

**PORTRAYAL OF EAST AND WEST AS SEEN IN *THE WARRIOR'S WAY*  
MOVIE: A POST-COLONIAL STUDY**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining  
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



**By:**

**NUR FAUZIAH HASIBUAN**

**12150021**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

**FACULTY OF LETTERS AND CULTURAL SCIENCES**

**STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN KALIJAGA**

**YOGYAKARTA**

**2016**

## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I declare that this thesis is my own and I am completely responsible for the contain of this thesis. All the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledge by means of complete references.

Yogyakarta, 21 March 2016



Hasibuan

Student Registration No.12150021



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA  
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA

Jl. Marsda Adisucipto Yogyakarta 55281 Telp./Fak. (0274) 513949  
Web : <http://adab.uin-suka.ac.id> E-mail : [fadib@uin-suka.ac.id](mailto:fadib@uin-suka.ac.id)

**PENGESAHAN SKRIPSI/TUGAS AKHIR**

Nomor: UIN.02/DA/PP.009/ 707 /2016

Skripsi / Tugas Akhir dengan judul:

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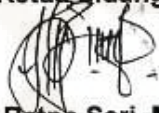
Yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh :

Nama : NUR FAUZIYAH HASIBUAN  
NIM : 12150021  
Telah dimunaqosyahkan pada : Rabu, 30 Maret 2016  
Nilai Munaqosyah : A-


Dan telah dinyatakan diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga.

TIM MUNAQOSYAH


Ketua Sidang

  
Ulyati Retno Sari, M.Hum.  
NIP 19771115 200501 2 002

Penguji I

  
Witriani, M.Hum  
NIP 19720801 200604 2 002

Penguji II

  
Danial Hidayatullah, M.Hum  
NIP 19760405 200901 1 016

Yogyakarta, 05 April 2016  
Dekan  
Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya



  
Dr. Zamzam Afandi, M.Ag  
NIP 19631111 199403 1 002



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA  
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA  
Jl. MarsdaAdisucipto Yogyakarta 55281 Telp./Fak. (0274)513949  
Web : <http://adab.uin-suka.ac.id> E-mail : [adab@uin-suka.ac.id](mailto:adab@uin-suka.ac.id)

## NOTA DINAS

Hal : Skripsi

a.n. Nur Fauziah Hasibuan

Yth.

Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

UIN Sunan Kalijaga

Di Yogyakarta

*Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.*

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara :

Nama : NUR FAUZIAH HASIBUAN

NIM : 12150021

Prodi : Sastra Inggris

Fakultas : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

Judul :

**PORTRAYAL OF EAST AND WEST AS SEEN IN *THE WARRIOR'S WAY* MOVIE: A POST-COLONIAL STUDY**

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*Wassalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.*

Yogyakarta, 18 Desember 2016  
Pembimbing,

Ulyati Retnosari M. Hum  
NIP. 19771115 2005001 2 002

## ABSTRACT

Western study about East has been developing since Napoleon expansion to Egypt in the eighteen century. The study about East, such as its cultures, customs, languages, and religions, is popular among Western. East becomes an interesting object for Western study because it is special, exotic, and different . In this case, *The Warrior's Way* movie presents both of East and West. East is represented by the group of ninjas named Sad Flute and West is represented by the inhabitants of Lode Paris of West. In this movie, ninjas play a role as assassins whose duty is to kill the enemy to reach the ambition to be the strongest clan. One day, one of Sad Flute ninjas named Yang did a great mistake by saving the son of the enemy. Yang escaped to a Western city Lode Paris of West. In this foreign place Yang was treated well by Western. There differences between Yang's original land and the city where he escaped were seen. This distinction establishes an issue of Orientalism about how *The Warrior's Way* movie portrays East and West through characters and settings. The research analyzes this phenomena by applying post-colonial theoretical lens. Meanwhile, Orientalism approach is used to explainn how East and West are portrayed in the movie. The method of this research is descriptive qualitative by conducting library research. As a result, this research finds that the distinction between the portrayal of East and West in this movie emphasizes primitiveness, and despotism of East besides the democratic of West. In addition the research also finds East-West binary opposition to emphasize the distinction between them.

*Keywords : East, West, Postcolonial, Orientalism*



## ABSTRAK

Studi Barat tentang Timur berkembang sejak ekspansi Napoleon ke Mesir pada abad ke-18. Studi ketimuran, meliputi budaya, adat istiadat, bahasa dan kepercayaannya menjadi populer di kalangan orang Barat. Timur menjadi objek yang sangat menarik bagi orang Barat untuk dipelajari karena kespesialan, keeksotikan dan perbedaannya. Edward Said, professor dari Universitas Columbia menyebut studi Barat tentang Timur dengan Orientalisme dan orang barat yang mempelajari Timur disebut dengan Orientalis. Para Orientalis dengan pengetahuan mereka tentang Timur menyebutnya sebagai 'yang lain' karena Timur berbeda dengan 'kami' (Barat). Sebutan 'yang lain' ini di deskripsikan sebagai tempat yang sangat jauh dan mempunyai budaya dan cara hidupnya sendiri yang berbeda dan aneh. Orientalis mencoba untuk membangun sebuah pemikiran tentang Timur dengan membuat perbedaan antara Orient (Timur) dan Occident (Barat). Dalam hal ini, film *The Warrior's Way* menghadirkan Tiur dan Barat dengan kondisi yang berbeda. Kondisi ini menimbulkan isu Orientalisme tentang bagaimana film *The Warrior's Way* menggambarkan Timur dan Barat melalui tokoh dan keadaannya. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Post-colonial dengan pendekatan Orientalisme untuk menganalisa fenomena ini. Metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif deskriptif dengan melakukan kajian pustaka. Sebagai hasil penelitian ini, perbedaan antara penggambaran Timur dan Barat dalam film ini menekankan keprimitifan, and kelaliman Timur disamping sifat demokrasi Barat. Film ini juga memperlihatkan oposisi biner antara Barat dan Timur untuk menekankan perbedaan antara keduanya.

*Kata Kunci : Barat, Timur, Postkolonial, Orientalism*

**MOTTO**

**خير الناس أنفعهم للناس**

**"Sebaik-baik Manusia adalah yang bermanfaat bagi  
sesamanya."**

**(akira)**

## **DEDICATION**

Sincerely, I dedicate my graduating paper to

The Greatest Man in the world, my father, Mr. Istoyo

The Greatest Woman ever, my mother, Mrs. Darwati

My two precious sister and brother,

Diana PratiwiFaizah and Muhammad FaisMustaqim



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*Wassalamu 'alaikum wr.wb*

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The Researcher

  
Nur Fauziah Hasibuan

Student Registration No.: 12150021

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a work of art. It is always possible to catch people's interest. Abrams argues that, "literature is applied to a number of works in drama and prose fiction, which have common view that the human condition is essentially absurd, and this condition can be adequately represented only work of literature that are themselves absurd (2009: 1)". There are some kinds of literary works such as prose, poetry, short story, and drama. Each work has its own aesthetic values that catch people's interest. Not only comes with aesthetic form, literary work also exists as the reflection of human life.

As the researcher mentioned before that there are kinds of literary works, one of them is drama. Drama is one of many kinds of literary works. According to *Oxford Advance Learner's dictionary* drama is "a play for the theater, radio or television (1995: 351)". In this era, the development of science and technology brings many changes. Then, today drama comes with a new package called movie. It is the new version of drama. Unlike other literary works, movie tells a story by providing moving pictures and sounds. Movie with its features gives a clear description about the story. Similar with literature movie is often made as a reflection of human life.

As the reflection of human life, movie sometimes is made based on the true story. The *Black Hawk Down*, the movie that is released in 2001 for instance, this movie is made based on the true story about American soldiers who are

delegated to a city in Somalia named Mogadishu in 1993 (<http://www.movie.co.id/black-hawk-down> 25/03/16). Their duty is to arrest an Islamic leader, Muhammad Farah Aidid. Unfortunately, this mission is failed because in fact Aidid's armies have well prepared to face this burnt. This made American government shocked since it is out of their approximation. This is proved that movie can be made as the reflection of human life thus, it is appropriate to be discussed.

There are many genres of movies, such as horror, love, and action. In this research the present researcher prefers to analyze action movie. Action movie is not an easy movie to make because according to Jose Arroyo, action movie is contemporary attracted little in the way of prestige. It is associated with the emergence of the blockbuster and high concept movie making (as cited in Tasker, 2004:1). Then, in producing action movie, it is needed to consider the concept of movie making. In the other hand, when action movie is purposed to show the arguments, based on Tasker, it is divided into three generic grouping. They are; crime and urban action, science-fiction and war (Tasker, 2004: 4). Thus, those three categories are "differing perspective on key components of actions cinema such as the articulation of identity through discourse of gender, race, class and nation, the heroic body and violence (Tasker, 2004: 4)". Furthermore, the movie analyzed in this present research is an action movie that contains an issue of race.

*The Warrior's Way* movie is a movie supervised by Sngmoo Lee. It was published in 2010. *The Warrior's Way* tells the story about an Eastern ninja who runs away from his native place – East - to Lode Paris of West – part of Western

city. This movie presents two races, both are East and West however they are presented differently. Thus, the researcher infers that this movie contains an issue about relationship between East and West. The relationship between East and West is domination relationship since European colonialisms have effected many regions all over the world (Hamadi, 2014:39).

Furthermore the development of Western imperialism leads them to claim themselves as having authority to speak everything about East. This is because Western begins to study about East – Orient - such as; its culture, history, and language. Thus, Western people “who teaches, writes about, or researches the Orient – and this applies whether the person is an anthropologist, sociologist, ..... - either in its specific or its general aspect, is an Orientalist (Said, 2003: 2)”. Orientalist then constructs the images of Orient in its own way that is called orientalism. This thought started to develop from Napoleon expansion to Egypt in Eighteenth century. Western – in this case England – as the colonizer speaks for describing Egyptian. This is because Western has the knowledge about it. Having knowledge means knowing about it deeply, more than the object itself. In this case, Balfour said that “to have such knowledge of such thing is to dominate it, to have authority over it (as cited in Said, 2003: 32)”.

Orientalist tries to construct images of East. Here, *The Warrior's Way* as an action movie presents both of Eastern and Western people with their setting and social condition. As what has been discussed before, movie can has a purpose to show an idea or argument. Thus, the portrayal of East and West in *The*

*Warrior's Way* movie is needed to be analyzed since it contains of Orientalism idea about East and West.

The gap happening between Western and Eastern creates a lot of damages, like what happened in the First and Second World War. Hence, in Islamic study Allah mentions that differences are not disunion. It is the color of the world. Thus, what is needed is to respect each other. The diversity happens in the movie is possible to be united because of Allah's Will, like Allah says in Holy Qur'an

وَلَوْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ لَجَعَلَكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَكِنْ يُضِلُّ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَلِئَسْأَلَنَّا عَنْ مَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ( النحل: ٩٣ )

93. And in Allah had Willed, He could have made you [of] one religion, but He causes to stray whom He Wills and guides whom He Wills. And you will surely be questioned about what you used to do (Hilali and Khan)

Allah had made diversity in the world in order to make people know one another. This is written in the Holy Qur'an. It is written, He has created us (humans) male and female in different groups and races to see and learn one another. Thus nothing differs people in front of Him, but their obedience to His command

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ  
(الحجرات: ١٣)

13. O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted. (Hilali and Khan)

The verses above prove that in Islamic perspective race discrimination is not supported. It worsens the harmony of people in the universe. Moreover, colonialism practices produce also violence acts.

Finally this research is important to be done to establish people's consciousness to colonialism practice. It also can be consideration for people to filter every social issue because it is not always valid information. Thus it will not build a false assumption. This research is also dedicated to establish people's consciousness about humanity. Diversity among human is not a shame. It is what colors human life. Humans only need to understand and respect one another.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Based on the background of study above, this research has a problem that is needed to be answered. The problem is, how does the movie portray the condition of West and East through their characters and settings?

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

Based on the problem statement above; the research aims to explain how the movie portrays the condition of East and West through their characters and settings

#### 1.4 Significances of Study

Referring to the objectives above, the analysis of *The Warrior's Way* movie develops people's knowledge and view about the gap between Eastern and Western people. So, this research contributes some significance theoretically and practically.

##### 1. Theoretically

Theoretically, this research enriches the study of postcolonial theory in orientalism approach. It also can be another reference for students commonly and English Literature Department students especially, when they need more sources in postcolonial theory.

##### 2. Practically

Practically, this research can increase people's consciousness of colonial practice that spread broadly today. It also shows people that some groups of western people still do the struggle to influence Eastern culture by their culture.

#### 1.5 Literature Review

There are some previous researches that relates to this present research. Those researches use the same theories as this research does, namely orientalism and postcolonial theories. The first research relating to the term of post colonialism is a research entitled "A Study of Post-Colonial; Western Representation of East in *Unleashed* Movie". It is written by Septian Dona Prasetyo (2013) as the student of English Literature Department in State Islamic



University Sunan Kalijaga. The research uses qualitative method. In this research, the researcher applies orientalism and post-colonial theories to analyze the data. The research observes how Danny (one of the character in the movie) is constructed by imperialism ideology and he is represented by colonizer's stereotype. The result of this research is that the character of Danny is constructed by imperialism and binary opposition ideology such as civilized; uncivilized, superior; inferior and educated; uneducated. Danny is also portrayed with some images such as exotic, stupid and animal like.

The next research that relates to the study of post-colonial and orientalism is the research entitled "Primitiveness of the Caribbean as an Orientalism Discourse: A Post-Colonial Study on Daniel Dafoe's *Robinson Crusoe*: (2009). The research is written by Afri Meldam., the student of English Department in Andalas University. In his research, he examines the discourse of bias of East by applying binary opposition between the main character and the native Caribbean. Meldam's research uses documentation qualitative research design. The theory that is applied is orientalism by Edward Said. In his research there are some binary opposition between the main character and the native Caribbean that are intentionally presented by the author to defend Western domination. This research concludes that Daniel Dafoe is also one of Western Orientalists.

Another research in orientalism is written by Imam Ma'ruf Khoerullah. The research entitled "The Representation of Persians as Villains in a Movie '300: An Analysis of Orientalism Perspective by Edward Said" (2014). He uses a qualitative descriptive design for the research. In this research, he examines how

Persians as the villains were represented in a movie '300' and how its representation relates to the sociopolitical issue between the U.S. government and Iran. Persian is the East that is colonized. The images of Persian are also constructed in a bad character such as weak, cruel, and wild. So, the result of the research is there has found that Persian is characterized with weak, cruel, and wild like animal. They corrupt in order to empower their position as antagonist character in the movie. This is the way of Western to make a worse assumption for Eastern.

Different from all those previous researches in orientalism and post colonialism, this present research applies the theories in the movie entitled *The Warrior's Way* (2010). Meanwhile, this present research focuses on the portrayal of East and West. Then, this research is different from other researches and it is also applied in different object that has not been discussed before.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

This research uses two theories. The first is post-colonial theory in orientalism approach for the prior theory. The second theory is film theory as the supporting theory.

### **1.6.1 Post-Colonialism Theory**

Post-colonial theory is the term that refers to ideological discourse about the revolution of colonized countries. This movement comes against imperialism. Young argues that "the term of post-colonial used in the social sciences with specific Marxist reference and today it continues in the language, economic,

political science and international relation (2001: 58)". It is used firstly in the 1950s and 1960s. Imperialism influences many aspects of the colonized, mostly in its culture and thought. Post colonialism raises the thought of subjunctive group to be free from imperialism.

Since post-colonial is an anti-colonial movement, it "is used to cover all the culture affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day (Walder as cited in Eliot and Owens, 1998: 162)". This research uses post-colonial theory to see the impact of colonization in a long period that is done by most of Western countries – Europe - to many parts of over the world – Egypt, India and Persia for instance. The impact of colonization happens not only in political and economic aspects but also in the social and cultural aspects.

A western person who studies about East is called Orientalist and the knowledge about it is Orientalism. Thus, based on Said argument "orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the orient" and (the most time) "the occident" (as cited in Hamadi, 2014: 40). In terms of Orientalism, the words Orient and Occident are always related to East and West. In this case Said argues that, "there is real analogy for taking fixed, more or less total geographical position toward a wide variety of social, linguistic, political, and historical.....but Orientalism is a field with considerable geographical ambition (2003: 50)." The geographical region of the Orient and the Occident is an imaginative geographic.

Edward W Said is the professor of Columbia University who stands against orientalism ideology. He criticizes Orientalist thought in his phenomenal book *Orientalism* in 1978. That is because Orientalist tries to build some images of the Orient that they are “stressing the sensuality, primitiveness and despotism of the East underlined the rational and democratic qualities of the West” (Carter, 2006: 116). Here are three usages of Orientalism as points out by Said;

Firstly, it refers to the long period of cultural and political relations between Europe and Asia. Secondly, the term is used to refer to the academic study of oriental languages and culture which dates from the early nineteen century. And thirdly, it is used to refer to the stereotypical views of the orient developed by many generation of western writers and scholars, with their prejudice views of Orientals in inherently criminal and deceitful (Carter, 2006: 116).

In this research Said’s criticism is used to be the theoretical lens to see the images of East and West that are built in this movie.

### **1.6.2 Film Theory**

Film is a work of art. It is another way for telling a story. Villarejo argues that “in the late nineteen century film has been a dynamic medium, put to use other than those of the commercial narrative form (2007: 23)”. There are two important aspects in analyzing a scene in the movie; Mise-en-scene and cinematography. Mise-en-scene is as the world of movie because it supposes to make movie such a real life. It has six components such as; setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior. Those components are needed to make the film is like a real life.

Beside mise-en-scene, another aspect that is not less important to help the analysis of movie is cinematography. Cinematography refers to what to do with camera when it shoots an object. It is camera distance, camera angle, and camera's movements that belong to cinematography (Villarejo, 2007: 36). In the cinematography there is framing technique to notice what elements are included or excluded in the camera.

Here, Villarejo points that "film analysis has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing distance, that is, using the human body as the reference point for each designation:

- a. The extreme long shot (ESL), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;
- b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain small by the background;
- c. The medium long shot (MLS), in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- d. The medium shot (MS), in which the audience moves slightly to frame the human from the waist up;
- e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which the audience are slightly closer and see human from the chest up;
- f. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human;
- g. The extreme close-up (ECU), in which the audience see a mere portion of the face (2007: 38)."

## **1.7 Method of Research**

This part contains of the type of research, data source, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

Method is the tool to gain the purpose of the study. According to Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (1995), "a method is a way of doing something (Pg. 734)". The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method because the research means "exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem (Creswell, 2009: 22)". In this method the researcher "increasingly uses a theoretical lens or perspective research which provides an overall orienting lens for the study of question of gender, class, and race (Cresswell, 2009: 70)". The type of this research is library research, since most of sources are found in the library. This research uses the strategy of inquiry of case study because the research conducts it depend on some phenomena appeared in the movie.

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

The sources of the data are *The Warrior's Way* movie and script. The primary data are pictures, dialogues and acts of the characters whether East or West that portray the different among East and West. The researcher takes the

supporting sources from other information found in internet, journals and books. The data also come from previous related articles.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

The researcher conducts some steps in collecting the data. First, the researcher watches the movie intensively to get deep understanding about its intrinsic elements such as; theme, character and characterization, plot, and setting. Second, the researcher conducts close reading to the movie script to find which dialogues can be chosen for the data. Some pictures, dialogues and acts that relate to the research question to be the data of the research. Third, the researcher collects all data found from the movie and the script. Afterwards, the researcher classifies the data based on the factors that influence life changes of Yang and the differences between East and West conditions.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

Data analysis technique is the steps or process of analyzing the data by fix theory to find the answer of the research question. In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive analysis because “qualitative research sometimes is undertaken of purely descriptive process – such as the antropologist’s ethnography detailing way of life in a previously unknown tribe (Babbie, 2010:394). In the method of data analysis, the researcher conducts some steps to analyze the data. First, the researcher classifies the data found into some categories based on the form. The forms of data are dialogues, acts, and pictures.



Second, this classification appears some patterns of relation between East and West. Then, those data are analyzed using the theory chosen.

### **1.8 Paper Organization**

This research consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the research. It consists of background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The first chapter gives general information about the research. The second chapter consists of elements of *The Warrior's Way* movie. This chapter presents the intrinsic elements of the movie. The third chapter is the analysis. In this chapter, the data found to be analyzed. The fourth chapter consists of the conclusion of the research and suggestions for the next research. This chapter shows the finding of the analysis that answers the problem statements.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

In the eighteenth century the study of East – its customs, languages, and religions for instance - was increased among Western. Western begins to explore more about East. They make East as the object of their studies. Western study about East is known as Orientalism and people who study about East is called Orientalists. Orientalists, with their knowledge about East, believe as having authority for establishing images about it based on their background. In the eyes of Orientalists, East is always left behind from the development of West. In the other hand to make better the quality of West, they make such a binary between East and West. Thus, it strengthens their position.

This movie aims to show how the images of East and West are presented implicitly in *The Warrior's Way* movie. After conducting the analysis, this research finds that the movie portrays East and West differently through their characters and settings. East is portrayed with their primitiveness and despotism, while West is portrayed with democratic quality. East primitiveness is seen from Yang's conditions in the Lode Paris of West. East despotism is presented by Saddest Flute leadership style. Besides, in this movie West is portrayed by the figure of Eight Ball and the native of Load Paris of West who are democratic for treating Yang well, an Eastern ninja.

After conducting the analysis this research conclude that the impact of colonialism that establish the thought of Eastern inferiority and Western

superiority still happen nowadays. It is seen from this movie that implicitly represents the East-West binary opposition.

In the other hand, the researcher considers there are some aspects from the movie that is interesting to be analyzed more. Thus it can be a suggestion for the next researcher. The next researcher can analyze about Yang changing personality by psychoanalysis or the next researcher can compare between Yang and Lynne in facing their problem by psychoanalysis.

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## **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Name : Nur Fauziah Hasibuan

Place and Date of Birth : Temanggung, 25 December 1992

Address : Manggong Rt/Rw 01/02,  
Ngadirejo, Temanggung,  
JATENG

Email : [boenzfaqod@gmail.com](mailto:boenzfaqod@gmail.com)

No Hp : 085784549075

### **EDUCATIONALBIOGRAPHY**

1. (1999-2005) : SD MUHAMMADIYAH, NGADIREJO
2. (2005-2011) : PM. DARUSSALAM GONTOR
3. (2011-2012) : INSTITUT STUDI ISLAM DARUSSALAM (ISID)
4. (2012-2016) : UIN SUNAN KALIJAGA

### **ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

1. Chief of Student Organization of Pondok Modern (SOPM)
2. Chief of UKM SPBA (2014/2015)
3. Secretary of Language and Cultural Festival (FBB) 2013
4. Secretary of English Conversation Club (ECC)

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. Scout Envoy (2009)
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Winner of Indonesian Public Speaking Competition (2009)
3. 1<sup>st</sup> Winner of Oration Competition in OPAC (2012)