud with their race ,their religion and even their civilization .

Racism was clear in Africa, because African citizens and during the British colonisation ,were treated as animals or savages who were suffering from diseases and starvation because of white man's abuses .They were chained ankle to ankle, and worked without having any rest .In addition, they were forced to do hard labour such as: ship pilot, miners, and they had not the right to interfere in politics or other fields because the British or Europeans in Africa in general believed that Africans were intellectually inferior but superior in doing hard labour.

European expansionism in Africa was for getting more and more territories and Europeans believed that their motive behind colonialism and imperialism was to civilize the ugly and ignorant people .They tried to hide their real aims which was

colonial exploitation by the humanitarian ideals, so in reality their mission was not for developing the Africans, also they were not interested in educating or civilizing the Africans .The European imperial powers were Christian countries, so there were a religious missionaries in order to spread the principles of the Christian faith and Christianity was used by these empires as a tool in order to expand their imperial control or frontiers.

Africans under any European empire were victims of supremacy and their economic growth and industrialization, so the use of race and racism helped them a lot in order to get what they wish and these two aspects race and racism were very necessary to colonize and to rule and control the colonized people .Africans were attacked in their identities and even in their capacities, and started to believe that they were inferior and , white people were superior, so the Africans believed that only the traditions, the religion and even the civilization of the white man was the right one.

CONCLUSION:

As a conclusion, racism is an action of showing difference between people according to their race; so a particular race is superior to so a particular race is superior to the other race and this ill-treatment occurs when a racist group find it necessary to put down the other group's race in an attempt to strengthen their own.

In addition, racism spread throughout the world especially during the 19th century and many European powers tried to invade other territories and started to control every thing. So, Europeans need for raw materials and wealth and even for

power led them to compete with each other in order to colonize more and more territories especially in Africa.

So, Europeans's need of raw materials and wealth and even for power led them to compete with each other in order to colonize more and more territories especially in Africa .In addition, Europeans believed that Africa was a dark continent where there was no civilization and even no religion and they used this pretext to get more and more wealth, also they ill-treated the black Africans who were considered as slaves.

Britain and France were the most active colonial powers in Africa they competed with each other in order to get more territories .These two active powers were very aggressive in their expansion because , they used high military forces against the natives who became victims of their ambition to power and wealth. So, racism in Africa was used for economic purposes and it helped the Europeans a lot to get more wealth and to strengthen their empires.

Chapter two:

Racism in <u>Heart of Darkness</u>

Introduction

Racism and discrimination were a vivid issue in the world especially in the 19th century, .Many European writers took the opportunity to show their skills in the art of literature .They tried to depict colonialism and imperialism of European countries in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world and through this art of Literature they tried to give their views and ideas about what happened during the 19th century.

Many European writers in general and the British in a particular such as: Joseph Conrad, Rudyard Kipling, and E.M .Forster also Joyce Cary who tried to depict the issue of racism and imperialism through novels and poems for example <u>Heart of Darkness</u> by Joseph Conrad, a <u>passage to India</u> by E.M Forster, and <u>The white Mans Burdens</u> by Rudyard Kipling. So, all these works had brought the colonial world into the art of fiction.

All these writers that were mentioned before gave too much importance to the issue of race, power, and economic expansion and also to the conflicts that existed between Europe and other continents on which Jonah Ruskin said:

> "Modern novelists –from Conrad to Lawrence
> from Kipling to Orwell, from Forster to Cary
> **-**have been preoccupied with race, with
> cultural and n⁴ational conflicts."1

1Ruskin, Jonah .The mythology of imperialism .New York: mothly review press, 1971.P45.

1-Racism in British literature:

The British literature gave to much importance to racism and colonialism of Britain and other European powers .So British literature is just an example in which writers tried to use the concept of racism that was seen as the classification of human beings into groups according to their religion, race, and civilization.

Some views believed that writers of the British history did not write in the same way because they argued that some writers tried to hide the real goals of imperialism, but others tried to show the real goals of imperialism and the evils of colonialism as it is said by Jonah Raskin:

> "His second ripped under the imperial house
> of modern fiction: Rudyard Kipling's monument
> to the empire. Kipling's walls hide the truth of
> imperialism .Conrad broke them down "[5]

English writers tried to expose the relation between the colonizer and the colonized in a colonial context such as novels or poems and they tried to examine and depict the British or other European powers abroad .They gave too much importance to the British expansion, which tried to establish its large political empire in Africa and Asia that was called the new imperialism. The English writers tried to depict the English man in Africa but also in Asia .English man went to Africa or Asia in order to establish him self as a strong power also in order to rule and punish millions of black and brown people in these two continents.

The concept of new imperialism, which was caused by the British competition for trade and power led to the appearance of new racist ideologies which were depicted

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[5] Raskin, Jonah. the mythology of imperialism. New York: Monthly review press, 1971.P03

in many English poems and novels.

Racism was clear in many works of British literature because English writers gave too much importance to British superiority, because they believed that whites were superior to non-whites and had the burden and responsibility of bringing the blessings of their superior civilization to the black or brown races.

British literature portrayed the world of colonialism and imperialism of the British Empire during the 19th century and it battled with other European nations for wealth and power because many European countries competed with each other to colonize as much of Africa and Asia as possible .Most British works focused on the evils of colonialism and paid more attention to its damages on both sides which means on the white colonizer's souls and on the life of black or coloured natives in Africa or Asia.

In addition ,most novels revealed the hypocrisy of the colonial efforts because British imperialism was justified by lies and pretexts which suggested that colonialism was not for bringing wealth to Britain but it was also for civilizing and educating the non-white races.

So, British literature during the 19th century focused more on racism and racial discrimination and paid more attention to the traditional justifications which were used as a tool by the British empire in order to dominate every thing in India or in South Africa .Some British works represented fear, terror and darkness because it depicted the power of the British empire and the suffering and misery of weak nations who were under the British control.

Many British writers and through their works tried to depict or send the message of non-white's mistreatment because the reader was able to understand how British and coloured races were treated differently.

In addition, novels or poems of English writers were often based on their experince in Asia or Africa and E.MForster's <u>A Passage to India</u> is the best example when India was a colonial possession of Britain .In the novel the concept of racialism which is the separation between two races and it is a negative attitude towards minorities or towards people who are different from each other, was clear and it was practiced by the British who tried to dominate every thing in India.

There was a struggle between the British and the Indians in India because the British considered them selves superior to other races .In addition, E.M Forster tried to depict racism and oppression of Britain that ruled India. Also the British invaded India under the pretext of civilization because they believed that they had the burden to civilize and educate the Indians who were considered as backward people and they obliged the Indians to behave or even speak as the British . There was a struggle between two different cultures but the British tried to spread their values and their culture.

So, racism in E.M.Forster's <u>a passage to India</u> was clear because the British's used a racist ideologies and its use of power which made India a miserable place in order to achieve what they called the goals of British colonial imperialism.E.M.Forster's <u>passage to India</u> depicted colonization, which denied any chance of friendship between the English and the Indians.

E.M.Forster depicted the cultural clash that existed between the west which was represented by the British and the East which was represented by the Indians because the colonial situation made friendship or the co-existence between the English and the Indians impossible. So, through E.M Forester's description, readers were able to understand the real aims of British racism in India during the 19th century and to have an idea about its use of power and missions of civilization in order to steal wealth and raw materials.

So, most English writers described what they have seen in Africa and Asia according to their experiences in order to depict the world of imperialism and colonialism during the 19th century and the clash which was between whites and non-whites.

Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> was an other example of racism in British literature and he gave the reader an image about Congo in the 19th century, which was considered as a dark place because of the evils of colonialism and imperialism .The clash between the blacks and whites was present present in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> and through Joseph Conrad's description, black Africans were considered as criminals or backward people which means inferior, however the whites were superior empires and they justified their presence in the Congo by missions of civilization and modernity.

So, racism was clear in many British works, which supported white colonialism. Rudyard Kipling's <u>The white man's burdens</u> was the best example of racial discrimination .Kipling's goal was to encourage the American government over the Philippines, so, his poem reflected the subject of American colonialism .It suggested

and encouraged the white man to colonize and rule other nations for the benefit of those people . Kipling's <u>white man's burden</u> argued that white people have an obligation to rule and civilize other people, which encouraged racism and racial discrimination between people in the world.

2-Racism in <u>HEART OF DARKNESS:</u>

<u>Heart of Darkness</u> is Joseph Conrad's experience in the Congo in 1890.Joseph Conrad was a sailor and a writer in the same time .<u>Heart of Darkness</u> fits into the genre of colonial literature and the narrator told the story from a ship at the Thames river Joseph Conrad used Marlow as a character who recounted his experience of his time in the Congo or in Africa in the early midof the 1890's during the colonial era .The story was one of the 19th century 's novels when many European writers tried to depict the world of colonialism and imperialism of European countries in Africa and Asia.

Africa was the goal for many European nations who competed with each other to colonize more and more territories, which led to the scramble for Africa .These European countries tried to implant in the African minds who were primitive and innocent, that their presence in Africa was very important for the cause of civilising and educating them but their actions were against the reality.

Europeans and especially during the 19th century were interested in gaining more and more resources and wealth without giving importance to how they did it which means self interest .The best reason was that Africans were treated as animals or let's say as savages or criminals because European countries believed

that Africa was a dark continent where there was neither civilization nor religion .So, it can be noticed that colonialism in Africa in the 19th century based its actions on racism, racial discrimination and segregation because colonizers were interested on gaining wealth and raw materials.

Heart of Darkness is a great and powerful depiction about what is said before .It was set in the Congo in the 19th century when Britain was the greatest power because it controlled more and more territories in the world and especially in Africa.

The Congo was the best example in which Joseph Conrad told his experience and it is a great example of how much the colonial power were racist because Heart of Darkness revealed the hypocrisy of the colonial missions in the Congo in particular and Africa in general. Joseph Conrad in his novel, used strong images about how much colonisation damaged white coloniser's souls because of their bad treatment and greed towards black Africans. Racism in Heat of Darkness was clear from the beginning of the novel. Marlow started recounting his experience by saying to his fellows:" I do not want to bother you much with what happened to me personally "[6]

Marlow tried to say that his trip was a strange and disturbing one because of what he had seen there and his statement worked as an alert to his fellows. Heart of Darkness gives a clear image about how the natives or the Africans were ill -treated because of colonialism and the greed of imperialism because they were treated as slaves or objects rather than human beings :

> "Black figures strolled about listlessly pouring water
> on the glow, whence proceeded a sound of hissing,
> stream ascended in the moonlight the beaten nigger

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[6] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P10.

groaned some where "[7]

Heart of Darkness is a novel about racism and British superiority because the British believed that blacks or niggers as they called them lived without any purpose or goal because they had no civilization, no education and even no religion .In addition, they believed that black people in Congo behaved as animals and their attitudes annoyed them a lot:

> "It was paddled by black fellows .You could see
> from afar the white of their eyeballs glistening.
> They shouted, sang; their bodies streamed with
> perspiration; they had faces like grotesque masks-
> these chaps; but they had bone, muscle, a wild vitality,
> an intense energy of movement, that was as natural and
> true as the surf along their coast"[8]

Heart of Darkness gives a clear image about black people in the Congo who were obliged to do hard works without reacting as Marlow had seen them falling down and carrying a lot of packages which were full of earth under the white master's control as a cattle of animals :

> "They were building a railway, six man advanced
> In file, toiling up the path, they walked erect and slow,
> balancing small baskets full of earth on their heads, and
> kept time with their footsteps "[9]

Heart of Darkness depicted black Africans during the 19th century who suffered from starvation and illnesses, and also suffered from the racist attitudes of imperialist powers, which took their land, their wealth and treated them as slaves .Darkness was every where in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness and it is

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[7]Conrad, joseph .Heart of Darkness. London: penguin books, 1994.P37.
[8] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994 .P20.
[9] Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994 .P22.

considered as the most powerful sign of racism and imperialism in Africa in general and Congo in particular. When Marlow went deeper and deeper into the Congo, he started to discover the greed and horror and also the abuses and hypocrisy of the imperial system and imperialists who were interested in money, land and power.

Marlow witnessed illness and humanity, people who suffered under the white empire and treated as machines .Also he described the black Congolese who were ill- treated when they were forced to do hard works and enchained at the same time to each other and this is slavery .So; blacks were forced to do hard labour especially in agriculture or in building for example rail ways because white colonizers believed that blacks were better at doing hard works than them .

Marlow faced horror and fear because he was not able to believe in what he had seen that is why his description was filled with images of darkness :

> "Black rags were wound round their loins and short
> ends behind waggled to and frolike tails. could see every
> rib, the joints limbs were like knots in a rope; each had
> an iron collar on his neck, and all were connected together
> with a chain whose bights swung between them, rhythmically
> clinking"[10]

White agents forced the Congolese to do slave labour by means of torture that is why they could not even react, Marlow's journey can be considered as a nightmare because of what he had seen there from disease, starvation, natives who had been exploited or whipped or even killed them by millions at a time .

In the novel, there is a reference to a total denial of any civilization in Africa because Europeans believed that Africa and Africans in general were uncivilized which

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[10] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P22.

means backward or primitive people that is why Marlow described his trip as a journey back in time as he had said: "going up that river was like travelling back to the earliest beginning of the world "[11].So the British adopted all types of racism in order to get what they want which led to the misuse of power that reflected the evils of colonialism .

Heart of Darkness can be seen as a story of a man who faced a number of political ,moral and spiritual horrors and Congolese were treated as slaves: the white man, sometimes, tried to invent excuses to punish or torture them because they were masters and superior. In this description, Marlow insisted on the suffering of the Africans because they were alive physically but morally dead as shadows :

> "Black shapes crouched, lay, sat between the
> trees, leaning against the trunks, clinging
> to the earth, half coming out ,half effaced
> within the dim light, in all the attitudes of
> pain, abandonment and despair."[12]

In addition, each statement in the novel reflected the suffering of the Congolese who were forced to work under the white master's control who adopted all types of violence and racism in order to frighten, or kill the Africans. Congolese in the novel had no names, they were only dead people or let's say shadows or black shapes suffering starvation and diseases :

> "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 diseases and
> starvation .Lying in the greenish gloom."[13]

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[11]Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P48.
[12] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994 .P24.
[13] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of darkness .London: penguin books, 1994 .P24.

Africans in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> were only black wild, natural shapes who lived in the jungle as a dark place like animals. In addition Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> explains the goals of the coloniser who used the pretext of civilisation in order to get what they wish, which means wealth; ivory and money in order to develop their economy.

The British entered Africa and tried to spread their religion, their language and their civilization because they believed that it was their responsibility to spread the superiority of their civilisation .In addition, they believed that their mission was to lighten the dark continent Africa and they thought that blacks had no sense of personality that is why they need the Europeans help.

However, the British acts were against their missions of civilization because their presence, was not for the benefit of the Africans but their interest was on natural resources especially ivory .Kurtz in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> reflected what is said before thanks to Marlow's description. Kurtz who was the chief of the inner station in Congo, was a man of great talent who intended to be the man of virtue .His goal before establishing him self was to civilize and help the natives of Africa, he was sent to the Congo for the purpose of bringing morals and European enlightenment to the colonists in which Africa, was considered as a savage and mysterious continent.

However, Kurtz was transformed from a man of European enlightenment and morals to an evil or monster because of his greed, and he became inhuman. In fact, Kurtz reflected the British colonialists who saw them selves as a people of great ideas just as civilized ones ,but their civilization abused the Africans and took their raw materials and their wealth .Kurtz turned out to be the greatest monster of all

because he had forgotten his morals and his mission of civilization and he became a thief who took the wealth of the natives by force rather than trading for it.

In addition, Kurtz misused his values which became power and he started to treat the natives as animals rather than people .He obliged blacks to work for his benefit, also they were forced to carry heavy baskets under his control .In addition ,Kurtz established him self as a god for the natives which means that he was just an evil or monster because he took the dark situation of the Congolese in order to establish him self .Kurtz ,in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> represented the British colonialism and imperialism, which claimed to civilize and educate the natives but their actions, showed the opposite because they were interested in wealth not in people .

Conclusion :

As a conclusion, many readers had classified Joseph Conrad as racist and others had classified him as a realist .Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad was more racist in his novel <u>Heart of Darkness</u> because of his ugly description towards the Congolese and he believed that his novel supported the white colonizer's behaviours towards the natives.

However, other readers had classified Joseph Conrad as realist because they believed that his novel depicted the white colonizer's ill-treatment towards the Africans and revealed the real aims of imperialism which suggested that colonialism was for the benefit of the Africans and Joseph Conrad considered it as a lie for expansion.

Chapter Three

Joseph Conrad between Racism and Realism

Introduction

Heart of Darkness, is Joseph Conrad's experience in Congo River and he described his trip in a form of novel , which was recounted by Marlow. Many critics had classified Joseph Conrad as a racist and others ha classified him as a realist .Many readers believed that Joseph Conrad in his novel Heart of Darkness was more racist rather than realist and they believed that he gave too much importance to the black people's shapes and behaviours as an ugly people rather than criticising the imperialist behaviours against the Africans.

Other critics believed that Joseph Conrad in his novel Heart of Darkness was more realist rather than racist .They believed that Joseph Conrad was against the white colonizer's behaviours against the native Africans who were considered as victims of colonialism and colonizers ambition for power, wealth and money.

1-Racism and Joseph Conrad:

So, many critics had classified Joseph Conrad in his novel Heart Of Darkness as a racist writer because they believed that his novel supported white man's behaviours in Congo in Africa and it showed the white man's superiority.Chinua Achebe the African writer, believed that Joseph Conrad was more racist in his essay "an Image of Africa: racism in Conrad's Heart of Darkness ", because he believed that

Joseph Conrad gave too importance to the description of natives and their behaviours

In addition, he believed that Joseph Conrad's description made the African continent, a place of horror and devils that is why he started his description by saying to his fellows "I don't want to bother you with what happened to me ...."[14] .So, Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad tried to make Africa, a place of monsters and nightmares where there were ugly things, the European's had the ability to see them.

at the beginning of the novel, Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad described the Thames River as a place of tranquillity, where he depicted Europeans who sat there. However, Joseph Conrad's description of the Congo River was more ugly because he considered it as the beginning of horror and darkness and travelling on that river was like going back in time which means that Joseph Conrad considered Africa as a backward continent by contrasting it to Europe as it is mentioned in the novel:"going up that river was like travelling back to the earliest beginning of the world ...."[15] .So, for Chinua Achebe the two rivers; the Thames, and Congo River; were represented differently ;the Thames river represented modernity and civilization while the Congo River represented darkness and devils.

In addition, Chinua Achebe believed that the beginning of the novel on which Joseph Conrad tried to remind readers that Britain is a place of modernity, and civilization was one day a place of darkness because of the Romans exploitation. But, Chinua Achebe suggested that Britain was a place of darkness, which means in the

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[14] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P10
[15] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P48.

past, but now Britain became a country of light and modernity.

Chinua Achebe believed that Marlow was interested on African's institution because he gave too much importance to the behaviours and the shapes of the Africans also Joseph Conrad insisted on the inferiority of the Africans who were living in a dark continent without having any purpose, so he described and expressed his personal thoughts which were considered as racist views.

Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad's use of words such as niggers, savages reflected racism because these words dehumanized the Africans and transformed them from thinking people into animals or subjects, and these description pushed Chinua Achebe to classify Joseph Conrad as a racist writer.

In addition, Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad's description failed to achieve what he has called an anti-imperialist or an anti-colonialist work, because he did not give too much importance to these side. Also, he believed that Joseph Conrad or Marlow was more racist than an anti-imperialist as many readers had classified him:

> "black shapes crouched ,lay set between
> The trees leaning against the trunks,
> clinging to the earth,hlaf coming out,
> half effaced within the dim light, in
> all the attitudes of pain, abandonment
> and despair"[16]

So, Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad dehumanized the native Africans because of his use of words such as, black shapes rather than Africans, also his description means that Africans lived without any purpose or goal . Europeans and

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[16] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994 .P24

through the description of Joseph Conrad, became superior because of their pride

with their civilization and their race, whereas the African race became inferior because

of their civilization and their behaviours which was presented by Joseph Conrad in an

ironic way .

Joseph Conrad's description made Africa a dark continent, a savage and

mysterious place where their was their was savage and ugly people who had no

civilization and the Africans need the European help in order to be human beings as it

 is mentioned in the novel:"The earth seemed unearthly "[17]

In addition, Joseph Conrad's description made the African way's of expressing

them selves an ugly one, because he believed that Africans behaved in a mysterious

and strange :

"They howled and leaped, and spun and
made horried faces". [18]

So, Joseph Conrad's use of words such as howled, leaped ...dehumanized the Africans.

Some views said that Chinua Achebe read the novel from a modernist point of view

because this views believed that Joseph Conrad depicted Africa of the 19th century

and he used words such as savages, niggers were familiar at that time .However,

Chinua Achebe argued that racism can not be justified by time and he insisted on the

idea that Joseph Conrad was a racist rather than realist because he did not give too

much importance to the greed and the evils of imperialism and colonialism.

In addition, Chinua Achebe believed that Joseph Conrad tried to relate every

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[17] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London :Penguin books,1994.P51
[18] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness. London: penguin books, 1994.p51

thing bad and awful to the Africans especially when he described their physical

appearance :

> "in the evening three woman of whom one
> one albino, passed our camp; horried chalky
> white with pink blotches; red eyes; red hair;
> features very negroid and ugly. " [19]

So, he believed that Joseph Conrad was a racist in his description because he had

related the ugliness to black Africans who had red eyes which means that African

women were awful and Joseph Conrad in his novel <u>Heart of Darkness</u> showed a kind of

of superiority, because he believed that the black race was a race of ugliness whereas

the white race represented purity.

Many readers believed that there was a contradiction between the beginning

of the novel because Joseph Conrad described Marlow's fellows and how they were

sitting on a "deck of a cruising yawl "and the description of the black Africans . Marlow

was not able to tell his fellows about his experience in the Congo river , he considered

his journey as a nightmare, also he believed that his fellows lived in a world of

modernity and civilization.

Many readers believed that Conrad did not respect the native Africans because

of his representation which treated the Africans as a sub human on which regelind

Farn said:

> "Conrad's representation of the Congolese as "savages"
> without merit can inspire a real craving for a historical
> facts .Because it depicts central Africa as being without
> a history and geographical unspecific." [20]

So, many readers believed that Joseph Conrad's work did not go deeper and deeper

[19] Conrad, Joseph .<u>Heart of Darkness</u>. London: penguin books, 1994.P65
[20] Farn ,regelind.<u>Colonial and Post colonial rewriting of heart of darkness</u> .Florida: Boca Raton ,2005.P07

to the issues of imperialism and colonialism ,but his work was interested in Africa and Africans who were badly described .In addition, Congolese in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> represented fear, despair while white characters represented hope, and power.

Many readers criticised Joseph Conrad's description of the Africans, when they were forced to do hard labour because they believed that his description denied the idea of equality between blacks and whites .These descriptions made the Africans more inferior and, reflected a sign of death and hopelessness while white master's descriptions reflected a sign of power.

2-Realism and Joseph Conrad:

Realism in literature is to depict or to portray life as it truly is by representing social or political environment in a realistic way. The 19th century was a period of colonialism, imperialism and racial discrimination, so many European writers tried to depict life at that time in a realistic way.

Many readers viewed Joseph Conrad as a realist and considered his experience as a depiction of what happened in the Congo and Africa in the 19th century. They believed that Joseph Conrad in his novel <u>Heart of Darkness</u> was realist and his description depended on words which were familiar during the 19th century .Through <u>Heart of Darkness </u>Joseph Conrad gives a real image about the hypocrisy of the entire colonial efforts and how Europeans tried to justify their presence in Africa by the pretext of civilization .

Joseph Conrad portrayed European civilization as a corrupt one, which pushed

many readers to believe that his novel was not for abusing the Congolese because of its attack on colonialism and imperialism in the Congo.

Some views believed that Joseph Conrad described imperialism as a robbery of wealth and raw materials with the use of force and power and how the European nations were interested in money and trade without giving too much importance to their treatment of the Africans. In addition, Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> attacked colonialism and depicted the aggressive attitudes towards the African victims of European imperialism and also condemned and accused their system, which forced the Africans to work as a machine and denied their right for Possessing a land or getting an income.

In addition, what made Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> more realistic and Joseph Conrad as a realist writer is his condemnation of colonialism and his sympathy for the natives which reflected his sense of moral responsibility :

> "The man seemed young -almost a boy-
> But you know with them it's hard to tell.
> I found nothing else to do but to offer him
> one of my good Swede's ship's biscuits I had
> in my pocket"[21]

<u>Heart of Darkness</u> was only a presentation of African realities and the horrors of the political system in the 19th century by showing the real aims of civilizing missions of European imperialism .The novel gave too much importance to the evils of colonialism and its damages on the white colonizer's souls which made the Africans more pure and less corrupt but innocent, while the white colonizers were more corrupt and represented the world of darkness.

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[21] Conrad, Joseph .<u>Heart of Darkness</u> .London: penguin books, 1994.P25.

In addition, many readers believed that Joseph Conrad was against the white colonizer's attitudes and their system towards Congolese who suffered from diseases and starvation and showed a kind of compassion towards them:

> "They were dying slowly –it was clear .They
> were not enemies ,they were not criminals,
> they were nothing earthly now,-nothing but
> black shadows of diseases and starvation lying
> confusedly in the greenish gloom."[22]

Each part of Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness represented the immorality of white colonizers who ill-treated the Africans and considered them as slaves. However, his description was for disgracing the imperialist attitudes and the horror of colonialism in Africa. In addition, Joseph Conrad used strange words such: as niggers savages which angered many readers because they believed that theses words reflected racism and racial discrimination .But Joseph Conrad used words which were familiar during the 19th century and because he presenting real facts .

Some critics argued that, throughout Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness the reader can distinguish between the concept of good and evil because colonizers believed that the white race was good and the dark race was evil .So the novel clarified the idea of whiteness which was associated with imperialist, became wrong because of their ambition to power and wealth.

Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness put a kind of light on every thing that happened against the natives and during the 19th century under the imperialist powers and its role was to make people know the reality and the truth, and to accuse the colonial system in Africa which was misguided .Joseph Conrad suggested that

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[22] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P24.

the white man's presence in Africa transformed it into a dark continent .In addition,

colonial powers were white physically but morally black because they abandoned their

morals because of power and wealth as Regelind Farn said:

> "It also a story of colonies an other important
> Contomporary genre, but Conrad whites are
> neither noble .Triumphant more pleasantly
> titillated by exotic surroundings .The
> contemporary stereotype of African darkness
> is partially reversed by suggesting that whites
> have their own darkness and bring it to Africa"[23]

Africans in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> were better than Europeans who were corrupt.

Joseph Conrad in his novel <u>Heart of Darkness</u>   felt pity towards the native

Africans and he was horrified to see them doing hard works and taking packages or

 being beaten by the white masters and going slowly towards their death and, led him

to feel miserable .In <u>Heart of Darkness </u>Joseph Conrad appeared alien or against the

 western culture 's ideas which tried to steal other nation's wealth under unbelievable

 pretexts especially Britain which tried to justify the colonial exploitation by a mission

of civilization.

 For Marlow, white people who believed that they were superior beings and

masters were just devils who misused their mission of civilizing and humanizing the

Africans. They became a source of evil and violence:

> "I have seen the devil of violence and the devil
> Of greed and the devil of hot desire."[24]

So, Marlow was against these masters because they were criminals and

thieves and his description gave too much importance to the white imperialist's greed

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[23] Farn ,Regelind.<u>Colonial and Post Colonial Rewriting of Heart of Harkness</u> .Florida: Boca Raton,2005.P. 08

[24] Conrad, Joseph .<u>Heart of Darkness</u> .London: penguin books, 1994.P23

and violence rather to the inferiority of the Africans .In addition, he blamed those white masters who ill-treated black Africans and he felt pity because of the white's systems of punishing and killing the natives.

Realism in Heart of Darkness was clear and readers cannot blame Joseph Conrad as a racist because he was just describing what he noticed in the Congo during the 19th century .Marlow showed a kind of compassion towards the natives and he considered them as his equals which means human beings not slaves or animals:

> "Yes ,I looked at them as you would as any
> human being with curiosity of their impulses
> motives, capacities, weaknesses ..."[25]

So, the concept of inferior versus superior does not exist because all human beings are equal and they must share the same rights ,so blacks or any race in the world can not be treated according to the skin colour .Marlow took the case of the British imperialism in Africa as similar to the Romans. Marlow believed that England was one of the dark places of the earth and how London as a civilized and large city was a dark place .So ,English during the Roman exploitation were in the same situation to Africans in the 19th century:

> "And this also, said Marlow suddenly has been
> one of the dark places of the earth"[26]

So there was a kind of evil in the mission of civilization because these mission was misused because it was corrupted by people's hot desire for wealth, land and money. In the novel Marlow was against Kurtz's behaviours in Africa and his ill-treatment towards the Africans .Kurtz was sent to the Congo to educate and civilize

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[25] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P59, 60.
[26] Conrad, Joseph .Heart of Darkness .London: penguin books, 1994.P07.

the natives, he was sent for a moral mission and he was expected to be white morally and physically .However, what may be considered to be light was dark in <u>Heart of Darkness</u> because Kurtz's desire and ambition to get more ivory or wealth led him to become a source of evil and his goals of civilizing and helping the natives were lost.

Joseph Conrad's description of Kurtz led the reader to understand the real goals of civilization in Africa and summarized the British imperialism and colonialism into one character which was Kurtz and his attitudes towards the Africans reflected the evils of colonialism.

For Marlow or Joseph Conrad, his trip to the Congo was a journey of discovery because he discovered the truth of the western culture and he started to realize that civilization was a lie and for him light and whiteness became dark. In addition, Marlow's journey led him to know the real aims of European imperialism, and he started to believe that their presence in Africa was not for moral goals .

However presence in Africa was not for humanizing or helping the Africans who were used as objects in their land, their presence in Africa was negative towards the natives but positive towards the Europeans.

The imperialist presence in Africa led the continent to be darker because of the colonizers system of hypocrisy, which aimed to take not to give . Joseph Conrad did not show his superiority towards the Africans and he was against this idea because he believed that what made these natives full of diseases and starvation, was the European's greed for power and money. For Marlow, Africans were just victims of the British superiority, which tried to spread its civilization and religion into the African

continent and into the Africans.

Joseph Conrad <u>Heart of Darkness</u> was an anti colonial work as many readers viewed it because they believed that the writer tried to accuse the European imperialism and colonialism in Africa .In his novel Joseph Conrad gave importance to the damages of white colonizer's souls, which became dark because of their greed to power and wealth.

In addition, Joseph Conrad believed that black Africans were noble primitive and innocent, while white colonizers were criminals and thieves, so darkness reflected white colonizers who used the pretext of civilization and missions of humanizing and educating the natives in order to steal other nation's wealth and resources by force and whiteness reflected black natives who were considered as victims of the evils of colonialism .So, through <u>Heart of Darkness</u>, the reader can realize the true nature of human beings and can distinguish between the evil and the good or noble.

Conclusion:

As a conclusion, 19th century was a period of racism and imperialism, when many European countries competed with each other in order to get more and more territories and power, which pushed them to adopt all types of violence in order to get what they want .The 19TH century was a period of European superiority and racial discriscrimination. European writers in general and the British in particular were able to depict, colonialism and imperialism of European countries and their ambition to power and raw materials.

Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u> is the best example of racism and discrimination, because the writer was able to depict the greed and the evils of colonialialism, imperialism, and he gave a clear image of the black Africans who were the victims of European supremacy and their economic needs. So,the European's use of violence and racial ideologies help them a lot. Throughout Joseph Conrad's <u>Heart of Darkness</u>, readers were able to understand the real goals of European missions of civilizing and educating black Africans, which were considered as lies or pretexts.

Conclusion:

This paper has dealt with racism in <u>Heart of Darkness</u>, which was written by Joseph Conrad, who was born in 1857 in Poland. At the age of seventeenth, he travelled to Marseille and began to work as a sailor . He began to sail on the British ship and became a British citizen in 1886.At the age of 29, he started to feel British and he published his first short stories .For the next eight years, Joseph Conrad continued to write.

Joseph Conrad started to write his best known works from 1899 and <u>Heart of Darkness</u> was the best example .<u>Heart of Darkness</u>, which fitted into the genre of colonial literature in which European writers portrayed the colonialism and imperialism of European nations from Africa to the Far East In the 19th century.

During the 19th century, European powers battled with each other for wealth and power and competed to colonize as much of Africa as possible .In addition, the colonizing Europeans claimed to civilize the African continent but their actions were against the reality because they were interested in gaining wealth and did not care how they did it. So, <u>Heart of Darkness</u> gave a real image of what happened during the 19th century and the Congo was just an example .Joseph Conrad worked as a captain on a steamship in the Belgian Congo and <u>Heart of Darkness</u> is based on his experience there, where he revealed the hypocrisy of the colonial powers .

In Europe, the colonization of Africa was justified by the idea that it was not only for bringing wealth to Europe but it was also for civilizing and educating the Africans. So, <u>Heart of Darkness</u> showed that European colonizers used the high ideals

of colonization as a cover to their real goals .<u>Heart of Darkness</u> paid more attention to the damage that colonization did to the souls of white colonizers .In addition, <u>Heart of Darkness</u> portrayed the European civilization that as blindly corrupt, also darkness was every where in this novel .This novel denied the idea of white as good and dark as evil, and it attacked colonialism and its missions of civilization which were misused.

    <u>Heart of Darkness</u> argued that the Africans were less corrupt and primitive and in that sense they became superior to white people, white colonizers were sophisticated and corrupt. Many readers and critics argued that <u>Heart of Darkness</u> is a novel about racism but others believed that the novel attacked colonialism which denied the idea of racism in. It might lead us to think Joseph Conrad was realist in the novel <u>Heart of Darkness</u> because he depicted the real image of Africa during the 19th century which is based on his experience on the Congo River.

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