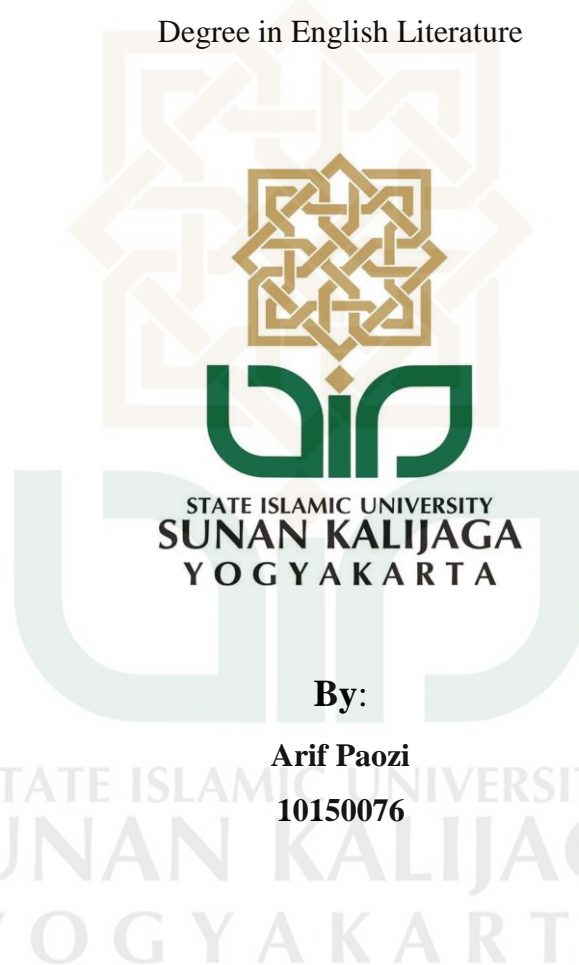


**THE CLASH OF CULTURES BETWEEN AMERICA AND
CHINA IN HA JIN'S SHORT STORY '*AFTER COWBOY
CHICKEN CAME TO TOWN*'**

A GRADUATING PAPER

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



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2017

A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other writers' opinions or findings included in this graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 22 Mei 2017

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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.
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THE CLASH OF CULTURES BETWEEN AMERICA AND CHINA IN HA JIN'S SHORT STORY '*AFTER COWBOY CHICKEN CAME TO TOWN*'

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ABSTRACT

The writer chooses the story of *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* to be analyzed because the theme of the story is strongly relating to the intervention of American cultures in China. The presentation of this intervention is narrated through the Chinese's view. This view gives the preference over the American cultures. But this preference influences the cultural identity of the Chinese. This research attempts to find the clash of cultures which occurred in the story. The method of this research is a qualitative method that is done by applying descriptive analysis. The objective of this study is to describe the clash of cultures between America and China in "After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town". The theory used in this research is Narratology theory proposed by Mieke Ball. The writer more focuses on the focalization included in the layer of story. Based on this focus, the focalized object relating to the culture clash can be seen from the point where the focalizers stand. The analysis shows that there are two categories considered as the clash of cultures. The result of the study concludes that the clash of cultures shown in the story first happens in the field of communication including language and manners toward people. Second, this happens in the customs relating to the food, for food has important role in this story.

Keywords: *clash of cultures, focalization, America, China.*

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THE CLASH OF CULTURES BETWEEN AMERICA AND CHINA IN HA JIN'S SHORT STORY 'AFTER COWBOY CHICKEN CAME TO TOWN'

By: Arif Paozi

ABSTRAK

Penulis memilih cerpen *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* karena tema cerpen ini berhubungan erat dengan campur tangan budaya Amerika di Cina. Penggambaran campur tangan ini di narasikan melalui pandangan orang Cina. Pandangan ini memberikan preferensi lebih terhadap budaya Amerika. Namun, preferensi ini mempengaruhi identitas budaya orang Cina tersebut. Penelitian ini mencoba untuk menemukan pergesekan budaya yang terjadi dalam cerita tersebut. Metode penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan menggunakan analisis deskriptif. Kegunaan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan pergesekan budaya antara budaya Amerika dan Cina dalam cerita "After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town". Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori narratology yang dikemukakan oleh Mieke Bal. Penulis lebih memfokuskan pada bagian fokalikasi yang terkandung dalam lapisan cerita. Berdasarkan pada fokus ini, objek yang difokalisasi adalah objek yang berhubungan dengan pergesekan budaya. Objek ini bisa dilihat dari sudut dimana fokalisator memandangnya. Analisis kemudian menunjukkan ada dua kategori yang dianggap sebagai pergesekan budaya. Hasil dari penelitian ini memberikan kesimpulan bahwa pergesekan budaya dalam cerita tersebut pertama terjadi dalam wilayah komunikasi termasuk Bahasa dan perilaku terhadap orang lain. Kedua, pergesekan budaya terjadi pada adat atau kebiasaan yang berhubungan dengan makanan. Hal ini dikarenakan makanan memiliki peran penting dalam cerita tersebut.

Kata Kunci: *pergesekan budaya, fokalikasi, Amerika, Cina.*

MOTTO

**Life is the matter of pursuing the happiness, if you
don't find any happiness, give a space to the
imagination in your life.**

-Unknown-

Khairunnas Anfa'uhum Linnas

-Muhammad SAW-



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:
My beloved parents H. Ipin Aripin and Hj. Elih Sholihah
My beloved brothers and sisters
and
My beloved fiancée



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Finally, I realize that this paper is far from being perfect. Therefore, any suggestions are gladly and warmly welcomed for improving this work.

Yogyakarta, 22 Mei 2017

The writer

Arif Paozi

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Historically, the definition of literature always changes from time to time. The definition of literature relates with the period and its cultural environment where the literary works are produced. The word of literature is not a thing but it is a name with some certain reasons given to a number of certain works in a cultural environment (Luxemburg, 1982: 9). This means that the characteristic of literary works always changes through time of period. One way is to define literature as everything written or in print (Wellek, 1949: 9). There are at least three forms of literature, plays, poems, and proses.

Prose in the sense of literature is called fiction, narrative text or narrative discourse (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 2). The term narrative text is more general that is every kind of texts which contains series of events such as romance, short stories, novel, dairy, autobiography, anecdote, formed-letter romances, fantastic or realistic stories. Narrative is not only a literary work but also any form of news broadcast, reports in newspaper or through television, and others (Luxemburg, 1982: 119). While the term of fiction, according to Abrams, is any narrative which is feigned or invented rather than historically or factual true and simply as the synonym of novel (Abrams, 1971: 59). Short story is one of the forms of narrative texts that tells a story of human experiences. Short story or any kind of literary works uses the special function of language system. This is aimed to make the

story more esthetic to convey the theme of the story. Sometimes, human beings face some experiences of value system in their environment of social life such as having relations, clash cultures, ideological contradiction or depression. These experiences usually have an important meaning behind them. In the story, this important meaning called a theme or a main idea of the story (Stanton, 2007: 7). Every story is created as the portrayal of human life in reality. Even though the story is conveyed by an animal, the story still brings the elements of human life or human values.

Short stories are different from novels in the length of structures even though their elements constructed are remain the same. Novels are more complex than short stories. This can be said that the element description of novels is more detail than short stories. Stanton states that one of the important characteristics of short story is the solid structure in a brief form. Short story can be read in a single sitting and the unity effect of short story can be directly felt by the readers. Short story also has the microcosmic effect (Stanton, 2007: 76-79). This means that the broad meaning of the story can be conveyed by a single event. The limited element description of the short story forces the story writers to cover this limit to make their stories more vivid and solid. Moreover, the elements constructed in short stories are more selective and use implicit description through story techniques. Moreover, short stories can be written in the mode of fantasy, realism, or naturalism (Abrams, 1971: 157).

In the late 19th century, the mode of writing story became familiar with the realism style. The elements of this style are relevant with the daily life and the

setting portrayed is so detail that can be recognized (Stanton, 2007: 80). The represent of life in this style is an accurate imitation of life as it is. The realists will write a fiction which provides the illusion reflecting the life as it seems to the common readers. They deliberately select the usual elements and prefer the average and the commonplace over the rarer elements of the contemporary scene. Therefore, the characters to convey the story are usually common people of the middle class or the working class whose life is rather dull and often unhappy (Abrams, 1971: 141). The event presented in the story usually the reflection of a true event experienced by the writer. Whether this is the great historical event such as any revolution around the world or a cultural event occurred around the writer's environment.

Ha Jin is one of the modern writers born in China February 21, 1956. He is considered as a Chinese American writer for he got the citizenship of U.S. in 1989. Also, his story works are always written in English to explore the tension between the individual and the family, the modern and the traditional and personal feelings and duty. The themes of his works are centered in China. He always picks up the themes related to his hometown in China such as the clash of cultures, the ideological values, and social structures. His fictions have received a number of awards, including the PEN/Hemingway Award (for *Ocean of Words*, 1996), the National Book Award (for *Waiting*, 1999), and the PEN/Faulkner Award (for *Waiting*, 2000). His works have been translated into more than twenty languages (Barbara Kingsolver, 2001: 348).

His short stories themes are strong relating to the ideology and political cultures that make them interesting to be studied. Most characters of his short stories are the common people of the lower class or working class that are straggle to face their contradictive and unhappy life. The setting of the stories is centered in a part of China that experiences the clash of cultures or ideology between conservative and modern also tracks the span of Chinese's movements toward capitalism. One of his short stories that the researcher chooses to be analyzed is *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town*.

After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town is narrated by a young Chinese employee named Hongwen working in a fast-food restaurant, *Cowboy Chicken*, under an American boss. Hongwen and his colleagues are grown up in Chinese socialist system, while their job is governed by the capitalist system. Hongwen feels frustrated for the job, but he also feels pleased for what his earnings is better than his father. Soon, Hongwen and his friends discover that their manager, an American-educated Chinese named Peter whose Chinese name was Peihei is paid much more than them in American dollars. This makes their sense of justice is outraged. They plan collectively to strike *Cowboy Chicken* boss by sending a threat letter for he treats his employees differently. Unfortunately, what they do makes their job lost.

Literature can be viewed as a society symptom. Any literary work set in a certain time frame directly relates to the norms or cultural values of that period (Luxemburg, 1982: 23). The situation of this story is set around 1985-1987s several years after the end of the great Cultural Revolution of China. From the

title of the story, the word 'Cowboy' generally is considered as the symbol of West, especially America. The 'Cowboy' is usually has strong characteristics such as brave and manly. But according to Meriam Webster, if this word is related to business person, this person usually has the qualities of recklessness, aggressiveness, or independence and operates the business in an uncontrolled or unregulated manners. Moreover, this word is followed by 'Chicken' which has weak characteristics. This is the opposite word of the previous word. The word of 'Chicken' is to describe the person who has the characteristic of coward and afraid to express his thought or opinion. Those opposite words are selected and used in the story as if the author wants to show the description of the characters within the story. Then, the word 'Town' represents the China. This word usually is combined to form the word of 'Chinatown'. However, according to *Digital Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, Chinatown means an area of a city outside China where many Chinese people live and there are a lot of Chinese restaurants and shops. Therefore, this word is separated and the word *Town* indicates that this area is a part of China.

Americans are welcomed in China bringing their cultures including their customs and value system, especially market system. They are doing business in China with their capitalist system. The China's government supports their system because the government thinks that their system will improve China's economy after experiencing a setback. But this becomes the problems for the society that grew up in socialist environment. Moreover, the society is still shadowed by the previous revolution which was against the capitalism. What the Americans do in

their business affects the Chinese cultures including their customs. Therefore, the different background of cultures and customs between these two countries comes into clash in the story. This makes the writer interested in analyzing this phenomenon occurred in this Ha Jin's short story.

This brief description of the story is deduced from the text itself. The surface structures of the text show how Chinese give the preferences over the American cultures explicitly. Unfortunately, this act of giving preferences over the American cultures as the new cultures influences the Chinese cultural identity which has been there along with them. This can be deduced from the deep structures of the texts.

Moreover, this story has been proven as the best American stories included in series of *The Best American Short Story 2001* along with other nineteen stories. This story is constructed by the related elements which determine one another. The interesting elements of the story are laid on the clash of characters that affect the flow of plot also the symbolism used in the story. Those elements are set out side by side to make the whole unity of the story. Therefore, the writer chooses this story to be analyzed comprehensively.

To help the writer to analyze the culture clash elements in the story, the writer uses narratology theory of Mieke Bal to break down the story elements into pieces. This theory can help the writer to analyze both the surface and the deep structures of the story. Mieke Bal states that narratology is the theory of the narrative texts that tell a story. Such a theory helps to understand, analyze, and evaluate the narrative texts (Mieke, 1997: 3).

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background above, this research aims to find out the answers from the question: how is the clash of cultures between America and China portrayed in Ha Jin's *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town*?

1.3. Objectives of Study

In accordance with the problem statements, this research systematically is aimed to analyze the clash of cultures between America and China portrayed in Ha Jin's short story *After Cowboy Chicken Come to Town*.

1.4. Significances of Study

This research is significant to the development of literature, reading comprehension, and cultural studies both theoretically and practically: Theoretically, the narratology theory proposed by Mieke Bal is useful to gain the elements of deep structures of narrative texts. Practically, this research shows the social symptom relating to cultural events presented in the story through the focalization. This focalization lays within the layer of the story.

1.5. Literature Review

As long as the writer looks for some researches about the story *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* in the form of scientific journals, books, and

thesis, the writer has found one research in the form of journal which uses the same material. However, the writer decides to add this review by giving a research that has same theory and method.

The first research that the writer found is in Asiatic journal by Roderick B. Overaa entitled *The Célestin Prophecy: Ha Jin's "After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town," Lawrence Chua's Gold by the Inch, and the Limits of Exoticism*. This research brings into conversation two works of Asian American fiction that address the problematics of transnational encounter in the age of globalization. In both Ha Jin's "After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town" and Lawrence Chua's *Gold by the Inch* the authors explore familiar postcolonial themes: Western economic and cultural hegemony, cultural imperialism, the legacy of the Euro-American colonial era – yet they do so from a very particular (and increasingly common) perspective that as yet has not been sufficiently addressed by postcolonial scholars. Reading these texts through the lens of Roger Célestin's theorization of the limits of traditional literary exoticism in *From Cannibals to Radicals*, this research calls for a re-evaluation, not merely of understanding of literary exoticism, nor merely of understanding of the transpacific as a political imaginary, but also of long-held conceptions of national literature and comparative scholarship.

The second research that has the same theory is a thesis by Qomariyah U'nm (2007) of Gadjah Mada University. Her thesis is entitled *Citra dan pencitraan anak dalam Novel Negeri Awan Merah karya Fahri Asiza: Telaah fokalisasi Mieke Bal*. Her analysis focuses on the focalization by Mieke Bal. This

analysis attempts to show: (1) narrative text, NAM; (2) Focalization subjects (Focalizer); (3) objects of Focalization; and, (4) tension which there are in novel. The results of her research are (1) by understanding a developing set of events and accompanying dialogue, NAM is a narrative text. This novel is a kind of framing text (wrapped story in story). (2) Focalizer in NAM is divided into internal and external one. The internal one usually adheres to the characters, while the external didn't involve in the story but functioning as focalizer. (3) The focalized objects are the characters and space presentation. (4) The existence of riddles and treatment is one of the tension in the novel. The correlation between the focalizer effect and the whole story can be known from withdrawing relation among parent with children; parents want to manage their children, and children want their existence to be admitted.

From the literature review above, the writer finds out that in the first research, the researcher compared two works which contain the post-colonial themes. Those works are Ha Jin's short story *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* and Laurence Chua's *Gold by the Inch*. The researcher compares those works through the lens of Roger Célestin's theorization of the limits of traditional literary exoticism. While the second research, the researcher used the same theory as the writer of this research. The data analysis of this research is an Indonesian Novel *Negri Awan Menara* by Fahri Asiza. She uses the same focus of focalization to show the correlation of focalizer effects between parents and children in the novel.

However, in this research the writer uses the same material with the first research as the main source of the study which is Ha Jin's *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* and uses the same theory with the second research that is Mieke Bal's Narratology which focuses more on the focalization to find out the clash of cultures in the story.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

A theory is a systematic set of generalized statements about a particular segment of reality (Mieke, 1997: 3). Narrative text such as short story is constructed using narrative system to convey the story of a reality segment or the corpus of life. According to Bal, the narrative texts are constructed in three layers. The text itself is the first layer that is composed of language signs which has its meanings, effects, functions, and background. This is accordance with the definition of the narrative text itself that is a text in which an agent relates or tells a story in particular medium, such as language, imagery, sound, buildings, or a combination thereof. Thus, in describing this layer, this will be found an agent who narrates the story, utters the language signs. This agent is created as the fictitious spokesman, technically known as the narrator (Mieke, 1997: 5-8).

The second layer is fabula or plot of the story. Aristotle says that plot is the most basic feature of narrative. Good stories must have a beginning, middle, and end. The rhythm of their ordering will give the pleasure to the readers (Aristotle via Culler, 1997: 84). Mieke Bal has defined fabula, material or content that is worked into a story, as a series of logically and chronologically related events that

are caused or experienced by actors who perform the actions (Mieke, 1997: 5-7). Besides, events occur somewhere whether the places actually exist or just imaginary places. An event, no matter how insignificant, always takes up time. Therefore, events, actors, location and time are the material to constitute a fabula.

The last layer of narrative text is a story. Those elements of fabula or plot are organized in a certain way into a story. Their arrangement in relation to one another is such that they can produce the effect desired, be this convincing, moving, disgusting, or aesthetic. Mieke provides some principles to arrange those elements based on the purpose to make possible a description of the way content material comes across in the story. Those principles are:

1. The events are arranged in a sequence which can differ from the chronological sequence.
2. The amount of time which is allotted in the story to the various elements of the fabula is determined with respect to the amount of time which these elements take up in the fabula.
3. The actors are provided with distinct traits. In this manner, they are individualized and transformed into characters.
4. The locations where events occur are also given distinct characteristics and are thus transformed into specific places.
5. In addition to the necessary relationships among actors, events, locations, and time, all of which were already describable in the layer of the fabula, other relationships (symbolic, allusive, traditional, etc.) may exist among the various elements.

6. A choice is made from among the various points of view from which the elements can be presented. The resulting focalization, the relation between who perceives and what is perceived, colors the story with subjectivity (Mieke, 1997: 7-8).

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research is a qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative research is concerned with qualitative phenomenon such as phenomena relating to or involving quality or kind (Kothari, 1985: 3). Thus, it explains the data which are mainly taken from the source in detailed description.

This research uses qualitative method. Qualitative method is also called as interpretative method because the result of the research is the interpretation of the data which is found in the data source (Sugiyono, 2010: 13-14). The qualitative method is a method of gathering data from the text books regarding the object. So, the writer gathers and observes the data from some referential books and other data sources.

1.7.2. Data Sources

The main data of this research is one of Ha Jin's short stories, *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town*. This short story is taken from the collection of *The Best American Short Stories* series 2001 published in United State 2001 (Barbara Kingsolver, 2001)

1.7.3. Data Collecting Technique

The method of collecting data in this research is library research. Therefore, it is done through reading technique; understanding the story and taking notes of every clash of cultures portrayed in the story. According to Ratna, reading technique is the most important technique in qualitative research. It is because there is no data without reading (Ratna, 2010: 245).

Furthermore, the writer makes sort of the data for the writer focuses on the clash of cultures in the story. After collecting the needed data, then the writer is ready to analyze the data objectively and systematically.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

The analysis of the data in this research is descriptive qualitative. This way, the data is analyzed using literary theory descriptively. The results of the analysis are presented systematically on the description of the main data to draw the conclusion of the analysis. Here, the writer is doing some steps in analyzing data including the planning of the study, collecting data, analyzing the data, and completing the research.

Firstly, the writer does the planning of the research including find the main data source of this research. After that, the writer states the problem statement, and begins to collect the data which is used in the research. Then, the writer determines the appropriate information to support the data of the research.

After the writer gets appropriate data, the next step is analyzing data using narratology and its relation to the clash of cultures in the story. Finally, after the

analysis is completed, the writer draws the conclusion of the analysis statements comprehensively.

1.8. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the general information of the research including the background of study, research question, objective of study, significances of study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter is the analysis of the internal elements of the short story *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* using the narratology. The third chapter is the analysis of the clash of cultures between Americans and Chinese portrayed in the story *After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town*. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research. This chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis of the previous chapters.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

After the writer analyzed the data, the writer concludes the result in this chapter. This conclusion is the answer of the research question which is how the clash of cultures between America and China in *Ha Jin's After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town* is. By using the narratology theory which was focusing more on the focalization, the writer divides the answer into two parts. The first is culture clash relating directly to treating people. In this part, the culture clash occurred in the matter of language communication, especially the use of English language. Because the most Chinese employees in the story are lack of English, they used English with incorrect way which leads into losing their job. The next culture clash which relates to treating people is about the manner toward the customers. The American treats the customers equally whether they are good or bad because the customers are always right. In contrast, Chinese treat the customers based on their behavior. If the customers are bad, Chinese employees treat them with uncivil way. The Chinese believe that if the evil man is let into the house, he will come into your bed. The last is the manner toward the employees. The employees are Chinese people. The American boss treats the employees with unfair condition. This occurs because the American follows the company policy based on the capitalist system. The company policy does not give the discount to the employees. The company gives the wages in accordance with the position of the

job. But because the employees do not understand about the payment regulation in the company, they think this condition is unfair. They want to be equal in the matter of wages.

The second part is the customs relating to food. Food has the important role in this story. The chicken products which are produced by American restaurant have different quality with the Chinese restaurant. This quality affects the price of the products. The American restaurant provides the fried chicken products while Chinese restaurant provides braised chicken. The next custom is toward alcoholic beverage. American believes that providing alcoholic beverages should have license from government, while Chinese consider alcoholic beverage as the common thing for them because alcoholic beverage has long been their custom along the history. Dairy food such as ice cream and cheesecake are the products introduced by American restaurant. Because this dairy food contains the lactose substance, the Chinese's stomachs didn't accustomed to this substance. Moreover, the American restaurant continues to provide this dairy product to make Chinese accustomed to it. The eating tools in China are chopsticks and spoons while in America are forks and knives. The eating tools of America are given more preference in the text. And the last matter relating to food is the matter of leftovers. American restaurant gets rid of the leftover by burning them. This way is the best way for America to improve the business. However, Chinese dislike this wasteful practice.

4.2. Suggestion

In this study, the writer has done the analysis using narratology to find out the culture clash between America and China. This short story has still many elements which can be analyzed using another theory. This can be analyzed by Marxist theory regarding to social class or can use the lens of sociology of literature or anthropology of literature regarding to the culture theme.

After the writer analyzed the clash of cultures in the story, the writer found the thing that disturbs his attention. The wasteful practice toward leftovers by burning them makes the writer feels the same as the Chinese feeling. The writer remembers the Islamic prohibition relating to this practice. The prophet Muhammad SAW said that Allah SWT really hates the wasteful practice.

...إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَرِهَ لَكُمْ ثَلَاثًا قِيلَ وَقَالَ ، وَإِضَاعَةَ الْمَالِ ، وَكَثْرَةَ السُّؤَالِ

"Allah has hated for you three things: -1. Vain talks, (useless talk) that you talk too much or about others. -2. Wasting of wealth (by extravagance) -3. And asking too many questions (in disputed religious matters) or asking others for something (except in great need). (See Hadith No. 591, Vol. III)

From the Hadist above, there are three things that Allah hates so much. One of them is wasting the wealth including wasting the food by throwing or burning them. Moreover, there are still many people around that suffer from hunger.

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