

Cultural Conflict in “*Alif Lam Mim*” and “*My Name is Khan*” Movies

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the social conflict in a film. The objects of this research are "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name Is Khan" movies. Data were collected by watching the movies, identifying cultural conflicts, and analyzing cultural conflicts in it. This research is a qualitative descriptive study which is used to determine the cultural conflicts occurred in these two movies. In "Alif Lam Mim" movie, it shows that cultural conflicts occurred between Muslims and the government where Islam is considered weak, and is easy to be dropped by terrorist Islamic stereotypes for profit. Then, in "My Name Is Khan" movie, it shows that cultural conflict occurred between Rizwan (a Muslim) with American society, where all Muslims are considered as terrorists. The reason for choosing the research in these two movies is because these two movies raised the same topic, which is the negative stereotypes of society on Islam and have same title, which is using Islamic name of characters. Both of these movies have the view that Islam is a violent religion, treason and full of greed. The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that intercultural understanding is needed to maintain peace between nations and countries.

Keywords: Cultural Conflict, Islam, Film

1. Introduction

Cultural conflict is a conflict that occurs because of differences in cultural values and beliefs about cultures are clashed. This clash of cultural values and beliefs produces various problems for the culture itself. Turner (2006) said that conflicts arise because of the differences in culture and beliefs, which require a person to follow the culture that exists in an area. Meanwhile according to Alexander Grewe in Nandakumar (2013) stated that the source of the conflict arises because people's expectations of a person's behavior are not the same as their culture, so they want someone to follow everything in the culture they accept (Nandakumar, 2013). In fact, everyone has different cultural values and beliefs.

The main cause of cultural conflict is First, intercultural communication. Intercultural communication can be established if both parties are able to understand the same language under certain conditions (Makhmudov, 2020). For example, Indians and Japanese are met. Indians don't know Japanese, neither do Japanese people, they don't know Indian. However, these two people know English. So, English is the language used as a means of communication between Indians and Japanese. Moreover, the meeting between India and Japan was not limited to communication only. In a meeting or a restaurant, they will see from one's behavior, table manner, and so on. This is where the cultural conflict can occur. between mutual acceptance of behavior, mutual acceptance of cultural differences, and so on. this shows how close the relationship between conflict and culture is.

The second cause is misinterpretation. This often happens when people from different cultures are met (Setyoningsih, 2011). Usually someone can easily interpret the culture that exists in an area. This is natural as long as it does not have an impact on negative assumptions that can lead to intercultural conflicts.

Third is ethnocentrism, which is the understanding that one's own culture is the truest culture. Ethnocentrism is related to the need to strengthen one's own ethnicity without being defeated by anyone (Bizumic, Monaghan, & Priest, 2021). In fact, people who have this understanding will feel that their actions are the most correct actions, and other people have to adapt to

the culture they believe in. In cross-cultural interactions, problems like this can kill a harmonious relationship. Therefore, vigilance and policy are needed in positioning a person, so that other people from different cultures will feel comfortable and avoid intercultural conflicts.

And the last is the stereotype. There are many kinds of stereotypes: gender, race, profession, religion, etc. It doesn't matter to have stereotypes as long as the resulting stereotype doesn't have a negative impact. But in general the stereotypes that appear are negative, which usually lead to suspicion, intolerance, hostility, dislike, etc (Setyoningsih, 2011). This can lead to serious cultural conflicts. So, it is not surprising that many problems arise only because of stereotypes, even world wars. That are all can happen because of stereotypes.

Regarding differences in beliefs that can cause cultural conflict, religion is something that is closely related to conflict. this can be caused by disputes between one religion and another. In fact, disputes can also arise between a group with another group in the same belief. Like Islam, Islam is a religion with diverse followers and groups. Islam comes with the teachings brought by the Prophet Muhammad SAW. It could be that one group with another group in Islam has a different view and way of worship. One's view of one's beliefs does not matter as long as they can accept and understand one another's beliefs. However, it can be a positive conflict if between groups have negative assumptions and doubt the beliefs of unequal groups. This resulted in hostility, even a terrible civil war.

Islam is known for its peaceful and friendly religion. However, there are also those who think that Islam is a religion that is strict and full of rules (Jones, Catto, Kaden, & Baker, 2019). As in some movies which researchers are interested in identifying the cultural conflicts in it. The movies are "Alif-Lam-Mim" and "My Name Is Khan". Both of these movies tell negative assumptions about Islam by Islamic terrorist stereotypes. This is closely related to cultural conflicts that occur because a group of people do not accept the beliefs of a Muslim in their religion. The view of Islam as a terrorist emerges among those who are led to believe it. In "Alif Lam Mim" movie, it shows that cultural conflicts occurred between Muslims and the government where Islam is considered weak, and is easy to be dropped by terrorist Islamic stereotypes for profit. Then, in "My Name Is Khan" movie, it shows that cultural conflict occurred between Rizvan (a Muslim) with American society, where all Muslims are considered as terrorists.

This study aims to identify the cultural conflict that occurs in the "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name Is Khan" movies. Researchers are interested in using these two movies because these two movies raised the same topic, which is the negative stereotypes of society on Islam and have same title, which is using Islamic name of characters. Both of these movies have the view that Islam is a violent religion, treason and full of greed.

2. Research Methods

A method is a quick and easy way to complete a task using some techniques or certain tools. The sampling method refers to the data collection process which includes: population. Explanation of the concept and its implementation; data collection procedures; and analysis techniques.

2.1. Types and Nature of This Research

a. Type of This Research

This research belongs to the type of library research based on the research site, which excavated through encyclopedias, scientific journals and other documents. In addition, researchers also try to collect references and information as much data related to this study as possible for clarity, completeness, and refinement of research data. The data material are like; a CD/DVD file the films "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name is Khan"; and media information related to both movies on the internet.

b. Nature of This Research

The research used is qualitative. Sugiyono (2019) states method research is used to examine the objects with natural conditions, real and not arrange. Qualitative method explains phenomena through data collection as much as possible. The data will be presented in descriptive text of the scenes contained in the two films. This study also used semiotic approach. Semiotics is defined as the science that studies cultural event. Semiotics studies various kinds of films, advertisements, dramas and fiction.

2.2. Data Sources

a. Primary Data Source

Primary data is the main data source in this study. This primary data is data raw materials that are processed and become meaningful information. Main data in this research is film files of "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name is Khan".

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data is a complementary source that complements the existing data. This data is obtained from the internet, journals and various articles from related websites in this research.

2.3. Method of Collecting The Data

The activities that most determine the success of a research are data collection, because the quality of data is determined by the quality of data collection. Based on this research, the authors collect the data by the following methods:

- a. Watching the films "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name is Khan" in their entirety, and observing every scene, so that the researchers caught the meaning of the message delivered as needed.
- b. Classifying each scene of both of these film according to its moral message.

2.4. Data Analysis

In research activities, data analysis is a very important part. Therefore, data analysis can be used in solving problems in a study. The analysis that the authors used in this study is the analysis of semiotics, created by Roland Barthers. Semiotic analysis is a method in analysis that examines the sign or implied meaning contained in it. Roland Barthers makes a systematic model in analyzing the meaning of signs through this semiotic study. Researchers and readers will not only know the content of the message conveyed, but will also know how this message is made, as well as what symbol only that represents the message in the film. So it is worthy to be conveyed to public.

In this study, verbal and nonverbal signs were seen. Verbal sign is a sign of the words or language spoken from someone's mouth in the film. While the nonverbal sign is an asterisk or all signs that are not in the form of words. This study seeks to find signs of tolerance in the film "Alif Lam Mim" and "My Name is Khan" through various dialogues or scenes from various characters in these films. Roland Barthers' analytical method focuses on the semiotic approach or marking process. Signification is the process of combining markers, and generate dynamic signals. Through data collected from the film "Alif" Lam Mim" and "My Name is Khan" it is hoped that the results of this study can provide explanation of the importance of tolerance in a person.

3. Results and Discussion

The film Alif Lam Mim was released on October 1, 2015 with a duration of 2 hours 5 minutes and the number of viewers reached 2.5 million viewers¹. In the film 'Alif Lam Mim', Islam is underestimated. Fear of Muslims who are considered terrorism and synonymous with violence is the main issue in the film (Riawansyah: 2019). Islam as a terrorist, the political elites in power in the country at that time who tried to influence people's minds by assuming that Islam was a troublemaker in our country, people believe in the issues disseminated by the political leader. A Kyai who is considered a terrorist leader, Muslim clothing that is suspected of causing a bad image in the eyes of the community so that people assume by giving the perception that the clothes are the clothes of a terrorist (Alwiyah: 2016).

The film 'My Name is Khan' is an Islamic genre Bollywood film produced in 2010 and directed by Karen Johar. This film is full of religious learning, this film tells of taboos and acts of racism that are stereotypes of the world community about Islam and a Muslim (Aulia: 2021). The main character is portrayed as a Muslim South Asian in the United States who turns into a heroic figure that transgresses national, racial, religious, cultural and sexual boundaries (Fedtke: 2014). The movie brought up the tragedy of the World Trade Centre bombing in 9/11 and argues that America has already been destroyed even long before somebody literary blew up the country. In this film, there are elements related to racism in Islamic society in America. Social and cultural problems that lead to discrimination against Muslim minority communities. In this movie, there are some symbols that give rise to meaning and multiple interpretations. Khan's main theme of the poem is to spread the message that the terrorists aren't supposed to be Muslim. Based on this film's analysis results, there are several issues such as 11 September 2001, cultural identity, discrimination, Islamophobia, gender issues, and radicalism (Akbar: 2020). The findings showed that the ethnocentrism in religion on My Name is Khan film was inflexible ethnocentrism. It portrays when the owner of motel said that he wanted to put a board and write 'no Muslims guests' in front of his motel. And for the impact of the ethnocentrism in religion faced by the main character Rizvan Khan was intergroup relation. It portrays in the film when the United States people thought that Muslim is a religion which taught violence and war after the tragedy 9/11 which happened on September 11, 2001. (Ilmi: 2018).

The Cultural Conflict in these two films is the existence of Islamophobia which is felt by the surrounding community. A series of investigations thematically consider the role of the media, the contemporary positioning of Muslims throughout the world, and whether Islamophobia can be seen to be a continuum of historical anti-Muslimism or anti-Islamism, or whether Islamophobia is an entirely modern concept. The issue of Islamophobia is considered from the perspective of the local, regional, and global. The incidence of Islamophobia, and the magnitude of the phenomenon and its consequences, is one that warrants a greater investigation in the world today (Allen: 2016). The theory includes an analysis that the representation of Islamophobia in the films 'Alif Lam Mim' and "My Name Is Khan" can be seen from the level of reality which is coded through Appearance, Environment, Identity, Behavior, and Way of Talking.

4. Conclusion

In this study, researchers found cultural conflicts in the films 'Alif Lam Mim' and 'My Name Is Khan'. Both films depict negative stereotypes about Islam and its followers. In "Alif Lam Mim" movie, it shows that cultural conflicts occurred between Muslims and the government where Islam is considered weak, and is easy to be dropped by terrorist Islamic stereotypes for profit. Then, in "My Name Is Khan" movie, it shows that cultural conflict occurred between Rizwan (a Muslim) with American society, where all Muslims are considered as terrorists. Both of these movies have the view that Islam is a violent religion, treason and full of greed. Especially in

The conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that intercultural understanding is needed to maintain peace between nations and countries. Understanding cross-cultural is something needed, because cross-cultural creates values to determine what is acceptable or not acceptable to other cultures. Culture makes humans able to communicate well and in the end, cross-cultural can strengthen fellow humans and provide uniqueness to humans and society.

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