

A Postcolonial Study of Book Reviews in *Kompas Daily* Published at the Beginning of 21st Century

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Abstract

In *Kompas Daily* 2000—2007 edition, postcolonial themes are found in some articles of book reviews in literature which discuss: (1) the stories about the East, (2) the stories about colonialism, (3) western literary works (including those of the Indonesian translations), (4) the literary works focusing primarily on the postcolonial problems (5) the contact between the West and the East in several stories, and (6) Islam in the West. The depiction of the inferiority of the East is shown in several works although not explicitly exposed. Themes about how the West views, constructs, or discourses East are often found. Problems reflected in reproduced colonial stories are uncovered as well. In some writings of Indonesian writers the problems have negative image. However, Dutch writers tend to view the problems as nostalgia. Postcolonial constructs of the West (as dominant and superpower countries) should be critically studied in order to cope with new modes of practices of Western imperialism.

Keywords: postcolonial themes, literary works, book reviews in literature, *Kompas*