ANALYSIS OF LISPETH

The text taken in analysis is the short story of “Lispeth”, written by Rudyard Kipling and it belongs to the colonialist literature.

The writer characterizes the character of Lispeth with some categories that I’m going to look for and explain.

The first category used by the writer is Lispeth’s family background that give the reader information about her origins. From this category, the reader can understand where the short story is set, where the protagonists comes from and who are her parents.
Lispeth is the Pahari pronunciation of the English name Elisabeth. From this point, the reader can understand that the English colonies used English, but at the same time they introduced new variations pronunciation, in syntax and vocabulary.
The writer goes on telling the places where the short story is set: Himalayas, maize field, Sutlej Valley.
The second sequence presents Lispeth for her actions: “Lispeth became half a servant and half a companion”. The sentence put under light the fact that Lispeth is not important for her personality and behaviour, but for her actions and services. From this point the reader can understand that Kipling supported the colonialism and he was on the side of the colonisers.
Inside the text there’s also a tentative of the narrator to explain his point of view about Lispeth religion.
The writer proceeds with the physical description of Lispeth focusing on her face and he compare her height with the height of her race people. He goes on with the judgment of Lispeth’s clothes because he wants to criticize the clothed the Mission gave to her. He compares lispeth with the Roman goddess Diana, in this way he alludes to her ability to fight men (Diana is the goddess of hunting). The reader can suppose in the text he will be read something about her ability to put men under her feet or deceive them with her love.
The writer focuses on her reputation in the local community and her daily tasks: she used to read books, babysitting, take classes in the Sunday School. So, Lispeth used to spend her time as an English woman and not as a colonised.