



## Mimicry in The Novel Divortiare Trilogy by Ika Natassa

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### Abstract

Mimicry towards Western nations occurs a lot in society in the era of globalization. It is also reflected in the novel Divortiare trilogy by Ika Natassa. This study aims to determine how expressions of mimicry are found in the novel Divortiare trilogy. The research approach uses a postcolonialism approach, especially mimicry, using qualitative research methods, collection methods, and analytical techniques in the form of heuristics and hermeneutics. The data in this study are text fragments that show expressions of mimicry. The things found in the research are the use of English, which is often used by characters when speaking or sending messages and when using social media, lifestyles such as drinking and clothing styles, which imitate Western society, such as wearing stilettos, which come from abroad.

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## INTRODUCTION

Literary works go hand in hand with the circumstances of the surrounding community, so literary works describe phenomena when the author creates a work. Literary work results from the author's creation as a member of society, not born in a socio-cultural vacuum. This was revealed by Pradopo (in Qiwarunnisa, Mulyono, & Qomariyah, 2018). In the era of globalization, literary works in Indonesia have increasingly diverse themes that keep up with the times. The variety of these themes because they refer to the essence of literature itself, which is part of the art of imitating actual human life. Some themes combine between cultures, one of which is Western culture. Society, at this time, thinks that the West is a country that is the centre of progress, knowledge, technology, economy, and fashion, almost in all fields.

The community was amazed and wanted to follow Western Nations. Communities once colonized by Western nations felt the effects of colonialism or post-colonialism. It has an impact on feelings of inferiority and feeling left behind. They want developments that are

oriented towards the West. A superpower country so that people flock to study at the best universities abroad, want to live and work abroad, speak English to look cool and up-to-date, use tattoos, drink alcohol and imitate Western dress styles. It instils the understanding that all matters related to foreign countries are more interesting than domestic ones.

The postcolonial theory used in this research is to look for postcolonial traces contained in literary works. Postcolonial is a multidisciplinary approach. In his theoretical practice, he introduced the approach developed by post structure. As such, the first step was determining colonized and colonial subjects. (Susanto, 2019) Lo & Helen in Faruk, cited by Karidansyah et al. (2017), argue that postcolonial theory includes three possible choices of attention: (a) on the culture of societies which have experienced European colonization, both in the form of colonial effects that continued until the post-colonial period and the possibility of its

transformation into forms called neo-colonialism (internal and global), (b) resistance responses or counter-discourse from colonized peoples and others towards colonialism, without losing attention to the possibility of ambiguity or ambivalence, and (c) all forms of marginality resulting from all forms of capitalism. Emzir & Rohman, in Handayanu et al. (2020), say that postcolonial literature and theory investigate what will happen when two cultures meet and conflict and when one is considered to be in power or one is considered to be superior to the other.

In postcolonial, three concepts describe the attitudes of people once colonized: mimicry, hybridity, and ambivalence. In this study, only using mimicry, mimicry, imitating to desire equality. Bhabha in Yasa (2014) argues that a mimicry is an act of colonial subjects who glorify their colonial culture, which disrupts and even threatens and undermines colonial power. Martono (2012) argues that Bhabha uses the meaning of mimicry in the sense of language: a person's ability to imitate other people who are stronger or have greater abilities than themselves. More specifically, this concept refers to the process of cultural imitation by colonized groups by imitating colonial groups; the two are unbalanced. Even though the process of mimicry causes "alignment", the colonized group is still unable to match the colonial group. Mimicry, according to Bhabha in Dewojati (2017), is a cultural process that provides an opportunity for the agency of the colonial subject to take place to enter dominant power while at the same time playing in it by showing subjectivity that resembles colonialism but is not completely the same. The act of mimicry carried out by the colonized is one of their ways to feel the superiority of the colonizers. By imitation, the colonized feel they have more power and are in a higher position than other colonized people. Mimicry is related to the act of imitating a group in the colonized nation that is similar to the colonialists but still different from the colonialists (Foulcher & Day, Fatonah et al., 2018).

The form of imitation of Western nations is also found in literary works. One type of

literary work, namely the novel, is a type of literary work that can reflect the life of a society at a certain time. In the novel, several problems make the story complex. The novel also presents the author's point of view regarding the phenomena experienced or seen around him. The novel is a medium for expressing the author's thoughts, feelings, and ideas in response to the life around him. (Salfia in Khoiriyah (2022). Arditiya, Pamungkas, Supriyanto & Doyin (2022) argue that one form of literary work is a novel that can fully describe a phenomenon. One of the works that describe mimicry is the trilogy of novels *Divortiare* by Ika Natassa, which tells the story of Alexandra, a career woman who works in a bank, and Beno, a surgeon. They got married and then divorced two years later. Finally, reconciled several years later, the novel trilogy *Divortiare* shows another side of postcolonialism regarding the characters' lives in the metropolitan city, which is versatile and fast. It makes it easier for Western culture to enter so that many things in the daily lives of figures are related to westernism, which is based on a desire to be equal, starting from the language used, lifestyle and clothing style. This research describes the form of mimicry in the novel *Divortiare* trilogy by Ika Natassa.

The trilogy of novels *Divortiare* by Ika Natassa, which will be analyzed, are *Divortiare* (2008), *Twivortiare* (2012), and *Twivortiare* (2016). Ika Nattasa wrote this novel; *Divortiare* was the first novel published in 2008 at 328 pages thick. In 2012 the second book, *Twivortiare*, was published 283 pages thick, and the third book, *Twivortiare 2*, in 2016, with 488 pages thick.

Research is relevant to this research by Efriyadi (2022) in his research entitled *Modern Indonesian Humans in "East and West" Relations (Postcolonial Criticism on the Novel Critical Eleven by Ika Natassa)*. This study describes an unequal cultural relationship between East and West due to the effects of colonialism, namely forms of inferiority and imitation of Western culture, resulting in problems regarding the identity of characters. Furthermore, a research entitled *Hybridity, Mimicry, and Ambivalence in the Short Stories*

of *Kupata and Meneer Chastelein* by Rosyid H. Dimas: *Postcolonial Studies* written by Sultoni and Utomo (2021). This study aims to analyze postcolonial forms in the form of mimicry, hybridity and ambivalence. Data collection techniques used are reading techniques and note-taking techniques. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The results of this study are forms of mimicry in the form of imitating the language of the colonialists, namely Dutch, hybridity adjusting the colonial habits of smoking and drinking coffee and ambivalence regarding the search for identity. Hindun (2021), in his research entitled *Building Identity In Global Reality: A Postcolonial Study On Rajaa Alsanea's Novel Banaat Ar-Riyadh*. This study analyzes the identity crisis found in the novel *Banaat Ar-Riyadh*. The novel tells about cultural differences regarding women, which occur in their origins in Saudi Arabia and where they live and work in America. So there is an identity crisis, where there are many cultural differences between their previous residences and in America. Many Saudi Arabians adapt to the culture in America and are not too strict with their culture of origin. The method used in this study is deductive qualitative, and the approach used is postcolonial.

Kusumaningrum (2019) research entitled "*Krisis Identitas Dalam Cerpen A Pair Of Jeans by Qaisra Shahraz*". This research examines multiculturalism, an immigrant from Pakistan who lived in England, where while living in England, she got to know a new culture that she joined with her original culture, however, an identity crisis occurred which made Miriam's dress style different, into tighter clothes. and not slightly open, reflecting Muslim women who wear closed clothes. so is his way of thinking. This research is examined using postcolonialism, especially mimicry, hybridity, and identity crisis.

## METHODOLOGY

The approach used in this study is postcolonial. Fitriadin (2021) argues that the postcolonial approach to literary studies discusses how literary texts, in various ways, reveal traces

of postcolonial encounters, namely confrontation between races, nations, and cultures in unequal conditions and power relations. , which have formed a significant part of the early human experience since European imperialism.

The method used in qualitative research, Sugiyono, in Juminartanti & Mulyani (2017) describes qualitative research as having an emic perspective, meaning that obtaining data is not "as it should be", not based on what the researcher thinks but based on "as is" experienced, felt, and thought by data sources, data collection uses the first level of semiotic reading, namely heuristics and analysis techniques using hermeneutics. Heuristic reading makes researchers read based on linguistic theories and principles Spakov, Mayandri, Supriyanto & Setyaningsih (2022). Larasati, in Mayandri, Supriyanto, & Setyaningsih (2022), reading the second level of hermeneutics makes researchers read semiotic material based on rules, literary codes, social material, and cultural material. This study's data is text fragments from the novel *Divortiare* trilogy by Ika Natassa. Supriyanto (2021) argues that research data can only be assumed to be in words, sentence fragments, phrases, clauses, or discourse fragments.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The Form of Mimicry in the Novel *Divortiare* Trilogy

The views of the Indonesian people towards the West, the select country and the mecca of many things and these virgins are scattered in the *Divortiare* novel trilogy, namely *Divortiare*, *Twivortiare* and *Twivortiare 2*, the use of English, which seems cool, westernized lifestyle, style of dress and the culture that follows western nations that look free and luxurious creates a sense of awe and a desire to be equal with Western nations, so that imitation arises to do the same thing.

The following is a text snippet which illustrates this:

#### 1. Lifestyle

*"..I gave up and let me give up and let Yes seriously put his cold stethoscope on my chest and stomach. "You cannot forget me, can you?" ha? What do you mean? and my face immediately turned red when he put his index finger on my left chest "Shut up! My company does not pay for tattoo removal laser surgery," I brushed his finger away. yeah you heard me right, I do have a tattoo of Beno's name on my chest, my left." (Divortiare, 14)*

The first text fragment is the use of tattoos which is the activity of painting on the body. Nowadays, it is common among people. A tattoo is considered cool and can be a memory or reminder. Meanwhile, tattoos are not from Indonesia but from abroad, and indirectly people follow the lifestyle of Western society. The use of English in the conversation of the text above also illustrates that currently, English is more mastered than regional languages.

*"Idda period? Since when did Wina the sexy fashion editor who spends four nights a week clubbing and maybe if you enter the mosque it immediately catches fire so you memorize Islamic law like that? " (Divortiare, 26)*

The second fragment shows a form of mimicry from a lifestyle that occurs when living in a country, where sometimes it follows that country's culture. There is the word clubbing in the text fragment above, Clubbing is a gathering activity carried out at night, and there is drinking inside -liquor. It is a lifestyle from western countries, and many people imitate it. The character Alexandra and her best friend Wina lived in Australia when they were in college and had entered a club while there, so this was considered normal. However, clubbing activities in overseas communities were done to relieve stress. It included drinking, so drunkenness often occurred. Drunkenness and result in a crime.

*"@WinaSoedarjo So we talked about nothing. Chatted for an hour, while we were finishing the entrees and the main course. @WinaSoedarjo Then came the dessert and more wine. He just said the real point that he wanted to talk about tonight." (Twivortiare,68)*

In this fragment of the text, the character Alexamdra reappears. Besides drinking wine, the form of imitation of the West is eating with three

stages: entrée, main course and dessert. It only exists in Western culture. In Indonesia, there are no stages of eating like in Indonesia. Expensive restaurants in Indonesia are starting to do the same thing doing three stages of food.

*"He just woke up, and the first thing he said was: "Lex, hungry, scrambled eggs, can you use sausage or not?" So here I am, no in the kitchen cooking this with my eyes half open. (Twivortiare, 117)*

The lifestyle of Western society, which is accustomed to having breakfast with scrambled eggs and sausages, which is easy to practice, is currently being imitated by Indonesian people. In ancient times, certain circles could only enjoy eggs and sausages. Eat these two ingredients so that the people of Indonesia who live in metropolitan cities are busy working. Making scrambled eggs and sausages easier and quicker to make.

*"Curled up in In bed with two glasses of wine and a movie I think we're both gonna enjoy [Finally it's not horror anymore] " (Twivortiare 2, 20)*

Drinking liquor, one of which is wine, is a way of life for Westerners. Abroad, Westerners drink wine to keep their bodies warm in cold weather. Prices for various liquors can be purchased from all walks of life. However, expensive wines can only be purchased by people from the upper classes, drinking liquor and imitating by Indonesians. It is like imitating to be equal, cool and look slang and getting involved in youth.

*"That crazy Ryan even refused to eat at the restaurant in the office building. So I pulled out of the office and headed for Senayan City. It is okay, I am also bored to death with the view of the office, and I need real coffee. "Since when, Lex, is real coffee a Starbucks? Real coffee is black coffee sold in the street stall behind the office for only two thousand silver a glass." (Divortiare,197)*

*"The best thing about Starbucks is not its coffee, but its chocolate croissants. " (Twivortiare, 150)*

The fragment of the text above, in which Indonesian people drink coffee at famous cafes or restaurants to hang out, is a lifestyle that is currently on the rise because it feels cool and is

considered something that is often done in the association. Meanwhile, coffee does not originate from Indonesia, coffee was introduced during the colonial era, and now various coffee shops sell various kinds of coffee drinking companions, making people have a consumptive culture of buying things that are not necessary.

## 2. Use of English

*"You know why I love Grey's Anatomy? It's just kinda reassuring to see that doctors-even hotshot doctors-are just people like us. Beno can be a hotshot surgeon, but he is still a jerk..." (Divortiare, 17)*

*"He asked how you were, and I said I have been living with you since you divorced. He does not even know you are married," said Wina. "Why didn't you say that yesterday?" "And miss the look on your face right now?" Vienna smiled. I blushed. "(Divortiare, 34)*

*"@WinaSoedarjo Win, I just wondered, is there a class anywhere I could take on " how to be a Doctor's wife 101?" (Twivortiare, 308)*

*"@Winaoedarjo He noticed I have been crying. "Your eyes are swollen like this. Have you been crying since last night? Afraid I will not follow?"*

*@WinaSoedarjo...how can I not follow you, Lex, if I love you to death like this. So it is already crying." @Winaoedarjo, now he sleeps well while hugging me. @Winaoedarjo The emotional roller coaster ride that he put me through since the first day we met is unbelievable, Win. It is almost bearable sometimes. I do not know why I let myself endure this. Scary right? RT @Winaoedarjo : I do not know about you, Darl, but that sounds like "love dies" to me ;). " (Twivortiare, 271-272).*

The characters of Alexandra and Wina, who have been friends since studying in Australia, have accustomed themselves to mixing English and Indonesian in a conversation. The use of English in today's daily conversations is important in order to keep up with the times. However, to shift Indonesian and regional languages. Education abroad requires one to be fluent in foreign languages, and there is a thought

that the quality of education abroad is better than that in Indonesia, so currently, English is a language that is learned a lot from an early age.

*"It's almost impossible to move on until you have created new feelings with new people, am I right? No hahaha. RT @lincahdr: Do you miss Denny, Lex? #eh I just explained why I had a hard time forgetting Beno. Sometimes, even after you find new people, you still can't move on. Because it tastes different. Still missing that old "taste". So, I believe, moving on is not about finding new people after all, but about teaching yourself to "accept" and "love" new kinds of feelings." (Twivortiare, 183)*

*"The perk of having a husband who loves eating is that is what he loves fulfilling your pregnancy craving because he gets to eat mine eat double of what I eat RT @tariamandani: Same with my husband! Sometimes he's even more enthusiastic about eating it." : ))) (Twivortiare,330)*

*"So please, we'll be there at noon. Lots of food, huh! RT @hotwinaoedarjo: This will be lunch together at my house, right? Wina's two children are now getting to know Lil Ndut as they pressed their ears to my big belly. So cute. I love to watch Wina function as a mother. The way she adores Maddox, the way she cutely converses with Tiz. The way she teaches Tiz to love Maddox as her little brother, the way she plays with them both. It's not the Vienna I used to know. I guess it's true: motherhood changes you. In the best way possible." (Twivortiare 2, 379)*

The use of English in the text fragment above describes the characters who are more comfortable using English, besides the two figures, Alexandra and Wina, who have studied in Australia. Hence, they are fluent in using English. However, when in Indonesia, they are carried away by habits. It thus shows that Western nations have had a continuous effect on language. Then, in the current era of globalization, more and more people are studying abroad, and accessing the internet is getting easier, so that many things are learned, including foreign languages, thus further strengthening that English will continue to be used in everyday life.

### 3. Dress style

*"Today he wore a white FCUK baby tee with cargo pants, while I chose an orange Lacoste polo shirt with seven jeans. "this is a casual event." (Divortiare, 31)*

The clothes used by the characters Alexandra and Vienna are contemporary clothes that imitate the dress styles of Western society. The use of jeans and shirts worn by Indonesian people is a form of imitation to look cool and keep up with the times, where clothing styles are always changing, and the West is the centre of fashion.

*"You know what else I love about New York? This city gave me a zillion fashion possibilities. That morning I chose to go to work wearing knee-length dark brown boots and wearing a beige trench coat, which in my opinion is one of the sexiest fashion items, walking down the sidewalks in Jakarta. Not to mention that walking in Jakarta today is tantamount to suicide, with so much black smoke being emitted by every city bus that passes by, the city is a giant bong of carbon dioxide. Wear boots, to the office? Surely there are some fashion-blind gentlemen who will say, "flooded at home?" I don't know, gentlemen, that boots cost half my salary." (Divortiare, 300-301)*

Western cultural imitation also occurs in the field of clothing or fashion. Westerners, who have more than two seasons, have many clothing variants according to the season. In contrast to Indonesia, which only has two seasons, hot and rainy, the clothes are not much different. Alexandra, who has lived abroad, has winter clothes. When these clothes are used while walking on a sidewalk in Jakarta, those around her consider it strange because no one ever wears them in Indonesia. After all, the seasons are different. Alex feels that Western society's fashion is cool and expensive.

*"Oh my gosh, the scene of Angelina wearing a white silk nightgown Wonder If I can be at least half as hot as she is if I am the one wearing it...the one on the other side pretends to be cool but does not wink at the conclusion after watching The Tourist like this: the Surgeon said to me, "honey, tomorrow you buy a nightgown like that please." (Twivortiare, 119)*

The text fragment above illustrates the strong influence of Western fashion culture, which can be seen in films watched by Indonesian people. In terms of the clothes used, the actresses also want to imitate wearing the same clothes. People must wear the same clothes as the actress or actor they like, feel equal and cool like they are idolized. Meanwhile, sleeping clothes in Indonesia are different from those used abroad. Indonesian people who want to imitate and have a consumerist nature become a big market for Western nations to expand the fashion sector in Indonesia.

*"LOL. RT@chaannisa : Damn! Is that the dress code to the office, sis? You look great and sexy! No wonder Uncle Beno is jealous, many of your clients have a crush on you for sure. That's because I just opened the cropped blazer, I wear it all day long. Who has a crush on someone's wife? There's nothing hahaha". (Twivortiare 2, 171)*

A blazer is a suit that has been modified and can be used by both men and women. Foreign fashion has spread to Indonesia. So that many working women wear these clothes to make them look formal and neat. Western nations did not colonize directly but subtly made many women compete to wear clothes from abroad.

*"Just want to know. RT @genariyandena: Auntie, since you're pregnant, do you sleep in lingerie or not? :p Now I mostly just wear pajamas and tank tops. So pregnant women are always hot, huh?" (Twivortiare2, 346)*

Tank tops come from abroad because the summer abroad is very hot, and many people wear tank tops. Tank tops are starting to enter Indonesia and are used for a casual wear at home.

## CONCLUSION

The form of mimicry contained in the novel *Divortiare* trilogy by Ika Natassa includes several characters who have lived abroad so that they imitate culture easily and quickly. This culture was brought back to Indonesia. It indicates that its characters want to be on par with

Western society. There is much data in the novel *Divortiare* trilogy, which refers to using a foreign language, namely English, thus shifting the Indonesian language. The use of English is due to the educational background of the figures who have studied abroad, and there are private conversations. It is not uncommon for English to swear, so it is more comfortable and freer to use English. The lifestyle of Western society is adopted, such as having breakfast like Western society, liking movies, and drama from Western countries, then the luxurious lifestyle following foreign artists, the style of dressing like the Western society, which is considered different and expensive.

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