

The theme I have selected is alienation or outsiders. The texts I have selected are the play script the Merchant of Venice written by William Shakespeare the poem Sad Joke on a Marae written by Apirana Taylor, the short film Schwarzfahrer directed by Pepe Danquart and the Motion Picture The Hurt Locker directed by Kathryn Bigelow. In this report I will discuss why people are made outsiders, how people treat outsiders, what their treatment can result in and what this says about society overall.

In the feature length film 'The Hurt Locker' directed by Kathryn Bigelow there are two characters that could be considered outsiders or aliens. These are Beckham who is a young Iraqi DVD salesman and Sergeant First Class William James who is the leader of an American Explosive Ordnance Disposal squad (EOD). These people are considered outsiders because they do not behave like everyone else around them. Beckham is considered over confident by the other soldiers especially considering his age and the situation he is in. Sergeant Williams is considered too much a 'wild man' and others believe that he does not value his life enough. This is shown in the quote 'What's the best way to... go about disarming one of these things? —Colonel Read.

'The way you don't die, sir. '-Sergeant Williams 'That's a good one. That's spoken like a wild man. That's good. '-Colonel Read. This quote shows that because Sergeant Williams does not develop a well- structured plan to protect himself and his team then Colonel Read thinks that Sergeant Williams does not value his life enough. Because of this Sergeant Williams becomes an outsider because his behavioral patterns are not considered normal (1). This is also seen in the short film Schwarzfahrer directed by Pepe Danquart when the old woman is obscenely racist to a Black Man on board a tram car. The old woman would be considered an outsider because she is not following the 'norm' and behaving like everyone else. She calls the Black Man a 'nigger', 'cad' and a 'Hottentots' and because this racism is not tolerated in a modern society then she is considered an outsider. It is clear that the other passengers see the old woman as an outsider when they are glad to see her escorted off the train by the ticket officer despite the fact the Black Man did eat her ticket.

In the play The Merchant of Venice written by William Shakespeare the outsider of the play is Shylock..... (*paragraph continues*)

In the poem Sad Joke On a Marae by Apirana Taylor the speaker is challenged to speak Maori by the Maori gods despite the fact that he does not know how and feels disconnected from his culture and does not know how to speak Maori because he was never taught it at school. This is shown in the quote 'Tihei Mauriora I cried' because the speaker is crying because even he knows that he is being disrespectful. The speaker tells his ancestors that it is D.B. and the pub and jail that are what he belongs to, not the meeting house of his Maori culture. He feels helpless and says 'Tihei Mauriora/ For that's all I knew.' In the meeting house the gods get angry at Tu's entrance but they understand him at the end. This shows that alienation from culture is really damaging and that it makes people feel like outsiders from their own cultural traditions and that they don't belong anywhere. The speaker still thinks he 'said nothing' and he doesn't have any regard for himself, even though the ghosts 'understood'. (2).

Lack of regard for feeling is also shown in the Short Film, Schwarzfahrer. In the text Schwarzfahrer the character 'the black man' is abused and attacked verbally by the old Woman. The old Woman says 'They multiply like rabbits, everybody with each other. No surprise they all have AIDS.'-directed at the black man and this shows she has no concern for his circumstances and manages to come to this conclusion despite the fact that the Black Man has not said one word onboard the tram. The use of Racism is also seen in the play, The Merchant of Venice. In the Play the Merchant of Venice the character Shylock is not liked because of his religion. In the courtroom scene the Duke and Antonio both refer to Shylock not by his name but by his religion. This is shown when Antonio says; 'I pray you, think you question with the Jew.' This shows that they are not treating Shylock as an individual and not taking his feelings into account. This could not be clearer when the Duke says 'Go one, and call the Jew into the court.' From these two texts we can see that people do not take circumstances into account when judging someone or making accusations about them (3). This is

seen throughout society between the young and old and we as humans often stereotype about other cultures. This shows that we often do not judge people individually but instead as representatives of their culture. This means that people can become outsiders just because of their culture or religion (4).

In the motion picture The Hurt Locker the character Sergeant First Class James Williams James is often left to himself and because of this he begins to smoke and starts gathering one 'souvenir' from each bomb disposed of. This becomes a habit and very quickly Sergeant William has become mildly psychotic..... (*paragraph continues*)

In the short film Schwarzfahrer there is blatant racism from the old woman towards the Black Man. But using the analogy that I brought up before we can see the old woman would be representing the older generation of Germany and it is their perception that has given them this racist view of Negroes. Because of the changing world the older generation feels insecure about their surroundings and they take this out on outsiders. There also can be a lot of patriotism associated with ones' country and the older generation feel although these outsiders who have a different skin colour are not part of their country and do not belong here (5). It is these reasons that were demonstrated throughout Schwarzfahrer that cause people (in particular the older generation) to perceive people from other countries as outsiders and to have prejudice's against them. If we look back to the 16th Century then it was common for not just the older generation but the whole population to have racist views, In the play The Merchant of Venice we can see that most of the population had racist views. These views were not caused by insecurities but instead because there was a lack of knowledge about evolution and science so religion played a much bigger part of people's lives than it does today. The Jews were forced to wear a red hat to make them identifiable in public and this is an important point because it implies that we should judge people based on their religion (6). This is still relevant in a modern society as we see religious garments such as the Burqa being banned in France. This is a huge contrast from the play because we are attempting to stop us stereotyping and putting 'labels' on people and cultures. This would show that as a society we have developed much from the 16th century and we have now begun to stop the racism and stereotyping that was such a big part of life in Venice. If we look at the motion picture The Hurt Locker we can still see examples of racism and it would appear although racism and conflict go hand in hand.

In the motion picture The Hurt Locker we can see small examples of racism but overall it is reduced in our modern society..... (*paragraph continues*)

In this report much has been covered. We have seen that all over the world there will be outsiders and this will be brought on by people not behaving 'normally'. We have also seen that over the years we have developed much as a species but our urge to be with people of our own race will always remain strong. Another interesting point is that the long term effects of alienation can be devastating and it is the outsiders who are more likely to commit the more violent crimes. We have also seen that people would often like judge others with a clear lack of that persons feelings or their background. Overall I believe that if we take more consideration and confront racism when it happens then our society could benefit immensely.