

KHAN AND THE PERSONALITY IN THE INDIAN MOVIE MY NAME IS KHAN**Yasin Azhari**

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Article History

Received : 11-03-2024

Revised : 21-03-2024

Accepted : 23-04-2024

Published : 30-04-2024

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Abstract: *This research is aimed to know the character of Khan, a main character in the My Name is Khan Movie, and to know Khan's as an Asperger sufferer and now his personality influenced him in a relationship. The research was conducted by analyzing evidence from the dialogue and Khan's actions in the Movie. The writer used the descriptive-qualitative method in this paper. The writer employs himself to collect the data by reading the script, watching the Movie, and marking it. The objectives of the study are to understand and to describe the characteristics of Khan's character in relationship. The result shows that the main character of Khan as an Asperger sufferer is depicted psychologically. He is a loving man, honest, and tolerant, Khan is a simple Muslim who helps anyone without looking at the race, religion, and ethnicity of people whom he helps. He never shows any hatred toward the non-Muslim community. He believes that real brotherhood will only be possible to be implemented if people respect each other. Furthermore, has been a very good man with extraordinary characteristics, Khan is also able to do an impossible and extraordinary journey to meet the president of the USA to tell that he is a Muslim and he is not a terrorist and thus keeps his promise to his wife.*

Keywords: *Film, Humanity, Character***INTRODUCTION**

The Movie is considered to be an important art form, a source of popular entertainment, and a powerful method for educating or indoctrinating citizens. The Movie is a modern theater art form that is closely related to drama, and like drama, the Movie communicates visually and verbally: visually, through action and gesture; verbally through dialogue. (Boggs and Dennis, 2000). Movie and drama also have some similarities, such as plot and point view. Another similarity and also an important intrinsic element in Movie and drama is character. The Movie is a sequence of an image projected onto a screen, creating the illusion of movement. "Movies are produced by recording images from the world with cameras, or by creating images using animation techniques or special effects. (Wikipedia, 2010).

Movies offer us ways of seeing and feeling that we find deeply gratifying. They take us through experiences. The experiences are often driven by stories, with characters we come to care about, but a Movie might also develop an idea or explore visual qualities or sound textures. A Movie takes us on a journey, offering a patterned experience that engages our minds and emotions. (Bordwell and Tompson, 2000). The Movie's character communicates with us. In this article, the writer is interested to analyze Khan. He is portrayed neither as an agitator nor as a terrorist but rather a character that is weak and unable to represent him. He plays a good, nice and loyal Muslim person who places faith above all which is seen throughout the movie. Khan as the main character of My Name is Khan who makes the story very interesting and influential throughout the plot of the story. Khan's character is very extraordinary as an Asperger's (Attwood, 2003). sufferer since an abnormal person, Khan can feel the precious of falling in love, and built his own life with his beloved.

The movie raises several images of how Indian Muslim Immigrants have accepted some discriminations from Americans since the tragedy of nine-eleventh occurred. It also depicts how Indian

Muslim immigrants struggled to contest the strength of good character as Muslim. Moreover, *My Name is Khan* is the first movie that promotes love and peace between human beings after the nine-eleventh tragedy from the character of Khan. There is no other movie that discussed such kind of issue about the good character from the Muslim point of view yet since the nine-eleventh tragedy has occurred. Several films that portray Muslim as a terrorist and intolerant to other community and those movies define Muslim as a devil and dangerous. In contrast, *My Name is Khan* appears as the movie that raises the main character as a good man for world peace. It becomes completely interesting to keep analyzing the movie. And *My Name is Khan* is an Indian film directed by Karan Johar to clarify that the main character is a complete way of life. It promotes several good characters in life.

My Name is Khan tells about a Muslim man from India, moves to San Francisco, and lives with his brother and sister-in-law. Khan, who has Aspergers, falls in love with Mandira. Despite protests from family, they get married and start a small business together. They are happy until September 11, 2001. Khan embarks on a journey across America. His main purpose for setting out on this journey is to meet the President of the United States and inform him that despite having Khan for a surname, he is not a terrorist. The main character Khan will be analyzed in the film *My Name is Khan*. He is the dominant character who makes the film interesting because he didn't vengeance to other people who s an injustice to him and his family. On the other hand, Khan is still being a good Muslim and always helps and love others. It distinguishes *My Name is Khan* with other films about Muslims and 9/11 2001.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of the study is to know the characteristics of Khan as the major character. The method used in the study is qualitative method with descriptive analysis by describing major character, Khan. The Writer tries to describe *My Name is Khan* film as follows: first, the writer watched *My Name is Khan* film, second, focused on the main character, and then third, the writer analyzed the main character with character and characterization theory.

The research instrument of this qualitative research is the writer himself. The writer analyzes by watching, identifying the film carefully, and signing the important data related to the main character through dialogues, actions, and film figures, then it is also done by reading, collecting some references, and writing the data and the results of the research. The unit of analysis in this study is the film "*My Name is Khan*" directed by: Karan Johar, produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Gauri Khan and released on February 16, 2010.

RESULTS

The writer will analyze the main character in the film *My Name is Khan*. Then the writer will explain about the influence of the main character's relationship to his characteristic development. Before the writer start to analyze the characteristic of the main character. The writer would like to give a short description about the film itself. The film *My Name is Khan*, does portray Muslims as the "other" whereby just having the name Khan one is seen as a terrorist. *My Name is Khan* does portray the effect of 9/11 2001. Khan as main character and his family get many injustices and discrimination from American people, for example: Death of Sameer. The death of Sameer from the crux of film, when he was murdered in the school by a group of older white kids due to racial discrimination. When police officer tells Mandira that his son was a victim of racial discrimination. Substantively, He can a vengeance to other people who's injustice to his family. But Khan still being good Muslim and always helps and love other. Those characteristics of Khan show that he is a good Muslim.

Loving Man as a human, Khan has to a caring and loving character. He shows his care and love to others no matter what their religions, races, colors, status are. The fact that he loves Mandira and Sameer so much is also the strong evidence that he does not have any prejudice and hatred toward other religion communities. Khan who is stereotyped as a terrorist actually has the goodness as a caring and loving man. Since Khan is Muslim, he is stereotyped as a terrorist. American people will see him as one of the terrorist members who does not have capacity as a caring and loving man.

Hall says that the stereotype deploys a strategy of splitting. (Hall, 1997). The stereotype has split a terrorist and a care and loving man by an identification of religion. The stereotype does not admit the ambivalence in a person, but Indian Muslim immigrant may hold both terrorist and a care and loving man. Khan was attached to the stereotype, as a person who encouraged aggression to other religion community. But in fact, Khan shows an attitude as a caring and loving man. In a scene when Khan watched a news about hurricane disaster in Georgia Wilhelmina, he automatically remembered his friends there, Mama Jenny, her son, and other inhabitants. It can be seen in the dialogue below;

News reader on television Khan : We just get the news that hurricane just hit

Wilhelmina Georgia. I repeat, Wilhelmina Georgia has been hit by hurricane Molly.

Television Khan : Mama Jenny... Mama Jenny, I have to go to see her.

On Khan's journey to find the President he goes to Georgia to find and help Mama Jenny, a woman he knew for several time ago whose region covered by the flood, some people there when they know khan is in the area to help all the Georgian from the flood. Some days a go Khan has been come to help all the Georgian from the flood and hurricane. Some days a go Khan has been come to Georgia, he meets Mama Jenny for the first time. It is an example of Khan has love for the others when he meets Mama and her friends there.

Khan felt terribly worried about his friends' condition in Wilhelmina. Without any hesitancy, then he went to Wilhelmina to see Mama Jenny, to assure that she and other people in Wilhelmina were in a good condition, or if they were not, he would give assistance to make them better. The fact that Khan helped Mama Jenny and other victims who is Christians proved that he is a care and loving man.

The description about Khan shows that he is seen as a kind man. Khan who is Indian Muslim immigrant has the capacities in positive sense of binary form. As human being, Khan is both good and bad. He is not always worse or better than Non-Muslim. In one hand, Khan has the kindness and on the other hand he is stereotyped as a person who encourages aggression to the other religion community. As an asperger sufferer, Khan has problem to express his love to others. Khan's character that influenced by his mother values of life contribute in growing his perception and concept of love, love for his wife, his step son and love others. Khan is not the same as an asperger sufferers who can't express or expose their love, (Attword, 2004). His mother's love that affects him to take care and pay attention other people.

Khan's mother teaches him that in this world there are only two kinds of people. The first, is the good one, another is the bad one. Who does the good things is the good one, and two does the bad things is the bad one, there are no different between Islam, Hindu, Christian or Buddha they are the same.

Riza Khan : Shut up, Rizu. Come with me. Come. Look at this. This is you. Rizvan.
Who?

Khan : Rizvan.

Riza Khan : Yes

Riza Khan : And this is a person who has a stick in his hand. And he is beating you.

Khan : It's bad, beating is bad.

Riza Khan : Yes. It's bad. Now, this is you again, Rizvan.

And this is the person who has lollipop. And he gives it to you.

Lollipop is sweet it's a good thing. Good boy- Good boy

Now, tell me which one of these is a Hindu and which one, a Muslim?

Both look a like. Good, Remember one thing son. They are only two kinds of people in this world.

Good people who do good deeds. And bad people who do bad.
That's the only difference in human beings.



Figure 1. Khan mother tries to explain to Khan

It can be seen from figure. Khan mother tries to explain to Khan about the kinds of people, she draws in a paper in order to Khan easily absorb the main point of the conversation between her and Khan from dialogue above. Khan always remembers what his mother said to him on that day and he tries to do a good thing as his mother taught him. As the result, he has a sense of love and affection to the other. he is lack of communication which can be inhibiting factor for him to grow his love and to take care to other people. His love and care the other person is from his mother who teaches him to treat people equally. As the result, Khan often repeats and tells other people about the values of life and the kinds of human and their similarities that he realizes they have no differences at all. It is that implants in his life, the values which is make him take care, pay attention, understand and believe others people. He always remembers his mother speech on his mind and tries to apply it in his social live. So that, he is able differentiate between the good one and the bad one. For example, Khan can think that to hate others people are not right. It can be illustrated to the figure 2 below:



Figure 2. President Khan visits a Mosque

On his journey to meet the president Khan visits a mosque to pray and then meets a group of Muslim which are discussing about Islam, Hindu revenge and *jihad*. The leader of the group tries to influence others to revenge to Hindu people who killed Muslim in India several years ago. But Khan doesn't agree with this because he doesn't want to hate other and he assures them not to believe their leader. In short, he loves and cares other people.

Honest, Khan had a character of honesty, Khan sees that honesty is said to be the best policy. Being honest with other him self can be challenging. Political correctness, being sensitive of other people's feelings, and facing uncomfortable truth about him self usually requires much patience, vigilance and hard work. Honesty also develops character, credibility, and trust.

Khan always says the truth and based on the fact. For example, as the question below: when he sells beauty product in Mandira's beauty parlor he tells the truth of his condition, he talks about his asperger syndrome without any doubt

Khan : *My name is Rizvan Khan, Khan, Khan, Khan May be possible I look weird to you, Because I have Asperger Syndrome. I have Asperger Syndrome it doesn't mean that I am mad. Iam very intelligent. Few things I don't understand*



Figure 3. He sells beauty product in Mandira's beauty

As can be seen from the dialogue and figure 4, Khan tells the truth about him self. He doesn't feel discomfort to say it to all people in Mandira's beauty parlor when he comes to sale his beauty product. Event though he knows the people will be disturbed by his nerd introduction, he only says what he wants to say. Taken for another example, he is an honest worker too, before Khan sells his beauty, he proves the truth of

the product by using it on him, as illustrated in figure 5. Khan forbids Mandira to buy his product a lot, because his product will be expired for short time. He doesn't wants to cheat his buyer.

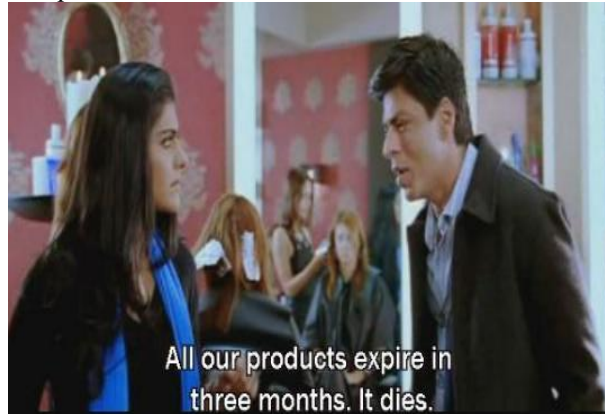


Figure 4. Khan tells the truth

Tolerant, as a Muslim, Khan shows characteristic as a tolerant person. He never shows any hatred toward Non-Muslim community. Even when he marries Mandira who is Hindu, he does not force Mandira to change her religion and belief. During their marriage, Khan always respects Mandira and gives her freedom to do her ritual religion. Khan looks that the foundation of tolerance is a willingness to admit and accept the difference. Because he thinks that the religious difference is not considered as problem, but is respected. It can be seen



Figure 5. Khan shows characteristic as a tolerant person

CONCLUSION

In this research, the writer analyzes from film *My Name is Khan* that Khan is a Muslim living in America as a minority in non-Muslim country. No one actually saw him as the terrorist, but the label as terrorist is still attached on him. American people easily judge Khan as a terrorist. The stereotypes are simply attached to him because he is a Muslim. It is described by the main character Khan as an asperger sufferer. Khan as an asperger syndrome has loves and cares to others more than any normal person. Khan is a loving man, honest, and tolerant. With that characters Khan was success gets many sympathies from American people, even the president of USA. That's sympathy he got with not by violence as what he had happened. However, he did to show that Khan is good Muslim not as a threat by spreading of love.

Indeed, in the film *My Name is Khan* the writer found that Khan never shows any hatred toward Non-Muslim community. Even when he marries Mandira who is Hindu, he does not force Mandira to change her religion and belief. During their marriage, Khan always respects Mandira and gives her freedom to do her ritual religion.

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