

THE IMPACT OF PIRACY IN ELIZABETH RUDNICK'S *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL*

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Abstract : The objective of the present study is to find out the impact of piracy in Elizabeth Rudnick's novel *Pirates of the Caribbean: The curse of the Black Pearl*. The methodology, which the writers applied in this research, is the qualitative method with the mimetic approach to analyze the data. The source of the data in this research is Elizabeth Rudnick's novel *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* which was published by Disney Press, in 2006. The result of this research shows that piracy affects the human and the environment. Piracy also affects the underwater ecosystem and creates pollution. It is suggested that more investigation be done to examine the larger effects of piracy on both the natural environment and human settings. To lessen the harmful effects of piracy on the underwater ecosystem and minimize contamination, initiatives should also be made to increase awareness and encourage responsible behavior.

Keywords : *The Impact of Piracy, Elizabeth Rudnick, Literature Analysis*

INTRODUCTION

Piracy is a prominent theme in the book since it is an interesting topic that represents actual events. When we talk about piracy, we frequently think of criminals who want to steal things, whether they are on land or at sea. Pennel (2010) asserts that actions of robbery or criminal violence performed by assailants on ships or boats against other vessels or coastal areas—often with the intention of taking valuable cargo and goods—are considered acts of piracy. Alamsyah *et al* (2023) further explains, the individuals who engage in piracy are referred to as pirates, and the ships they use are referred to as pirate ships.

The first recorded instance of piracy dates to the 14th century BC, when a band of marauders known as the Sea Peoples attacked the ships of Aegean and Mediterranean civilizations (Emanuel, 2020). Piracy has always been made possible by the restricted channels that direct shipping down well-known routes.

Piracy was practiced by the Viking, ancient Greek, Roman, and Mediterranean civilizations (Davidson, 2023). Privateers were used as troops in the late 16th-century English-Spanish War to disrupt each other's economies (Meniketti, 2020). Governments, as cited in Starkey (2022), approved the use of privately owned, heavily armed privateers to target enemy commerce ships or exact retribution or gain a strategic advantage. However, without permission, the lucrative activity of piracy persisted after the war, with privately owned, armed ships pillaging villages and trade ships for their own gain (Lehr, 2019).

The researchers decided to investigate piracy because they realized how crucial it was to comprehend how it affected the economy, as it was portrayed in the book. The occurrence of piracy in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* by Elizabeth Rudnick sheds light on the causes of pirate in the late 16th century. Due of piracy's significant impact on the

world, which is described throughout the novel, researchers want to examine it. The depiction of piracy is the main subject of the novel itself. The researchers think this novel is interesting. The story is strongly influenced by the idea of piracy. Besides that, the depiction of the impact of piracy shows us that piracy is a serious topic and all of us should take this matter more seriously. So, this study is conducted to investigate the impact in Elizabeth Rudnick *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*.

The study suggests a willingness to advance existing research by analyzing the novel's influence. The purpose of this study is to advance the subject of literary analysis or related disciplines by introducing fresh ideas or viewpoints. The study may shed light on the novel's cultural and social relevance by examining its effects. It implies that the researchers are curious to know how the story interacts with or shapes larger cultural and societal contexts, such as popular culture, the media, or historical narratives.

Literature acts as a school for life since authors frequently offer criticism on societal behavior and specific members of society (Pattiwael, 2019). In addition to addressing important human affairs challenges, they suggest ideal substitutes for the current traditions and values. By doing this, authors investigate and make explicit the goals and principles of particular societal entities or people (Rorintulus, Manuas & Tuerah, 2022). The novel is a type of prose narrative fiction within the field of literature. Kundera (2020) describes novels as lengthy, complex works that seek to capture and communicate the substance and significance of human experiences and activities. Although they both lie under the umbrella of prose narrative fiction, novels and short stories have underlying similarities in story, character, theme, and place (Mulatsih, 2020).

Characters are essential to storytelling because they are an essential component of any story (Kang, Hong & Hubbard, 2020). They act as characters in the novel and are in charge of carrying out the crucial plot-advancing actions. Characterization relates to how the author portrays and develops these characters, while characters are the individuals in a narrative, according to John *et al* (2023). Characters in a novel can take many different shapes, including people, animals, entities, creatures, and even inanimate objects. Characters are used by authors to carry out actions, have conversations, and advance the plot of the story (Boyd *et al.*, 2020). It's vital to remember that a story might focus on just one person, the protagonist, and still be regarded as a full narrative. The protagonist could have internal conflict or difficulties brought on by the environment, such as ascending a mountain. However, most stories have a cast of characters that interact with one another, with one of them playing the antagonist and posing a threat to the protagonist.

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl

A novel is a type of prose fiction that depicts people and events inside a story that reflects both human nature and everyday life (Maru, 2009). The label "fiction" used to characterize novels, according to Booth (1983), can be deceptive because novels have the capacity to accurately capture reality and the human condition. Thus, a novel is a literary work that has the capacity to accurately reflect human experience and reality.

Plot

Will Turner is saved by Governor Swann, Elizabeth, and Norrington in "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl," and they also discover a golden pirate medallion. When Norrington recognizes Jack Sparrow as a pirate eight years later, he intervenes to save Elizabeth.

Attacking Port Royal in search of the medallion, the Black Pearl captures Elizabeth, who exposes her identity as Elizabeth Turner. Barbossa's crew is under a curse that won't be lifted until they return all the loot and make atonement in blood. Will sets Jack free, and they board the HMS Interceptor to transport Elizabeth. They are pursued by The Pearl, who also captures Jack and sinks the Interceptor. To save Elizabeth, Will makes a deal with Barbossa, but they get marooned.

When Elizabeth calls for assistance, Norrington and the HMS Dauntless show up. On Isla de Muerta, Barbossa's crew launches an assault. Jack's crew is set free by Elizabeth, and they take the Pearl to safety. While Elizabeth and Will battle the crew, Will battles Barbossa. Will dumps the cursed coins after Jack shoots Barbossa, breaking the curse. Back in Port Royal, Elizabeth tells Will she loves him and halts the execution of Jack. Will is absolved and given permission to wed Elizabeth, while Jack makes his getaway on the Pearl. They are given a day's notice before Norrington pursues them.

Characters

Characters are essential to any novel because they move the plot along. Characterization refers to how the author presents and develops these characters who defines characters as the persons who do activities in narratives (Nodelman, 2008). Characters can appear as humans, animals, entities, creatures, or even inanimate things, among other forms. A story can center on a single character (the protagonist) or include interactions between several characters, one of whom serves as the antagonist and causes issues for the protagonist (Mittenentzwei, *et al.*, 2023). In *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* a number of characters have important roles. Through the course of the narrative, Captain Jack Sparrow changes dramatically, becoming from a ruthless pirate to a kind person who

selflessly defend others. On the other hand, Captain Hector Barbossa stays a constant character throughout the entire film, preserving his avaricious and pirate-like traits. Will Turner also continues to be a static character because his desire to save Elizabeth Swann is the same throughout the narrative. But Elizabeth Swann experiences a dramatic transformation, going from being a helpless damsel in distress to a powerful woman who can hold her ground.

Setting

The physical, sensory, temporal, and social framework in which the characters live are all provided by the setting of a novel. The Caribbean Sea is the actual setting for *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl*, and while being governed by the English government, it is filled with pirates. The story takes place in the 1720s, which is referred described as the "Golden Age of Pirates" and was a time of frequent pirate attacks.

Theme

A novel's primary idea and any remark on human experience, society, ethics, or human nature are represented by its theme. The theme of *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* investigates how piracy is portrayed. In contrast to the horrific avarice displayed by Captain Barbossa and his crew, pirates have evolved from being first seen as hideous creatures of evil to being linked with freedom. As a result, the topic emphasizes the negative effects of avarice and shows piracy as a complicated idea with many different viewpoints.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study utilizes a qualitative descriptive method to explore the characters and the impact of piracy during the golden age. The researchers analyze and interpret the data gathered from primary and secondary sources. The Primary source is Rudnick's *Pirates of the*

Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl which was published by Disney Press in 2006 and related books and internet data as the secondary sources. The approach employed in this research is the mimetic approach, which views literary works as reflections or representations of the real world and human life. The researcher aims to uncover the truth and examine how the literary work mirrors aspects of human existence. The chosen approach necessitates the collection of relevant data that pertains to the reflection of truth in real life.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Piracy

Piracy is an act of robbery or stealing that happen on the sea or land by criminals or pirates with violent (Nwalozie, 2020). Pirates frequently use intimidation techniques to guarantee compliance and submission, resorting to violent robberies and thefts in order to dominate and inspire terror in their targets (Abadinsky, 2012). Pirates may exercise their control and take rich products and resources without much resistance because of the violent character of piracy, which discourages any potential resistance or revenge (Eisner, 2009). We can see that depicted in the novel *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* for example:

“And then, out of the smoke and the fog, the pirates came. They ran through the town, with their guns and their swords and their knives. They started more fires, and carried things away from the houses.” (Rudnick, 2006: 14)

In the novel depicted when the pirates come to the town with an intend not just steal and rob the citizen but also they do it with violence, this is a clear sign of piracy.

“‘Come out, little girl,’ called Pintel. ‘You have something, and we want it.’” (Rudnick, 2006: 14)

Stealing or robbing is a common thing in pirate’s life and this behavior has been seen since the first practice of piracy itself. Pirates steal or rob because it is an essential part of their lifestyle and allows them to seize precious resources and riches by using force (Wenar, 2008). Throughout history, the practice of stealing and robbing has been engrained in the culture of pirates as a means of subsistence and a way to amass money and power (Linebaugh, 2009). Early pirates, as explained by Reid (2015), understood the value of stealing and plundering as a tactic to terrify their prey and establish supremacy on the high seas, which helped to create the stereotype of pirates as vicious and crafty people.

The Impact on the Human life

The novel's portrayal of piracy shows that it encompasses violent and robbery crimes committed both on land and at sea. The reality of piracy is, however, darker than what is depicted in the book. According to Yancey (2012), real-life pirates commit horrible crimes like rape and murder in addition to robbing and stealing from their victims, which is indicative of the grim and cruel character of their behavior.

Modern pirates have recently begun arming themselves with weapons including submachine guns, grenade launchers, and ammunition, which has caused an alarming rise in maritime violence (Daniels, 2012). When faced with resistance, these pirates are ready to use these weapons to kill without hesitation and subdue crews. Crew members who encounter piracy frequently develop long-lasting mental problems and ingrained terror, which has a significant psychological impact. Additionally, the maritime sector is negatively impacted by the surge in piracy (Chalk, 2008). Due to the requirement for increased security procedures and insurance coverage, shipping prices rise. Smaller shipping

firms struggle to thrive as piracy spreads, which forces major shipping companies to monopolize the market (Teitler, 2002). The global development of the maritime industry is hampered by this monopolization.

The way piracy is portrayed in *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* emphasizes how the protagonist intimidates and threatens other characters. This portrayal, meanwhile, hardly touches the surface of the terrible tragedies and difficulties of actual piracy.

“*Don't move!*’ Jack told them. *I have a gun! I want this ship.*” (Rudnick, 2006: 19)

Captain Jack Sparrow and Barbossa are rival until the very end, when the last stand between those two in Isla de Muerta, both of them ready of the duel that will end this long rivalry

“*He took out his gun and looked at Barbossa. Then he shot Barbossa. Barbossa smiled. Are you stupid? You wait ten years and then you use your gun on me. You can't kill me!*” (Rudnick, 2006: 39)

Captain Jack Sparrow is a pirate, so threatening life, violence and even murder are common thing in his life, not just his also his life but also all pirate’s life in that matter. This of course fit with the impact of piracy on human life the impact of being a pirate force Captain Jack to do this violence behavior which is a regular thing in pirate life.

The Impact on the Environment

Targeting ships carrying oil or raw commodities might have extremely unpredictable results with potentially disastrous environmental effects. In the worst-case scenario, an oil spill not only depletes marine resources and coastal areas but also pollutes the marine ecosystem. Onuoha (2010) claims that the increasing environmental degradation in Nigeria and Somalia is to blame for the

rise in African piracy, notably off the coast of Somalia and the neighboring areas. The communal harmony between the biosphere and humans has been upset, which has contributed to the increase in piracy. The alleged environmental harm brought on by the disposal of toxic waste, which took place as a result of the fall of the Somali government, is a major contributing factor to piracy in these regions (Collins, 2016). Numerous marine species perished and the condition of marine life and its ecosystem deteriorated as a result of the unlawful nuclear waste dumping by a Dutch tanker in Somalian territorial seas in 1999 (Lehr, 2013).

The book "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" also shows how destructive pirates are, as their cannons and bombs wreak havoc on the marine life they travel through. However, as evidenced by the incidents cited above, the effects of environmental piracy in real life go well beyond what is depicted in the book.

“*I know those guns,*’ Jack thought. *It's the Pearl!*’He heard the guns again. And again Jack looked down at the town. *It was on fire! Smoke came from the houses and the stores. People ran out into the streets.* (Rudnick, 2006: 14)

The life of pirates always fills with violence, the use of the weapons such as canons, explosive and any of the tools that their use has an impact to disrupt the environment. This of course fit with the impact of piracy on the environment, the impact that their bring to the environment around them are causing an environment problem. There are three type of environment impact that cause by piracy, which are:

Disrupt the Underwater Ecosystem

Fishermen and their communities must deal with serious repercussions as a result of the depletion of the fishing stock, which

is made worse by unlawful practices such as illegal trawling and unrestricted fishing. They are more likely to be recruited by pirates because of their susceptibility to economic distress. After the 2005 tsunami, when barrels holding nuclear material and heavy metals were dumped, radiation illness resulted, killing over 300 people as a terrible example of the environmental consequences of such actions (McNeill & Engelka, 2016). Local fishermen in Somalia were forced to use their speedboats as unofficial "coastguards" to intercept dumpers and trawlers because over \$300 million worth of important seafood was being stolen by illegal trawlers every year, starving the local population (Otto, 2011).

Similar problems exist in the Gulf of Guinea, where illicit waste dumping poisons fisheries and seriously harms the ecology (Ali, 2015). One billion US dollars are lost each year due to the impact of illegal and unreported fishing in the area, and Nigeria loses 11 billion US dollars annually due to oil theft. The Gulf of Guinea is experiencing similar risks due to the Somali pirate model's popularity, making the area just as dangerous as the Indian Ocean (Nwalozie, 2020).

Pollution

Because pirates' use of rocket-propelled grenades can seriously damage tanker hulls and cause marine pollution or deadly explosions similar to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year, there is a significant environmental risk associated with piracy (Pallardy, 2010). The greatest marine oil spill in history took place on April 20, 2010, and it was called the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. On April 22, the oil rig that was about 41 miles off the coast of Louisiana exploded, causing it to sink. Subsurface plumes of dispersed hydrocarbons discovered in May were initially disregarded, but they were eventually confirmed to originate from the spill in June. The effect of microscopic oil

droplets on the ecosystem was unknown, and the September discovery of a thick layer of oil on some areas of the seafloor cast doubt on earlier estimates of the oil's ability to dissipate. It is thought that some bacteria accustomed to eating oil and gas seeping from the seabed have eaten some of the spilled oil (Pallardy, 2010).

CONCLUSION

From this research, the writers conclude that the impact of piracy is a very serious problem in our society, not just in economy but also impact on human life and also in the environment. First the impact on human life is a very common in so that the impact of it can be seen clearly, in way that pirate's use weapon to threatening their victim, and that result in violence act such as Traumatized the victim, torture, and even murder as you can see in many pirates related accident that always lead to violence conclusion. The impact of piracy in environment cause a direct impact on the environment such as oil spilled that cause pollution in the ocean or using destructive weapon that harms the local ecosystem. The writers could give a suggestion as we human beings we must has to tackle the problem of piracy head on by using any means necessary to prevent and stop the of piracy, because not only it effect of small group of people but it effect all of us as human being, this Haynes crimes is a crime against the humanity itself so it's our responsibility to stop it.

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