

## ABSTRACT

### The Potrayal of Orientalism in Golden's Novel: *Memoirs of a Geisha*

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This research was designed to describe “the potrayal of Orientalism in Golden’s novel: *Memoirs of a Geisha*”. The writer studied the theory of orientalism based on Edward Said (1978), as the representation of west perspective toward Geisha as one of Japanese culture. This research used qualitative and library research by using postcolonial approach. Descriptive qualitative method was applied in this research because this type of research was narated in the form of sentences, dialogue, pictures rather than numerical data. The writer is able to find the comprehensive and deep description about feeling, norm, faith, mental behavior, and culture embraced by either person or group of people. Based on the theory of Edward, the potrayal of Golden’s novel is described through the life of geisha that are Geisha in daily, interaction with society, men, their owner, Geisha’s appearance, Geisha’s status in the society, Geisha’s works. However, the writer found that most dominance in this research is from the daily life of geisha that represented as artistic women, well-trained entertainer, and sex commodity, and other is geisha’s appearance that most viewed as exotic women. The result of research finding shows that the negative thought of common people toward Geisha in Japan is more seen from Geisha’s appearance because mostly Geisha appear with very different style, with the way of make up, hair style, and dressing by wearing Kimono, and also with their way to entertaint the man, is shown negative perception but in fact, they are more like artist as usual.

**Key Words:** Edward Theory, Orientalism, Japanese culture of Geisha, Golden’s Novel: *Memoirs of a Geisha*.