

The stereotyping of the middle east people

As seen in

***Rules of engagement* directed by william friedkin**

***And the siege* directed by edward zwick**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

When the researcher asked someone what he thought about the Middle East people, he described the Middle East people wear long skirt with long beard and hold an Ak- 47 weapon with full of rage kill the American people who are different from him. Those negative stereotypes about Middle East people grow significantly after the attack of the World Trade Center, New York on 11 September 2001. Osama Bin Laden was accused of attacking the World Trade Center by American Intelligent Agencies, even there were not enough evidences to strengthen the accusation. However, this tragedy is only one of the impacts of negative stereotypes on the Middle East people. There are several cases before

WTC tragedy, which involved Middle East people such as the attack on the American Embassy in Teheran, Iran, the bombing of the Pan – Am and many others. Those phenomena are getting worse with the subjectivity of western media cover on Middle East people.

The researcher considers those phenomena as interesting subjects, so he tries to find the reason and the background of those phenomena as well. The researcher sees that the negative stereotypes on Middle East people have shaped in the mindset of American people by mass media such as movie, newspaper and internet. Since this thesis is framed by American studies, the researcher limits the research on stereotyping Middle East people as seen in *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick. In this thesis, the researcher uses two American movies as the object of research. The researcher hopes those movies can give clear description about the negative stereotypes of the Middle East People in American mindset as seen in those two movies.

The researcher uses the American movies as the object of research, because movie is one of the influencing Medias in the world. According to *Oxford Advance Dictionary of Current English* movie is moving picture (Hornby, 1987, p.554). That means movie is a group of pictures that is moving and creating images. Movie has a long history from the silent movies until digital movies; movie grows significantly in quantity and quality with the improvement of computer technology. As the center of movie industry, the American producers and filmmakers are more successful in gaining popularity, than the French who

invented the movie in the late of 18th century. Hollywood, as the center of American movie industry, is a place where most of the movies around the world are produced. From this place, American producers control all the finance and distribution around the world. In other words, there are no movies that can be distributed around the world without any approval of the American producers such as Warner Brothers, Paramount Picture, Colombia and many others.

Those explanations above are representation of American hegemony in the world. Movie is not only made for entertainment but also for American propaganda. Movie is the part of American culture that shapes the character of the American people and as a symbol of American hegemony. The researcher can see that from the statement of David Wark Griffith, as follows:

Do you know that we are playing to the world? What we film tomorrow will strike the heart of the world. And they will know what we saying we've gone beyond Babel, beyond words. We've found a universal language – a power that can make men brothers and end war forever, remember that when you go before the camera. (Griffith in Belton, 1996, p. 25)

From that statement, the researcher can figure out that American people believe that movie has a great power to influence the world. Because the American people believe that movie breaks all the culture and language boundaries. Even Griffith stated that movie has power beyond Babel, as we know Babel is a tower to reach heaven that stated in the Bible, it means the power of the movie is beyond religion power. American movies become icon of the world, which influence the audiences around the world. In other words, American movies shape the opinion on the images of American people through their movies. Besides, as entertainment media, American movies are well known as American

global political medium. The American government realizes that movie is also influential in their political strategies. From their movies, American government effectively assassinates the image of their opponent. This strategy was used in the Second World War and is still considered as an effective one until right now.

Griffith strengthens this argument, he wrote that:

Are we working the world safe for democracy, American democracy, through motion picture? The increase of knowledge, the shattering of old superstitions, the sense of the beauty have all gone forward with the progress of the screen. Our heroes always democratic. The ordinary virtues of American life triumph, no toryism, no socialism (Griffith in Belton, 1996, p.26)

From those explanations above, the researcher realizes how important movie is in American life and global life, because American movies are not only used as medium of art but also considered as effective medium for political and social purposes. The most important of American movie is how it influences global political situation and stereotypes of a nation or people. Movie can shape the opinions and stereotypes of a person or even a nation, from the eye of the audiences. This happens toward the Middle East people, only some of them who do terrible thing but usually the American media (American movies) cruelly generalize all of the Middle East people. The researcher is interested in exploring deeply about the influences of American movies in shaping the negative stereotypes of the Middle East people. The researcher uses two American movies as the subject of research; those movies are *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. *Rule of Engagement* was directed by William Friedkin and produced by Seven Art International in 2000 and *The Siege* was directed by Edward Zwick and produced

by Twentieth Century Fox in 1998. The interesting fact from those movies is both of them were produced before WTC tragedy.

Rules of Engagement and *The Siege* are action movies that describe the effort of American people to fight terrorism that was done by a number of terrorist groups from the Middle East. *Rules of Engagement* takes a setting in Morocco and directed by William Friedkin. This movie presents the story of a group of the US marines who was led by Col Terry Childers (Samuel L Jackson). He was assigned to rescue American ambassador and his family in Yemen from the attack of the Middle East protesters, but during the process of evacuation, he commanded his soldiers to open fire to the crowd. Martial Court considered Col. Terry Childers act in Yemen as misconduct in the rules of engagement. He asked his best friend Col. Hayes Hodges (Tommy Lee Jones) to help him prove that he did the right thing.

The Siege is an action movie that takes a setting in New York and directed by Edward Zwick. The movie presents a group of FBI agents who fought terrorist group who planed to bomb New York. The FBI agents were led by Assistant Special Agent in Charge Anthony Hubbard (Denzel Washington). His job is to shut down the terrorist cell who planed to bomb New York team up with the CIA agent Elise Kraft (Annete Bening), but they failed. Then their job was replaced by Armed Forces who were led by General Devereaux (Bruce Willis). Under his command, the soldiers conducted terrible acts to the Middle East people. Finally, Anthony Hubbard found a fact that American government itself caused all of those troubles. The American government trained and financed them. The worse

was the leader of terrorist group was abducted by American Armed Forces who led by General Deveraux

From those movies, the researcher sees the negative stereotypes on the Middle East people, that they are irrational, savage, cruel and uncivilized. The researcher hopes through this thesis based on those two American movies, the researcher will find the objective explanation and historical background of the negative stereotypes of the Middle East people.

B. Problem Formulation

1. How do William Friedkin and Edward Zwick present the negative stereotype of Middle East people in their movies *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*?
2. Why are Middle East people presented in negatives stereotypes as seen in *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*?

C. Objective of the research

The main purposes of this research are:

1. To describe how the Middle East people are stereotyped in those two movies *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*.

2. To explain why the Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes as seen on those two movies *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*.

D. Method of Research

1. Data and source of Data

The researcher analyzes the object of the research using data from many kinds of resources:

- a. The Source of Data is from two movies; they are *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. *Rules of Engagement* is an action movie which takes a setting in Morocco, directed by William Friedkin, produced by Seven Art and distributed by Paramount Picture in 2000. *Rules of Engagement* is distributed in the form of VCD in Indonesia by Tower Entertainment. *The Siege* is an action movie which takes a setting in New York City, directed by Edward Zwick, produced by Twentieth Century Fox and distributed by Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment in 1999. *The Siege* is distributed in the form of VCD in Indonesia by Musica Video van.
- b. There are two types of data: main data and supporting data. The main data will be the camera angle shot, costumes, dialogues, facial expression, body language of the characters in *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. Supporting data are taken from library resource and others that are relevant with the subject matter of the research.

2. Technique of collecting data

- a. The researcher took the screenplays and VCD from two movies; *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege* as the source data. The researcher read and watched them carefully and made some notes of quotation which are relevant to the subject matter.
- b. The main data and supporting data were collected and classified with the subject matter.
- c. Both of the data were used in order to answer the problem statement.
- d. The researcher drew conclusion as the result of the analysis and gave some recommendation.

E. Scope of the Study

In this research, the researcher limits the analysis on the stereotyping of the Middle East people based on two American movies; *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. Through those two movies, the researcher explores more deeply about the negative stereotypes of Middle East people and the explanations of those phenomena.

F. Benefit of Study

1. To give further information, for the readers about stereotyping of the Middle East people in American movies.
2. To give additional information to the other researchers who are interested in American Popular Culture, especially movies.

G. Theories and Approach

Since this research is done within the framework of American studies, the research applies interdisciplinary approach. Interdisciplinary approach is needed to find out the answer to the problem formulation that is the negative stereotypes of the Middle East people. Consequently, this research applies more than one approach. The researcher uses several approaches to study the phenomena of stereotypes of the Middle East people. Those are historical background, popular culture theory, sociological and semiotic approaches. The researcher uses those approaches to explain more about the phenomena of stereotyping of the Middle East people in the two movies.

The researcher uses Historical background to find any historical connection between the Middle East people and American people, related to negative stereotypes of the Middle East people in American people perception. The researcher believes those phenomena are related with the historical background between the American people and the Middle East people.

The researcher also uses Popular Culture theory, Popular Culture theory is used to explain more about the concept of myth and stereotype of Middle East people in American popular culture.

The researcher also uses sociological approach to explain the background and the reason of those social phenomena. For interpreting the signs and symbols in those two movies, the researcher uses semiotic film theory.

H. Thesis Organization

There are four chapters in this research. Chapter I is *Introduction*. It consists of Research Background, Problem Formulation, Objective of the Research, Methodology, Scope of Study, Benefit of Study, Theories and Approach and Thesis Organization.

Chapter II is *Literature Review*. It includes historical background, the general description about movie as part of popular culture, the explanation about the concept of myth and stereotype based on popular culture theory, sociological theory and Semiotic film theory to explain about the phenomena of negative stereotypes toward Middle East people.

Chapter III is *Analysis*. There are two subchapters in this chapter, the first subchapter is: how do William Friedkin and Edward Zwick present the negative stereotypes of Middle East people in their movies: *Rules of Engagement* and *The siege?* The second subchapter is: why are the Middle East people presented in negative stereotypes as seen in *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege?*

Chapter IV is *Conclusion and Recommendation*. It concludes all the previous three chapters and recommends the audiences of *Rules of engagement* and *The Siege*, the readers of this research and the researchers who are interested in popular culture, especially film study, to be able to choose and understand the stereotypes of the Middle East people in American movies.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Historical Background

When we are talking about Middle East, this region cannot be separated from the involvement of American government. American government has been involved deeply in this region. The involvement of American government not only in the form of financial help to the Middle East governments who are considered as “cooperative” but also in the military enforcement aid to protect the government or tyrant from any movements, who are considered endanger American position in the Middle East. The researcher sees this from several historical facts which are related to the relationship between Middle East countries with US Government. It has been known that American government tries to maintain their position in Middle East to control the safety of oil distribution.

If the main natural resources of the Middle East were bananas, the region would not have attracted attention to US policymakers as it has for decades. Oil is commodity that involved many Americans life. America had spent billions dollar and many Americans suffered to protect and control the distribution of this commodity. The first official connection between Middle East and America happened at the first 20th century. Two big American oil companies were interested in the oil richest of the region. These two big oil companies were Standard Oil California and Texaco. They won the first concession to explore oil in Saudi Arabia in 1930s. They discovered oil reserves there in 1938, just after

Standard Oil California found it in Bahrain. During and after World War II, the region becomes primary object of US foreign policy (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id:1019, Accessed on October 18th, 2004).

In the middle of 20th century, during the Cold War, the Soviet Government was the biggest enemy of American government. Soviet and American governments tried to dominate the world. Both of them also tried to dominate the Middle East by supporting the Middle East governments who were willing to cooperate with one of them. The form of the support to the Middle East governments can be in the form of fund or even weapons to protect themselves completed with the army instructors from both of those big countries. The competitions between two countries influence the geo political situation in the Middle East. The researcher can see this from the fall down of the Shah Pahlevi in Iran. The revolution rose among the students and youths in Iran because they felt unsatisfied with the Shah Pahlevi who was supported by American government.

It started when the US intervention on the Middle East after the Second World War. During the war, US noncombatant troops was stationed in Iran to help with the transfer equipment and supplies to the Soviet Union. The red army occupied the northern part of Iran and the British in the central and the southern of Iran. In the three party treaty of January 1942 (not signed by the United States), the Soviet Union and Great Britain had said that their presence there, was not occupation and all troops will be withdrawn within six months of the end of the

war. (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id:1019, Accessed on October 18th, 2004).

The treaty between Soviet Union and the Britain did not run properly. Finally, Soviet broke the treaty to withdraw the red army in the southern part of Iran. The soviet insisted the presence of their troops to help the Iran Republic to stabilize the situation and help Iran Communist Party (Tudeh). Soviet also established two separatist regimes who were led by soviet-picked leader. The action of Soviet finally irritated the US government, President Harry S .Truman was criticized the action of Soviet Union and demanded to withdrawal all Red troops without any condition from southern Iran. The involvement of American government not only involved at this. Even, the American government involved deeper in the Iran Government which latter create political changes in Iran. This involvement had changed dramatically the relationship between the Middle East and the American people.

The American government always supported every Middle East Government who was willing to cooperate with the American government. The US government did not concern with the attitude of the regime as long as they are “useful”. This act sometimes influences the political situation in the country.. It happened at the leadership of Shah Pahlevi, the Iran Emperor (some people call him Peacock king). Because of Shah Pahlevi government track record in human right was bad and corrupted. The Iranian people felt unsatisfied with this situation especially the Iran students. In the leadership of Islamic leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini worked with Iranian students, they had overthrown the Shah

from his position, also attacked and took hostage American ambassador and his staffs in the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979. That incident was a hard blow and humiliation for American government.

Those incidents became headline news in every television station and Newspaper in America. The American people started questioning their government effort to release the American citizens in Iran. Eventually, the hostages were released in January 20th, 1981. One thing American people wanted to know was the reason why Iranian people took hostage American citizens. There are two aspects influenced this. The first was lack of information of American people about what happened in Iran, and second was the subjectivity of American Medias. The story of those incidents grew and created a negative stereotype of Middle East people. Another historical incident that becomes an obstacle for the relationship between Middle East people and American Government until now is the existence of Jewish state in Palestinian land.

These problems started in the First World War, when English government was put in charge by League of Nations to govern Palestine. The conflict between Arabs, Jewish and British officers increased significantly after the Second World War ended. In the First World War the British Government promised that, the Arab leaders would get their Independence, if they supported British troops to fight against Ottoman Turks. But the British government also promised the Jewish the same territory as the Zionist who sought to establish a Jewish state on Biblical site. The agreement between the Jewish and British Government declared in Balfour Declaration in 1922. The US Congress also endorsed the Balfour

Declaration. This declaration disappointed most of the Arabs and the conflict between Arabs and Jewish grew significantly, and hundreds of lives of English, Jews and Arabs suffered.

Because of the conflict between British officers, Arabs and Jewish never seems to end, finally English Government asked for the intervention of United Nation to settle up the conflict between the Arabs and Jewish. Most Arab leaders knew that the British Government failed to fulfill their promise. The American government was also involved in these problems by supporting Jewish state in the United Nation. The American Government had vetoed many resolutions, which were related to the Jewish existence in Palestine. The American government intervention in the creation of Jewish State not only because of the bond of the past., when they fought The German, but also because of the pressure of Jewish communities in America to the government. Since they were noted as American citizen, they had enough influence to force the American Government.

The researcher can see that from the statement of President Truman during the meeting with U.S. ambassador to the Middle East, William A. Eddy, the ambassador to Saudi Arabia said that:

“I am sorry gentlemen, but I have to answer to hundreds who were anxious for the success of thousands of Zionism; I do not have hundreds thousand of Arabs among my constituent”. (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id:1019, Accessed on October 18th, 2004)

The Zionist Organizations of America, who were led by Emanuel Neumann, supported the American government involvement during the creation of Israel state. Truman’s decision was also influenced by Samuel Rosenman, David Nile

and Clark Clifford, all members of his the staff, and his close friend and former business partner Eddie Jacobson. Truman's decisions were made under political pressure of Jewish communities and non – Jewish communities, to maintain his position he had to support the Zionism in Palestine. There is another reason why Truman made those decisions. After the Second World War, hundred thousands of Jewish people were poured to the America. The American Government was worried this immigrants situation would heat up the tension anti – Semite / Jewish in America, so the only reasonable solution was the creation of Jewish state in Palestine, even that means the American government had to face the Arab leaders.

The decision of American Government supported the Zionism, disappointed all Arab Leaders, because the American government made that decision without any discussion with all Arab leaders. The American decision made a terrible result, because almost all Arab people were unsatisfied. They started to doubt the promise of American Government. The Arab Nationalism grew significantly as the answer of the ambivalent position of American government policies on these problems. Gamal Abdul Nasser, the leader of Egypt declared Arabs nationalism and tried to create a pact between Arabs Leaders, which were called as Pan – Arab. In his leadership, Egypt and Pan - Arab tried to expel the Jewish from Palestine territory with force and Israel answered the challenge. Israel dared to face the force of Pan – Arab because Israel was supported and assisted by American Government.

The form of assistance from American Government was in the form of weapons, equipments, spare parts, loan and the most important was intelligent

data from American secret services. Arabs were defeated in the Six-Day war in 1967, even though Arabs leaders threatened American Government by Oil embargo distribution to the United States. But American government still helped the Israel government secretly. It was noted that Pilots of U.S. Air Force's 38th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron of the 26th tactical Reconnaissance Wings flew RF-4Cs- with White Star of David and Israel Air Force tail numbers painted on them-over bombed air base in Egypt, Syria, and Jordan to take pictures for the Israelis. They flew 8 to 10 sorties a day though the war and the pilots carried civilian passports so they would appear to be contract employees. Apparently, none of the flights proved decisive, but they enabled Israel to achieve the objectives quickly (Richman, 2000 http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id:1019, Accessed on October 18th, 2004).

Ironically, even the American Government was proved giving assistance to the Israel. The U.S.A government denied the Arabs accusation that the American Air Force was involved in tactical support. President Johnson said publicly that the United States provided no assistance of any kinds of Israelis. According to a recent Congressional research service report, between 1949 and 1965 U.S. aid to Israel average \$63 million annually, and over 95 percent of that assistance was for economic development and food aid. The first military lending, which was very modest, occurred in 1959. However, 1966 through 1970 average annual aid jumped to \$120 million, and the share of military loans climbed to 47 percent. In 1965 the year before six-day war the U.S. government lent \$90

million. In the year of war such loans fell to \$7 million, but in succeeding years total rose, reaching \$85 million in 1969 and hitting 1975 to \$2.7 billion (Richman, 2000, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id:1019, Accessed on October 18th, 2004).

Those facts are enough to prove that American government had acted ambivalences in many purposes in the Middle East region, and those only “parts” of American government involvement in the Middle East geo political situation. The U.S government has been using double standard in foreign policies to determine a friend or enemy. There are many other historical facts, which will show to the reader how deep the intervention of American government in the Middle East is. The U.S. Government had used all resources to maintain their position in the Middle East. Because after the second World War and during Cold War the U.S government and Soviet Union (Russia) were competing each other to hold important position in the Middle East. They try to influence by supporting Arab leaders, which were considered as “cooperative”. Of course, Arabs / Middle East leaders had to give something to them in return. Most of supports were in the form of fund, weapon and military training.

After the fall down of Soviet Union in 1990, American government had no obstacle anymore to control the World. There is no country can balance the power of the American Government. The United States of America becomes the most powerful country in the world, and changes become the biggest imperialist country after English. There is no one in the world dared to oppose the U.S. Government. There are only two choices, be a U.S. “friend” or destroy. Even now,

the U.S. Government does not want to listen to any arguments or advices from its allies. The researcher can see that from the “Cowboy” action in Iraq. The second Gulf War in 2003 war, who was declared by American president George W Bush Junior, is one of the evidence that American government started to do anything without any consultation with its allies or even the United Nations. The U.S government had mandating itself to attack Iraq. Even, the reason that Iraq had mass weapons was weak and it never been proved until now. Now billions of dollars have been spent and more than 2000 American armies died for something that never exist or being proved, in other words they died for nothing.

There is no action from American people even there were many Americans soldiers died in those wars, like what happened in the 60^s when thousands of people protested the involvement of American soldiers in Vietnam, because the result of those war was terrible, thousands of American soldiers’ life were lost not including Vietnamese people and children. Now in Iraq more than one thousands American soldiers died or injured including thousands of innocent victims of Iraqi people and children. Even though the U.S government had declared that the war was over, but it did not mean that the resistance of Iraqi people ended. Now Iraq becomes a huge graveyard, almost every day bomb is exploding and many people died because of it. Because Iraqi fighters realized almost impossible to fight frontally American soldiers, urban guerrilla is the best tactic to fight American troops.

The negative stereotypes in Middle East people are too strong in the mind of American people. The stereotypes of Middle East people are different from

other ethnics in the world. The researcher can see those facts from many movies especially action movies. Almost all American movies present Middle East people as cruel and uncivilized. No wonder many cases of U.S armies and intelligence institutions misconducts to the Middle East people in many prisons like what happened in Abu Ghraib, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which are legal or illegal never been noticed by U.S Congress. Even the U.N is protesting for the status of Middle East prisoners, who captured or even abducted by American Government and considered as violation to human rights, because most of them captured without facing fair Trial.

B. Myth and Stereotype in Popular Culture

Myth and stereotype are part of the popular culture, both of them related to each other. Myth or Mythology is not based upon invention and imagination, though it may not always be logical and is frequently heavily emotional. It is not merely the product of legend, or the result of fantasy or wishfulfillment, or even the effect of a primitive, prescientific mind trying to explain the ways of the world to itself (as we might be inclined to believe about the mythologies of Greece and Rome). On the contrary, our mythology derives from what is very real i.e. our legal tradition, our history, and the biographies of our great men Myth, as when we speak of Myth of Middle East people, means a deeply rooted cultural belief with no implied judgment as to whether that belief is true or false. As stated by Madonna Marsden in *Popular Culture: An Introductory Text*:

Myth refers only to the existence of that belief and its persistence in a cultural's artistic tradition despite whatever "logical" and "well-documented" evidence which there might be to contradict it (Marsden, in Nachbar, (Ed.), 1992: 136).

Related to the title of this thesis "The stereotyping of the Middle East people as seen in *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick, the researcher uses the myth of Japanese people as analogy for the Middle East people. In this subchapter, the researcher also explains about the theory of stereotype in popular culture in order to explore the stereotyping of the Middle East people.

"Stereotype" is often used to encapsulate the opposite – the fears and hatred of popular mindset. A Stereotype in and out itself is a neutral device of simplistic organization. It is a way of grouping all individual people or objects of certain "type" into one category with – a few to grasp characteristic. Negative stereotypes are often used to label groups which the mainstream culture feel threatening the status quo, like negative stereotypes used in "Japan bashing" by Americans, and in "American bashing" by Japanese. Thus the Japanese became "robotic, soulless, ruthless, cutthroat competitor for world market" and "all American workers are lazy and illiterate." Stereotypes are especially useful tools in the study of popular culture, because they are direct and simple expression of popular belief and values, and because they can be found in all areas of popular expression, both "real and imagined" (Nachbar and Lause, 1992. p.26).

There are several illustrations of important characteristic of stereotype:

- 1). A stereotype is a standardized conception or image of a specific group of people or objects.
- 2). The standardized conception is held in common by the members of a group. Popular stereotype are images which are shared by those who hold a common cultural mindset.
- 3). Stereotypes are direct expression of beliefs and values (Nachbar and Lause, 1992, p. 236).

Related to the title of this thesis; 'the stereotyping of Middle East people as seen in *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick. Both directors presented Middle East people as negative characters in their movies. The researcher can see how those two directors presented the Middle East people in a similar way to treat of Japanese people who are considered as "robotic, soulless, ruthless, cutthroat competitor for world market". The myth that Japanese people are sneaky and unfair as proved by the "sneaky attack" on Pearl Harbor also how they now "sweep history under the carpet". Those Myths have been living for decades in the mind of American people.

The Middle East people have been stereotyped as terrorists for many years, especially after the attack of the World Trade Center, New York in 2001. After the soviet tumble down, the Middle East people now become a threat for western civilization. As we see in American Medias especially American movie always presented Middle East as "towel head, stooges-in-sheet, slovenly and hook noosed which usually refer to the Middle East people. Similar with the myth of

Japanese people and other Asian ethnics as yellow peril, yellow peril is used to describe Asian Pacific Americans as a threat for American civilization. (<http://omicron.felk.cvut.cz/FAQ/articles/a2868.html>).

In *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*, William Friedkin and Edward Zwick presented the Middle East people as terrorists who are blood thirsty, sneaky and irrational. The researcher can see it from the characters of Middle East people in their movies. The Middle East people are portrayed as irrational people who do something terrible to the American people and their allies, such as doing suicide bomb or attacking American people and facilities without any clear explanation. Those pictures of negative stereotype of the Middle East people become a common thing in American movies. The researcher can see it from the statement of Goodstein:

“After years of virtual invisibility, Arab-Americans are finally finding prominence in Hollywood movies-as terrorist and villains. They are only the latest in a long line of ethnic groups and nationalities cast in stereotypical bad-guy roles... (Elayan, 2005, p.13)

E. Sociology

In this thesis, sociological approach is used to explain the phenomenon of negative stereotype toward Middle East people as seen in the movies of *Rules Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick.

What is sociology? The dictionary says that sociology is the study of social relationship, social institutions, and society. The term itself, often credited to Auguste Comte (1798-1857), the founder of sociology, is derived from two

roots words: *socius*, which means “companion” or ”associate,” and *logos*, which means “word.” At its most basic, then, it means “words about human association or society.” Sociology is concerned with every aspect of the social world that affects a person’s thought or action. American Sociological Association stated another definition in a booklet called “Careers in Sociology” (1977) sociology is the study of social life and the social cause and consequences of human behavior (Eshleman, Cashion and Basirico, 1993, p. 6).

Those definitions of sociology above reflect the belief of people by the context of their contacts, association, and communication with other people. The very heart of sociology is concern with the complexities and subtleties of human social life –makes it a discipline that highly relevant not only to professional sociologist, but also to people in virtually every line of work and at every level. Sociology may consider a wide range of general questions such as following:

1. How do the groups influence individual human behavior?
2. What are the cause and the consequences of a particular system of social order?
3. What social factors contribute to particular social change?
4. What purpose is served by particular social organization?
5. What are the causes and consequences of particular social system?

Those general questions help sociologists to identify more specific question (Eshleman, Chasion, Basirico, 1993, p.6).

One of the most serious problems faced by most racial and ethnic groups in America and around the world concern how they are perceived and

treated by others. For number of reasons, people tend to treat those they perceive to be different in ways that they will not treat members of their own group. Not infrequently, this has led to inequality and has increased societal strains and tensions. A prejudice is negative attitude toward an entire category of people. It involves thoughts and beliefs that exist inside people's heads. These beliefs can lead to categorical rejection and the disliking of an entire racial or ethnic group, even if the prejudiced person has had little or no contact with them. In the United States, prejudice is frequently expressed through the use of ethnic slurs such as "red-skin," "honkie," "wetback," "eagle beaks" or "nigger." These ethnic labels are "unkind words" and usually express negative feelings (Eshleman, Cashion, Basirico, 1993, p. 226).

Regardless of what theory to explain prejudice, it is sustained through stereotypes, which are widely held beliefs about the character and behavior of all members of group. They are usually based on readily discernible characteristics, such as physical appearance, and over simplifications that seldom correspond to the facts. A prejudiced person might say of one group, "they breed like rabbits," of another, "they bunch of hoodlums," overlooking the great range of individual differences found within every group. Stereotypes of the majority are usually more favorable than those minorities. White may be portrayed as industrious, intelligent, ambitious and progressive, whereas black may be described as lazy, happy-go-lucky, and ignorant (Eshleman, Cashion, Basirico, p.227).

There are several harmful consequences of stereotypes. First, stereotypes are often based on inaccurate information, and these distortions of reality could very well interfere with a person's adjustment to his or her social environment. Second, they are used to justify discriminations against member of various ethnic and racial groups. The stereotype that black are lazy and unintelligent, for example could be used as basic for categorically barring blacks from highly paid executive and managerial position. The third damaging effect of stereotyping is that it may contribute to the development of an inferior self- concept. The *symbolic interaction viewpoint* tells us that self-perceptions are created through internalizing the attitudes, responses and definition one believes are held by others. An inferior self-concept may be developed by because stereotyped predictions about behavior influence behavior in such a way that those predictions come true (Eshleman, Cashion, Basirico, 1993, p.228).

F. Semiotic Film Theory

As the researcher mentioned before in the previous chapter, movie consists of many codes and symbols, which covertly revealed meaning; therefore semiotic film theory is needed not only to interpret words and sentences but also the meaning behind the symbols and theory.

Saussure's *Course in General Linguistic* (1916) provides the most influential account in language studies, which is also, on the development, the one that gives the deepest influence on contemporary movie theory. Saussure's area of

concern is distinguished as diachronic, at its change form across history, and synchronic, how a language works at a given moment as a rule-governed system. Further, he also introduced the distinction between *langue* and *parole*, and also between *signifier* and *signified*. By *parole* is meant what people utter whether in writing or in speech. While *langue* is the term for this stands the system of a particular language allow someone to generate a meaningful sentence according to rules of word formation and sentence structure. *Signifier* is produced from the sounds used by a particular language which are arranged in temporal order and *signified* consists of the concept or meaning assigned to any organization of signifier. Thus, a sign is formed when signifier and signified are joined together.

- **Meaning**

- **Themes/Tropes:** the broad ideas and allusions (themes) that are established by repetition of technical and linguistic means (tropes) throughout the film such as alienation, power and control, transcendence through romantic achievement etc.
- **Intent/Message:** sometimes, the message in the film is obvious. Although the message is obvious, it does not mean that the film is simple or that there is not a contradictory subtext. Sometimes, however, the filmmakers are not sure of their message, or intended message becomes clouded along the way, or the filmmakers intend one message and many in the audience interpret the film differently.

1. Basic Terminology in Cinematography

Since a film is constructed of visual, aural, and linguistic components that are manipulated in particular ways, it is a challenge to take apart the totality of the film experience and to interpret how that experience was assembled. Understanding those components is very essential because the object of the study in this research is in the form of film. A film has its own particular language as an audio-visual media as Metz stated in *New Vocabularies in Film Semiotics*:

“Cinema is a language, in sum, not only in a broadly metaphorical sense but also as a set of messages grounded in a given matter of expression, and as an artistic language, a discourse or signifying practice characterized by specific codifications and ordering procedures” (Robert Stam et.al, 1992: 37).

That is why the basic terminology in cinematography is needed as a guide in interpreting the meaning of the signs itself. Below is an explanation of ways to analyze the language of film.

- Metaphor or Symbolism**: it is similar to literary interpretation, only it considers all aspects of the film’s linguistic, visual, and aural. Metaphors and symbolism only gain relevance if they are repeated in significant ways or connected with the larger meaning of the film.
- **Basic Elements**
- Motivation**: it is character’s personal motivation as a reason for his/her action.
- Characterization**: consists of central characters and minor characters, which represent values which sometimes change during the film. They might be thinly or full drawn.

-**POV (point of view)**: screenplays will sometimes note that a shot will be seen from the point of view of a particular character. The term subjective shot indicates that the audience (camera) will see what the character sees. Often it indicates a handheld camera shot that moves in a walking or running motion while following a character. Subjective camera shots add drama and frenzy to chase scenes.

-**Setting and Sets**: the scene shot can be in a studio sound stage or on location. EXT. (exterior) and INT. (interior) designations are commonly listed in film scripts to indicate the setting. Setting is used in composing the shot (verticals and horizontals, windows and doors, the slats of shades, mirror, etc.). Particular settings (vast mountain range, cluttered urban setting) function as signs in order to convey narrative and ideological information.

-**Acting Style**: particular actors have their own recognizable style or type, and the filmmakers use the audience's expectations, either by reaffirming or by challenging these expectations.

-**Costumes**: this also includes physiques, hair styles, contrasts between characters, changes along the film, use of colors etc.

-**Lighting**:

Lighting is one of the key means in creating shadows, which is an important element when conveying meaning.

***Key Light**: main lighting which is usually placed at a 45 degree angle between camera and subject.

*.**Fill Light**: an auxiliary light, usually from the side of the subject, that softens shadows and illuminates areas not covered by the key light.

*.**Highlighting or Spotlighting**: pencil-thin beams of light used to illuminate certain parts of a subject, often eyes or other facial features.

*.**Backlighting**: placing the main source of light behind the subject, silhouetting it, and directing the light toward the camera.

*.**Top lighting**: lighting from above.

*.**Diffuser/Filter**: a gelatin plate that is placed in front of light to change the effect. (Whether to cast a shadow or soften the light).

- **Shot Composition**

Each shot represents many choices made by the filmmakers to convey meaning.

-**Tone**: bright, blur, sharp, colors, etc.

-**Film Speed**: film speed reverse filmmakers' particular intention whether in slow or fast motion.

-**Angle of View/Lens**: the angle of the shot created by the lens.

*.**Wide angle lenses**: present broad views of subjects.

*.**Telephoto lenses**: it has very narrow angles of views which acts like a telescope to focus faraway subjects and flatten the view.

-**Camera Angle**: the angle at which the camera is pointed at the subject: low (shot from below), high (shot from above, or eye-level (includes extreme low and high angle shot). This creates the angle of vision (the point of view) for the audience, and is often used to establish character's level of power and

control (high angle shots can make character seem diminished), but there are many other uses as well. Camera angles are also sometimes indicated on scripts. Included are bird's eye view, high angle (photo on left), eye-level, and low angle shots.

-**Tracking, Panning, and Tilt:** tracking shot moves the camera either sideways or in and out. Panning is swinging the camera horizontally; while tilt is swinging it vertically. These effects are often used simultaneously.

***Focus:** shallow focus uses sharp focus on the characters or things in one area of the shot and soft (blurred) focus in the rest.

***Deep focus:** brings out the detail in all areas of the shot.

***Focus in:** gradually zooms in on the subject, while focus from one image/character to another (usually exchanging focus on background and foreground).

-**Shot distance:** includes full shot, three-quarters shot, mid- or half-shot, close-up and extreme close-up for shots of bodies; (extreme) long-shot, mid-shot, (extreme close-up to describe more general. Shot distance can be used to create sense of isolation (extreme long-shot of character in a desert) or great pain, anger or joy (extreme close-up of character's face). Choice of lenses can create strange effects. Wide angle close-up extends and distorts image at the edges, like a funhouse mirror, telephoto lens used in long shots flatten distances and putting background out of focus. Shot designations for films include;

- *.**Long Shot (LS) or Full Shot (FS)**: with people, this is a shot from the top of their heads to at least their feet. (To save space we've used a vertical rather than a horizontal format for this sort of photo).
- *.**Medium Shot (MS)**: is normally a shot from the waist up.
- *.**Medium Close-Up (MCU)**: is a shot cropped between the shoulders and the belt line.
- *.**Close-Up (CU)**: is the most desirable to catch changing facial expressions which are important to follow a conversation.
- *.**Extreme Close-Ups (XCUs)**: are reserved for dramatic impact. The XCUs shot may show just the eyes of an individual.
- *.**An establishing shot is a Wide Shot (WS) or a Long Shot (LS)**: this type of shot gives an audience a basic orientation to the geography of a scene (who is where) after which there should be cuts to closer shots. Thereafter, establishing shots can be momentarily used as reminders or updates on scene changes, where people have moved in relation to each other, etc. in this context they are called re-establishing shots.
- *.**Master Shot**: is similar to an establishing shot, but this term is generally reserved for the special needs of film. Once the master shot action is filmed, the scene is generally shot over again from different camera positions so that there are shots (especially close ups) of each actor. Dialogue and actor reactions are repeated each time the camera is repositioned.

- **Frame:** the border that contains the image. It can be “open” (with characters moving in and out); “moving” (using focus, tracking, panning); “canted” (at odd angles, unbalanced shot composition). Small frames used with close-ups create sense of claustrophobia, often enhanced by the set (low ceilings, numerous props and furnishing) and lighting. The set can also be used to frame the shot in other ways (lamps, flags, etc. on either side; a bed out-of-focus at the bottom of the frame) as can characters (as signs of intimidation, marginally, support, etc.)
- **Shot/Counter shot:** standard device used during dialogue between two characters; often start with a “two-shot” of the two characters, then moves back and forth combined with camera angle, shot distance, and pace to establish point of view. Note when this standard device is not used, and for what purpose. Note when the person speaking is not viewed, or only back is viewed.
- **Cuts:** instantaneous changes from one scene to the next.
- **Reaction shot:** quick cut to pick up character’s reaction to an event.
- **Jump Cut:** a cut that occurs within a scene (rather than between scenes) to condense the action of a scene (such as crossing a desert).
- **Freeze Frame:** a freeze shot which is achieved by printing a single frame many times in succession to give the illusion of a still photograph.
- **Cutaway:** a shot inserted in a scene to show action happening elsewhere.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

In this chapter the researcher presents the analysis of two American movies. There are *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. *Rules of Engagement* is action movie directed by William Friedkin and starred by Samuel L Jackson as Col. Terry Childers, Tommy Lee Jones as Col. Hay Hodges, Guy Pearce as Major Mark Biggs. It was produced by Seven Arts, USA, released in 2000. *The Siege* is also an action movie directed by Edward Zwick and starred by Denzel Washington as Special Agent FBI Anthony Hubbard, Annette Bening as Elice Kraft/Sharon Bridger, and Bruce Willis as Major General William Deveraux, Tommy Shalhoub as FBI agent Frank Haddad, also Sami Bouajila as Samir Nazhde. It was produced by Twentieth Century Fox, USA, released in 1999.

As the researcher mentioned before in the previous chapter, this research analyzes two problem statements, therefore this chapter is divided into two subchapters. The first subchapter analyzes how William Friedkin and Edward Zwick present the stereotype of Middle East people in their movies, and the second subchapter analyzes why Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes as seen in the screen.

In this chapter the researcher applies several theories and approaches, there are: semiotic film theory, popular culture, historical approach, stereotype, sociological. The first is started with the titles of the movies. *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege* are action movies. Rules of Engagement means rules

engagement or it can be said as the rules of war, the rules of engagement consist of rules that should be obeyed by soldiers before they start to open fire. In the movie *Rules of Engagement* Col. Terry Childers was considered by Court Martial disobeying rules of engagement by commanding his soldiers to open fire to the unarmed civilians.

The second movie is an action movie entitled *The Siege*, “Siege” in Oxford dictionary has a meaning as operation of armed forces who surround and blockade a town or fortress in order to capture it (Hornby, 1987, p.797). In this movie it shows how General William Deveraux (Bruce Willis) commanded his soldiers to isolate and detain Middle East people in order to find terrorist suspects. From those two movies we can see how Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes. It can be seen that from several dialogues from those two movies. Hollywood unfairly pictures Middle East people for many years, columnist Jay Stones for instance, observes that it “appears we’re down to one group, the Arabs. When was the last time you saw an Arab character in a movie who was anything but one of three Bs (billionaire, bomber, belly dancer)?” (Mandel, www.meforum.org/article/26 accessed in 20.10.2005 at 20.22),

In this thesis the researcher exposes more deeply about how Middle East people presented by William Friedkin and Edward Zwick in their movies *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege* in first subchapter.

A. How do William Friedkin and Edward Zwick present the negative stereotype of Middle East people in their movies?

The Rules of Engagement (ROE) contains rules in governing conflict. Those rules are made to avoid unnecessary victims such as civilian, vital infrastructures and facilities such as hospital and water installation, in order to limit casualties in war (USMC, www.tpub.com/content/USMC/mcwp3353/css/mcwp3353_26.html). The focus of the movie *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin is about violation of rules governing combat in urban area, which was committed by Colonel Terry Childers as mentioned by Major Biggs in the Court room. The Rules of Engagement in urban area are:

1. If possible the enemy will warn first than ask to surrender.
 2. Deadly force is the last result.
 3. If possible try to arrange the evacuation of civilians prior to US attack.
- (Rules of Engagement, disc 2, 43:00).

Those rules have to appall by all American soldiers before making combat. In the movie *Rules of Engagement* those rules were disobeyed by Colonel Terry L Childers (Samuel L Jackson). He is a commander of 24th US Marine expedition unit, special operation field. He is a decorative war hero and good officer, he is also a good commander and always concerns the safety of his fellow marines. It can be seen from the dialogue between Colonel Terry Childers and Major Mark Biggs (Guy Pearce) in the Court room.

Major Mark Biggs: the crowd in front of embassy had no weapons, did they colonel?

Col. Hay Hodges : objection, they found no weapon sniper either.

Col. Terry Childers: yes, they had weapon, you thing that script fighting a war without pissing somebody off, follow the rules and nobody get hurt, yes innocent people probably die, innocent people always die, but I did not exceed my order.

Major. Mark Biggs: there is rule that marine is sworn to appall it.

Col. Terry Childers: I was not going to stand by to see another marine die just to life by those fucking rules!

(*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 44: 07)

Colonel Terry L Childers has been involved in many combats and always succeed in doing his job, except, when Col. Terry Childers and his soldiers were ordered to secure the US Embassy in Yemen. When he went there, the situation was ugly, and he asked the US ambassador to arrange evacuation. During the evacuation he went to the top of the roof and took the US flag before he left. Many of his soldiers died and wounded, because there were snipers across the building shooting at them. When he tried to observe the situation, his observer, sergeant Krascthevik, died in his arm. Then he ordered his soldiers to open fire to the crowd, the results were more than 80 people died, many of them women and children, and another 100 were seriously injured.

This incident became international incident and American government was blamed for this incident. Colonel Terry Childers was convicted by US Marines Courts Martial of misconducts the Rules of Engagement. He asked his best friend Colonel Hay Hodges to prove that he was innocent. He just did the right thing, because the Yemen people were shooting and hostile to his soldiers. They shot US Marines without any reason and what they did was considered as a threat to the American people.

The Siege is an action movie directed by Edward Zwick which presents story about the effort of FBI, CIA agents and US Armies to shut down terrorist cells who were working in New York and planning to bomb it. Assistant to Special Agent in Charge Anthony Hubbard (Denzel Washington) and his partner Frank Haddad (Tommy Shalhoub) were in charge in terrorism task force. In his action he helped by CIA agent; Elise Craft to shut down the terrorist cell in New York. Anthony Hubbard was a decorative agent, he always obeyed and followed the rules. It can be seen from the dialogue between him and Elise Craft when they tried to capture one of the terrorist cells:

Elise Craft : you gonna loose them.
 Anthony Hubbard : do you thing I want to loose them, do you thing I am in loosing people business ha, if I don't take them properly they hit the street in two hours, they don't care if I find semtex, plutonium, dynamite, self lighting chocko briskets, without the right warrant they walk you understand.

(*The Siege*, disc 2, 15: 21)

From the dialogue above it can be seen that the character of Anthony Hubbard was a dedicative and objective agent who worked by the rules.



(*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 44:00)



(*The Siege*, Disc 2, 43: 10)

Those two American heroes had the same purpose; they tried to protect America from the threat of terrorists, which came from the Middle East people. Middle East people are commonly presented as antagonist characters in most of American action movies, especially those two movies *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick. Both of them present Middle East people in negative stereotypes: they are Dr. Ahmar (*Rules of Engagement*) and Samir Nazhde (*The Siege*). Both of them are portrayed as liars. It can be seen from the scene when Dr. Ahmar testified against Colonel Terry Childers. At first William Friedkin made the audience sympathize with Dr. Ahmar and his people, but during the court he could not ensure the jury that his people were innocent. Even he could not defend himself and his people when Col. Hay Hodges asked about the content of the audio cassette. The content of the audio cassette is about an order to kill American people in the name of God. Then suddenly the position of Dr. Ahmar and his people changed from being innocent and honest to being guilty and dishonest.



(*Rules of Engagement*, disc 2, 31: 46)

The camera shoots Dr. Ahmar by technique of medium shot, to give enough pictures about Dr. Ahmar character. At the Court scene Dr. Ahmar only several time made eye contacts with Col. Hay Hodges or the audience and most of the time he looked down or at another direction during the Court. Those actions usually were done by someone who lied to other. That image is strengthened by another scene which shows Middle East protesters were shooting the American Marines. In that scene, William Friedkin tried to say that Middle East people could not be trusted, because they will use everything even lie to make us believe that they are innocent and they are only the victims of American government policies.

Edward Zwick also presents Middle East people as terrorists in his movie *The Siege*. He presents Middle East people through two characters Samir Nazhde and Frank Haddad. Samir Nazhde is a professor in Arab study and Frank Haddad is an FBI agent. At the beginning of the movie Samir Nazhde is shown as an innocent person even presented him as poor person, when he was captured by FBI, because he was the sponsor of Ali Waziri visa. Ali Waziri was one of the terrorist members who committed suicide bomb on the bus 87. In that scene, Samir Nazhde was denying his involvement in that case. When he went home, he confessed to Elise how horrible and confusing his life was. When his brother committed suicide bomb in theatre in Tel Aviv, suddenly he became VIP. That kind of perception changed suddenly at the end of the movies. Samir Nazhde confessed to Elise Craft that he was the last of the terrorist cell. He was planning to bomb the protesters who were protesting the discrimination toward Middle East

people committed by the US Army led by Gen. Deveraux. From the pictures below we can see the changes of the role of Samir Nazhde, at the beginning he was so confused, unsure and afraid, but at the end of the movie he became mean and brave.



The Siege, disc 2, 20: 02)



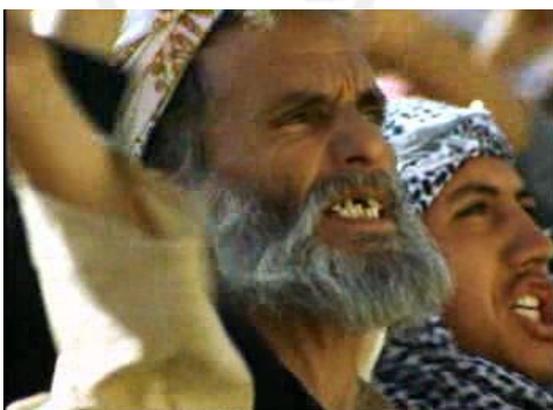
(*The Siege*, Disc 2, 41: 30)

From those explanations and pictures of those two movies, the researcher can see how the Middle East people are presented by William Friedkin and Edward Zwick. Dr. Ahmar and Samir Nazhde are the representation of the Middle East people. Both of them are presented in the same way: cowards, liars and mean. It can be seen when Dr. Ahmar uses his patients to make Col. Terry Childers feel guilty, and when Samir Nazhde tried to bomb the protesters who were tried to releasing the Middle East people from the US Army detention. Even he uses Elise Craft a woman who was protecting him, as his hostage but finally kills her.

Those genres of movies are called “action” precisely because action and spectacle – flying through the air, gunning down hordes of enemies, explosion – override all other considerations, such as character development or social commentary. Motives tend typically to comprise simplistic driver for money, love

and power, and are taken for granted, with no further analysis deemed necessary it is untenable to expect this genre to undergo a qualitative revolution that away with stereotypes. The subject of action movies is factually derived. Actions movies must reflect realities with the viewing audience familiar (Mandel. www.meforum.org/article/26).

Middle East people are usually used as antagonist roles in most of action movies, in reality most of American people recognize Middle East people as terrorists and they see it everyday in every media in America. Usually Middle East people are portrayed as Arabs and all Arabs are Middle East people, even there are many Ethnic and religions who resides there, but Hollywood usually generalizes it. In *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*, both of directors portray Middle East people in the same stereotype in physical appearance, bearded kuffiyeh-clad men with full of hatred to American people without any reasonable reason.



(*Rules of Engagement* Disc 1, 16:38)



(*The Siege* Disc 1, 25:45)

Those Hollywood 'Middle East people' become standard stereotype for Middle East people in American movies, especially action movies.

Hollywood usually uses religion as a motive of every action which is committed by Middle East people. It can be seen from two American action movies *Rules of Engagement* directed by William Friedkin and *The Siege* directed by Edward Zwick. In their movies William Friedkin and Edward Zwick use the same method to give motive for the Middle East people, they use motive in the name of God for antagonists' role in their movies:

Col. Hay Hodges : would you translate the words you hear this audio cassette to the court please.....Dr Ahmar.
 Dr. Ahmar : we call every Muslim who believe in God and hope for reward to obey God Command.
 Col. Hay Hodges : Dr Ahmar Did it say what God command is?
 Dr. Ahmar : to kill Americans and plunder their possession whatever we find them.
 Col. Hay Hodges : go-on please.
 Dr. Ahmar : to kill Americans and their allies, both civil and military is duty for every Muslim who is ever.
 Col. Hay Hodges : to kill American is a duty is that what it says?
 Dr. Ahmar : yes
 (*Rules of Engagement* Disc 2, 27: 22)

Elise Craft : listen they also got a warrant ok, a warrant from God, they ready to die, your quaint law didn't mean sit for this people.
 (*The Siege* Disc 2, 34: 51)

Religion motive is usually used by Hollywood to make it simpler, so they do not have to explain the detail about the reasons and the backgrounds of the action of Middle East people. Those kinds of stereotype are commonly used by Hollywood to make the movie more interesting, the directors only have to concentrate on suspense and action. Because most of the audience do not care

about the inner psychology of the negative characters, what they want only gun action and suspense, most of it happen in action movies.

Most of American people think the hatred of Middle East people to them because Middle East people are uneducated people. The lack of educated people among them made Middle East people become unreasonable people. In the eye of Americans who considered themselves as educated people, they see the hatred of Middle East people toward them as unreasonable things. Because the role of American people in Middle East are to educate Middle East people about the values and beliefs of democracy and freedom. The picture of Middle East people who are illiterate and uneducated are portrayed in one of the dialogues between Col. Hay Hodges and Dr. Ahmar:

- Col. Hay Hodges : I found an audio cassette inside the embassy, in fact I found several others there, they all marked exhibit R, would you translate the writing outside the cassette please.
- Dr. Ahmar : declaration of Islamic Jihad against United States.
- Col. Hay Hodges : this audio cassette used for purposes religious and political propaganda due to high of illiteracy write in Yemen is that correct?
- Dr Ahmar : yes
(*Rules of Engagement* Disc 2, 30: 18)

Middle East people are considered as Aliens or Outsiders who are considered as a threat to the value and belief of American people. In their movies, Middle East people are group of people who have no fear to die and not negotiable in their action. The only way to handle Middle East people is by using violence. It can be seen from the dialogues between Col. Terry Childers and Captain Lee when they are on the roof top of American Embassy:

Col. Terry Childers : sec, Redman, engages hostile target asp, deadly force are authorizes, out, copy, over.
 Captain Lee : Redman, Redman, drop six sec, negative, negative be advice, woman and children in my line of fire, I got sniper on the building 400 meters, out, copy, over.
 Col. Terry Childers : what is it about this order you don't understand Captain Lee!
 Captain Lee : sir, do you order me fire to the crowd, over?
 Col. Terry Childers : ye Goddamned, waste the motherfucker!
 (*Rules of Engagement* Disc 1, 27:22)

In that scene Col. Terry Childers using the words “waste the motherfucker” to describe all the Middle East people. Even he also uses that words inside the courtrooms when Major. Biggs holds up pictures of the people in the crowd and asks, “are these mother fuckers?” responds affirmatively.

The researcher also sees similar way in *The Siege*, when Special Agent Anthony Hubbard with his assistant Frank Haddad and CIA agent Elise Craft/Sharon Bridger negotiated with terrorist group who took hostage of bus passenger:

Elise Craft : oh...oh my God, they're not here for negotiate.
 Agent Frank H : meaning?
 Elise Craft : they were waiting for the cameras, they want everybody watching, you got shooter in place?
 Agent Frank H : yeah.....so?
 Elise : use them, kill them now, look it loose, loose anyway you play it, you wan'a loose little or loose big
 (The Siege Disc 1, 15:50)

Both of directors present Middle East people as threats that have to be handled in violence. The Middle East people threat the American life, and especially their beliefs and values about freedom. The American people see Middle East people as people who think that American is their enemy despite there are no reasonable

reason. William Friedkin portrays the images of a Middle East person using technique of medium shot from behind when he aimed and shot American flag uses AK-47 riffle.



(Rules of Engagement Disc 2, 25:36)

From that picture above we can see clearly how William Friedkin portrays the image of Middle East people, the camera shot Middle East person from behind when Middle East person aimed and shot the American Flag, the audience could not see the expression of that person when he did that. From that image the researcher see the reason why Middle East people do terrible thing become a mystery, because at the beginning of the movie William Friedkin did not give enough explanation why Middle East people were hostile to American people. That picture of Middle East person, who was firing the American flag on the building, is a representation the danger of Middle East people who threat American life. American flag is the symbol of American as a nation. The blue sky as the background symbolizes the freedom of American people which is threatened by Middle East people, which are considered as dangerous invaders or

outsiders. Those kinds of stereotypes are strengthened by the dialogue between

Mrs Mourain and her son, Jason inside the U.S Embassy:

Justin : what's wrong mommy?
 Mrs. Mourain : people are upset about something darling.
 Justin : are they mad to daddy?
 Mrs. Mourain : no they're not mad to your daddy.
 Justin : why they yelling?
 Mrs. Mourain : they want attention; they try to get attention, so the
 people listen to them.

(*Rules of Engagement* Disc 1, 16:33)

The Middle East people also considered as cowards. The American people consider women and children should be protected and there is no reason to involve them, but Middle East people acted in different way. The Middle East people use their children and women as operatives or agents, even as shield in their operation. This perception can be seen in the dialogue between special agent in charge Anthony Hubbard and Elise Craft when they tried to catch terrorist cell in New York.

Elise Craft : not two judges from now, not two hours from now, not two minutes from now. This guy gonna split any second and you lost the best.....
 Anthony Hubbard : Frank working on the warrant.
 Elise Craft : you know understand this people pro, from the age of twelve they been dodging people like you, people better than you.
 Anthony Hubbard : people like you.

(*The Siege*, Disc 2, 42: 36)

In that scene Edward Zwick wants to show that Middle East people from the early age, they have been taught to kill American people. In other scenes in *Rules of Engagement*, William Friedkin also shows the same thing in visual language, the camera uses long shot then close up shot to get an image of Middle East Children

throwing rocks, even shooting at American Marines. The pictures below are pictures of children who were shooting at the US Marines are appalling, the children who Col. Hodges felt sorry at early shooting. It paints the crowd as complete monsters that are so barbaric that they would let their children have guns to shoot at military personnel. It is now positively affirmative that they were not victims and they got what they deserved. Those who are dead so because on their own fault.



(*Rules of Engagement*, disc 2, 38: 50) (*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 37:00)

Edward Zwick also does the same things in portraying Middle East people. He described Middle East people as a threat with mystery or unknown motive. It can be seen from the dialogue between FBI agents about the demand of terrorist group:

The sound : this is our first and last warning, we expect our demand to be made, there will no communication of anytime, that is all.
 Agent Tina : demand for what? Do you hear any demand?
 Agent Mike : maybe it's a prank.
 Agent Danny : or sense of humor.
 (*The Siege* Disc 1, 01:46)

In other parts of the movies William Friedkin and Edward Zwick also give negative stereotypes of Middle East people in achieving their purposes, in one

way or another. The Middle East people are able to do horrible things to get what they wanted, even by using children and women. It can be seen from the pictures of Middle East people shooting at American Marines and Embassy; they used women and children as a shield.



(*Rules of Engagement* Disc 1, 19:27)



(*The Siege* Disc 2, 43:00)

The Middle East region were portrayed in that movie as a region where states supporting terrorist action against American people. In other words the terrorism activities were not only supported by several people, but the states in that region also support those activities. It can be seen from the dialogue between Senators, Commandants of US army and security advisor to response the escalating of terrorism act in New York.

- Senator 1 : how about whose behind, whose behind these?
 Senator 2 : Libya, Iran, Iraq possibly Syria.
 Security Advisor : ask a question get an atlas.
 Senator 1 : all I know we must responses.
 Security Advisor : that's an excellent idea senator, how we do that?
 Senator 1 : find it who they are and bomb the sit on them.
 (*The Siege* Disc 2, 03: 54)

From that dialogue above, Middle East governments were involved, supported or even financed the activity of terrorism against American necessities. These conflicts are based on several historical events which involved American

government and Middle East governments as the researcher stated on the previous chapter.

The other form of negative stereotypes on Middle East people can be seen on the destruction which was created by Middle East people. The Middle East people not only tried to kill American People but also destroy all infrastructures which are connected with American interest, such as American Embassy or their allies, public places, transportation facilities and many others. Those kinds of methods are widely known used by terrorist.



(*The Siege*, Disc 2, 25: 46)



(*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 01:25)

In *The Siege*, Edward Zwick shows a picture of a destruction of an army barrack which is bombed by terrorist and in *Rules of Engagement*, William Freidkin shows the destruction caused by Middle East protester outside the American Embassy. Those pictures will give us enough description, how dangerous Middle East People are.

In addition, Middle East women's depictions do not seem to fare much better. In fact, it seems that Arab women may as well be virtually invisible, or are projected to seem that women in Middle East are portrayed mainly as bundles of black cloth, submissive harem maidens or carrying jug on their heads. They have

no identities whatsoever, and they always mute (Elayan, 2005, p.18). The researcher even sees them worse, because in the movie *Rules of Engagement* Middle East women are used as the shield for the men, when the crowd attacks the US embassy in Yemen. William Friedkin uses technique of long shot to get the image of Middle East women.



(*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 01:20) (*Rules of Engagement*, Disc 2, 04:45)

In the movie *Rules of Engagement*, William Friedkin was stereotyping Middle East woman as mysterious person. In one of the scenes, the camera uses long shot to portray the alienation of Middle East women in the perception of American audience. The camera takes long shoot to portray the picture of Middle East woman in Col. Hay Hodges perspective, to portray of the mystery of Middle East women who cannot be understood. The costume of long black dress that worn by Middle East women give an impression of the mystery of Middle East women, because the color of black symbolizes mystery, the mystery of what the Middle East women think, the mystery who was inside that black dress. That perception can be seen when camera takes close up shot to get picture of the eyes of Middle East woman which is mean and dangerous.

The costumes of long black skirts which are covering the Middle East woman also symbolize the oppression of the Middle East people toward their women. William Friedkin captured that picture in order to give a picture to the American audience about the way of life the Middle East people which are totally different with American people. Because for American people the obligation to covering the entire body of women is a part of violation against what they believe about freedom, freedom to express. Besides that the researcher also points out the character portraying Middle East women never speak in the entire scene, in order to give impression that Middle East women are living under oppression. In American culture freedom to speak for all American citizens including American women is essential right in democracy, which is protected by US Constitution.

B. Why Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes as seen in “Rules of Engagement” and “The Siege”

The negative stereotypes of the Middle East people did not come up suddenly. There are several reasons that make the Middle East people presented in negative stereotypes as seen on the screen. In this subchapter, the researcher discusses why Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes as seen on the screen.

1. Political propaganda. The American government is considered as the most powerful country in the world, especially after the fall down of the Soviet Union in 1990. The American government has been involved in many historical incidents from the early twentieth century until now. The American military

forces has been dominated the world, and the involvement of its army in many historical incidents is undeniable. There are historical records that explain the involvement of the American government and its army in World geo political situation from the First World War, Second World War, Cold War and the war against terrorism. Even though the American government is the winner in the Second World War and considered as the savior of the World. there are several wars that cannot be won by American government, there are: Korean War in 1950 (edisi koleksi Angkasa, Operasi Amfibi seluk beluk pendaratan ke pantai musuh, 2005, p. 50), Vietnam War in 1965, also the failed mission to rescue the American hostages in the American Embassy, Tehran, Iran in 1979 (edisi koleksi Angkasa, special Forces profil, kisah dan persenjataan, 2005, p. 77).

Those historical incidents are embarrassing facts for American government and American people. In maintaining, the position of American government not only in the world but also in the eye of American people is crucial. Since this is not only about the integrity of the American government, it is also the integrity of American people as a nation. The American government and the American people cannot risk their domination around the globe by letting that incidents ruin their domination. Propaganda is one of the strategies to maintain the domination of the American country besides its military forces. Propaganda is a specific type of message presentation directly aimed at influencing the opinions of people, rather than impartially providing information. In some cultures the term is neutral or even positive, while in others the term has acquired a strong negative connotation. the term acquired the negative connotation of disseminating *false* or

misleading information in favor of a certain cause (Propaganda, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda>).

The dissemination or misleading information can be seen in most of American action movies. Because most of the American action movies are inspired by historical events that related to the involvement of American government or its Army, for examples in Vietnam War American combatant had been forced to leave Vietnam in 1972. The Vietnam War had tremendous prices, The United States spent over \$150 thousand-million in losing effort that cost 58.000 American lives, and the war led many young Americans to question the actions of their own nation and value it sought to uphold. There are no historical records about the mission of saving American soldiers who were captured by Vietnamese after the U.S combatant had forced to leave Vietnam in 1973 (the United States Information Agency, 1987, p.312). It is Contradictory with most of American action movies such as *Delta Forces* (1985) or *Rambo II* (1987) are clearly presented the heroism of a single man or a group of American people who saved all the American prisoners after killed many Vietnamese soldiers.

During the Cold War, the American government condemned the continuing Soviet occupation of Afganishtan in 1984 and provided aid to Mujahidin resistance (The United States Information Agency, 1987, p. 372). There is no historical record that American army was involved frontally in that conflict, but in the movie *Rambo III* (1988) the involvement of American government who is represented by Rambo and his comandant were too much.

Rambo and his comandant in that movie wiped out a group of heavily equipped Soviet army and saved the Mujahidin resistance.

The other historical incidents which related the American government and the Middle East people that inspired the movie makers are the taking over of American Embassy by Iran students in Tehran, Iran in 1979 (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=1019, 2005) and the the Federal Plaza Bomb case in Oklahoma City in 1995 (Elayan, 2005, p. 20). Those two cases are effecting the opinion on the Middle East people. In effort to release the American hostages in Tehran, President Jimmy Carters had to deal by selling arms secretly to the Iran government. That incident was caused by the American government who supported the regime Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlevi, even that regime had poor record of human right (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id =1019, 2005). The mission to rescue the American hostages by a group of Delta squad failed, and the United States suffered a humiliating repudiation of its foreign policy. In the Federal Plaza bomb case in 1995 the American officials wrongly accused the Middle East people as the suspects in that case. The incompetency of American officials in responding the situation after the bombing made the Middle East people in the United States suffered from hate crimes and harrasment done by several American people (Elayan, 2005, p.20).

Those incidents inspired the moviemakers, it can be seen in *Rules of Engagements* and *The Siege*, but the story in both of the movies are contradictory. In *Rules of Engagements* the crowd of Middle East people attacked the American

Embassy without any reasonable reason. The American Marines were successfully rescued the Ambassador and his family from the Middle East protesters, even their comandant became scape-goat, in order to save the relationship between the American government and the Middle East governments. In *The Siege*, the Middle East people are the first and the only suspects for the the bus 87 and One Federal Plaza bombing case. Even in that movie several Middle East people are considered as “friendly” Middle East people, but still the Middle East people are presented as cruel and evil people. They are treated badly by American government and its people.

The aim of propaganda is to influence people's opinions actively, rather than to merely communicate the facts about something. For example, propaganda might be used to garner either support or disapproval of a certain position, rather than to simply present the position (Propaganda, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda>, 2005). It can be seen in many American action movies, the picture of American people and their enemy sometimes too much. The American people are always presented as strong and heroic people, they always succeeded in achieving their purpose. The enemy of American people such as Middle East people are presented as evil and blood thirsty people that eventually bitterly defeated. The purpose of American movie is to shape the opinion or image about the American government and its people in the eye of the world, in order to maintain the ideological and cultural domination of American people in the world (Cone, What's Really going on in Hollywood!, <http://www.homevideo.net/FIRM/whats.htm#8>, 2005).

2. The Influence of American Medias. Based on sociological theory, negative stereotypes are prejudice, which held beliefs about the character and behavior of all members of the group. They are usually based on readily and discernable characteristics, such as physical appearance, and over simplification that seldom correspond to the facts (Eshelman, Cashion and Basirico, 1993, p.226). From that explanation the researcher can figure out, that the cause of negative stereotypes of Middle East people also come from American Medias. American Medias are widely known responsible for that phenomenon, and most of the story in *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege* are based on American Medias influence (Elayan, 2005, p. 20).

A distressing event in which media coverage presented “facts” about an event in prejudicial manner occurred during the Oklahoma City bombing, “in 1995, within minutes of the event, news reporters insinuating that the bombing acted by Middle East terrorists. Raised with unpopular stereotypes of Arabs, the American public was quick to develop images of Arab terrorists destroying American property” (Elayan, 2005, p. 20). Government officials were also quick to point an accusatory finger at Middle East people:

One Arab-American spokesman, when asked why people in the U.S were so quick to lay blame on Arabs, included his response a short list of recent Hollywood movies that include negative portrayals such persons. Much of our nation’s populations, including political leaders and the press, have been seduced by Hollywood propaganda. (Elayan, 2005, p. 20).

Even latter the person who bombed the Federal Plaza in Oklahoma was a retirement of the US army who suffered from psychological illness.

Edward Zwick uses that incident as the background in his movie, when one of the terrorist cells bombed the One Federal Plaza building in New York. Another scene related to historical facts is at the scene, when one of terrorist cells held and bombed bus 87. Then the scene moves to the scene when Special Agent Anthony Hubbard explained who were responsible on the bombing of bust 87. The background of the scene when Anthony Hubbard explained about the suspect is the picture of terrorist suspect Ali Waziri that was issued by Mossad or Israel intelligent agency. Radical movement such as HAMAS or Islamic Jihad in Israel usually uses the method of bus bombing. In another scene related to historical event is the scene when FBI computer synchronizes the material bomb of bus 87 with the material bomb used by terrorist bombed US army barrack (it did not mention the exact time when it happened). Based on historical evidence there were bomb attacks on the army barracks in Beirut, 1984 and Dhahran, 1995 (Richman, http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=1019, 2005).

3. The cultural misinterpretation and misunderstanding. The cultural misinterpretation and misunderstanding about culture and custom of Middle East people are one of the reasons of negative stereotypes on the Middle East people. The absence of Arab-Americans and the Middle East people in the industry is the main factor of the cultural misinterpretation and misunderstanding. Arab and Arab-Americans are an ethnic group that unfortunately many people in the United States may possibly know very little or nothing about them. However, the areas where they may gain their so-called “knowledge” of this multi-cultural race may be the depictions they see in Hollywood movies and in the news media. To make

matters worse, these supposedly “realistic” depictions may cause some people to form stereotypical views of Arab solely by what they hear and see in films and on television.

It can be seen in *Rules of Engagement*, when Col. Hay Hodges asked Dr. Ahmar about the order of Jihad against American people from an audio cassette, which entitled “declaration of Islamic jihad against United States”. Also in “*The Siege*” when Special Agent Anthony Hubbard was informed by the laboratory worker who gave him the result of the investigation toward the bomb suspects of bus 87. The FBI found out that the bombers wore shroud before they bombed the bus. Shroud is commonly used by Moslem to wrap around the corpse, it means the bombers ready to die in the name of God. Most of the American people misinterpret the word “jihad”. “Jihad” in the perception of American people usually refers to violent action toward American people based on religion motive such as suicide bomb even Jihad not always refers to war or violent action.

Most of American people misunderstood the Middle East people, they think all Middle East people are Islam/Muslims. As the researcher sees in those two movies, Islam was used as motive for Middle East people to commit terror or violence toward American people. Islam never teaches its believers to commit violence or terror toward innocent people, and not all Middle East people are Muslims (Elayan, 2005, p. 16). Shaheen writes, “A majority of the world’s 1.1 Billion Muslims are Indonesian, Indian and Malaysian but only 12 percent of the world’s Muslims are Middle East people.” Moviemakers ignore this reality repeatedly, they falsely project all Middle East people as Muslims and all

Muslims are Middle East people. Unfortunately, the religion of Islam does not go untarnished either. Due to the representation of stereotypically fanatic Middle East bent on destruction, Islam may, therefore become faith that is assumed to being connected and associated with acts of mass destruction and violence. Shaheen writes:

“Today’s image makers are regularly link the Islamic the Islamic faith with male supremacy, holy war, and acts of terror, depicting Middle East Muslims as hostile alien intruder, and as lecherous, oily sheikh intent on using nuclear weapon”(Elayan, 2005, p. 16).

During 1995, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee reported, as El Fara (1996) cites Bazzi (1995), that “a 250% increase in hate against Middle East people from the previous years.” The Oklahoma hate and harassment reports stated that from Wednesday morning until Friday afternoon when suspect Timothy McVeigh was arrested, all persons who looked like “Middle Eastern” instantly became suspects in the fatal bombing of the Alfred Murrah Federal Building. Through their report of the affected communities, it was discovered that Muslims, Arabs, and other races of color suffered: “widespread intimidation, commonplace verbal harassment at school, in public and in the workplace, and a significant number of physical assault and hate crimes” (Elayan, 2005, p. 20).

4. Business reason. Movie industry is considered as the most profitable industry in the world. Hundreds of Million dollars are gathered in this business. According to Box Office Mojo, “*The Siege*” had a production budget of \$70,000,000. Its total domestic lifetime gross is \$40, 981, 289, and its total international lifetime gross is \$75,691,623. Therefore, worldwide, “*The Siege*” accumulated approximately

\$116, 672, 912 (Elayan, 2005, p. 26). The production budget of “*Rules Of Engagement*” was \$60,000,000, and estimated marketing costs for the film reached \$29,100, 000. Its total domestic lifetime gross is \$61, 335, 230, and its total international lifetime gross is \$10, 397, 073. Therefore, worldwide, the movie earned approximately \$71,397, 303 (Elayan, 2005, p. 30).

Box office is the main goal of every producer in Hollywood, to make their movie become box office they have to make good (commercial) movies which are accepted by the audience, especially in action movies. There is Hollywood formula to make a good (commercial) action/war movie, usually this kind of movies people root for and identify with the war heroes, those brave men and women whom they see as defending their freedom and keeping them safe from a group of insane people or villains. They do it by spectacle – flying through the air, gunning down hordes of enemies, explosion – override all other consideration, at the end they succeeded to save the other from the Villains even they have to loose one of the members who that sacrifices him/herself to save the other.

Actions movies must reflect realities with the viewing audience familiar (Mandel. www.meforum.org/article/26), and Middle East people are the perfect subject to be terrorists and villains in most of action movie. Because the audience can see them in every American Media in their daily life and convenience is the winning factor for continuing to produce and repeat dehumanizing portrayals of Arab and Arab-Americans (Elayan, 2005, p. 20). Due to a heightened cultural awareness that has been progressively experienced by other minority groups, it seems that one of the Hollywood’s aims may be is to find a “bad-guy” that will

remain consistent for a while. It may be easier to use stereotype that has been establishing into mainstream society rather than challenging it by placing another group to play the villains.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter is divided into two sub-chapters. The first one is the conclusion that contains the result of the whole analysis of the movies. The second sub-chapter is recommendation that contains suggestion for the readers who are interested in the same subject.

A. Conclusion

Based on the analysis that has been done in the previous chapter, the conclusion will be divided into two subchapters as the answer to the two problems statements which are formulated in the previous chapter.

1. How William Friedkin and Edward Zwick present the negative stereotypes of the Middle East people in their movies can be concluded as follows:

- a. The Middle East people are stereotyped as sly and dishonest people who able to do anything to reach their purposes. It can be seen from the two characters of Middle East people from those two movies Dr. Ahmar (*Rules of Engagement*)

and Samir Nazhde (*The Siege*). Both of them are presented in the same way, sly and dishonest. Dr. Ahmar lied to the martial court about the involvement of radical movement in the demonstration against the United States of America in front of the US embassy, and Samir Nazhde lied to his guardian agent Elise Craft about his identity, even he killed her to achieve his purpose.

b. Physically the Middle East people are stereotyped as bearded kuffiyeh-clad men with full of hatred to American people without any reasonable reason. Those stereotypes of physical appearance is commonly used in by American directors to describe the Middle East people in many action movies, even today those pictures become standard stereotypes of Hollywood “Middle East people”.

c. The Middle East people are stereotyped as irrational people. It can be seen from the antagonist characters of Middle East people in *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*. Both of the movies presented the same motive to explain the reason of the Middle East people’s action, usually they use religion as motive. In the perception of American people, the Middle East people are irrational because they do horrible things in the name of God, even they are ready to die to achieve their purpose such as suicide bomb.

d. The Middle East people are stereotyped as uneducated people. It can be seen from the characters of Middle East people in those two movies. In *Rules of Engagement*, the Middle East people are portrayed as illiterate people. It can be seen when from the dialogue between Col. Hay Hodges and dr. Ahmar. In that scene, Col Hay Hodges explained to the jury the use of the Audio Cassettes as

political propaganda due to the high of illiteracy in Yemen, and dr. Ahmar approved that statement.

e. The Middle East people are stereotyped aliens or outsiders who are considered as a threat to the value and belief of American people. In their movies, Middle East people are group of people who have no fear to die and not negotiable in their action. The only way to handle Middle East people is by using violence. It can be seen in one of the scenes when Col. Terry Childers and his soldiers were shot by the Middle East protesters inside the American Embassy, because American Embassy is considered as the part of the American soil. Edward Zwick also uses that stereotype in his movie, it can be seen from one of the scenes when special agent Anthony Hubbard received information that the bombers spoke Arabic.

f. The Middle East people are stereotyped as coward people, because the Middle East people use their children and women as operatives or agents, even as shield in their operation. The American people consider women and children should be protected and there is no reason to involve them, but Middle East people acted in different way. It can be seen in one of the scenes when Col. Terry Childers found out that among the Middle East demonstrators there are including women and children shot his soldiers.

g. The Middle East people are stereotyped as the symbol of oppression toward women and children. It can be seen in the *Rules of Engagement* when women and children were used as the shield of men when they tried to attack the

US marines inside the American Embassy. The symbol of the oppression also appears in the form of hijab (the obligation to cover the entire women body).

Those stereotypes mentioned above are commonly used by most of American directors to describe of the Middle East people. Those stereotypes can be seen in many American action movies such as *Rules of Engagement* and *The Siege*.

2. The reason why Middle East People are presented in negative stereotypes can be concluded below:

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, the researcher can draw conclusion related to subject mater. As the researcher knows in almost all American action movies the Middle East people are presented in negative ways. Based on the analysis, the researcher believes there are several reasons why the Middle East people are presented in negative stereotypes.

- a. The movie is used as political propaganda, because the American government needs an excuse and justification from their people for what the American government did in the Middle East.
- b. The influence of American media, because mostly the information about the Middle East people is coming from American media such as television and movie.
- c. There is cultural misunderstanding and misinterpretation about Middle East people among the American people, due to the less knowledge of American people about Middle East people culture and custom.

- d. There is Business reason, because the Middle East people are perfect people to role as villains or terrorists.

B. Recommendation

Rules of Engagement and *The Siege* are the artifacts of popular culture that offer many things about the stereotyping of Middle East people to the audience. The impact of negative stereotype of Middle East people in many American movies is significant, now when everyone discusses about Middle East people, it cannot be separated from terrorism. Even only some of them who do that, but now most of the American people generalize it.

The stereotypes toward Middle East people are interesting subject to discuss. It can be found in popular culture's artifact such as movie. There are a lot of issues in those medium that can be analyzed, to take any advantages as contribution toward the body knowledge of American Studies discipline especially related to the stereotype of the Middle East people. Therefore, the researcher hopes that the other researchers continue this research deeper, because this thesis only one of the explanation about the stereotyping of the Middle East people.

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