

THE INTERGROUP EXPRESSION OF ETHNOCENTRISM PORTRAYED BY WIZARD IN *FANTASTIC BEASTS* TRILOGY

¹Leny Maslahatul Hanis*, ¹Afina Murtiningrum

¹Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, Semarang

*Corresponding Author: lenymaslahatulhns@std.unissula.ac.id

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Abstract

Ethnocentrism refers to a social phenomenon in which an individual or group believes that they are superior in various aspects, including culture, tradition, spiritual and strength, while disregarding or demeaning other groups. Social issues can occur anywhere and can also be discussed and raised in any literary work. One of the literary works is a movie. Therefore, this study analyzes the intergroup expression of ethnocentrism portrayed by wizards in the Fantastic Beasts trilogy. The aim of this study is to examine the conflicts that exist between various factions of wizards and non-wizards, typically characterized by feelings of superiority and suspicion towards one another. This motif of ethnocentrism, while illustrated within a fantastical setting, mirrors social interactions we frequently see in reality, including ethnic biases and the strains that come from diverse identities. A qualitative approach that emphasizes the film script as a primary data source by emphasizing dialogue, narration and monologue. And the second data are taken from e-journal and article. This study uses the theories of Bezumic and Duckitt on expressions of ethnocentrism between groups. The result of this study is how wizards portray 2 of the 4 types of theoretical expressions of intergroup ethnocentrism towards muggles, which are superiority and purity.

Keyword: *Ethnocentrism, Intergroup Expression, Wizard, Fantastic Beasts*

INTRODUCTION

According to Bezumic and Duckitt (2009) ethnocentrism as a form of stance characterized by a strong sense of self-righteousness and self-importance regarding one's ethnic group. Self-righteousness and self-importance supported by the feeling of superior and the center of everything and that this perception is important to a particular group (Mustofa, 2021; Tagle, 2023). Gumpłowicz & Sumner (Bezumic, 2014) which are regarded as the coin of ethnocentrism state that ethnocentrism is the belief that one's own ethnic group is the most important and better than other ethnic groups, Gumpłowicz also sees this phenomenon as delusional believing that everything is centered in them or their group. Bezumic and Duckitt proposed a reconceptualization of ethnocentrism from Sumner, which resulted in a theory of ethnocentrism containing

intergroup expressions (preference, superiority, purity, and exploitation) and intragroup expressions (devotion and group cohesion) (Bizumic & Duckitt, 2009).

Fantastic Beasts is a fictional trilogy that confronts the tensions between two different groups. Behind the magical adventure story, there is a deep picture of ethnocentrism. The tendency to see the world from the group's own point of view (Zikargae, 2020) beliefs of superiority and purity in this movie reflect serious issues that still exist in our daily lives. This study will focus on the intergroup expressions portrayed by wizards in the *Fantastic Beasts* trilogy. Such as the way they perceive and treat muggles as another ethnicity, as well as how they respond to these ethnic differences. Intergroup expression of ethnocentrism is believing that one's own ethnic group is more important than other groups bring traits and senses such as preference, superiority, purity and exploitativeness (Bizumic & Duckitt, 2009).

Discussion on reality, Humans are considered social beings because they have a desire to connect with others and understand their environment and the social phenomena that are happening. this makes individuals to live in communities or groups and entities (Artha Sari & Azhari Pasaribu, 2023). Social phenomena not only can be analyzed through real life accidents. it can also be derived from literary works, such as movie (Sharma and Pathak, 2022). Literary works originate from the author's imagination, depicting aspects of human existence. Literature and humanity are closely related because the origin of literature arises from issues faced by humans and their society (Rahayu, 2022). Movies are one category of literary works that can clearly depict the author's imaginative concepts, as they effectively convey the scenes, moods, and messages intended by the author. One of the movies that bring up these social issues is *Fantastic Beasts*. Through the conflicts and interactions between these two groups. It reflects social issues that are still relevant today. In addition, the movies also show how the expression of ethnocentrism in the film has wider implications for inequality between groups in the real world. which are superiority and purity.

In relation to the concept of ethnocentrism, there have been various studies on this subject stemming from final projects and journal articles, such as Riswanti's analysis of the main character's ethnocentrism in the novel *Not Without My Daughter* by Betty Mahmoody, which examines the overall expression of ethnocentrism, and Ali Mustofa's exploration of ethnocentrism in the film *The Last Samurai* by Edward Zwick, which highlights specific aspect of ethnocentrism. However, this study delves deeper into the theory of ethnocentrism by focusing on the intergroup expression of ethnocentrism.

METHOD

This study uses qualitative research. The advantage of qualitative research is its ability to provide descriptive explanations and detailed explanations of the reasons behind and mechanisms through which phenomena occur (Oranga & Matere, 2023). Descriptive qualitative research is used in this study because it is suitable for analyzing intergroup expression by using the *Fantastic Beasts* script as the object of research. The

main data in this study are movie scripts or screen plays from the *Fantastic Beasts* films (*Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, and *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*). The analysis was conducted by examining the dialog, action, and narration between the wizard and muggle characters in the films. In addition, this research also includes references from the literature of existing theories of ethnocentrism.

In collecting data, it was done through several stages. First, watching the movie in its entirety without too much detailed focus to get a general understanding of the storyline, main characters, and interactions between groups in the movie. Second, watching the movie a second time with a deeper focus on characters who show ethnocentrism, such as Gellert Grindelwald and Tina. Furthermore, reading the film script to analyze the conversation by highlighting sentences that have a sense of superiority and purity in accordance with the theory of Bezumic and Duckitt.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The *Fantastic Beasts* trilogy revolves around two different ethnicities of wizards and muggles. The ethnic wizards in this series often embody the intergroup expression of ethnocentrism. Intergroup expression of ethnocentrism is associated with the belief that one's own group holds greater significance than others (Bezumic & Duckitt, 2009). This viewpoint highlights the attitude of ethnic wizards toward muggles. However, in the depiction of intergroup expressions of ethnocentrism, the wizards predominantly exhibit two out of the four forms of this expression: Superiority and Purity Expression.

1. Superiority

The sense of intergroup expression of ethnocentrism refers to the conviction that one's own ethnic group is superior to others in various aspects, including morality, strength, power, historical significance, spirituality, and more (Bizumic and Duckitt, 2009). In other words, a group that perceives itself as exhibiting superior behavior tends to feel more significant and valued than other groups, resulting in injustice toward those other groups. The sense of superiority by wizards is illustrated in the following quotes:

Grindelwald surveys the elegant clutter left by the haunt bourgeois family he has just murdered.

Grindelwald: Yes. This will be suitable after a thorough cleanse. I want you to go to the circus now. Give my note to Credence, begin his journey.

Nagel nod and leaves.

Rosier: When we've won, they'll flee cities in the millions. They have had their time.

Grindelwald: we don't say such things out loud. We want only freedom, freedom to be our selves.

Rosier: to annihilate non wizard.

Grindelwald: Not all of them. We are not merciless. **The beast of burden will always be necessary.** (Yates, 2018, p. 27)

In the dialogue between Rosier and Grindelwald, in accordance with superiority according to Bizumic and Duckitt where they feel better than muggles in the dimension of power. The wizards took over the Muggle residence to establish it as the headquarters for their group. Grindelwald referenced the term "beast of burden" in relation to Muggles, highlighting the superiority they believed they possessed. Grindelwald regarded Muggles as lesser beings compared to themselves.

In the following scene, Dumbledore encountered Grindelwald in a café bustling with Muggles, alongside waitstaff serving them coffee. Dumbledore declined Grindelwald's proposal to dominate the world and eliminate Muggles. He also made it clear to Grindelwald that he disapproved of his malicious actions. In response, Grindelwald ridiculed Dumbledore by calling Muggles animals. Grindelwald openly demeans Muggles and discredits them with the argument that muggles are animals. This action is rooted in an ethnocentric view that represents wizards as a "higher" group. It can be seen as superiority. The conviction that one's own ethnic group is superior to others in certain aspects, including ethics, power, history, spirituality, and more (Bizumic and Duckitt, 2009):

Busy. Loud. As the waitress with dark bob crosses into view, we go with her, wending as she wends, gracefully gliding to a table near the back, where she sets a cup of something hot in front of the man with the hat: Dombledore....

...Dombledore opens his eyes, considers the man standing beside his table: Grindelwald.

Dombledore: what you're doing is madness...

...Grindelwald settles back, eyes narrow. Inhale.

Grindelwald: can you smell it? the stench? Do you really intend to turn your back on your own kind for these animals?

Dombledore's eyes shift, meet Grindelwald's steely gaze.

Grindelwald: with or without you, I will burn down their world, Albus. There's nothing you can do to stop me. Enjoy your cup of tea. (Yates, 2022, pp. 1–3)

A further dialogue of superiority becomes clear in the following scene. Grindelwald delivers a

monologue in which he addresses wizards from around the globe. He made a provocative statement aimed at fostering a sense of ethnocentrism by highlighting Jacob as the sole muggle among the wizards. Grindelwald asserted that marrying a muggle signifies tainting their blood, which would render them weak. He also referred to muggles as vermin:

Vogel: Gellert Grindelwald is the new leader of the magical world by acclamation

As the crowd roars, Acolytes on either side of Newt shove him up the steps. Grindelwald nods to Rosier and she brings forth Queenie and Jacob

Rosier brings Jacob farther up the steps and hands his snakewood wand to Grindelwald.

Grindelwald surveys the crowd, who waits, eyes fixed on him, then gestures to Jacob.

Grindelwald: This is the man who tried to take my life. This man, **who has no magic, who would marry a witch and pollute out blood, this forbidden union will make us less, make us weak, like his kind.** He is not alone, my friends. There are thousands who seek to do the same, **there can only be one response to such vermin.** (Yates, 2022, p. 87)

His attitude in this scene, where Grindelwald openly demeans the muggles by calling them vermin, is in line with the concept of superiority outlined by Bizumic and Duckitt (2009), which represents superiority in the aspect of his sense of dominance and power. where muggles are inferior weak and deserve to be exterminated.

2. Purity

The intergroup expression of ethnocentrism reflects a desire to preserve the "purity" of one's ethnic group, discouraging interactions with other groups. Such a group frequently exhibits purity behaviors, often rejecting the idea of mingling their ethnicity with others (Bizumic and Duckitt, 2009). In the *Fantastic Beasts* Trilogy, wizards isolated themselves and avoided interactions with other ethnicities by enacting laws that forbade wizards from communicating or forming relationships, including friendships and marriages, with muggles:

Jacob: This meal - its insanely good! This is what I do – I am a cook and this is, like, the greatest meal I have ever had in my life

Queenie (laughing): oh, you slay me! **I ain't never really talked to a non-magic** before.

Jacob: really??

Queenie and Jacob gaze into each-other eyes.

Newt and Tina sit opposite each other, uncomfortably silent in the presence of such affectionate behaviour.

Queenie (to Tina): I'm not flirting

Tina: I'm just saying don't go getting attached.... (Yates, 2015, pp. 42–43)

In the quote mentioned, Queenie reveals to Jacob that it was her first conversation with a muggle. Her sister advised her not to establish a close relationship with Jacob this is due to the separation to the prohibition of the wizard government to interact with muggles. This statement supports Bezumic and Duckitt's (2009) assertion that purity is perceived by individuals who exhibit ethnocentrism to prevent mixing with different ethnicities. A different scene that illustrates purity can be observed below:

Newt raises his wand. Jacob recoils in fear, clutching at Tina, who moves protectively in front of him...

Tina: he's hurt! He looks ill!

...Newt puts his wand away

Newt: ...I can keep him if you want to-

Tina: oh, keep him? We don't keep them! Mr. Scamander, do you know anything about the wizarding community in America?

Newt: I do know a few things, actually. **I know you have rather backwards laws about relations with non-magic people. That you're not meant to be friend them, that you can't marry them,** which seems mildly absurd to me.

Tina: who's going to marry him? (Yates, 2015, pp. 30–31)

This aligned with Bezumic & Duckitt theory of purity, as this character preferred to associate only with individuals from his own ethnicity (2009). In the illustration above, Tina and Newt were having a heated discussion about how to help Jacob, who was unwell after being stung by a magical creature. Newt volunteered to care for him, but Tina could not allow this due to legal restrictions. Nevertheless, Tina and Newt had different legal backgrounds; Newt was from England while Tina was from America. Their dialogue revealed that the American wizarding ministry had strict regulations against relationships between wizards and muggles, even if it was just a friendship. Tina's inquiry directed at Newt further highlights the significance of the ethnic wizard law. The following quote demonstrates the sense of purity:

The last quote also reflects the purity in this trilogy:

Queenie: Anyway... We're real excited to be here, Newt. This is a—well, it's a special trip for us. You see, Jacob and I, we're getting married.

...Newt glares at Queenie

Newt: you've enchanted him, haven't you?

Queenie: What? I have not

...**Newt:** Then you won't mind if I- (drawing his wand)

Jacob reacts as though to a bucket of cold water. He comes back to himself and takes in his surroundings. He looks at Newt.

Newt: congratulations on your engagement, Jacob

Jacob: wait, what?

...**Queenie:** Why is it wrong to marry you

Jacob: okay-

Queenie: to wanna have family? I just want what everyone else has, that's all.

Jacob: Okay wait. We talked about this like a million times, **if we get married and they find out they're gonna throw you in jail**, sweetheart, I can't have that, **they don't like people like me marrying people like you, I ain't a wizard**. I'm just me (Yates, 2018, p. 54)

The purity as a sense of intergroup expressions of ethnocentrism between groups was demonstrated by their opposition to the intermingling of ethnicities (Bizumic and Duckitt, 2009). This concept was clearly illustrated in the aforementioned quote, highlighting how wizards opposed ethnic intermixing with muggles or non-magical individuals by imposing risks or punishments for those who breached this rule. The response mandated by the wizarding government is imprisonment for offenders. This legal threat reinforces the separation of ethnic differences between wizards and muggles.

CONCLUSION

In the *Fantastic Beasts* trilogy, the feelings of superiority and purity are clearly demonstrated through characters like Gellert Grindelwald, who believes his faction is superior. This belief is rooted in a superiority of ethnocentrism ideology, wherein the wizard is perceived as "special" and more deserving, while the muggle is regarded as a threat or even a nuisance. Likewise, the purity ideology seen in ethnocentrism, the wish to preserve the integrity of a group and to impose separation and social boundaries and fosters a profound sense of exclusion. Through this discussion, *Fantastic Beasts* conveys not just the narrative of the clash between wizard and muggle factions, but also mirrors societal tensions that exist in our reality, where disparities in ethnicity, race, or social standing frequently leads to discrimination and inequality. In this way, the film encourages us to contemplate how the beliefs in superiority and purity, despite being

set in a fantastical realm, genuinely influence our perceptions of the differences among various groups.

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