

**THARIQ MAHDI'S MUSLIM IDENTITY CONCEALMENT AS SEEN IN
THE *MOOZ-LUM***

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree of English Literature



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2022

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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

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Atas pertimbangannya, saya ucapkan terima kasih
Wassalamualaikum wr. wb.

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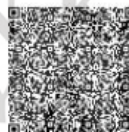
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**THARIQ MAHDI'S MUSLIM IDENTITY CONCEALMENT AS SEEN IN
THE *MOOZ-LUM***

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ABSTRACT

Identity is someone's portrayal about how the world wants to see them. It is shaped by several factors such as age, gender, occupation, level of education, and environment. Through the identity, a person may know his/her community. This study tries to explore the language that Thariq Mahdi uses to conceal his identity as a Muslim in the movie *Mooz-Lum*. The researcher uses Joanna Thornborrow's theory of language and identity and ethnography of communication from Dell Hymes as supporting analysis theory. The researcher uses qualitative descriptive method to analyze the data. This research aims to discover the identity concealment which is done by the main character and the factors that influence the identity concealment. This study also focuses on characters living as Muslim minorities in America. This study shows that Thariq conceals his identity through some ways, such as by changing the name, refusing to worship, and ignoring the *salaam*.

Keywords: Identity Concealment, Language, Ethnography of Communication, *Mooz-Lum* movie.

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Oleh: Vika Fitriyana

ABSTRAK

Identitas adalah penggambaran diri seseorang bagaimana dunia ingin melihat mereka. Identitas dibentuk oleh beberapa faktor seperti umur, jenis kelamin, pekerjaan, tingkat Pendidikan, dan lingkungan seseorang tinggal. Melalui identitas seseorang dapat mengetahui golongan kelompok mereka. Salah satu cara seseorang menunjukkan identitasnya adalah melalui Bahasa. Penelitian ini menelusuri penggunaan Bahasa yang digunakan oleh Thariq Mahdi yang digunakan untuk menyembunyikan identitasnya sebagai Muslim dalam movie *Mooz-Lum*. Peneliti menggunakan teori Bahasa dan identitas dari Joanna Thornborrow dan etnografi komunikasi dari Dell Hymes sebagai teori pendukung analisis. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui fenomena penyembunyian identitas yang dilakukan karakter utama dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi penyembunyian identitas tersebut. Penelitian ini juga berfokus pada kehidupan karakter yang hidup sebagai muslim minoritas di Amerika. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Thariq menyembunyikan identitasnya melalui beberapa cara diantaranya menyembunyikan nama aslinya, menolak melakukan ibadah, dan tidak menjawab salam.

Kata kunci: Penyembunyian Identitas, Bahasa, etnografi komunikasi, *Mooz-Lum* movie.

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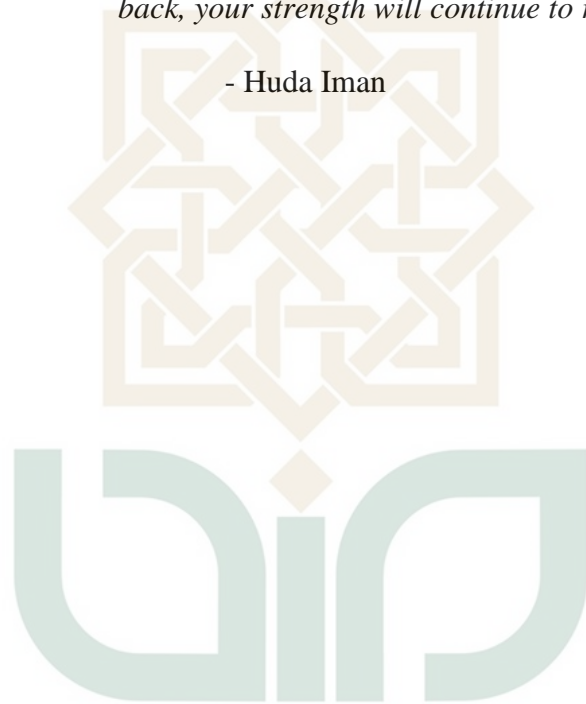
MOTTO

If Allah believes that you can face every difficulty, why should you hesitate on yourself?

- Vika fitriyana

Your tears may continue to fall, but as long as you trust Allah has your back, your strength will continue to rise.

- Huda Iman



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DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My beloved Father Ilyas and Lovely Mother Mazizah

My lovely brother and sister Kuny, Elly, Indhi, Nala, Anwar, and Nabil

My Grandmother Manisi

All the readers

And Myself



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I completely know that my graduating paper is far from excellence. This paper may have some inaccuracies, but I believe that it will be valuable to the readers and the students who want to take the similar research.

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Yogyakarta, March 22nd, 2022



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Gumperz stated that language is a pillar of identity construction. Therefore, your way of speaking is part of the identity of the language community, and your way of speaking reflects your perception of the identity of community (2018: 219). Wareing (2004:6) claimed that language is a system of mixing smaller into bigger units for the purpose of communication. One of the examples is the activity of mixing the sound of the language (phonemes) into word forms (lexical items) based on the principle of language. Language also can influence people through their utterances in a communication. A communication is the process of conveying information through exchanging conversation (Keyton, 2011:1). Additionally, Keyton writes that effective communication requires two-way skills from both members either the listener or the receiver to get the purpose of the conversation. This statement connects to Lunenburg (2010:2) that information will be delivered through good communication. Sometimes, language can show someone's identity because language is crucial to construct individual or social communities (2011:1).

According to Meyer (2009:1), identity is a decision to portray ourselves to the world where other people want to see us. Identity is built continuously through interactions with other people, and it will turn people into different characters at different moments in different positions and different contexts (Wareing, 2004:158). The individual level is one of the factors that affects identity formation.

Besides the personal level, the environment where someone grew and the place where someone is staying will involve the language.

Moreover, Thornborrow (2004:160) emphasized that giving and using names are one of the most obvious linguistic ways in constructing an identity. A person is distinguished from another group by their names. A name has a job to differentiate a person as an individual although someone comes from the same school, the same family, and share attributes. In British and American cultures, the name is chosen based on the father's name, real name (given name), and the family name. A name can often be identified as a person's religious identity. One of the examples is in Islam, a name is usually taken from Arabic.

Greeley and McGuire (2007:533) claimed that religion is closely related to identity, how someone feels, and who they are. Identity becomes something familiar in society. It is frequently found in our daily lives. It is a social code about the language that we use, the food that we eat and the style of fashion that we use (Wareing, 158: 2004). The existence of media also has important role to spread information. Nowadays, many kinds of media are used to expose an information, and one of them is a movie.

Movie shows several characters that have various identities. *Mooz-lum* is one of the movies that talks about the issue of identity. *Mooz-lum* talks about Muslim identity in America after the 9/11 attack. Muslims are scared to show their true identities because of the discriminations that they face. People have the freedom to choose their religions, but after the 9/11 attack, Islam is assumed to be a dangerous religion and Muslim cannot express themselves freely.

Mooz-Lum is one of the movies that has some interesting reasons to be analyzed. This movie discusses about Thariq Mahdi, a black Muslim, as the main character. Thariq often hides his religious identity as a Muslim through his utterances or actions. Religious identity is related to something that distinguishes a person from his sacred environment, the separation between the human, world, and God (2009:233).

Mooz-lum was made in 2011. The director denied that this movie is about 9/11. It aims to show a different perspective from Muslim-Americans to reveal what Muslim is suffered during that time. The movie serves the fear for Muslims in America after all the mess in the World Trade Center (WTC) building (9/11). As the director of *Mooz-lum*, Basir admitted that he is tired of the media's consistent news to make negative perceptions about Muslims and about Islam. Basir said that he grew up very differently from what is being reported about Islam. Basir thinks that someone should write something about Islam that shows a person's perspective, culture, and a belief. *Mooz-lum* is depicted in today's media that can also be seen from the polls. One of the examples is many people having developed negative attitudes towards Muslims today.

This research aims to analyze Thariq's utterances that contain identity concealment. Since his utterances and behavior show inconsistency about his identity, the researcher wants to focus on the concealments form and the reasons behind Thariq's utterances.

This is an example of the concealments done by Thariq by changing the real name.

HAMZA: "my father about requested muslim roommate, so."

THARIQ: “my father? **Requested a muslim roommate? Oh, and call me T.**” (*Mooz-Lum* 00:18:00-00:18:46)

The conversation above shows that Thariq is trying to conceal his real identity as a Muslim. Meanwhile, Thornborrow stated that giving and using names are one of the most obvious linguistic ways of constructing identity and concealment that Thariq just does it in line with this theory. Therefore, since substantially concealments are found in the movie, the researcher is interested in analyzing this movie using *Language and Identity* by Joanna Thornborrow.

Since Basir stated the story behind the movie, the researcher is interested to analyze the movie and finds some entertaining problems. This problem is about identity that relates to names and naming practices ingroup and outgroup. This problem suits Joanna Thornborrow’s theory of language and identity because this movie tries to point out the identity concealment of Thariq Mahdi as the main character which is hiding his real name. Then, the theory *Ethnography of Communication* by Dell Hymes will complete the analysis because it explains the social context of situation why the character conceals his identity by using his utterances.

Names can have significant implications on an individual's identity.

The origin of names, on the other hand, is only part of the story. When you have a name, how others use it becomes extremely crucial. The giving of a name can also be a part of an individual's acceptance into a culture or religion, establishing both an individual and religious identities (for example, the bar/bat mitzvah in the Jewish faith) (Thornborrow, 2014:161).

Thus, the researcher chooses the language and identity by Joanna Thornborrow because name and naming practices that Thariq uses relate to individual acceptances into a new community.

1.2 Research Questions

From the phenomenon in the conversation that has been found, the researcher wants to answer the questions as written below:

1. What are the Muslim identity concealments that Thariq does in the movie?
2. What are the factors that influence the concealment?

1.3 Objective of Study

This research aims to show the phenomenon of identity concealment found through utterances in the *Mooz-Lum* movie. It also discusses about the factors that influences the utterances. More specifically, this research examines the relationship between language and identity in the *Mooz-lum* movie and the social condition (speech event) in the movie.

1.4 Scope of Study

Based on the problem above, the objective study is to find out the utterances of Thariq Mahdi that show identity concealments on the *Mooz-lum* movie and explain the factors that influence the concealment.

1.5 Significances of Study

This research aims to enrich the readers' knowledge, especially the researcher, about the language and identity and its impact on social life. This finding

is expected to give the readers reference related to sociolinguistics, primarily in the fields of language and identity.

1.6 Literature Review

This research focuses on language and identity by Joanna Thornborrow. The following are some studies that the researcher found and discussed related to language and identity. The researcher proves that this research has never been done before.

The first previous research was written in 2004 by Mary Bucholtz, entitled "Why be normal: Language and Identity Practices In a community of Nerd Girls." This study discusses the positive and negative practices of the American youth nerd community. This study uses ethnographic methods in Sociolinguistics. This study shows that identity's categories do not determine language, but those determine about how a person stands. A person is called a nerd not because of the environment, but it is because how well they can defend the title through their actions. Their utterances control positive values, so it can be said who is the best nerd and who is not considered as a nerd (in a negative context). This kind of conflict reveals heterogeneity among group members through the practice of the community. This research proves that environment obtains identity and maintains people's behavior.

This article draws the theory of community and identity in the nerd social community. This community theory of practice is built as its potential for Sociolinguistics research's tools in the case of gendered identities. It is contrary to

Joanna Thornborrow's theory that says that language can construct identity. This previous research is also different from the corpus data.

The second previous research was written by Muhammad Apriliansyah, entitled "The Prejudice and Discrimination Toward Moslem In America as Reflected in Mooz-Lum Movie." This paper was published in 2017. This research focuses on the discrimination and prejudice aspects which is reflected in the movie. The writer uses the Sociological approach mixing with prejudice and discrimination theories. The result of this research is that the author explains about the causes of discrimination in how American Muslims have been treated after the 9/11 attack. It also talks about the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie. The research is different from what the researcher discusses because the phenomenon is mentioned from a literary point of view. Meanwhile, this research focuses on Joanna Thornborrow language and identity theory. This research has similar object material, but the theory and the result are different.

The third previous research was written by Roikhatul Jannah, entitled "Alienation of Moslem Identity on Thariq Mahdi's Character As Seen In *Mooz-Lum* movie." This paper was published in 2019. This research uses diaspora theory, especially the diaspora identity by William Safran. This research concludes that the identity of Thariq Mahdi has been revealed both by his actions and utterances. It affects his behavior to be arrogant. Identity makes him receive unpleasant treatment by his environment, so it makes his action like an abnormal young Muslim and violates what Islam has been taught. This research is not the same as the researcher's study because the theory is different. The previous research was analyzed by

William Safran (literature point of view), whereas this research uses Joanna Thornborrow's theory (linguistic point of view).

The last previous research was written by Lori Peek, entitled "Becoming Muslim: The Development of A religious Identity." This research was published in 2005. It focuses on religious identity in Sociolinguistics. Muslim teenagers in America are an interesting issue to be analyzed. There are three stages of religion. First, religion is recognized as identity that is not a prominent thing for the participants. At this stage, a religion is considered as something that is private. In the Second stage, religion is viewed as the identity of choice. It means that the participants admit that choosing Islam as a religion is their decisions after passing so many reflections. There is a lot of support from the environment. Sometimes, it puts aside other identities such as ethnicity or nationality. In the last stage, religion is something that is declared. After the 9/11 attack, religion becomes something that has to be proclaimed by showing a positive image and clarifying public misunderstandings about Muslim, so, Muslims could survive after the 9/11 crisis. This research shows the importance of religion as a personal and social identity. As a result, religion is not a static phenomenon. It is always developed. Our individuals and social groups construct religious identity. As mentioned, the development of a strong identity comes from someone's intention.

This invention shows the different focus, especially the results that highlight a variety of religious identities.

To sum up, this research has never been done before after comparing several findings. Although the object material has been analyzed, the researcher

uses different theories to explore it. The researcher explains the concealment of identity through the characters' utterances using language and identity in Sociolinguistics theory. The researcher describes the form of rejection, and the researcher also identifies the types of identity rejection expressed by the characters. This study uses a different theory and produces additional research findings.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

The researcher applies the Sociolinguistics theory of language and identity by Joanna Thornborrow, which focuses on the language use phenomenon on the *Mooz-lum* character utterances. Language and identity, also known as linguistic identity, propose to analyze the utterances of Tariq Mahdi in the *Mooz-Lum* movie, which shows the concealment of his identity. This theory tells how language can build individual or social identity through utterances. It is not only what the utterances are spoken, but it is also about the way utterances are spoken (Thornborrow, 2004: 158). The researcher chooses the theory because the issue relates to language and identity. The character in the movie shows the inconsistent and disproportionate on his utterances that conduct identity concealment by hiding his Muslim identity.

Language constructs personal identity through some factors. Thornborrow emphasized that language and identity are divided into several sub-topics.

- 1) Language and the construction of personal identities
 - i. Names and naming practices
 - ii. System of address

- 2) Language and the construction of group identities
 - i. Identity and representation
 - ii. Ingroups and outgroups
- 3) Linguistics variation and the construction of identity
 - i. Stylistics variation and language choice
 - ii. Power and linguistic imperialism

The researcher focuses on language construct identity and abandoned power and linguistics imperialism.

To support the theory, the researcher also uses the Ethnography of Communication by Dell Hymes to analyze the data. This theory helps to find out the reasons of the utterances that Thariq says. Ethnography is a technique to discover norms, rules, and cultures associated with language use. It is normally accomplished by observing a person's natural behavior in a group and observing about what is happening around them (Wardhaugh, 2015: 227). The acronym SPEAKING is made to distinguish the factors of language use. The SPEAKING factors are explained to:

S = Setting and Scene;

P= Participant;

E= End;

A= Act Sequence;

K= Key,

I= Instrumentality;

N= Norm;

G=Genre (Hymes, 2015: 232-234).

It helps to describe the context of situation in the movie especially about why the characters do the concealments.

1.8 Methods of Study

1.8.1 Type of Research

The researcher uses qualitative descriptive method. Cresswell (2014:4) wrote that the qualitative method relies on the text that requires the researcher to examine the meaning of individuals or social groups based on the data. Meanwhile, the results are flexible based on the researchers' interpretation. The research's process involves emerging questions procedures and collecting the data of participant setting. While Sugiyono (2013:7-8) emphasized that qualitative methods are suitable for finding hypotheses on problems that are still unclear and for understanding the complex social situations. The results of qualitative method research are the interpretation of the data found, so this method is often referred to as an interpretive method. It is also called artistic method because the findings are lacking of pattern.

1.8.2 Data Source

According to Sugiyono there are two kinds of data sources. Primary sources are direct data sources that provide data to the data collector, and the secondary source is sources that do not directly provide data to data collector. For example, through other people or through documents (2013: 225). The data was taken from the *Mooz-lum* movie, written by Qasim 'Q' Basir and produced by Dana Offenbach. The researcher got it from youtube.com

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d17T7GxSNNE&t=1648s>). The data include picture and speech (dialogue), and the automatic subtitle is used by the researcher to support the research to analyze the utterances. Since the data is from youtube.com, the researcher uses secondary data as the source.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

To collect the data, the researcher chooses documentation technique. Since the data is from the literary works movie, pictures and others, this technique is the most suitable. A document is a record of events that have passed. Documents can be in the form of writings, drawings, or monumental works of a person. For example, in form of writing a document can be a biography, while a document in drawing can be a picture, and documents in human works can be a film (Sugiyono, 2013: 240). The researcher separates the technique into some steps. First, downloading the movie from Youtube.com. Then, watching the movie and transcribing the subtitle because some subtitles are wrong, and it does not match with what characters say. Last, capturing every scene that consists of language and identity concealment utterances.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

The researcher uses theory qualitative research to analyze the data which involves social anthropology as the approach. This fields deal with the behavioral regularities in everyday situations, language use, and relationships (Hubberman, et al. 1994:8). The researcher separates the analysis technique into some steps after collecting the data. First, the researcher classifies the data which are the utterances that indicate the concealments of religious identity into some groups, such as:

name and naming practice, ingroup and out group concealment. Second, the researcher analyzes and describes the details of the problem using language and identity theory by Joanna Thornborrow to analyze the data. Third, the researcher explains the reason of concealment using Ethnography of Communication SPEAKING by Dell Hymes to support the analysis in cases of identity concealment in *Mooz-Lum* movie. Lastly, the researcher finds the conclusion.

1.9 Paper Organization

This graduating paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction. It discusses about background study that explains why the researcher chooses the object to be studied. Thus, it consists of background study, research questions, objective of study, scope of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of study, and paper organization. The second chapters discusses about theoretical framework that researcher uses to analyze the language identity in *Mooz-lum* movie. The third chapter is finding and discussion. The researcher explains all the results of the research about identity concealment and religious identity in the *Mooz-lum* movie. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusions

After doing this research, the researcher has some conclusions related to identity concealment conducted by Thariq Mahdi in the *Mooz-lum* movie. The researcher finds that there are 12 concealment cases in the movie. 4 data are by changing his real name. He often hides his real name by shortening it to his nickname 'T'. furthermore, 3 data of identity concealments are by not practicing his group's religious practices such as ignoring the *salaam* and refusing the invitation to do prayer by his friends. Lastly, 5 data of identity concealments are by committing the outgroups' behaviors such as taking off his *kufi*, drinking alcohol, and doing *zina*.

Then, the researcher finds that Thariq's Muslim identity concealments are caused by some reasons. First, he is mocked by all his classmates when the teacher calls his name for checking attendance. He used to receive bullying from his friends because his name sounds Islamic. Second, another traumatic event that Thariq receives that he is treated harshly by his *ustadz* in Islamic boarding school. Third, he starts to use nickname 'T' when he begin the university's life because Americans think that Muslims are dangerous. This statement becomes more real After the 9/11 attack. Muslims have experienced extreme discrimination because the suspect of the incident is a Muslim, so when someone uses Islamic attributes or everything related to Islam, they will receive unpleasant treatment.

Additionally, the researcher finds that the occurrences of identity concealments that the character produces are influenced by social context of the surrounding circumstances of the communicative interactions. By using Dell Hymes' ethnography of communication SPEAKING (Setting and Scene, Participant, End, Act sequence, Key, Instrumentality, Norm, and Genre). The reasons of the production of utterances showing identity concealments in the movie are not only influenced by the character individually, but also the social factors such as environments, participants of the speech, and participants relationship.

4.2 Suggestion

After completing the research, the researcher finds that there are a lot of aspects that can be explored by using the theory of language and racism because the character is from black (African-American) Muslim. Many aspects can be studied in this movie since the character also has discriminated treatment from his environment because of his religion. Besides the language and identity, language and racism can influence someone's utterances. It will explore more details about the character's behavior and how he produces the utterances that conceal his identity in Critical Discourse Analysis point of view.

Additionally, since this finding shows the relationship between conversation analysis and linguistic fields, it is expected that the next researcher will observe another field, that is Semantics of Discourse analysis to find another concentration of finding and increase the knowledge that they will get.

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