RELATION BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE EAST IN THE KARATE KID MOVIE

A Thesis
Submitted to Adab and Humanities Faculty in Partial Accomplishment of the Requirements for the Degree of Strata I (SI)

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JAKARTA
2011
APPROVEMENT

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The thesis has been defended before the Faculty of Letters and Humanities Examination Committee on November 8th, 2011. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, November 8th, 2011

The Examination Committee

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare this submission is my own work and to be the best of my knowledge and belief. It contains no material previously published or written by another person before nor material, which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any degree or diploma of other universities or institutes of higher learning, except where due to acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, October 2011

Yoenika Libra Hasmi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismillahirahmanirrohim.

In the name of Allah. The most beneficent and the most merciful.

All praise is to Allah – the Lord of the universe, the Cherisher and Sustainer of the universe who has authority of all creation in the whole world and bestowed upon the writer completing this paper. Salutation be upon our beloved prophet Muhammad SAW who saved the believer from destruction into safety and has guided them into the right way of Islam, his relatives and followers.

This paper is presented to the English Department at Adab and Humanities Faculty of State of Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta as a partial requirement for Strata 1 (S1) degree.

In this great occasion, the writer would like to convey his heartfelt thanks to these amazing people, especially to Inayatul Chusna, M.Hum as the Advisor of the writer for her time, valuable guidance, and encouragement in correcting and helping his finishing this paper.

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Jakarta, November 2011

The Writer

The main objective of the research is to analyze about relation between the West and the East through Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid* movie. This thesis uses orientalism by Edward Said. The theory is about study of the West to the East. The writer analyzes the relation between the West and the East through orientalism theory.

After doing the research, the writer finds the domination in Dre as the relation between the West and the East in *The Karate Kid*. The relations divide into three periods that are early period, middle period, and last period. Period is determining Dre’s change of perception. Dre’s change is from the perception of the West that sees the East as bad or old to the modern one.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVEMENT ...................................................................................... i

EXAMINATION BOARD ........................................................................ ii

DECLARATION........................................................................................... iii

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .......................................................................... iv

ABSTRACT............................................................................................... vi

TABLE OF CONTENT ............................................................................... vii

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research ......................................................... 1

B. Focus of the Research ................................................................. 4

C. Question of Research ................................................................. 5

D. Objective of Research ................................................................. 5

E. Significant of the Research ......................................................... 5

F. Research Methodology
   1. The Method of the Research .................................................. 6
   2. The Data Analysis ................................................................. 6
   3. Instrument of the Research ................................................... 6
   4. The Unit of Analysis ............................................................... 6

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMWORK

A. Orientalism Theory
   1. The Occident (West) .............................................................. 6
2. The Orient (East) ................................................................. 8
3. Orientalism ................................................................. 10

B. Binary Opposition table the West and the East .......... 17

CHAPTER III RESEARCH FINDINGS

A. Description of the Data ......................................................... 18

B. Analysis of the Data
1. The Early period .............................................................. 21
2. The Middle Period ............................................................ 22
   a) Language ................................................................. 22
   b) Buildings ................................................................. 24
   c) Music, Instrument and dance ........................................ 28
3. The Last Period ............................................................... 31
   a) Kung Fu ................................................................. 31
   b) Chinese Traditional Therapy ....................................... 33
   c) Chinese Traditional Festival ......................................... 34

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions ................................................................. 35

B. Suggestions ................................................................. 36

BIBLIOGRAPHY ........................................................................ 38

APPENDIX ............................................................................. 40
A. Background of Research

Geographically, China is located in the Asian continent. China is also located in the East of hemisphere. For the orientalists, China is not only one of countries in Asia but also the East based on their concept that is the term of the West and East. According to the theory of orientalism by Edward Said, the West and the East means a form of differences of power that is between two sides. West is always in the superior one and the East is inferior. In addition, the term of the West and East by the orientalists is to stick their superiority in the Eastern states

Then, the term of the West and East causes the discourse that the West is stronger than the East. The discourse makes a point of view that the Western is appropriate to guide the East towards a better life with the Western tradition. This causes the West countries drive Eastern countries with the aim of spreading their traditions and their thoughts on the traditions of Eastern society. Thus, the act of colonization of West countries to the Eastern states is a commonplace.

Furthermore, colonization by West countries to the Eastern creates the terms “the colonizers and the colonized”. Then, the terms of colonizer and colonized will affect the striking difference between two sides. The arrival of Westerns to

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the Eastern is emphasizing to ensure that the binary opposition between West and East. The colonizer will become the dominant one of the colonized in various sectors of the Eastern life.

Especially in the sector of literature, the West and the East descriptions are presented in various texts such as novels, short stories, scientific thesis and movies. In these texts, the West and the East is shown the difference of both. The West is always presented as a strong side and the East as the weaker side. Usually, the differences between the West and the East are found in a text explicitly or implicitly.

The texts about relations between the West and the East are seen in the several movies such as The Last Samurai, Ninja Assassin, and The Karate Kid. Relations between the West and the East are always showing the West is superior than East. Then, in the movie, West figures are always portrayed as the "winners" because the character of the West is always superior from East figures. For example, in the movie of The Last Samurai, Western figures are shown in the figure of captain Ethan and groups led by Matsumoto as a leader of the Eastern. Captain Ethan is a former U.S. military which is signed by the Japanese feudal government in the eighteenth century as coach of the modern Japanese army. Besides to train a modern army of Japan, Captain Ethan is also tasked to stop the insurgency conducted by the samurai to feudal government of Japan. But at the end of the movie, captain Ethan that should stop the uprising of the samurai warrior, he instead turned supports the insurgency and join the samurai. Then, when the war between the forces of modern Japanese soldier and samurai in a
terrain, all samurai troops were killed in the bombardment by government forces of modern weapons except the captain Ethan. Then, captain Ethan who survived the war by the end of the movie. Finally, Captain Ethan is turned out to be a figure who led the Japanese emperor to cancel the agreement with the West. The agreement is about modern war weapons among West and Japanese feudal government.

Furthermore, relation between the West and the East is also seen in The Karate Kid movie. The West in this movie is Dre who is an American boy and the East is China. Then, similar with the movie The Last Samurai, The Karate Kid movie also describes the Western character to be the "winners" at the end of the story because West character is turned out as the stronger side than the East. In addition, in The Karate Kid, problematic relations between the West and East is not only similar at the end of the story but also on different sides of lifestyle.

Then, the story begins when Dre and his mother moves from his home in Detroit to Beijing, China. Dre feels her mother's decision to move to Beijing is a bad idea because he felt China is old country and old people. But, amid the journey when Dre try to use the Chinese language to people who are physically like the Chinese, he does not suspect that these people do not speak Chinese but admits that he is a Detroit man. Furthermore, when he arrives in Beijing Dre is surprised to see buildings that he never imagined before. He sees the buildings are modern buildings as well as in the America. When he had settled in Beijing, he met a native Chinese girl. The first time, their encounter is getting a problem because Dre gets dispute with the Chinese boys. The dispute led to fighting in
martial arts tournament. At that point, Mr. Han teaches Chinese martial arts to Dre. Then, in the tournament, it led to two finalists in the final. They are Dre and the boy who fight him in the park of his apartment. At the end of the tournament, Dre is the winner of the competition. Therefore, the *The Karate Kid* is not much different from the *The Last Samurai* movie. The description about the West and the East above that make the writer is interested to dig up information on the *The Karate Kid*.

To understand more detail about the relation about the West and the East, the writer takes the theory of orientalism by Edward Said as the main reference. According to Said, in Melani Budianta, orientalism is a theory reveal about the binary opposition that the which has deconstructed by discourse about the East and the West which has produced by the European\(^2\). Therefore, orientalism study is about the East and the West that presented by Western. This thesis, too, will from Explain parts of problematic relations Between West and East. The answers about it we will find in chapter III, the data analysis.

\(^2\) *Ibid.*., p. 50.
B. Focus of Research

Based on background of research above, focus of research is analyzing *The Karate Kid* movie. It will focus about the relation between the West (Dre) and the East (China) depicted through Dre’s perception about China.

C. Question of Research

Based on focus of research above, the questions of research are:

- How is the relationship between the West (Dre) and East (China) depicted through Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid* movie?

D. Objective of Research

The objective of this research is explaining about the relation between the West (Dre) and the East (China) depicted through Dre’s perception about China. According to the writer, many movie-lovers did not realize about Dre’s perception about China in *The Karate Kid* movie. Therefore, this thesis will help the reader to understanding about Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid*.

E. Significant of Research

This research will be useful for people who focus on literary criticism study especially orientalism theory. Moreover, this thesis is also gives contribution for people to study about *The Karate Kid* movie.
F. Methodology of Research

1. Method of Research

This thesis uses discourse analysis. It analyzes the discourse about relation between the West and the East depicted through Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid* and uses orientalism theory.

2. Data Analysis

The data in this thesis analyzes qualitatively. This thesis analyzes with orientalism theory. The correspondence between orientalism theory and the movie is the reason for the writer to use this theory in this thesis.

3. Instrument of Research

Getting the data needed, this thesis uses the writer self technique. The writer watches *The Karate Kid* movie and analyzes the relation between the West and the East depicted through Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid*.

Unit of analysis

The unit of research in this thesis is *The Karate Kid* movie. It is directed by Harald Zwart. *The Karate Kid* movie was released in 10th June 2010 by Columbia Pictures Production.

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3 This analysis is to analyze about the correspondence between a theory and the message that is having in a movie. In this case, it is about Orientalism in a *Karate Kid*. 
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Orientalism Theory

In this category will divide into three explanations. It becomes definition of the West, the East, and orientalism.

1) The West (Occident)

The West, geographically, is a part of Earth. It is in the West of Earth or sunsets. It is affirms of Greeks statement “The Greeks gave the names East and West to the points on the horizon at which the sun rises and sets. Because the Persian Empire and India lay to their East, the Greeks labeled their own continent, which they called Europe, the west”4 The statement tells that the West is the Europe continent.

Then, according to Jalal Al-I Ahmad, the Occident (West) is all Europe, Soviet Russia, and North America, the developed and industrialized nations that can use machines to turn raw materials into more complex forms that can be marketed as goods5. Then, Jalal Al-I Ahmad also said that “....."East” and “West” are no longer geographical or political concepts to me. For a European or an American, the West means Europe and America... To me, South Africa is

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5 Jalal Al-I Ahmad. OCCIDENTOSIS: A Plague from the West, trans by R. Campbell. Iran: Mizan press Berkley, 1984, p. 27.
The statements affirm that the West is Europe nations and North America. Then, Jalal Al-I Ahmad is also including South Africa as the part of West. Perhaps, it is because that South Africa follows the West concept, economic concepts.

Based on the statements above, the West is described as sunset and Europe nations. Besides, the West is not described only about the continent but also the power. The power of the West is economical, industrialized, and colonization. It makes many of Europe nations go to other place to affirm their power. Then, it makes the binary opposition among them. The West is in the better power than the East in various factors such as political, social, culture, and literatures. Then, it becomes the beginning of the West to dominate the East continent.

2) The East (Orient)

The East when viewed geographically represents the Eastern hemisphere that is in continent of Asia. Then, the East is also a form of opposition from the West both geographically and culturally. Geographically, of course, it has become bright as the Western countries in Europe and America. Although the continent of America is not part of Europe but the Europe culture is dominating for American culture. For example, the culture of America countries such as USA, Canada, and South American is a culture of European.

According to Said, East is not created by itself but exist from the history, tradition of thinking, symbol, and the language treasury that gave the reality and

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Ibid., p. 28.
presence for West⁷. The East or oriental is created West because of necessity of the imagination.

Then, according to Said, Western people use the word of oriental as a representation of the East. Chaucer and Mandeville, Shakespeare, Dryden, Pope and Byron have used oriental word⁸. Oriental is also a general term used by people to represent the Eastern Europe. Another source tells that the term of orientalism had begun to use in Britain in 1779 and France in 1799, and it was started to graft in the *Dictionnaire de l’Academie Francaise* in 1838⁹.

Another illustration of the relationship between the East and the West is that Europe is always in a strong position, if it does not say dominated. The relationship between strong and weak could have been covered or softened, such as when Balfour admitted “greatness” Eastern civilization. However, the essential relationship that involves political, cultural and even religious, in the West, which became the subject here is seeing as a relationship between a strong and weak allies.¹⁰

Then, the East as depicted by the Western is a form of a group of people who are primitive, uneducated, not having Western culture, immorality, not animal lover and other bad perceptions. According to Westerners, the East should give the direction to life by intelligent people like West people in order to behave in such a noble and for the better life. For example, China (East) is becoming one

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of modern city in Asia. Before it, China was getting bad condition or “turbulent years”. According to Louis Schein: …in 1980s, leaving many Chinese with a powerful yearning to recuperate what was lost during the ten “turbulent years”.

This concern for preservation seems to have been enhanced, especially for urbanities, by the reform-era drive for “modernization” and opening to the West\textsuperscript{11}. It proves that China (East) emphasizes about orientalism.

3) Orientalism

Talking about orientalism, there is no people knowing exactly when and where orientalism existed. Also, there is no people who were the first orientalist. But, most of the historians believe that the first orientalist is the christian priests such as Jerbert de Oralic (938-1003) the priest of France, Dicuil the priest of Ireland, Pierre Le Venerable (1094-1156) the priest of France, Gerard de Cromona (1114-1187) the priest of Italy, Michael Scot the priest of Scotland\textsuperscript{12}.

In the current debate on East-West cultural relations, Edward Said writings are most influential and even most quoted or discussed in the oriental or Third-World countries\textsuperscript{13}. Here, the Edward Said contribution through his monumental book, orientalism. Since the publication of his orientalism, the concept has been one of the major theoretical issues attracting the attention of both Eastern and Western scholars\textsuperscript{14}.


\textsuperscript{14} Melani Budianta. op. cit., p. 45.
Starting from Foucault's discourse that includes not only the verbal text, Said studied the production of various kinds of knowledge about the East (history, geography, linguistics, literature, art, anthropology etc.), a form of accumulation ideological concept which is supported by tradition, authority, institutions and various mode of knowledge dissemination. Said unload all the cargo behind the ideological the East and the West binary opposition is constructed by the discourse about Eastern countries generated by Europe\textsuperscript{15}.

Then, according to HM Joesoef Sou'yb, orientalism comes from the word “Orient”, from the French language, which literally means Eastern and Eastern parts of the world's geographic means, and ethnological meaning of the nations in the East. Oriental is entering from various European languages, including English. Oriental is an adjective that means everything about East, in very broad scope. Syllable Isme (the Netherlands) or ism (UK) refers to the definition of the concept. Therefore, orientalism means an understanding or who wish to investigate the flow of matters relating to the nations in the East and its surroundings\textsuperscript{16}.

According to H.A Mannan Buchari, orientalism was a study that has very close ties with Western colonial. British and French colonial especially since the late eighteenth century until the second of world war end. Then, it was followed by colonial America until today. Thus, the phenomenon of orientalism is closely related to colonialism. If there was colonialism, there is orientalism\textsuperscript{17}.

Furthermore, there are two scopes of the orientalism. First, the object of orientalism is the study about religions in East countries, especially Islam. The

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid., p. 51.
study was going on systematical for hundred years. Second, the object of orientalism is study about oriental countries including all aspects of their life such as social, politic, culture, historical, etc\textsuperscript{18}.

About the objective of the orientalist to study about East countries, there are many opinion and perspectives. But, several theology and historians said that there are two premises. First, orientalism is the West necessity to set against Islam. Second, to know the Islam power because Islam is the great power at the time and Islam would be the big obstacle for the christian missionaries. Lately, orientalist is study about East countries in various aspects to emphasize their economical domination\textsuperscript{19}.

Back to the Said’s thought; through his theory, orientalism put two important foundations that later developed in postcolonial theories. First, the dichotomy of a binary opposition between East and West, between colonizer and colonized as the center of attention. Second, there is the nature of the draft of such dichotomy\textsuperscript{20}. Also, Said describes that orientalism is not correspondence between orientalism and Orient, but with the internal consistency of orientalism and its idea about the Orient despite or beyond any correspondence with a real Orient\textsuperscript{21}.

Furthermore, Said also said that orientalism is a political doctrine set against the East, because East is weaker than the West, which brings together East difference with drawbacks\textsuperscript{22}. Furthermore, Said has laid the basic concept of

\textsuperscript{19} \textit{Ibid.}, pp. 15-16.
\textsuperscript{20} Melani Budanta, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 58.
\textsuperscript{21} Edward W. Said, \textit{op.cit.}, p. 5.
\textsuperscript{22} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 204.
postcolonial thinking to sue East discourse as a production science has the ideological foundation and colonial interests. In this case orientalism can be seen as a way to understand the Eastern world, according to a special place in human experience of Western Europe; as a way of expressing and displaying such an integral part as a mode of discourse with the institutions, vocabulary, scholarly studies, the symbols and doctrines that support it. The West has moved closer to the Eastern orientalism that it is a discipline with which the East is systematically approached as a topic of science, discovery and the experience.

Following the ideas of Michel Foucault, Said emphasized orientalism as a discourse perspective (discourse), so understanding about it can be held. Discourse is a series of images and actions that form a reality that is considered correct, objective of the East, a view that will give strength and resilience in orientalism.

East Reality is different from the Western reality: its habit, the color of skin, its culture. East is a place full of romance with the exotic creatures, wonderful memories and experiences. East must be understood to have limitations and weakness, thus require strength and Western knowledge. Therefore, East ready to be back, be governed, controlled and reconstructed.

There are three qualifications about the East, as proposed by Said. First, the East as the West is an idea or a product of thinking that has reality. Second, ideas, cultures and histories cannot seriously be understood or studied without studying also the strength, or without looking at the configuration of its power because

\[ ^{23} \text{Ibid., p. 2.} \]
orientalism is a historical construction of communities as well as Eastern cultures. East is not solely due to be found in a state of "orientalized" but it can be used as the East. East and West relations are created not by the needs of the imagination but are relations of power, domination, and various degrees of complex hegemony. The third qualification, orientalism is not an empty fantasy but a figure of the theory and practice that was deliberately created by people of Eastern or Europe, which throughout many generations have received a heap of material that is very large investment that makes orientalism as a system of knowledge about the East^24.

Then, Citing from the opinion of Gaston Bachelard's (in Edward Said's book) that "The space inside of a house, so to say, get the atmosphere of intimacy, confidentiality, or security, real or imaginary because the experiences that fills that space." West has gained validity and rational truth about the East by giving the meaning and role in the East^25.

The belief in the truth of oriental picture occupies a particular function. Belief in the truth image and reality has a function Eastern politics, hegemony, colonial, the legitimacy of action, imperialism. This function works even affect non-political. The East will be reconstructed at the offices of colonial discourse based on the truth of the East, as well as political policies and governance of the East. Like Cromer’s thought about tactics mastered by understanding its limitations and try to find it, in borders of satisfaction that governed the races, bond and unity that is honorable to be expected, is stronger between the governing

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^24 Ibid., pp. 5-8.

^25 Ibid., pp. 70-71.
and the governed. Of opinion arose about the lack of a number of formulations East: immorality, irrational, childish, "different", which contrasted with the West: virtuous, rational, mature, normal\(^26\).

In Said’s book, Moore-Gilbert wrote a consequence of thinking "the inferior East." Characteristics of the East will be produced within this discourse as "voiceless, sensual, female, despotic, irrational, and backward; West otherwise represented as" masculine, democratic, rational, moral, dynamic and progressive\(^27\).

In the view of Said's discourse of orientalism has been confirmed or legitimizes an opinion about the East, for example the primitive East (primitiveness is the nature of the East). Discourse (also called the review system) and the sciences will strengthen the fairness opinion; different East with the West or even the view that racism.

Orientalism, reminded by Said, is regarding human beings within the limits of a large collective or in-generality of abstract generality. orientalism has a cumulative identity and a common identity because connection with the field of traditional knowledge, community institutions, and written works specified type (books of travel, exploration, fantasy, exotic description) so that the results in orientalism will appear as a truth for the orientalist.

As already mentioned earlier, various forms of discourse that fall into the tradition of orientalism, among other scientific description, records of travel and literature are also presented as well. Scientific description, a form that the truth is

\(^26\) Ibid., pp. 43-51.
\(^27\) Ibid., p. 39.
more reliable than other forms, are found in various scientific fields such as philology, anthropology, biology, linguistics. An example is the scientific work of Sacy and Renan had put orientalism in a scientific and rational basis.

Said called the scope of their work beyond the limits of orientalism orthodox or subject of their work over the Eastern or Oriental. Latent’s view of the East is one of which also raises attitude that the orientalists were also representatives from the East. From a number of reasons, the East is always in a good position as "outsiders" as well as the West is weak ally.

Furthermore, Said sees that literature as part of the colonial authorities, as a work that gives an idea of imperialism and colonialism and then discuss it in book Imperialism and Culture. Said Consideration to discuss the novel in the study:
(1). Novels are works of art and science that should be respected, and admired.
(2). There are challenges by linking science and knowledge with the imperial process in which the novels openly and clearly a part of the imperial process. For example: Dickens's novel Great Expectation visits Said through Magwitch, and Dickens.

Said further argues that such novels can be considered as a work of art as well as science. Examining the Dickens novel, Said concluded that the relation of fiction and historical fact makes the novel (literary) works of literature become more attractive and more valuable as works of art. Relations literature, culture (including novels) on the one hand, and the other imperialist could see from its emergence in the places where they are clearly in a variety of text with

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background. Past, present and bond clearly there is a tradition; also have the shadow of the past that other than the pure impure; the relationship between culture and imperialism as historical experience is always dynamic and complex because they are not always silent. Finally, Said also said that there are relationships between occident and orient. The relationships are relationship of power, of domination, of varying degrees of a complex hegemony.29

B. Binary Opposition Table of West and East.

The table below shows orientalists ideas and opinions and those do not compatible with the reality.30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEST</th>
<th>EAST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>virtuous, rational,</td>
<td>immorality, irrational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mature, normal</td>
<td>Childish, abnormal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>masculine, democratic</td>
<td>Feminine, Despotic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West is the stronger than East</td>
<td>East is Weaker than West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West is superior than East</td>
<td>East is inferior than West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral, dynamic and progressive.</td>
<td>Immoral, static, backward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern</td>
<td>Primitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29 Ibid., p. 5.
30 Ibid., pp. 43-51.
A. Data Description

*Karate Kid* is a film produced by Hollywood. Although it is produced by Hollywood, the story and location are in China. Furthermore, the main character is an American boy, Dre, who moves to China with his mother. This movie uses Dre’s point of view to describe his perception about China. To understanding about Dre’s perception, the writer divides three periods his description that are early period, middle period, and late period. The periods show development of Dre’s perception. The early period is about Dre’s negative mind, the middle period is about alteration of Dre’s mind, and the late period is about positive mind of Dre about China.

Before analyzing, the writer concludes the data in table. The data is containing periods, sub periods and dialogs to explain relation between the West and the East depicted through Dre’s perception in *The Karate Kid* movie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Periods</th>
<th>Sub periods</th>
<th>Dialogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Period</td>
<td>This period describes about Dre’s negatives perception about China.</td>
<td><em>Dre: Mom, look, in China everything is old. There's old houses, old parks... old people...Look, this guy is at least four-hundred years old.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Middle Period**

This period describes about Dre’s begins to change perception about china.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Dre’s mother: hmmmmmmmmmm....</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dre: Ni Hao Mao...</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China’s man: Dude, I'm from Detroit.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dre: uhh...umm...what’s up.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Dre: ... Yeah, I'm fluent. And I don't know about that guy was talking about?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Period</td>
<td>Kung Fu</td>
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<td>This period describes about the changes of Dre’s perception from negative into positive about China.</td>
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### Data Analysis

For the first, the writer analyzes the description of Dre about China in three categories.

#### a) Early period

In this period, Dre has negative perspective about China. This period is before he arrives in China. For the first, he thinks that China is not a good place. It begins when Dre reads magazines in the plane with her mother on the plane. The magazine is available on the plane. he says that:

*Dre: Mom, look, in China everything is old. There's old houses, old parks... old people...Look, this guy is at least four-hundred years old.*

*Dre’s mom: hmmm....*
The statement of Dre above is because Dre sees many buildings and Chinese people in the magazine are old. Through the magazine, Dre comes to conclusion that China is an old country because the buildings are old. If we relate with orientalism theory, it emphasizes that Dre has imagination about China through popular media like magazine. China is seen as backward because the old city is seen as a symbol of the backward.

b) Middle Period
In this period, Dre arrives and stays in China. There are some changes of his perspective about China. In this period, even though Dre’s perspective is not fully positive. This period only shows the changes of Dre’s perspective from negative into positive. Also, this is the early step for Dre to have positive perspective. This period divides into three categories.

1. Language
Firstly, Dre meets a Chinese man in an airplane to China. He tries to communicate with the man by using Chinese language because of his mother’s order.

Picture 1.
Dre said that everything in China is old.
Dre: Ni Hao Mao...
China's man: Dude, I'm from Detroit.
Dre: uhh…umm…what's up.

His mother reads a Chinese dictionary and she wants Dre to practice the language to a man who sits beside him. When he speaks the language to the man, he surprises because the man cannot speak Chinese. He said "dude, I'm from Detroit". It is astonishing for Dre because the man has a Chinese physical appearance but he states that he is an American. Here, Dre thinks that Chinese people only can speak Chinese and from China. Related with the orientalism, this emphasizes that, based on Dre's perception, the East is backward because the West do not expect that Chinese people can speak one of West languages like English.

Secondly, he sees a Chinese girl listens to music at park's seat. Dre comes to the girl and talks in Chinese. It is because Dre thinks that the girl cannot speak English. When Dre speaks Chinese language, he is surprised because the girl can speak English fluently.

Picture 2.0
Dre wants to talk in Chinese language.

Picture 2.1
The Chinese said he is not a Chinese.
Dre: Hey, what's up?
I forgot.
No English, um...

Ni Hao Mao Xu Xian Mu Ji.

The girl: What language was that?

Dre: You speak English?
Me too.

Before speaking with her, Dre thinks that Chinese people cannot speak English and only speak Chinese. Then, his negative perspective begins to change.

This event shows that Dre underestimates the Chinese people in communicating with the West people like him.

2. Buildings
Firstly, Dre’s first encounter with buildings in China is when he is in the bus from airport to his apartment. While in the bus through the city, he sees that the buildings in China are different from his imagination before that he imagines that buildings in China are old.

Picture 3.0
Dre tries speaking Chinese to the Chinese girl

Picture 3.1
The Chinese girl says that she can speak English
Guide woman: Look! There is Omatek village. Isn't it beautiful?

Dre's mother: Yes. I guess there's nothing old in China, huh, Dre?

Dre: … (Only keep silent to see the modern building)

Now, he looks that China has modern buildings like buildings that he often sees in the USA. From the orientalism point of view, this shows perception the West domination over the East in modernity. Because of their modernity, China looks new and modern like the West.

Secondly, when Dre arrives at his apartment, Dre is surprised because he finds that the name of apartment is "Beverly Hills".

Dre's mother: Look at that, Dre. Beverly Hills. We've always talked about living there, huh?

Dre: I think we have talked about the other one, mom. The name is similar with luxurious residential complexes in the USA. Dre does not expect that in China there is a luxurious apartment that follows the name picture.0

The modern building in China

The modern Omatek village in China
of luxurious housing in the USA. This shows the contradiction between what he imagines and the reality that he sees. In this stage, he starts to have new images of the buildings and their names that follow the West in order to look modern. This shows the domination of the West in modernity in China.

Third, it is not only the name of apartment that similar with the one in the USA, but also the furniture. The furniture is not much different from the furniture that he finds in the USA. Although the exterior of the buildings look old, the interior of the apartment is modern such as a soft chair and a glass table for guest. Besides furniture, there is a flat television with wide screen that normally sees in the USA. Then, he gradually changes his first imagination about China. Dre does not think that the furniture is modern like the West has. It emphasizes that the modernity is only owned by the West. He thinks that China only uses old furniture.

![Picture 6](image)

**Picture 6**
Beverly Hills luxury Apartment in China
Then, he also finds an American television program like Sponge Bob and Square Pants. The television program is produced by American and it is for children. In the beginning he watches the television program Sponge Bob and Square Pants, he is surprised because he does not expect that he watches the American TV program in China.
American television program in China. There he has new image about China in terms of television program. It shows that Chinese people like Western television program like *Sponge Bob and Square Pants*, even though the subtitle of television program uses Chinese language. In this case, the West emphasizes the domination toward the East.

3. **Music, Instrument and Dance**

Dre is surprised to find out that the music listened by the girl is classic, a music by Sebastian Bach. Dre is surprise because he does not expect the Chinese listen to the West music classic.

*Dre:* So, what are you listening to?

*The girl:* Bach.

*Dre:* Bach, I listen to them all the time. They are tight. Have you ever heard of this?

*Dre:* Oh yeah, you like it huh, right?!

Based on his first perspective, he thinks that Chinese only listen to their traditional music. This event makes his first perspective begins to change.

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31 His full name is Johan Sebastian Bach. He was born in Eisenach, Germany, in March 21th 1685 and died in July 28th 1750. He is a musician from Germany that plays several instruments such as organ, harpsichord, clavichord, and composes music for orchestra. His masterpiece is *Brandenburg Concerto.*
Then, Dre finds out the girl that he meets in the park is also able to play violin. The girl plays violin in the school theater room. Violin is a musical instrument that is related to Western culture.

Dre: 

Yeah, I'm fluent. And I don't know about that guy was talking about? I thought you sounded great.

The girl: thank you

He is surprised and amazed to find out that the girl plays violin well. This can be said that he thinks that Chinese people only play their traditional music and they do not know about West music instrument like violin. The girl's teacher sees that her ability in playing a violin is not good enough but Dre's opinion is vice versa. Then, he is even more surprised to find out that the teacher who teaches her to play violin is a Westerner. Dre never thinks before that there will be Western teacher in the school because he is only sees Chinese teachers in the school. Dre thinks that the old country like China does not have Western teacher who come to

The girl is listening to music of Bach

Picture 12

The girl is listening to music of Bach
China. On the other hand, now he sees a westerner as the instructor in China's school. It makes his negative perspective begins to change.

Dre is also surprised to find out that the girl is able to dance an American dance. She dances in "dancing game" in a mall by using a machine that uses music as the direction to dance. Dre does not expect before that the girl is able to dance an American dance well. This also explains that Chinese like American dancing as part of Western culture and lifestyle.

Dre: You're hot. That's like American dancing. Like, you should have a group

The girl: no

Dre: With like, other people in it dancing behind you, doin' the same stuff.

Picture 13
The girl is playing violin

Picture 14
The instructor from the West
In this stage, the writer analyzes the contradiction between Dre’s perception in the early period and the last period. In the early period, Dre has negative imagination and perception about China. When he reads the magazine in the airplane, he thinks China is not old and not modern. On the other hand, in the last period, he thinks that China is not as old as he thinks because he finds new images about China in the middle period. There are several categories to explain this period.

1. Kung Fu
   When Dre and his mother walk around Beijing city, he sees so many children practice kung fu in a kung fu school. Dre’s mother: wooooww…
   Dre: woooww…Kung Fu!

Picture 15
The girl dancing the American dance
They wear orange uniforms. Dre is amazed by the martial art of kung fu movement. Then, he wants to register as a student in the kung fu school. But, he then cancels his desire to register because there are several Chinese male students, who bully him in the apartment park. The Chinese boys are a group of children who are led by Chang as the leader. Even though he cancels to join with the school, he learns kung fu with Mr. Han, the maintenance man in his apartment. In this case, Dre really loves China especially kung fu.

Dre’s mother: Hey, wait. This is early for you for a Saturday.
Dre: Mr. Han will teach me Kung Fu.
Dre’s mother: The maintenance man?
Dre: It’s China mom, everybody knows Kung Fu.
Dre’s mother: Dre, you know how do I feel about your fighting?
Dre: Kung Fu is not fight mom, it’s about making peace with your enemy.

Then, during his practice of kung fu, he finds many experiences like using Chi power. It is the power that source from inner body of people. This power helps Dre to defeat Chang in the kung fu tournament. As the result, he becomes the winner in the kung fu.

Picture 16
The kung fu school in China

Picture 17
Dre is the winner in martial arts tournament
Dre is surprised about Chinese traditional therapy. He sees the therapy when Mr. Han tries to cure Dre's wound. Dre is wounded by the Chang group who strike him. Furthermore, he does not see that kind of therapy before in America. The therapy uses fire, cotton, and bottles. The cotton is burned in the chopstick and the cotton is put in bottles. Then, the bottles are put in Dre's wound. The fire is also rubbed by Mr. Han to Dre's wound. He is amazed with the therapy because he does not feel hurt even though the burning cotton is put in wound. Dre gets therapy twice. First, he gets therapy when he arrives in his apartment. Second, he gets the therapy when he is in the final of kung fu tournament. The last therapy is the moment that makes Dre like the traditional therapy of China. He wishes Mr. Han can cure him with the therapy.

Dre: You know that's not what I mean.
Mr. Han: Yes, I think you had a good chance.
Dre: So, let's do the fiery cup thing.

Picture 18
Dre gets the victory trophy as the winner
Mr. Han:
You don't need to fight anymore.
You have proven everything you need to prove.

Dre:
Please, Mr. Han. Please.

Chinese Traditional Festival

Dre comes to China's traditional festival with his mother. In the festival, he sees the China's puppet show. When he watches the show, he does not understand what the narrator said because the narrator uses Chinese language. Fortunately, he watches the show with a Chinese girl. During the show, the girl interprets the narrator's story. The story is about legendary love between a Chinese man and a Chinese woman in the past time. Dre listens carefully every words of what the girl said. After that he likes and enjoys it. This can be seen from his body language when he watches it. For example, he smiles and appreciates the show. Dre's negative perspective about China to change into positive.

Mr. Han burns the cotton and puts the fire inside a bottle.
Mr. Han rubs the fire to Dre’s body.

Traditional culture in China
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

The relation between the West and the East in *The Karate Kid* is a unique relationship. The representation of the West is Dre and the East is China and its people. In this thesis, the relationship is the domination of the West perception toward the East. The relation between the West (Dre) and the East (China) is the domination of the West in China through Dre’s perception about Chinese and China compare to the West. The perception is analyzed in three periods of development of the Dre’s perspective through his point of view. In the early period, Dre has imagination and perception that China is old, not modern and the people cannot speak English. Through a magazine, he sees many buildings and old Chinese. From the orientalism view, China is seen as backward, old and not modern compare to the USA as the West.

In the middle period, Dre experiences to live and stay in China. His perspective gradually changes from negative into surprise about China. His perspective that everything is old in China begins to change when he sees the modern buildings, technology and furniture. Then, he also surprise when he knows that a Chinese girl speaks English very good and plays violin very well from a western instructor. He is also surprise when he finds the name of his Apartment, furniture and television program same with what the USA has. The
name of “Beverly Hills” is the name of a luxurious housing in the USA. Also, the furniture is same with the modern USA furniture such as a soft chair, a glass table, and a television. When he turns on the television, he also finds the television program like the one in the USA.

The experiences of Dre in China show the orientalist point of view as the West. His perspectives about China are only in his perception and they do not relevant with the reality. The description of Dre above explains the orientalism point of view. The experience of Dre proves that his imagination is contradictory with the reality.

In the last period, Dre’s negative perception changes into positive. The changes is caused by his experiences in the middle period. Besides that, in the last period, he starts to like the culture and tradition of China such as kung fu, Chinese traditional therapy and Chinese traditional festival. He also finds the unique traditional therapy that uses traditional material such as cotton, chopstick, bottle, and fire. He is in surprise when he can be cured by it. It proves that his perception has changed from negative into positive about China. He also enjoys the puppet show in the festival.

B. Suggestion

For other researchers, the writer suggests there are several important aspects to be analyzed discourse of binary opposition between the West and the East in a movie. First, the story must be about and located in East. Second, the main character must be the West or the the East who brings the West’s thoughts. Third,
the movie is produced by the West. Fourth, the West’s figure is the hero in the end of story. Furthermore, there is another issue in The Karate Kid that needs to be explored namely the culture of China because the more also shows the traditional and modern culture in China.


Websites:


APPENDIX

Description of China

For the introduction about China, Harold C. Hinton said that:

“The Chinese are of course the most numerous branch of the so called yellow or mongoloid race, whose ancestor lived widely scattered over northeastern Asia during the Old Stone Age. After the end of the Ice Age and in the New Stone Age, perhaps about 5000 B.C., a major migration of Mongoloids from eastern Siberia and Mongolia seems to have occurred into North China, and in particular the valley of the mighty and treacherous Yellow River”\textsuperscript{32}

From the data above, it seems that China has long history until present time. Then, the study of China is called sinology and it has long story in the Western educational. In the recent times, sinology divided into two majors. The first, the study is about old China until Westerns arrived in China territory, it is about the middle of nineteenth century, that was emphasized to the China’s continuously tradition. The second, the study is about China modern that emphasize any change in the politic from nineteenth century until present times.\textsuperscript{33}


Furthermore, about the political alteration of China, Li Chien-nung in his book said that:

“Many of the great changes occurring in Chinese political history during the past hundred years are the traceable results of events which occurred during the period approximating the reigns of Ch’ien-lung (1736-1795) and Chia-Ch’ing (1796-1820). This heyday of the Manchu or Ch’ing dynasty marked also the beginning of general decline in China."

The Chinese has good endurance to avoid various alterations in their life. It is because they can adapt with every condition. They are also said to be practically people. In twentieth century, there are many alterations obviously visible in their life but they still adapted well. It because they are using new method, appropriates the development of times, and leave the old method. For example, there are no Chinese expect that communist will be the ideology even Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the revolutionary of republic of China. But, in present times all of people in the world can see that China uses communist ideology.

Furthermore, the political history of China in the past hundred years may be divided into three major periods. The first begins with the Opium War and ends with the Sino-Japanese War of 1894. The second starts in 1895 and includes both the reform movement of 1898 and the revolution of 1911. The third covers

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the foundation of the Republic of China and the Northern Expedition launched by the Kuomintang from Canton 192636.

Then, from the Han dynasty of the second century BC until the Republican Revolution of 1911, China’s system of government remained essentially the same. Since the Han, China has been an empire, subsuming a variety of peoples and cultures within the dominant Chinese civilization. Han culture eventually ingested and changed all who entered, allowing little permanent leeway to resident ‘Barbarians’37.

After the World-War two, they get problems in politic and economical in their country because the conflicts between West (USA and allies) and East (Sovyet and allies) bloc. China tries to join and get help to Sovyet to reconstruct their political and economical problems. Then, China leans heavily on Soviet Russia to hold the sword and consolidate the power38.

In 1966, Mao launched the Cultural Revolution. For a time in 1967, elements of the extreme left within the Red Guards took over the Foreign Ministry39. In 1980, Deng Xiaoping brought an end to the Cultural Revolution, freeing China to try his economic reforms. China’s new position in the international community also facilitated reform40.

36 Ibid., pp.8-9.
40 Ibid., p. 208.
In present times, China has to be a modern country. Their industrial products are almost widespread in the world. Perhaps, they are to be a new imperialist besides West countries. Based on the data above, China had various alterations since hundred years and it makes their lifestyle changed adjust the period. The alterations above will help the reader on this thesis to understanding about Dre’s description of China.