

**XENOPHOBIA AGAINST IMMIGRANTS IN DENMARK  
PORTRAYED IN TELEVISION SERIES *BLACK MIRROR*:  
*MEN AGAINST FIRE* EPISODE**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**BY**

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH**

**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES**

**UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

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PORTRAYED IN TELEVISION SERIES BLACK MIRROR:  
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**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**Presented to  
Universitas Brawijaya  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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**2019**

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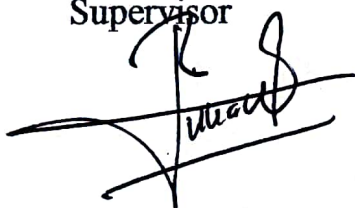
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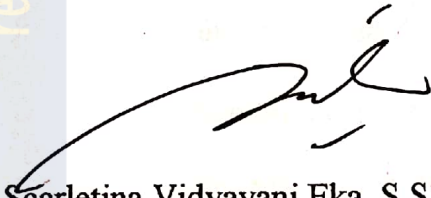
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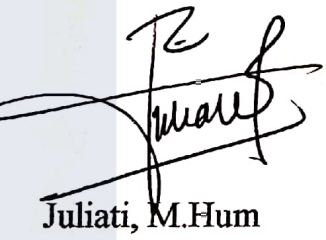
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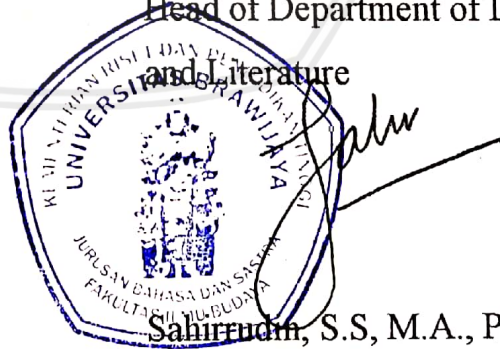
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## ABSTRACT

Fajar, H., R. Syahrizal. 2019. **Xenophobia against Immigrants in Denmark Portrayed in Television Series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* Episode**. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Cultural Studies, University of Brawijaya. Supervisor: Juliati, M.Hum.

Keywords: Xenophobia, Prejudice, Discrimination, Danish, Immigrants, Roaches, *Black Mirror*.

Xenophobia is considered as one of the social issues that affect many societies around the world. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, there are many headlines storming across Europe regarding the image of immigrants, such as news promoting Immigrants causing chaos, stealing, and draining Danish economic welfare. Therefore, the manifestation of xenophobia began to spread across Europe, including Denmark, which is in the middle of a struggle to face waves of immigrants coming into their country. One of the episodes of *Black Mirror* television series entitled *Men Against Fire* portrayed the harsh reality of xenophobia in society.

The objective of this research is to reveal the xenophobic acts against immigrants in Denmark portrayed in the television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode, the research applied the sociological approach as well as the xenophobia theory by Harris and Moge kwu. The collected data were taken from a series of screenshots as well as the dialogues pertain to the theory of Xenophobia. This study uncovers the xenophobic acts that are portrayed throughout the episode such as accusing Roaches of the destruction of the village, the villagers begged the soldiers to kill the Roaches, the soldiers hunting the Roaches for fun, the monster physical appearance of Roaches, and the prejudice as well as the discrimination found in the dialogue between the characters regarding Roaches found in the episode. These points reflect the Danish xenophobic acts towards immigrants on a daily basis, which also shows prejudice as well as discrimination against the immigrants.

## ABSTRAK

Fajar, H., R. Syahrizal. 2019. **Xenofobia terhadap Imigran dalam serial televisi *Black Mirror: episode Men Against Fire***. Program Studi Bahasa Inggris, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: Juliati, M.Hum.

Kata kunci: Xenophobia, Prasangka, Diskriminasi, Orang Denmark, Imigran, Roaches, *Black Mirror*.

Xenofobia dianggap sebagai salah satu masalah sosial yang mempengaruhi banyak masyarakat di seluruh dunia. Pada awal abad ke-20, terdapat banyak berita menyerbu Eropa mengenai citra imigran, seperti berita yang mempromosikan Imigran yang menyebabkan kekacauan, mencuri, dan menguras kesejahteraan ekonomi Denmark. Maka dari itu, manifestasi xenofobia mulai menyebar ke seluruh Eropa, terutama di Denmark, yang berada di tengah perjuangan menghadapi gelombang imigran yang datang ke negara mereka. Salah satu episode *Black Mirror* yang berjudul *Men Against Fire* menggambarkan kenyataan pahitnya xenofobia.

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan berbagai macam tindakan xenofobia terhadap imigran di Denmark yang digambarkan dalam serial televisi *Black Mirror: episode Men Against Fire*, penelitian ini menerapkan pendekatan sosiologis serta teori xenofobia oleh Harris dan Moge kwu. Data yang dikumpulkan diambil dari serangkaian tangkapan layar serta dialog yang berkaitan dengan teori Xenofobia. Penelitian ini mengungkap tindakan xenophobia yang digambarkan sepanjang episode seperti menuduh Roaches atas kericuhan di desa, penduduk desa memohon tentara untuk membunuh Roaches, tentara berburu Roaches untuk bersenang-senang, penampilan fisik Roaches yang terlihat seperti monster, dan prasangka serta diskriminasi yang ditemukan dalam dialog antara karakter ketika berbicara tentang Roaches yang ditemukan dalam episode. Poin-poin ini mencerminkan tindakan xenofobia Denmark terhadap imigran setiap hari, yang juga menunjukkan prasangka serta diskriminasi terhadap imigran.



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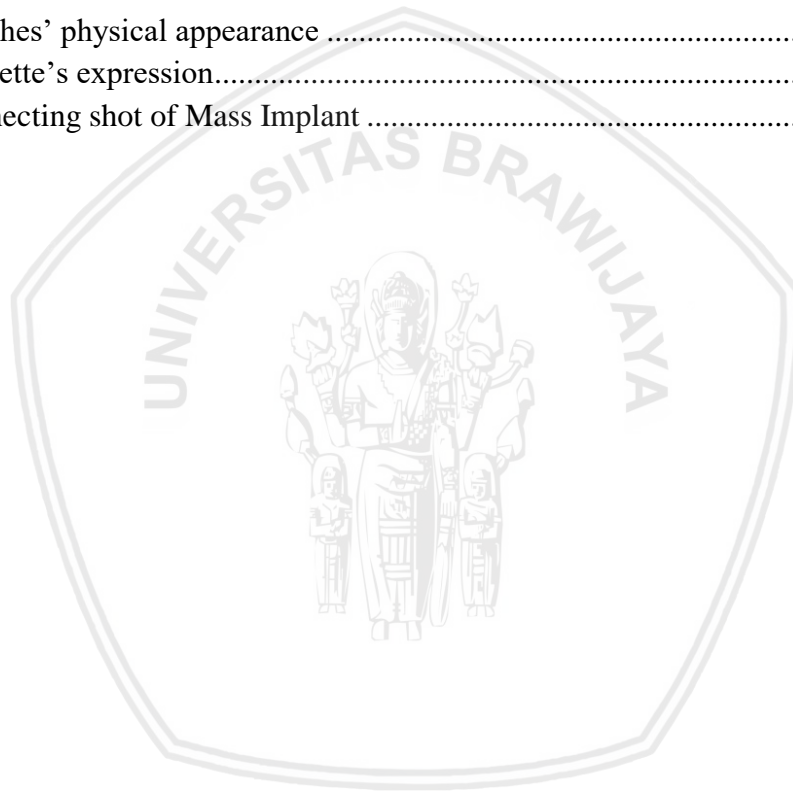
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the background of the study, which includes the reason why the Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* is chosen as the object of the study, is explained. The problem of the study, along with its significance, and the objective of the study is also stated in this chapter.

#### 1.1. Background of the study

Mass media has and will always be the center of attention where various kinds of information can be discovered, regardless of whether it is entertainment, social issues, education, advertisement product, or even propaganda. There are three critical essential functions of Mass Media: educating, determining public relations, and supporting a specific policy or point of view ("Mass Media," 2010, para. 7). Nowadays, mass media covers a whole new range area that is easily accessible by anyone. The rapid technological developments, such as smartphone, laptop, and television, are becomes the main factor of the contribution, which becomes more portable than ever before, any kind of information can instantly be shared to anyone regardless of the distance each individual has. It is practical and effortless; thus, it becomes number one to go for everything that people wish to know about. Results are mass media now become a perfect tool to deliver a particular idea into people's minds, whether it is positive or negative. It can show currents social issues such as poverty, religious conflicts, and wars. It can show meaning in a unique way that will draw people's attention without a feeling of being lectured at the same time.

Mass media has the potential to influence almost any kind of information which could exist, such as racism. For example, a movie entitled *Planet of the Apes* shows about a race of intelligent apes, which have dark-skinned colors spread across their entire body, being commanded by the light-skinned ape in order for them to evolve into advanced species, which clearly promotes a particular idea of white people are superior to the other races, especially the black one (IMDb). In contrast, a movie entitled *12 Years a Slave* has a solid influential idea of tearing racism towards black people, the movie cleverly directs the idea by showing the slave lives directly from their perspective and point of view regarding the slavery system back when the pre-civil war in America (IMDb). So, from the example of these two movies related to the black people, mass media has the power to help maintain or tear down the prejudice which exists in society. Fortunately, there are numerous movies and television series that are slowly raising and tackling social phenomena that are still happening in society around the globe to date, such as *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*. The social phenomena usually attached to particular parties such as black people, poor people, immigrants, Jews, Muslims, and immigrants.

Nowadays, immigration becomes a burning issue among people in Europe. There are many immigrants who came from all over the world seeking a better place to live, in hopes that they might have a better future for their current and next-generation families. Mostly, the immigrants who seek a new place to live in Denmark come from the Middle East and Africa. The reason why most immigrants choose Denmark is that it has a massive opportunity to gain a new job, zero fees for

patients, and for students in schools and universities because it is already funded by taxes (“Denmark is Often,” n.d., para. 2). There are also some positive values found in Danish Culture, such as freedom of speech, respect, tolerance, equality, and a solid sense of mutual trust (“A Safe and Balanced,” n.d., para. 2). For Danes, trust and equality are their most precious values. Danes have incredibly high levels of social trust. They believe that a strong bond between the individual has a significant impact on building a better society; they also believe that every person deserves an equal chance to enter the race and win.

Regardless of the fact that Danish people believe the principle that all people have equal rights and opportunities, since 1990, a far-right party namely Danish People’s Party had tried to use its electoral success to strengthen anti-immigrant policies, and now, recently they gain a massive support from two other far-right parties in the country to continue to suppress immigrants with a main specific goal of deportation in the hundreds of thousands (Sorensen, 2019, para. 21-22). This changes the core image of Denmark being the world's most egalitarian country and world's most polite country into the exact opposite. So, mostly Danish today are afraid and sensitive to the issue related to anything about immigrants in Denmark. In September 2016, there was a hot news about a Danish politician who promotes a shocking anti-immigrant speech in which she claims that foreigners “steal, rape, and kill,” not only that, she also claims that recently arrived migrants in Denmark are “making a mess” to the country (Gutteridge, 2016). There are also concerns about the current rising of terrorist attacks across Europe, the new migrants being an economic drain to the country, the newcomers even slow to learn Danish, then

the concern about the immigrants planning a special plan to take over Denmark from natives (Zucchini, 2016, para. 9-16). These issues related to the immigrants, specifically Muslims immigrants, made Danish people hate and fear them. Therefore, if there is something wrong with Denmark, it should be the immigrants who responsible. They see the immigrants as “the other” who will bring nothing but chaos to the Denmark community. This hate and fear of people from other countries that build up within Danish people are known as *Xenophobia*.

According to The Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (1974), the word *Xenophobia* comes from the Ancient Greek words *Xenos*, meaning “strange,” “foreigner,” and *Phobos* meaning “fear.” Therefore, a strong feeling of dislike or fear of people from other countries is the meaning of *Xenophobia*. Merriam Webster Dictionary also defines *Xenophobia* as “fear or hatred towards stranger and foreigner.” This xenophobia towards immigrants, explicitly Muslims immigrants, is depicted in the Television series *Black Mirror* third season fifth episode under the title *Men Against Fire*.

*Black Mirror* is an anthology series exploring a twisted, high-tech world where humanity's greatest innovations and darkest instincts collide. Written by Charlie Brooker and directed by Jakob Verbruggen, it premiered on Netflix on 21 October 2016 (IMDb 2011). The episode entitled “*Men Against Fire*” tells about a future where the whole world is against a creature so-called “Roaches.” Stripe is a beginner soldier acting as the main character in the show, while Ray is a senior soldier along with Medina as their leader in a massive military organization, which meant to take down Roaches. His first mission was to investigate the chaos in the



small village. The villager told them that the Roaches were destroying and stole their food supplies; one of the villagers approached Stripe and beg him to wipe them out for good. The food supplies were burned down afterward due to the fear of contamination from Roaches.

Then, the soldiers tried to locate their hideouts, which informed by the village is in a weird strict religious follower's house. Eventually, the soldiers found a secret room full of a bunch of Roaches, and they physically look like a white humanoid monster with sharp razor teeth that appears to speak nothing but shrieks. Stripe immediately killed two of them; the first one was with his automatic rifle, instantly; the second one was with his knife. He stabbed the second one rapidly and savagely until the blood splatter across his face even though it is already dead. He accidentally flashed by the device held by one of the Roaches, and then he started to experience some glitches with his Mass Implant.

Despite earning praise for his excellent performance, Stripe started to feel hollow and regret within his heart. Arquette, his supervisor, reminded him how good his job was in order to protect civilians from any dangers. Later, after the mass implant was broken, Stripe learns the truth the hard way that turned out Roaches are just ordinary people just like them and the villagers mentioned before, military's Mass Implant made the soldiers see a particular group of people as non-human being that meant to help the soldier to kill them without any hesitation. As for the villagers who did not have the Mass Implant, their minds have already been brainwashed and corrupted by the media, believing that the Roaches are a group of corrupt, immoral, and savages that needs to be wiped out from existence, just

because the Roaches are different from them. In the end, those accusations of Roaches carry a bad DNA in their blood, uncultured group of people, and bring chaos everywhere they go, are just false imageries.

The writer chooses *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* as the object of this research for several reasons. The first reason is that the depiction of xenophobia against immigrants is portrayed throughout the entire episode, there is a significant scene where the villagers were furious that their stocks and food supplies were stolen and destroyed by the Roaches, even though there is no concrete evidence throughout the episode that the Roaches did all the things they mentioned. The villagers and the military soldiers also burned down the food supplies that they believe were touched by the Roaches, indicating that they are afraid of some kind of contamination from Roaches. The fascinating point is that somehow can be investigated from the *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*. The episode portrays how the attitudes toward immigrants generally in society. The influence of mass media breeds prejudices and discriminations, which ultimately resulting in xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark. The xenophobia phenomenon will be discussed thoroughly later in the next chapter. The second reason why *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* is chosen as the research object is because of this television series satirically reminding people of the consequences of their actions to the world surrounds them, especially one particular episode under the title *Men Against Fire*. There are hot debates circling around the review of this exact episode, mainly because people having a hard time determining the representation of the Roaches themselves. Some believe the evidence is clear as transparent glass knowing that in

the episode, the villagers speak Danish, and some denied that it was related to Danish people, finding that it was just posing as an example; therefore, there is no relation to the Denmark society at all. The writer believes that it is precisely aimed towards Denmark's society as a reminder of their action in its impacts on the world surrounds them.

### **1.2. Problem of the Study**

The problem of the study is how Xenophobia against immigrants in Denmark is portrayed in the television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*.

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

The objective of this research is to reveal the Xenophobia against immigrants in Denmark portrayed in the television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter discusses the review of the related literature. There are some parts in this chapter, including Theoretical Framework, Previous Studies, and Research Method, to help the process of analyzing this research.

#### 2.1. Theoretical Framework

##### 2.1.1. Sociological Approach

The sociological approach in literature has a powerful connection to the study of human social life in many literary works. T. Abel (1932) stated that sociology is the scientific study of social interactions along with its variety and forms, consequently whatever affects them and whatever they affect (as cited in Sharma, 2007, p. 45). Thus, the sociological approach focuses on the problem within the society, including how they created, how they change, and how it impacts their lives, actions, options, and opportunities (Jadhav, 2014, para. 1).

Therefore, the sociological approach focuses on the relation between literary work and the social structure, and it is critical in order to gain a better understanding of the world view, political issues, social issues, as well as the depth of the creativity of the writers. So, it gives people insights into what really happening in the society through literary works, like television series, for example. This can be seen through social behavior, which is manifested through the interaction between people themselves in our social world. It shows that social issues are the products of literary work. Therefore, most literary works mirrored the

basic idea of human relationships that are continually developing and evolving through interactions and conflicts.

The sociological approach in literature can be used to see the correlation between art and reality, which shows that the product of literature itself is always related to something that happens in societies. Thus, people can absorb the information regarding the social condition of which being reflected in the episode. The social condition is the leading cause of social issues, and one of them is terror-related to the group of Islam's extremists known as ISIS, which becomes the center stage of the world now and then. After the tragedy of the bombings and terrors across the globe, there are significant impacts on how people see Muslims, mainly Muslim immigrants. Nowadays, the negative stereotype circling around Muslim reputation starts to spread and completely change how people see and behave towards Muslim immigrants. This phenomenon is depicted in the Television series *Black Mirror* under the episode entitled *Men Against Fire*. The reason why the writer mentioned Muslim immigrants instead of immigrants in general, is because most immigrants who come to Denmark are Muslim, and because of that, even though the rest are non-Muslim, they still perceived as the same immigrants from Denmark's society perspective. By using the sociological approach, the investigation of the social phenomena, as well as the behavior of Danish people, can be analyzed thoroughly. Therefore, the social condition after the tragedy of the bombings and terrors will be investigated by using the sociological approach in this Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*.

Social phenomena are considered as every single behavior that affects or affected by the living organisms surrounds it, including influences from the past (Markey, 2010, para. 1). So, human being directly responsible for what kind of social phenomena that might occur in the near future based on the actions. There are three aspects of social phenomena: stereotype, prejudice, and discrimination, these aspects can be related to each other, or they can occur separately from the others. But, in this research, the writer will only use prejudice and discrimination, mainly because the *Men Against Fire* episode focuses more on the depiction of prejudice and discrimination, which resulted in the manifestation of xenophobia itself.

### 2.1.2. Prejudice

Allport (1954) argued that prejudice is a negative attitude that leans towards the outside group and has distinct beliefs about them, the prejudice usually aimed towards a whole other group or an individual merely based on the membership of that particular individual (as cited in Dovidio; Hewstone; Glick; and Esses, 2010, p. 5). There is always an emotional reaction to dislike a particular group or someone in terms of prejudice. Therefore, related to the study, prejudice appeared in the episode as the result of people's fear due to the terrors of the Muslim extremists' group in Europe, the local news related to a particular group of people correlated to the immigrants breaking laws, and immigrants trying to rewrite native's culture into their own culture. Eagly and Diekmann (2005) stated that people who diverge from particular group's traditional role tend to cause adverse reactions, on the contrary, people who reinforce the *status quo* tend to get positive responses (as cited in

Dovidio; Hewstone; Glick; and Esses, 2010, p.6). Therefore, when there are outgroup people, like immigrants, try to live alongside the ingroup people, the prejudices are born towards outgroup people. The prejudice theory is used to analyze the data, because it is the form of the social phenomena which are the manifestation of xenophobia towards immigrants that are currently happening in societies, especially in Denmark.

### **2.1.3. Discrimination**

According to Allport (1954), an attitude that is intentionally denying individuals or a particular group of people in terms of equality, a biased behavior which includes action to harm and to put other groups at a disadvantage, all just favor own's group, is the definition of Discrimination (as cited in Dovidio; Hewstone; Glick; and Esses, 2010, p.9). Sue (2003) stated that discrimination involves treating a particular individual different from the others based on the membership of the particular individual has in society (as cited in Whitley and Kite 2010, p.12). Because of the negative news surrounding immigrants, they started to receive harassment and discrimination. Individuals have experienced discrimination in employment and housing or even harassment and attacks from strangers on the street.

### **2.1.4. Xenophobia**

According to Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005), xenophobia occurs to a number of causes: the fear of loss of native's value and social identity; threat to the native economic welfare; natural feeling of being native means superior to the

others; lack of intercultural information (as cited in Solomon and Kosaka, 2016). Here, what happens between native Denmark people and the immigrants are no exception. Danish people see immigrants as a threat to their native culture and values because immigrants came from different background and culture, they also possessed a threat to the Danish welfare system that they cherish the most ("Denmark is Often," n.d., para. 2). Moge kwu (2005) also noted that xenophobia is the fear and hatred towards foreigners and strangers; therefore, it causes discriminatory attitudes, and behavior, and often expressed in violence and hatred towards them (as cited in Solomon and Kosaka, 2016). Xenophobia can be defined as social phenomena in which based on the idea that the outgroup or the foreigner originated from outside the community or nation; hence, they are different ("Xenophobia | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization," 2017). Therefore, the sociological approach is a suitable approach for this study in order to thoroughly analyze the particular social phenomena, since xenophobia is being considered as a social problem.

The essential element that triggers xenophobia arises globally in the twentieth century is the widespread migration pattern across Europe. There are a number of reasons why this phenomenon is happening, such as drought, hunger, flooding, and earthquakes, but the most important one which related to the study are war conflict, and economic circumstances (Giovetti, 2019). According to Giovetti (2019), the most common factor why so many refugees seeking asylums and a better place to live in Europe is because of war and conflict in several countries, for example, there are over 11 million instances of forced migration



caused by Syria's civil war, not only that, another significant factor to the widespread migration is the economic circumstances, for example, there are many immigrants came from Niger due to the rapidly growing populations; therefore the country couldn't provide enough jobs for fresh adult Nigeriens to support their families. War brings chaos, chaos brings destruction, and destruction brings victims. Every war that happens around the world spreads suffering upon innocent lives. Some chose to stay and live through the war, while some decided to run from it these people who chose to run from a war known as refugees, they are being protected by international law, and must not be rejected and sent back to their homeland or anywhere in part of the world where freedom is at risk (United Nations, n.d., para. 2). So, when the refugees and immigrants came from different backgrounds, this creates a significant problems for the host country, the ingroup (Danish people) fear of the possibilities that those people might bring their own conflict into Danish neighborhood, and the mixture of cultures is something Danes still preferably avoid, but not only that they also fear that in terms of the economic problem, they might drain Danish cherished social welfare and takeover Danish people in terms of finding a new job, and these fears are what fuels xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark. Later, the analysis of xenophobia portrayed in the movie will be discussed thoroughly in the next chapter.

#### **2.1.5. Movie Studies**

According to Cloete (2017), as a cultural product, a film is an essential media for meaning-making; it is firmly rooted in the vast cultures around the world; therefore, it creates a strong bond between film, culture, ideology, and the audience.

Cloete (2017) also noted that film becomes a powerful media to deliver the values and beliefs of contemporary societies into the audience. Therefore, a movie can reflect what is currently happening in societies and what drives the movie about a particular society, just like the Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode.

In order to thoroughly analyze xenophobia in the episode, the writer needs to take a look at some elements which are found in the movie studies, such as cinematography and characterization. Lightman noted that the camera is the eye of which the audience able to see and grasp what is being shown through it (as cited in Petrie & Boggs, 2008, p. 124). Therefore, the cinematography is crucial in order to understand the camera techniques and its meaning related to the film. Capra noted that the only things that bounds between the audience and the film itself are the people or the character (as cited in Petrie & Boggs, 2008, p. 59). Therefore, characterization is also an essential element to be analyzed; it gives the audience something to worry about, something that relates closely to real-life situations.

#### **2.5.1.1 Cinematography**

According to Brown (2012, p. 2), cinematography comes from Greek words that mean “writing with motion,” it is the process of taking words, ideas, actions, tone, subtext, and all other forms of nonverbal communication and then renders them in a visual form. Brown (2012, p. 4) also noted that choosing the right frame is the fundamental act of filmmaking; as filmmakers, we must direct the audience’s attention: “look here, now look at this, now over here...” Framing a shot is a matter of conveying the story, but it is also a question of composition,

rhythm, and perspective. Therefore, this particular element of cinematography is essential to the study because it can drive the audience's emotion and perspective regarding the content being shown on screen.

According to Brown (2012, p. 17), there are numerous shots use to assemble elements into a shot or a scene, but the writer only chooses some of them related to the study itself and the episode. They are:

1) Wide Shot (or long shot)

The wide shot is used to show and introduce the site or location of the scene and its connection to the story.

2) Full Shot

The full shot is usually used to show the character from head to toe; it also can be used to show an object, like a full shot of a car, for example. It can emphasize the character's equipment or dress and what are they doing related to the story.

3) Two Shot

As the name implied, the two-shot used to show two characters in the same shot and to show the interaction between them. This particular shot can be evolved into three-shot depends on the number of essential characters that want to be shown.

4) Medium Shot

The medium shot is always relative to the subject, closer than a full shot, usually used to emphasize the character's expression without focusing on other detail in the background.

#### 5) Close-ups

This particular shot usually shows the character from the head to somewhere below the shirt pockets, and it emphasizes more on the facial expression of the character. It could be a slight rolling eye movement or merely a smiling lip, anything that essential to the story in terms of facial expression.

#### 6) Connecting Shot

This shot involves two people or two scenes which can be connected at the same shot with the help of editing. It helps to complete the story and make one particular scene more sense to the audience.

By using framing, the writer can analyze the meaning embedded inside the episode in which essential to the study-related, and in this case, about xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark. Therefore, the particular concept of framing is essential to the research.

#### **2.5.1.2 Characterization**

According to Petrie and Boggs (2008, p. 60), characterization is the most crucial element in a film making in order to convince and draw the audience into the story, and it creates a certain feeling of sympathy or dislikes the characters just like the audience feels in real life. There are several elements of characterization, such as characterization through appearance, dialogue, external action, internal action, contrast: dramatic foils, caricature, and choice of name (Petrie & Boggs, 2008, p. 60-67). Here, the writer chooses only four of

them, which are characterization through appearance, dialogue, external action, and choice of name. Later, these four elements will be used to analyze the data in the next chapter. Here is the definition of those four elements:

1) Characterization Through Appearance

The minute the characters appear on the screen, and the audience always makes certain assumptions regarding their physical appearances, the dress, the facial features, the physical build, the way they move, and the mannerism (Petrie & Boggs, 2008, p. 60). Therefore, appearance on certain characters is vital for the relationship between the story and the audience.

2) Characterization Through Dialogue

Petrie and Boggs (2008, p. 61) noted that the characters' dialogue, their choice of word, the tone, and how they say it plays a significant role in revealing their real thoughts, attitudes, and emotions. Therefore, this particular element is also essential to the study because there are many characters revealed in the episode, which will be discussed further later in the next chapter.

3) Characterization Through External Action

Petrie and Boggs (2008, p. 62) stated that appearance could be misleading in terms of the character's personality; therefore, the best reflection of the character is a person's actions. So that the audience can determine much further regarding the personality of a particular character.

4) Characterization Through Choice of Name

A screenwriter usually thinks about each of the characters' names very carefully because not only it differs from other characters, it also leaves a specific impression to the particular character (Petrie & Boggs, 2008, p. 66). Therefore, it can emphasize their role in whether one particular character is a hero or a villain or merely a victim.

These four elements can be used to help analyze the portrayal of prejudice and discrimination found in the episode, which will be shown later in the next chapter.

#### **2.1.6. Dialogue**

According to LiteraryDevices Editors (2013), is a literary technique in which the writer uses to engage conversations between characters with one another, the characters may reveal essential details through dialogue which contribute to the whole story. There are two types of dialogue in literature; the first one is inner dialogue, the character speaks to themselves and may reveal their character personalities; the second one is outer dialogue, which is plainly a simple dialogue between two characters or more. Since the episode did not show any inner dialogue, therefore, the writer will only use outer dialogue, which may expose essential details related to the study.

#### **2.1.7. Synopsis**

According to IMDb (2016), Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode by Charlie Brooker tells about a dystopian future where a whole world against a creature or mutant so-called 'Roaches.' The story unfolds with Stripe (the

main character) woken up, from his peaceful dream dreaming about his girlfriend in a peaceful place, by his fellow soldier. After that, the soldiers held an urgent meeting regarding the recent Roaches attack on a nearby village. Reports said that the food supplies and many things had been stolen and broken by Roaches, and when the soldiers finally arrived at the location, the reports were accurate, except no one from the villagers saw the incident directly, only testimonies. The food supplies were burned down afterward due to the fear of contamination from Roaches. One of the villagers told them that the Roaches suspected hiding in a house that own by a weird religious guy named Parn Heidekker.

Then the soldiers found Parn Hediikker's house, and they started to search inside the house while Medina (the leader) interrogating the owner of the house. Stripe and Raiman (a fellow soldier) as a team of two searched more in-depth into the house, and after some careful digging, they finally found a secret door leading into the Roaches' nest. Shocked by the Roaches' appearance up close, which physically look like a white humanoid monster with sharp razor teeth, that appears to speak nothing but shrieks, Stripe quickly killed one of them with his assault rifle, one of the Roaches able to escape because the other Roaches overwhelmed Stripe hand to hand combat down to the ground. Stripe gathered his strength and turned the table to his favor, and started to stab the Roaches with his knife savagely until the blood splatter across his face even though it was already dead. Then, Stripe instinctively picked up a green device held by the Roaches that he just killed, and accidentally flashed by it in the process of identifying the unknown device. After

that, the soldiers torched the whole house down to ash and headed back to the base with tremendous excitement.

Back in the military base, Stripe started to experience some glitches with his Mass implant system, such as visual stuttering in his dream, a visual glitch in training, flashes, heavy ringing sound, and he missed when shooting at the practice targets. All of that which led him to the sickbay and reporting to Arquette (the head of the military) for running some diagnostics and some consultations to check whether his health and the Mass implant is still perform optimally. The result was everything seems normal. Despite earning praise for his excellent performance, Stripe started to feel hollow and regret within his heart, which he does not understand where it comes from.

The next day, the soldier had a new mission to investigate a new location, when Medina tried to scout the area, she was killed by one of the Roaches using a traditional bolt action hunting rifle. Shocked by the death of their leader, Stripe and Raiman teamed up to storm the place, hunting all of the Roaches down in the building. When Stripe searched a particular room alone, he found a woman dressed in tattered clothes, holding a bat, looking so afraid of facing him. Stripe tried to calm her down, confront her that he is not her enemy and when the woman about to escape the room, Medina shoot her to death. Stripe stands in shock. Then, after Raiman found more Roaches in another room, she kills two more using her assault rifle, and when she was about to obliterate the last two, a woman and a child, Stripe, stroke her down. Stripe battled Raiman in order to protect those two; in the process, Stripe got shot in the belly, but he succeeded in knocking her down, leaving a room



for him, the mother, and her son to escape from the building. Eventually, they got escaped just before Raiman woke up in anger and tried to hunt them down. Then, in the middle of the road, Stripe bled out and was about to lose consciousness. He saw a glimpse of the mother and her son tried to drag him into a secret passage beneath the surface.

While her son finally able to rest, the mother tried to patch Stripe's wound. After that, stripe woke up and tried to gain his strength back. Here Stripe learns the truth about Roaches that they were just ordinary people, the visual of Roaches that the soldiers see was all just a huge lie, false imagery built right inside their mind projecting horrible visual for a particular group of people in order to dehumanize them and ease the soldier for killing them in a combat, all with the help of Mass Implant. As for the villagers who did not have the Mass Implant, they have already brainwashed and corrupted by the news believing that the Roaches are a group of corrupt, unhealthy people that needs to be wiped out from existence just because they are different from them. And just when Stripe about to learn more truth from her, Raiman breached the secret shelter and killed both of them instantly; after all, tracking and hunting are her unique abilities in the first place. Raiman knocked Stripe down and bring him down to the military base for further interrogation, that after prolonged torture, he surrendered himself to the system and reset his brain back to the point when he just a loyal soldier.

## **2.2 Previous Studies**

The previous studies which have a correlation with this study are Dinda Besiari Rambe's thesis (2016) from Universitas Brawijaya entitled "Xenophobia

against Arabs Portrayed in Robert Schwentke's *Flightplan* Movie," Live Hagensen's thesis (2014) entitled "Understanding the Causes and the Nature of Xenophobia in South Africa: A Case Study of De Doorns" from Stellenbosch University.

First, the thesis from Dinda Besiari Rambe's thesis (2016) under the title "Xenophobia against Arabs Portrayed in Robert Schwentke's *Flightplan* Movie." This study aimed to analyze discrimination towards Arabs. The similarity of Dinda's study and this study is the same theory that is used to analyze the movie, which is the sociological approach. While the difference between Dinda's study and this study is about the object and the discussion, Dinda discusses the discrimination toward Arabs in *Flightplan* Movie, and this study discusses the Xenophobia against Immigrants found in Television Series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode.

Second, the thesis from Live Hagensen (2014) from Stellenbosch University entitled "Understanding the Causes and the Nature of Xenophobia in South Africa: A Case Study of De Doorns." This thesis is aimed to analyze the cause and nature of Xenophobia in South Africa. The similarity of Hagensen's study and this study is the main discussion, which is Xenophobia. While the difference between Hagensen's study, and this study is about the main object of the study, Hagensen focuses on South Africa, and this study focuses on Immigrants in Denmark.

Both the thesis from Dinda (2016) and Hagensen (2014) discuss xenophobia as fear, hate, and dislike towards strangers (outgroup). Both theses also explain the impacts and the causes of xenophobia related to society by using the

sociological perspective. And what interesting about this particular study is that the depiction of Danish xenophobic attitude in recent literary works in the form of movies or television series rarely occurs, primarily covering Denmark society. Therefore, the writer believes *Men Against Fire* episode provides the newest update regarding xenophobia in Denmark in the form of anthology series.

### **2.3. Research Method**

In order to conduct this research, the writer will take four steps, which include deciding the object of the study, collecting the data, analyzing the data, and drawing the conclusion.

#### **2.3.1. Deciding the Object of the Study**

In this study, the Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire episode* by Charlie Brooker was chosen as the object of the study. The writer uses visual data since the object of this study is in the form of a movie or television series. The writer uses the sociological approach to analyze the data. The particular episode of *Black Mirror* portrays xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark and since, xenophobia is known as a social phenomenon; therefore, the sociological approach is suited to analyze the data.

#### **2.3.2. Collecting the Data**

These are the steps the writer uses to gather the data:

- 1) The writer will watch the *Men Against Fire* episode several times in order to fully gather all of the data necessary regarding xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark.
- 2) The writer will mark particular scenes and taking excerpts from the dialogues, which depict xenophobia towards immigrants in Denmark.
- 3) The writer will take screenshots regarding the important scene, as well as all the details that are necessary for the study.

### **2.3.3. Analyzing and Interpreting the Data**

After collecting the data, the writer will analyze and interpret the data thoroughly based on the theory that the writer had chosen before. There are some theories used in this research, for example, the sociological approach and xenophobia theory by Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005). It also includes social phenomena, such as prejudice and discrimination, to analyze the manifestation of xenophobia in the episode. The writer will also use movie studies to analyze and found the essential details related to the study.

### **2.3.4. Drawing Conclusion**

The last step of this research is making a conclusion based on the analysis that has been done throughout the study. It is the composition of the whole steps that have been mentioned before regarding the portrayal and the manifestation of xenophobia found in Television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode.

### CHAPTER III

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer will use xenophobia theory by Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005) in order to analyze the xenophobia towards immigrants found in *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode. Therefore, after underlining the data in the episode, there will be details of the story of which represents the xenophobia towards immigrants. The main points which will be discussed further in this chapter are the manifestation of the xenophobia itself, which is portrayed in the episode. In this case, prejudice and discrimination can be seen in society, as portrayed in the *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode.

The prejudice and discrimination towards immigrants can be caused by many reasons. Therefore, the discussion regarding xenophobia of Denmark people towards immigrants will be divided into three parts based on the xenophobia theory by Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005); the first one is the threat to the native economic welfare; the second one is the natural feeling of being native means superior to the others; and the third one is the lack of intercultural information (as cited in Solomon and Kosaka, 2016). The discussion divided into three parts to distinct the differences of why xenophobia occurs in the episode, which is also reflected in the Denmark society regarding the issue related to the immigrants.

Before entering the discussion regarding one of the causes of xenophobia, the writer needs to discuss first the value as well as the identity of the villager in the episode, which is related directly to the Denmark society. So, at the beginning of the episode, there is an incident report regarding Roaches breaking things and

stole food supplies from the villagers, here the soldiers arrived at the village to investigate further about the incident as well as providing protection to the village from a possible future incident with Roaches.

In figure 3.1, the director uses a wide shot in order to emphasize as well as showing the setting of the incident that took place, which is in a relatively small village. As shown in the shot, it appears there are only two small houses and a small shack in the area. There are also utensils to cook and a bonfire right outside and located in the middle of the village, which indicates that the villagers are sharing their foods with one another. As the writer already mentioned in chapter one regarding the Danish's value of life, which are equality and solid sense of mutual trust ("A Safe and Balanced," n.d., para. 2), therefore the act of sharing food together in the village represents Danish value of life and their identity of which the Danish society paid their taxes which contribute to the existing Danish welfare system.



**Figure 3.1 Her Falls Village**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:02:52)

In figure 3.2, the director uses medium shot to show and emphasize the cloth that the villagers wear as well as the little detail on the cloth itself. As seen in

the shot, it appears that some of the villagers wear traditional Danish sweaters. There are two types of sweater pattern that is visible; the first one is the two striped motive pattern; the second one is the star pattern, and according to Lind (2014, p.45), these type of sweaters are typically worn by Danish and Norwegian farmer. And in figure 3.3, by using a close-up shot, the director shows a little detail of the hat that one of the villagers wearing, which is Danish traditional star motif patterns (Lind, 2014, p. 45); the reason why the writer shows two screenshots of villager's cloth detail is to emphasize the point that most of the villager using the same or similar traditional clothes, which indicates that the villagers are in fact, Danish people. Therefore, in the episode, the cloth details that some of the villagers wear indicate that they are Danish people and mainly work as farmers.



**Figure 3.2 Villagers' cloth detail**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:03:02)



**Figure 3.3 Villager's hat detail**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:04:23)

### 3.1 The Threat to The Native Economic Welfare

The following figures are still related to the investigation scene, and one of the soldiers tried to question some of the villagers to dig more in-depth about the incident regarding the Roaches in the village. Here, the villagers show their emotions when they are talking about the incident.

In figure 3.4, using the close-up shot, the director tries to emphasize the villagers' expression when they are being questioned by one of the soldiers. As shown in the shot, the facial expression from the villagers when they are being asked about the incidents regarding Roaches, the villagers seem serious, confused, and angry at the same time, which indicates that they really despise Roaches for what they have done to their village, even though they did not see them directly that the Roaches did what the villagers have been told the soldiers about. Meaning in this scene, the villagers are angry and sincerely hate Roaches are the result of the manifestation of xenophobia. In the episode, the cause of this manifestation is

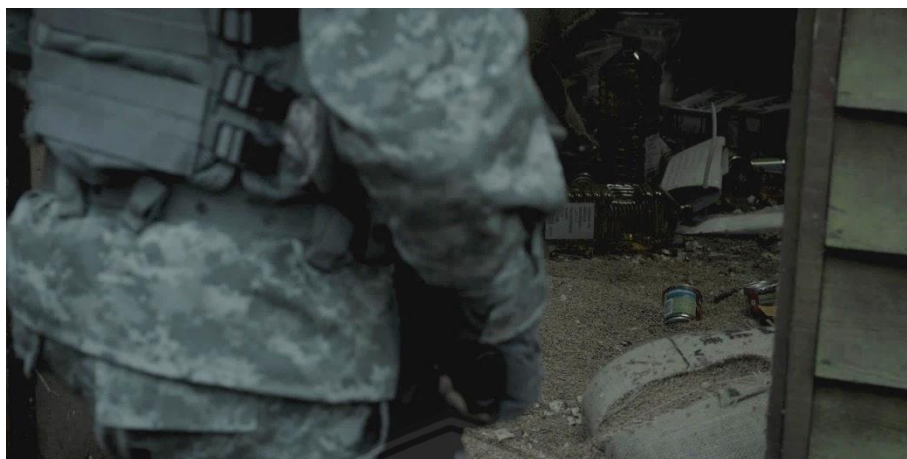


caused by the negative reputation of Roaches that not only they are carrying degenerate DNA but also bring chaos everywhere they go.



**Figure 3.4 Villagers' expression when talking about Roaches**  
(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:03:28)

According to Harris (2001) and Mogeckwu (2005), there is a primary point of why xenophobia affects the villagers in this particular scene, which is “the threat to the native economic welfare” (as cited in Solomon and Kosaka, 2016). In figure 3.5, the stolen food supplies act as the native economic welfare, the fact that the food supplies have its own special place, and the details show that they are sharing food together in the village resembles the existing Danish economic welfare system, which is everyone contributes to the system equally. Danish people believe that the immigrants possessed a threat to Danish economic welfare because they believe immigrants do not even do some hard work in obtaining the same profits of the economic welfare that the Danish people build with their own hard work. Therefore, the manifestation of xenophobia in this particular scene is the result of the threat to the economic welfare of the villagers, which is the same as the existing Danish welfare system in Denmark.



**Figure 3.5 The food supplies**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:03:39)

### 3.2 The Natural Feeling of Being Native Means Superior to The Others

After the soldiers learned a new intel that the Roaches are possibly hiding in a house own by a weird guy named Parn Heidekker, here, there is an interesting dialogue between the soldiers before they were about to engage in the suspect's house.

Medina : Optimal outcome, no shots fired.

Raiman : Except on a Roach.

Medina : Except on a Roach.

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:07:06)

Based on the dialogue above between Raiman and Medina, mainly the underlined one. When the character named Raiman said “Except on a Roach,” in figure 3.6 and with the help of close up shot, it shows her facial expression indicating that she is excited, but not only that, she enjoyed saying those lines. This indicates that Raiman despises Roaches and enjoy hunting them for fun. That means the effect of xenophobia on different characters affects them differently, in this case, for the soldiers specifically Raiman her xenophobic actions are expressed in

violence which ultimately resulted on killing some of the Roaches in the episode, unlike the villagers who only show their xenophobic actions in through words which in the episode they accused Roaches of the destruction in their village.



**Figure 3.6 Raiman excited to hunt down some Roaches**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:07:06)

According to Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005), “the natural feeling of being native means superior to the others” is one of the causes of the manifestation of xenophobia; therefore the dialogue between Raiman and Medina indicates the native superiority to the people non-native, and the dialogue also portrayed one of the immigrant cases in Denmark, specifically the Somalis community in Copenhagen. Somalis experienced many discriminations than other ethnic in 1999; there was an aggressive media campaign that described them as “unwanted immigrants” who caused “problems,” even though they did nothing wrong in the society (Stenum, 2014). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (2015) also stated that for more than two decades Somalia had experienced substantial human rights challenges in Denmark causes by the absence of the governance, rule, and law as well as the rising conflict surrounding them; therefore, it violated Somali’s human rights, some of them are the discrimination and violence against Somalia

community including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in daily basis. Here the word “shots” in the dialogue act as the discrimination, meaning that no matter who immigrants are, guilty or not, if they are not native, they will be labeled as “different” and eventually will be treated horribly and despicably by the natives, just like the Somalia society that is portrayed as Roaches in the episode.

Another case that perfectly resembles this particular scene is the widely reported xenophobia at the Hornsleth Bar nightclub in central Copenhagen (Marsh and Rasmussen, 2016). Here, the bouncer of the club forbids people to enter the club, except for native Danes. This promotes not only discrimination against non-native but also xenophobia against them.

Now, back into the episode again, when Heidekker is being interrogated by one of the soldiers, and at the same time, the other soldiers tried to find the Roaches. Here, Stripe found a secret passage to the Roaches' hideout. In figure 3.7, the director uses a close-up shot to show the physical appearance of the Roaches up close, which looks like a white humanoid monster with sharp razor teeth that speaks nothing but shrieks. Here, figure 3.7 portrayed xenophobia as well as discrimination towards a particular group of people; in this case, all immigrants in Denmark. Based on xenophobia theory by Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005), the fear and hatred towards Roaches are the same as the Danish's people fear towards immigrants, which they labeled them as “the other” just because they are different from the natives resulting in discriminatory attitudes and behavior, which often expressed in violence and hatred towards immigrants. And here in the episode, the non-native

people are portrayed as monsters which looked straight from people's nightmare, creepy and disgusting.

In this particular scene, Stripe killed two of them, the first one with his rifle instantly, then the second one with his knife, and Stripe even stabbed the second one savagely until the blood splatter across his face even though it is already dead. Now, looking back to the Somalis in Copenhagen case, the same thing that is happening to them. They experienced bullying and discrimination in public even though they did nothing wrong, just because they are not originated from Denmark; people push them away in violence manners (Stenum, 2014; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, 2015). Mass Implant gives visual representations of how Roaches looked like in the soldier heads because later in the episode after the truth about Mass Implant was discovered, all of those visions just like in figure 3.7 were all just lies or false imagery to help soldiers kill a particular group of people who were considered as "enemy." In the Somalis case again, it is all the same; here, Mass Implant represented as Mass Media in Denmark, which at that time spread negative news regarding the Somalis are "unwanted immigrants" who cause "problems" (Stenum, 2014). Noted here, the reason why the writer provided two screenshots of the Roaches to emphasize all of the Roaches' physical appearance.



**Figure 3.7 Roaches' physical appearance**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:11:09)

The following is the dialogue between Stripe and Arquette, prior to the Stripe's incident helping one of the Roaches escaped, but eventually got caught and killed by his fellow soldier, Raiman. So, in this particular dialogue, Arquette tried to talk Stripe back into the military minds to recruit him back, just like before he discovered the real truth about Roaches and the military's Mass Implant. And here Arquette is talking about the flashing device which caused Stripe's Mass Implant glitched and eventually destroyed from within.

Arquette : I tell you, those Roaches are getting more ingenious than we give them credit for.

Stripe : The whole thing is a lie.

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:47:58)

The particular dialogue mainly the underlined one indicates that Arquette looking down on Roaches, just like the soldier with the Mass Implant, seeing them as filthy creatures that looked precisely like monsters straight out of a nightmare. At this point, the episode did not show whether Arquette also had Mass Implant planted inside his head or not. The underlined line also emphasizes the xenophobia theory by Moge kwu (2005), which is “the fear and hatred towards foreigners and strangers.” Here, even though Arquette did not kill Roaches with his own hands, but the fact that in the episode, he is the one in charge of how Mass Implant works and feeds the soldier minds with anything he wants, indicates the xenophobic behavior towards Roaches by manipulating soldiers’ mind into perceiving false imageries.

Figure 3.8 uses a close-up shot to emphasize Arquette’s facial expression as well as his emotion when talking about Roaches. In figure 3.8, Arquette said, “we control what you see, Stripe,” the episode shows how Arquette manipulated Stripe’s vision at his will by using some kind of device, Arquette tortures Stripe by showing the difference between Stripe’s vision with and without the Mass Implant enabled, on top of that he even can blind Stripe’s vision whenever he wants. Therefore, in this particular line of dialogue between Arquette and Stripe indicates that Mass Media has the power to control and manipulate information based on Military’s needs, just like Denmark’s Mass Media and the people in power manipulating immigrants’ image so that Danish people push them away which ultimately resulted in various xenophobic actions.



**Figure 3.8 Arquette's expression**

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:53:30)

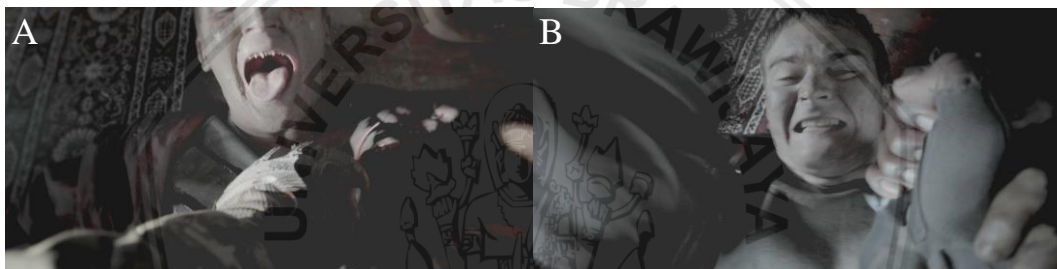
The following figures are being shown to emphasize the effects of Mass Media and Mass Implant into the villagers' and soldiers' minds. As the writer already discussed before regarding Arquette's ability to control the soldier's mind at his will, therefore, these figures are the depiction of the manipulation in Stripe's mind. According to Harris (2001) and Mogeckwu (2005), "the natural feeling of being native means superior to the others," therefore, in the figures below show the result of the manifestation of xenophobia to non-native people. By using the connecting shot between the scene before the truth of Mass Implant was revealed and the scene after the truth of Mass Implant is revealed, the particular scene shows the effects of Mass Media and Mass Implant transforming Roaches' physical appearance as well as their voice into filthy creatures, which looks like real monsters, and by using close up shots, the detail of their physical appearance can be observed carefully. The Roaches' physical appearance indicates inferiority to the natives, and also the result of the prejudice thought of them, which indicates dehumanization. Noted here that the figures marked with letters "A" and "B" to



indicate that “A” is the effect of Mass Implant in people’s minds and also the act of superiority, and “B” is the real physical appearance of Roaches without Mass Implant.



(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 11:11 and 53:30)



(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 12:47 and 15:37)

### **Figure 3.9 Connecting shot of Mass Implant**

As shown in the figures above, the portrayal of the effects of xenophobia can be observed thoroughly. Here, Roaches’ monster physical appearance becomes the evidence of having xenophobic thoughts from the perspective of the soldiers as well as the villagers, and it has also become an indication of inferiority in society. Even though the episode has shown that the villagers did not receive any Mass Implant, but by just labeling a group of people as “other,” hated them because of the factless information, or simply because of these particular group of people do not come from the same place as the native’s do, are all the same as seeing them as the people who receive the Mass Implant, dehumanizing them becoming looked like “real monsters.” Therefore, having xenophobic thoughts allow people to justify

the horrific treatment against particular a group of people, like Roaches and the immigrants in Denmark related to the study.

### 3.3 The Lack of Intercultural Information

There is a dialogue between a soldier and the villagers discussing the incident related to the Roaches. It is noted here that in the episode, the villagers speak the Danish language, which translated in real-time into the English language using a device held by one of the soldiers. The writer would like to emphasize the fact that the villagers speak the Danish language strengthens the point of which the villagers are actually Danish people, and it also shows Danish identity through the use of language in which natively they speak the Danish language.

- Villager A : *It must have been Roaches*  
 Medina : *Roaches, you see them? You see?*  
 Villager A : *I didn't see them. I heard them. All the mess. It must have been them. They've been in the food. We'll have to destroy everything they left. No one will eat it*  
 Medina : *We can replace that, okay?*  
 Villager B : *They destroyed the cooler. Broke it and took the parts.*  
 (Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:03:10)

As shown in the dialogue between the villagers and the soldier, the villagers keep accusing Roaches of things that the dialogue mentioned above, such as making a mess, stealing the food, and broke the cooler. From the soldier's perspective, it was pretty convincing to them because, in the episode, Roaches do not even speak they only shriek. But, later in the episode after the truth was revealed, Roaches are just ordinary human beings; they speak just like the villagers and the soldiers. The fact that the villagers do not even saw the incidents directly and then suddenly

accusing Roaches of all the destructions in their village indicates the act of prejudice that led to the xenophobic act, which is shown in the dialogue above.

This dialogue also represents the issues related between Danish people and the immigrants in Denmark; furthermore, the dialogue also represents one of the causes of xenophobia by Harris and Mogeckwu, which is the lack of intercultural information. The prejudices towards immigrants that they are a group of bad people that try to ruin Denmark. According to Jens Henrik Højbjerg, a well-known chief police officer in Denmark, the trend of foreigners committing crimes in the future likely continues, and the most well-known crime the foreigners usually committed is robberies (The Local, 2016). Højbjerg's statement regarding the issue related to immigrants is reflected in the dialogue between the villagers and the soldier before, the fact that the statement mentioned "the most well-known crime the foreigners usually commit is robberies" shows the prejudice towards immigrants, which shown in the episode by the villagers of accusing Roaches stole their food and broke their things, even though they did not see them directly. And the xenophobic act of which the villagers were asking the soldiers to eliminate the Roaches, because of the damage of their village and the belief that the cause of the incident comes from Roaches.

There is an interesting dialogue when Stripe learned the truth about the Mass Implant after he rescued two Roaches into their hideouts in the woods. Here Stripe talks to a woman who was considered as one of the Roaches before the Stripe's Mass Implant was broken. The writer wants to point out that in the following dialogue, the woman who talks Stripe into sense about the truth of Mass Implant

fluently speaking the English language, which strengthens the point that Roaches are indeed not the same as the villagers who speak only Danish Language. Therefore, it emphasizes the idea that just because they are not from the Danish community, they are labeled as “different.”

Stripe : The villagers... huh? The locals, they... they ain't army. They got no Mass in their heads. They're scared of the Roaches. They hate the fucking things.

Woman : Everybody hates us.

Stripe : Well, what the fuck do they see? Huh? The fucking civs, when they look at a Roach, what do they see?

Woman : What you see now. They hate all the same because it's what they've been told. Ten years ago, it began. Post-war. First, the screening programme, the DNA checks, then the register, the emergency measures. And soon everyone calls us creatures. Filthy creatures. ..Every voice. The TV. The computer. Say we have... we have sickness in us. We have weakness. It's in our blood. They say that our blood cannot go on. That we cannot go on. My name was Catarina. He was Alec. Now we're just Roach. But now... now you see me.

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:42:49)

From the dialogue above, there are several pieces of information regarding the Military's Mass Implant; the first one is “The locals, they... they ain't army. They got no Mass in their heads. They're scared of the Roaches,” indicates that the villagers did not receive any Mass Implant; the second is “They hate all the same because it's what they've been told” and “And soon everyone calls us creatures. Filthy creatures. Every voice. The TV. The computer. Say we have... we have sickness in us,” meaning that they gain a particular belief of a particular group of people is terrible, filthy, and carry sickness in their blood deserves to be labeled as Roaches are all from the information that spreads across Mass Media platform.

According to Harris (2001) and Moge kwu (2005), “the lack of intercultural information” is one of the causes of the manifestation of xenophobia, Moge kwu (2005) also noted that the people who dislike and have a prejudice against foreigners presumably do not have adequate information regarding the people they hate; therefore, they see the foreigners as a threat because they do not know how to deal with such people. Therefore, as seen in the dialogue above, the reason why the villagers despise Roaches is that they have been told by the mass media that Roaches are carrying disease in their blood, which simply not right because in the episode there is no concrete evidence or data being shown to prove that Roaches are just bad as just what the Mass Media had been told the villagers.

There is an additional dialogue to add more information regarding the truth about Roaches, and the dialogue occurs when Stripe faces the truth about Mass Implant directly from Arquette back in the Military base after Stripe committed a crime to help two Roaches escape. Arquette told Stripe the reason of why a particular group of people labeled Roaches and deserves to be wiped out from existence.

Arquette : Do you have any idea the amount of shit that’s in their DNA? Higher rates of cancer. Muscular dystrophy. MS. SLS. Substandard IQ. Criminal tendencies. Sexual deviances. It’s all there. The screening shows it. Is that what you want for the next generation?

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:50:51)

In this particular dialogue, Arquette told Stripe that Roaches have higher rates of cancer, muscular dystrophy, and so on. But, that is not the point here, even though Arquette elaborates the answer behind the truth about Roaches, there is still no concrete evidence showed in the episode, Arquette and Mass Media only talk

about how bad they are, without showing the actual data. And the fact in the episode that the Roaches do not even show any sign of the diseases mentioned by Arquette; for example, the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) disorder is a chronic illness involving the central nervous system which resulted in difficulty in walking (Pietrangelo, 2019), in the episode, there is no sign of Roaches having difficulty in walking, in fact, they able to run fast when they encountered directly with the soldiers who try to kill them. This strengthens the point that all the information regarding Roaches is just falsehoods and lies. Therefore, the writer believes that the military's and the villager's information about the issue related to the Roaches are proven inadequate, meaning that the whole thing is just false information to justified the hatred and discrimination towards Roaches, as well as spreading xenophobia in the society.

In the dialogue below, back when Stripe learned the truth about Roaches from a woman who was considered as one of the Roaches in the episode. Here, the truth regarding the Mass Implant and the role of Mass Media can be analyzed thoroughly.

Stripe : Well, what the fuck do they see? Huh? The fucking civs, when they look at a Roach, what do they see?

Woman : What you see now. They hate all the same because it's what they've been told. Ten years ago, it began. Post-war. First, the screening programme, the DNA checks, then the register, the emergency measures. And soon everyone calls us creatures. Filthy creatures. Every voice. The TV. The computer. Say we have... we have sickness in us. We have weakness. It's in our blood. They say that our blood cannot go on. That we cannot go on. My name was Catarina. He was Alec. Now we're just Roach. But now... now you see me.

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:42:49)

In this particular dialogue between Stripe and the woman, mainly the underlined one, the dialogue shows the process of how Mass Media labeled a particular group of people as Roaches. The dialogue shows that the military begin the screening program to check the DNA of every individual, but then later, they told the Mass Media that this particular group of people, who are called as “Roaches,” are carrying sickness in their DNA without actually provide the actual facts and data that these people really are indeed carrying sickness in their blood; therefore, it is shown as the effort to spread false information and also to cause xenophobia in the society. This dialogue also represents Denmark’s Mass Media against the Somalis community that is labeling non-native as “unwanted immigrants” or “different” (Stenum, 2014).

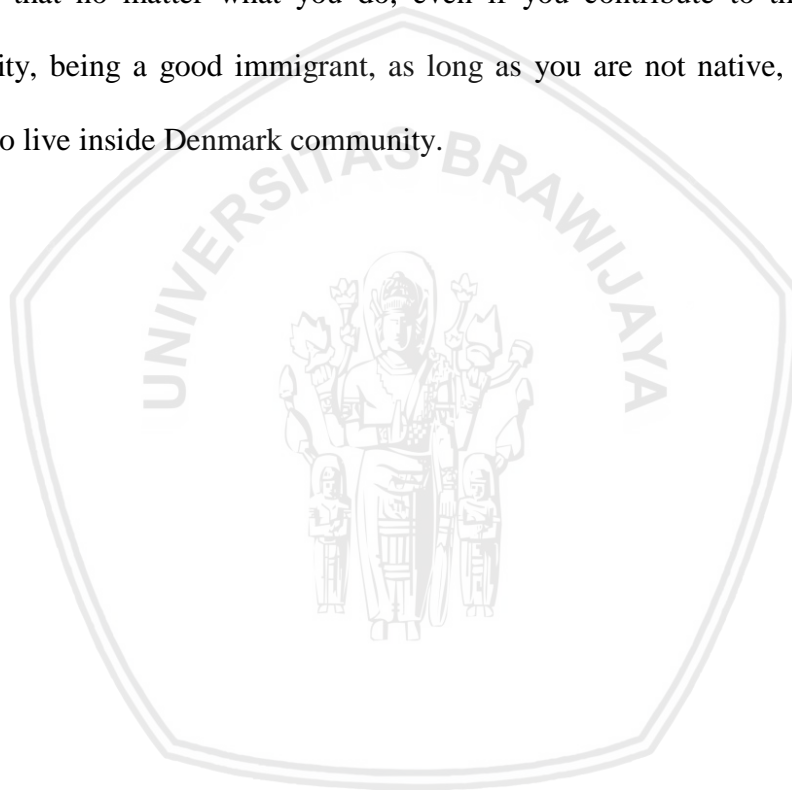
There was another interesting dialogue when one of the soldiers interrogated the owner of the suspected house as the other soldiers searched the house for Roaches.

Soldier : There’s shit in their blood that made them that way. The sickness they’re carrying. That doesn’t care about the sanctity of life or the pain about who else is gonna suffer. We don’t stop the Roaches in five, ten, 20 years from now. You’re still gonna get kids born that way, and then they’re gonna breed. And so it goes on. That cycle of pain. That sickness and it could have been avoided. Every Roach you save today, you condemn God knows how many people to despair and misery tomorrow. You can’t still see them as human. Understandable sentiment, granted, but it’s misguided. We gotta take them out if humankind is gonna carry on in this world. That’s just the hard truth. Gotta make sacrifices.

(Source: *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire*, 2016, minute 00:09:37)

The dialogue above, especially the underlined one, resembles a Danish far-

right party case. Cheanne Nielsen, a member of the far-right Danish People's Party (DPP), said in her campaign, "They make a mess, they cheat, they steal, they rape, and they kill" (Gutteridge, 2016). Nielsen's speech promotes not only prejudice and discrimination against people other than Danish, but also xenophobia against immigrants. "there's shit in their blood that made them that way" this particular line indicates that no matter what you do, even if you contribute to the Denmark community, being a good immigrant, as long as you are not native, you do not deserve to live inside Denmark community.





## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the conclusion of the analysis of xenophobia depicted by the characters in *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode. This study uses a sociological approach to see the insight of what happens in society since xenophobia considered as one of social phobia. The manifestation of xenophobia can be formed in many ways depicted in the episode. This chapter also gives further researcher suggestions and insight on what to conduct in similar research of study.

#### 4.1 Conclusion

In *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode, the depiction of prejudice as well as discrimination towards Immigrants, which ultimately resulted in xenophobia. The study reveals several points gathered from the episode of which indicate the act of xenophobia namely: accusing the Roaches of stealing and breaking villagers' food supplies; hunting the Roaches for fun; portraying the Roaches as white humanoid monsters in the soldiers' minds; spreading false information regarding the Roaches' background; depicting the Roaches as a filthy creature both mentally and physically. These points reflect the immigrants' condition in Denmark such as the images of the immigrants are draining the existing Danish economic welfare, the discriminations and violence experienced by the Somalia community in Copenhagen for more than two decades; the discrimination of Hornsleth Bar nightclub to the people other than natives; the statement from Jens Henrik Højbjerg indicating that immigrants are more likely to commit robberies;

and the Cheanne Nielsen's statement in her campaign indicating that the immigrants are the source of all problems in Denmark.

Based on some evidence shown about xenophobic acts which are portrayed through different perspectives from the characters in the episode, the television series *Black Mirror: Men Against Fire* episode emphasize the consequence of prejudice as well as discrimination which led to the manifestation of xenophobia itself that ultimately violated human rights in the society. Despite all the suspicion regarding the things that Roaches did, it turns out that Roaches are innocent people who deserve proper trial even if they did those terrible things. There are many people who still categorize someone based only on the community of which that person belongs, without assessing them based on their behavior and their contribution to society. The episode is created in 2016 to portray the issue related to all immigrants in Denmark from the moment governments tried to increase the anti-immigrant policy in 1990 up to the year 2016.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

This study focuses on xenophobia against immigrants, specifically in Denmark. For further research, the writer suggests that the next researches conduct more in-depth research that explores more about xenophobia against immigrants or even xenophobia against other minorities in various literary works, such as novels and movies. The writer hopes that the researcher would take newer literary works to see whether xenophobia against immigrants still exists and relevant. The writer also suggests that there are still a few research related to television series entitled *Black Mirror*, and since this television series is an anthology series related to social

issues, each episode might have something interesting that might worth to study about in the future.



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