

## The Representation of Orientalism Negotiation in Rowell's *Eleanor and Park*

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### ABSTRACT

This paper explores the representation of orientalism negotiation in a novel entitled *Eleanor and Park*, written by Rainbow Rowell. This study utilized a descriptive-qualitative method to analyze the story by applying the representation theory proposed by Stuart Hall, especially the constructive approach suggested by Foucault. It focuses on the construction of meaning through language related to the depiction of oriental characters and how they struggle and respond to the treatments they receive from white people. Operating the concepts of orientalism from Edward Said and the discursive approach proposed by Foucault, this study explores the ideological position of the writer as well. From this study, it is found that as an American white writer, Rowell shows the negotiation of the orientalism concept. Presenting the white characters with oriental characteristics and non-white characters with accidental qualities, Rowell exemplifies the strategic way to create racial harmony. However, the efforts to create characterizations as forms of negotiation against orientalism have reached a dead end because the readers are more impressed by the honored class, which consists of mostly white students, who are able to subvert the negotiations on orientalism made by the author.

**Key words:** negotiation, orientalism, racism, representation

### INTRODUCTION

The division of the world into western and eastern parts has created a conflicting view of reality. These distinctions are not based on geographical features such as climatic conditions, land surface, and the diversity of flora and fauna but rather on an attempt to distinguish the socio-humanities reality that occurs in the two worlds. In other words, the attempt to divide the world into East and West is an attempt to create an 'imaginative geography' in which the West always puts the East in a contradictory point of view called binary opposition (Lary 2006). The West regards the socio-humanities reality of the Eastern world as something foreign, then the West has beliefs that provide boundaries between us (we) and them (the others), that is what called orientalism (Brouillette 2011). Orientalism is an imperialistic strategy of the West (Europe) to build the idea that the image of the West is better, while making the 'East' as a bad thing, dangerous, negative alter ego, exotic and alluring, and full mystery, so the East has helped portray the image of Europe itself (Brouillette 2011; Said 1979; Seeger 2017).

The issue of orientalism has now been discussed in various studies and published in reputable scholarly journals. Examining Amy Tan's *The Hundred Secret Senses*, Bhattacharya (2019) argued that Chinese-American author, Amy Tan, seeks to recreate the American experience of first- and second-generation Chinese immigrants in fictional discourse. Curiously, she defiantly supports the idea of identity newly created by assimilation, even though she recognizes that she cannot discard her ethnicity from American culture. Interestingly, Amy Tan's

creation of fictional Asian-American characters does not only legitimizes their race but also challenges established American identities by challenging established American identities, thereby contributing to the undeniable nature of American culture. Widjajati, Setiawan, and Supiastutik (2022) contended that Dan Brown, through his novel *Digital Fortress*, convinced the stereotypes of the East character to align with the idea of orientalism.

Although it is not the main issue in the novel, the discussion related to orientalism becomes interesting in *Eleanor and Park* (2012). This novel explores the events passed by the main character, who is still a teenager and faces the problem of racial differences that lead to the formation of a unique personality. It differs from children considered normal in the home environment and school social life. The novel *Eleanor and Park* was published in 2012 and is the work of an American writer named Rainbow Rowell. The story, set in 1986, presents a series of teenage stories interspersed with various social phenomena. One of the problems is the issue of orientalism, which appears in several narratives. The author of *Eleanor and Park* negotiates the orientalism proposed by Edward Said. She created a positive characterization of Korean American characters against the negative description of the white characters, and situated the black characters in between. By analyzing the oriental and occidental characters the events involving the blacks and the whites, this research tries to showcase the critical position of the writer.

The current research explores the negotiations made by the author of the novel, Rainbow Rowell, within the concept of orientalism proposed by Edward Said (1979). The novel's author succeeds in negotiating at the characterization level of the story's leading figures. Still, in the honors class narrative, he fails to maintain the negotiation because the tension in the honors class created blatant racial segregation between white and non-white students.

## LITERARY REVIEW

One of the previous studies about the novel, *Eleanor and Park*, is *Finding Self-Identity through the Main Characters and Settings in Rowell's Eleanor and Park*, written by Ellisa (2018). This study reveals the relationship between characters and settings, which will later find the theme of the novel. Using the theory of Character and characterization, Ellisa (2018) focuses her analysis on the psychological process of how Park finds his identity as an Asian kid living in the USA. The prior research is different from our current research because we focus our discussion on the relation among characters from the perspective of orientalism theory proposed by Edward Said (1979)

In addition, the results of the study entitled *An Analysis of Social Conflict in Eleanor and Park Novel by Rainbow Rowell* (Puteri, Oktaviani, and Syafitri 2020). This research shows the two main characters faced with their respective social conflicts. Eleanor encountered a conflict with her stepfather, the peers, and other characters. In a nutshell, Ellisa shows three types of social conflicts in the research report: the conflicts due to social position, the conflict of social interest, and the conflict of role. Furthermore, most of the conflicts took place in the story portray the social challenges of young adults living in a multicultural community (Jebaselvi and Sivakumar 2021). This study is also different from the current research in its formal object. It focuses on social conflict whereas the latter emphasizes its analysis on orientalism.

## UNDERLYING THEORIES

Representation theory proposed by Stuart Hall is a production of the concept of meaning in the mind that is expressed through language (Hall 1997). This is the relationship between language and concepts in describing objects, events and

the people involved, and other things. Representing is a type of elaboration that includes describing something and imagining objects in one's mind, as well as captured human senses (Molina-Guzmán 2016). Representation connects concepts that arises in the human mind by using language that allows us to mean anything. Representation means using language to say something or meaningful meaning to other people. According to Hall (1997), meaning can be constructed by a representational system through language whose phenomena can occur visually or verbally. The Representation System is structured through ways of organizing, infiltrating, and clarifying concepts and various complexities of relationships. The discursive approach focuses on the effects and consequences of representation, not only about language and representation producing meaning, but also certain discourses producing knowledge and their relationship to power, regulation, constructing identity, and determining what is represented (Hall 1997).

The relationship between the West and the East is a complex relationship of power, domination, and hegemony (Haqan 2011). The concept of orientalism has something to do with a culture being represented through language as a means of expressing information. So that there is a connection involving society, history, and textuality (Said 1979). In this case, the literary work seeks to establish authority by narrating the East and has a political interest to make the discursive power of the superior West over the inferior East. The author constructs a discursive practice that normalizes and naturalizes the existence of orientalism (Said 1979). Said finds that there is always a relationship between orientalism discourse in particular literary texts and other discourses about orientalism in various contextual works such as literary works, research reports, journals, and books. The concern of orientalism texts is what is presently based on facts or reality constructed by the West.

**RESEARCH  
METHOD**

Qualitative research is conducted to analyze non-numerical data, like languages and phenomena and explain events, social dynamics, and perspective of a person or group on something. This study used qualitative approach since the data to be analyzed were textual and not numeric (Gershman 1988). The data were taken from the narratives of the events as well as the dialogues in the novel *Eleanor and Park* that was written by Rainbow Rowell and published by Orion Books in London in 2012.

There are several steps of analysis in this research. The first is that the researchers repeatedly read the novel, took notes, and highlighted the essential points of the story in the novel. The next thing to do was to classify the data based on several predetermined topics. Then, the data were sorted by relevance and by eliminating those were not related to the research topics. The last step, after all the data were collected, was to process the data into analysis.

**THE DEPICTION  
OF ORIENTAL  
CHARACTERS**

**Park as a  
Korean  
American**

At the beginning of their meeting, Eleanor (a white girl) judges Park as a stupid Asian kid, as seen in several novel quotes. There are nine mentions that Park is a stupid Asian kid and weird describing the assessment of Park from Eleanor's point of view from page 20 until 569 of the novel. On page 20 of the book, the author displays the first meeting between Eleanor and Park. Eleanor thinks of Park as a stupid Asian kid the first time she meets Park. Eleanor's initial assessment of Park is more on Park's facial stature that looks more Asian and called him Stupid Asian Boy, rather than on his good attitude by allowing Eleanor to sit beside him.

In addition to Eleanor, who thinks Park is a stupid Asian child, there is Steve, who also often mentions that Park is from Asia but in an offensive context. Eleanor

and Steve are native white American students who think stereotypically of an Asian boy. They perceive Asian as a negative "other". The concept of western subjects' negative perception of the East is what Said (1979) called orientalism. This cultural construction has taken place for ages and has shaped the western conception of the East or the Orient. In doing so, the Orient has helped to define the West as the self and the East as a negative other (Said 2003).

"Park," Steve said, "tell Mikey about."

"I don't know anything about it." Park shrugged.

"But it exists, right? "

"I guess I've heard of it."

"There," Steve said. He looked for something to throw at Mikey, but couldn't find anything. He pointed instead. "I fucking told you."

"What the fuck does Sheridan know about?" Mikey said.

"Are you retarded?" Steve said. "His mom's Chinese."

Mikey looked at Park carefully. Park smiled and narrowed his eyes.

"Yeah, I guess I see it," Mikey said. "I always thought you were Mexican."

"Shit, Mikey," Steve said, "you're such a fucking racist."

"She's not Chinese," Tina said. "She's Korean."

"Who is?" Steve asked.

"Park's mom."

(Rowell 2012,12)

The conversation at the beginning of this story shows a racial issue in the novel. This incident occurs in the morning on the bus going to school. Steve and Mikey discuss drunken-monkey style, which refers to Park because Park is Asian. Mikey mentioned *kung fu*, which is one of the martial arts originating from China. Later, Tina emphasizes that Park is Korean, not Chinese. From this conversation, the readers can see that Park's portrayal as Asian is often used as the topics of jokes. Even so, Park does not over-respond even more to Steve's words and does not really care about it. Park's portrayal of being quiet here actually makes his character weak, therefore Park gets ridiculed by Steve for not fighting back.

The depiction of a weak oriental character does not only occur in Park in the novel *Eleanor and Park*. In Dan Brown's *Digital Fortress*, Ensei Tankado, a character from Japan, is described as a poor and weak man due to World War II. The character of Ensei is also described as a figure full of simplicity and modesty because he lives without glamor and runs his life full of positive morals (Widjajati, Setiawan, and Supiastutik 2022). Thus, the novels *Eleanor and Park* and *Digital Fortress* both describe oriental characters who are weak and experience bullying from their peers. However, the writer of *Eleanor and Park* alters the fragile character of the oriental character, at the beginning of the story, into a strong character when Park performs protection for Eleanor.

Even though Rowell describes the character of Park who is ridiculed as a 'stupid Asian', this writer also tries to counter the negative images of the oriental characters by portraying Park as a kind-hearted character, full of understanding towards Eleanor whose white peers often bully her. White figures bully another white figure and, then, a figure from Asia, Park, becomes the savior. In this context, Rowell succeeds in convincing that non-western figures are not always negative. At this point, Rowell is successful in negotiating orientalism. Park's identity as a child of Asian descent is also found in another quote, which actually becomes a concern for Park himself.

"Nobody thinks Asian guys are hot," Park said finally. He had to look away from her when he said it – way away, he turned his head completely. "Not here, anyway. I assume Asian guys do all right in Asia."

". . . Asian girls are different. White guys think they're exotic."

Everything that makes Asian girls seem exotic makes Asian guys seem like girls."

...

"I don't even know what it means to be Korean," he said."

(Rowell 2012, 501)

This excerpt of the conversation between Park and Eleanor occurs while they both are being in a city park. Park talks about himself and how white people view Asians. Park says that no one thinks Asian men are attractive outside of Asia. This affirmation can be seen in the sentence "I assume Asian guys do all right in Asia", while outside their territory, Asian people are not necessarily considered attractive. Park then goes on to argue that white men find that Asian girls are exotic. When referring to its history, the word exotic was initially brought by western nations to the East (more precisely in the colonies) in the colonialism era to refer to Eastern nations in the context of the culture and physical appearance of the eastern people (Zulfatihmi 2018). Exotic is the connotation of language representation that does not give benefit to the East because it is formed from the West in assessing the East (Kasiyan 2003).

#### **Ms. Mindy as a Native Korean Living in the USA**

Mrs. Mindy is Park's mother. She is a native Asian woman, Korean to be precise, and has the real name Min-Dae. Mindy met Park's father while they were in Korea. The depiction of oriental figures cannot be separated from their country in the East. Then, the most visible difference between East and West is language, and Mindy feels the same way. Her move from Korea to America must also be accompanied by language adaptation. People identify someone from his/her language because when someone speaks, his/her type of individual can be recognized. This is because each individual has specific speaking characteristics (Santoso 2006). This identity is brought by Mindy as an Easterner when she lives in the West. In addition to the accent that is still thick when speaking, Mindy is also described as having a small body. This physical appraisal is coming from Eleanor's point of view.

His mom looked exactly like a doll. In *The Wizard of Oz* – the book, not the movie – Dorothy goes to this place called the Dainty China Country, and all the people are tiny and perfect. When Eleanor was little and her mom read her the story, Eleanor had thought the Dainty China people were Chinese. But they were actually ceramic, or they'd *turn* ceramic, if you tried to sneak one back to Kansas.

Eleanor imagined Park's dad, Tom Selleck, tucking his Dainty China person into his flak jacket and sneaking her out of Korea.  
(Rowell 2012, 233)

Eleanor describes Mindy as having a small body, even to the point of being compared to the people in the children's storybook *The Wizard of Oz*. It does not stop there. Eleanor even compares Mindy to a Dainty Chinese who can be tucked in a jacket and smuggled out of Korea. Eleanor's judgment of Mindy's small body indicates that the assessment of white figures about oriental figures has a more diminutive stature than theirs. On the other hand, Eleanor sees her white mother who has pointed nose, as a perfect figure like a queen.

**DeNice and  
Beebi as Oriental  
Characters**

DeNice and Beebi are friends of Eleanor. They meet one to others when DeNice and Beebi help Eleanor to remove the bandage that is stuck to Eleanor's locker as a result of Tina's bullying.

After everyone else walked away, two black girls stayed. They walked over to Eleanor and started pulling pads off the wall. "Ain't no thing," one of the girls whispered, crumpling a pad into a ball. Her name was DeNice, and she looked too young to be in the tenth grade. She was small, and she wore her hair in two braided pigtails. Eleanor shook her head, but didn't say anything.

"Those girls are trifling," DeNice said. "They're so insignificant, God can hardly see them." "Hmm-hmm," the other girl agreed. Eleanor was pretty sure her name was Beebi. Beebi was what Eleanor's mom would call 'a big girl.'

...

They threw the pads in the trash and pushed them under some wet paper towels so that nobody would find them.

(Rowell 2012, 98)

Tina is a white girl who often pranks Eleanor. One day, Tina and her friend put pads filled with red ink into Eleanor's locker. Eleanor is embarrassed and alone, as the laughing stock of her friends. When the crowd in the locker area have left for lunch time, DeNice and Beebi come to help Eleanor. They help Eleanor to remove the remaining pads and try to comfort Eleanor by saying that the girls who teased Eleanor are stupid.

Beebi and DeNice had already heard about what happened from somebody in another class – which meant that the whole school knew. They said they were never going to let Eleanor walk alone to lunch again, Macho Nachos be damned.

"Those skanks need to know you have friends," DeNice said. "Mmm-hmm," Beebi agreed.

(Rowell 2012, 476)

Other times, when gym class begins, students must change into sports-specific clothes and store them in lockers. When her gym class finishes, Eleanor is about to get her clothes from a locker, but the locker is empty. After being searched for and assisted by one of the teachers, Eleanor finds her clothes clogging the school toilet. So, the clothes are wet and unusable. Hearing this, DeNice and Beebi then intend not to leave Eleanor again.

From the quotes, it is apparent that Rowell characterizes DeNice and Beebi, the two Oriental characters, as good figures in the story. They are not dangerous persons like what is casted by western construction. In contrast, Rowell depicts Tina, the white character, as a bad girl who constantly bullies Eleanor. In this case, Rowell tries to negotiate the idea of orientalism by showing the position of the West, represented by Tina, and the east, represented by DeNice and Beebi. The characterization of the characters in the story opposes the concept of orientalism.

In the characterization of the non-white main character, Park, Mrs. Mindy, DeNice, and Beebi, Rowell appears to be negotiating the concept of orientalism. At the beginning of reading, the readers of *Eleanor and Park* do not feel the gap between the depictions of oriental and white characters because the author of the novel describes them in a balanced way. However, in depicting a particular class, the reader will be shocked at the segregation of the West and the East, as in Edward Said's concept of orientalism. Even though the East-West tension is not discussed much in this novel, this class segregation is strong enough to show how difficult it is to negotiate the concept of orientalism in a diverse US society.

### A Group of Black Girls at School

The oriental characters in this novel are, as described above, Park, Mindy, DeNice, and Beebi. Besides that, there are also black characters whose names are not mentioned but have positions in the plot of the novel. As in the following quote from the event when Eleanor and her friends are going to gym class. Eleanor is wearing a tight dark tracksuit when Tina comes to mock her.

“Red isn’t your color, Bozo,” Tina had said the first time Eleanor suited up. The other girls all laughed, even the black girls, who hated Tina. Laughing at Eleanor was Dr King’s mountain.  
(Rowell 2012, 42)

Eleanor says that the black girls who hate Tina laugh at her as if it is a dream like Dr. King's mountain. Martin Luther King Jr. was a social activist who had a role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s to 1968. *I've Been to the Mountaintop* is a popular feature of Martin Luther King's last speech on April 3, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee, before he was assassinated the day after. The speech focused on the Memphis sanitation strike. He called for unity, economic action, boycotts, and nonviolent protests while challenging the United States to fulfill its aspirations to build a better country (Perkins 2019). Comparing the dream of Dr. King to the black girl's dream is very racist, remembering that Dr. King is also a black person. This metaphor is one serious thing to say that other children see bullying as the greatest goal in life. The unique position of the black girls here is an interesting case because they laugh at Tina (a white girl) when she is bullying another white person, Eleanor. When laughing at bullies is associated to Dr. King's dream, then the position of the black girls here may be lower than Tina's. So, it is evident that no friendship equality exists in the school environment.

The difference in friendship is not only a problem between blacks and whites, there are also differences in the placement of learning classes. Even though the writer explicates once in this novel, this depiction of elite classes adequately shows the racial tensions at school. The stereotypical mention of 'stupid Asian kid' adds to the list of Orientalism hints.

Most of the kids here were black, but most of the kids in her honors classes were white. They got bussed in from west Omaha. And the white kids from the Flats, dishonor students, got bussed in from the other direction.  
(Rowell 2012, 55)

At the beginning of the sentence, Eleanor explains that the children in the school environment are mostly black children. However, the honor class was filled with white children transferred from western Omaha. This notion shows that white people have dominated the positions, even in the honor class divisions in schools. So, the novel readers will easily see there is a dividing line between them.

Said (1979) argues that one of the efforts to conquer the East is to raise the image of the West intellectually, and then the East is treated as an area far from the West. Therefore, the West can dominate the intellectual thoughts and the positions whereas the East is on the other side. As in the placement of students, which are separated between the honor and the ordinary classes, the former is merely filled by white students. Therefore, the image of the West as an intellectual will be built in the school environment.

In the narrative excerpt above, it can be interpreted that the Omaha neighborhood is also inhabited by black people, but black people still get racism from white people. This can be seen in school life which still differentiates students based on their race, even though they are also residents of the same area. The cases like this are also found in the analysis of *Orientalism in DH Lawrence's Novelistic Representation of Italy* (Zeng 2021). This analysis explains

that Italians get different behavior in the European region, even though Italy is also a country in the western region. The Italian people are demonized as a savage racials. Other than that, the narrators deploy racist languages to denigrate the Italians as inferior races or even subhumans who constitute a lesser form of humanity. The Italian positions in these matters are like western orientalist.

#### THE CRITICAL POSITIONS OF THE AUTHOR

Texts cannot only create knowledge but also realities that appear to be described and then produce a tradition in which what Michel Foucault accuses of as discourse (Said 1979). Text is an intentional product formed from the author's choice which is not only found in the text but also contextually (Compagno 2012). This arises because what the author expresses in the text uses a reconstruction strategy. Whether the text is intentional or not, the text can convey the author's intent.

The author's point of view can be seen in various ways such as through biographies, background on life's journey, and several reviews in interviews. In terms of biography, Rainbow Rowell was born on February 24, 1973, and has a sister named Jade, and a half-sister Abby. She was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, the same place where the novel *Eleanor and Park* (2012). Rowell now lives in Omaha with her husband and two sons. Her writing journey began when she was a columnist and advertising copywriter at the Omaha World-Herald from 1995 to 2012. Her experience from attending journalism school and working in a copywriter made her feel obligated to find the truth and share it because journalism shows how important it is to use freedom of speech. Then, Rainbow wrote her first novel, *Attachment*, in 2011, which marked her debut as a contemporary young and adult novelist—followed by novels *Eleanor and Park* in 2012 and *Fangirl* in 2013. Other works are the Simon Snow Series sequel novels which have three parts; *Carry On* (2015), *Wayward* (2019), and *Any Way The Wind Blows* (2021).

Rowell was interviewed by NCAC, an institution engaged in Free speech news, events, and advocacy opportunities, Rowell has an interesting view. The interviewer asked what Rowell would say if a parent thought the novel *Eleanor and Park* was inappropriate for teenagers to read, and Rowell replied that this novel was very suitable for most teenagers.

Your kids live in a hard world. And they're doing their best to get through. Just like Park and Eleanor. This book is about two kids who are doing their best to rise above violence, poverty, racism, peer pressure. If your kid is feeling alone or helpless, this book might give them hope. If your kid is doing fine, this book might give them compassion toward people who are struggling.

From the quote from Rowell's answer above it can be seen that this book is about two children who do their best to overcome various things, one of which is racism and peer pressure as experienced by Park. Park is described as an Asian child who because he is considered different, he receives racism and gets pressure from his peers. The next sentence is that this book gives hope and compassion to people who are struggling so that teenagers who are experiencing conflict can see other perspectives and become stronger in dealing with problems because they are motivated by this book. The motivation of how the life of the main character of the novel.

In another interview with *Publishers Weekly*, an interviewer asked a question about Park's character being half-Asian. Rowell replied that the novel *Eleanor and*



*Park* was actually set in the same environment as the environment in which she grew up.

The neighborhood Eleanor and Park live in is the neighborhood I grew up in. And at that time, it was white and racist. There was a kid who was half-Vietnamese, and we didn't actually know what he was. But he fit in better than I did. In a way, since there was no one else around like him, we didn't have stereotypes; we had no idea about what he was supposed to be like. As a writer, I think there needs to be more diversity. Which means that white authors need to write about characters of other races. (Schulman 2013)

Rowell's answer shows that she is telling the story of a teenager who lives in his neighborhood. Neighborhoods populated by whites and racists. There is half-Vietnamese child who is not very well known to make people are indifferent to the child. This is like what happened to Park who is also half Korean and people do not really care about him. Another example as described by Eleanor.

Eleanor had only known one Asian person in her life – Paul, who was in her math class at her old school. Paul was Chinese. His parents had moved to Omaha to get away from the Chinese government. (Which seemed like an extreme choice. Like they'd looked at the globe and said,

"Yup. That's as far away as possible."

Paul was the one who'd taught Eleanor to say "Asian" and not "oriental." "Oriental's or food," he'd said.

"Whatever, LaChoy Boy," she'd said back. Eleanor couldn't figure out what an Asian person was doing in the Flats anyway. Everybody else here was seriously white. Like, white by choice.

(Rowell 2012, 94)

So it is obvious from this quote that Rowell clearly describes the state of the Omaha environment. Furthermore, at the end of the sentence, Rowell asserts that as a writer, she thinks there needs to be more diversity, and white writers need to write about characters of other races. There is a relation between the author and what happened in the novel based on her experience. The writer can select and organize the events that she experienced into a narrative form. So it is clear from this quote that Rowell clearly describes the state of the Omaha environment.

Furthermore, at the end of the sentence, Rowell asserts that as a writer, she thinks there needs to be more diversity, and white writers need to write about characters of other races. The discourse shows that Rowell disagrees with the existence of orientalism, like the one proposed by Edward Said. The type of structure she builds, the kinds of images, themes, and motifs that circulate in his text—all of which add up to deliberate ways of addressing the reader, containing the Orient, and finally, representing it or speaking on its behalf.

## CONCLUSION

This research shows Rowell's negotiation of orientalism through her novel *Eleanor and Park*, published in 2012. Even though in some parts of the story, Rowell exposes exotic traits of oriental character, but in other parts of the story, she tries to renegotiate this by creating white characters who have features that are contrary to the concept of orientalism described by Edward Said. For example, she characterizes a white character in the story called Eleanor who is bullied by other dangerous white characters. Some non-white characters sincerely save the oppressed white character. In this case, Rowell successfully depicts the oriental characters as exotic, but they are not uncivilized. Some white characters in the story are intelligent but they are also depicted as dangerous and uncivilized people.

Rainbow Rowell does not discuss the honor classes throughout this novel frequently. However, readers can feel the muscular tension caused by the racial segregation of whites and non-whites due to the creation of privileged classes inhabited mainly by white students in a school where the majority are said to be black. Moreover, the writer also often mentions stupid Asian kids that are scattered throughout this novel which is very likely to strengthen the stereotypes of oriental figures living in the USA.

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