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THE REPRESENTATION OF CHINESE SOCIETY AS PORTRAYED IN IP MAN 4: THE FINALE MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This article discussed the representation of Chinese society as portrayed in IP Man 4: The Finale movie. Furthermore, the representation of the Other towards the Chinese character using Macfie's representation theory, while Murphy's characterization theory was used to analyze the struggle waged by the Chinese society. The reasons the researcher chose this movie, because (1) IP Man 4: The Finale movie is one of the movies that have just aired in 2020, (2) no one has analyzed this movie using representation theory, and (3) also until now there are still many cases where there are still superiority and inferiority between East and West that still exist and cannot be solved. In this research, the research design used was qualitative by using a qualitative descriptive analysis approach. This research reveals that the representation of Chinese society in IP Man 4: The Finale movie is aberrant, despotic, inferior, passive, feminine, backward, and inauthentic. The findings show that the struggle of Chinese society was characterized by three significant ways, namely: The past life (the character's past story), the character's speech (conversation and mind), and mannerism (reaction or action). By looking at representation theory, we can understand that the term oriental culture aims to prevent the East from not getting a negative connotation. This term is not a justification for blaming something that inaccurate statement, but rather an effort to keep the Eastern nation honorable and dignified.

Key Words: Characterization, Chinese society, representation, struggles

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini membahas tentang representasi masyarakat Cina yang digambarkan dalam film IP Man 4: The Finale. Selanjutnya, representasi Liyan terhadap karakter Cina menggunakan teori representasi Macfie, sedangkan teori karakterisasi Murphy digunakan untuk menganalisis perjuangan yang dilakukan oleh masyarakat Cina. Alasan peneliti memilih film ini, karena (1) film IP Man 4: The Finale merupakan salah satu film yang baru tayang pada tahun 2020, (2) belum ada yang menganalisis film ini dengan menggunakan teori representasi, dan (3) juga sampai sekarang ini masih banyak kasus dimana masih terdapat superioritas dan inferioritas antara Timur dan Barat yang masih ada dan tidak dapat diselesaikan. Dalam penelitian ini, desain penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis deskriptif kualitatif. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa representasi masyarakat Cina dalam film IP Man 4: The Finale adalah menyimpang, despotik, lebih rendah, pasif, feminin, terbelakang, dan tidak autentik. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa perjuangan masyarakat Cina ditandai oleh tiga cara signifikan, yaitu: Kehidupan masa lalu



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(kisah masa lalu karakter), ucapan karakter (percakapan dan pikiran), dan tingkah laku (reaksi atau tindakan). Dengan melihat teori representasi, kita dapat memahami bahwa istilah budaya oriental bertujuan untuk mencegah Timur tidak mendapatkan konotasi negatif. Istilah ini bukan pembenaran untuk menyalahkan sesuatu pernyataan yang tidak tepat, melainkan upaya untuk menjaga bangsa Timur tetap terhormat dan bermartabat.

Kata Kunci: Karakterisasi, masyarakat Cina, representasi, perjuangan

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the 21st century, it is impossible to ignore movies as a semi-textual genre influenced by and exerts influence on literature and literary criticism. The links between culture, movie, and society draw on critical theories and methods from the social sciences and the humanities. Cultural studies emerge as a response in analyzing changes in a political, economic, global culture that can affect the identity of a society. The movie is a part of everyday life, and the industry is developing and growing every day. Society reflects in movies, and in turn, movies influence society by changes in representations, challenging the audience's morals and transforming viewers' opinions; movies necessary tell us something about aspects of life in society. Based on the statement, this article aims to discuss some perspectives on the relationship between culture, movies, and society.

The view about the "Other" world "Orientalism" is inevitably colored by their own cultural, political, and religious backgrounds, leading them to depict those unlike themselves as inferior and objectionable, for example, lazy, deceitful, and irrational. The self, by contrast, is defined as good, upright, and moral. The Eastern nations are given all the negative characteristics that the West does not want to see in itself (Dobie 206).

Representation is not about "right" or "wrong," to Said representation is a formation. Representation is a deformation (to spoil the usual and proper shape of something). Eastern identities are represented and even continually informed, from an ever-increasing sensitivity towards the "East." Representation concerns the production of knowledge that connects to social practices, the question of power, constructs identities, and defines how certain things are represented, practiced, and studied. From representation, it can be known that there are dominating and marginalized groups. This article uses Macfie's representation theory because, in this theory, there are more types of representation compared to other representation theories that will help the researcher analyze the data.

The reasons why the researcher chose this movie because (1) IP Man 4: The Finale movie is one of the movies that has just aired in 2020, (2) no one has analyzed this movie using Representation theory, and (3) the researchers are interested in taking the IP Man 4: The Finale movie as the object of her research Macfie's theory of representation and Murphy's theory of characterization was used because there are still many cases where superiority and inferiority between East and West still exist and cannot be solved. This article tries to (1) identify the representation of Chinese society in IP Man 4: The Finale movie and (2) to show how Chinese society struggles against representation.



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B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Movies can be included in the category of fiction. Fiction belongs to a large category of communication called narrative. The narrative tells a story, a recounting of events in time (Griffith 39). The movie becomes one of the media in a literary work because it performs the literary work through dialogue and action that it shows to the audience. Some movies are created to depict or represent the social issue that already happened. Movies are narrative media that function to communicate to the public by telling stories visually. One of the elements of the movie is character and characterization.

Characters

The meaning of characters is the peoples in narratives, while the purpose of characterization is the author's presentation and development of the traits as characters (Griffith 60)

b. Characterizations

According to Murphy (161-173), characterization is how the author describes the characters to make the readers know who the characters are. Seven ways to characterize a person are: Analyzing the physical appearance, direct speech from the author, description from the other character, a character's speech, the past life, mannerism, and thought.

Post-Colonialism

Postcolonial theory is diverse in its methodological approach and content; the concern is identifying colonialist constructions of knowledge to justify and maintain the subordination of colonized groups (Goulet 631). Postcolonial theory has critically contributed to revisiting the representation of the "Other," addressing long-standing tropes and stereotypes about cultural differences and racial otherness. It implies new interventions on how visual representations are implicated in policing boundaries between the East and the West. Postcolonial theories intend to study what happens when one culture is dominated by another (Dobie 206). Orientalism is one part of multiculturalism related to the depiction of Eastern cultural elements in the West.

3. Orientalism

Orientalism describes a Western style for dominating, restricting, and having authority over the Orient (Said 3). Orientalism is more meaningful as a sign of superiority. Orientalism also represents the strength of the West and the "weakness" of the East. The terminology of "strengths" and "weaknesses" shows how intrinsically the idea of Orientalism as other views always divide the world into large parts, a kind of entity that coexists in a tension caused by what is believed to be a "radical difference."

Representation Theory

Stuart Hall created representation theory. Representation was using two approaches to analyze it. A discursive approach of Foucault's concept focused on the relationship between knowledge and power. It was concerned about the production of knowledge through what he called discourse. It can be seen knowledge as always being applied to the regulation of social



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conduct in practice. According to Macfie, the creation of a series of stereotypical images according to which Europe (the West and the 'Self') is seen as being essentially rational, developed, humane, superior, authentic, active, creative, and masculine, while the Orient (The East and the 'Other') is seen as being irrational, aberrant, backward, crude, despotic, inferior, inauthentic, passive, feminine, invented (8).

5. Struggles

The struggle is also indicated by considerable effort and power to get freedom or equality. In Kennedy's book entitled "A World of Struggle," struggle is something that someone has to face without thinking about who wins and who loses. The struggle emphasizes the truth for justice where it takes courage, energy to get it (10). In this study, the struggle highlights the injustice of race and ethnicity that creates a negative outlook toward a person or group in society. Specifically, it is the negative outlook that portrays the East. It is strongly related to the theory of Post-colonialism, where the Western as a power of colonial has the dominance to describe who is the best between Western and Eastern.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed qualitative research as a method. According to Emzir, qualitative research involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical material case study, personal experience, introspective, life story, interview, observational, historical, interactional, and visual texts that describe routine and problematic moments and meaning individual's live (1). This research also employed a descriptive qualitative approach. Descriptive research also intends to portray the characteristics of a particular individual, situation, or group (Kothari 2) accurately. The reason for choosing qualitative research was because (1) this research would use the researcher's perspective and also from the other researchers as references and describing the representation of Chinese society in IP Man 4: The Finale movie and (2) the researcher's data used words and images in showing the finding.

Several steps were used to analyze data by using Miko's step, namely: (1) watching the movie several times to find the storyline of the movie, (2) observing every scene to find out the representation of Chinese society portrayed in the movie, and (3) taking notes about the sentence, narration, and events that indicate about Chinese society.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Representation of Chinese Society

a. Aberrant

The first representation of Chinese society was aberrant. It could be seen from the scene showing that Chinese society was aberrant. There was a conversation between Mr. Leung and Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright talked about the type of representation of Chinese people living in an American country whom he considered fugitives because they were always deported from their region.

Mr. Wright : Mr. Leung, nowadays many people fancy coming over here to try to

find a better life. Your luck is your ability, and you achieved it because

you choose to work with a great boss. But your friend here...

: He is a Chinese Kung Fu Master Mr. Leung

: Look, I don't really know you that well. I certainly don't know him. Mr. Wright

How do I know that he isn't some kind of fugitive? Just like all of the

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other aliens that get deported every day from Chinatown, I think you're being biased. (00:23:34, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip).

In this scene, Mr. Wright generalized that the Chinese were one of the typical features that were aberrant. It can be seen that Mr. Wright mentioned that the Chinese were included in the category of fugitives. The fugitive here explains that the person escaped from prison. This representation proves the binary opposition in which Mr. Wright, as a westerner, mentions Chinese society's negative characteristics that deviate from the usual or natural types that usually the other people did.

b. Despotic

The second representation of Chinese society was despotic. It could be seen from their conversation that Gabrielle suddenly said that the Chinese were savages because they dared to use their strength to injure the others.

Gabrielle : You finally decided to come back then, Andrew. Thank you.

Andrew : I was in Washington, D.C., Gabrielle. I came back as soon as I could.

How's Becky?

Gabrielle : She was almost disfigured by a Chinese girl at school, and I don't

understand the grounds they let a Chinese student in any way. What do you intend to do about it? What are the INS going to do about these savages? Get rid of them. Send them home. (00:58:40, IP Man 4: The

Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, Gabrielle and Andrew categorized that Chinese society into one typical feature that was despotic. Gabrielle said that Chinese people were savages because she saw it from the perspective of their bad behavior. The word savages are cruel, wild, or terrifying. It could be seen from the conversation between Gabrielle and Andrew. They did not like Chinese people living in America.

c. Inferior

The third representation of Chinese society was inferior. It can be seen from the conversations and actions that Barton had taken.

Barton : Is that it? Is this your Chinese Kung Fu? What about this guy? Your

Chairman, where is he?

Chinaman : I don't know!

Barton : Tell me, or I'm gonna break your arm

Chinaman : INS, Immigration. (01:14:24, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In that scene, Barton took revenge on the Chinese Kung Fu Masters. Even though many people tried to fight back, they still lost because of the exhaustion from the previous time against Colin at the festival. Barton felt proud that the Karate he used against them was also stronger. Thus, the researcher summed up Barton's sentence and intonation when he said, "Is this your Chinese Kung Fu?", That Chinese Kung Fu here had less power than the Karate that Barton used to defeat them. Here, it could show the inferiority and superiority when Barton said that Westerners assume that the culture of the Chinese people is very low compared to the culture they had.

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d. Passive

The fourth scene, which shows the passiveness of Chinese society, as seen through the conversation between Yona and Becky. Becky said that Asian people, especially Chinese people, did not lead. They just could only follow what their leader said.

Becky: You think you look so great out there? You looked like a little yellow monkey. We are not gonna follow your lead. In America, people like you...

Follow, they don't lead

Yona : What do you want? Just leave me alone!

Becky: If you're not happy, then go back to Asia... (00:36:15, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, according to Becky, Asians could only follow orders from Westerners. It can be seen here that the passivity of the Chinese people was true, where they could only follow orders from the superior.

e. Feminine

The fifth representation theory of Chinese society was feminine. It could be seen from Colin's speech. He called the Kung Fu Masters "cowards."

Chinese people: Get down! Get down! How dare you messing with us in Chinatown
Colin
: Hi China, man! You wanna try to break these bricks with your Kung
Fu? Huh! Cowards!

Chinese people: Get down! Get down! (01:05:12, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, Colin called the Kung Fu masters cowards, where the character possessed by Chinese society refers to a feminine form, which is fear of something. In contrast, the majority of Western societies are more courageous than Eastern societies. It could be seen from the scene that the challenge for competing first was the Westerners, while the easterners just kept silent and did not respond to the challenge because they felt afraid of the power possessed by Western societies.

f. Backward

The following representation of Chinese society was backward. It showed through the conversation between Barton and Hartman. Barton did not accept that Hartman was bringing Chinese Kung Fu training equipment to their headquarters.

Hartman: You know nothing of Chinese Kung Fu

Barton: ZERO! All right, SSgt Hartman. I'm gonna allow you to prove those words. If you can defeat Colin in a fair fight. Then, I will consider maybe allowing your wooden girlfriend to stay on the base. Is that understood? C'mon Colin, Smack him up...... Outstanding work, very nice. You see this, man? Now this is Karate, your Chinese Kung Fu is only good for folding laundry. It stays where it belongs and that is the hell off my base. (00:54:21, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, Barton felt that only Karate was more appropriate to train these soldiers because it was also more modern and looked more reliable to train these soldiers



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on the battlefield. Compared to Wing Chun, which only used wood for training assistance, which was seen as not very promising to be used as a tool for other soldiers to train themselves to survive on the battlefield. Barton also indirectly said that Chinese society was not modern in terms of training aids.

Inauthentic

The last representation of Chinese society was inauthentic. It could be seen from the conversation between Becky's father (Andrew) and Yona's father (Mr. Wan). At that time, Andrew wanted to take revenge on Yona's father because Yona injured his daughter. Andrew made an excuse and accused Mr. Wan of writing a fake recommendation letter and listing illegal residents (Chinese) in the area.

Andrew: We've reopened the cases involving the CBA. We suspect that these Chinamen, have identities that are fraudulent and that you've helped them by writing false violating of referral from the U.S.A making you an accomplice of these illegal aliens.

Mr. Wan: This is setup!

Andrew: Would you know? I'm gonna arrest every single person in the CBA tonight. You and the CBA will be gone for good. (01:11:10, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, Andrew categorized Chinese society as inauthentic. It was proven when Andrew alleged that the Chinese had false identities (untrue) and lived illegally on American territory. Therefore, besides wanting to take revenge on Yona's father, Andrew also wanted to force them out of his region for that reason.

2. The struggle of Chinese Society in IP Man 4: The Finale

Struggles toward Aberrant Representation

The researcher finds that the struggle of Chinese society towards aberrant representation is shown through the conversation between Mr. Leung and Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright: Look, I don't really know you that well. I certainly don't know him. How do I know that he isn't some kind of fugitive? Just like all of the other aliens that get deported every day from Chinatown, I think you're being biased

Mr. Leung: Not all Chinese are criminals, Mr. Wright

Mr. Wright: Listen, Sonny. The only reason that you're standing here on my property, wasting my valuable time, is because of your boss. I'm only doing this for the sake of my friend. Not you, you understand? (00:23:44, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, it could be seen that Mr. Wright said that Chinese people were in the aberrant category. Knowing that Mr. Leung also defended them and said that not all Chinese citizens were outright criminals because everyone did not have the same characteristics and behavior. By using Murphy's characterization theory, it can be concluded that this scene used a character's speech where the researchers analyzed Mr. Leung to defend the Chinese from the Mr. Leung speech.



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b. Struggles toward Despotic Representation

The second struggle is toward despotic representation. This scene showed the struggle of the Chinese society toward despotic representation using the character's speech through the conversation between Master Wan and Yona.

Barton : My Karate coach was defeated in the fight tonight by Chinese Kung

Fu. Since you're the representative of Chinese Kung Fu, I'm holding you personally accountable. These Chinamen right here, I have just crushed

all of them. You're the only one left, I need to fight you!

Yona : Dad!

Andrew : What are you doing here? Get out of here!

Yona : You're Becky's father, right? Listen, It's all my fault. It is nothing to

do with my father, I'm sorry, I beg you. Please let my papa go. Please...

Master Wan : Yona! Get up! Yona! Get up. Don't kneel to these people. You are

right, if you can't take it anymore, then just don't. I will fight you (pointed at Barton). (01:17:44, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In the previous scene, Yona mentioned that people like her are included in the savages' category because they have bad behavior. Master Wan, as Yona's father, did not accept and looked angry with Yona if she kneeled to the American people to apologize for her behavior. If she did that, it was also seen that they were looked down upon by the West, and at that time, he said that he was immediately willing to fight back Barton and showed that they should not be treated like that. From this scene, it can also be seen that Master Wan's characterization of the despotic representation of Barton and Andrew was through his direct words, or it can be said from the character's speech.

c. Struggles toward Inferior Representation

The third struggle is toward inferior representation by using Murphy's characterization theory. It is mannerism. In the time (01:36:31, *IP Man 4: The Finale*, Wilson Yip), Barton challenged Ip Man to a fair match, and time wanted to show the true strength. Due to Barton's initial wrong intentions, he also lost against Ip Man, as Ip Man's only intention was to provide peace between East and West. It could be seen here that what Ip Man did when fighting the inferior representation could be seen from his actions.

d. Struggles toward Passive Representation

The fourth struggle is toward passive representation. It is shown from a conversation between the Chinese Kung Fu Masters. They got together and told why white people or Westerners still looked down on them and assumed that the Chinese people had no contribution to their country, America.

Master Tam: Those white people always pick on us. Made a scene tonight at the CBA,

they are getting way out of line.

Master Chen: That's right. It's not the first time the immigration officers came, they

harassed us for no reason.

Master Lui : Yes! My grandfather came here as a hard labor helped them build the railway, helped the Americans connect the East coast with the

West. It's all thanks to Chinese labor, yet the American government is

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never willing to acknowledge our contribution. Keep trying to kick us out with all sorts of excuses. (01:24:27, IP Man 4: The Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, it could be seen that even the Chinese people wondered why Westerners still treated them like that. The Chinese helped to build transportation that connected the West and the East in the past. Even from the government itself, no one admitted it, and until now, they were still treated like a lowly group. They should also be treated the same as other Americans who lived there safely and are not looked down by their superiors. Here, it could be seen, although not directly conveying, that the struggles carried out by the Chinese people were an indication of their past life, where they retold the history of how Chinese contributed to America and should not underestimate Chinese.

e. Struggles toward Feminine Representation

The fifth struggle is toward feminine representation. The researcher finds that the struggle toward feminine representation is used from the character's speech in analyzing the data.

Colin : My name is Colin Frater 4th Dan Black Belt Kyokuten Karate, and I'm

here to show you yellow... the taste of real combat. Fight me with your

Hokey Pokey Kung Fu. I dare you

Chinese People: What're you talking about? Get down.

Master Law : How dare you! I will fight you now! 01:06:06 (IP Man 4: The

Finale, Wilson Yip)

In this scene, it appeared that Master Law did not accept that Chinese Kung Fu was poorly drawn. Therefore, he spoke directly to Colin that he was going to fight him, nor did the other Chinese students accept that their Kung Fu was being said like that and supported what Master Law did because Chinese Kung Fu was their culture. Master Law immediately said he wanted to fight Colin to show that the Chinese people were not as cowardly as Colin had previously said. This scene also shows Colin's character using the character's speech.

f. Struggles toward Backward Representation

Next is the struggle of Chinese society through backward representation using mannerism. In time (01:10:06, *IP Man 4: The Finale*, Wilson Yip), Ip Man fought with Colin to defend and help his other friends because he felt that Colin's treatment was also very harsh demeaning Kung Fu, which was part of Chinese culture. As a result, after a fierce battle with Colin, Ip Man won. Various actions of struggle carried out by Chinese people show that the characterization of Murphy's mannerism is correct.

g. Struggles toward Inauthentic Representation

In this section, the researcher analyzed how the Chinese society struggles against inauthentic representation using character's speech from Murphy characterization theory. It could be seen from the conversation between Andrew and Master Wan. In this scene, Andrew said that the identities brought by the Chinese citizens living in America were fake (not true).

Andrew: We've reopened the cases involving the CBA. We suspect that these Chinamen, have identities that are fraudulent and that you've helped them by

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writing false violating of referral from the U.S.A making you an accomplice

of these illegal aliens.

Mr. Wan: This is setup!

Andrew: Would you know? I'm gonna arrest every single person in the CBA tonight.

You and the CBA will be gone for good. (01:11:23, IP Man 4: The Finale,

Wilson Yip)

It appeared that Master Wan denied and said that all these scenarios were just fabrications because what Andrew's accuse was also untrue. He was just looking for an excuse to got revenge on his daughter. Thus, it can be seen from this scene that Master Wan's rebuttal is categorized as a direct speech characterization, where the character directly denied the representation.

3. DISCUSSIONS

This study concerned how Chinese society portrayed the Other in IP Man 4: The Finale movie. From the nine types of representation contained in Macfie's representation theory, the researchers found only seven types of representation. By elaborating, it was found that the representation of the Other that was reflected in Chinese society, there are (1) Aberrant, (2) Despotic, (3) Inferior, (4) Passive, (5) Feminine, (6) Backward, and (7) Inauthentic. The researcher does not use two types of representation in analyzing the data because there is no data or aspects related to the two types of representation.

After finding out the types of representation described by the Chinese society, the researcher used Murphy's characterization theory to show how the Chinese people struggle against representation. From the seven existing characterizations, the researcher only found that there were three characterizations in this movie, namely: (1) Character's speech, (2) The past life and (3) Mannerism. After analyzing the struggle of Chinese society, the researcher found that the most characterization appearing in the movie was from the character's speech. The reason the researcher does not use Murphy's four characterizations is that there are no data or aspects that use these characterizations

This research aims to increase knowledge about representation in the Orientalism study and can conclude that this study is still widely found in literary works until now, in line with previous studies. From three previous studies in this research and have been chosen to assist researchers during analyzing data and understanding the theory more deeply, there are similarities in theory used by previous researchers. It is the main theory of "Orientalism." The difference from previous research is that it did not analyze the struggle using character and characterization. In the previous theory, it could be seen that previous researchers focused more on the theory of Orientalism, which was seen from the perspective of Western people. By adding the struggle theory chosen by the researcher, which is a novelty from previous studies, the researcher hopes that it could help support the previous theory to focus on the perspective of Eastern or Orient people how they are struggling against this representation.

E. CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the types of representation of Chinese society in IP Man 4: The Finale movie, it was found that there are seven types of representations, such as (1) Aberrant, (2) Despotic, (3) Inferior, (4) Passive, (5) Feminine, (6) Backward, and (7) Inauthentic. They were



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represented through the Chinese character in the movie. Thus, the other characters that revealed the representation of the Other in Chinese characters were Mr. Wright, Gabrielle, Becky, Barton, Colin, and Andrew. Therefore, representation of the Other was reflected by how West character reacted and responded to Chinese society in the movie.

In addition, the researcher found that the data from the struggle of Chinese society against representation in this movie was characterized in Murphy's characterization theory. In this case, the struggle of Chinese society was characterized in three big ways from (1) The past life (the character's past story), (2) The character's speech (conversation and mind), and (3) Mannerism (reaction or action). It can also be concluded that in IP Man 4: The Finale movie, the representation of the Other in Chinese's character was proved. Most of the data showed that the Chinese's character was directly and indirectly represented as the colonized character (the East character).

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