

**PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPES IN INNARITU'S *BABEL* MOVIE(2006):  
A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**FAJAR YUNIARDI, A320070236. PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPES IN INNARITU'S *BABEL* MOVIE (2006): A SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.** Research Paper. Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. 2012

The researcher analyzes prejudice and stereotypes in Innaritu's *Babel* movie. The researcher analyzes the prejudices and stereotypes each characters in *Babel* movie based on gender, ethnicity, place and intensity.

The objective of the study is to analyze the movie based on its structural analysis and based on social psychological analysis. This study is a qualitative study. The object of the study is *Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's Babel movie* released in October 27, 2006 in USA by Paramount picture. The data sources are divided into two, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary is the movie itself and the secondary data source is other sources related to the analysis such as the author biography, books of literary theory and also psychology books, particularly related to social psychological books. The method of data collection is library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.

The results of the study are as follows. *First, Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's Babel movie* was presented is social construction which is determined by the culture that was illustrated on the characters, characterization, narration or dialog. *Second*, Gonzalez Innaritu succeeded to show the reality of human life through his movie, especially social relations that appear in society between the wester and Moslem country including of prejudices and stereotypes that influence on social psychology of person.

**Key word:** *prejudice, stereotypes, social psychological.*

## A. Introduction

### 1. Background of the Study

*Babel* movie is one of Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's movies. The *Babel* writer movie is Guillermo Arriaga. The budget for producing *Babel* movie is \$25.000. *Babel* have duration 143 minutes. This movie divided into 4 stories in 4 states in 3 continents. There are in Japan (Asia), Mexico, America (America) and Marocco (Africa). Released in seven theaters on October 27, 2006, and then released nationwide in 1,251 theaters on November 10, 2006, *Babel* has earned as of March 2007.

In 2002 González Iñárritu was one of the directors involved in the making of September 11 (2002), a film about the influence of the terrorist attack of 9/11 on the world. Also participating in the film were such major filmmakers as Wim Wenders, Ken Loach, Mira Nair, Amos Gitai and Sean Penn.

The success of those films opened the doors of Hollywood to Alejandro. His second feature, 21 Grams (2003), was also written by Arriaga, was shot in English and starred Sean Penn, Benicio Del Toro and Naomi Watts. Del Toro and Watts received Academy Award nominations for their participation.

The story begin In a remote desert location in southern Morocco, Abdullah, a goat herder, buys a high-powered .270 Winchester M70 rifle and a box of ammunition from his neighbor Hassan Ibrahim to shoot the

jackals that have been preying on his goats. Abdullah gives the rifle to his two young sons, Yussef and Ahmed (played by local non-professional actors Boubker Ait El Caid and Said Tarchini), and sends them out to tend the herd.

Competing between themselves and doubtful of the rifle's purported three-kilometer range, they decide to test it out, aiming first at rocks, a moving car on a highway below, and then at a bus carrying Western tourists on the same highway traveling in the opposite direction to the car. Yussef's bullet hits the bus, critically wounding Susan Jones (Cate Blanchett), an American woman from San Diego who is traveling with her husband Richard Jones (Brad Pitt) on vacation. The two boys realize what has happened and flee the scene, hiding the rifle in the hills that night. And the ending story, Amelia is taken back to a Border Patrol station, where she is eventually informed that the children have been found and that their father, Richard, while very furious and outraged, has agreed not to press charges. However, she must be deported from the US where she has been working illegally.

There are many responses for *Innaritu's Babel* movie. From Anton Bitel Eye for Film, he assumed the *Innaritu's Babel* movie is an affecting examination of disconnected lives in an interconnected world. And then Richard Roeper Chicago Sun-Times, he assumed *Innaritu's Babel* movie is one of the most challenging and saddest movies of the year and also one

of the most memorable. Beside the positive responses, there are also negative responses in *Babel* movie, Rob Gonsalves eFilmCritic.com, he assumed *Babel* movie a lumbering, stitched-together mess. Moira Sullivan movie magazine International, assumed *Babel* movie directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu is one of the most compelling films to date.

## **2. Literature Review**

The movie *Babel by Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu* is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concern, there is no researcher previously on the movie *Babel*, at least among student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

## **3. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the research, the writer proposes a problem statement. The problem of the research is how the stereotypes and prejudices reflected in *Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's Babel* movie.

## **4. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of the stereotypes and prejudices that influences the psychological of personality in each of group in Gonzales Innaritu's *Babel* movie by social psychological approach.

## **5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements of the movie,  
and
- b. To analyze the movie based on the social psychological perspective.

## **6. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are as follows:

### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

To give contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly the aspect of a social psychology study.

### **b. Practical Benefit**

In this research, the writer wants to give some contributions to the development of literary study. In addition, it would help researchers who want to examine *Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu's* especially *Babel* movie.

## **7. Research Method**

### **a. Type of the Study**

In this study, the writer uses the descriptive qualitative method as type of research. It purposes to analyze movie based on the structural elements of the movie and to analyze the novel based on the social psychological perspective.

**b. Object of the Study**

The object of this study is characters in “*Babel movie*”.

**c. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

In this research, the writer takes two kinds of data:

**1) Primary Data**

The data in this study is taken from *Babel* movie and the script of this movie. There are two data sources in this study.

**2) Secondary Data**

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary work books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie.

**d. Technique of the Collection Data**

The method the writer uses to collect data is both documentation by collecting and recording the primary and secondary source, library research by summarizing, paraphrasing and wording. The researcher uses documentation as technique of data collecting. The writer takes the following steps such are:

- 1) Watching the movie repeatedly.
- 2) Reading the script to get more information.

- 3) Reading more related references to observe the theory, data and information.
- 4) Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources.
- 5) Classifying the data into some categories.

**e. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the movie and social psychological analysis. Hence, the collected data are interpreted and analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is Social Psychological Approach to show the influence of Prejudices and Stereotypes in *Gonzales Innaritu's Babel* movie.

**B. Social Psychology**

Social psychology means that the scientific field that seeks to understanding the nature and cause individual of behavior and thought in social condition (Baron and Byrne, 1997:6). As field of very principle values which try to understand the characteristic of social behavior and social thought, social psychology can be considered as understanding the wide rage of condition that shape the social behavior and thought of

individual in their behavior, feeling, believing, memorizing and concluding about another people.

In other word, social psychology had most factor affecting social interaction and it's separated in 5 categories, there are action and another characteristic, the basic of the cognitive process like memory and logical process of our thought, believe, idea, and value about another, direct variable of ecology an indirect influence of mental field, the culture context which social behavior and thought occur, biological aspect of our nature and genetic inheritance that are relevant to social behavior( Baron and Byrne, 1997:7).

### **C. Social Relation**

Living in society, can not be separated with social relation with other people or group. Social relation is importance in our life. The collective of society knowledge about social relation. The focus of psychology is understanding how and why individual behavior, feel and think like what they are doing and engage another people. In social relation there are many problem and aspect deal with human behavior. Some of them cooperation and conflict. Cooperation to identify the determination of attraction, social psychology have become interest with how development relation and change, so between human behavior have strong relation and communication with other personal. They build understanding within the same border.

## **D. Social Psychological Analysis**

### **1. Prejudices**

Prejudice is “a set of attitudes which causes, supports, or justifies discrimination” (Rose, 1995: 5). The *Babel movie* reflected prejudices of all categories, there are prejudice refer to a judgment toward a people or a person because of race, social class, gender, ethnicity, age, disability, political beliefs, religion, sexual orientation or other personal characteristics.

#### **a. Prejudice Based on place**

The prejudices based on place of Maroco happen when Ahmed and Yussef talk about Hasan is lie about the rifle because the rifle can't shoot 3 kilometer or shoot a car in under hills.

Ahmed : I told you Hasan's is a liar.

A bus approach. Ahmed point at it

Ahmed : shot at that one.

( Disc 1, 00:07: 26 – 00: 07: 32 )

#### **b. Prejudice Based on Gender**

The prejudices based on gender by female about disability of the referee for lead the game. Chieko talks the ball out of line but the referee talks the ball on the line. And then Chieko tries to explain that argument but the referee stays with that argument. And then Chieko thinks the referee isn't just deaf but also blind too.

Referee : it was on the line

Chieko : you're not just deaf, you're blind.

( Disc 1, 00:19:00 – 00:19:04 )

**c. Prejudices Based on Ethnicity**

The prejudices based on ethnic by white ethnic when Santiago tells the officer that children is Amelia nephew but officer thinks that Amelia is not same with the children. Because, the children is American but Amelia is Mexican and then Amelia tells the officer that children in charge.

Santiago : they're her nephew

Officer : they don't look like you.

Amelia : I'm in charge of them

Officer : do you have their passport.

( Disc 2, 00:08: 48 – 00:08:57 )

**d. Prejudice Based on Intensity**

The prejudices based on high intensity of personal characteristic of Richard when Richard and other tourist in Anwar town. And then one of tourist, Tom push Richard and then Richard tries to push Tom too. Tom says Richard is stupid whereas Richard is smart person because he is magazine editor in Washington.

Tom : what are you doing You stupid fuck?

Richard : leave asshole.

( Disc 2, 00:18: 44 – 00:18:51 )

## **2. Stereotypes**

Stereotypes is a perception that most member of category has some attribute, it is arise directly from process of categorization as especially consistent of assimilation from differences group (Brown,1995:181). People develop stereotypes when they are unable or unwilling to obtain all of the information, they would need to make fair judgments about people or situation. One reason people stereotypes is that it is to difficult to take in all of the complexities of other people. People also tend to stereotypes because of another to need to feel good about one.

### **a. Stereotypes Based on Gender**

The stereotype based on gender by mike as male is visible from Amelia and Mike are conversation. In this conversation Mike gives statement about Mexico because his mom tells him Mexico is dangerous country. Whereas, the people has opinion Mexico is not dangerous.

Amelia : yes, this is mexico

Mike : my mom told us mexico is really dangerous.

( Disc 1, 00:29:29 – 00:29:33 )

### **b. Stereotypes Based on Ethnicity**

The thirteenth stereotype is visible from reporter report their argument about Susan accident that is terrorist attack and thought about terrorist organizations has attack

and actually that is not organization attack but only accident and that only intentional kids.

Reporter : in this helicopter is Susan Jones, an American mother of two who was seriously injured in a terrorist attack. It appears fundamentalist organizations planned the attack.

( Disc 2, 00:49:11- 00: 49: 18 )

### **c. Stereotypes Based on Intensity**

The stereotypes based on high intensity is visible from conversation between Richard and the policeman about helped for Susan and the police tell Richard that America will deal with Marocco but Richard thinks that won't because it's Marocco responsibility. Although, it is impact from America argument about Marocco government.

Richard : how the fuck are they going to deal with it? It's your shitting fucking country responsibility.

Policeman : the Americans want to send one of their helicopter but I think there are some problem.

( Disc 2, 00:27:57 – 00:28:06 )

## **E. Conclusion**

Having analyzed the movie of Babel by Alejandro Gonzales Innaritu with uses social psychological approach in order to

understand how the social relation (stereotypes, prejudices, cooperation, and conflict) problem in society, the researcher draws the following conclusion.

Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in this movie, the director wants to convey a message that is good intention may not achieve good result.

Secondly, based on the social psychological analysis, the director of this movie wants to show that in social life, people lead to have prejudices about other and judge them based on their stereotypes.

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