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Representation of Colonial Mentality in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*

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Letter of Recommendation

Shiv Charan Chaudhary has completed his thesis entitled "Representation of Colonial Mentality in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*" under my supervision. I hereby recommend his thesis be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled "Representation of Colonial Mentality in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*" submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University by Shiv Charan Chaudhary has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Shiv Charan Chaudhary

# Representation of Colonial Mentality in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*

## Abstract

*This research marks an attempt to explore the Representation of Colonial Mentality in Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island. The obsession for materiality during the days of high Victorian era and the literary documentation or creation of contemporary scholars is to support for colonizer's mission to expand territories in different non –western countries. The decay of moral values, disbelief with brothers and craze for collecting the property outside Britain was the pre-dominant culture and practice for Europeans. Stevenson's main concern is to expose the social frivolities and evil practices of contemporary society. In doing so, I have used Edward Said's Orientalism, Culture and Imperialism and Elleke Boehner's colonial and post colonial literature as a theoretical insight to analyze the text. The study comes to finding that Stevenson's political attitude pre-supposed to the non- western land as very much rich in its natural resources and as a colonialists his purpose is to import those resources in to Europe. For this purpose, they used masquerading enlightenment power and the act like domination of the colonized land for the valuable natural resources.*

Key Words: politics, Colonization, adventure narrative, material interest, domination

Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island* analyzed to explore the high Victorian spirit and ideas which marked as the era of colonization. The novel reflects the colonial mission in the mode of the exploration of the new land *Treasure Island* through adventures activities. In the struggle for possessing

the treasures, the character turn ready to do whatever they come across with. They are blinded by the influences of colonial greed and property that lead them to search for the valuable land. So, the question of humanity and fraternity turn irrelevant to the characters mission. Doubt, disbelief and skepticism dominate the characters' life leading to the constant struggle for violence and exploitation which is understood as a goal of colonization. As Habib says, "A strategy ... to extend control, power and influence" to others (738). The expansion and the goal of colonization with the desire for power and control of characters in the novel *Treasure Island* reminds the project of the Europe reaching out. The mission always contained "the nationalist pride and optimism about the future progress"(Abrams 329). In the name of civilization, and enlighten, European colonizers moved to the various part of the countries. So, the project defines as the emergence of the modernity. It implies unequal and uneven forces of cultural representation involved in the contest for political and social authority within the modern world. But such discourse of colonialism turns feeble and irrational in the eyes of the postcolonial discourses.

In the contemporary situation, not only obsessed the victim of lower, middle class people, even intellectual people were also badly affected by the British Authority. So, they let to avoid in such greed passion of colonizers through the medium of literary production. This is the reason of Stevenson's creation of *Treasure Island* which highlights the Victorian projection of colonization. In the novel, the characters used in the narrative go outside with the illusive purpose of humanity. However, their hidden purpose is to collect wealth from concerned foreign land. In other words, European put the mask of

Enlightenment of the civilization. In this sense, it is not true what they had assumed. The reality is the exposition of their motifs. Most of the Stevenson's writing exposes in such sense of colonial greed of the Europeans where the novel *Treasure Island* is no more exception.

Thus, this research examines the colonial mentality in the novel *Treasure Island* and the researcher claims that *Treasure Island* is a full of valuable natural resources which lies in non- western countries. These valuable lands made the Europeans greediness for progress their nation. For this purpose, they processed their journey in very selfish manner in different Non- western territories. In the struggle for processing treasure, they blindly involved in different hide and seek game like civilizing, cheating, murdering, killing etc. within their group but accumulating their motif is to capture the hidden treasure. So, this novel recognized and endorsed their cultural practices with their selfish and greedy behavior.

*Treasure Island* mainly about a Stevenson's own landscape of imagination. The land of his childhood became far away. It was certainly Stevenson's own experience. Stevenson is a Victorian novelist who stands in between the Victorian reality and goes beyond them as a individual psychological nature as the modernist. Stevenson makes different identities than Victorian novelist. So, this novel has been viewed by different scholars with the remark of colonization of Stevenson's writing. Mainly, High Victorian age was the flowering age of colonial expansion. Europeans moved to distant territories as well as within the Europeans continent being affected due to the colonial imposes of Europe, especially Britain. Considering this bitter reality Edward Said remarks:

Europe itself at the end of the nineteenth century, scarcely a corner of life was untouched by the facts of empire, the economies were hungry

for overseas markets, raw materials, cheap labor and hugely profitable land, and dense foreign policy establishments were more and more committed to the maintenance of vast tracts of distant territory and large number of subjugated people. (Culture, 8)

This paragraph clarifies that Europeans in nineteenth century were involved in various academic and business fields. They enhanced their paths as traders and commercial men. Especially economics played the dominant role to colonize the distant territories. The desire of the west to govern and control the non-west was added by the informative and imaginative information conveyed by the contemporary writers through the means of literary creation. Literary writings "explore the most contentious contemporary issues" (Wheeler, 5) and they pointed out the most precious land such as *Treasure Island* as 'the land of riches and gold' (Riach, 188). For the exploration of new land, literary writings became the documents for colonizers.

Stevenson, during his restless period, he had travelled to different parts of European and non-European countries and these experiences made his life exotic and imprinted in the novel. Stevenson's life was full of ambiguities to see the colonial circumstances when he lives in Edinburg. And he has aroused a strong sense of those unbalanced activities done by Europeans and forwards his ideas to fight against that poverty through this literary creation *Treasure Island* which is his own imaginative creation and language. It is said that it was Stevenson whose struggle against illness became part of literary creation. Like other writers of high Victorian era, he also could not detach himself from the circumstances of life set of belief and his position in the society. During that time, he was also much inspired by Joseph Conrad's writing. So, his

specific "tales led into a colonialist lineage which connected him to Conrad" (Culture 46). As Conrad's writings are considered as the glorification of European mission in the non-western territories to educate local settlers to make economically sound to the inhabitants and as a whole to civilize them. But on the contrary, his writing exposes the hidden purpose of colonizers to rule the distant territories by culture interpretation and military approach and underlying mission for collecting materials wealth. Conrad and Stevenson also telescope the imaginary land of *Treasure Island* and expose the land as full of "gold coins and natural beauties"(Riach186).

Regarding Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island* David Daiches remarks in his book, *A critical History of English Literature* as a boy adventure story (1088). This book deals about the contradictory of Euperians presence in the novel that Stevenson depicts a sense of moral or civilized mission of Europeans but one presents a delima rather than solves a problem. It refers to the blurred around the edge and the reader is never allowed to have solid ground of narrative certainly beneath his feet. Daiches argues "Heroic endeavor is not automatically linked to obvious moral goodness; what we admire is not always what we approve of; energy of personality" (1088). Thus, even in a voyage story, Stevenson shows moral ambiguities in the Characterization. There is gap between criminality and civilization. So, *Treasure Island* lives with the ambiguity of good and evil in literary circle. Another critic *History of English Literature* in which Edward Albert illustrates "Stevenson show himself to be the master of an essay, graceful style, the result of much care... He is follower of Scott tradition" (40). Stevenson isolates him very far from his earlier days of British Empire when he was living in Scott. He brought in such pre-dominate culture within more concern way to judge

others. In this sense, the novel is analyzed from the perspective of the reality of contemporary social and political codes and conducts. One of the prominent post-colonial critics Edward Said has viewed the novel differently than others. His remarks regarding the representation of the tales are not only the local exotic of the land but the strangeness of the white man's presence in the region and the time exotic shapes of white dreams" (Culture 200). Thus, *Treasure Island* is itself the foreign land for the British.

The map is only the thing that makes them craze to capture the *Treasure Island*. This is an intoxication for them. During colonization, Stevenson found double standard of their civilizing activities and hidden motif is accumulating the different territories of valuable resources with their modern gun, powder. In the process of colonial expansion, they blindly involved in such barbaric activities like murdering, killing, betraying each other which made all non-westerner trap in their authority. The same projection can be seen in the novel which reminds the British colonization. The major characters in the novel like Jim Hakims and Long John Silver who are rival to each other are capable of leading their different groups. They seem cooperative and friendly at the beginning with their friends but later seem very ready to kill their own friends. So, their outlook position is quite different than the inner motive of the heart. In this sense, they are dual in nature. These verities of characters have definite purpose to reveal the truth of life. William J. Long remarks:

We find in almost every case a purpose to sweep away error and to reveal the underlying truth of human life. So the novel sought to do for society in this age precisely what Lyell and Darwin sought to do for science that is to find the truth, and to show how it might be used to uplift humanity. Perhaps for this reason the Victorian age is

empathically an age of realism rather than of romance. (455)

This paragraph reveals that the Victorian novels focused on society rather than in an individual. Each individual is a lonely soul and more revolved in the social frivolities and hypocrisy which can be regarded as the primary enemy in the society. So, the traditional society oriented narrative form of writing has been changed into the fact that the individual must uphold and cherish his personal identity.

The colonial greed becomes the one of the main root of Europeans Culture during high Victorian period. As Ashcroft says, "the colonial greed can be taken as the form of the support and recognition of social institution that influenced the production of culture"(43). The contemporary societies recognized and endorsed their cultural practices out of their selfish and greedy behavior. So, Stevenson's *Treasure Island* presents the Europeans excessive desire for the power and wealth by narrating two types of people: sea pirates and So-called European gentlemen. Both pirates' only purpose is to have the precious diamond that is buried in the land.

The lately emerged post colonial theories have made a powerful contribution to the study of the discourses produced during the colonization time and even after this time. The western colonial desire began to be questioned by exposing the hidden motif of the colonizers to exploit the natives and collect the raw materials from the colonized countries. So, the post colonial discourses attempt to wipeout illusive discourses created by the colonists.

Edward Said argues that Orientalism can be found in current depictions of non-Western cultures. The depiction of non-Western culture is irrational, untrustworthy, anti-western and dishonest. Perhaps most significantly, prototypical ideas are those into which Orientalist scholarship has enrolled. Those nations are trusted as foundations for both ideologies and

policies developed by the occident. In this context, Said writes:

The Orientalism is not only a positive doctrine about the orient that exists any one time in the west: it is also an influential academic tradition (when one refers to an Orientalism), as well as an area of concern defined by travelers, commercial enterprises, governments, military, expeditions, readers of novels and account of exotic adventure, natural historians and pilgrims to whom the orient is a specific kind of knowledge about specific places, peoples and civilizations. (203-204)

The mission of the colonizers is to involve through various academic and business fields. They came as traders, and commercial men, historian as school teachers, and military men to rule the colonized nations. The colonized countries' people failed to rule themselves because they had no education, no money and no political ideology. They were unable to utilize the huge resources, too. However, nowadays, economics is playing a dominant role on it.

Edward Said, the follower of Michael Foucault, extended his theory of discourse and linked the theory of discourse with real social- political struggle. Foregrounding his deep faith in the notion of discourse is wielded with power, he propagated that the discourse are the result of real power-struggle in the society. Said's main interest is to study and analyze the relations between the West and the East, and the role of Orientalism as a governing force in this relationship. Orientalism is also the Western projection of will to govern over the Orient. The Orient is governed by and dominated by the discourses produced by the Orientalists rather than material, military, or political power, because the discourses make possible Orient as "subject

class". Orientalist's discourses fashion their modes of thoughts and working style by developing confidence in them, which in turn, increase their power and authority over the orient. Defining the colonialists' practice of the discourses, Elleke Boehmer writes:

Colonialist discourse can be taken to refer to that collection of symbolic practices including textual codes and conventions and implied meanings, which Europe deployed in the process of its colonial expansion and, in particular, in understanding the bizarre and apparently unintelligible strangeness with which it came into contact . . . . Colonialist discourse, therefore, embraced a set of ideological approaches to expansion and foreign rule. (50)

The western colonialist discourses created the myth of inferiority of the colonized and it deployed the superiority of colonial Culture. The colonized natives were tamed by the pedagogy of "civilizing mission" that advocated the need of colonial rule over the indigenous land. Because in European imagination, the colonized are irrational, uncivilized, and therefore, are unable to establish peace in their own land. The representation of the colonized as unfit to rule, or to manage their own resources was one such ideological mechanism that worked with particular persuasiveness.

The colonial discourse employs a certain type of narrative in which the colonized are represented as fixed reality, 'a regime of truth,' that is structurally similar to racialism. Said, in his book Orientalism argues that the 'Orient' was the European fantasy, "Without examining Orientalism as a discourse, one cannot possibly understand the enormously systematic discipline by which European culture was able to manage-and even produce-

the orient politically, sociologically, militarily, ideologically, scientifically and imaginatively" (3). The Europeans produced a heavy body of texts advocating the superiority of their culture, and their race. They developed the stereotyped version, images, vocabularies that served as the "lenses through which the orient is experienced" (Said, 58), and the "idea of European people and cultures" (Said, 7). The subjectivity of European narrative was to separate "us" from "them" and the West from the East.

Similarly, said in his another book *Culture and Imperialism* advocates: Europeans writing on Africa, India . . . is the European effort to rule distant lands and people... What are striking in these discourses are the rhetorical figures on keeps encountering in their descriptions of "the mysterious East," as well as the stereotypes about "the African [or Indian or Irish, or Jamaican] mind," the nations about bringing civilization to primitive or barbaric people, the disturbingly familiar ideas about flogging or death or extended punishment being required when "they" misbehaved or become rebelling because "they" mainly understood force or violence best; "they" were not like "us," and for that reason deserved to be ruled. (12)

The above argument makes clear about their intention to rule upon east or orient is on the one hand to grab natural resources, to extend their trade with the purpose to collect material wealth, on the other hand, to fulfill their natural instinct to be powerful or in one sentence, it is their exposition of colonial greed.

Colonial literature, which is the writing concerned with colonial perceptions and experience, is written by metropolitans. About the colonial

literature, Elike Boehmer writes:

From the early days of colonization therefore, not only texts but literature, broadly defined, underpinned efforts to interpret other lands, offering home audience a way of thinking about exploration, western conquest, national valor, new colonial acquisitions. Travelers, traders, administrators, settlers, 'read' the strange and new by drawing on familiar book such as Bible or Pilgrim Progress. Empires were of course as powerfully shaped by military conflict, the unprecedented displacement of peoples, and the quest for profits. (14)

The earlier days of colonization are appetizer for colonizers. Those days, they tested the inferior people. In the beginning of colonialism, Europeans wanted to know others. They started entering other countries as travelers first, became traders, and lastly they started ruling them. The colonizers ruled many countries. European countries, especially Britain, ruled the countries like Africa and India.

While ruling the distant territories, the sources were as extensive as their knowledge and experiences of stories. Especially the sources included colonized people, their oral narratives, fantasy and ancient sacred books. The subject matters of literature the natives, their culture or the landscape. Therefore, exotic and fantasy led in the native cultures. But the literary writers were dedicated to the imperialists.

The post-colonial theory incorporates the problems of representation in colonial writings under its subject study. The colonial discourses, not only creates power to rule others, but also contains the possibility of resistance to it from others. The post colonial criticism, licensed with cultural discourse of

suspicion on the part of colonized people, seeks to undermine the imperial subject. It has forcefully produced parallel discourses which have questioned stereotypes about myths. The power and authority of Western colonial representations have been questioned and challenged by the discourses produced by the people supposed to be the subordinates. Those post colonial writers and critics turned the table from the real situation of the colonial countries and presented the colonial history from the perspective of colonized people's experiences. By doing this, they revealed what the colonial authority did in the name of progress, science and civilization. Frantz Fanon, one of the eminent post colonial writers and critics, seems to be more radical on this issue. Said in his *Culture and Imperialism* writes about Fanon:

Fanon reverses the hitherto accepted paradigm by which Europe gave the colonies their modernity and argues instead that not only were the well being and the progress Europe built up the sweat and the dead bodies of Negroes, Arabs, Indians and Yellow Races but Europe is literally the creation of the Third world. (197)

Emerging from displacement and dereliction of social marginality, the post colonial writers produced parallel discourse in order to re-inscribe and relocate cultural differences.

Thus, from the huge chunk of the issues in post colonial studies, this short introduction has shed light especially on two aspects: the case of representing an alien nation, its people and culture in colonial writings; and the colonial rise in non-western nations. Stevenson has very often been branded as a whole heartedly colonialist writer in post colonial criticism as an African writer and critic Chinua Achebe, calls him a 'racist'. Especially, this

paper elaborates Stevenson's aspect of colonial attachment and colonial mentality with the light of post-colonial lens.

The novel opens with the colonial overtone that gives a sense of travel writing. As the travel writing also contained the events of colonizer by way of recording the events of the colonizers. The beginning of the novel marked that how colonizer appeared in the foreign land and how they dominated other local settlers. Before arrival of Billy Bones the life of the family of John Hawkins runs peacefully. His family is very innocent without having any knowledge about the mission of colonizers and their control and treachery sense of coming in the inn. They live a simple life in the sea side inn, the Admiral Ben bow. One day an old menacing sea captain Billy Bones addressing sea trader appears and takes a room at the inn. The captain pays four gold pieces. Moreover," the captain lived at the inn for many months... without paying any further amount for his stay"(9). However, nobody of the family can ask it because they are afraid of Billy Bones. Nor they can get rid of him by sending away from their family. So, their form of domination used by the person is physical as well psychological as the whole family is psychologically paralyzed by Billy Bones. So this pervades the account of colonization.

By considering this fact, Elike Boehmer says, "western conquest, national valor, and new colonial acquisitions. Travelers, traders, administrators, settlers' man but their inherited motif is to capture the land"(14). In the beginning of colonialism, Europeans wanted to know others. They started entering other countries as travelers first, became traders, and lastly they started ruling them. When Billy bones get ill and Dr. Livesey

comes to treatment and call him to rest on the bed for a week but Billy run down up to the stair to look other sea pirates whole of the days through the window. Here, Dr. Livesey already established as a civilized Dr. and he is also ex-military man but he makes secret for this. At the same time, Black dog arrives at the inn looking for Billy bones and later both fight each other and control Jim's family. The innocent family did not know of their intention to come at the inn and their reason for fighting. At last they control Jim family. This project the colonization time of Britishers who appeared in the same mode of civilized man in the exotic land and gradually they ruled upon local settlers. As Edward said writes "the orient or colonized nation signifies a system of representation framed by political and economic force that brought the orient into western learning, western consciousness"( Orientalism 200). In this sense, Billy forced the innocent Jim to look after "a sea men with one leg"(9). For this task, he convinces to give four penny pieces to Jim for each month. Billy's constant threat to Jim makes him believe that money is the most determining factor of life. Similarly, Jim's father gets intoxicated with his drinking habit due to Billy's threat and force. The father identifies himself as " A plain man, rum and bacon and eggs is what he wants"(2).The identity of the father comes frequently with rum which refer to the European identity that is rested on drinking. Generally drinking, fighting, killings etc. are the parts of Victorian culture.

The protagonist Jim grows up in these colonial circumstances. The form of knowledge that Jim acquires is the knowledge of the control and domination over others. It leads him to belief that money and power essential for life. Then he confronts several incidents of the power and domination

exercised by his mate and he comes across. The spirituality, humanity and rational practices are overshadowed and they are beyond their accesses.

In the novel *Treasure Island*, the journey from London to *Treasure Island* is nothing more than the exploration of the new land with the mission to lift the buried treasure. At this moment, their journey unfolds as the activities of researchers, neo-colonizers deep-rooted "commercial interest". The characters are disunited in for greediness and selfishness. Both so-called intellectuals and pirates can't escape far from the ground reality of power and politics. It is revealed in narrator Jim's comment:

It appears they were at their wits and what to do, the stores being so low that we must have been starved into surrender long before help come. But our best hope, it was decided, was to kill of the buccaneers until they either hauled down their flag or ran away with the Hispaniola. From nineteenth they were already reduced to fifteen, two others were wounded and one, at least- the man shot beside the gun- severely wounded, if he were not dead. (102)

The dirty and conspiracy game is practiced very much within the characters. They are even ready to kill their own shipmates for the sake of selfish desire. For them, the importance of life has become minor in front of money and desire. Their lust for money, power and wine has questioned the faith upon their brotherhood and fraternity. As Maculloch says, "The characters themselves felt alien within the companionship of their friends. Their identity was realized in isolation"(71). In this sense, Captain exposes about the real purpose of travel as he says:

I learn we are going after treasure- hear it from my own hands, mind

you. Now treasure is ticklish works, I don't like treasure voyages on any account, and I don't like them, above all, when they are secret, and when (begging your pardon, Mr. Trelawney) the secret has been told to the parrot. (48)

This paragraphs shows that some people feel hesitation to doing it. The circumstances make them self conscious. Either consciously or unconsciously they desire treasure that refers to the wealth and their view to obtain it. It operates persistently throughout the novel. Captain tries to express his negative expressions. His purpose, out of this expression is to know the secrecy that is conspirator by other characters. Thus, captain's effort is to have treasure lonely. He is jealous of saying it to others.

From the above analysis, we can assume that Europeans are performing their politics over non- Europeans as if non-Europeans are powerless. But, in reality, they even couldn't show their integration. Debating, quarreling, conspirating became their religion. They try to create power for the sake of wealth-taking arms in hand. There is lack of spirituality so that not the non-European but Europeans themselves have "dark a face" (79). Stevenson, while presenting the *Treasure Island*, doesn't focus for local dwellers of the island. Perhaps, there were local settlers having full of authority over the land. But, only those things are presented, Europeans intention of colonization is for the material purpose. So, politics is involved in the act of representation.

Considering this fact, the Island's situation is described without anybody:

They had spoken lower and lower and they had almost got to whispering by now, so that the sound of their talk hardly interrupted the silence of the wood. All of a sudden, out of the middle of the trees in front of

us, a thin, high trembling voice struck up the well-known air and words. (176)

It clarifies that there are no people other than the treasurer seekers, Europeans. The situations of whispering and silence of woods make the reader interesting and enthusiastic. Hiding the facts unreality is brought into the main narrative stream to spread his propaganda. Rest of the people and their all sorts of affairs except Europeans are not worth for Stevenson. If any of non-Europeans are represented and their activities represented in the novel, it is to make aware to the European authority. The land is described as "blanked and darkened like silence of the wood" (175). It has not been described with any of the positive adjectives. It contends that extreme domination of Europeans upon Non-westerners that make non-westerners become silent and feared.

Objectively, it is clear that the phrase, 'materialist interest' stands for the imperialism. The whole process of exploitation goes behind the result of high passion of material gain. So, in the novel, Stevenson highly addresses to the Ben Gunn's characterization. We can easily understand that Europeans, who have got white race, are considered themselves superior. Benn Gunn's 3 years living experience in *Treasure Island* is quite unhealthy and irritating. Though Stevenson's politics is not to present the local dwellers from Island. We can guess that there are local settlers too. They belong to non-western or non-Christian heritage. It is revealed in Benn Gunn's utterances. He says, "I haven't spoken with a non-Christian" (79). It is interesting that Ben Gunn is a colonial official and scholar, his union of power and knowledge "includes a healthy respect and protection of the law allied with a superior, specialize intellect including to science" (*Culture*, 152). Colonial rule and crime detection always gain the respect and order of the western society who

consider themselves "civilized" and take the responsibility for 'civilizing other'. With this purpose, Ben Gunn has been sent as a colonial agent in *Treasure Island*. He guards for *Treasure Island* to become materially sound. Gunn's imagination and fantasy to become rich shows his high intention for materiality.

The protagonist Jim reveals his fears about Ben Gunn who is one of the cannibals living on the island he explores. Jim is extremely frightened from seeing that cannibal who was an animal-like person living on the island:

From the side of the hill, which was here steep and stony, a spout of gravel was dislodged, and fell rattling and bounding through the trees. My eyes turned instinctively in that direction and I saw a figure leap with great rapidity behind the trunk of a pine. What it was, whether bear or man or monkey, I could in no wise tell. It seemed dark and shaggy; more I knew not. But the terror of this new apparition brought me to a stand. (81)

Thus, it seems that Ben Gunn is portrayal which is not familiar to Jim. Ben Gunn behaves as an uncivilized person because he belongs to that wild world in which the survival is for the fittest. Jim's depiction of Ben Gunn's image as a wild animal living in the wilderness and behaving like other animals in the forest reveals the ideological and cultural clash between the British society and the other people living in the remote islands. His fear is due to the unfamiliarity with this natural world which is, to him, uncivilized and barbarian. To Jim, any native person living in this island is a source of fear and gothic.

It should be noted here that Jim, in his depiction of Ben Gunn, reflects how the British colonialists at the era of colonization viewed the other peoples living in the

distant and uncivilized areas in the world. The similarity that Jim makes here between Ben Gunn's appearance and the behaviors of other animals in the island makes us think that the British consider the colonized people living in the remote areas uncivilized and so viewed with fear.

Europeans colonialist ethos, their moral and ideological imagination of a commercial world where only conspirators can be successful (Said, *Orientalism* 3). It is proved that Jim's and Silver's Victory is over *Treasure Island*. Conspiracy becomes a means through which each character evokes their ill motives of dominating others and gathering treasures from the island. Jim particularly does not know the essential power of money and his childhood stage. He becomes aware of it after Billy Bones controls him. Bones is constant threat to Jim makes him believe that money is the most determining factor in life. That's way, after death of Billy Bones; Jim vigorously feels that it is moment of opportunity to collect the money kept by Billy Bones. As a result, Jim searches it, becomes overwhelmed after purchasing it.

Stevenson, through his narrative technique, unfolds the attitude of settlement in colonial world. "A colonial settlement is an investment of authority, an imposition from abroad (Said, *Culture* 6). So, Stevenson's writing itself proves to attempt of supporting the imposition of such authority. Stevenson's politics of power and wealth is very much honest. He observes it constructing the moral and rational judgment of the characters turning them into mechanical beings with only the economic benefits in their needs. The characters in the novel with modern technologies like ship (Hispaniola), modern guns and with 'bottle of rum', is the product of high Victorian

industrial and colonial milieu which helps for the deserting the *Treasure Island*. The exploitation of the treasure which is the symbol of supreme importance of material interest refers to the greed of colonialism. Stevenson has frankly spoken of this "valuable property" (200), to indicate the economic exploitation of Third World countries through the pervasive network of colonial mentality.

Colonization and Piracy are intertwined and indistinguishable in *Treasure Island*, both sailing towards the goal of colonizing an island whose very name smacks of absolute materialism. Because the name 'treasure' directly refer to the material property. So, the novel written into being a self-confessed literary piratical way by forming past Britain empire in the island. Since, the text responds to the colonized other, it engaged in its moment of socio historical production. As McCulloch says "by responding to and often subverting assumed discursive ideological truism"(71). The novel from the perspective of Jim's narrative mocks the very Victorian claim for truth, morality or unified selfhood in its playful and fragmented subjects who function performative masquerade and deceit. Because the characters turn out to be ready for violence piracy even killing their own friends or material gain. The deceptive duality found in silver's character is also directed towards love for piracy. The novel, pervading pirates in this sense, exposes the double standard. For example, the character of Trelawney hypocritically proclaims:

What were these villains after but money? What do they care for but money? For what would they risk their rascal carcasses but money... if you have the cult you talk about, I fit out a ship in Bristol dock, and talk you and Hawkins here along and I' will have that treasure if I

search a year. (32)

Here, what we understand that, during the colonization, Britishers moves as being the double standard which legitimize itself by claiming to civilize nation while concealing the insatiable desire of the colonizers. Both pirates and gentle English men share the desire to extract treasure from the fat dragon island's stomach.

Therefore, it blurs the boundaries between legitimate and illegitimate.

The most powerful pirates in the novel are Long John Silver and Captain Flint. Being pirates, Silver's love shows very tyrannical. This is only the affection to make others blind that he is truly loved. Silver establishes as the pirate in the popular imagination as a good and bad hero. Though he has artificial pig leg costume, he never returns to betraying, killing like other brave fighters. This kind of devilhood outward figure obliquely conveys throughout the novel. The similar kinds of devil psychology can be seen in Flint characterization. He narrates this with Jim as:

Flint's self was feared of me. Feared he was and proud. That was the roughest crew a float Flint; the devil himself would have been feared to go to see with them. But when I was quartermaster, lambs was not the word for flint's old buccaneers. (77)

This paragraph shows the self interest of the colonizers. It creates the confusion between criminality and colonialism. The paragraphs also reveal the question of gentleman as a self made colonial trader. This signifies the meaning of that the Pirates itself is very corrupted word in the sense of original term. For "by a gentleman of fortune they plainly meant neither more nor less than a common pirates"( Levay 27). It makes more clear sense that when Silver says "a young gentleman the pirate's meaning creeps in and ominous ambivalence" (165).This gives the sense of selfish nature of silver who is not addressed as being true sense of calling gentleman. This

event projects that, during colonization, the colonizers appear as very selfish manner in the exotic land. Their pretending gentlemanly behaviors were only for themselves in their outward sense to win the heart of native people so that they could capture the property.

When Long John Silver escapes from the captivity, he starts to cheat British authorities. Then, he flees into his different racially diverse milieu. Silver gets married with black wife but not in his true sense. The other group men have also different comments on his wife. Trelawney says, "she is a woman of color" (38). And Hawkins words "an old Negress" (190). This creates the sense of how colonizers dominate local settlers. He uses black wife as the ladder for the treasure. That's way; she manages Silver's inn and his bank accounts in his absence. Although she never figures out directly in the novel, Silver once escapes from the Hispaniola so that he can reunite with her. The fact that Silver married with black makes a curiosity to understand that and her marriage and race is puzzled. This reminds us the evil practice of Europeans upon non-westerners during colonization. In this respect, the discussed novels repeat the racist tropes of conventional Victorian functions of empire, in which the imperial protagonist signals his middleclass English virtue by maintaining his grip racially and keeping himself clean. *Treasure Island* complicates these tropes even as it deploys them, most particularly in the case of Silver. This hide and seek game that invites the novel's readers to note that the slave trade was both legal and profitable in eighteenth century Britain during colonization.

Civilization is a culture and way of life of people, nation or period regarded as a stage in the development or organized society. Civilization demands for improved behaviors and manner. The question of behavior and manners come always with culture. The right behaviors can be performed by

following the proper prescriptions prepared by certain culture. Culture is "a sort of theatre where various political and ideological causes engage one another" (*Culture*, 76). This theatrical performance is guided by civilized acts. But when the power holders committing wrong, try to approve the wrong behaviors into mainstream culture, certainly the uncivilized activities transforms in the civilized culture. The westerners commit such wrongs like fighting, killing and drinking frequently. These things seemed as if they are civilized in Europe. Their prescribed culture of fighting, killing and drinking may not be the act of civilization rather it is the act of uncivilization or barbarism. So, they are uncivilized. In such activities, each individual like Jim is made to learn the truth; so no one remains exception or innocent in the novel.

In the novel, characters find nothing more than wilderness game like fighting, killing, murdering each other. So, their narrow mindedness and cruel behaviors can be guessed everywhere. They can't be exhausted and escaped from these filthy practices. This can be traced that this is not their fault but the fault has been transformed from the root of cultural and civilization upbringing. Their indulgement and love for drinking is further mentioned:

The other was of course my friend of the red night-cap, both men were plainly the worse of drink, and they were still drinking; for even while I was listening, one of them with a drunken cry, opened the stern window and throw out something, which I divided to be an empty bottle. (122)

Their mission for searching the *Treasure Island* has become the battlefield and exotic place for intoxication with power and wine. It has disturbed the peaceful environment of Island and Europeans entrance has resulted as the

'snakes in the paradise'. Their position as the snake in paradise has created the geographical violence of the Island which has spoiled and impaired the resources of the land. On the other side, characters rarely speak without drinking. Jim's father throughout the day "drank rum and water strongly" (2). Captain Smollet, another main character, having drunk speaks with Mr. Arrow and exposes reality: "I don't like this cruise; I don't like the men; and I don't like my officer. That's short and sweet" (4). Mr. Arrow is too described as an old sailor who has "hazy eye, red cheeks, stuttering tongue, and other marks of drunkenness" (53). The fully drunkard characters become ready "to take out the arms and powder" (50). This type of drinking scenario deserves no grace among each other; only conspiracy, violence and betrayal.

Similarly, Stevenson uses symbols in the novel which represent ideologically European discourses related to colonial mentality. As Edward Said write:

In writing about the orient through certain governing metaphors, orient lists simultaneously underwrote the positional superiority of Western consciousness formulating discourses. In doing so the discourses rendered the orient a playground for western desires repression investment, projection. (Orientalism 8)

It helps to formulate the discourse about the orient. The text in this light is a discourse with an ideological ground for the empire to thrive to huge body of writings which formed a coherent system of western knowledge about the orient including Africa and Latin America and it serves as a lens for the writers to see the real world. No writers or scholars can detach himself from the contemporary situations of life and its position in the society. Stevenson is

a high Victorian novelist when colonization was blooming and expanding towards distant territories of non-western world. Being a writer of colonial era, his text *Treasure Island* cannot transcend from the existing convention of creating the fantasy and imagination to represent the political and economic power in the distant territory. Therefore, in the novel *Treasure Island*, his invention and imagination of *Treasure Island* as a place of romance and exotic is nothing more than the outlet of latent consciousness of colonialism.

Treasure Voyage symbolizes the Voyages that all the Europeans had within their inner heart. Their inner heart always sought to gain material wealth. Captain furthermore reveals his motives in another place in the novel, when he converses with Dr. Livesey: "I will tell you what I've heard myself . . . that you have a map of an island that there's crosses on the map to show where treasure is" (49). The characters, who are all from Europe, don't trust each other. They quarrel with each other to have treasure which is supposed to be buried. Otherwise, why do they keep the thing in secret? The map shows where the treasure is. So, everyone tries to get the map in hand. The narrator, Jim Hawkins, keeps the map secret. Keeping this thing secret, he hopes to have treasure solely. In this point, there is conspiracy and no faith among the characters. They make long debate, over a person who has the map.

The Orientalist discourses always try to prove the superiority of Western language and culture in comparison to with all non- Western culture. Defining the colonialists' practice of the discourses, Elleke Boehmer writes:

Colonialist discourse can be taken to refer to that collection of symbolic practices including textual codes and conventions and implied meanings, which Europe deployed in the process of its

colonial expansion and, in particular, in understanding the bizarre and apparently unintelligible strangeness with which it came into contact . . . . Colonialist discourse, therefore, embraced a set of ideological approaches to expansion and foreign rule. (50)

The western colonialist discourses create the myth of inferiority of the colonized and it deployed the superiority of colonial culture. The colonized natives were tamed by the pedagogy of "civilizing mission" that advocates the need of colonial rule over the indigenous land. In this sense, *Treasure Island* is as the symbolic representation of non-western countries or orient.

Stevenson transforms his idea into the image of island which is described as:

I ticketed my performance 'Treasure Island' I am told there are people who do not care for maps, and find it too hard to believe. The names, the shapes of the woodlands, the courses of roads and rivers, the pre-historic footsteps of man still distinctly traceable up will and down dale, the mills and the ruins, the ponds and the ferries . . . is an inexhaustible fund of interest for any man with eyes to see or two praiseworthy of imagination to understand with. (194)

Stevenson implicates that *Treasure Island* is a something like heaven where he can have the things loved very much. His description of the Island is an imaginative. The very much love for it is the implication of the writer's latent desire to be materially prosperous. Such physical desire is the common way of European life. In general, Stevenson exhibits a tinge of colonial color or it features colonial's motifs that are the quest beyond the frontier of civilization. This exhibits his colonial experiences and perceptions from the imperial perspective.

Edward Said mentions that "The Europeans, during those days, had believed that their fortune had been beyond the frontier of the civilization. To get that fortune, it was a must to impose authority abroad where by every evening a fortune had been stowed" (Culture 187). The imposition of power was not so easy game so that they used to commit many serious crimes against non-western people. Their crimes were justified by producing the various discourses which described the non-western people as uncivilized and it regarded 'European mission' to civilize them. Non-Europeans were treated as an animal; therefore they had not any place in western texts. Robert Louis Stevenson, in his symbolic land, that is *Treasure Island*, doesn't bring single reference of the Islanders. His characters in their "treasure getting game" count no Islanders as their barrier. They are quarreling and conspirating themselves with each other. This situation implies that Europeans don't count non-European people. Non-Europeans are regarded as inferior and weak and their characterization plays no important role to twist the meaning of the text. In short, Stevenson adopts the western style of dominating, restructuring and having authority over the non-western. He couldn't elude his material greed.

The narrator himself says, at the end of the novel, that "the tale has a root there, it grows on that soil, and it has a spine of its own behind the words" (200). Remaining in the ship, he is referring his homeland where the root of his story is. Soil is not only the soil but it refers to the whole situation of contemporary European life. In this point, it is clear that the writer himself accepts the facts described in the above mentioned paragraphs.

After all, the mission of characters of *Treasure Island* is complete. The raping of the *Treasure Island* that makes them happy and joyful and

characters feel themselves superior to get it. But here, we have to understand that the raping something cannot bring happiness of life; rather it creates sadness for those who are exploited. The acts like killing, raping, murdering etc. are abnormal themselves. But the characters did the same disguising game on land. It is a very serious matter and of concern among the non-western people. For us, it is the symbolic representation of forceful imposition upon non-westerners.

Due to extreme greediness of Europeans, it makes them superior and others are inferior. Because of this explicit category, from the early days of the European history, Europeans have been decaying. They take materiality in first priority. Humanity, brotherhood and other such practices are beyond the thought of European consciousness. They are even ready to commit crimes for the sake of money. Therefore, what they desire is for nothing more than to gain material wealth. It haunts their mind continuously. Then they let the desire be out by producing different sort of texts. So, *Treasure Island* can be taken as one among many other texts. In this novel, Stevenson exposes his hidden aspirations symbolically. Especially his depiction of *Treasure Island* represents the buried treasure in different non-western countries. These repressed wealth desires take Europeans to forward their journey to capture the valuable land. After getting of valuable resources from the Island, the characters share among their friends. It proves that they share for their repressed desire of high material interest among the fictional characters. So, this research questions the dilemma faced by the colonizers. The first group projects upon the colonial people the obscurities of their own unconscious they would rather not penetrate and their interpretation of the native behavior is repressed

because it is associated with the dangers and temptations represented by the instincts.

Thus, the novel *Treasure Island* unfolds the image of the island in the form of travel narrative. The character is exhilarated with the adventure. The novel form of travel writing thereby attempts to conceal the fact that adventure or travelling undertaken by the Europeans in the non-western part of land exploited the people as their natural resources. They exhibit an intense desire to be controller so that the hunger of power and materials prosperity would be satisfied. Thus, in the novel in the discourse of travel writing constructs an idea that the island with rich materiality need to be explored by the European.

The novel also deconstructs the discourse of enlightenment ethos constructed by the west to vindicate their presence in non-European land. The so called civilized people themselves are epitome of barbarism as they take part in fighting , killing, drinking and the like. Since, the presumed civilized people show barbaric attitude, the image of enlightenment no longer exists; then how such people function the role of the teacher of civilization or enlightenment. So, the entire event of the novel revolved around this contradiction. Stevenson's *Treasure Island* and its image given in the novel seem exotic and strange. It can be taken as the symbol of whole non-western land which is assumed by European as a land with full of prosperity. This greediness leads them towards obsession to get to the buried treasure. So, it helps to produce a discourse that the non- Western lands are supposed to be lacking in organized control and full of lawlessness.

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