ABSTRACT

Okuribito is a Japanese movie by Yojiro Takita, it was released in 2008. It won Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film in the 81st Academy Award. The story is about Daigo, former cello player that stuck in the funeral company called NK-Agent. He work there as a noukanshi, a person who placing corpse in the coffin. At first, he feel that working with corpses is something bad, but then he realized that everyone in this world would be dead. His perspective has changed by Sasaki’s performance. At the end, Daigo love his job as noukanshi.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research. Analysis is done by Stuart Hall’s representation theory to find out how does noukanshi being represented by the movie.

The analysis shows that this film has created new meaning of noukanshi. Noukanshi which were represented by Daigo and Sasaki is not a profiession that is done by people who has low status in society. Daigo has cellist player background and Sasaki has high class food taste, which is Blowfish. Both are symbol of high class society. It means that noukanshi is not always perform by people who has low status in society. Nokanshi in this movie represented as men who cleaning the deceased, changing their clothes, make them looks beautiful, and then placing them in the coffin. In the reality, noukan is done by changing deceased clothes and then placing the deceased in the coffin. Furthermore, the way of thinking between people in the movie and in reality have a difference.

Keywords: Okuribito, representation, noukanshi.