

**CONFLICT OF CULTURES REFLECTED AT HANIF KUREISHI'S *THE
BLACK ALBUM:*
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by

YULISTIA INDRIANI

A 320100252

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2014



UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

Jl. A. Yani Tromol Pos 1- Pabelan, Kartasura Telp. (0271) 717417 fax. 715448 Surakarta 57102

Surat Persetujuan Artikel Publikasi Ilmiah

Yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini pembimbing skripsi/tugas akhir :

Nama : **Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S**

NIP/NIK : **410**

Nama : **Mauliy Halwat Hikmat, Ph. D**

NIP/NIK : **727**

Telah membaca dan mencermati naskah artikel publikasi ilmiah, yang merupakan ringkasan skripsi/tugas akhir dari mahasiswa :

Nama : **YULISTIA INDRIANI**

NIM : **A 320 100 252**

Program Studi : **FKIP BAHASA INGGRIS**

Judul Skripsi : **CONFLICT OF CULTURES REFLECTED AT HANIF KUREJSHI'S *THE BLACK ALBUM: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH***

Naskah artikel tersebut, layak dan dapat disetujui untuk dipublikasikan.

Demikian persetujuan dibuat, semoga dapat dipergunakan seperlunya

Surakarta, April 2014

Pembimbing Pertama

Pembimbing Kedua

Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S

Mauliy Halwat Hikmat, Ph. D

**CONFLICT OF CULTURES REFLECTED AT HANIF KUREISHI'S *THE
BLACK ALBUM:*
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

by

Yulistia Indriani

A320100252

yulistiaindriani75@gmail.com

*Department of English Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta*

ABSTRACT

The main aim of this study is to find how conflict of cultures is reflected in Hanif Kureishi's "The Black Album" by correlating its structural elements and social historical background of England in late of twentieth century. Indeed, literature and sociology are bound each other due to the assumption that the appearance of literary work is not in social emptiness. This study uses qualitative method in which the data are taken from both primary and secondary data source in form of words, sentence and phrases. Primary data source is Hanif Kureishi's "The Black Album" while secondary data sources are other sources related to the primary data. Data collecting method in this study is library research, and in analyzing the data the researcher employs descriptive analysis. The outcomes of this study are as follows: (1) Hanif Kureishi writes "The Black Album" as the mirror of England society through the structural elements of the novel to reflects the social realities, (2) "The Black Album" is a social document of the England society in which the collision of value and belief between native culture and imigrant culture become the main issues of the country, (3) Hanif Kureishi wrote the novel to critisize the Western people not to disciminate imigrant people.

Key words : *Society, social reality, Conflict of Cultures, Muslim Fundamentalism, social document, collision of value and belief.*

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Study

Culture is one of some important aspects which cannot be separated from human life. Cultures are like root where the body of tree is life. It gives perception about something, judgement, ideas of one people and others and the way human communicate with others. Cultures are more than about speech, dress, and food customs. The differences between culture rise a conflict (beyondintractability.org).

Culture can be seen in every country. One of the country with many cultures is London. The rising population in Britain especially England makes this country become multiculturalism. The arrival of immigrants from some countries such as the West Indies and South Asia brought about the idea of multicultural Britain and also England (bbc.co.uk). The multiculturalism brings the difference of value and belief between them and then cause the cultural conflict. As the result of the its difference is discrimination. There is still discrimination and a socio-economic imbalance in London.

One of the novel which reflects the difference of value and belief can cause the cultural conflict is *The Black Album* written by Hanif Kureishi. Hanif Kureishi was born in Bromley, England, December 5, 1954, to an Indian father and an English mother (postcolonialstudies.emory.edu). He wrote *The Black Album* in 1989s and this novel published in 1995. The novel is consisting of 276 pages and 22 chapters. It tells about Shahid as a new Pakistani student in London College who feels confused to choose between his beautiful lecturer, Deedee who introduced him about liberalism or his friends, Riaz with his radical fundamentalism. One day Riaz and his followers wanted to burn a book which written by Rushdie with the title *The Satanic Verses* because of the content of *The Satanic Verses* insults Islam, prophet Muhammad and his wives. In another side, Deedee thought that novel was just free imagination. Shahid stood off two different culture and perspective. In the end of the story Riaz and his friends got hurt because of their radical

action bombed a bookstore and Shahid choosed Deedee. They ran away together to seaside town.

There are four reasons why the writer is intersting in studying this novel. The first reason is the character of the novel in which suitable with the reality of England through the characterization. Second is the interesting conflict in the novel which consits of external conflict between Muslim fundamentalism and liberalism, and internal conflict of Shahid as the major character. Third reason is the style used by the author which the use of simple and complex sentence makes the novel is easy to understand. The last is the topic of the novel: cultural conflict in which become the main issues of the society.

2. Literary Review

There are some of literature review related to *The Black Album* by Hanif Kureishi. People who are interested in *The Black Album* are James Saynor, Donald Weber, Fredick M. Holmes, Michael Reder, and Rachel Donadio. But researcher in here is more focused on culture in the novel in which reflect the social reality.

3. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writers proposed the problem “How is conflict of culture reflected in Hanif Kureishi’s *The Black Album*?”.

4. Objective of the Study

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study are to describe *The Black Album* novel based on structural elements of novel and to analyze the cultural confict reflected in *The Black Album* novel by Hanif Kureishi based on a Sociological Approach.

5. Benefits of the Study

The researcher really hopes that his research on *The Black Album* has benefits. The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits: theoretical benefit and practical benefit. The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the

knowledge, an academic reference by other researcher to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *The Black Album* novel and to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest with literary study on the novel from a Sociological Approach.

6. Underlying Theory

One the important source which can reflect the difference of value and belief is novel as the literary work because literature itself has a connection with the society. First, according to Wellek and Warren, literature at any given time mirrors the current social situation and literature depicts some of social reality (Wellek and Warren 1962: 90). Second, the writer has been a citizen, has pronounced on questions of social and political importance, has taken part in the issues of his time (Wellek and Warren 1962: 92). The last, through the literary work, the writer can criticize the society in the whole real life.

According to Laersonson and Swingwood (1972: 17-21), there are three types of sociology of literature: sociology of the writer, sociology of the society, and sociology of the reader. Sociology of the writer is related to the situation of the writer. It focused on the author's view about the society and life. Sociology of the society is related to where the author lives. Sociology of the reader is study about the influence of the literary works to the readers.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Type of the Study

According to the kind of source, this research can be categorized as the qualitative research. The object of the study, technique of data collection, and technique of the data analysis are as follows.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the study is *The Black Album* novel written by Hanif Kureishi which was written in 1989s and this novel published in 1995. The novel is consisting of 276 pages and 22 chapters with Shahid Hasan, a

Pakistani student, Deedee Osgood as a Western people and Riaz Al-Hussain as the major characters of the novel.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

The data which is used in this research are text such as: words, phrases, and sentences used in this novel. There are two data sources that are needed to do this research. They are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *The Black Album* by Hanif Kureishi, and the secondary data sources are taken from other sources related to the research, such as: dictionary, journal, theory that can support the analysis.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The methods of collecting data is note taking, with the steps are: reading the novel, determining the character that will be analyzed, taking notes of important thing bot of primary and secondary data sources, classifying and determining the relevant data, and then looking for the books to search any information that relates with the novel such as: another research which aslo analyze this novel, response of the reader, identity, etc.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The data will be analyzed descriptively with structural analysis. This analysis is intended to get the description of structural element of the novel, such as: character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, theme, and also the meaning of that element. After that, research data will be analyzed by sociological approach which is included is social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. This sociological analysis will give the writer perspective, opinion and critical about the cultural conflict which happen in England.

C. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Novel as a literary work reflects the social reality which is seen from social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect.

1. Social Aspect

Hanif Kureishi's *The Black Album* reflects the real social condition of England. Hanif Kureishi describes some of the characters to represent three different social class. Dr. Andrew Brownlow and Deedee Osgood represent as the upper class person who work as lecturer with big salary and good background of the study; Shahid Hasan, a Pakistani students represents the middle class; and Strapper who does not work and has a bad background represents the lower class.

Another social aspect which reflect in the novel is social status. This case is reflected in novel through the characterization. Dr. Andrew Brownlow who works as a lecturer and sometimes join in the political party, is included in high social status because he has an important role in society. In the contradictory side, Strapper who has a work unpermanently is included in lower social status.

In *The Black Album*, social relation between classess has a good relation. For example, between Dr. Andrew Brownlow and Riaz Al-Hussain who come from the different class. Dr. Brownlow who works as a lecturer and has high salary is a friend of Riaz who comes from the middle class. Although sometimes, they have a serious debt about religion.

Meanwhile, the relation between gender in the real life of England runs well. Women has the same position with men. Women has the right in their family. Women can choose how many children they want to have. In 1928 they were given the vote in general election with the same terms as men (bbc.co.uk). This case is reflected in *The Black Album* through one of the novel's character, Deedee Osgood. When she was 18, she went out to her home and looked for her own job and money until she could pay her study and became a lecturer same as Dr. Brownlow.

But the relation between race and ethnic in England is bad. There was still a discrimination and socio-economic imbalance in London among them because they were still minority group in the country (bbc.co.uk). It can be seen from the novel. The discrimination have ever

happened to Tahira. She experienced how hard to wear hijab in England. When she went to somewhere, white people who saw her constantly mocked and reviled. She ever told to Chad that one day he met with one guy, then the man tried to rip her scraf off and said that this was England not Dubai (TBA: 105). When the first time Shahid came to London, he also mocked by Western. Shahid convinced they were full on sneering and disgust and hatred. It made Shahid became paranoid, confused, and scared of going into certain places (TBA: 10).

The different race, ethnic, and culture can be seen from the name of the character. Hanif Kureishi chooses the name 'Dr. Andrew Brownlow' to show that this person is a western person with white skin and blond hair. Meanwhile, Hanif Kureishi chooses the name 'Shahid Hasan' to show that this character is a eastern people with dark skin and black hair.

2. Economic Aspect

Economic aspect is drew in *The Black Album* through the existence of many kinds of job and its influence of the economic condition of the people.

Bengali family which live in poor condition. The family is Muslim with black-skin. The head of the family has two jobs. He works in the office during the day and the restaurant until two in the night (TBA: 37). But they live in insufficiency condition. They do not have fridges, televisions and cookers (TBA: 95).

Meanwhile, Chili and Zulma who run the bussiness live in glamour and wealth. He only uses the branded thing on him. He drives BMW. He only drinks black coffee and neat Jack Daniels: his suits were Boss, his underwear Calvin Klein (TBA: 38). He has a luxurious BMW (TBA: 43).

3. Political Aspect

Hanif Kureishi do not descirbe political aspect clearly in *The Black Album*. The political system which is applied in England in the late of twentieth century is liberalism. Liberalism is the political doctrine which protect individual freedom as the concern of politic.

Government's role in protecting the individual freedom as the concern politic of liberalism is shown in *The Black Album* through the plot structure of the story especially in climax time. One day, when Riaz and his friends tried to burn *The Satanic Verses* in their college's field after spoke about their perspective about the book, Deedee tried to call police and then some of polices came to the location (TBA: 225). Because Muslim Fundamentalism try to burn the novel which is the action is considered break individual freedom, police as the part of government try to handle the tragedy. It is proved that goverment has the different role in protecting the individual freedom.

4. Science and Technology Aspect

Hanif Kureishi does not explain clearly in *The Black Album* about science and technology aspect like political aspect. But the narration which tells that most people go to everywhere by public transportation such as cab, bus, and train, is indicated as the technology of transportation.

5. Cultural Aspect

Cultural aspect which is reflected at Hanif Kureishi's *The Black Album* is about two different perspective between western culture and eastern culture, western fashion and lifestyle, free sex and language.

Dr. Brownlow, Deedee Osgood and Strapper is the character created by Hanif Kureishi as the Western people. Phisically, all of them are described like the real Western with white-skinned and blond hair. Contradictory with Riaz Al-Hussain, Muhammad Shahabuddin Ali-Shah or Chad, and Shahid Hasan who created by Hanif Kureishi as the Eastern people. Western people and Eastern have their own culture and perspective.

Language used in England become variety. It is proved from the narration of the novel. In his bed-sitting-room, Shahid ever hear arguments, murmurings, conversations in Punjabi, Urdu, Hindi, English, and cacophonies of all babbling away outside (TBA: 35).

Different culture between Western and immigrant is proved from the narration and also the diction. The use of 'assalamualaikum' and 'hijab' are indicated the culture of immigrant people who are mostly Muslim. Shahid as the main character of *The Black Album* had introduced about night-life in London by his lover, Deedee. They went to the club, watched most of people kissed, hugged in public place.

6. Religious Aspect

Religious aspect which is reflected in *The Black Album* is about discrimination of religion, belief and value religion between Eastern Muslim and Western.

The Black Album is not only explained social discrimination but also discrimination in religion. It can be seen from narration and conversation. The discrimination ever happened to Tahira. She experienced how hard to wear hijab in England. When she went to somewhere, white people who saw her constantly mocked and reviled. She ever told to Chad that one day he met with one guy, then the man tried to rip her scarf off and said that this was England not Dubai.

Based on the explanation above, Hanif Kureishi writes *The Black Album* as the mirror of England society through the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect and religious aspect. The things which is most talked in *The Black Album* are about culture and religion. Because of the rising immigrant population in England, this country become multiculturalism and has a different religion in the whole country. It can be said that *The Black Album* is a social document of the England society because in that period, cultural aspect and religious aspect became the main issues of the country. The main point, Hanif Kureishi writes the novel to criticize Western people not to discriminate immigrant people who move in the whole country.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGESSTION

Based on the analisis, the researcher concluded that: first, based on the structural analysis, it is shown in this novel, Hanif Kureishi wants to deliver moral message that difference perspective between two ideology and cultures cause conflict of value which happened in England at that time. Because of that Hanif Kureishi creates the characters like Shahid Hassan as the Pakistani imigrants and Deedee Osgood as Western native person which is included with the real context of the society through the setting of time in 1989, setting of place in London and diction of the novel as an addition.

Based on the sociological analysis, it is approved that in this novel Hanif Kureishi reflects the social reality of English society at the end on the twentieth century among the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology aspect, cultural aspect and religious aspect. But Hanif Kureishi is more focused on cultural and religious aspect which can cause the collision of value and belief between native culture and imigrant culture. Through *The Black Album*, Hanif Kureishi wants to criticize western people as native people who live in England not to discriminate imigrant people who move in the whole country.

Related to the conclusion above, the researcher suggest to other researchers to analyze this novel by using another approach such as: post-colonial studies or individual psychological approach.

REFERENCE:

- Bannet, Sylvan. 1963. *An Introduction to Literature*. Boston: Title Browns and Co.
- Burn, Tom and Elizabeth Burns. 1973. *Sociology of Literature and Drama*. Middlesex: Penguin Book.
- Donadio, Rachel. 2008. *My Beautiful London*. New York Times Magazine. Aug, 10: 24.
- Holmes, Fredick M. 2001. *The Postcolonial Subject divided between East and West: Kureishi's The Black Album as an Intertext of Rushdie's The Satanic Verses*. Papers on Language and Literature. 37 (3): 296.
- Kennedy, X. J. 1983. *Literature on Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*. Toronto: Little Brow and Company.
- Klarer, Mario. 1999. *An Introduction to Literaty Studies*. London.: Routledge
- Koesnosoebroto, B. S. 1988. *The Anatomy Prose Fiction*. Jakarta: Departemen Pendidikn dan Kebudaan Direktorat Jendral Pendidikan Tinggi Proyek Pengembangan Lembaga Pendidikan Tenaga Kependidikan
- Kureishi, Hanif. 2000. *The Black Album*. London: Faber and Faber.
- Lebaron, Michelle and Venashri Pillay. 2006. *Conflict Across Culture: A Unique Experience of Bridging Differences*. USA: Intercultural Press
- Matsumoto, David and Linda Juang. 2004. *Culture and Psychology*. Australia: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Reder, Michael. 1997. *The Black Album*. Review of Contemporary Fiction. 17 (1): 189.
- Saynor, James. 1995. *Mirror Shades-The Black Album by Hanif Kureishi*. New Statesment and Society. 8 (342): 40

Swingewood, Alan and Diana Laurenson. 1972. *The Sociology of Literature*.
London: Paladin

Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. 1962. *Theory of Literature*. New York: A
Harvest Book

Weber, Donald. 1997. "No Secrets Were Safe From Me": Situating Hanif
Kureishi. *The Massachusetts Review*. 38 (1): 119.

VIRTUAL REFERENCE

<http://www.powerofculture.nl/en/specials/culture-and-conflict/Introduction>.

<http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/culture-conflict>.

<http://postcolonialstudies.emory.edu/hanif-kureishi/>.

http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/britain/england_facts.htm.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/history/20th_century/life_20th_century/revision/5/

http://www.channel4learning.com/support/programmenotes/netnotes/section/printyes/sectionid100663333_printyes.htm.

<http://www.poverty.org.uk/35/index.shtml>.

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/consumerism>.

<http://www.england.org.za/england-politics.php#.UsBk19koLIU>.

<http://www.england.org.za/england-religion.php#.UsBsjdkoLIU>.

<http://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/England.html>.

<http://projectbritain.com/government/index.htm>.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8432577>

http://prince.org/faq/7_General_Prince_FAQ

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/february/14/newsid_2541000/2541149.stm

<http://www.brooklynso.org/courses/43.1/weber.html>