

Representation of American Policy on War against Terror in Hollywood Movies

Shjia Gul

Abstract

This study investigates the “Representation of American Policy on War against Terror in Hollywood Movies” through content analysis as a tool of data collection. This study was carried out by six movies from 2008-2011. Those six movies are “Body of lies”, “The four horsemen”, “Hurt Locker”, “The Messenger”, “Green Zone”, “The essential killing”. The researcher has selected Hollywood movies through the “Purposive Sampling and Convenience Sampling. The main postulates of framing, Agenda Setting and Chomsky Propaganda Model are applied in order to determine the direction of the content. Quantitative method of content analysis has been used to analyze the contents.

Hypotheses of study are; (1) Hollywood movies are propagating American politics (2) Hollywood movies are playing vital role in presidential election to disseminate certain political messages. The major research questions are focused on how American political policies are being projected in Hollywood movies. What are the political/ideological association of political figures projected in Hollywood movies and how Muslims are being portrayed in those movies? This research also focuses on to explore How Hollywood movies have been utilized during presidential elections of 2008 and 2012.

The content analysis revealed that the projection of War against terror in Hollywood movies is pro-American and answers of research questions proved that the Muslims and Muslim countries are given under representation and biased projection in Hollywood movies.

Introduction

Media is used to inform, to educate, to entertain and is also used as a tool of propaganda. In this age of media and world has turned into global village just due to advancement of media. People all over the world are connected with each other just due to media miracles. Media influences almost everybody and no one claim to have escape from its effect.

The main stream media is playing a vital role in broadcasting/telecasting and publishing the policy of any country. However, attitude of government, literacy rate and political system influence the role of media in formulation of foreign policy of the country.

Ali (2008) explored that the media help people to take decision by providing facts and current international developments, which enable the masses to comprehend the importance of development in their country as compared to the past developments: and by analyzing the policy of the government related to foreign affairs. American mass media also play crucial role in formulating public opinion, decision making of corporate. Broadcast media have a deep impact on its audience. People quickly accept the message communicated by main stream media, because people rely on it for information.

By the end of 20th century Merrill(1994) observed that media and its effects is as powerful as it was never before. Media as become inseparable part of our life, as Merrill described, “they are everywhere and it is impossible to escape them”. Media is source of education, information and recreation and it is also used as a tool of propaganda to shape or reshape one’s image. It is said those who control these instruments of communication have enormous power.

In this research the researcher examined that how American policy on war against terror is being projected in Hollywood movies during the era of 2008-2012. This era is very much important in American politics because of the two election campaigns of Barak Obama and other important political activities. Hollywood cinema always follows the American policies, for example during World War II mostly movies produced on anti-Nazi and anti-Hitler theme. During cold war mostly movies produced on theme which carrying the anti- communist stance. After 9/11 when George W. Bush declared war against terror, then suddenly Hollywood industry took U-turn and produced films which portray Muslims as terrorists.

The researcher has examined the movies from 2008 to 2011 for this research. Researcher also explore that During President Barak Obama regime (2008-2011) how Hollywood blockbuster movies such as “Green zone” “The hurt locker” etc. have projected the American policy on war against terror.

1.2. Significance of study

In Hollywood cinema the political and foreign policies are commonly discuss, sometimes in humorous or comedy way and sometimes in critical manners. The successful killing of Osama Bin Laden on the directions of President Barak Obamas is also being projected in different Films and dramas. But usually it is observed that Hollywood cinema is biased towards American interests. The bonding is clearly depicted in Hollywood movies.

This research study majorly focuses the projection of American political messages and activities in Hollywood movies, which benefits the policy makers to critically understand the agenda and propaganda of Hollywood movies. It may also give prime benefits to Students of Mass media, political sciences and International relations and propaganda studies to understand another medium to communicate political policies to all

over the world, that how big powers are playing mind games to propagate their policies and agendas world widely. This study is also for the general masses to aware them about the hidden propaganda in Hollywood movies. Aware them that what are they watching in a movie, it may be a future policy of any state. This research will also helpful for future researchers to enhance their level of knowledge about such kind of future studies.

1.3. Rationale of study

The major reason for selecting this topic is the increasing representation of American politics in Hollywood movies. It seems that war against terror is not against terrorist but against Islam and Muslims. Researcher has selected time period from 2008-2012, because in this era some important decisions has been made by American Government like evacuation of NATO forces from Iraq, which is clearly mentioned in "Green Zone" and the most importantly that how Barak Obama used Hollywood movies for his both election campaigns. These movies projects that change in American policy also shift the directions of Hollywood movies. After 9/11 the Muslims are specifically consider as terrorist. Mostly Movies on war against terror produced on Iraq or Afghanistan. Which reflect that terror is only in Muslim states.

1.4. Objectives of study

Objective of this study is to examine: affiliation

- To analyze that how American political policies are being projected in Hollywood movies.
- To explore How Hollywood movies has been utilized during presidential elections of 2008 and 2012.
- To analyze did Hollywood cinema release during the elections of 2008 and 2012 followed any conservative or liberal theme.
- To explore the political/ideological association of political figures projected in Hollywood movies.

Background

2.1. Hollywood and politics

In the 1930s the Democrats and the Republicans saw money in Hollywood. President Franklin Roosevelt saw a huge partnership with Hollywood. He used the first real potential of Hollywood's stars in a national campaign. Melvyn Douglas toured Washington in 1939 and met the key New Dealers. Endorsements letters from leading actors were signed, radio appearances and printed advertising were made. Movie stars were used to draw a large audience into the political view of the party. By the 1960s, John F. Kennedy was a new, young face for Washington, and his strong friendship with Frank Sinatra exemplified this new era of glamour. The last moguls of Hollywood were gone and younger, newer executives and producers began generating more liberal ideas.

Celebrities and money attracted politicians into the high-class, glittering Hollywood life-style. As Ronald Brownstein wrote in his book "The Power and the Glitter", television in the 1970s and 1980s was an enormously important new media in politics and Hollywood helped in that media with actors making speeches on their political beliefs, like Jane Fonda against the Vietnam War. This era saw former actor Ronald Reagan become Governor of California and subsequently become President of the United States. It continued with Arnold Schwarzenegger as California's Governor in 2003. Today Washington's interest is in Hollywood donations. On February 20, 2007, for example, Barack Obama had a \$2300-a-plate Hollywood gala, being hosted by David Geffen, Jeffrey Katzenberg and Steven Spielberg at the Beverly Hilton. Hollywood is a huge donator for presidential campaigns and this money attracts politicians. Not only is Hollywood influencing Washington with its glamour and money but Washington also influences Hollywood.

During World War Two, the war film fulfilled a patriotic and propaganda function. Movies that either questioned US involvement or sought to explore the contradictions and complexities of US foreign policy would simply not have been made. In the decades after World War Two, cinematic renderings of the conflict continued to be imbued with the notion of the 'good war' (Crampton, Power; 2005). Whereas the war in Vietnam did lead to a cycle of critical films, the first of these emerged some years after the high point of the war, and did not appear for a decade after the end of US involvement.

2.2. Cultures of Hollywood Cinema Post 9/11

Charlie Wilson's War, which is only rather tangentially connected to the war on terror, this is largely due to box office receipts generated outside of the US. American audience has appetite to watch movies on war. Both the Second World War and the Vietnam conflict proved popular with American cinema audiences. Why might films dealing with the war on terror have fared so much worse? One reason might simply be timing. This cycle of conflict-related films are unusual in that they have been released whilst the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are still very much ongoing and with no apparent end in sight.

Many studies are supporting the idea that Hollywood continues to be a target for infiltration and subversion by a variety of state agencies, in particular the CIA. Academic debates on cinematic propaganda are almost entirely retrospective, and whilst a number of commentators have drawn attention to Hollywood's longstanding and open relationship with the Pentagon. As such, our work delves into the field of what Peter Dale Scott calls "deep politics"; namely, activities which cannot currently be fully understood due to the covert influence of shadowy power players.

Literature review

Alford (2010) demonstrated in his book *Reel Power* the internal workings of contemporary Hollywood as a politicized industry as well as scores of films across all genres. No matter what the progressive impulses of some celebrities and artists, Alford shows how they are part of a system that is hard-wired to encourage American global supremacy and frequently the use of state violence.

Shaheen (2008) explained in his book *Guilty: Hollywood's Verdict on Arabs After 9/11* that Along with an examination of a hundred recent movies, addresses the cultural issues at play since 9/11: the government's public relations campaigns to win "hearts and minds" and the impact of 9/11 on citizens and on the imagination. He suggests that winning the "war on terror" would take shattering the century-old stereotypes of Arabs. He calls for speaking out, for more Arab Americans in the film industry, for fresh films, and for a serious effort on the part of our government to tackle this problem.

Zia (2004) explored in her research study *Stereotype images of Muslims in Hollywood Movies*. That Muslims are stereotypically portrayed in Hollywood movies and they are negatively portrayed in Hollywood movies. Cheap and selfish Roles are given to Muslims. The researcher has used content analysis. This study is related to said research because it is identifying the stereotype image of Muslims in Hollywood movies. It help researcher to understand the previous projection of Muslims in Hollywood movies.

Butt (2001) examined in his study portrayal of Islam and Muslims in Hollywood movies that how the Hollywood movies present Islam and Muslims and also to examine biases in presenting information about Islam. Content Analysis method was used to conduct this study. The study concluded the US media is biased while presenting Islam and Muslims and project rather negative picture about it. Muslims were accorded as brutal, terrorists and most of the countries were shown anti-American.

Ross (2011) wrote in his book *Hollywood Left and Right How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics* that the commonly held belief that Hollywood has always been a bastion of liberalism. The real story, as Ross shows in this passionate and entertaining work, is far more complicated. First, Hollywood has a longer history of conservatism than liberalism. Second, and most surprising, while the Hollywood Left was usually more vocal and visible, the Right had a greater impact on American political life.

Moore (2010) explained in his research *Hollywood politics: Political communication in cinema*, those political themes in Hollywood can be used in a number of different ways. For instance, from the perspective of a media consultant enlisting the aid of cinema to spread a political message can result in inspiring viewers into action for your cause. It would take a great deal of insight to predict what issues would dominate the political landscape in advance, but not impossible. Hitting on themes that are generally used to rally the base of a political party could be utilized without knowledge of the top political issues in a campaign season. For this to be successful there needs to be a concentrated effort to target certain types of political constituencies, like social conservatives or environmentalist liberals, for instance.

Rollins and O'Connor (2005) explained in his book, *Hollywood's White House: The American Presidency in Film and History* that In addition to the real White House where America's first family lives and works, there is Hollywood's White House. For many Americans, the chief executives of this imaginary 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue are more vivid and memorable than their real-life counterparts.

Theoretical framework

Theoretical Framework of this study has been chosen on the basis of the considered judgment of the researcher. In this connection a theory is used as the theoretical framework of the study:

4.1. The Chomsky's Propaganda Model

Edward Herman explains the genesis of the propaganda model of media control: The media operate within restricted assumptions, depend heavily and uncritically on elite information sources, and participate in propaganda campaigns helpful to elite interests. In trying to explain why they do this we looked for structural factors as the only possible root of systematic behavior and performance patterns."

In identifying these "structural factors", Herman and Chomsky list five news "filters" through which "money and power are able to filter out the news fit to print, marginalize dissent, and allow the government and dominant private interests to get their messages across to the public".

- 1: the size, concentrated ownership, owner wealth, and profit orientation of the dominant mass-media firms
- 2: advertising as the primary income source of the mass media
- 3: the reliance of the media on information provided by government, business, and "experts" funded and approved by these primary sources and agents of power
- 4: "flak" as a means of disciplining the media
- 5: "anticommunism" (more recently, "anti-terrorism") as a national religion and control mechanism.

The propaganda model is not a conspiracy theory. In short, the propaganda model focuses on the inequality of wealth and power and its multilevel effects on mass-media interests and choices. It traces the routes by which money and power are able to filter out the news fit to print, marginalize dissent, and allow the government and dominant private interests to get their messages across to the public.

4.1.1. Application of theory

The first filter, which is the size and ownership and profit orientation of the dominant mass media firms, is most related to this research, film producers due to their size and ownership add their own personal biases in the favor of American politicians. American politicians are utilizing Hollywood cinema to propagate their ideology and political message to audience.

4.2. Framing theory of Communication

The basis of framing theory is that the media focuses attention on certain events and then places them within a field of meaning. Framing is an important topic since it can have a big influence and therefore the concept of framing expanded to organizations as well.

In communication theory, and sociology, framing is a process of selective control over media content or public communication. Framing defines how a certain piece of media content or rhetoric is packaged so as to allow certain desirable interpretations and rule out others. Media frames can be created by the mass media or by specific political or social movements or organizations.

The media draws the public attention to certain topics, it decides where people think about, and the journalists select the topics. This is the original agenda setting 'thought'. In news items occurs more than only bringing up certain topics. The way in which the news is brought, the frame in which the film content is presented, is also a choice made by film producer. Thus, a frame refers to the way media and media gatekeepers organize and present the events and issues they cover, and the way audiences interpret what they are provided. Frames are abstract notions that serve to organize or

structure social meanings. Frames influence the perception of the news of the audience, this form of agenda-setting not only tells what to think about, but how to think about it.

4.2.2. Application of theory

The way an American political message has framed in movies, it has great influence on the minds of the society. Politicians and their ideology are mostly framed positively and positive frames tend to elicit positive feelings and result in risk responsive and reactive behavior. A frame is a reference point for all future decisions and judgments. The way American politics has framed it has deep impact on the minds of viewers. So this theory is most appropriate with the Researcher Study.

4.3. Agenda Setting Theory

Agenda setting theory (Maxwell McCombs and Donald L. Shaw) Media influence affects the order of presentation in news reports about news events, issues in the public mind, and more importance to a news-more importance attributed by audience. Media Priorities It says what people should think about and how people should think about.

4.3.1. Levels of agenda setting theory

First level: Mostly studied by researchers, media uses objects or issues to influence the people what people should think about.

Second level: Media focuses on the characters of issues how people should think about. Agenda setting theory used in political ad, campaigns, business news, PR (public relation) etc. The main concept associated with the agenda setting theory is gate keeping. Gate keeping controls over the selection of content discussed in the media; Public cares mostly about the product of a media gate keeping. It is especially editors media itself is a gatekeeper. News media decides 'what' events to admit through media 'gates' on ground of 'newsworthiness'. For e.g.: News Comes from various sources, editors choose what should appear and what should not that's why they are called as gatekeepers.

4.3.2. Application of Theory

Agenda setting theory related to this research because there is agenda have settled in form of communicating American foreign policy to International and domestic audience. There is also a gate keeping concept inform of politicians, policy makers and state hold corporate departments. This theory relates to this study because the first level of Agenda setting theory is about; what people should think, this means if the agenda of America is that Muslims are terrorists and war against terror is against Muslims, so America is setting her agenda through Hollywood movies. According to second level of agenda setting which is, how people should think. American Government will take media aid from Hollywood cinema to set this agenda. American media is setting agenda that Barak Obama is a perfect president because he has good track record. To set such type of agenda, Hollywood also takes part in it. Now cinema viewer automatically becomes passive because this agenda repeatedly reflect in each war movie. So this theory genuinely related to this study.

Gate keeping concept controls over the selection of content. It is pre-decided that which content shall present and which not. American policy makers are gate keepers they decide which content pass through the gate of Hollywood.

Research Design

The methodology opted for this study is Content Analysis.(Creswee,1998,p. 145). The Universe of present research comprises of Hollywood movies based on the subject of War against terror released from the era of January 2008-Decamber 2012. These movies include fictional movies only.The researcher has selected Hollywood movies through the “Purposive Sampling and Convenience Sampling”. Convenience sampling is supporting the purposive sampling for the selection of sample movies.Researcher has selected six movies from the list of films released during 2008-2011. Researcher selected two movies from every year.

Selection criteria are listed below;

- Portrayal of War against Terror
- Hollywood propaganda movies and Released in America

In this research the units of analysis are

- Main theme
- Character portrayal
- Assigned roles
- Location.

Categories have been made to give specified codes to media content. In the present study directions of the content will analyze that how war on terror is being projected in Hollywood films. Mostly data is marked on a three point scale named pro-American, Anti-American, Balanced, labeled as ‘a’, ‘b’, ‘0’ respectively. The categories for location are Muslim country, ‘non-Muslim country’ or ‘both’. The character portrayal unit of analysis has been further divided into two sub categories, character portrayal of Muslims and character portrayal of non-Muslims.

The researcher has noted the date and time in which she began watching each movie and recorded at what time. She noticed each political theme so this study could possibly be duplicated in the future. To ensure reliability researcher viewed many of these movies with a volunteer who confirmed her assessments of American policies on war against terror themes but researcher is Muslim and a Pakistani so it was really hard to remove all biasness.

5.1. Research Questions

- Do Hollywood movies project American political policies?
- What type of political messages is being reflected in the content of movies?
- Do political messages in U.S. cinema released during the 2008 presidential election generally represent liberal or conservative themes?
- How political and ideological affiliation of different political figures is being projected in Hollywood movies?

5.2. Hypothesis

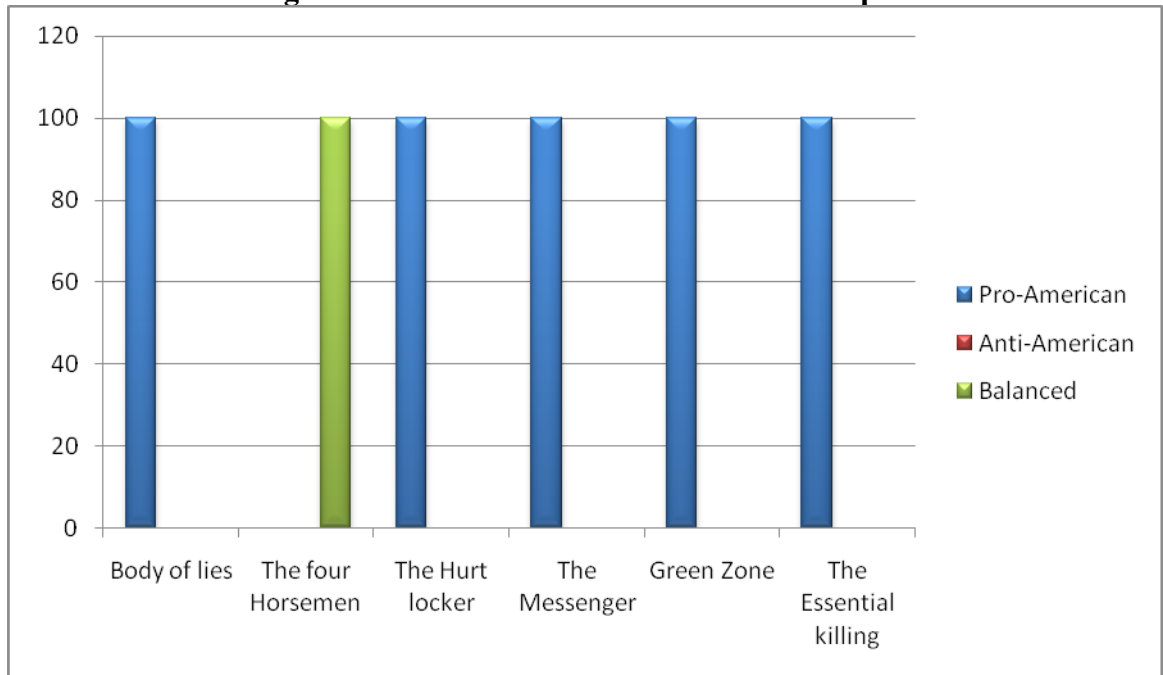
H1: Hollywood movies are propagating American politics.

H0: Hollywood movies are not propagating American politics.

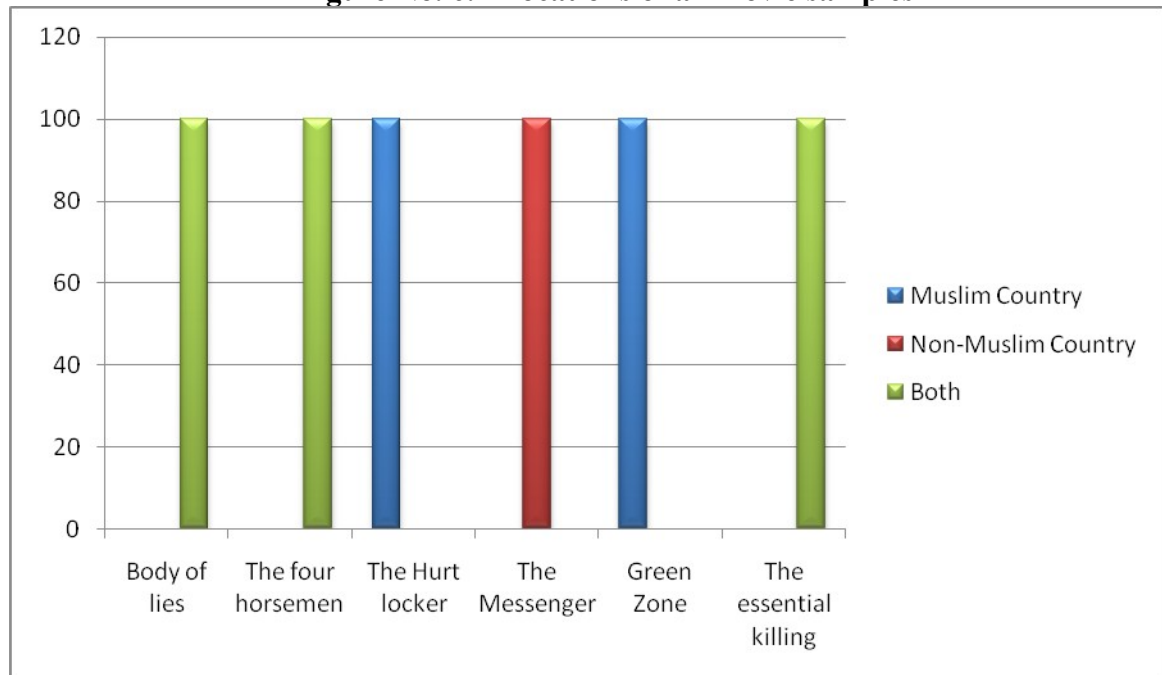
H2: Hollywood movies are playing vital role in presidential election to disseminate certain political messages.

H0:Hollywood movies are playing vital role in presidential election to disseminate certain political messages.

Results and findings
Figure No. 6.1 Main Theme of all movie samples



The above graph (Fig No. 6.1) is about the main theme of movies. The theme of body of lies, The Hurt locker, The messenger, Green zone and Essential killing are Pro American. The four Horsemen is balanced..

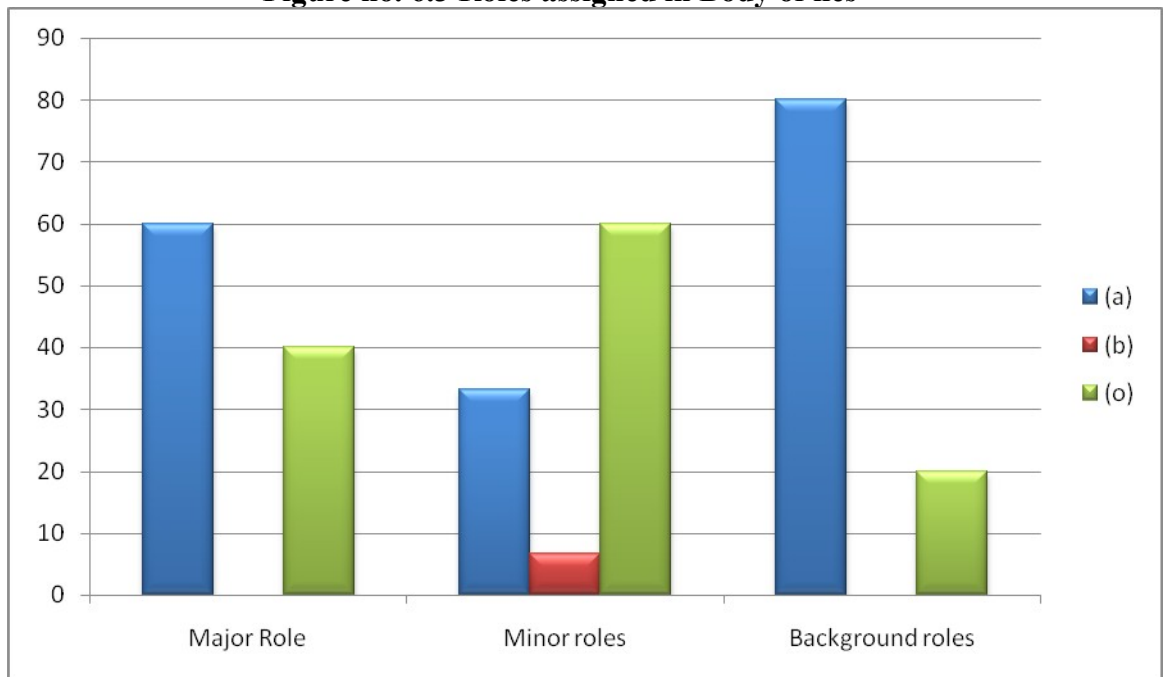
Figure No. 6.2 Locations of all movie samples

Results of (fig No. 6.2) shows that movie “Body of lies” represent Both, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Syria shown as Muslim and US as non-Muslim countries as filmed location.

“The four horsemen” represent both, Iraq as Non-Muslim-country and US as Muslim country. “The hurt locker” reflects that it has filmed only in Muslim country which is Iraq. “The Messenger” totally filmed in non-Muslim country which is USA. “Green zone” is also revealing Muslim Country Iraq as filming location. “The essential killing” filmed in both non-Muslim as USA and Muslim as Afghanistan.

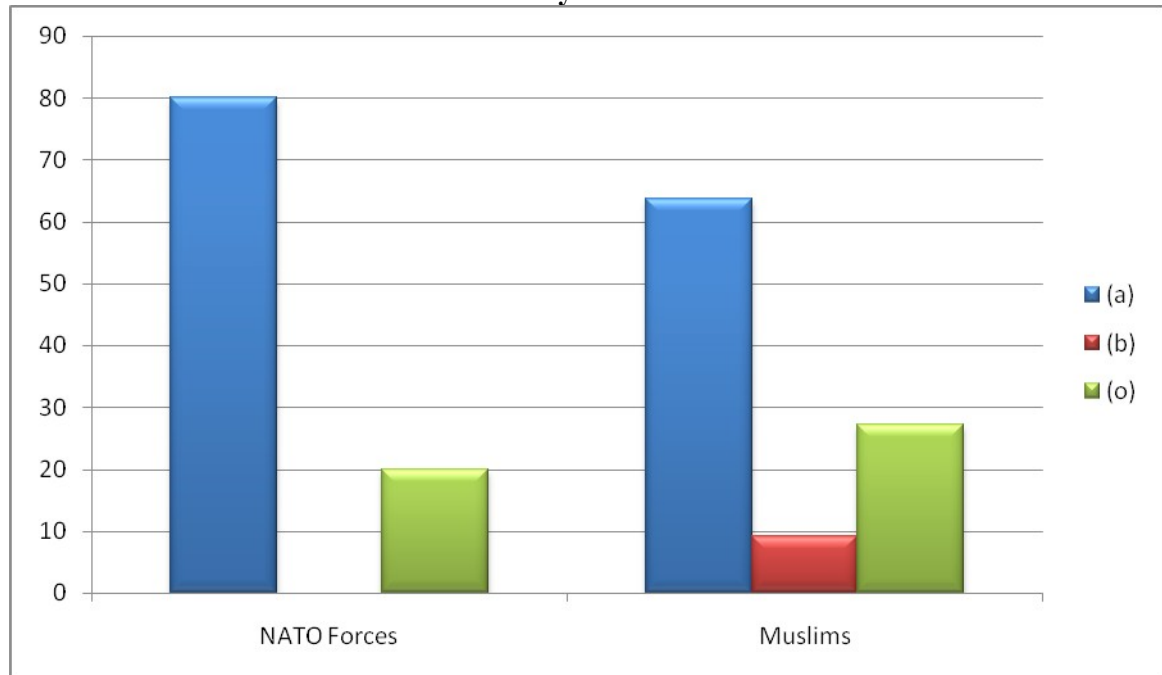
Movie: Body of lies

Figure no. 6.3 Roles assigned in Body of lies



The above graph (Fig No. 6.3) is about the role assignment to the characters. In The Body of lies movie 60% major roles represented as (a). 0% major roles support (b). 40% major roles are (o). 33.3% minor roles support (a). 6.66% roles support (b). 60% roles support (o). 80% background roles support (a). 0% background roles support (b). 20% background roles support (o).

Figure no. 6.4 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in Body of lies.

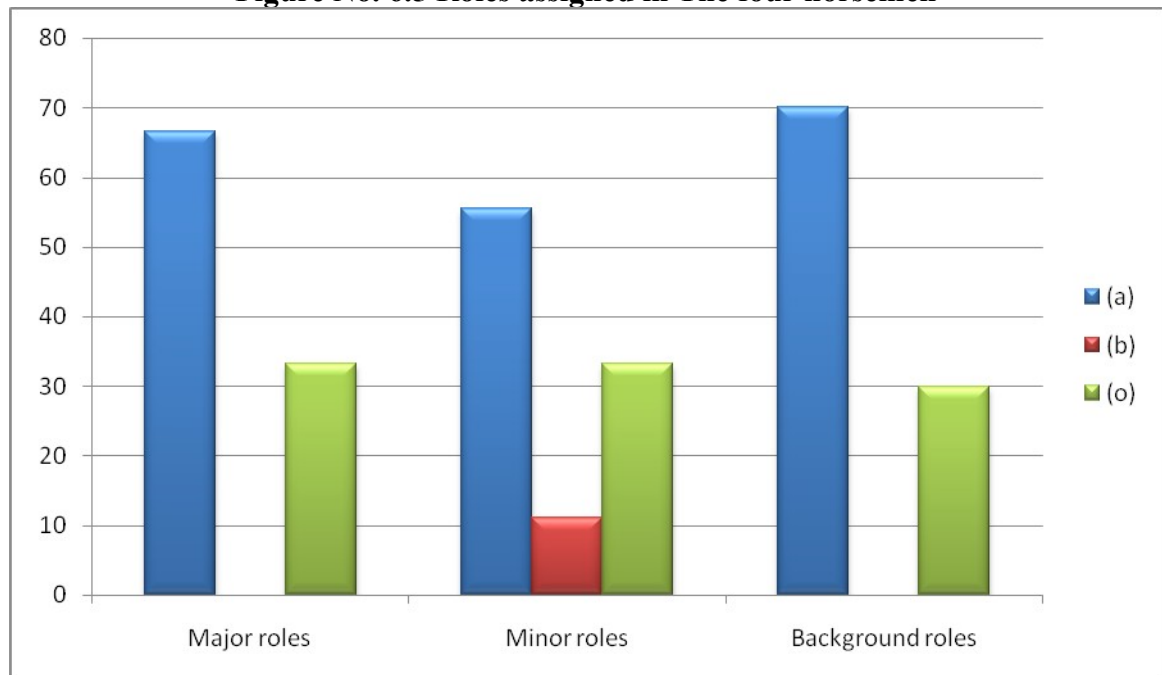


This graph (Fig No. 6.4) is about the character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in movie. 80% NATO/US official's characters portrayed as pro-American (a). 0% NATO/US officials character portray as anti-American. 20% NATO/US officials characters portray as balanced (c).

63.63% Muslim characters portray as supporter of pro-American stance. 9.09% Muslim portray as anti-American characters. 27.27% Muslim characters portray as balanced.

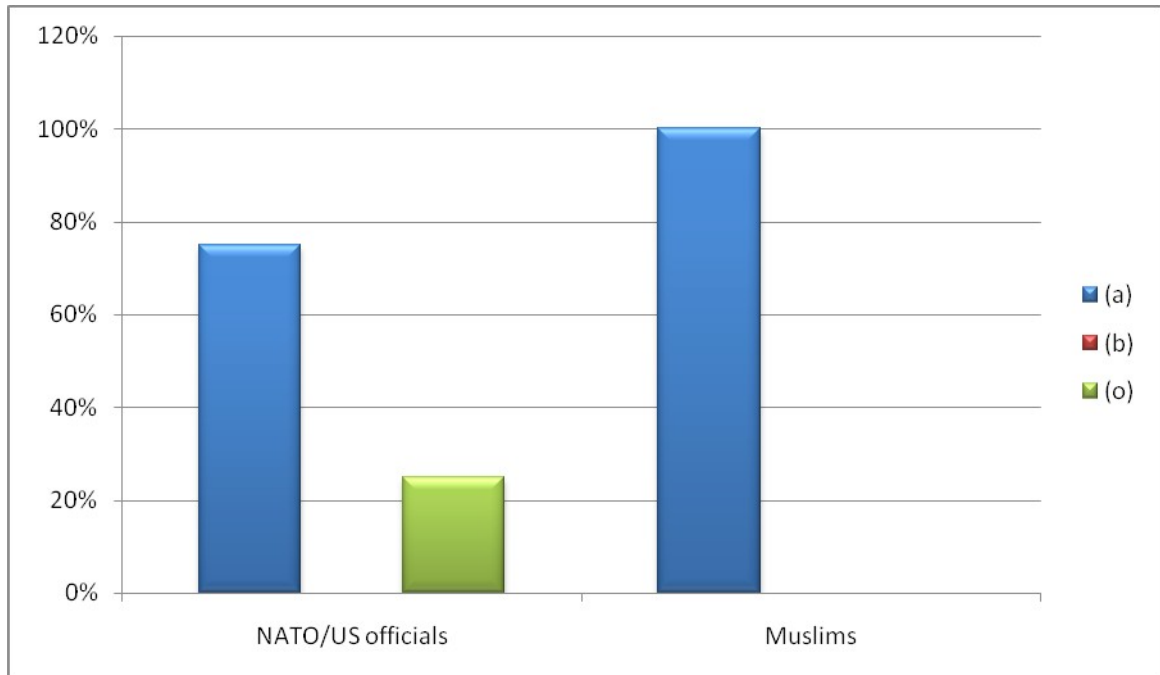
Movie: The four horsemen

Figure No. 6.5 Roles assigned in The four horsemen



In the above mention (Fig no.6.5) 66.6% major roles support pro-American (a). 0% major roles projected as anti-American (b). 33.3% major roles projected as balanced (o). 55.5% minor roles support pro-American (a). 11.1% minor roles represented as (b). 33.3% minor roles as (o). 70% background roles are pro-American (a). 0% background roles are anti-American (b). 30% background roles are balanced (o).

Figure no. 6.6 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in The four horsemen.

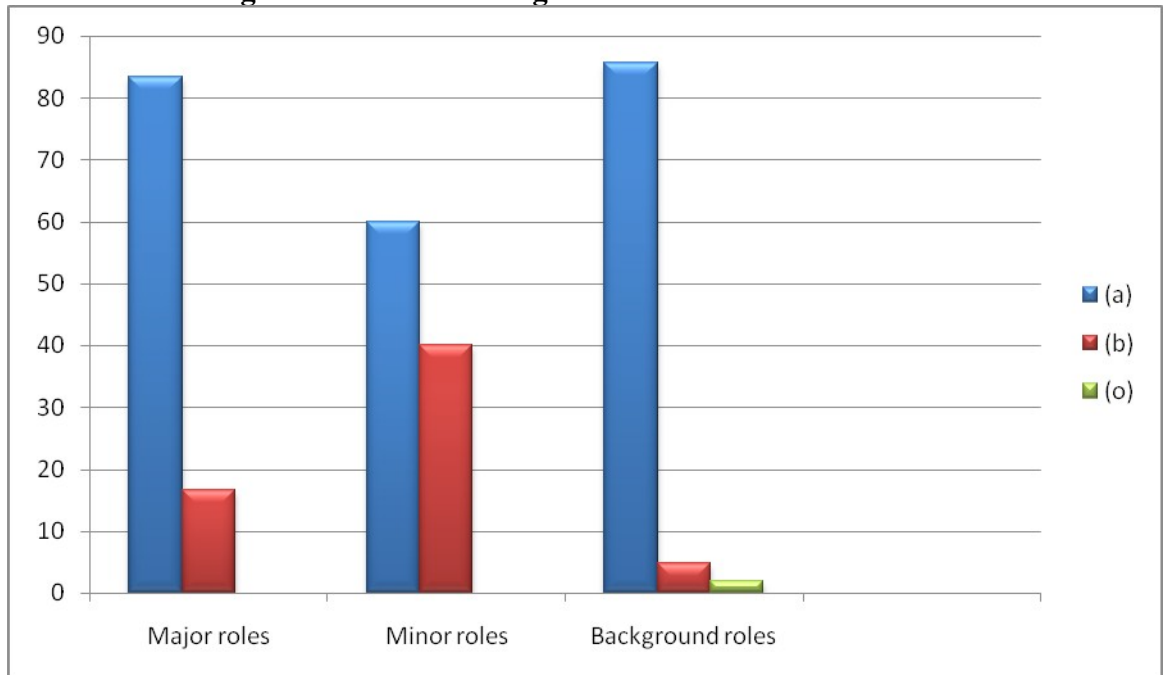


The above mention graph (Fig No. 6.6) shows that 75% NATO forces and US officials portrayed as pro-American (a). 25% NATO/US officials portray as balanced characters.

100% Muslims portray as supporter of pro-American stance (a). 0% as anti-American (b) and balanced(o) characters.

Movie: The Hurt Locker

Figure no.6.7 Roles assigned in The hurt locker.

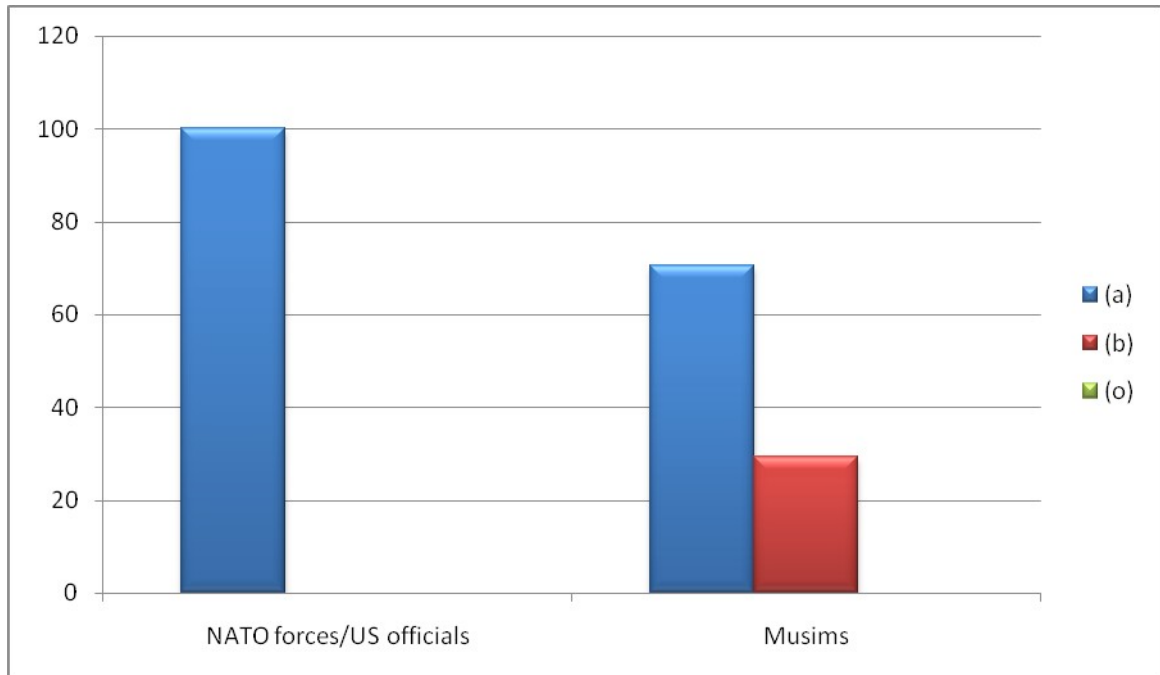


This table results (Fig No. 6.7) shows that 83.4% major roles presented the pro-American stance, 16.7% roles presented as anti-American stance and 0% roles presented as neutral in The Hurt Locker film.

This result shows that 60% minor roles are assigned to those who are playing minor roles by supporting pro-American stance while 40% minor roles has assigned to those who are anti-American. And 0% roles are neutral.

In background roles 85.7% roles are assigned to those who support American stance while 4.8% background roles are assigned to those who were anti American and only 2% characters play neutral roles in The Hurt Locker.

Figure no. 6.8 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in The Hurt Locker.

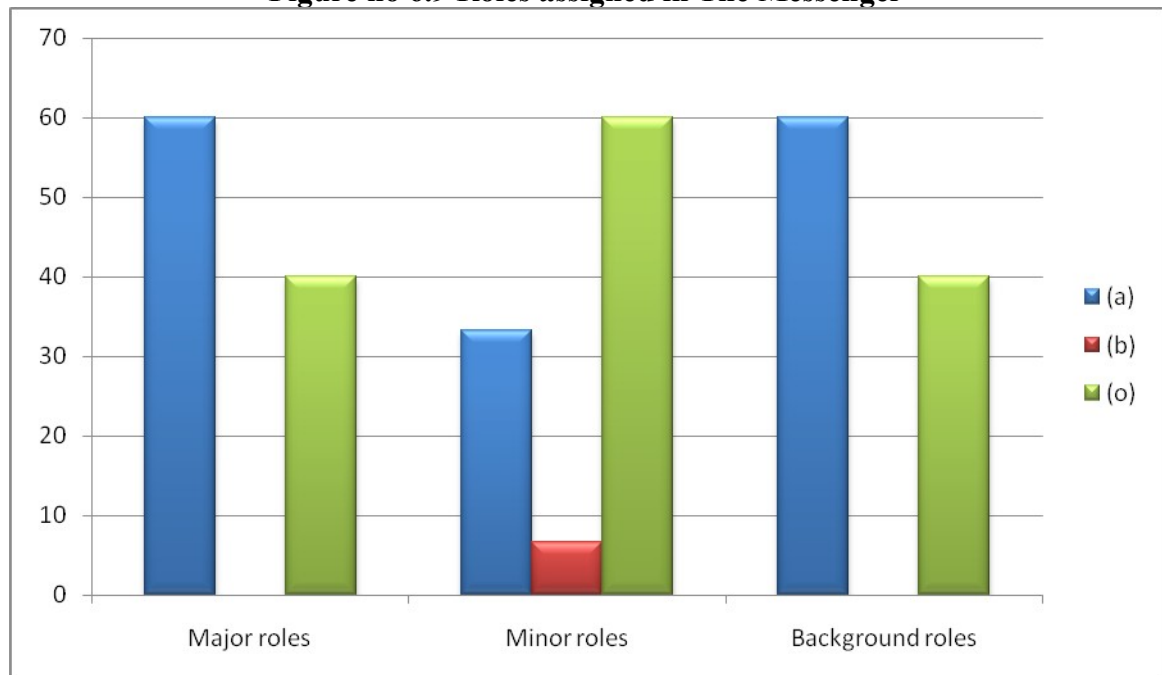


The above results (Fig No. 6.8) reveal that in Hurt locker 100% NATO/US official's character portray as supporters of pro-American stance.(a). 0% characters support anti-American stance (b) and again 0% characters portray as balanced (o) characters.

70.6% Muslim characters portray as supporters of pro-American stance (a). 29.41% Muslim characters portray as anti-American stance (b). 0% Muslim characters portray as balanced.

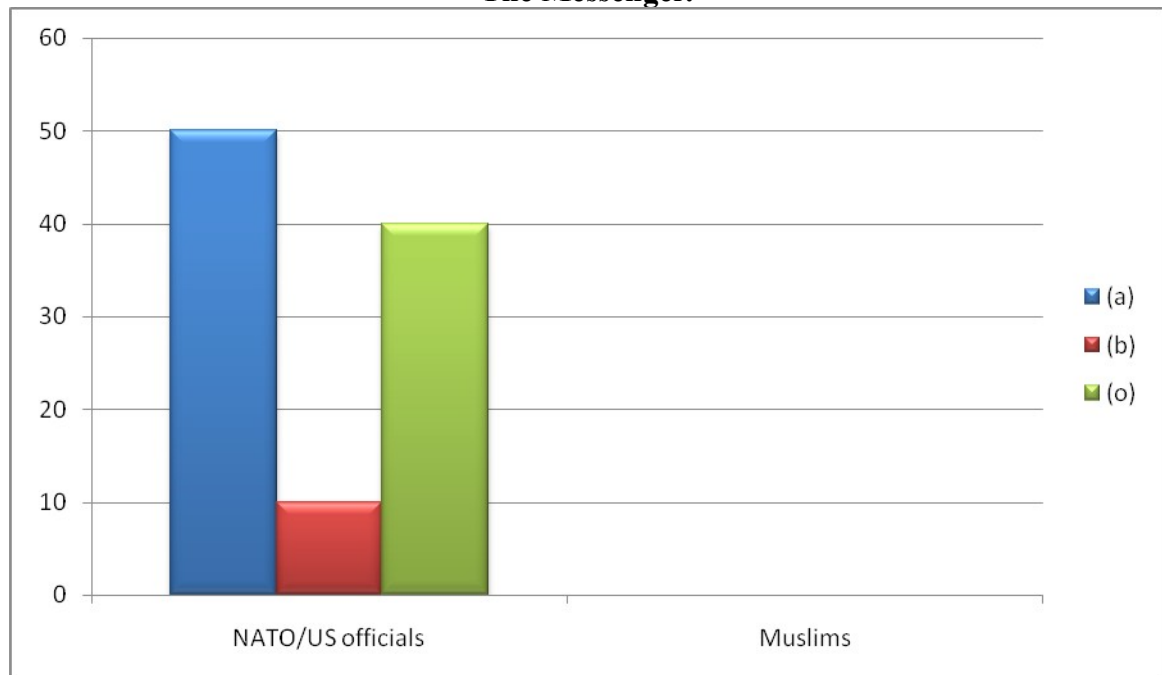
Movie: The Messenger

Figure no 6.9 Roles assigned in The Messenger

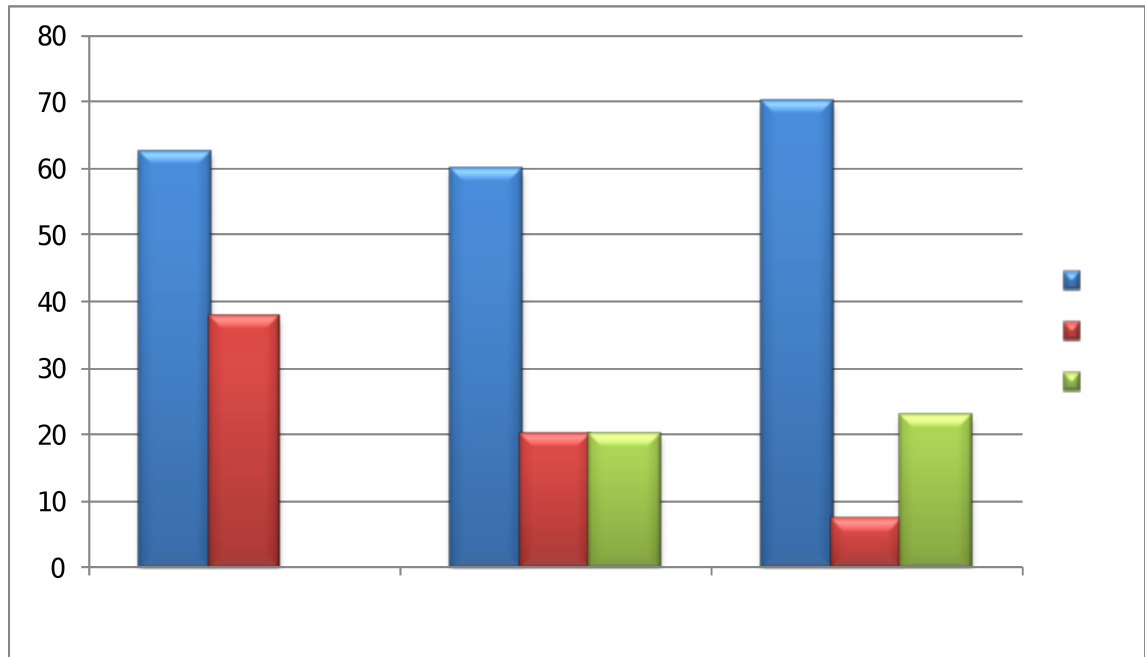


In the above graph (Fig No.6.9) 60% major roles support (a). 0% major roles support (b). 40% major roles support (o). 33.3% minor roles support (a). 6.66% minor roles support (b). 60% minor roles support (o). 60% background roles support (a). 0% background roles support (b). 40% background roles support (o).

Figure no. 6.10 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in The Messenger.

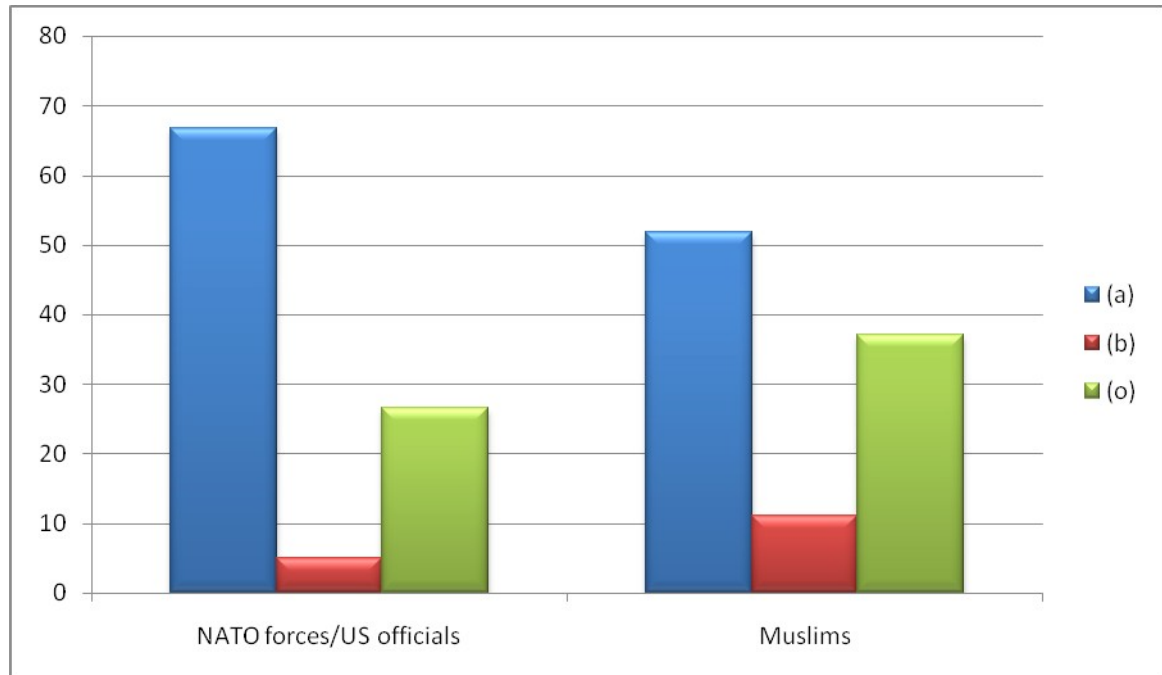


In the above graph (Fig No. 6.10) 50% NATO forces and US officials portray as (a). 10% NATO forces/US officials support (b). 40% NATO forces/US officials support (o). 0% Muslims support (a),(b) and (o) category.

Movie: Green Zone**Figure no. 6.11. Roles assigned in Green zone**

The result of (fig No.6.11) shows that in Green zone 62.5% major roles are supporters of pro-American stance (a). 37.8% roles supports anti-American stance (b). 0% are balanced (o). 60% minor roles support pro-American stance (a). 20% minor roles support anti-American stance (b). 20% are balanced (o) in minor roles. 70% background roles are pro-American (a) in Green zone. 7.14% background roles are anti-American and 22.85% roles are balanced.

Figure no. 6.12 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in Green Zone.

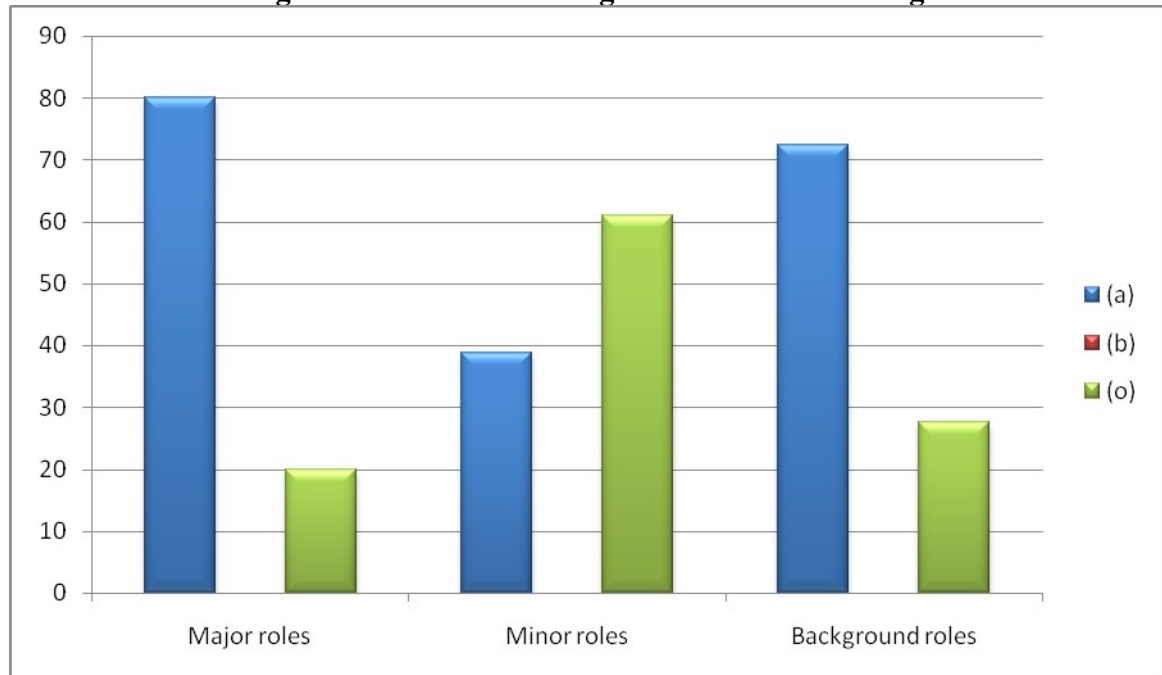


The above mention (fig No. 6.12) shows In Green zone 66.67% characters of NATO forces/US officials portray as pro-American stance (a). 5% characters portray as anti-American stance (b). 26.67% NATO forces/US officials portray as balanced characters.

Result shows that 51.85% Muslims characters portray as pro-American stance (a). 11.12% Muslims portray as anti-American stance (b). 37.03% Muslims characters portray as balanced characters.

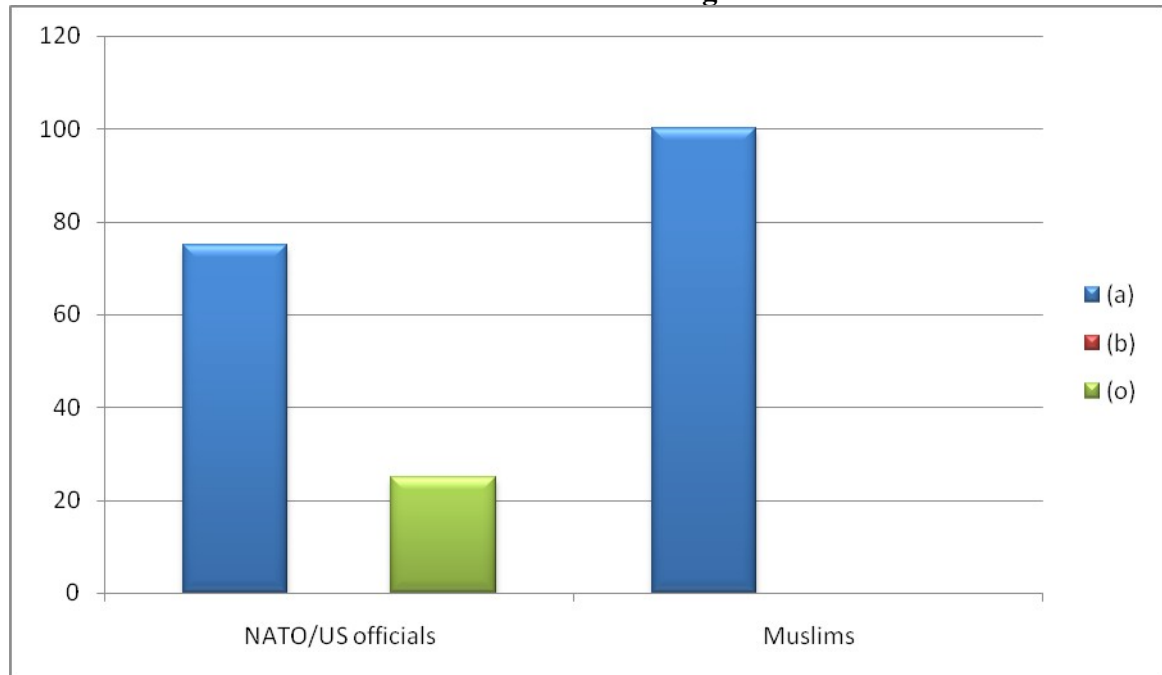
Movie: The essential killing

Figure no. 6.13. Roles assigned in Essential killing



In above mention graph (fig No.6.13) 80% major roles are pro-American(a). 0% major roles are anti-American (b). 20% major roles are balanced (o).38.8% minor roles are pro-American (a). 0%roles are anti-American (b). 61%roles are balanced (o). 72.3% background roles are pro-American (a). 0% roles are anti-American (b). 27.6% roles are balanced (o).

Figure no. 6.14 Character portrayal of NATO forces/US officials and Muslims in The essential killing.



The Above mention graph (Fig No.6.14) shows that 75% NATO/US officials are pro-American (a).0% NATO/US officials are anti-American(b). 25% NATO/US officials are portrayed as balance (c).100% Muslims support pro-American stance (a). 0% Muslims are portray as anti-American stance (b) and as balanced (c).

Discussion and Analysis

6.1. Limitations

Given my time restraints researcher could only view a select number of movies. While I was able to view quite a few of them, a bigger sample would have made for a more complete study. Dividing movies released by decade would be a more comprehensive approach to future research. The country and political landscape changes dramatically every ten years or so as does Hollywood films.

Using a presidential election year seemed like a good timeframe to assess political themes in cinema but it might not have necessarily made a difference. Movies are planned years in advance of release and there is no way to know the intentions of the producers unless specifically stated.

6.2. Analysis

Researcher observed that the representation of War against terror in Hollywood films is communicating the American policy to the viewers through characters, roles, story plot and central idea. In *The essential killing* the main character is an eloped Muslim 'Muhammad' from American custody. Whole movie revolves around the brutality of Muhammad. While Muhammad is a very sacred name for Muslim, because it is the name of last Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H). That is how Hollywood movies project Muslims.

Similarly the Hollywood films project American policy on War against Terror in a stereotypical way. The War portray as it is not against Terror but it is against Muslims. The representation of pro-American characters in all movies is heroic and very idealistic. Muslims portray as greedy brutal terrorists. In *The Body of Lies* the main character Ferris killed so many people but it is totally un-noticeable in the movie because its projection makes it un-noticeable while a small crime done by a Muslim portray as the greatest sin in Hollywood movies.

Now the trend of movie making is changing. Now the issue has been discussed in complex manner. Same is the case with Hollywood movies. Though Muslims were mostly presented in negative characters but there were few positive and balanced depictions of Muslims. But such projection is mostly in minor or background roles. But in *Green Zone* one of the major and balanced Muslim characters is Freddy, who was a Muslim but in favor of American army.

The change in policy also brings change in the Hollywood film making. American Government is utilizing Hollywood Cinema to communicate its policies to International world and also using it as a propaganda tool. Majority propaganda or war movies are in favor of America. Hollywood films never show the other side of the picture which. It only reflects what the American policy reflects. This research analyze that American government is exploiting American cinema as propaganda tool in the matter of War against terror. Cameron (1979) notes the importance of entertainment in the wartime's situation, as particularly in the time of war, the entertainment film can become an important vehicle for propaganda. The propagandists "propagate" or spread their own biases and options as they attempt internationally to effect and actions audience. In present study, the researcher found that Hollywood movies mostly portrayed Arab and Muslim countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Iran, Jordan as enemy of America. And Hollywood movies on war against terror are biased towards American stance.

Conclusion

This study done in the perspective of learning about the Representation of American policy o War against terror in Hollywood movies conclusively draws that the Hollywood movies not only projecting the American-stance on war against terror but also represent the biased image of war. This research paper offers a proper content analysis and survey for its readers. This research paper also includes a framework that students and general readers can use to analyze the political content of films.

So according to this research paper Hollywood cinema industry is famous for realizing the maximum movies in all over the World, if these movies are portraying such a biased image of Muslims and Islam then it is a disaster for Muslims. Because viewership of Hollywood movies is not a countrywide, it's worldwide. Through this research it has also proved that representation of Muslims in Hollywood cinema is derogatory. They are portrayed as terrorists, killers, kidnappers, fundamentalists, extremists, ill-mannered and un-civilized. The representation of NATO forces and US officials is heroic, ultimate savior, peacekeeper and Nationalists.

The main theme or central idea of Hollywood propaganda movies is pro-American and only project the American policy related to War against terror. If the American policy is this that WMDs could not found in Iraq and NATO forces must evacuate from Iraq then movie Green Zone reflect this policy in its content. The ultimate policy of Hollywood movies is to portray negative image of Muslims. The image of Muslims characters in Hollywood movies are derogatory, as these characters never get the sympathies and liking of audience they hate such characters and ultimately hate these people and Muslims.

About the Author

Shjia Gul is student of MS-Mass Communication at Lahore College for Women University, Lahore

References

- Ahmed. M, 2008, *Portrayal of Islam and Muslims in Hollywood movies after 9/11*, Institute of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Alford. M, 06 Aug 2010, *Reel Power: Hollywood Cinema and American Supremacy*, www.questia.com, 9 Dec 2011
- Aleem. U, 2004, *Portrayal of Muslims in Indian Movies*, Mass Communication Department, Lahore College for Women University, Lahore.
- Ali. S, M. Khalid, M. A. Khan, Spring 2008, *American mass media and foreign policy: a study about the role of white house and main stream print and electronic media in effecting the process of development of American foreign policy*, Global Media Journal, , <http://www.aiou.edu.pk/gmj>, dec.19,2011
- Babbie. E, *'The Practice of Social Research'*, 10th edition, Wadsworth, Thomson Learning Inc., ISBN 0-534-62029-9, date of retrieval; 7-6-2012.
- Buchwald, Art. (2001) *Hollywood at war*. DAWN. Lahore: Pakistan Herald Publication (PVT) LTD.
- Butt. M. U, 2001, *Portrayal of Islam and Muslims in Hollywood movies*, Institute of Communication studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore.
- Chander .P, Prem. A, (1997), *International Relations*, Delhi :Bookhives
- Combs.Mc, M.E & Shaw, D.L. and Weaver D. (1972).*The Agenda setting function of Mass Media*.Date of retrieval 11-10-2011
- Combs.Mc, M.E & Shaw, D.L. and Weaver D.L.(1997)*Communication and democracy: Exploring the intellectual Frontiers in Agenda Setting Theory*.Mahwan, N.J Lawrance Erlbaum. Date of retrieval 15-08-2011
- [Coyne](#). M, 2008, *Hollywood goes to Washington: American politics on screen*, Reaction Books, <http://www.webliterature.net>, 11 Dec 2011
- Daniel. P. F, 2006, *Politics and film:the political culture of film in the United States*, Rowman& Littlefield, www.readbookonline.net, 11 Dec 2011.
- David A. C, 15 May 2002, *Lost Illusions: American Cinema in the Shadow of Watergate and Vietnam, 1970-1979 (History of the American Cinema)*, Taylor & Francis, Inc, London.

<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, date of retrieval, 12-11-2011.

Dean A, 1996, *The media and politics*, Wadsworth Pub. Co, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>,
18
dec 2011

Dennis. C & James N. D, 2007, *A theory of framing and opinion formation in competitive Elite Environment*, Journal of Communication ISSN 0021-9916 Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, Evanston

Edward. H, The propaganda model revisited, Monthly Review, July 1996,
www.medialens.org/articles2001/dc propaganda model, date of retrieval 12-11-2004.

Friedman. L. S, 1991, *Unspeakable Images: Ethnicity and the American Cinema*, University
of Illinois press, www.questia.com, date of retrieval, 14-09-2011.

Hjort. M, 24 Aug 2000, *Cinema and Nation*, Taylor & Francis Ltd, www.questia.com,
date of
' retrieval 8-09-2011.

Internet Movie Database (IMDb) www.imdb.com

Jenesson, Bruce & Thomas. P. (1997) *Encyclopedia of United States Foreign Relations*
New York: Oxford university press, . Vol. 2 P-479, library.columbia.edu, 17Dec
2011

Litchfield.E, 2007, *Action speaks louder: Violence, spectacle, and the American action movie*,
Wesleyan University press, USA, <http://www.gutenberg.org>, date of retrieval; 12-02-2012

Merriam-Webster online dictionary, projection, <http://www.merriamwebster.com>. Date of
retrieval 10-09-2011

Merrill, John C, (1994) *Modern Mass Media*, 2nd Harp Publishers,
www.webliterature.com. Date
of retrieval 22-10-2011.

Moore. A.C, 2010, *Hollywood politics: Political communication in cinema*,
<http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, date of retrieval, 20-12-2011.

Patrick. O'H, 01-Jan-1991, *Mass media and American foreign policy: insider perspectives on global journalism and the foreign policy process*, Greenwood Publishing Group, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, 11 Dec 2011.

Peter. C. R, John E. O'Connor, 01-Feb-2005, *Hollywood's White House: The American Presidency in Film and History*, University Press of Kentucky,
<http://www.gutenberg.org>, 18 Dec 2011

Phillip. L. G., 30-Jul-1999, *Politics and politicians in American film*, Greenwood Publishing

Group, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov> , 7 Dec 2011

Powers. S, David J. Rothman, Rothman. S, 1996, *Hollywood's America: Social and Political Themes in Motion Pictures*, Boulder, CO publication, www.questia.com, 7 Dec 2011.

Prince. S, 1992, *Visions of Empire: Political Imagery in Contemporary American Film*, Praeger Series in Political Communication, PRAEGER New York, www.questia.com, date of retrieval, 18-11-2011

Ross. J.S, Aug 2011, USA, *Hollywood Left and Right, How Movie Stars Shaped American Politics*, <http://www.oup.com/us>, , 18 Dec 2011

Saunders. T. J, 27 April 1994, *Hollywood in Berlin*, University of California Press, USA, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, date of retrieval, 26-10-2011.

Scott. I, August 1, 2000, *American politics in Hollywood movies, America in the 20th/21st*, RoutledgeManchester, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov> , 17Dec 2011

Shaheen. G. J, January 2008, *Guilty: Hollywood's Verdict on Arabs After 9/11*, Olive Branch Press, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov> , 09 Dec 2011

Slocum. J, Slocum. J. D, 2000, *Violence in American Cinema*, Taylor & Francis, Inc. <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, date of retrieval, 20-12-2011.

Wheeler. W. D., 2004, *Film and television after 9/11*, Southern Illinois University Press, <http://elibraryusa.state.gov>, 9 Dec 2011

Wimmer, Roger. D & Dominick J. R. (1994) *Mass research: An introduction*, 4th edition, Wordsworth Publishing Company.