

**REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM MINORITY AS THE OTHER IN *THE*
INVADERS (2018)**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Department



By:

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ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT

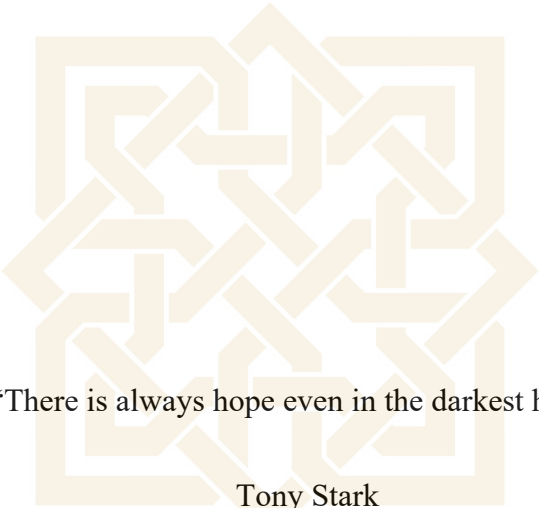
FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

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MOTTO



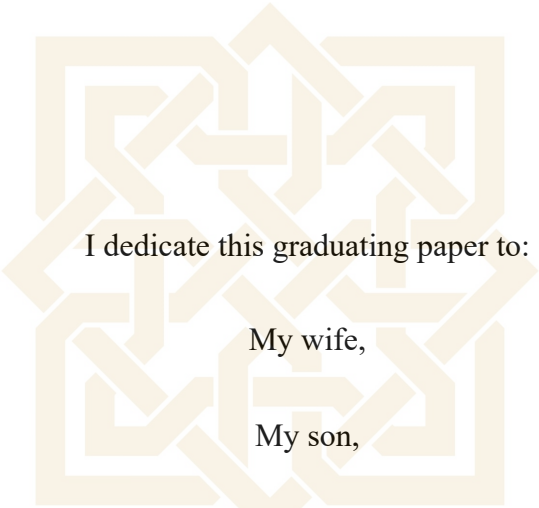
“There is always hope even in the darkest hours.”

Tony Stark



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DEDICATION

A large, light beige geometric pattern, resembling a stylized star or a complex knot, is centered behind the dedication text.

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My wife,

My son,

And myself.

A large, light green logo consisting of stylized, interconnected geometric shapes, possibly representing the letters 'S' and 'K', is positioned above the university name.

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FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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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 mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

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In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate, Alhamdulillah all praises belong to Almighty, and I can finally finish this graduating paper. Entitled “*Representation of Muslim Minority as The Other in The Invaders (2018)*”

I know that this graduating paper is far from perfect. Therefore, any comments or suggestions from all the readers will be accepted. I hope this paper can be beneficial for all. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following individuals who have supported and guided me throughout completing my graduating paper. Those are:

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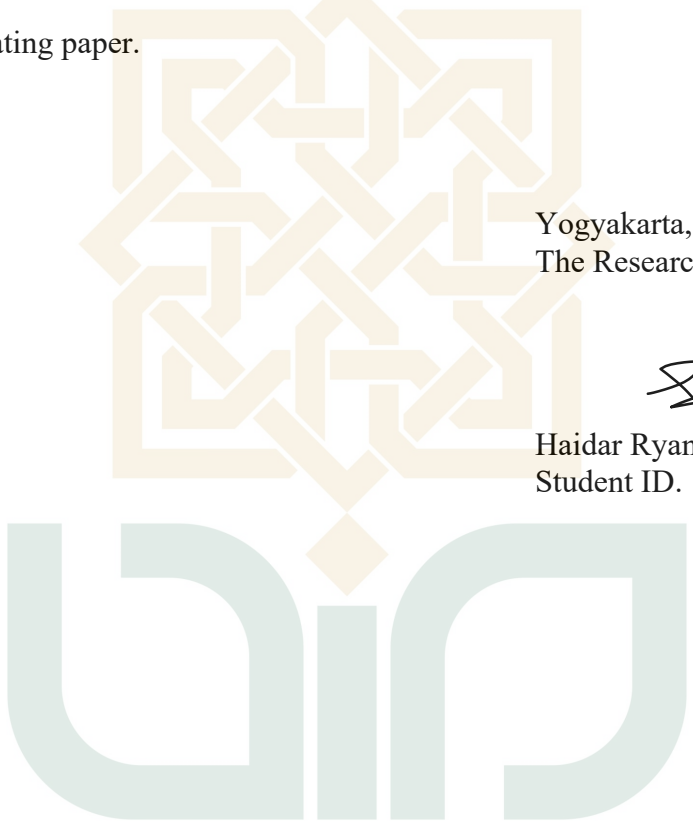
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Yogyakarta, August 7th 2025
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REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM MINORITY AS THE OTHER IN *THE INVADERS* (2018)

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ABSTRACT

In some movies from the west, Muslim living western society are represented as oppressed minority. The issues are rooted from how Muslim is viewed from the western perspective. Jayla, the protagonist, experiences social alienation, oppression, intimidation, and stereotyping in her society, a secular western society. The treatment she received from her society is due to her status as the other. This research is qualitative descriptive research. The theory used in this research is Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's otherness theory which focusses on how society behave toward group inside it. This research aims to determine the form of action subjected toward Muslim minority as the other depicted in *The Invaders* (2018). The factor which caused Jayla's as the other to experiences social alienation, oppression, intimidation, and stereotyping was her status as Muslim minority living in western society. Jayla as other are subjected to several action of discrimination. The first is social alienation, she was excluded from any meaningful interaction in her society due to how the society see her as a threat. The second is oppression, Jayla as Muslim minority are oppressed systematically by her society in order to remove her from society. The third is intimidation where Jayla was intimidated in order to control her. Lastly, Jayla was stereotyped as an agent of terror due to her being a Muslim and coming from the middle east. *The Invaders* (2018) is a short movie which depict the hardship of being a Muslim living in western society.

Keywords: *Muslim, The Other, Discrimination, The Invaders*

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ABSTRAK

Pada beberapa film di barat Muslim yang tinggal di masyarakat barat direpresentasikan sebagai kelompok minoritas yang ditekan. Permasalahan ini berakar dari bagaimana Islam dipandang dari perspektif barat. Jayla, sang tokoh utama mengalami pengucilan sosial, penekanan, intimidasi, dan distereotipkan oleh masyarakat tempat dia tinggal, yaitu masyarakat barat yang sekuler. Hal ini dia alami dari masyarakatnya dikarenakan statusnya sebagai seoyang *Liyan*. Riset ini adalah riset deskriptif kualitatif. Teori yang digunakan dalam riset ini adalah teori *Liyan* yang dikemukakan oleh Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak yang menjelaskan bagaimana hubungan antar kelompok dalam masyarakat. Tujuan dari riset ini adalah untuk menemukan dan mengidentifikasi perlakuan yang dialami oleh kelompok minoritas Muslim sebagai *Liyan* di masyarakat barat yang digambarkan pada *The Invaders* (2018). Faktor yang mengakibatkan Jayla mengalami perlakuan pengucilan sosial, penekanan, intimidasi, dan distereotipkan adalah dia adalah seorang Muslim yang tinggal di masyarakat barat. Jayla sebagai seorang *Liyan* mengalami beberapa perlakuan diskriminasi. Pertama, dia mengalami pengucilan sosial dimana dia dikucilkan dan tidak dilibatkan dalam interaksi sosial didalam masyarakat tempat dia tinggal dikarenakan masyarakatnya menganggap Jayla sebagai sebuah ancaman. Kedua, dia mengalami penekanan, Jayla sebagai minoritas ditekan secara sistematis oleh masyarakatnya sebagai cara untuk menyingkirkannya. Ketiga, dia mengalami intimidasi, tindakan ini dilakukan sebagai cara untuk mengontrol Jayla dan Muslim sebagai kelompok minoritas. Terakhir, Jayla distereotipkan sebagai teroris dikarenakan dia seorang Muslim yang berasal dari timur tengah. *The Invaders* (2018) adalah sebuah film pendek yang menggambarkan kesulitan menjadi seorang Muslim di masyarakat barat.

Kata kunci: *Muslim, Liyan, Diskriminasi, The Invaders*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

Literature has been a part of human life for centuries, dating back to ancient time (Sugiyama, 2017). The early form of literature is storytelling used by the nomadent people in hunt and gathering era of mankind as a method to share information (Sugiyama, 2017). This oral tradition of literature used not only to share information but also to preserve the history of a society. As human mind began to evolve to more complex level of intelligence, literature is used for explaining causal reasoning and structured events. This also made literature as a way to entertain the listener and also to make senses of the world where the people live in such as myth and epic poem (Sutherland, 2013).

The evolvment of literature not only on what aspect the literature is for but also the media of creating the literature. At first literature is only spread as an oral tradition (Sugiyama, 2017) but as times go new methods has been used for creating new literature. Writing is used to create literature in order to preserve the literature itself. Oral tradition of literature such as storytelling has a downside which is if the people who know the literature ceased to exist then the literature itself would be gone as there is no one left knowing anything about the literature. At first the usage of writing after

language has been formed did not include literature. Writing is used for simpler thing such as accounting or writing the law (Rogers, 2008).

As the world keep evolving from time to time so do the way human live keep evolving into more advanced than before. This affected many aspects of human life and literature is no different. Literature who at the beginning only used for sharing information, history, and to entertain the reader has grows into a more complex and wider scope of usage. Literature as a form of art must be viewed as such so as art is imaginative, and the imagination of the author in selecting, describing, and interpreting the experiences in life (Taylor, 1981). Literature then becomes the way author deliver their imaginative ideas. The writing of literature using imaginative idea cannot be interpreted directly as a real actual experience but as a fictional one, the one that do not exist and rather as and imaginary interpretation (Eagleton, 1996).

Even if literature is a work of fiction but those fiction is based on reality in order to immerse the reader/listener/audience of the literature to the sense of reality lingering in the fictional work. (Kai, 2006) stated that fiction work is based on some aspects of reality in order to make sense of the fiction work itself and the fiction can be viewed as an interpretation of those reality itself. This indicating that the relation of reality and fiction is intertwined. In order to understand a work of fiction the knowledge of fiction is needed and also the knowledge of reality is needed to make senses of the interpretation inside the fictional literature.

The self is a manifestation of someone's desire, point of view, belief, and ideology while those with different attribution are considered as the other since they do not mirror values from the self (Lacan, *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*, 1973). Dominated out-groups are Others precisely because they are subject to the categories and practices of the dominant in-group, and because they are unable to prescribe their own norms and project their own voice (Gay88; Gay88). Those who are considered different from the majority of the society are considered not part of their group and not only excluded from societal participation but also stigmatize, victimize, and also getting discriminated. The portrayal of oppressed minority group can be seen in work of fiction as a critic on society (Horton & et al, 1999). The representation of minorities in western films are portrayed as from other ethnicity beside white such as african, asian, middle eastern, etc. This not only depict ethnicity but also the culture tied to this ethnicity (Messaoudi, 2022).

The Invaders (2018) is a short movie directed by Mateo Marquez, this short movie tells' about Jayla, a Muslim woman living in western society who is being chased down by an unknown force. As she is being hunted she saw her surrounding distort from just an ordinary neighborhood into a hellscape of isolation and loneliness. Having to deal with the unknown threat herself she felt the world had forsaken her. This short movie depicts discrimination of Muslim minority group and the oppression they endured.

The Invaders (2018) depict the harsh condition Muslim living in western society of being discriminated in society. This condition is caused by Islamophobia.

Islamophobia is the fear, hatred, and discrimination toward Islam or Muslim in general (Kundani, 2014). In western society especially Europe islamophobia rooted back from post-crusade in the medieval era (Modood, 2005). The hate on Islam on western society stand from how western society present itself, a society with strong faith on Christianity. In modern era post 911 tragedy the narration of ‘war on terror’ popularized by the United States of America solidify Islam as a threat toward western society (Kundani, 2014).

Using Spivak’s otherness theory, *The Invaders* (2018) can be analyzed from a new perspective offering an insight on how the main character suffer from alienation from her society. As the other are a representation of the opposite from what the majority of the society (Spivak G. C., 1988). *The Invaders* (2018) shows how alienation, discrimination, oppression, and stereotyping towards minority group in western society. This depiction can be analyzed using film theory. In film theory the *mise-en-scene* and cinematography can be analyzed due to their influence in building the ‘world’ of the movie. (Villarejo, 2007).

1.2. Research Question

1. Why Jayla is considered as the other in *The Invaders* (2018)?
2. What does Jayla endure as the other in her society?

1.3. Objective of Study

The aim of this study is to answer the questions from the research questions by examine on how social alienation affect the protagonist in the short movie *The Invaders* (2018). This study aims to investigate the critical elements social alienation as a part of minority group on the protagonist of *The Invaders* (2018) using Gayatri Spivak's otherness theory. The researcher analyze explicitly on how social alienation is depicted in the short film.

1.4. Significances of Study

The researcher aims to make this study as a reference for students, lecturers, and other researchers interested in depiction of human behaviors specifically social alienation and discrimination. the researcher expects that this study will be helpful for anyone who is interested in using theory of otherness on human behavior to analyze a film. the researcher also aims that this study will benefit the english department by providing information on to apply ideas for research. this research also seeks to understand film as literary medium that can showed societal and personal issues such as human behavior, society norm, and discrimination will also be facilitated by this analysis. it illustrated how the human behavior within a real society are reflected in fictional one.

1.5. Literature Review

After searching the internet and the university library, the researcher found many alienation issues in some graduating papers and journals.

Themes of Anxiety and Fear in Post-war American Literature, an article written by (Dal, 2020) is an article that describe that post-war era of American society are in trauma due to the sheer amount of damage it brought to society. This article stated that most American literature at the era where filled with fear and anxiety. From poem, short story, novel, and even movies are centered on this topic. With many movies coming to theatre bringing anti-war message. The fear of another war and the anxiety of living knowing that a war may coming at any moment put a pressure on American society at the moment. The similarity between this article and this research is that the fear and anxiety of endangerment that may come any moment. While this article focused on how the fear and anxiety affected American society and its literature at the era this research focused on the aspect of social persecution toward muslim living in the western world. As minorities that are being discriminated because many social turmoil a muslim in western world felt fear of being harmed and the anxiety felt during doing their daily life.

The next paper is *Interpretations of Fear and Anxiety in Gothic Post-modern Fiction: An Analysis of The Secret Society by Donna Tart*. This is a graduating paper (Liztler, 2013). This graduating paper has the same topic of fear and anxiety. This graduating paper focused to study the novel *The Secret Society* by Donna Tart through

the scope of gothic and post-modernism. In this graduating paper the fear and anxiety are subtle since this is considered a critique to a possible future of society in which are detached from reality, a hyperreality. The fear and anxiety of having a hyperreality future is subtle. The similarity between this thesis and this research is that both literature bring a topic that instil fear and anxiety to a possible future but the difference is that one is a critique on hyperreality while the other is social conflict of multiculturalism and oppression towards minority glazed with a part of racism.

The (Mis)Representation of Minorities in American Films throughout the Twentieth Century: A Historical Retrospective. An article written by (Messaoudi, 2022). This article focuses on the representation of minority group in western media especially in the United States of America. Both this article and this research portray the visualization of minority group in western media. This article explained that the depiction of minority group in American culture is to show them as America's other. This portray the minority group as those who are naturally not considered as white caucasian like asian, african, middle eastern, and other ethnicity. Not only on ethnicity but also on their culture.

Otherness in Postcolonial Theory (Edward Said and Bhaba) is an article written by (Shash, 2022). This article explain about how the concept of otherness is implemented in the theory of postcolonialism. In this article the relation between the colonizer and the colonized are explained using Lacan's psychoanalysis theory of othering as the colonizer is dominant and the colonized is considered as the other. Being oppressed

and degraded the colonized construct an identity as the the other and the colonizer as the self. This article stated that the western world identify themselves as the self and the rest of the world is the other. The similarity of this article and this research is that both put the position of western society as the self.

Penindasan Minoritas Sebagai “Liyan” (Other) Kritik Metodologi Dekolonisasi is an article written by (Riyanto, 2023). This article explain about the oppression toward the ethnic and religious group in the Indonesian communist massacre tragedy in 1965. This article describe that the minority group are considered different from the majority as they are ethnically and culturally different from the majority of society. The chinese ethnic, who are labelled as communist by the majority of Indonesian society at the time are considered as the other while the majority of the society are considered as the self as they are the one who shape the norm of society. The construct of relation between the self and the other are based on how most member of the society view themselves. The minority group are considered not the same with the rest of society and must be dealt with in order to maintain the unity of people in the society. The similarity about this article and this research is that both this article and research portray on the discrimination, alienation, stigmatizing, and victimization of marginalized minority group but there are difference too. This research focused the portrayal of social alienation from the perspective of a person not a society as a whole.

Minority Representation in Popular Culture is a thesis written by (Miller, 2014). This thesis focusses on how minority is presented in popular culture especially is

western popular culture. The addition of minority group appearance in recent popular culture media highlight the changing of society from homogenous society to a diverse society embracing multiculturalism but the addition of minority group can also be interpreted as a social critic toward society as the discrimination toward minority group still looming many society in the world. This represent the minority group as the other. In popular culture the oppression toward minority group is shown as a way to empower solidarity among people to stand up for oppression. This trend is common in recent years. The similarity between this thesis and this research is the portrayal of minority group played a significance role as it is the core of the research.

Representations of Racial Minorities in Popular Movies a Content-Analytic Synergy of Computer Vision and Network Science is an article by (Musa Malik, 2022). This article explains about how computer science can be used to analyze representation of minorities in films using artificial intelegent. In this article the use of cinematography, facial expression, and ethnic portrayal are studied to make the algorithm used for the artificial intelegent. The researcher interested in this article because the information about cinematography, facial expression, and ethnic portrayal helps this research on how it can be applied to analyze the object of research.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

To analyze this paper, the researcher employs the theory of otherness by Gayatri Spivak. this research aims to examine how othering causes social alienation,

discrimination, and stigmatization in *The Invaders* (2018). The researcher also using the theory of film to analyze *The Invaders* (2018) more thoroughly.

1.6.1. Theory of Otherness

Theory of otherness is a theory that define human behaviour of grouping an individual to a certain group in society. The theory of otherness were popularized by Jacques Lacan. This theory focusses on imaginary ego and its accompanying alter-egos. By speaking of the ego itself as an “other,” Lacan further underscores its alien and alienating status as spelled out in the immediately. When relating to others as alter-egos, one does so on the basis of what one “imagines” about them. These transference-style imaginings are fictions taming and domesticating the mysterious, unsettling foreignness of one’s conspecifics, thereby rendering social life tolerable and navigable (Lacan, *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*, 1973). This theory is further explored by Gayatri Charkravorty in her book *Can the Subaltern Speak?*. In her book she describe that humans come together making a society a collective consciousness of the majority form together making the identity of the society with the same understanding on how aspects of life is dictated and this is called as culture. Those who lives in a society with different culture are called “the other” since they have different culture that is different from the majority of the society (Spivak G. C., 1988).

1.6.2. The Self and The Other

The study of psychoanalysis is rapidly grows in the late 19th century and early 20th century. One of the important figure in the development of psychoanalysis is

Jacques Lacan. He is well known for this theory on the otherness. He describes that “the self” are the embodiment of a person identity which includes ideology, culture, social norm, language, and religion while “the other” are those who are with different aforementioned values (Lacan, *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*, 1973). In a society “the self” is the values of the majority people while those who are having a different background are described as “the other”. As the majority hold more power than minority group a relation of dominator and dominated is formed in which the minority being the dominated one are being socially and physically degraded due to the different culture they have (Spivak G. C., 1988). Alienation of the minorities group are the result of this dominator-dominated relation.

1.6.3. Film Theory

Film is a media of literature with audio and visual output. Film as a media of literature dated back to the late 19th century and early 20th century with the invention of camera and television. As the technology progress so do film as such the study of film media begin to rise a new form of literature. The researcher uses *mise-en-scene* and cinematography to analyze this research. *Mise-en-scene* has the meaning of “put into the scene” since the world in the film is its own world, (Villarejo, 2007). There are six components in the *mise-en-scene*; setting, lighting, costume, hair, make up, and figure behavior.

The next is cinematography. Cinematography is the technique of editing, gathering, including, and framing, (Villarejo, 2007). There are several techniques of

framing such as; extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close-up, close-up, extreme close-up.

1.7. Method of Research

The researcher wants to explain in this section about the type of research, data sources, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

1.7.1. Type of Research

Descriptive qualitative research is used for this research. Qualitative method uses exploration in order to have deeper understanding the problems, (Creswell, 2009). This method allowed the researcher to explain about alienation of minority in *The Invaders (2018)* film. This method also allowed the researcher to interprets and discovers the problems in *The Invaders (2018)* film.

1.7.2. Data Sources

The Invaders (2018) film is the main source of this research by using all of its element such as story, scenes, and events. The secondary sources of this research is collected from journal, book, article, and website related to the issue in this research.

1.7.3. Data Collection Technique

For this research the researcher used the observation and documentation technique to collect the data needed. When collecting the data the researcher focused on every aspect that are needed for this research. Noting the dialogue, scenes, events, and observing cinematography. Additional data from journals, books, and article which

relevant with the issues in this research. The researcher uses data based on psychoanalysis theory to answer the research question of this study.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

The researcher completed the study after analyzing the collected data. The researcher uses descriptive analysis to analyze data to determine overall meaning. The researcher has several steps to analyze the data. First, the researcher collects data such as dialogue, events, and scenes related to the research question. The researcher analyze the data using mise-en-scene and cinematography to gain a deeper understanding of events and scenes. The second step is to analyze the collected data indicating the protagonist's problems using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of fear and anxiety.

1.8. Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter consists of the background of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, significance of the study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of this comic such as the theme, character and characterization, setting, and plot. The third chapter analyzes the problem in this research using the psychological theory by Erik Erikson of an identity crisis. The last chapter is the conclusion of the study.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1. Conclusion

The Invaders (2018) tell the story about Jayla, a muslim woman living in western society who is discriminated in her society because she is an immigrant from middle east. As Jayla comes from a completely different origin from the rest of her society she is considered as an outsider. This makes her into a part of minority group. This led to her being considered as the other, resulting to her being subjected with discrimination.

Jayla suffers from alienation, oppression, intimidation, and stereotyping. This is caused because of her status as the other in her society. Jayla is alienated in her society. This resulted in her exclusion from interactions within the society. The alienation Jayla received makes her unable to voice her concern in society as the other is silenced by the self. She is oppressed because she is considered part of minority group which are powerless. The oppression of minority group is done systematically in order to control them. She is intimidated in her society because the self needs to instill fear into the other to suppress them. This action also stating the power imbalance between the self and the other. She is stereotyped because of constant publication about misinformation on muslim. This led her society to develop a mindset on muslim based on only what is broadcasted by the media.

4.2. Suggestion

After analyzing the data taken from the *The Invaders* (2018) short movie, researchers realized that this *The Invaders* (2018) short movie is a short movie based on concerns and relates to muslim living in western society at the moment of this research publication. This research focuses on Jayla's struggle from social alienation in western society. This short movie can undoubtedly take several specific topics to analyze. With a thrilling story for the viewers, this short movie can be discussed with particular issues such as psychological horror, social criticism, even post-colonial theory, and various other theories.

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