

### **3. MR. KURTZ'S REASONS IN CIVILIZING THE AFRICANS AND THE EFFECTS OF THE CIVILIZATION**

Many postmodern thinkers say that each society or culture contains within itself a dominant cultural group who determines that culture's ideology or its hegemony, its dominant values, its sense of right and wrong and its sense of personal self-worth, and it means that the voices of minorities are left unheard (*Cultural Studies*). This statement triggers the writer to reveal the reasons of Mr. Kurtz's civilization toward the Africans since the writer believes that there is something significant that influences Mr. Kurtz in civilizing the Africans which are his Eurocentric background and his colonial mind-set. Therefore, this chapter will discuss the reasons of Mr. Kurtz's civilization toward the Africans.

As mentioned previously, Mr. Kurtz as the central character of the novel tries to civilize the Africans. His personal intention has many influences in his work as an agent of a trading company. Although his first arrival to Africa was only to collect ivories, yet Mr. Kurtz cannot resist the temptation to civilize the Africans. Mr. Kurtz considers the Africans as an uncivilized nation because of their customs and traditions. He concludes it shortly after he goes to the center of Africa. The Africans are physically different from Mr. Kurtz and this fact makes him believe that he is the one who has the burden to civilize them. As a European person, Mr. Kurtz feels that he has the duty to educate the Africans.

This analysis will be divided into two major subtitles. The first one is discussing on the reasons while the next subtitle is discussing on the effects of Mr. Kurtz's civilization over the Africans. The writer will analyze the reasons and the effects of Mr. Kurtz's civilization toward the Africans and Mr. Kurtz himself.

#### **3.1 Mr. Kurtz's Reasons in Civilizing the Africans.**

In the novel *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad tries to show the readers that the Africans are being civilized by the Whites especially the Europeans. The Africans are considered as the inferior nation compared to the European, which is represented by Mr. Kurtz. The European arrives in the "dark land" with two

reasons which are to collect ivories and to apply their culture since they feel obligated to do so. For the Europeans, the native Africans are not yet civilized but they merely savage people. The white people or the Europeans try to provoke the Africans to trust them and use the Africans for the European personal advantages. Thus, the Europeans try to emphasize their Eurocentric background which is placing their European culture to other cultures. As soon as they apply their Eurocentric ideas, the European will try to colonize them. The European domination over the Africans continues to evolve. The Europeans believe that being different from them means not human.

In the following subtitle, the writer tries to discuss Mr. Kurtz's reasons in civilizing the Africans. The writer wants to prove that there are two reasons why Mr. Kurtz wants to civilize the Africa. The first reason is in relation with the Eurocentric background that Mr. Kurtz has and the second reason is his colonial mind set to civilize the Africans.

### **3.1.1 Mr. Kurtz's Eurocentric Background**

In this subtitle, the writer will discuss the Eurocentric background that influences Mr. Kurtz. First of all, the writer wants to reveal that Mr. Kurtz's Eurocentrism stems from the belief that most European people have, that is, that European people are superior to other people. Then, the writer would like to discuss how Mr. Kurtz applies his idea toward the Africans. Finally, the writer would like to show that Mr. Kurtz's belief has made him feel that he has the burden to apply his culture to the native.

First of all, the reason why Mr. Kurtz is civilizing the Africans is because of his belief that Europeans are much better than other cultures. Mr. Kurtz as the central character in the novel *Heart of Darkness* is widely known for his strong character. From the beginning of the novel, Marlow as the narrator of the novel tells about who is Mr. Kurtz without meeting Mr. Kurtz in person. It is said that Marlow is on a mission in search for Mr. Kurtz. There are only rumours about Mr. Kurtz but not every agent has the chance to see and talk to Mr. Kurtz personally. Some of the agents talk about Mr. Kurtz as if he is the god in the trading post. The glory of European culture has spread and rooted in the heart of its people. Marlow

for example, always talks to his fellow passengers about European society and culture. As Marlow mentioned in his story while aboard the *Nellie* that even European lady is well educated, “Two women, one fat and the other slim, sat on straw-bottomed chairs, knitting black wool” (p. 11) From this statement, Marlow and so as the other European men who worship his own culture and believe that his culture is the best culture in the world. The obvious practice is only familiar to the white people since the European ladies are more civilized compare to the African men.

On the journey to meet Mr. Kurtz, Marlow does not stop even for a while talking about the situation in England. He believes that he will not meet people with the same level of attitude in Africa. Even Marlow feels that he will miss his daily routines of tea time, “I had a cup of tea – the last decent cup of tea for many days.” (p. 14) The idea of going to Africa is nonetheless to meet Mr. Kurtz, to have a conversation with him and to fulfill his curiosity of Mr. Kurtz

Still, I was curious to see whether this man, who had come out equipped with moral ideas of some sort, would climb to the top after all, and how he would set about his work when there. (p. 36)

Mr. Kurtz is an ambitious man and he wants to reign in Africa which makes him famous for his attempts in trying to Europeanize the Africans. His popularity has interested Marlow to come and find Mr. Kurtz in order to know him further.

Mr. Kurtz tries to apply his Eurocentric background toward the Africans. Mr. Kurtz is proved to be a man who represents European people; with his knowledge and ego he set his course to Africa with a mission. Like most Europeans do, he is proud of being a European man. Being a European man means having all the dignities and high culture. Mr. Kurtz has brought his European culture to Africa; he never gives up his European style.

To my question he said Mr. Kurtz had painted this – in this very station more than a year ago – while waiting for means to go to his trading-post.

“Tell me, pray,” said I, “Who is this Mr. Kurtz?” (p. 29)

Mr. Kurtz is a man with high culture and senses which he uses it to show that his Eurocentric background is one of the best culture. He is very proud to be a European man. From Marlow’s conversation with the manager at the station, it is

known that Mr. Kurtz never forgets his culture and that makes everyone interested in knowing who Mr. Kurtz is.

Mr. Kurtz indeed holds up his culture and he is proud to be a European man. He believes that Europe is the central of the earth. It can be seen from the way he was educated and from his origins.

The original Kurtz had been educated partly in England, and – as he was good enough to say himself – his sympathies were in the right place. His mother was half-English, his father was half-French. (p. 59)

The basic education that he receives which is in England has made him believe that Europe is the best culture in the world. For that reason also, Mr. Kurtz believes that Europe is the central of the world which means there are no other cultures in the world that can compare to the European culture.

Because of his Eurocentric background, Mr. Kurtz is assigned to investigate the lives of the savage Africans.

All Europe contributed to the making of Kurtz; and by-and-by I learned that, most appropriately, the international Society for the Suppression of Savage Customs had intrusted him with the making of a report, for their future guidance. (p. 60)

The Eurocentric background in Mr. Kurtz is the practice, conscious or otherwise, of placing emphasis on European concerns, culture and values at the expense of those of other cultures which is why Mr. Kurtz always feels that his culture is higher than other cultures and he wants to apply it to the Africans.

Eventually, Mr. Kurtz is a loner, he is never been found together with other agents and he is always ahead of them. Mr. Kurtz is a highly respected European man at the station; he has the luck in collecting as much ivories as he could. He is a strict person among his fellow agents, one of the agent mentions it to Marlow on one occasion. Marlow asks one of the agents in the inner station, he said:

Don't you talk with Mr. Kurtz?" I said. "You don't talk with that man – you listen to him," he exclaimed with severe exaltation. (p. 64)

The agent's statement reveals how strict Mr. Kurtz is, it proves that Mr. Kurtz is an arrogant and selfish man among the other agents in the station. Since Mr. Kurtz

believes that European is the best, which make him feels that he is a superior person.

Mr. Kurtz's superiority does not occur suddenly but it is based on his Eurocentric background. It is not only suggesting that European culture is above all culture, but also emphasizing on the implementation of European culture in other culture such as Africa. Most Europeans feel that they have the duty to civilize other cultures which appear to them as merely savages. Mr. Kurtz as the symbol of European people also has the burden to do so. The Europeans who come to Africa tends to civilize the native Africans because they consider the Africans as an uncivilized nation. Similar to other Europeans, in his journal, Mr. Kurtz mentions that he feels the duty to civilize the Africans.

The opening paragraph, however, in the light of later information, strikes me now as ominous. He began with the argument that we whites, from the point of development we had arrived at, "must necessarily appear to them [savages] in the nature of supernatural beings – we approach them with the might as of deity... (p. 60)

From these lines that Mr. Kurtz writes on his journal; it appears that he wants to Europeanize the Africans. It was the calling that most White people tend to have and they try to accomplish that based on deity. What came to the Europeans' mind is how to apply their so called culture to the Africans without considering the Africans' culture.

Mr. Kurtz tries to Europeanize the Africans by building a relationship with the native Africans and showing his power. Soon after, the Africans are scared and obey Mr. Kurtz. This situation is used by Mr. Kurtz to gain control over the native Africans. He asks the native to protect his journey to the centre of the Africa. Mr. Kurtz's action toward the Africans is now growing from Europeanizing the Africans to Colonizing the Africans which the writer will discuss in the next subtitle.

### **3.1.2 Mr. Kurtz's Colonial Mind-set**

In this subtitle, the writer wants to discuss Mr. Kurtz's colonial mind-set which becomes the root of his colonization in Africa. First of all, the writer wants to discuss Mr. Kurtz's colonial mind-set toward the Africans. Next, the writer would like to prove that Mr. Kurtz has the duty to civilize Africans. Finally, the writer would like to prove that after civilizing the Africans, Mr. Kurtz wants to gain control over the Africans.

First of all, the writer would like to discuss Mr. Kurtz's colonial mind-set toward the Africans. Born as a European man does affect on how Mr. Kurtz sees other cultures, he tries to oppress the Africans in order to colonize them. His decision of going to Africa and let go his luxurious life in Europe, and working there as an agent at the Inner Station was a part of his personal interest. Mr. Kurtz is one of Europeans brave men who risk his live going to an unknown territory called Africa. Based on his Eurocentrism idea, Mr. Kurtz tries to colonize the native Africans. Mr. Kurtz and other educated European men consider Africa as "dark land". They called it "dark" because they never go to this part of the world, it seems like going to an unknown place. As Marlow the narrator said, "It had become a place of darkness." (p. 9) The subject "It" means the Africa and it has been called place of darkness because the native Africans seem to live in a separate world different from the world that the European live.

The European superiority is not only to Europeanize the Africans, to teach them to act like the European people but the idea of European superiority is more likely to enlarge its colony. It has been the European dream to colonize other nation, as Marlow's statement supports the idea "They were going to run an over-sea empire, and make no end of coin by trade." (p. 11) During the era of colonization, lots of large countries colonize the smaller countries in order to enlarge their territory. That is why Mr. Kurtz has the idea to colonize the Africans, to enlarge the British territory. The colonization of Africa is triggered by how the Europeans see the native Africans "A lot of people, mostly black and naked, moved about like ants." (p. 17). The Europeans think that they can control the Africans. They see the Africans as their follower since the European can tell them what to do. For the Europeans especially Mr. Kurtz, the Africans' position is

lower than the European. Mr. Kurtz' superiority is well-known through the entire station.

He is not just superior to the Africans but also among other agents at the station. Marlow who comes to the station and asks Mr. Kurtz' whereabouts to the manager, is surprised with Mr. Kurtz's capability.

On my asking who Mr. Kurtz was, he said he was a first-class agent; and seeing my disappointment at this information, he added slowly, laying down his pen, "He is a very remarkable person" Further questions elicited from him that Mr. Kurtz was at present in charge of a trading post, a very important one, in the true ivory-country, at "the very bottom of there".

Sends in as much ivory as all the others put together... (p. 46).

Mr. Kurtz' achievement in collecting ivory is different from the other agents because he uses the native Africans to help him. Mr. Kurtz is a very popular man since he is untouchable; no one can get near him on every station. The fact that Mr. Kurtz is always one-step ahead amazes other agent. Many agents ask questions about Mr. Kurtz and want to meet him as the following quotation supports it: "He was a first-class agent, young, gentlemanly, a bit reserved, with a forked little beard and a hooked nose." (p. 51). Mr. Kurtz is a real gentleman compare to the other agents, he is a charismatic man which ease him in gaining the Africans' trust. His ambition to be the most qualified agent has encouraged him to collect as many ivories as possible and continue to next station ahead of the other agent. Mr. Kurtz has proved himself as a superior person. He succeeds in influencing the native Africans to help him to disturb other agents' journey to get ivory. Afraid of loosing his position Mr. Kurtz decides to play tricks to his fellow agents.

His popularity of being an untouchable person has eased him to set up a trick. With his superiority, Mr. Kurtz begins to provoke the native Africans to help him in stopping the other agents going deeper to the centre of Africa. Marlow's investigation to one of the worker at the station has proved that Mr. Kurtz managed to do so. Marlow asked the worker, "Kurtz got the tribe to follow him, did he? I suggested. He fidgeted a little. "They adored him," he said." (p. 68) Mr. Kurtz gets too much involves with the native Africans which makes them

adores him. After he earns the sense of adoration, Mr. Kurtz begins to practice his goals. According to the worker at the station, Mr. Kurtz comes to Africa and influences the native with his European culture.

He came to them with thunder and lightning, you know – and they had never seen anything like it – and very terrible. He could be very terrible.  
(p. 69)

Mr. Kurtz arrival in Africa has fear the native Africans since he comes with his power and strong attitude. For the native Africans, Mr. Kurtz arrivals make the native trust him with no other option since they are afraid of him. They are willing to do anything that Mr. Kurtz told them to do.

Next, Mr. Kurtz superiority is the basis of his goal to complete the calling to civilize the Africans. It is said that the white men's duty to civilize is one goal that most Europeans want to achieve. Similar to the Europeans in general, Mr. Kurtz has the duty to civilize the Africans because he is a white man – well educated and civilized. After he civilizes the native Africans, Mr. Kurtz tries to colonize them. Mr. Kurtz's opinion about the Africans is negative; he sees them as merely savages. For the Europeans like Marlow, Africa is a dark land with savage people dwell in it,

Imagine him here – the very end of the world, a sea the colour of lead, a sky the colour of smoke, a kind of ship about as rigid as concertina – and going up this river with stores, or orders, or what you like. Sandbanks, marshes, forests, savages, - precious little to eat fit for a civilized man, nothing but Thames water to drink. (p. 6)

The opinion seems to conclude how underdeveloped this nation is. There is an on going opinion among the Europeans that they come to Africa with a good motive that is to civilize the Africans so they can be modern like the Europeans. Mr. Kurtz wants to colonize the Africans and run an over-sea empire and reign as the leader.

The Europeans and also Mr. Kurtz wants to erase the statement that Africa is an underdeveloped country like the fact that Marlow reveals while abroad the Nellie,

Land in swamp, march through the woods, and in some inland post feel the savagery, the utter savagery, had closed round him, - all that mysterious life of the wilderness that stirs in the forest, in the jungles, in the hearts of wild men. (p.7)

These are the facts of Africa and the Europeans want to change the swamps and the savage native Africans in to a country with full of dignity and honor. So, the Europeans and also Mr. Kurtz think that they have done something noble if they can civilize these savages, “I had got a heavenly mission to civilize you.” (p. 8). Mr. Kurtz’s colonial mind-set has made him wants to civilize the Africans so that he can colonize the native. He does not want the Africans to live as they were but he tries to change them in to more civilize nation so he will be able to colonize them. According to Edward Said Orientalism is a manner of regularized (orientalized) writing, vision, and study, dominated by imperatives, perspectives, and ideological biases ostensibly suited to the orient. In this case the Africans are the orient and Mr. Kurtz is the occident. The orient is portrayed as weak, feminine, and sometimes dangerous threat to the white people (Said, 1978, p. 20).

According to this theory, the relationship between Mr. Kurtz and the native Africans is dominated by Mr. Kurtz as the stronger character or the Occident who will soon apply his thought. It is mentioned that most all white men have the calling to colonize and to civilize the Africans,

The conquest of the earth, which mostly means the taking it away from those who have a different complexion or slightly flatter noses than ourselves, is not a pretty thing when you look into it too much. (p. 7)

Based on the statement, the Europeans consider the Africans are different from them in physical appearance thus this fact set out the burden to civilize them. Mr. Kurtz begins his conquest to civilize the Africans using his power and superiority. For Mr. Kurtz, civilizing the Africans is a heavenly mission. On his journal or Pamphlet, Mr. Kurtz mentioned his idea which is,

It was very simple, and at the end of that moving appeal to every altruistic sentiment it blazed at you, luminous and terrifying, like a flash of lightning in a serene sky:

“Exterminate all the brutes!” The curious part was that he had apparently forgotten all about that valuable postscriptum, because, later on, when he in a sense came to himself, he repeatedly entreated me to take good care of “my pamphlet” (he called it), as it was sure to have in the future a good influence upon his career. (p. 60)

Mr. Kurtz is fond of what he does in making relationship with the native Africans. He was the only agent from the company who has the willing to have an intense and intimate relationship with the tribe.

As mentioned by Edward Said, Orientalism practice is done silently, unconsciously just like Mr. Kurtz’s action. He is approaching the native Africans, establishing a strong relationship with them and then practicing his European thought. Soon after, Mr. Kurtz has the control over the Africans. Mr. Kurtz managed to “own” the whole tribe to help him. Not only Mr. Kurtz who has the glory but also the manager of the station, he forces a native Africans boy works for him. “He allowed his “boy” – an over-fed young negro from the coast – to treat the white men, under his very eyes, with provoking insolence.” (p. 26) The process of controlling the Africans goes roughly since violence is being used to control the native Africans.

A nigger was being beaten near by. They said he had caused the fire in some way; be that as it may, he was screeching most horribly. I saw him, later on, for several days, sitting in a bit of shade looking very sick and trying to recover himself: afterwards he arose and went out – and the wilderness without a sound took him into its bosom again. (p. 28)

The poor treatment that the native receive is the result of the Europeans’ colonization. The Europeans’ ego as the superior culture has makes them to act brutally toward the Africans. The civilization that Mr. Kurtz wants to apply to the native Africans has its own effects both for the Africans and Mr. Kurtz himself. The effects of the civilization will be discussed in the following subtitle.

### **3.2 The Effects of Mr. Kurtz’s Civilization**

As mentioned in the previous subtitle, the civilization by Mr. Kurtz in Africa has brought some effects to both sides. These effects will be the subject of

the writer's discussion in this subtitle. Mr. Kurtz is eager to "win" Africa, in the sense that he manages to approach the native in a friendly way. However, Mr. Kurtz seems to fail in applying the civilization to the Africans and in the end he becomes the one who is being civilized by the Africans.

In the following subtitle, the writer will discuss the effects of the civilization. First, the writer will reveal the effect of the civilization toward the Africans. Then, the writer wants to discuss the effects of the civilization for Mr. Kurtz himself.

### **3.2.1 The Effects on the Native Africans**

In this subtitle the writer would like to discuss the effects of the civilization in Africa for the Africans as the inferior nation. First, the Africans used to live nomadic but after the Europeans arrival, they become settler. Moreover, the Africans start to work and become familiar to the concept of job. Finally, the Africans experience social shift as they know the concept of leadership.

First, the Africans are changing from nomadic living into settlers. Based on previous discussion, the Africans are considered as an "under-developed" nation which is the victim of European's thought. The Africans are influenced by the European mind of modernity. The new form of civilization by Mr. Kurtz is more of colonization with the idea to develop an over-sea empire and to emphasis the European belief. The Africans are forced to live in certain places under Europeans supervision. Formerly, the Africans live nomadic and hunt for food, but as soon as the Europeans set themselves in Africa, they begin to force the Africans to live near the company's station.

At last we turned a bend. A rocky cliff appeared, mounds of turned-up earth by the shore, houses on a hill, others, with iron roofs, amongst a waste of excavations, or hanging to the declivity. A continuous noise of the rapids above hovered over this scene of inhabited devastation. A lot of people, mostly black and naked, moved about like ants. A jetty projected into the river. A blinding sunlight drowned all this at times in a sudden

recrudescence of glare. “There’s your Company’s station,” said the Swede, pointing to three wooden barrack-like structures on the rocky slope. (p. 17)

The native Africans who are considered as uncivilized have to settle down in some barracks and give up their habit of living nomadic. The Africans have to live together in a barrack; they have to live in houses which they never know before. The Africans used to live in an open space or in a traditional hut but with the coming of the Europeans they have to learn to live in the company station.

The Africans begin to start their lives by settling down, living under the Europeans’ supervision. The coming of the Whites which is represented by Mr. Kurtz seems to be the turning point for the native Africans. Unconsciously, the Africans are imitating Mr. Kurtz’s attitude and perspective. When Mr. Kurtz lives in the Pagan Queen’s village for several months, he tries to manipulate the Africans and influenced them as mentioned in 3.1.2. The Pagan Queen does not realize that she and so as the other native Africans have been manipulated by Mr. Kurtz. As Marlow stated in the novel,

As I approached the glow from the dark I found myself at the back of two men, talking. I heard the name of Kurtz pronounced, then the words, “take advantage of this unfortunate accident.” (p. 28)

Mr. Kurtz is a man who will take any chances; he wants to change the Africans’ habit of living nomadic. He wants the native Africans to live in houses and become settler although it is a small chance. The Africans’ habit of moving from one place to another has gone since they have to live near the Company’s station and they can only leave the place when they are looking for ivory with the agents’ supervision. The Africans are given houses to live in although they feel uncomfortable living there because they lose their freedom.

Moreover, the Africans are starting to work and become familiar to the concept of job. As mentioned in previous subtitle, the Africans are an uncivilized nation. The civilization in Africa has given the Africans advancement in their ability to work as an employee because before the era of colonization they never work for anyone else. The Africans live according to their needs; they will hunt for food they eat. The so called civilization has made the Africans scared of Mr. Kurtz. They think Mr. Kurtz as a suppresser whom they must obey to. From

Marlow's observation, many incidents causing injuries to the native Africans are because of Mr. Kurtz's idea.

Black shapes crouched, lay, sat between the trees, leaning against the trunks, clinging to the earth, half coming out, half effaced within the dim light, in all the attitudes of pain, abandonment, and despair. Another mine on the cliff went off, followed by a slight shudder of the soil under my feet. The work was going on. The work! And this was the place where some of the helpers had withdrawn to die. (p. 19)

The Africans used to hunt for their needs and they never work by force to someone. They obey Mr. Kurtz as the Europeans' representative and they are willing to work for him because he is known for his strong character. When Marlow arrives at the Station he sees how miserable the native Africans' lives are,

Black figures strolled about listlessly, pouring water on the glow, whence proceeded a sound of hissing... the beaten nigger groaned somewhere. "What a row the brute makes!" said the indefatigable man with the moustaches, appearing near us. (p. 30)

The Africans are being forced to work in the station, the decision that the Africans make by opening their hand in accepting the Europeans' ideas in their lives apparently cause them to let go their traditional habit. The civilization that happens in Africa has changed the concept of job for the Africans. Formerly the Africans only know that they are working for themselves but after Mr. Kurtz arrives to Africa, they are working to someone else. However, The Africans' condition is very poor because they are forced to work by the Europeans,

A horn tooted to the right, and I saw the black people run. A heavy and dull detonation shook the ground, a puff of smoke came out of the cliff, and that was all. No change appeared on the face of the rock. They were building a railway. (p. 18)

The Africans are now familiar to work although they never enjoy the result of their work. As previously stated, the Africans are considered as savage and uncivilized people, so they are often being beaten for their mistakes. "They were called criminals, and the outraged law, like the bursting shells, had come to them, an insoluble mystery from over the sea." (p. 18) It is a very big price to pay for the

native Africa; they have to satisfy the Europeans by making no mistakes. The Africans are working very hard for the Europeans,

A slight clinking behind me made me turn my head. Six black men advanced in a file, toiling up the path. They walked erect and slow, balancing small baskets full of earth on their heads, and the clink kept time with their footsteps. Black rags were wound round their loins, and the short ends behind wagged to and fro like tails. I could see every rib, the joints of their limbs were like knots in a rope; each had an iron collar on his neck, and all were connected together with a chain whose bights swung them, rhythmically clinking. (p. 18)

The native Africans are experiencing a very sad life under the civilization that the Europeans want to apply. As stated in the novel by Marlow, “They passed me within six inches, without a glance, with that complete, deathlike indifference of unhappy savages.” (p. 18) The new form of civilization that happen to the native Africans does not make them very comfortable and it bring negative sense for them which influences their attitude.

Finally, the Africans are experiencing social shift as they know they become aware of their situation. From their daily meeting with Mr. Kurtz, the Africans are now aware of their position and how much they are being fooled. The Pagan Queen is certainly very aware of her position and unconsciously she imitates Mr. Kurtz’s expression as Marlow’s opinion first time he comes to the village,

And we men also looked at her – at any rate I looked at her. She came abreast of the streamer, stood still, and faced us. Her long shadow fell to the water’s edge. (p. 75)

There is a big difference in the way the Africans see Mr. Kurtz. They used to obey Mr. Kurtz because of his charismatic personality but, the Africans are now neglecting Mr. Kurtz’s orders because the native Africans especially the Pagan Queen feels that they have the power to strike back. Basically, the Africans are a civilized nation according to their own standard.

Instantly, in the emptiness of the landscape, a cry arose whose shrillness pierced the still air like a sharp arrow flying straight to the very heart of

the land; and, as if by enchantment, streams of human beings – of naked human beings – with spears in their hands, with bows, with shields, with wild glances and savage movements, were poured into the clearing by the dark-faced and pensive forest. The bushes shook, the grass swayed for a time, and then everything stood still in attentive immobility. (p. 72)

The Africans find themselves have the chance to strike back when the Pagan Queen starts to have a good relationship with Mr. Kurtz. Based on the concept of Mimicry which is the sign of a double articulation; a complex strategy of reform, regulation and discipline, which appropriates the other as it visualizes power (Bhabha, 1999, p. 476) the Pagan Queen's reaction in imitating Mr. Kurtz's concept of leadership is the consequence from spending several months with M. Kurtz. She is unconsciously imitating Mr. Kurtz and she chooses to strike back to Mr. Kurtz. The Pagan Queen uses these changes to amaze the European agents who come near her tribe. Soon she becomes different from the ordinary native African women,

She looked at us all as if her life depended upon the unswerving steadiness of her glance. Suddenly she opened her bared arms and threw them up rigid above her head, as though in an uncontrollable desire to touch the sky, and at the same time the shadows of her arms darted out on the earth, swept around on the river, gathering the streamer into a shadowy embrace. (p. 75)

The Pagan Queen, who is previously never interested in any European agents yet after she spent several months with Mr. Kurtz, acted similar to Mr. Kurtz. Based on Homi Bhabha's theory of mimicry, it is obvious that the Pagan Queen imitates what Mr. Kurtz has been doing.

When two cultures meet, there would be some exchange between them, in this case the Pagan Queen somehow adopt several Mr. Kurtz's attitude. The Pagan Queen is not consider as a leader by Mr. Kurtz, for him the Pagan Queen is merely savage native Africans just like the rest of her tribe,

Suddenly round the corner of the house a group of men appeared. It was as though they had come up from the ground. They waded waist-deep in the

grass, in a compact body, bearing an improvised stretcher in their midst.  
(p. 72)

The Africans especially Pagan Queen, are now more aggressive and courageous to the European agents. They are eager to gain the control over other tribes because they begin to understand the feeling of controlling over something. The Pagan Queen is unaware that she changes her attitude which make Marlow and his crews curious since she is not like the average African women. From every tribe that they come to, they never meet women with such a strong character. The Pagan Queen seems to lose her sense of wilderness; her attitude is changing from merely savage to a passionate woman who wants to conquer. She is definitely wanted to strike back at Mr. Kurtz to prove him that Africans have their own standard. Marlow and his men see the Pagan Queen with her changing,

She walked with measured steps, draped, in striped and fringed cloths, treading the earth proudly, with a slight jingle and flash of barbarous ornaments. She carried her head high; her hair was done in the shape of a helmet; she had brass leggings to the knee... She was savage and superb, wild-eyed and magnificent; there was something ominous and stately in her deliberate progress. (p. 74)

The courage that Pagan Queen has by carrying her head high is unusual since Africans are suppressed by the Europeans. The Africans want to prove that they are not like what the Europeans think. The Pagan Queen wants to tell Mr. Kurtz that the Africans are a civilized nation with their own standard. The Pagan Queen is trying to prove to Marlow that the Africans are a strong nation while Marlow comes to save Mr. Kurtz and get him out from the Pagan Queen's village.

She turned, walked on, following the bank, and passed into the bushes to the left. Once only her eyes gleamed back at us in the dusk of the thickets and she disappeared. (p. 75)

The so called civilization has made the Pagan Queen acted as if she is the suppresser. Even the agents feel a little scared about the Pagan Queen's changing attitude,

If she had offered to come aboard I think I would have tried to shoot her," said the man of patches, nervously. I had been risking my life every day

for the last fortnight to keep her out of the house. She got in once and kicked up a row about those miserable rags I picked up in the storeroom to mend my clothes with. I was not decent. (p. 75)

The Pagan Queen seems to frighten the agents who come near her with the way she acts which make the agents feel uncomfortable being around her. The agent begins to lose their civilized thought. They begin to figure out ways to put her away from their sight. The Africans are now realizing that they have the ability to stand up for themselves and they have the ability to strike back to the suppresser. The Africans especially the Pagan Queen has realize that she has the ability to gain control over someone else. The control that she has over Mr. Kurtz does bring some effects to Mr. Kurtz personally due to his personal reasons coming to Africa which will be discuss in the next subtitle.

### **3.2.2 The Effects on Mr. Kurtz**

In this subtitle, the writer wants to reveal the effect of the civilization for Mr. Kurtz. As mentioned in 3.1 Mr. Kurtz wants to civilize the Africans, yet he fails to civilize the Africans. Mr. Kurtz's failure in civilizing the Africans cost him some changes. First of all, the writer wants to discuss Mr. Kurtz lost of superiority that make him an inferior person. Then, the writer wants to discuss Mr. Kurtz's death of insanity.

First of all, Mr. Kurtz has lost his superiority and becomes an inferior person. Mr. Kurtz's failure of civilizing the Africans cost him his life. Mr. Kurtz's decision going to Africa to build a relationship with the native tribe is a wrong decision. Mr. Kurtz spent much longer time in the centre of Africa in order to influence the native and have them to collect ivories for him. Mr. Kurtz's failure in civilizing the Africans is because the Africans begin to imitate his attitude and his way of thinking. By imitating Mr. Kurtz, the Africans gain the control over him. "An athletic black belonging to some coast tribe, and educated by my poor predecessor, was the helmsman." (p. 53) If previously the Africans are uncivilized, now they are more 'advanced'. As mentioned previously in 3.1.1, Mr. Kurtz's first reason coming to the centre of Africa is to influence the natives' with his Eurocentric background. He believes that European is the only civilization.

Mr. Kurtz wants them to be civilized like the Europeans; it is his duty as a white man. Although he has a strong will, the wilderness seems to be stronger than he is. “You should have heard the disinterred body of Mr. Kurtz saying, “My Intended”.” (p. 58) There is always the courageous Mr. Kurtz but not long after he lives among the native Africans, he begins to lose his superiority.

Mr. Kurtz begins to lose his power as soon as he enters the centre of Africa. Marlow heard about Mr. Kurtz’s illness from the Russian man that he encountered while searching for Mr. Kurtz, “I heard he was lying helpless, and so I came up – took my chance...” (p. 70) the news about Mr. Kurtz’s illness has spread all over the station and many agents could not believe it. Before he gets very ill, Mr. Kurtz has the power over the Africans. The Russian man tells the fact to Marlow, “...it was only lately that Mr. Kurtz had come down to the river, bringing along with him that lake tribe.” (p. 70) Mr. Kurtz now is being captive in the native village; The Pagan Queen would not let him get out from the village.

Based on the concept of mimicry which is the sign of a double articulation; a complex strategy of reform, regulation and discipline, which appropriates the other as it visualizes power (Bhabha, 1999, p. 476); the Africans are imitating what Mr. Kurtz has done to them. Mr. Kurtz’s life among the tribe for several months has given the Africans a chance to imitate Mr. Kurtz’s superiority, as the Russian fellow said,

He had been away for several months – getting himself adored, I supposed – and came down purposing a raid either across the river or down stream. Evidently the appetite for more ivory had got the better of the – what shall I say? – less material aspirations. (p. 70)

The Africans’ imitation of Mr. Kurtz is not like what it was expected to be by Mr. Kurtz. The Africans become the silent threat for him since the Africans mimic Mr. Kurtz’s idea of colonization. Previously, Mr. Kurtz wants the native Africans to live by his European culture but in the end Mr. Kurtz is the one who live by the rule of the savage Africans. The Pagan Queen tries to manipulate Mr. Kurtz to obey her that is why Mr. Kurtz lost his superiority and soon he begins to follow what the Pagan Queen wants him to do. By the time Marlow comes to the centre

of Africa, Mr. Kurtz gets very ill and weak. Marlow who, after arriving there, comes to see Mr. Kurtz and listen to what his shouting,

At this moment I heard Kurtz's deep voice behind the curtain,  
 "Save me! – Save the ivory you mean. Don't tell me. Save me! Why, I've had to save you. You are interrupting my plans now. Sick! Sick! Not so sick as you would be like to believe. Never mind. I'll carry my ideas out yet – I will return, I'll show you what can be done. You with your little peddling notions – you are interfering with me. I will return. (p. 76)

Mr. Kurtz is very depressed that he confuses himself because he cannot fulfill his dream. Mr. Kurtz's life among the Africans is very hard because he can no longer have the power over the Africans; on the contrary, the Africans are now the one who have the power over him. The Africans begin to realize that they are being used by Mr. Kurtz and they are being colonized by him. The Africans begin to strike back to Mr. Kurtz silently since the Africans is the Orient. Based on the concept of Orientalism, the Orient portrays as weak but dangerous because they can pose a threat to the white.

When I had a chance I begged him to try and leave while there was time. I offered to go back with him. And he would say yes, and then he would remain; go off on another ivory hunt; disappear for weeks; forget himself amongst these people – forget himself – you know. (p. 69)

All that Mr. Kurtz wants is to teach the Africans how to be a civilized nation so that he can have full control over the tribe. On the contrary, the tribe ruled by a vicious Queen is very hard to conquer.

Mr. Kurtz loses all the control over the native Africans. Previously, Mr. Kurtz is well known for his ability to control the native Africans to help him stopping the other white agents come near him," He informed me, lowering his voice, that it was Kurtz who had ordered the attack to be made on the steamer." (p. 77) Mr. Kurtz's condition is getting worse due to the suppression conducted by the Pagan Queen. He can no longer order any attack to any steamer. Mr. Kurtz does not want anyone to know his existences in the village so he tries to cover his trace by ordering the attack. The manager tells Marlow that it was Mr. Kurtz, who organized the native and asks them to attack the steamer,

He hated sometimes the idea of being taken away – and then again...But I don't understand these matters. I am a simple man. He thought it would scare you away – that you would give it up, thinking him dead. (p. 78)

Mr. Kurtz has lost the control over the native Africans yet the Africans are now controlling him. The Africans are the one who tells him what to do. There is nothing that Mr. Kurtz can do to avoid the cruelty of the native Africans. He can no longer control the Africans because Mr. Kurtz is not as superior as he used to be. Mr. Kurtz has lost his ability to lead the native Africans to do what he would like them to do. “However he had got much worse suddenly. “I heard he was lying helpless, and so I came up – took my chance,” said the Russians. (p. 70) Mr. Kurtz's illness has spread through the entire station and some agents managed to come up the river to the centre of Africa in search for Mr. Kurtz and try to save him.

Mr. Kurtz has lost his respect among the native Africans. Since the tribe is very hard to defeat, Mr. Kurtz spent longer time to have a good relationship with them. The longer he stays, the lesser he gets; Mr. Kurtz idea is to gain respect from the tribe like he did to other tribes but he never had the chance to control the tribe. Mr. Kurtz has lost the Africans' respect; he is now being captive by the Africans and forbidden to get out from the village,

But he was mostly living in those villages on the lake. When he came down to the river, sometimes he would take to me, and sometimes I had to keep out of his way. Just as it happened. This man suffered too much. He hated all this, and somehow he couldn't get away. (p. 69)

Mr. Kurtz's life is miserable that the Africans especially Pagan Queen has no respect over him. Mr. Kurtz feels depressed with this condition, he cannot accept the fact that the Africans have imitated him and strike back to him, “Of course you may be too much of a fool to go wrong – too dull even to know you are being assaulted by the powers of darkness.” (p. 59) Mr. Kurtz is being fooled by the Pagan Queen and her tribe which make him surrender to his fate. Mr. Kurtz is now waiting for other agents to save him and release him from the village,

He surely wanted nothing from the wilderness but space to breathe in and to push on through. His need was to exist, and to move onwards at the greatest possible risk, and with a maximum of privation. (p. 67)

The act to strike back from the Africans has caused Mr. Kurtz to suffer and his health is dropping.

Then, the effect of the civilization for Mr. Kurtz himself cost him his life; he gets very ill. After several months spending time with the native Africans and Pagan Queen, Mr. Kurtz gets very ill. The rumor of his illness has spread through the entire station which attracts Marlow to come to the village in order to save him from the depressing moments. The illness that Mr. Kurtz's suffers is because the depressing situation he experience with the Pagan Queen. One of the agents at the station shared the information about Mr. Kurtz's condition with Marlow,

He had, as he informed me proudly, managed to nurse Kurtz through two illness (he spoke of it as you would of some risky achievement), but as a rule Kurtz wandered alone, far in the depths of the forest. (p. 67)

The rumor about Mr. Kurtz is true when Marlow come to visit the village, Marlow discovers himself the condition of Mr. Kurtz. The agents at the station did not think that Mr. Kurtz is going to be very ill since Mr. Kurtz is famous for his ability to control the native Africans.

As mentioned previously, Mr. Kurtz is not allowed to leave the village and this situation make Mr. Kurtz feels depressed. Seems Mr. Kurtz cannot avoid the pressure from the Pagan Queen and he gets so depressed. Mr. Kurtz's condition is not very good, "He looked at least seven feet long. His covering had fallen off, and his body emerged from it pitiful and appalling as from a winding-sheet." (p. 73) Mr. Kurtz is very ill since he is not able to control the Africans like what he used to and it makes him insane. Everyday Mr. Kurtz's condition is getting worse and he is not able to think normal again; his mind is disoriented.

We had carried Kurtz into the pilot-house: there was more air there. Lying on the couch, he stared through the open shutter. There was an eddy in the mass of black heads, and the woman with helmeted head and tawny cheeks rushed out to the very brink of the stream. She put out her hands, shouted

something, and all that wild mob took up the shout in an amazing chorus of articulated, rapid, breathless utterance. (p. 83)

The Pagan Queen's control over Mr. Kurtz is really strong that she would not let him go that easy. The only thing that make her decides to let Mr. Kurtz aboard Marlow's ship is because she feels that she has done enough to Mr. Kurtz. The Pagan Queen has cause Mr. Kurtz to suffer by playing with his thought which ruin his health condition, "Kurtz's life was running swiftly too, ebbing, ebbing out of his heart into the sea of inexorable time." (p. 83) Mr. Kurtz's life is miserable, he feels stressed out because he cannot reject and protest on the Pagan Queen's action toward him.

The pressure that he experienced with the Pagan Queen has damaged his mind, Mr. Kurtz is insane. Marlow thinks he can save Mr. Kurtz and release him from the hands of Pagan Queen. On the contrary, Marlow is just able to take him away from the village but Mr. Kurtz cannot survive.

Mr. Kurtz left his personal legacy to Marlow which eventually becomes his last words to Marlow.

One morning he gave me a packet of papers and a photograph, - the lot tied together with a shoe-string. "Keep this for me," he said. "This noxious fool" (meaning the manager) "is capable of prying into my boxes when I am not looking. (p. 85)

The journey that Marlow has risk his life for is to save the highly perfect agent named Mr. Kurtz. Several hours before Mr. Kurtz passed away, he is wandering himself on a deep conversation with Marlow,

I am lying here in the dark waiting for death." The light was within a foot of his eyes. I managed to murmur, "Oh, nonsense!" and stood aver him as if transfixed. (p. 85)

The statement that Mr. Kurtz said to Marlow seems to be the opposite of his life motto. The previous Mr. Kurtz would not surrender to the situation where he just lay back and wait for his time. It is very hard for Mr. Kurtz to let go all his dreams to civilize the Africans and he is not able to bare the pressure that the Pagan Queen does to him. Marlow tells the agent near Mr. Kurtz's village that Mr. Kurtz condition is poor,

Why he's mad," I said. He protests indignantly. Mr. Kurtz couldn't be mad. If I had heard him talk, only two days ago, I wouldn't dare hint such a thing. (p. 69)

It is very hard to believe that Mr. Kurtz has gone insane since he is known as a man with strong character and personality.

Finally, Mr. Kurtz is dead. His last words before he dies seems to portray how suffer he is from the Pagan Queen, "...he cried twice, with a cry that was no more than a breath – "The horror! The horror!" (p. 85) After he cries that last pitiful words Mr. Kurtz is dead and all the people on board the ship really shock about it. They think that after they are able to take away Mr. Kurtz from the village, they can save Mr. Kurtz's live but they are wrong.

Then still a little farther – till I had gone so far that I don't know how I'll ever get back. Never mind. Plenty time. I can manage. You take Kurtz away quick – quick – I tell you. (p. 67)

The Pagan Queen seems to prove her superiority and the Africans can no longer called as an uncivilized nation.

The wilderness had patted him on the head, and, behold, it was like a ball – an ivory ball; it had caressed him, and – lo! – he withered; it had taken him, loved him, embraced him, got into his veins, consumed his flesh, and sealed his soul to its own by the inconceivable ceremonies of some devilish initiation. (p. 58)

The concept of mimicry that the Africans practice has caused Mr. Kurtz to give up his life and undergo the miserable life, civilized by the native Africans. It is a true irony since Mr. Kurtz is the one who has the burden to civilize the native Africans. Although the Africans are different in some ways from the Europeans yet they are a nation with their own standard of civilization that cannot be compared with other standard of civilization.