Analyzing the Negative Attitudes of ‘Islamophobia’ after September 11th Incident on Muslims in “My Name Is Khan”

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Abstract

Islamophobia, a fear and hatred toward the Islam religion or Muslim people did not suddenly appear after 9-11; however, Islamophobia is clearer and stronger post 9-11. The 9-11 is one of the worst calamities in the world because the World Trade Center in New York was attacked by Muslim terrorists. The movie, My Name is Khan shows how Muslims suffered discrimination and marginalization by people’s Islamophobia and stereotypes after 9-11 in the United States. The origin of Islamophobia and its negative attitudes have been founded from Eurocentric Universalism which Europeans think that the Europeans or Westerners are as a superior, powerful, subjects, and masculine; in contrast, Arabs or Easterners are an inferior, powerless, object and feminine. The Postcolonial criticism and Orientalism are very helpful tools to examine how people have a biased view or stereotypes toward Eastern, especially Muslims. Postcolonial criticism critiques Eurocentric Universalism. Orientalism finds out the origins of marginalization and false images toward Orient (Eastern). Society often treats marginalized people or culture unfairly because they are made powerless or voiceless on purpose. By reading this research, the readers of this paper will recognize how important it is to fairly treat Muslims in society without stereotypical viewpoints or prejudice in order to make society better. To reach the aim, firstly, the writer examines relevant theories and then reviews the foremost negative attitudes such as discrimination and marginalization, involved with Islamophobia. After that, those negative attitudes are discussed with the most interrelated scenes which are about Khan and his family’s experiences of injustice post 9/11 in the movie, My Name is Khan.

Keywords: Islamophobia, Marginalization, Discrimination, Postcolonialism, Orientalism.