

**THE PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARD MOSLEM IN
AMERICA AS REFLECTED IN *MOOZ-LUM* MOVIE**

By : Muhammad Apriliansyah

Thesis Advisor : Rifka Pratama

English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University

Jl. Profesor Soedharto, Tembalang 50269 Semarang, Jawa Tengah

ABSTRACT

America is known as the Immigrant country, because most Americans are immigrants. They come from various countries with various cultures and differences. Sometimes these differences lead to conflicts. That conflict raises a wide range of prejudices and discriminations. This issue became the reason why the writer makes this thesis. This thesis aims to analyze the discriminations and prejudices toward Moslem in the film *Mooz-Lum* using sociological approach to analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects in the movie. Moreover, the writer use the cinematography theory to analyze the intrinsic aspects because this thesis using movie as the medium of material study. The writer uses the theory of discrimination and prejudices to analyze the extrinsic aspects in the movie. The writer found that according to the movie, the Moslem in America experience various types of discrimination and prejudices especially after the 9/11 attacks. Where these discriminations and prejudices have an effect on their lives.

Keyword: *Moslem, America, Moslem in America, Discrimination, Prejudice*

A. Background of the Study

Mooz-lum is a movie produced and directed in 2011 by Qasim “Q” Basir. This movie is a controversial one because it shows some sensitive issues regarding the American moslem’s life aftermath 9/11 tragedy. The movie is categorized as a drama movie. It comes with a story of struggling, believing, sadness and hope that mix-up with beautiful scenes that contain a lot of meaning about what happen to Moslem in America.

The meaningful story of this movie encourages the writer to choose this movie as the object of the study and also because the writer intends to tell people about misjudgement and misinterpretation towards Moslem. In doing the research the writer use the theory of prejudice and theory of

discrimination. Allport stated on his book *The Nature of Prejudice*, that “prejudice can be defined using a unipolar (negative) component, as in “thinking ill of others without sufficient warrant,” or incorporating a bipolar (negative and positive) component, as in “a feeling, favorable or unfavorable, toward a person or thing, prior to, or not based on actual experience” (1979:6)

B. Purpose of the Study

1. To analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects on the movie “Mooz-lum”
2. To describe the discrimination and prejudice toward moslem on this movie
3. To explain the discrimination and prejudice toward moslem in America after the 9/11 attack

C. Method of the Study

In this thesis, the writer uses two approaches to analyze the intrinsic aspect and extrinsic aspect. The sociological approach to analyze the problem on the movie. The writer chooses sociological approach because sociological approach is the best suited method to analyze and describe the problem on this movie and also because this thesis will be focus on sociological aspects. Other approach used on the thesis are the prejudice and discrimination theories.

D. Finding of the Study

From the movie, the writer finds that, the Moslem in America experience various types of discrimination and prejudices especially after the 9/11 attacks. Where these discriminations and prejudices have an effect on their

lives. There are several evidences that will prove the prejudice and discrimination toward moslem are real. Verbal harrasment, negative images, labelling, physical attacks, and antilocution throws to moslem when the fire of hatred lit back as the 9/11 attack occurs. While before the 9/11 attack occurs the prejudice and discrimination toward moslem in America is already there, given the facts that the main character recieve some of them in his childhood.

E. The Prejudice and Discrimination Toward Moslem in America in *Mooz-lum* Movie

According to the theories of discrimination by S.Dale Mclemor, "Discrimination may occur because they get prejudice first, but some people said that discrimination may not occur because the prejudice. Discrimination may not occur when prejudice is present, and it may occur when prejudice is

absent. In either case, a serious objection is raised to the presumption that prejudice is the cause of discrimination.” (1983:127)

The movie represent it clearly because on the first place Tariq become the target of discrimination while he receives a prejudice first because he is a moslem, just as the statement above that discrimination may occurs because they get prejudice first. His friends thinks that Moslem is terrorist, it is a prejudice that almost everyone in his class or even on his society thinks about that. In Tariq’s childhood there is a girl who un-intentionally giving prejudice toward Tariq because her father says that moslem are dangerous. It prove the statement of Dovidio and Gaertner which they stated “Prejudice is pre-judgment or

forming an opinion before becoming aware of te relevant facts of a case” while this also prove as *Antilocution*, one of five class of prejudice theory by Allport, which someone or group giving negative images to others. While in Tariq’s college life, on of his friends Hamza is being attacks by unknown people who does not seem to be happy about the tragedy of 9/11. People on his college thinks that it is Moslem fault because the terrorist are Moslem and they generalized all Moslems are terrorist and begin to spread their hatred into revenge. The attacks on Hamza proves the theory of Allport which is prejudice can lead to physical attack. Allport divided prejudice into five classes which are:

1. Discrimination : Someone or group discriminate to others

2. Avoidance : Someone or group avoid others

3. Antilocution : Someone or group gives negative images to others

4. Physical Attack : Vandalism, destroyed property or someone

5. Extermination :
Extermination of other groups

F. Prejudice and Discrimination Toward Moslem In America After 9/11 Attack In Real Life

On the movie there are some prejudice and acts of discrimination and here in the real life there are also many discrimination and prejudice toward moslem in America after 9/11. Lory Peek stated on his book "Behind The Backlash Muslim American" that 9/11 attack was a *Human-Induces Catastrophes*, wich are a disaster that caused by human.

A *Human-Induces Catastrophes* always set off a hunt for those who responsible for devastation. The victim of the catastrophe searching for someone or scapegoating who they think responsible for destruction and loss of life.

Almost immediately after the attacks on World Trade Center 11 September, the U.S government announce that the attackers were all Moslem from Arab nations and at that very moment the media spread the words that the attacks were carried out all in the name of Islam, leading the people to misjudges the conception of Jihad in Islam. That's become Moslem vulnerable into being scapegoating based on their religious affiliation. For 9/11 attack Moslem become the scapegoat of the generalization thought just because the terrorist are all Moslem.

Stereotype and Prejudice among the citizen of America toward Moslem rise high, just as Abram said that the stereotype may be linked to a fear that other groups may pose a threat. The citizen of America with the help of media spread the prejudice among others that *all* Moslem is behind the 9/11 attack.

Also according to Lory Peek book, there are some factors that lead the people into hate Moslem after 9/11 attacks the following: (1) an actual global increase in terrorist violence perpetrated in the name of Islam, (2) persistently negative Western media representations of the Islamic faith and its followers, (3) a general lack of familiarity with Moslems and Islamic beliefs among the American populace, and (4) the heightened visibility of the growing Moslem population in the United States.

The first factor become the mainly problem above others because it is the time bomb full of

hatred toward moslem, if we want to talk fairly the victim of 9/11 attacks have the right to hate the terrorist but some of them misjudged them and labeled all moslem are terrorist. Second, the media contributes to the prejudice that lead to discrimination toward moslem in America by using the misconception of Jihad in Islam and spread the news that 9/11 attacks is all in the name of Islam. Third, there are no knowledge about What, Who or How the Islam and Moslem is, the absence of Islam lead other people to misjudge the belief. Last, the population of Moslem that always growing in America can lead to a fear that they become a threat for American people.

If we talks about discrimination or prejudice we have to trace back to the source of them and how they spread. On this context we already knows that the spreading is delivers by media and forwards from one to another just as Mclemore said on his book that discrimination can be transmitted continuously from one

into another, from parents into their children, from families into groups, and from groups into society. Meanwhile, the source of prejudice and discrimination toward Moslem in fact comes from the Moslem it self. According to the 4 factors stated above all of that are coming from the Moslem itself or to be fairly someone or groups claim to be Moslem. Such stupidity like that lead others think that Islam teach all Moslem doing like that, well in fact it is not. To be fairly, other people except Moslem on this context must also have a sense of knowledgment before they judge something else or before they judge what Moslem are despite any individual who claim to be Moslem but not following the right teachings.

What must be underline is the factor number 3, a general lack of familiarity with Moslems and Islamic beliefs among the American

populace depicts very clear in the Mooz-lum movie as well as in real life. On the movie Tariq friend's do not have any knowledgment about what Islam is, so when the 9/11 attacks occurs they blaming Moslem for the cause. While in real life there are no different when 9/11 attacks occurs the media spread the news and so the prejudice and discrimination toward Moslem begin.

G. CONCLUSION

Mooz-lum is a movie about the struggle of Tariq, a young man who experiences prejudice and discrimination, in his childhood. The movie represent the prejudice and discrimination clearly. In this movie, the tragedy of 9/11 or the attack on World Trade Center becomes the spark that lit the fire of hatred among people of America to Moslem on that day or to be specific people on the main character's college.

There are several evidences that will prove the prejudice and discrimination toward moslem are real. Verbal harrasment, negative images, labelling, physical attacks,

and antilocution throw to moslem when the fire of hatred lit back as the 9/11 attack occurs. The writer believe not all people hates Moslem so much they intend to kill them, but in fact there are also some people who still do not understand Islam and made a conclusion by just looking it on the surface. If we trace back the main issue that makes people around the world think moslem are terrorist is because many attacks and terrorisms are claims by a group that declare themself as Moslem but in fact they are not the part of the core Islamic teaching. Islam is a religion where violance are forbidden, so terrorism is a contradictive act against Islamic teaching.

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