

**THE PORTRAYAL OF SUNNIS AS SEEN IN *GREEN ZONE* (2010):**

**A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Graining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Muraqosyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatian yang diberikan, saya ucapkan terima kasih.

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## **MOTTO**

**“Patience is a key element of success”**

(Bill Gates)

**“Life is like riding bicycle.**

**To keep your balance, you must keep moving”**

(Albert Einstein)



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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My beloved parents

English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga



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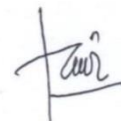
Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who reads this graduating paper. I hope this graduating paper is useful for readers in increasing knowledge and education. I realize that this graduating paper is far from perfection. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestion are welcome.

*Wassalamu'alaikum wr. wb.*

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# **THE PORTRAYAL OF SUNNIS AS SEEN IN *GREEN ZONE* (2010):**

## **A CRITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

By: Tutik Hidayati

### **Abstract**

*Green Zone* is an interesting movie because it presents the negative assumptions about Sunnis and involves sociopolitical issues in the Iraq War. Thus, this research raises a problem about the portrayal of Sunnis in *Green Zone*, which leads to the negative images. This research aims to find out how the portrayal of Sunnis and the reasons behind it. Therefore, this research uses Critical Discourse Analysis proposed by Norman Fairclough and film theory proposed by Ed Sikov. The type of this research is qualitative that applies a documentation technique. The data analysis is based on three levels of analysis (micro, mezzo, and macro) as proposed by Fairclough. This research finds that Sunnis are portrayed as evil people and labelled in several forms of negative stereotypes. However, these labels are not accurate including the issues of Weapon of Mass Destruction and Saddam's regime tyranny. These portrayals are indeed the responses of filmmaker to sociopolitical issues in Iraq and the Middle East, which are also influenced by the social conflicts in the past namely the Gulf War I, the tragedy of 9/11, and the conflicts between Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds, including the United States ideologies such as neoconservatism and fundamentalism.

**Keyword:** *Discourse, Iraq, Sunnis, Sociopolitical Issues.*

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Oleh: Tutik Hidayati

### **Abstrak**

*Green Zone* adalah sebuah film yang menarik karena menghadirkan asumsi-asumsi negatif tentang orang-orang Sunni dan melibatkan permasalahan sosial politik dalam Perang Irak. Jadi, penelitian ini menyodorkan sebuah masalah tentang penggambaran orang-orang Sunni di *Green Zone* yang mengarah pada citra negatif. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menyelidiki penggambaran orang-orang Sunni serta alasan-alasan dibalikinya. Untuk itu, penelitian ini menggunakan Analisis Wacana Kritis yang dikemukakan oleh Norman Fairclough dan teori film yang dikemukakan oleh Ed Sikov. Tipe penelitian ini adalah kualitatif yang menerapkan sebuah teknik dokumentasi. Analisis data berdasarkan pada tiga tataran analisis (mikro, meso, dan makro) seperti yang dikemukakan oleh Fairclough. Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa orang-orang Sunni digambarkan sebagai orang-orang jahat dan dilabelkan dalam beberapa bentuk dari stereotip negatif. Namun, label-label tersebut tidak akurat termasuk permasalahan tentang Senjata Pemusnah Massal dan kezoliman rezim Saddam. Penggambaran ini sesungguhnya merupakan tanggapan dari pembuat film terhadap permasalahan sosial politik di Iraq dan Timur Tengah, yang mana juga dipengaruhi oleh konflik-konflik sosial di masa lalu yaitu Perang Teluk I, tragedi 9/11, dan konflik-konflik antara orang-orang Sunni, orang-orang Syi'ah, dan orang-orang Kurdi, termasuk juga ideologi-ideologi Amerika Serikat seperti neokonservatisme dan fundamentalisme.

**Kata Kunci:** *Wacana, Irak, Orang-Orang Sunni, Permasalahan Sosial Politik.*

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of Study

Hollywood is the largest film industry in the world. According to Diana Crane (2014: 14), the dominance of Hollywood occurs in most countries. Hollywood dominates the list of the top 10 films in the global market and the national market. Crane also states that besides the financial benefits targeted by Hollywood distribution to various countries, Hollywood also has influence culturally by spreading the United States values. It means that Hollywood also influences other countries by spreading the United States's culture, ideology, politics, lifestyle, and other values.

Hollywood also becomes a way for the United States government to reveal the United States alliances and opponents. According to Sally-Ann Totman (2009: 1-2), the audiences can understand the United States alliances and opponents through what the officials of the United States ministry say and convey in Hollywood. Totman states that when a country becomes an opponent of the United States, it will be represented as a bad character that is contrary to the United States. Meanwhile, when a country becomes an alliance of the United States, it will be represented as a good character that supports the United States. Thus, the audiences can differentiate them through what Hollywood presents.

According to Jack Shaheen (2001: 26), from the beginning, Hollywood has promoted prejudice to various ethnic groups. One of the most frequent is Arab

Muslim. The stereotypes of Arab Muslims are almost always negative in Hollywood. Arab Muslims are portrayed as uncivilized and evil people who try to seize the media business, destroy the world economy, kidnap Western women, aim nuclear weapons at Israel and America, and influence foreign policy. He states that the stereotypes are created to make the audiences wary of Arab Muslims.

One of Hollywood movies that shows the stereotype of Arab Muslims is *Green Zone* (2010). This movie tells the United States's invasion of Iraq in 2003, which is called as the Iraq War. *Green Zone* is an interesting movie because it involves sociopolitical issues in the Iraq War and the ending of Saddam's regime, which is based on a true story. In this movie, Green Zone is actually a term to mention a safe location in Baghdad, Iraq. It is an American base that is guarded by the US armies during the invasion. In *Green Zone*, the stereotype can be seen through the portrayal of Sunnis, especially those who follow the Ba'ath Party (Ba'athists). They include Saddam Hussein (the President of Iraq) and Muhammed Al-Rawi (the General of Iraq). According to James Hastings, et al. (1955: 114), Sunnis are Muslims who follow the sunnah, which is the way of the Prophet Muhammad SAW and his companions. In this case, Sunnis are portrayed as evil people. Therefore, they are always hunted by the US armies from the beginning to the ending of the story.

In *Green Zone*, Sunnis are the opponents of the United States and anti-Saddam Iraqis. The problems between Sunnis and the US relate to explosives. The US accuses Sunnis of hiding Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) in Iraq.



Meanwhile, the problems between Sunnis and anti-Saddam Iraqis relate to the government system in Iraq. Anti-Saddam Iraqis consider Saddam's regime supported by Sunnis makes Iraq more chaotic. Under this condition, Sunnis are indicated as common enemies who trouble the world. Therefore, the US and anti-Saddam Iraqis cooperate in overthrowing Saddam's regime. They also state the negative assumptions about Sunnis in various situations, which aim to eliminate Sunnis from the government.

In this case, the negative assumptions about Sunnis are not proven. It becomes the most interesting part of *Green Zone*, so the researcher is interested in analyzing this movie clearly. Therefore, this research uses Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Norman Fairclough to reveal the facts behind the assumptions and its relation with sociopolitical issues in the Iraq War. Besides, this research also uses film theory proposed by Ed Sikov to reveal the meaning of the scenes related to the case.

## **1.2. Research Question**

The research question designed from the problem in this research is: How are Sunnis portrayed in *Green Zone*?

## **1.3. Objective of Study**

This research aims to find out how the portrayal of Sunnis in *Green Zone* and the reasons behind it.

## **1.4. Significance of Study**

There are several significance of this research. Theoretically, this research is significant to develop knowledge in literary research, especially which relates to

*Green Zone*, CDA, and film theory. Practically, this research is significant to be a guidance in evaluating the assumptions in movie, media, and society.

### 1.5. Literature Review

After doing the preliminary reading, the researcher does not find any researches using the same movie for the analysis. However, the researcher reviews the other researches applying the same theories. The first research is entitled “*Representasi Muslim-Arab dalam Film-Film Hollywood: Analisis Wacana Kritis Muslim-Other dalam Sinema Hollywood.*” This research is a dissertation written by Mundi Rahayu (2015), Gajah Mada University. The theories used in this research are representation theory proposed by Stuart Hall and Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Norman Fairclough and Theo van Leeuwen. This research focuses on three films including *The Siege*, *Syriana*, and *The Kingdom of Heaven*. The result of this research states that the representation of Arab Muslim identity in Hollywood films is a practice built through the process of negotiation and contestation of text producers and consumers. There is also the flow of politics constructed in it namely liberalism and conservatism.

The second research is entitled “*The Representation of Muslim Immigrants in American East Movie (2008).*” This research is a graduating paper written by Retno Dwi Wulandari (2019), Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University. The theories used in this research are representation theory proposed by Stuart Hall and film theory proposed by Ed Sikov. The result of this research states that the filmmaker can present *American East* as a response to bad treatment experienced by Muslim immigrants in America in the post 9/11 attack. Muslim

Americans are treated badly and experience discrimination in public spaces and limitations in employment. They are also represented through the negative stereotypes such as violence, misrepresentation of religious Islamic concepts, and uncivilized people.

From the explanation above, there are two previous types of research applying the same theories that the researcher reviews. Those are important to help the researcher in explaining data analysis based on the theories used. In this research, the researcher uses the same analysis pattern to the research written by Mundi Rahayu in applying CDA proposed by Norman Fairclough. Besides, the researcher also uses the same analysis pattern to the research written by Retno Dwi Wulandari in applying film theory proposed by Ed Sikov. However, the result of this research is different from all the researches above because this research uses a different movie to be analyzed. This research focuses on the portrayal of Sunnis in *Green Zone* (2010).

#### **1.6. Theoretical Approach**

Based on the problem in *Green Zone*, the researcher decides to choose the appropriate theories that can be used to examine and figure out the problem found in it. The primary theory is Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Norman Fairclough. Meanwhile, the secondary theory is film theory proposed by Ed Sikov. The theories are important to help the researcher solve the problem of this research. By using those theories, then the result of discourse analysis will be relevant to answer the research question above.

### 1.6.1. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)

According to Norman Fairclough (1995: 7), discourse is the use of language that appears as a form of social practice. Meanwhile, discourse analysis is concerning how the text works or functions in sociocultural practice. Then, the form of the discourse analysis which involves social phenomena in the use of language is known as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Thus, CDA can be stated as a way to understand the discourse critically. CDA aims to uncover the facts behind the discourse related to social practice.

A model proposed by Fairclough is called as a model of social change. Fairclough (1992: 63-64) builds a model that integrates the discourse analysis based on linguistic, social, and politics, which is generally integrated with social change. He uses the discourse referring to the use of language as social practice. In this case, the representation of language as social practice has two implications. Firstly, the discourse is a form of action. Here, someone uses language as an action on the world. Secondly, the model implies a reciprocal relationship between discourse and social structure. Here, the discourse is divided by social structures, classes, and other social relations associated with the specific relations of institutions.

Fairclough divides the concept of CDA into three levels of analysis namely micro, mezzo, and macro (1995: 9-15). Firstly, text analysis (micro) is concerning the attention to language represented in the discourse. Secondly, discourse practice analysis (mezzo) is regarding the attention to processes of text production, distribution, and consumption of the discourse. Thirdly, sociocultural

practice analysis (macro) is about culture, ideology, or social change influencing the appearance of the discourse. By using the concept of CDA, then the facts behind the discourse can be found clearly.

### **1.6.2. Film Theory**

Film theory used in this research is the theory proposed by Ed Sikov, which is called as *mise-en-scene*. According to Sikov (2010: 5), *mise-en-scene* is the first stage to understand how films produce and reflect meaning. He assumes that everything within an image has expressive meaning. *Mise-en-scene* consists of some elements placed in front of camera to be photographed such as settings, props, lightings, costumes, makeup, figure behavior, camera's actions and angles, and cinematography. By using the elements of *mise-en-scene*, then the meaning of the scenes can be found clearly.

## **1.7. Method of Research**

The important part of a research is the method of research. According to Hillway Tyrus (1956: 5), the method of research is a method of study that has deep characteristic and is full of carefulness in finding all ascertainable evidence in each problem until reaching a solution. By using the method, then the research obtained will be more detailed and systematic. Besides, the method will also solve the problem. Therefore, the method is very important in a research.

### **1.7.1. Type of Research**

The type of this research is qualitative. According to Bodgan and Taylor (1975: 5), qualitative method is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words from people and observable actions. It means that the

data are collected and presented in the form of words and not numbers. It aims to provide a clear description of the research. Thus, this research applies it to explain the portrayal of Sunnis in *Green Zone* clearly based on the data.

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

According to Lofland and Lofland (1984: 47), the primary data sources in qualitative research are words and actions, while the secondary data sources are documents. In data sources, the primary data are taken from *Green Zone*. Those come from the description of the scenes and the dialogues regarding the portrayal of Sunnis. Meanwhile, the secondary data are taken from other data that contain information and idea related to the problem. Those come from compatible books, scientific writings, journals, articles, and other documents.

### **1.7.3. Data Collection Technique**

According to Lexy J. Moelong (2005: 58), data collection technique is a strategic way used by the researcher to collect data, which aims to get relevant and complete data. In this study, the researcher chooses a documentation technique to collect the data. Documentation is the document prepared for a research (Moelong, 2001: 161). In data collection technique, the researcher divides it into three steps. Firstly, the researcher watches *Green Zone* intensively, then takes the primary data from the screen capture of the scenes. Secondly, the researcher looks for the secondary data from compatible books, scientific writings, journals, articles, and other documents to support the data. Thirdly, the researcher classifies all data into some categories in order to make them easy to be analyzed.

#### **1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique**

According to Bodgan and Taylor (1975: 79), data analysis is the process of planning effort formally to find themes and formulate hypotheses as suggested by the data and as effort to provide assistance to those themes and hypotheses. In data analysis technique, the researcher divides it into three steps. Firstly, the researcher chooses the main points of the data. Secondly, the researcher analyzes the intrinsic elements of *Green Zone* and analyzes the problem by using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) proposed by Norman Fairclough and film theory proposed by Ed Sikov. In applying CDA, the researcher explains the data based on the concept of CDA namely micro, mezzo, and macro. Meanwhile, in applying film theory, the researcher explains the scenes based on the elements of *mise-en-scene*. Thirdly, the researcher concludes the final statement from the analysis.

#### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This research consists of four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction of this research including background of study, research question, objective of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. Chapter two is the intrinsic elements of *Green Zone*. Chapter three is the discussion of the problem in this research. Chapter four is the conclusion from the analysis and suggestion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

From what has been analyzed in the previous chapter, the conclusion that can be drawn from this research is that *Green Zone* can be read as a transcript of sociopolitical issues. This movie shows how complex the sociopolitical issues in the Iraq War as the effect of the intrigues played by the parties at the time. Those parties include the United States officials and anti-Saddam Iraqis who have the same mission to overthrow Saddam's regime supported by Sunnis. As the impact, the image of Sunnis leads to the negative. Sunnis are accused as evil people and are indicated as common enemies who trouble the world. Here, it can be stated that Sunnis' positions are actually as the victims of the parties' cruelty.

Furthermore, the portrayal of Sunnis in *Green Zone* can be stated as a form of improper judgment. It is because the violence of Sunnis is not proven. In *Green Zone*, the issues of WMD and Saddam's regime tyranny are fake. Moreover, the researcher finds that the real facts and reasons behind the portrayal of Sunnis are related to the US ideologies and social conflicts in the past. The US ideologies include neoconservatism and fundamentalism. Meanwhile, the social conflicts in the past include the Gulf War I, the tragedy of 9/11, and the conflicts between Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds. In the tragedy of 9/11, the researcher finds that the issue of WMD is a form of the US insecurity to terrorism. Meanwhile, in the conflicts



between Sunnis, Shias, and Kurds, the researcher finds that the issue of Saddam's regime tyranny is a form of anti-Saddam Iraqis misconception.

#### **4.2. Suggestion**

The researcher realizes that this research is still far from perfection. It is caused by the limitation of knowledge, data sources, and other factors. However, the researcher hopes that the next researchers who are interested in analyzing *Green Zone* will be better than it. The researcher also suggests the next researchers use representation and deconstruction theories to examine it.



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