



STATE DOMINATION ENFORCEMENT IN *TENNIS IN NABLUS* (2015) BY ISMAIL KHALIDI

Herry Sutama¹, Desvalini Anwar²

English Department

Faculty of Languages and Arts

Universitas Negeri Padang

email: herrysutama@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of this analysis is to expose the issue of State domination enforcement. It is also intended to find out how the characters, setting, plot or conflict to contribute in revealing the issue of State domination enforcement. This analysis is related to the concept of *Power/Knowledge* by Michel Foucault and *Orientalism* by Edward Said that is supported by the text and context based interpretation. The result of this analysis shows that the State that is represented by British enforces the domination through law enforcement and media restriction.

Key words: British, Law, Media

A. INTRODUCTION

The play *Tennis in Nablus* (2015) written by Ismail Khalidi reflects the issue of State domination enforcement. This play was taken place in 1939. In this analysis State domination enforcement refers to the ways British government that is represented by British soldier enforces British domination in Palestine. In this play State domination enforcement is narrated by several characters, Yusef; a notorious leader of Palestinian rebel, Anbara; a Palestinian writer, and Tariq; a successful Palestinian businessman. The narrations from these characters show that, British sees Middle East, specifically Palestine as a powerless nation. They observed Palestine as potential territory to empower themselves in order to reach their goal to become a superior nation. British at that time utilized the power of law and media to perpetuate their mission. They manipulate the law and the media to control and to take over Palestine. In this analysis, State domination enforcement is shown through law enforcement and media restriction.

In terms of law enforcement, British tampers Palestine's law system. Law as the foundation of the country is controlled by British to benefit their side. They

¹ English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on September 2019

² Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang



act as supreme controlling authority who have unlimited power to give conviction. They deport Palestine's leaders who resist their system outside of the country. They control the law in the country. They also imprison and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters without judicial proceeding.

State domination enforcement in the media can be seen through a restriction in the media, especially newspaper. Through media as the mouthpiece of information, British obliterates their enemies to satiate their desire to dominate Palestine. British controls the newspaper; by bribing journalists for not reporting the bad news about them. The British also used media as the main weapon to create good image of them and to brainwash the mindset of Palestinians. The good image of British in the media was used by the British to disunite Palestinians.

Tennis in the play refers to field that utilized by all players to show their power in the game. The two main players are represented by the Palestinian and British's soldier. Whereas, the referee as a controller of the tennis game is represented by the British and Jewish' elite. They have supreme authority and power to determine the policy and the fate of the Palestine. While the audiences of the tennis game are represented by the Arab nations and the League of Nations who even have no power to intervene and to take a part in the conflict. Finally, the writer also exposes the separation among Palestinians becomes the main reason this country heading to destruction.

B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The analysis of Play *Tennis in Nablus* (2015) by Ismail Khalidi was done through text and context based interpretation. It was done by analyzing dramatic elements on drama such as characters, plot (conflicts) and setting. These devices were connected one another and give contribution to reveal the meaning of the play. Characters and conflicts were used to reveal State domination enforcement by analyzing British strategy to dominate Palestine. Then, the setting dealt with the circumstance and atmosphere in (Nablus) Palestine. They gave contribution in the process of analysis by giving help in revealing the meaning.

C. DISCUSSION

This chapter analyses the play's dramatic elements such as character, plot (conflict) and setting to reveal about State domination enforcement. In this play State domination enforcement is narrated by several characters, Yusef; a notorious leader of Palestinian rebel, Anbara; a Palestinian writer, and Tariq; a successful Palestinian businessman. The narrations from these characters show that, British tampers the law to benefit their side. They also control the media information stream, such as the newspaper to maintain their power. In this case, State domination enforcement can be seen through two key points; law enforcement and media restriction.

1. Law Enforcement

The first key point of British domination enforcement that is done by the British can be seen through law enforcement. The British deported Palestine's leaders who resist their system outside of the country. They control the law in Palestine. They also imprison and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters without judicial proceeding.

The British deported Palestine's leaders who resist their system outside of the country. It appears in the following quotation:

ANBARA: "This, people of Palestine, is the decisive moment. It is our fork in the road . . ."

YUSEF: "Our cry for freedom is once again threatened by the terrible sound of silence and servitude . . ."

ANBARA: "Our leaders have been exiled, killed, imprisoned, or co-opted. And the Arab kings are far too comfortable under the tutelage of their Western masters to be of any use. Soon we will find ourselves strangers in our own land." (p. 61-62)

The text above shows the cunning strategy of British policy to dominate the land through the law. The British were afraid the rebel leaders will destroy their domination in Palestine. Through the conflict that confronted by Yusef; the main character that has a job as a rebellion leader. He has influence to arouse the fighting spirit of Palestinian to fight back against the British through his influence and written in the newspaper. Therefore, the British made their own law in order to exile all rebels outside of the country. The colonizer is trying to create fear for colonized. The fear is used to muffle the resistance. In utterance *Our leaders have been exiled, killed, imprisoned, or co-opted* shows the ways of British to enforce their power even though many rejections of society. Intrinsicly, the British has desire as the one and the only controller in Palestine. Hence, to smooth the mission, they eliminate all the rebel leaders. The deportation that is done by the British is to debilitate the rebel followers and ultimately they will surrender. In utterance *Our cry for freedom is once again threatened by the terrible sound of silence and servitude* shows the uncertain fate of Palestinian. The freedom that desired by the society is unsuitable with the reality that should confront by them. They will become slaves in their own land. In utterance *Soon we will find ourselves strangers in our own land* shows the native people of Palestine will become alien in their own land. This happened because they do not recognize the system of the country anymore. The impact, it is hard for them to adjust and at the end they will become a minority and alienated. This is also happening because the law is not side to them, on the other hand, the law is created by British to annihilate them.

Another quotation that supports about the deportation Palestine's leaders who resist British system outside of the country is:

YUSEF: Blame the British, not me.
ANBARA: I do. But you must have known they would capture you that day at Tulkarem.
YUSEF: Anbara, I was arrested and exiled because I fought. And I fought because they occupy us.
ANBARA: Simple.
YUSEF: And if it weren't for them I'd be playing the oud for you every night. (p.13)

The text above emphasizes the colonizer's strategy to imprison the Palestinian rebels and intellectuals. Through conflict that confronted by character Yusef as a representation of Palestinian intellectuals who imprisoned by British indicates that the British were afraid the thought of those intellectuals will endanger their position in Palestine. They also afraid cannot restrain the rebellion stream. It is because the intellectuals have power to expose the colonizer cunning politic to society and the world will know it. However, the colonizer manages to make it not happened. In utterance *Anbara, I was arrested and exiled because I fought* shows the action that done by the British to defeat all the intellectuals. British has to eliminate their rival first to perpetuate their mission. In utterance *Blame the British, not me* shows that the British is the one who must be responsible with chaos in Palestine. This means that British slogan as savior of the country just a mask to reach their goal to take over the land.

The British controls the law in Palestine to benefit their side. It appears in the following quotation:

MICHAEL: Word is, your trial's been set for tomorrow morning, boys.
TARIQ: Trial?
MICHAEL: That's what they call them, at least.
TARIQ: But what's the charge? Where's the evidence? Who's the judge? Do we get lawyers? What about habeas corpus? (p.73)

The text above shows the colonizer dominate the law in Palestine. Lawyer and court are controlled by them. The strategy is used by the colonizer to give advantages for them. Yusef, who always declares his resistant toward British made the colonizer exasperated. Therefore, he was imprisoned by the British. In utterance *Word is, your trial's been set for tomorrow morning, boys* shows the British has arranged the trial and they act as supreme authority to give conviction. Hence, the Palestinians are marginalized in their own land. In utterance *But what's the charge? Where's the evidence? Who's the judge? Do we get lawyers? What about habeas corpus?* shows injustice in law that confronted by Palestinians. The rebels who fight against the British will automatically send to jail and get punished. They will not pass the judicial process. The politic is run by the colonizer time to time. In the end, it will make no one brave to do rebellion anymore and slowly accepts the colonizer' domination.

Another quotation that supports about British controls the law in Palestine to benefit their side is:

MICHAEL: “The British promises of independence are empty: Their declarations and delegations, their mandates and solutions, are nothing more than the crude tricks of magicians. And as long as they rule, they’ll play the Arab and the Jew like so many chess pieces.”

YUSEF (Subdues Tariq): See! You’re a pawn, being played by the Brits and the Zionists. Resist boy, it’s in you! I can see it in those beady little eyes! (p.62)

The text above shows the domination of British in Palestine. British becomes the mastermind of the conflict that occurred in Palestine. They rule and authorize the land for their advantages. In utterance *Their declarations and delegations, their mandates and solutions, are nothing more than the crude tricks of magicians. And as long as they rule, they’ll play the Arab and the Jew like so many chess pieces* shows the policy that enforce by the British only bring misery and more conflicts for civilians. Thus, the atmosphere that created by the British is uncertain. Therefore the intervention of the British in the land makes the situation worsen. On the other hand, the British side will get more advantages, such as position as supreme authority to control the land, resources and its people.

These quotations above confirm Foucault’s theory about *Power/Knowledge*. They are in line with what has been said by Foucault that power and knowledge relationship controls and governs the society. In addition, power is exercised through a form of a regulation to benefit the British side.

British imprison and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters without judicial proceeding. It appears in the following quotation.

YUSEF: The Brits kill thousands of us, imprison thousands more and now they want to negotiate. They will use us and then throw us aside. Help me! Help us! (p.32)

The text above shows the cruel policy that is done by British in Palestine. Once, the British cannot restrain the rebellion anymore, they use their power to punish the rebels by giving the death penalty. According to Yusef, many Palestinians supporters are got punishment, he was not the only Palestinian supporters who got it. In utterance *The Brits kill thousands of us, imprison thousands more and now they want to negotiate* emphasizes that many Palestinian rebels who fight against the British confronted the tragic life. They were imprisoned and got the death penalty. This is happening because the British government does not want their supremacy will be destroyed. Therefore, they do brutal action to obliterate their enemies. The rebels who get the punishment are not allowed to protest and to demand the justice from the British. In utterance *They will use us and then throw us aside. Help me! Help us!* shows the fate of the Palestinian. They are not considered as human, they are used and after that they will discard by the British.

This means that as non-white people they are considered as non-human who have no right and dignity.

Another quotation that supports about British imprison and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters is:

The soldier turns and looks toward upstage and we see, in the dim light, the twisting silhouette of a limp body hanging from the balcony. (p.88)

The stage direction above shows situation of death penalty of Palestinian rebel (Yusef). The death penalty is implemented without judicial proceeding in the court. However, the rule is controlled by colonizer, there is no justice for Yusef. In utterance *in the dim light, the twisting silhouette of a limp body hanging from the balcony* shows the powerless and weak of the colonized. Yusef got death penalty without any court process to decide whether he made a mistake or not. The demise of rebel leader means that one by one those who care and fight against British occupation in Palestine undergoes decreasing time to time, until no one cares for the land. This is as the strategy of the British to take over the land. Therefore, they legalize all ways to enforce their power and domination.

These quotations above confirm Said's theory about *Orientalism*. They are in line with what has been stated by Said that the colonialism occurs through domination and power. In this analysis, the British shows their power and sophistication in law and government's system in order to maintain their domination. *Orientalism* is not a truth, but a construction imposed by the West in order to affirm its superiority over the East (Anwar, 2016).

Briefly, the law enforcement is one of the essential things to show th British domination enforcement. The external conflict can be seen from the narration of Yusef as the main character. He describes the brutal strategy of the British as colonizer to enforce their power and domination in Palestine. Moreover, the law enforcement that is done by the British can be seen through deportation of Palestine's leaders who resist their system outside of the country, control the law in Palestine and imprison and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters.

2. Media Restriction

The second key point of British domination enforcement that is done by the British can be seen through media restriction. British controls the newspaper; by bribing journalists for not reporting the bad news about them. The British used their good image in media to brainwash the mindset of Palestine's society. Through the portrayal in media, the British also tries to disunite Palestinian society.

British controls the newspaper; by bribing journalists for not reporting the bad news about them. It appears in the following quotation:

WALEED: Much more civilized. They want to pay him to stop writing against the Zionists.

ANBARA: Really? (Beat) How much?

WALEED: No idea. They did the same thing with the editor of Filastin. A couple years back. He refused the money of course. Just like he refused to agree with the mufti. Now he's a poor exile in Beirut. (p. 67)

The text above shows the strategy of British to bribe the Journalist to stop writing about British and their allies. Anbara is the Yusef's wife. She is a journalist and often writes the news about the condition in Palestine. In utterance *Much more civilized. They want to pay him to stop writing against the Zionists* shows one of her journalist friend was bribed by the British. However, he refused the bribe. In utterance *A couple years back. He refused the money of course. Just like he refused to agree with the mufti. Now he's a poor exile in Beirut* shows the poverty problem is also used by the colonizer to assemble the power. Through the media, British has desire to liquidate the information stream that can endanger their position. Ultimately, there is no other way, the money politics is run by the colonizer. They bribe the media to stop writing against them. It has purpose to create a good portrayal of colonizer inside and outside of Palestine.

Another quotation that supports about British controls the media is:

RADIO (Voiceover): "And from Palestine, British commanders hailed the success of anti-terrorist measures against the 'Arab Revolt,' which has raged on since 1936. High Commissioner MacMichael announced that: 'the violent unrest of the Arab population is in its last throes.' His assessment was confirmed by commanders of the Jewish units fighting alongside British troops. On the European front, escalating tensions between Germany and Britain—" (p. 22)

The text above shows another domination of British through media, such as in Radio. British as a country which has more influences in international media maintain it to inform their achievement. In fact, the radio did not inform the brutality that is done also by the British in Palestine. In utterance *His assessment was confirmed by commanders of the Jewish units fighting alongside British troops* shows that British utilized their troops in Palestine to carry out their mission. The British stationed their soldiers in every area in Palestine, especially in Nablus. In utterance *"And from Palestine, British commanders hailed the success of anti-terrorist measures against the 'Arab Revolt,' which has raged on since 1936* shows the effort of British to create a good image in the media that they are as a savior. They accused Palestinian fighters as terrorist, although their fight against the British is to get the freedom. British at the time ignored the rights of the society that had plundered by them. The term "Terrorist" that pinned to Palestinian's fighters makes the charm of British more famous as the savior and powerful nation. On the other hand, it strengthens the stereotype that Palestine as powerless nation. Therefore, the British implemented all ways to achieve their goal to be known as a superior nation.

These quotations above confirm Foucault's theory about *Power/Knowledge*. They are in line with what has been mentioned by Foucault that power and knowledge directly involve one another. In this case, the media (newspaper and radio) as the weapon of British is used to maintain their power. Through the media, the British spread their influence to perpetuate their domination.

British used their good image in media to brainwash the mindset of Palestine's society. It appears in the following quotation:

TARIQ: I'm sorry to leave Anbara but I won't take his abuse.

YUSEF: Please. I'm sorry. Sit . . . It's important.

TARIQ: Make it quick.

YUSEF: It is precisely because you are not a boy anymore that I'm asking for your help. I am asking you as a fellow Palestinian. We need you Tariq. I need you.

TARIQ: No. The answer's no. (p. 31-32)

The text above shows the Palestinian who has been seduced by the British good image in the media. It is Tariq, he is a successful Palestinian businessman and the nephew of Yusef. In this case Tariq can be the representation of the mindset and the attitude of Palestinian society toward British domination. They openly support the British occupation in Palestine. In utterance *No. The answer's no* shows the rejection of him to fight against the colonizer. In this case, the Tariq as the representative of society who has seduced by the good portrayal of British in the media supports the British domination in the land. Hence, in their opinion, British is a friend. The mindset and the attitude of Palestine are shown through; their refusal to join with the rebellion. In utterance *It is precisely because you are not a boy anymore that I'm asking for your help. I am asking you as a fellow Palestinian. We need you Tariq. I need you* shows the refusal of Tariq to help his uncle to fight against the British. In this case Tariq prefers to cooperate with the colonizer. It is because he got safety and a good life. In his opinion, the rebellion against colonizer is a useless thing. Indirectly, he has lost his nationalism sense for their nation.

Another quotation that supports about British used their good image in media to brainwash the mindset of Palestine's society is:

ANBARA: "So let us march to the gates of every British compound and show them that the resistance of the people of Palestine is eternal and just."

YUSEF: "Let them hear our voices rise above the thunder of their rifles and the crack of their whips: we will be free."
(Anbara fades back into the darkness.)

MICHAEL: Jesus. Give me a pitchfork and a torch and let's burn this fucking prison down!

TARIQ: Bloody rhetoric and drumbeating. We can work with the British to get what we want. It's called "rational nationalism" and it's based on the premise / that— (p. 63)

The text above emphasizes about the Palestinian who has been seduced by the British good image in the media. As a result, they have different point of view about British occupation in Palestine. In utterance *Bloody rhetoric and drumbeating. We can work with the British to get what we want. It's called "rational nationalism" and it's based on the premise / that* shows that several Palestinians prefer to cooperate with the British. It is because they presume the British as superior nation that can give them many profits in business. In this case, the business is land purchase. British purchases several land in certain area in Palestine with high price. They purchase it from civilians. Hence, the civilians do not want to join with Palestine rebels. It is because they gain much money from the British. Although, they have reminded, they do not listen to it. They also presume that British as a friend. However, without their consent, they had deceived by British. The more land has been bought by British, it makes them easier to maintain their domination.

British tries to disunite Palestinian society. It appears in the following quotation:

YUSEF: We are this close! The Brits think they've won but if we can make one push—

TARIQ: And what do I have to do with this?

YUSEF: We need a man of your standing, with your knowledge of the British . . . If you were to support the revolt we could maybe hold our ground. But this is our last chance.

TARIQ: It's already over. You're practically the only one still fighting.

YUSEF: Maybe. But if you joined me others would follow. You are my last hope Tariq. (p. 38)

The text shows about the separation in Palestinian society. In utterance *We need a man of your standing, with your knowledge of the British . . . If you were to support the revolt we could maybe hold our ground. But this is our last chance* shows the effort that made by Yusef to encourage his nephew to join in fighting against the colonizer. However, Tariq has a different point of view about the British. This means there is no unity among Palestinian, hence the nation become powerless and easy to be attacked. In utterance *It's already over. You're practically the only one still fighting* emphasizes that Tariq as character who represented Palestinian society who lost their care toward their own land and people. They do not realize that their ignorance attitude will make their land and people become more marginalized. They only think about their self, without thinking about the fate of their country letter on.

Another quotation that supports about British tries to disunite Palestinian society is:

ANBARA: They are not just buying summer homes, eh Tariq! They're building a country right on top of ours while the British hold us down.

TARIQ: That's a matter of opinion.

YUSEF: Opinion?! Those aren't toy guns they're carrying around! Wake up, Tariq! The days of looking the other way are over. They want it all for themselves!

TARIQ: Good-bye Uncle. I suggest you make yourself scarce for a while. You are a hunted man after all. (p. 33-34)

The text also emphasizes about the separation in Palestinian society. In utterance *Opinion?! Those aren't toy guns they're carrying around! Wake up, Tariq! The days of looking the other way are over. They want it all for themselves!* also shows the effort of Yusef to realize his nephew. However, the different point of view among them make the separation is inevitable. This is the mission of British to disunite Palestinians. Hence, the nation becomes vulnerable to be dominated. In utterance *They are not just buying summer homes, eh Tariq! They're building a country right on top of ours while the British hold us down* also shows the effort from other character Anbara to warn her nephew about the cunning strategy of the British. On the other hand, Tarif has trusted the British so much. As a result, he does not want to hear the warning. The different perspective among Palestinians about British becomes one of main factors this country heading to endless conflict and war until nowadays.

These quotations also confirm Said's theory about *Orientalism*. They are in line with what has been mentioned by Said that the colonialism also occurs through hegemony in society. In this analysis, the media (newspaper and radio) as the weapon of British to vocalize and to construct their good image in order to brainwash and to hegemony the Palestinians. It makes Palestinians slowly accept the British domination in their land.

Briefly, media restriction is also another essential thing to show British domination enforcement. The character dialogues in the play give clear narration about British enforces their power and domination in Palestine. Moreover, media restriction that is done by the British can be seen through controlling the newspaper information stream, using media to brainwash the mindset of Palestine's society and also utilizing the media to disunite Palestinians.

D. CONCLUSION

The issue of State domination enforcement can be revealed in play script *Tennis in Nablus* (2015) written by Ismail Khalidi. Text-based and context-based interpretations are used to delve the issue State domination enforcement. This analysis also deals with *Power* and *Knowledge* concept developed by Michel Foucault and *Orientalism* concept by Edward W. Said. State domination enforcement in this analysis refers to the the ways British government enforce British domination in Palestine. This place was taken place in 1939. In this play State domination enforcement is narrated by several characters, Yusef; a notorious leader of Palestinian rebel, Anbara; a Palestinian writer, and Tariq; a successful Palestinian businessman. In this analysis, State domination enforcement that is

represented by the British was successfully carried out in Palestine. It can be seen from long conflict and chaos that is confronted by society in the country in the play. The Palestinians live in nightmare and war day by day. Two main strategies of British to perpetuate their domination in the land are through law enforcement and media restriction.

In terms of law enforcement, the British deported Palestine's leaders who resist their system outside of the country. Palestinian rebels that is represented by character Yusef who fight against the British will be deported and exiled. The British controls the law in the Palestine. The purpose is to dominate the country and to benefit British side. The law is used to defeat British enemies. At that time, the British government also imprisons and run death penalty for the rebellion supporters. The British legalized death penalty in order to shatter the rebellions. In the media restriction, British controls the newspaper; by bribing Palestinian journalists that is represented by character Anbara and her friends for not writing the bad news about British. There is a fear of British about their domination in the country will be destroyed. As a result, the British attempts to utilize the money politic to hide the fact and the truth. The British also utilized the radio to voice their influence. In radio, British disseminates the good news about them. It is to brainwash the mindset of Palestinian that is represented by character Tariq. The brainwashing is to smooth British desire to dominate the land and its people. They also utilized the newspaper and radio to disunite Palestinian society. The separation among society will make the country easy to be vanished.

In this analysis, State domination enforcement that is represented by the British was successfully carried out in Palestine. It can be seen from long conflict and chaos that is confronted by society in the country in the play. The Palestinians live in nightmare and war day by day. Through the theory of *Power/Knowledge* from Michel Foucault (1980), it reveals the way British government enforces their domination. Whereas, through the theory of *Orientalism* from Edward Said (1979), it reveals the way West (British) humiliates and patronizes East (Palestine).

Note: This article is written based on the Herry Sutama's thesis under the supervision of advisor Desvalini Anwar S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D

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