

CULTURAL CONFLICTS IN INTERCULTURAL  
COMMUNICATION OF PAUL HAGGIS FILM'S

"CRASH"



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A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Letters Hasanuddin  
University  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain  
Sarjana Degree in English Department*

by:

SRI NINGSIH AMIN  
F 211 02 086

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN  
2007



# SKRIPSI

## Cultural Conflicts in Intercultural Communication of Paul Haggis Film's "CRASH"

Disusun dan diajukan oleh:

**SRI NINGSIH AMIN**  
Nomor Pokok: F 211 02 086

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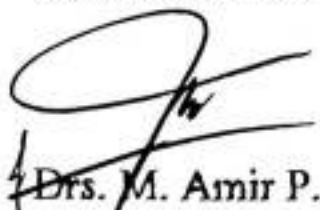
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Komisi Pembimbing


Drs. Stanislaus Sandarupa, M.A., Ph.D.  
Ketua

  
Drs. Husain Hasyim, M. Hum.  
Sekretaris

Pembantu Dekan I Fakultas Sastra  
Universitas Hasanuddin

  
Drs. M. Amir P., M. Hum

Ketua Jurusan Sastra Inggris

  
Drs. Husain Hasyim, M. Hum

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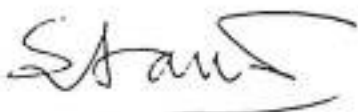
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Konsultan I.

  
Drs. Husain Hasyim, M.Hum.  
Nip: 131 671 048

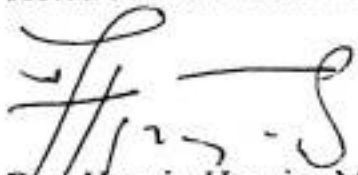
Konsultan II.

  
Drs. Stanislaus Sandarupa, M.A, Ph.D  
Nip: 131 571 407

Menyetujui:

a.n. Dekan

Ketua jurusan Sastra Inggris.

  
Drs. Husain Hasyim, M.Hum.  
Nip: 131 671 048



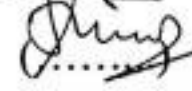
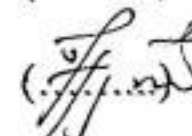
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- |   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| 1. Drs. Stanislaus Sandarupa, M.A., Ph.D. | Ketua        | (.....)   |
| 2. Drs. Husain Hasyim, M. Hum             | Sekretaris   |  |
| 3. Drs. H. Sudarmin Harun, M. Hum         | Penguji I    |  |
| 4. Drs. Simon Sitoto, M.A                 | Penguji II   |  |
| 5. Drs. Stanislaus Sandarupa, M.A., Ph.D. | Konsultan I  | (.....)   |
| 6. Drs. Husain Hasyim, M. Hum             | Konsultan II |  |

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Makassar, 19 November 2007

**The Writer**

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang konflik budaya yang dihadapi oleh masyarakat multi etnik dan budaya atau orang-orang yang tinggal atau membaaur dengan orang yang berbeda budaya dalam film "Crash". Rumusan masalah dalam skripsi ini adalah bagaimana orang-orang yang ada dalam lingkungan masyarakat multi etnik dan budaya berinteraksi dalam kehidupan mereka sehari-hari tanpa terjadi kesalah pahaman dalam komunikasi. Kesalahpahaman dalam komunikasi yang dimaksud disini yaitu kesalahan dalam memahami makna bahasa dan perilaku orang lain yang berbeda budaya di dalam film "Crash".

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu metode kualitatif, dimana penulis mendeskripsikan data dan hasil analisis data dalam bentuk narasi. Metode analisis ini digunakan untuk memberikan gambaran yang jelas tentang konflik budaya yang dihadapi atau yang dialami oleh masyarakat multi budaya. Adapun sumber datanya yaitu film "Crash" karya Paul Haggis.

Dari analisis data yang dilakukan, penulis menemukan bentuk-bentuk penyebab konflik budaya, yaitu misinterpretasi dalam komunikasi, rasa rendah diri, kebingungan, keputusasaan, dan kecemburuan sosial. Bentuk-bentuk tersebut menghasilkan sifat rasis yang kemudian muncul konflik yang dapat menyebabkan terjadinya kekerasan yang berujung pada pembunuhan. Konflik-konflik muncul dalam diri setiap tokoh dalam film "Crash", yang disebabkan oleh keadaan lingkungan kota Los Angeles, dimana orang-orang sama sekali tidak peduli dengan orang lain.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Society is a group of people who lives together in an area and interacts to each other. There are several interactions in this society, which is well known as social interaction. The mouthpiece of it is language, where in interaction they have to communicate by using language. It is one of the characteristics which is most typically humane that makes them different from others. At the beginning, realize that language is the society institute (de Saussure, 1916) as same as marriage constitution. However, two decade in recent days realize by the linguists that it is necessary to concern more at society dimension called sociolinguistics.

The term of sociolinguistics, consists of two elements: 'socio' and 'linguistics'. Socio has a same root with social that is related with society and its function. While linguistics, has the meaning of a

study, which learns, or talks about language, especially its elements (phoneme, morpheme, word, sentence) and relation among those elements (structure), including the truth and the forming of it. Therefore, sociolinguistics have has the meaning of a study that analyze languages in its connection with the speaker as the member of society.

Appropriate from above, all human have language. It has a special role in society lives, as a tool for everyone to know their culture. In other words, a culture was born in individual mostly with language helps.

There are some definitions of culture, based on the point of views. Kroeber and Kluckhohn (1952), collects tens definitions of culture, which has been define by the anthrop linguists, then divide it into six classes, as follows:

- a) Descriptive, which is emphasized it on cultural elements.
- b) History emphasizes it as inherited of society.
- c) Normative that emphasized it to the truth of as manners of life and attitudes.

- d) Psychology, emphasizes the useful of culture in self-adjustment to environment, solving the problem, and learns to live.
- e) Structural, emphasize the disposition of culture as a system which is regulated and patterned.
- f) Genetically that emphasizes the happening of culture as a human masterpiece.

Thus, culture could be define as shared background such as national, ethnic, religious, also reflecting a common language and communication style, and shared customs, beliefs, attitudes, and values.

## 1.2 Identification of the Problem

- a) Every country in the world has different culture that can contribute any affects, good or even bad.
- b) As a social community, **people** in the world have to **interact to each other**. The form of the interaction mostly comes in form of communication. While, culture does not communicate, but people do.
- c) Communication between people from different cultures regarded as intercultural communication,

which influenced by culture, values, attitudes, and behavior. This communication involves differing perception and interpretation.

- d) Cultural conflicts are the bad effects that come from intercultural communication, which caused, by the different perception and interpretation above.
- e) There are three values of culture that probably evokes cultural conflicts, such as etiquette, practice of belief, and image.
- f) Misinterpretation, ethnocentrism, stereotypes, prejudice, are also some problem that caused the cultural conflicts exist in intercultural communication.

### 1.3 Scope of the Problem

Viewed from several points of problem that has been identifying above, it is necessary to make the limitation clear on this scope of the problem. In the writing of "Cultural Conflicts in Intercultural Communication of Paul Haggis Film 'CRASH'", the writer would like to analyze the cultural conflicts, especially in case of what is the motive of cultural

conflicts appear in the intercultural people's interaction in society lives only in form of verbal act. Moreover, the different cultural background and the social context may influence these cultural conflicts.

People make decisions about how to interpret a given utterance based on their definition of what is happening at the time of interaction. In other words, they define the interaction in term of frame or schema that is identifiable and familiar which referred as contextualization cues.

#### 1.4 Statement of the Problem

Based on the scope of problem that explain that the object of analyzing is the motives of cultural conflicts appeared. Thus, the writer decides to make some researches questions, as follows:

1.4.1 What are the interactions of interethnic communication that may result in cultural conflicts?

1.4.2 How do interlocutor's cultural values affect such intercultural communication?

1.4.3 How do such interactions give impact on the possible creation of conflict?

## 1.5 The Objective and Significance of Writing

1.5.1 To describe that the interaction of interethnic or intercultural in a society may result some conflicts that related with their own culture that caused by the culture's differences itself.

1.5.2 To identify some features that can influence cultural conflicts happening in the interaction of people from the differential cultures.

1.5.3 To describe the impact of such interactions on the conflict's appearance.

## 1.6 Methodology of Writing

### 1.6.1 Method for Collecting Data

In her struggle to write, the writer plans to use library research and field research.



## **A. Library Research**

Library research due by consult any libraries and reads some books to find any source, which can provide information for the sake of the data presentation. Those books are Beyond Language, Culture and Social Context, Mass Media/Mass Culture, Culture Matters, and etcetera.

## **B. Field Research**

### 1) Recording

In collecting data, the writer uses a tape recorder to record the data that would analyze in this writing. Because of the data is taken from a film, so the writer just record the dialog from the film that cause the cultural conflict.

### 2) Note Taking

The writer note the dialog that has been record in form of transcribes.

## 1.6.2 Method for Analyzing Data

### A. Qualitative

Because the forms of the data are in sentences or words, hence clear that, the data analysis has the character of qualitative. Where in analyzing data, the writer more make account at the process of the analysis and the result that comes in the form of narration or explanation by using words. For example:

There is chain crash on the road by two cars. An American Police Officer is checking on that chain crash accident. He tries to identify the three persons who involve in that accident, two women and one man. One of these women is a Korean woman who is grumbling of her broken car.

Police Officer : Calm down, Mom!

Korean Woman : I am calm.

Police Officer: May I see your registration and insurance?

Korean Woman : What? It's not my false!  
It's her false

The Police Officer is trying to get the Korean woman who keeps talking and angry of her broken car settled by saying "Calm down, Mom!". Then, the Korean woman answers "I am calm" and still talking loudly.

There is a misinterpretation here by both The Police Officer and the Korean woman of the words "Calm". The Police Officer saying "Calm down" to the Korean woman which means that he is trying to tell the Korean woman to stop talking with the polite words, so that he can do his job in identifying her. While the woman, interpret "Calm" as an expression without making any movement. In addition, because she just standing on her place and does not make some movements, so she think that she is calm. This misinterpretation evokes because of the different perception about the word "calm". Mostly in America, if someone got a problem, he will try to solve his problem by sitting and thinking of how to solve it in quiet. While for Asian people, if they got a problem, before trying to solve it, they will angry to release their emotion. This is what we call as stereotypes.

### **B. Population**

The populations of this research are ten utterances of the film, which caused the cultural conflicts, appear.

## C. Work Procedures

- a. The data is recorded by a tape recorder.
- b. Make transcripts of the data.
- c. Identify the data into several utterances.
- d. Then, analyze the utterance.

### 1.7 Sequence of the Chapter

The whole aspects of this writing arranged into four chapters, as follows:

- a) This first chapter introduces the background of writing, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, statement of the problem, the objective and significance of writing, and the methodology of writing.
- b) The second chapter provides the literature review, which consists of previous study and theoretical background that support this writing.
- c) The third chapter discuss about the analysis of cultural conflicts that occurs in intercultural communication.
- d) The last, chapter four consists of the conclusion of this writing and suggestion for the problems.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Previous Study

After looking for any research about cultural conflicts at the library, the writer finds one thesis that has done by Anugrah the title is "Cultural Conflict in A Passage to India a novel by Edward Morgan Forster" (2000).

This research almost similar with the writer plans too. Both researches talks about cultural conflicts. Eventually, the researches above analyze the cultural conflicts that occur in a novel, which titled A PASSAGE TO INDIA by Edward Morgan. Where, the cultural conflicts limited only between India and British. While in this research, the writer plans to analyze about cultural conflicts that occurs in a film "CRASH". In other words, the writer means of cultural conflicts that exist in the real life that captured in a movie. Moreover, the intercultural communication here represents the interaction of people in intercultural

or cross-cultural society. In addition, the object of this research is those people in intercultural or cross-cultural society.

## 2.2 Theoretical Background

### 2.2.1 Sociolinguistics and Discourse Analysis

#### 2.2.1.1 Sociolinguistics

In Chaer, there are several definitions about sociolinguistics as follows:

- a) Sociolinguistics is the study of the characteristics of language varieties, the characteristics of their functions, and the characteristics of their speakers as these three constantly interact, change and change one another within a speech community (J.A Fishman 1971 : 4).
- b) Sociolinguistics is the study of language in operation, its purpose is to investigate how the convention of the language use relate to other aspects of social behavior (C.Criper and H.G Widdowson in J.P.B Allen and S.Piet Corder (ed.) 1975: 156).

c) Sociolinguistics is a developing subfield of linguistics, which takes speech variation as its focus, viewing variation or its social context. Sociolinguistics is concerned with the correlation between such social factors and linguistics variation (Nancy Parrot Hickerson 1980: 81).

Based on the above definitions, the writer can conclude that sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary subject between sociology and linguistics, the two-cup of tea of an empirical study, which related to each other. Sociology is an objective and scientific study about human being in society and institution, and the social process within society. Therefore, sociolinguistics essentially is the study of man in society; the study of social process that seeks to answer the question of how is the society possibly, how it works, why it persists. Through a rigorous examination of the social institution, religious, economic, political and familial, a picture of the way in which man adapts to, conditioned by particular societies; of the mechanisms of socialization process of cultural learning, where individually allocated to

and accepts their respective roles in the social structure emerges. This sociology's aspect related to the concept of social stability, of continuity of the way in which individual come to accept the major social institutions as right. However, sociology of course concerned also with the processes whereby society changes, gradually, or cataclysmically as in revolution from one type society to another; from feudalism to capitalism (for example) and the effects, which these changes have on social structure (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972 as quoted in Anugrah).

#### **2.2.1.2 Discourse Analysis**

Discourse analysis is analysis of language that used in society. Its study the actual mechanisms in which communication, understanding and interaction maintained. This means that discourse analysis must be concerned with ways in which information selected, formulated and conveyed between speakers or alternatively to be assumed to be known and shared knowledge, taken granted and not selected at all. That is way it is not just concerned, just with whether



statements are true or false but with states of information and differential access to information. Negotiating mutual understanding when speaker and hearer inevitably have different perspective gives a glimpse of one particular theoretical void over which discourse analysis is suspended.

Some sociolinguists use discourse analysis to observe social interaction structure, because the interaction mostly formed in conversation. Therefore, they try to express the conversation or dialogue of the social interaction in the form of transcript to make them easy to learn.

### **2.2.2 Language and Society**

Language as a social phenomenon tied up with the social structure and value's systems in society. Relationship between language and society suppose involves the effect of language on society. There is a view, develop in various forms by different linguists, which is most frequently referred to as the 'Sapir-Whorf hypothesis', after the two linguists, Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf, whose names is most often

associated. The hypothesis is approximately about a speaker's native language sets up a series of categories that act as a kind of grid through which he categorizes and conceptualizes different phenomena.

A language can affect a society by influencing or even controlling the worldview of its speakers. Most language of European is very similar in this respect, presumably because of their common genetic relationship and the long cultural contact between them. Unhappily, the worldviews of their speakers and their societies for that reason perhaps are dissimilar at all. European language for example, uses tenses. It would not be too surprising, therefore, if the worldviews of a people whose languages does not have tenses rather different from their own about concept of time, and even of cause and effect might somewhat different.

The social environment also reflected in language, and can often have an effect on the structure of the vocabulary. In addition to environment and social structure, the values of a society can also have an effect on its language.

### 2.2.3 Culture

Culture was shared background (national, ethnic, religious) which reflecting a common language and communication style, and shared customs, beliefs, attitudes, and values. Culture is a survival mechanism, which may be narrowly or more broadly adaptive, and which may obstruct or facilitates it into a wider group.

As quoted in Anugrah (2000: 8-9), Clyde Kluckhohn defines culture in Clifford Geerts (1973) as:

- a) The total way of life of a people
- b) The social legacy the individual acquires from his group
- c) A way of thinking, feeling, and believing
- d) An abstraction from behavior
- e) A theory on the part of the anthropologists about the way in which a group of people in fact behave
- f) A storehouse of pooled learning
- g) A set of standardized orientations to recurrent problems
- h) Learned behavior

i) A mechanism for the normative regulation of behavior

j) A set of techniques for adjusting both to the external environment and other men

k) A precipitate of history

Spradley (1977:62) claims culture as "the system knowledge by which people design their own actions and interpret the behavior of theirs". Culture, then, is arbitrary, it is the way people respond their surroundings based on set of values they belief. Spradley further suggest that an individual conforms to a certain culture through internalization of values. Value is something that people believe as acceptable, desirable on human experience where desirable is might be different between groups.

Edward Taylor as quoted by Kottak (1991) in Anugrah (2000: 9), defines culture as:

Culture... is that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society

Unlike language, culture does not always contain set rules and patterns. For example, two students from

one country may disagree about what done in their culture. In addition, some students may want to discuss "right" and "wrong" about a particular culture. It is sometimes necessary to point out that what considered right in one culture might consider wrong in another. In addition, there may be a tendency to assign culture as an explanation for everything. The student may have to remind that an individual's personality can have greater influence that culture on the individual's perception and behavior.

As mentioned in the preview chapter (Identification of the problem, point 5), that there are three values of culture, which evokes conflict, as follows:

#### 1. Etiquette

The American Heritage Dictionary of Houghton Mifflin Company (1982: 427), states that:

Etiquette is the practice and forms prescribed by social convention or by authority.

Another of Hornby (1995: 393) states that:

Etiquette is the formal standards or rules of correct and polite behavior in society or among members of a profession.

From explanation above, the writer concludes that etiquette is the rules or right behavior in society prescribed by social convention as practices and forms.

## 2. Practice of Belief

Houghton Mifflin Company in American Heritage Dictionary (1982:169) states that:

Belief is: 1. The mental act, condition, or habit of placing trust and confidence in a person or thing; 2. Mental acceptance or conviction in truth or actually of something; 3. Something believed or accepted as true, especially a particular tenet or a body of tenets accepted by a group of persons.

Another, Hornby (1995: 97) states that:

Beliefs is a felling that something/somebody is real and true; trust or confidence in something/somebody. Belief is a religion or something taught as part of a religion. Belief is a thing one accepts as true or real what one believes.

From quotation above, the writer understands that belief is something that someone believes or trust or something taught as a part of religion.

### 3. Image

According to Houghton Mifflin Company in American Heritage Dictionary (1982:642) states:

Image is: 1. A reproduction of the form someone or something especially a sculptured likeness; 2. A mental picture of something not real or present; 3. A vivid description or representation of something; 4. the concept of someone or something that is held by the public, the character projected by someone or something to the public, especially by mass media.

Another source of Hornby (1995: 592) states that:

Image is a general impression that a person, an organization, a product, etc., gives to the public; a reputation.

From quotation above, the writer understands that image is the character or a general impression that someone or something gives to the public.

#### **2.2.4 Social Interaction**

All societies, everywhere in the world, have rules of the way in which language used in social interaction. It is interesting to observe, however,

that these rules may vary widely between one society and another.

The differentiation of the type of social interaction between cultures can often lead, in cross-cultural communication, to misunderstanding and even hostility, the obviously important for anyone involved in cross cultural-communication to be aware of language-use differences of this sort. The same can also be true of communication between different sub-cultures within a single community. We can illustrate this point by moving on the consideration of a rather different aspect of the relationship between language and social interaction.

#### **2.2.5 Communication**

Communication is one of those human activities that everyone recognizes but few can define satisfactorily. Communication is talking to one another, it is television, it is spreading information, it is our hairstyle, and it is literary criticism, the list is endless.



Communication involves sign and codes. Signs are artifacts or acts that refer to something other than themselves; that is, they are signifying constructs. Codes are the systems into which signs are organized which determine how signs related to each other. These signs and codes transmitted or made available to other. The transmitting or receiving signs, codes and communication are the practice of social relationship.

From the explanation above, emerge a general definition of communication as 'social interaction through' messages. It is the central life of our culture. Without it, culture of any kind must be dying. Consequently, the study of communication involves the study of the culture with which it is integrated.

The message is whatever the source attempts to share with someone else. It originates with an idea, which then encoded into symbols that used to express that idea. While, symbols are words or objects that the source to elicit meaning in the mind of the receiver of the message, words and pictures are the most common symbols used in communication.

### **2.2.6 Intercultural Communication**

Intercultural communication is the process whereby one's culture affects interaction with a person from another culture. Despite its apparent simplicity, this definition does not immediately suggest the difficulties that sometimes encountered in the process. When interacting with people from different cultures, one's tendency is to judge them according to one's own values, a tendency which often interferes with successful cultural adjustment and intercultural communication.

### **2.2.7 Conversation**

Conversation is one of the forms of communication performed within a society when they interact to one another. Everyone would converse in the life of everyday for interacting to each other to tell what they want to. Without knowing that when they converse and hearer answers to what they tell, and discussion, which they do longer progressively expand, hence indirectly happened a conversation. In another words

**Scene III:** Anthony and Dawg out from a restaurant after having food.

Anthony : Do you ever see a white people wait an hour and thirty minutes for a plate of spaghetti?

And how many cups of coffee that we get?

Dawg : You don't drink coffee and I don't want it.

Anthony : Man, a woman in there pour cup upper cup to every single white person around us.

But you see, she doesn't even ask if we want it any?

Dawg : We didn't get coffee that you didn't want and I didn't order.

And that's the evidence of racial discrimination?

Didn't you know that the woman that serves us was black?

Anthony : Look around you. We're the only black people surrounded by a sea of over-caffeinated white people and a trigger-happy LAPD. But you tell me, Why aren't we scared?

Dawg : Because we have guns?  
(Hagyis, 2006:III)

**Scene IV:** Rick and his wife, Jean has been experienced of violence in the street. Their car was jacked by two black men, Dawg and Anthony.

Rick : Karen, tell me. I'm the God damn Judges Attorney of Los Angeles. If my car goes jack, it's gonna making news.... Fuck!  
Why these guys have to be black people? I mean why?

No matter how we splint this thing, I'm gonna lose this black vote or I'm gonna lose a bound of the law order vote.

Karen : I think you worry too much. You have a lot of supports from the black community.

Rick : All right. If we gonna forget this thing, we have to neutralize it.  
 What we need is a picture of me pin the medal on a Blackman.  
 Bruce? Fire, Fire man. The man, that saves the Northbridge district. Who is his name?

Bruce : He is an Iraqi.

Rick : An Iraqi, He looks Black!

Bruce : He has dark skin Sir, but he is not a black. His name is Saddam Khahum.

Rick : Saddam? His name is Saddam?  
That's really good. I'm gonna pin a medal on an Iraqi named Saddam.  
 (Haggis, 2006:IV)

### 3.2 Identification

Scene	Utterance
Scene I	a. Calm down / Calm b. May I see your registration and insurance? / What? It's not my false!
Scene II	a. Yo, Osama! Plan the Jihad on your own time. What do you want? / Are you making insult at me? / Is that the clause that you can in English?
Scene III	a. Why aren't we scared? / Because we have guns?

Scene IV	<p>a. Why these guys have to be black people? I mean why?</p> <p>b. That's really good. I'm gonna pin a medal on an Iraqi named Saddam.</p>
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### 3.3 Analysis

The exchange is typical of the many brief interactive routines that fill our day and which for the most part pass without special notice. Speaker's moves and addressees' responses follow one another automatically.

#### 3.3.1 Scene I

##### a. Calm down / Calm

As can be seen from the data above, there is misinterpretation between Kim Lee and the Police officer. The Police Officer asks Kim Lee to "calm down", means to make her quiet and let him do his job. While, Kim Lee who is keep talking answer "I am calm", where she interprets "calm" as to settle

down and she think that she has already settled down.

b. May I see your registration and insurance? /

What? It's not my false!

In the next utterance, Kim Lee and the Police Officer again are in misinterpretation. The Police Officer begins with a question 'may', as our knowledge of English tells us, requires a yes or no answer. However, Kim Lee with reply takes the form of suggestion, which does not overtly acknowledge the Police Officer's question. In this case, Kim Lee misinterprets the Police Officer's question and in prejudice, she thinks that the police officer takes her as a suspect by saying, "it's not my false".

### 3.3.2 Scene II

a. Yo, Osama! Plan the Jihad on your own time. What do you want? / Are you making insult at me? / Is that the clause that you can in English?

A Persian storeowner and his daughter go to the guns shop to buy a gun. After giving the gun, the shopkeeper tell them that they got one free box of ammunition and asks them, what kind they wanted to. Nevertheless, the Persian storeowner does not reply the shopkeeper. He confuses, about the ammunition and asks his daughter with their mother tongue. Upset because the buyer does not answer his question, the shopkeeper angry and says "Yo! Osama plan the jihad on your own time. What do you want?" the shopkeeper feels that they just wasting his time furthermore because they talk by using a language that he do not understand. As the Persian hear what the shopkeeper said, he reply "Are you making insult at me?", then the shopkeeper answers "Is that the clause that you can in English?".

In this situation, after the recent events of 9/11 (the Bombing of WTC and Pentagon) the Persian storeowner is being stereotyped and scrutinized because of his religious beliefs and background.

### 3.3.3 Scene III

#### a. Why aren't we scared? / Because we have guns?

Anthony and Dawg, two black men in their 20s, come out of an Italian restaurant in a ritzy neighborhood where Anthony gripes that the black waitress has treated them shabbily and he angry that served. When Dawg points out that black man have a reputation for being bad tippers, Anthony confesses that he did not leave one. This is just about the nature conundrums of racist stereotypes.

Anthony's philosophical sort sees racism lurking in every corner, even in the gesture of a white woman who takes her husband's arm as they pass. Therefore, he says, "We're the only black people surrounded by a sea of over-caffeinated white people and a trigger-happy LAPD," "Why aren't we scared?" he continue It sounds like a good question, until Dawg responds it. As saying "Because we have guns?", Dawg took his gun and jacking the car of the white couple just now. Then, can be seen that the stereotype of Anthony emerge because of the misinterpretation of a white



woman gesture when they pass. It shows that this culture's conflict can affect crime and it is very dangerous.

#### 3.3.4 Scene IV

a. Why these guys have to be black people? I mean why?

After Rick, the District Attorney, and his wife, Jean become victim when two black men, Anthony and Dawg, steal their car he really upset. They returns home, Rick start to wreak on his anger to Karen, his assistant. Not just because of his stolen car, but rather to knowing that the persons who stole his car are the black men. So he says, "Why these guys have to be black people?", this is an ambiguity question. The question generates a new question, "what is actually wrong with the black men?". Then Rick assure his words by saying "I mean why?". He has battle with his self. One side he is very sulky with the lost of his car and reports it to the police. But, on the other hand, Rick fear this

matter will become a big news that can destroy his nominee and loss his voice and support from the black community in the law order.

In this case, there is no misinterpretation. It just shows that in the multi-ethnic life, the racial tolerance is needed, because no body cannot live without other's help.

b. That's really good. I'm gonna pin a medal on an Iraqi named Saddam

Rick happens to be the District Attorney of Los Angeles County, a man apparently incapable of experiencing anything except through the prism of how it will play in the media.

After the carjacking, Rick frets that being robbed by black men will cost him either the black vote or the-law-and-order vote and to take the media attention off him, he instructs his aides find an African American to him to pin a medal.

Rick asks his aides, Bruce, about a fireman that saves the Northbridge District. Bruce said that he was an Iraqi, named Saddam. By hearing

the name, Rick surprise, and say "That's really good. I'm gonna pin a medal on an Iraqi named Saddam". As addition, Iraq is the enemy of America. By saying that words, it shows that Rick is racist stereotype.

### 3.4 The Movie Reviews

#### A. Plot

Several stories interweave during two days in Los Angeles involving a collection of interrelated characters.

#### B. Genre and Theme

"Crash" is a drama movie, which take a theme of racist in mix-multi culture life.

#### C. Characters

1. Graham: a black man detective in Los Angeles.
2. Maria: Graham's partner who also a detective.
3. Kim Lee: a Korean woman.
4. Rick: the District Attorney of Los Angeles.
5. Jean: Rick's wife who is a racialist's woman and a little bit paranoid.

6. Dawg: a Blackman teenager, Detective Graham's younger brother.
7. Anthony: Dawg's Friend, who is disappointed of the role of life as Blackman.
8. Ryan: a Police Officer of LAPD.
9. Tommy: a Police Officer, Ryan's Partner in LAPD.
10. Cameron: a film director, who has a problem with his fussy wife.
11. The Shop Owner: a Persian, who is very stingy.
12. The Locksmith: a Mexican man, honest and love his daughter very much.
13. Lara: the locksmith's daughter.
14. Elizabeth: the locksmith's wife.
15. Choi Jim Gui: a Korean man, Kim Lee's husband is trafficking man from Asia to America to be sold.
16. Karen: Rick's assistant, a black woman.
17. Bruce: Rick's staff.

#### **D. Setting**

The movie take sets in Los Angeles, California, USA.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

- a. the interaction of interethnic or intercultural in a society may redeem in a greater or less degree, in their own world, despite their frailties and prejudices. The differentiation of cultures, may makes each people has enough prejudice or hate because of the misunderstanding or a kind of moves that given by other in his daily life.
- b. the differences of basic cultural norms, values and historical tradition that arose in distinct culture areas, affect the ability of the interpretation of the people itself, such as how to respond to a preceding speaker's move, how to elaborate a point and in what order to present information.
- c. the impact of such kind interaction, as we see from "crash" movie, is the racist that could result some crime even murder.

## 4.2 Suggestion

- a. we had better not to be too quick to judge a given situation, without exploring what might it is actually.
- b. when, we were far apart from our hometown or live in the different situation, which also has a differentiation culture, we should learn to adapt and not to resist other to accept our cultures. Because even people from the same culture sometimes get misunderstanding to each other, much less the different. So the one who should try to accept those, is us.

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## APPENDIX

### Synopsis of "CRASH"

Detective Graham Walters, who is investigating what may be a racially motivated killing. Graham's Latin partner, Maria, who is also his lover, joins him in the investigation. As Graham leans down at the crime scene and sets his eyes on the victim, we are transported to 36 hours earlier.

LAPD officer Jack Ryan, a 17-year veteran whose actions persistently cross the line of decency. During a "routine" traffic stop, Ryan inappropriately touches an African American woman, a wife of a black TV producer who is watching helplessly. Ryan's own partner Harper, is so infuriated by Ryan's actions, so that he requests his own car.

Meanwhile, the District Attorney of LA, Rick Cameron, and his wife, Jean, become victims when their car is stolen by a pair of thieves. After the couple returns home, they have their locks changed by a "Mexican" locksmith. We begin to see Jean's racist point-of-view: peek out from behind her elegant features, as she

explains to her husband how she knew they were going to get robbed because she saw two black men approaching them.

She goes on to tell Rick that she wants the locks changed again in the morning because the "gang member" in the other room with the prison tattoos is going to sell their spare keys to his "homies" as soon as he walks out the door. It's clear that the locksmith heard Mrs. Cameron's remarks, as he laid down the keys on her kitchen counter and let himself out.

A Persian storeowner constantly struggle as a citizen in America. He is labeled as an Arab, showing how ignorant most of us are to different cultures, and continually feels as if he is being cheated or taken advantage of.

A Locksmith who is also a Hispanic young father and husband who does the right thing by moving his family out of a bad neighborhood.

Two young angry black men, Anthony and Dawg (the younger brother of the detective), resort to the wrong side of the law with stealing and being dishonest.

Walking pass them back to the D.A. and his wife who also is returning from a night on the town. The wife who sees the two black people clutches her purse tighter and snuggles closer to her husband as if to insinuate that because she sees these two people there out to do bodily harm to her. This makes the black guys angry and they try to reverse the situation by making the statement that "if anyone should be scared, nervous or frightened it should be them because of the predominantly white part of town that they were in, they were the only black people around for miles". The two black guys run up to the couples SUV telling him and his wife with guns drawn screaming at the top of their lungs to "get out of the car". They put the wife to the ground and proceed to speed off. This scene is the prime example of a professional crime being committed. These two young men had made a career out of stealing from people.

The D.A. and his wife were publicly humiliated. As they speed through the streets, the younger brother of the detective pulls out a statue of St. Christopher (the patriot ST. of travelers) and sits it on the dashboard. While arguing about the statue they sideswipe what they

call a "china man" getting into his car. Once again after arguing about what to do, they drop him off on the steps of the hospital, where they proceed to go to the "chop shop" to sell the car for money.

Meanwhile, back at the D.A.'s home, he and his wife are in the process of getting their locks changed by the young Hispanic male. She ends up interrupting her husband and making assumptions that the locksmith would go "back to the hood and sell her keys to his homboys". She assumed that because he was assumed to be a banger that he was a gang banger and had the same thoughts and actions as the man who stole her car.

Late that night while riding on patrol the racist cop and his rookie partner, come across the same SUV that the D.A.'s just was stolen. They pull the car over and find that it is not stolen. It belongs to a black TV director and his wife, who are on their way home from an awards show. The officer gets upset and he proceeds to place him under arrest. The wife gets out of the car and because she is intoxicated starts shouting at the officer calling him a pig. He slams her up against the car and searches her body in a very provocative way as her

husband and the rookie looks on. He then proceeds to stick his hands up her dress. The husband apologizes to the officer and he lets them go with a warning.

After a night of patrolling the streets, the officer arrives home to find his father in the bathroom as he has done many nights before. He calls the HMO representative on his father's behalf. After having a brief conversation, he proceeds to make racial comments about her because of her name.

It is now well into the Moslem father arrives at his store to find it broken into and vandalized, as well as the lock and the door broken. He calls a locksmith and they send out the young Hispanic. He arrives at the store, fixes the lock then tells the storeowner that he is going to need a new door. The storeowner gets angry and thinks that the locksmith is going to take any advantages to him. The locksmith ends up leaving without being paid.

He arrives home to find his daughter sleeping under the bed afraid of being shot. He tells her this beautiful story about when he was her age he too was scared and a fairy came and tied a magical, invisible, cloak around

his neck and it was now time for him to pass it on to her. It calms her down, he ties it around her neck and she falls asleep. His pager then sounds off and he is back to work.

It is the next morning and the Moslem returns to find his store broken into once again. He called his insurance company. Moreover, because the locksmith told him that he needed a new door, they perceived him as being negligent and did not pay for anything in the store. This makes the owner furious and now he is the latest person thinking of performing a deviant act against another human. He finds the locksmiths address, then he retrieved his gun and left the store.

While one citizen was starting a new fight, another was trying to solve one. The racist cop arrived at the UNMO office. He walked in starting with an apology, explains to the representative that his father is suffering from urinary problems, and they need a new doctor. She informs him that although she is very sympathetic to his problems there is nothing that she can do. He and his father have every right to see a new doctor, but only with a referral from their current

doctor. This makes him angry and livid. He tells her that he can think of five or six white men that are more qualified for her job than she is. I think his views on society as a whole really needs to be reevaluated he has no respect for anyone's feelings and shows every disregard possible to the forms of social control. He is the police and should be bringing about peace but instead causes more and more drama. She gets offended and calls security to remove him.

Arriving at his mother's home, the detective enters to find her passed out on the couch from heavy drinking, smoking, and no food in her refrigerator. She wakes up only for a brief second to tell him go and find his brother. He has not been home in days and she is worried about him. Before he could properly respond, he gets a call from his partner about a big break in the case of a lifetime (one cop shooting and killing an undercover). Back to work the officers go.

Walking over to his car, the rookie sees his old partner standing at his car. The veteran proceeds to tell him that he has a lot to learn about the force and quickly learn his place.

The racist cop and his new partner take off in their cruiser and stumble onto a car wreck. The veteran cop races to the flipped SUV and when he gets there, the driver is still strapped in the seatbelt. The car is now leaking gas and the other car is shooting flames. He tries to rescue her, without knowing that it is the woman, which he sexually assaulted just last night. They lock eyes and realize who each of them was, she panics and starts to kick and scream yelling for him, not to touch her. She is terrified from the accident. The car ended up, blowing up while she was still inside but he saved her. He did not let her die. He gets her out and she sits there crying in his arms.

Ten minutes before the big press conference of the D.A., the detective arrives at headquarters to find that he is being blackmailed to save his brother from going to jail for life. The detective agrees to take a bribe and sign away a big steak in his career to save his brother from going to jail for life. Nevertheless, he will soon come to realize that it is all for nothing. Blackmailing is also a form of a white collar crime. The D.A. appointed his council member, Flannigan, as the one to



see that the detective says 'yes' to this situation. Now, they were going to pin a medal on the dirty cop who shot the undercover cop, all because the D.A. did not want it to be known to the public that a black young male robbed him because he did not want to loose the black vote in the upcoming election.

When we last saw him, the Moslem had left his store armed with a gun and the locksmiths address. He pulls up just as his little girl gets off the bus. He sits and waits for her dad to get home. At last he arrives, they get out of their cars all while the little girl runs to greet her dad. He jumps out with his gun drawn in hand, he starts to shout while saying that he was cheated and now lost everything, and the "magical" locksmith must pay for it. The locksmith tried to offer all he had in his pocket but it was not the payment, which the Muslim was seeking. The little girl sees the gun and starts to run shouting her daddy does not have the "magical clock". She runs out to save her dad and just as she gets in between them, he shoots.

The father screams a scream that could be heard around the world. Miraculously and amazingly, the little

girl is ok. Her father stops and checks every inch of her body. Not a single hole, no blood and she is ok. The Muslim's daughter also saved him, back when they were in the gun shop when she picked the gun out she also picked the bullets but she took the blanks one she saved him from killing a child and ultimately hating himself for doing so.

Embarrassed to be walking to the bus stop, the two young black males have an argument about why they have "such big windows". They come to the conclusion that it is to reduce black people to being humiliated. They spot the same type of SUV they had stolen just the night before, these plans quickly turn to deviant acts. They run up to the SUV with their guns and open the door. They seemed to be in shock when they saw a black face instead of a white one. As the TV director jumped out of his car he asked them "why are they shocked, because they did not expect him to be black". He proceeded to fight for his property, protecting himself. He gets the gun from one of the young men, and quickly turns it on him as an officer was simply riding by. He quickly changes his direction and as one of the robbers jump over the fence, the other

can to jump into the truck. The owner quickly follows ultimately getting in the drivers seat. The rookie cop joins into the pursuit and as he is running, the plates realize that he knows the owner of this vehicle. Lastly approaching a dead end, they stop and sit there as the officer jumps out and tells them to "freeze and put their hands where he can see them". They argue as to whom is going to get out. The rookie gets out of the car and tells his cell mate "I don't want to shoot" "I want to get armed he knows him and knows that he is not dangerous". After handling him, they give him a couple of minutes to talk with him. The director tells the rookie that he does not owe him anything and does not need his help. They end up letting him and the others still hiding in his truck.

The director drops him off at the bus stop instead of turning him in. The director, before he lets him out tells him "he is very disappointed in him and he expected better. Hoping to try to make the young black male understand that there is more out for him than just robbing people and being dishonest and not trustworthy". He gets out and onto bus while sitting next to that unassuming window. He hides pass where they had hit

that 'China man' he rings the bell and jumps off the bus. Moreover, he surprises to find the keys still hanging in the door. Not only has he committed a hit and run against this man he now has just stolen his car. Both of these are federal offenses but he does not care. Never mind the police chase, he just went on and just received from his elder a life of crime seems to be what he enjoys the most. He heads back to the "shop shop" and tries to get cash for this car.

They look over the car and as they open the back doors, they find twenty to thirty crumpled Thai and Cambodians. That China man's hand were just as dirty as let's say the politicians. The crimes they committed were of a higher status and carried more penalty and consequences. The owner of the shop told him that he could keep the van and he would pay him five hundred for every Cambodian. Instead, he held on to what little self respect he had. He released them into the L.A. streets with forty-five dollars and a chance at freedom. He could have taken them to immigration instead of playing his part in the whole of illegal immigrant picture, even though he probably was not thinking about that aspect of

the situation. He did a good deed, and you could tell he felt proud of himself. Maybe there was hope for him after all.

As he walks up the hill into a bitter California, the rookie cop picks up Dawg, the younger brother of the detective. He thanks him and they engage in small talk. He notices the young guys' clothes are torn. So he asks him "what was going on in the valley tonight"? He looks out the window and instead of turning himself in he simply replies, "ice skating".

The young man starts to chuckle as he spots the rookie statue of St. Christopher on the dashboard. The rookie asks what is funny and he replies nothing while still laughing. The rookie stops the car insinuating that the young men get out "they argue and the passengers" reaches into his pocket trying to show him they had more in common than just the country music on the radio. The rookie gets nervous, pulls his gun and fires. He jumps out of the car in disbelief. He has committed murder. He performed the worst deviant act known to humanity. He dumps the body on the side of the road and speeds away. He wanted to do the right thing so bad and because of

this just would be known only as the murderer. He parks the car on abandoned stretch of street and sets the car on fire.

As the director rides pass the blaze he does not even know that it is a murder scene. His wife calls and she tells him about the accident and he tells her about the police chase. They say I love you and it seems that they will be ok, which now brings us back to the beginning of the end.

The woman that rear-ended the detective and his partner was the Korean's wife. He sent her to the bank to cash the check he received for the Cambodians. The detective gets out of the car and finds his brother's statue. He takes his mother to the hospital to say good-bye to her son. The daughter of the Moslem was the one who pronounced him dead. The detective gets the blame from their mother for not being his brother's keeper. Back to the streets of L.A., the HMO representative is being rear ended, and the movie ends how it started. One big circle of life.