

**A STUDY OF SOCIAL JUDGMENT AS PRESENTED IN
ALBERT CAMUS' *THE OUTSIDER***

AN ABSTRACT

BY

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This research was conducted to answer the following research questions: Why is Meursault sentenced to death at the end of the story? How does social judgment influence humans' mind? The concept of social judgment theories of Carolyn W. Sherif and Arthur R. Cohen was used as a framework of analysis.

The result of this study shows that the main character, Meursault, is condemned by the society because he does not follow social norms. He is judged from the society that he behaves unsuitably. Therefore, he becomes "the stranger" in the society. As a result, he is sentenced to death.

Social norms influence thoughts and behaviors of human beings. However, it cannot be said that social norms which are set up by the majority are totally reasonable and believable. People have freedom to express their feeling. In addition, they can think and behave freely. If people have to follow all of social norms, they will lose their identity. Therefore, social norms are not the main factor to evaluate human beings.

การศึกษาการตัดสินจากสังคมที่นำเสนอในนวนิยายของ อัลเบิร์ต คาร์มัส เรื่อง

The Outsider

บทคัดย่อ

ของ

นางสาวพินทุ์สุดา ดีถาวร

เสนอต่อบัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ เพื่อเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษา

ตามหลักสูตรปริญญาศิลปศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาภาษาอังกฤษ

มิถุนายน 2548

พินทุ์สุดา ดีถาวร. (2548). การวิเคราะห์ "การตัดสินจากสังคม" ในเรื่อง *THE OUTSIDER* ของ อัลเบิร์ต คาร์มัส. สารนิพนธ์ ศศ.ม. (ภาษาอังกฤษ). กรุงเทพฯ : บัณฑิตวิทยาลัย มหาวิทยาลัยศรีนครินทรวิโรฒ. คณะกรรมการควบคุม: อาจารย์ ดร. สุภาภรณ์ ยิ้มวิสัย, อาจารย์ ดร. นิตยา สุขเสรีทรัพย์, Mr. Gareth Knight.

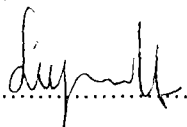
งานวิจัยนี้จัดทำขึ้นเพื่อจุดมุ่งหมายในการตอบคำถามงานวิจัยว่า ทำไมตัวละครเอก Meursault ในเรื่อง *The Outsider* ของ อัลเบิร์ต คาร์มัส จึงถูกตัดสินให้ตายตอนจบของเรื่อง และการตัดสินจากสังคมมีผลกับจิตใจมนุษย์อย่างไร การศึกษานี้ได้วิเคราะห์โดยทฤษฎีการตัดสินจากสังคมของ Carolyn W. Sherif และ Arthur R. Cohen. เป็นสำคัญ

ผลการวิจัยของการศึกษานี้ระบุว่าตัวละครเอก Meursault ถูกดำเนินจากสังคมเพราะเขาไม่ได้ปฏิบัติตามบรรทัดฐานทางสังคม Meursault ถูกตัดสินจากสังคมว่าเขาประพฤติไม่เหมาะสม ดังนั้น จึงเห็นได้ชัดเจนว่า Meursault กลายเป็น "คนแปลกหน้า" ของสังคม ผลลัพธ์ก็คือ เขาถูกตัดสินให้ตายตอนจบ

บรรทัดฐานทางสังคมมีผลกระทบต่อความคิดและพฤติกรรมของมนุษย์ อย่างไรก็ตาม ก็มีได้หมายความว่าบรรทัดฐานทางสังคมที่ถูกกำหนดขึ้นจากคนส่วนใหญ่จะมีเหตุผลและเชื่อถือได้ทั้งหมด มนุษย์มีเสรีภาพในการแสดงความรู้สึกนึกคิด และประพฤติปฏิบัติอย่างอิสระ แต่ถ้ามนุษย์ต้องดำเนินชีวิตตามบรรทัดฐานทางสังคมทั้งหมดแล้ว มนุษย์จะสูญเสียความเป็นตัวของตัวเอง ดังนั้น บรรทัดฐานทางสังคมจึงไม่ใช่ปัจจัยหลักในการประเมินค่าความเป็นมนุษย์

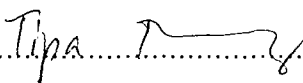
The Master's Project's Committee and Oral Defense Committee have approved this master's project as partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Arts degree in English of Srinakharinwirot University.

Master's Project Advisor


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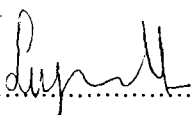
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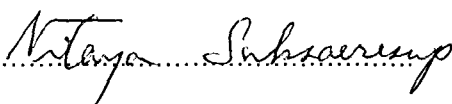

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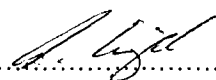
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TABLES OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
Background.....	1
Purpose of the Study.....	4
Significance of the Study.....	5
Scope of the Study.....	5
Definition of Terms.....	5
Procedure.....	6
2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	7
Albert Camus' Biography.....	7
Theory of Social Judgment.....	9
Related Research.....	17

Chapter	Page
3 AN ANALYSIS	21
An Analysis of Social Judgment in <i>The Outsider</i>	21
4 CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION	43
Conclusion of Findings.....	43
Suggestions for Further Studies.....	49
WORK CITED	50
VISTA	54

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Albert Camus was one of the most important authors of the twentieth century. He was a French novelist, philosopher, essay writer and playwright. He received the 1957 Nobel Prize for his important literary works, which reflect social problems at that time.

Albert Camus began to be a great writer when he was a member of the French resistance during World War II. He was a reader and worked as an editor for the newspaper *Combat*. Camus wrote a lot of works. His finest work of fiction embodied the twentieth century theme. He also wrote long essays such as "The Myth of Sisyphus" (1942) and two plays published in 1944, "Cross Purpose" (1948) and "Caligula" (1948). In these works, he included his own attitude toward the "absurd," which was about the conflict of feeling to persons, objects or ideas. His idea on moral responsibilities was shown in many works such as "Letters to a German Friend" (1945). He also wrote about politics such as "In Resistance, Rebellion and Death" (1960).

Besides, Camus focused his theme mainly on exploring rebellion against the absurd. For example, in "The Plague" (1947), he presented human dignity and endurance. In "The Rebel" (1959), he criticized the doctrines of absolutist philosophies. He wrote two interesting political plays, the satirical "State of Siege" (1948) and "The Just Assassins" (1950). Moreover, Camus presented the ideas of Christianity through his major successful novels such as *William Faulkner's Requiem for a Nun* (1956) and *Dostoyevsky's The Possessed* (1959). His work also includes a collection of short stories, *Exile and the Kingdom* (1957). It was divided into two parts, "A Happy Death" and "Youthful Writings".

One of his famous works is *The Outsider*, which was published in 1942. It has been considered his best known novel. A character, Meursault, narrates the story. He begins the story with his mother's death. He is not sure when his mother dies. Meursault does not express his sadness to the public. On the other hand, he still enjoys swimming and having a date with Marie, a girl whom he meets after the funeral. Meursault has one close friend, Raymond. Raymond has a problem with his girlfriend, and she asks her brother who is an Arab to take revenge on Raymond. Accidentally,

Meursault kills the Arab, and then he is jailed and sentenced to death by guillotine at the end of the story.

The Outsider becomes a famous novel. John Cruickshank says that Albert Camus attempts to present readers about what the world he sees in the twentieth century. *The Outsider* is called a novel of man's fate. This novel is interesting for readers to see how the story is told. If the novel talks about Camus' private life, it illustrates a general point about man's nature and situation. *The Outsider* presents the way in which Camus sees the world at the time he is writing. In addition, the characters he creates, the problems he discusses and the issues he raises are so interesting (John 4).

Albert Wendt criticizes that *The Outsider* expresses suitably and apparently about living in exile. The novel invites readers to understand existentialist. It presents the way of being. Camus' style of writing is simple on the surface but complex in depth. It is not just writing but a way of life of endurance and looking for hope in a world that seems absurd. For example, the main character of *The Outsider*, Meursault who searches for security in exile, refuses to lie and lives in the present. Readers can understand his character from the beginning that he is casual and ordinary (Wendt 48).

Referring to the reputation of this novel as discussed above, *The Outsider* of Albert Camus reflects social problems at that time. Apparently, the society influences Meursault's life: he is judged to death. The title also guides readers about the theme of this story. Camus develops Meursault's characters to satire the social and moral aspects. This novel demonstrates how the word "stranger" or "outsider" still remains at the present time. These words occur because of social problems such as social judgment. The social judgment plays a significant role in this novel. Therefore, this study intends to analyze how social judgment affects characters in the novel, especially the main character "Meursault." The study aims to answer why Meursault is sentenced to death at the end of the story and how social judgment influences humans' mind. To do so, the researcher will apply social theory to analyze the text.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to answer the following questions:

1. Why is Meursault sentenced to death at the end of the story?
2. How does social judgment influence humans' mind?

Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is the following:

1. The study is useful for readers to comprehend the novel *The*

Outsider of Albert Camus.

2. The study can help readers to better understand social problems and

their influences on people in the society.

3. The study can be a guideline for further studies.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is mainly on Albert Camus' *The Outsider* (1942) focusing on social judgment.

Definition of Term

"Social judgment" is the attitude measurement in the society. People in the society set the standard of behavior from public, which is called norms. It is used to evaluate people to be in ways that other people expect from them.

Procedures

The procedures of the study are as follows:

1. Accumulation of Information

The information is as follows:

- 1.1 The biography of Albert Camus
- 1.2 The concept of social judgment
- 1.3 The research on social judgment

2. Information Analysis

- 2.1 The novel *The Outsider* was studied.
- 2.2 The theory of social judgment was applied to analyze the text.
- 2.2 The characters in *The Outsider* were analyzed.

3. Report of Findings

Findings of the study were discussed.

4. Conclusion and Suggestions for Further Studies

Conclusion was drawn from the findings and suggestions were presented for further studies.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of Albert Camus' biography, theory of social judgment, and related research.

Albert Camus' Biography

Albert Camus was born on November 7, 1913 at Mondovi in Algiers. His father, Lucien Camus was killed in 1914. His mother was deaf and poor, so Camus' childhood was bad. While he was studying, he worked part-time. After he graduated from high school, he attended the University of Algiers to study philosophy. While he was at a university, he was sick with tuberculosis disease, and suffered for a long time. From 1930 to 1935, Camus worked for many jobs such as a police clerk, a salesman and a meteorologist. During that time, he married and divorced. Then, he joined and left the Communist party. In 1936, he finished his study from the University of Algiers. In 1930, he decided to work for literary career. He wrote many book reviews and essays. The first book was a collection of essays of "Betwixt and Between." His essays were

about human's isolation in the world. Camus was also an outspoken critic of the French governmental control of Algiers. Then he moved to live in Paris in 1940. He became a journalist for the "Paris-Soir"; he worked for this job only a short time because of the outbreak of World War Two. He decided to live in North Africa and was a teacher of a private school there. In 1942, he published his first novel *The Outsider*. In the same year, he also published "The Myth of Sisyphus" which is his famous essay. Then, he returned to France and edited a newspaper *Combat*. In 1945, he traveled to the United States and became a lecturer. Here, he wrote another novel *The Plague*, published in 1947. In 1949, he went to South America, and was ill. After he felt better, he published a collection of essays entitled *The Rebel* (1951). In 1956, he wrote another novel, *The Fall*. In 1956-1957, he published a collection of short stories, *The Exile and The Kingdom*.

When he was forty-four years old (1957), Camus received the Nobel Prize for Literature. And two years later (January 1960), he was killed in an automobile accident. Although he had died for a long time, he has been remembered as a great novelist, playwright, moralist and political theorist.

Theory of Social Judgment

There is a significant relationship between a person and a social group. It is found that people need to maintain a stable relationship with others, and others can influence their attitudes in various ways. Therefore, their decision comes from not only themselves but also from a social group, which influences an individual's attitudes and opinions. The social judgment is based on the network of communication, which connect persons of different social groups or different positions within a group to one another to shape an individual's attitudes and behaviors. People's thoughts and actions are often involved with others of the world around them such as the expectations of right or wrong standard. Therefore, the society shapes and categorizes people as a part of society within social norms. In order to understand social judgment, it is necessary to understand the terms "attitude" and "public opinion".

"Attitude" is a simple term in English language, so people use this term without defining it. Fortunately, many social scientists and researchers who have defined this term. For example, Plato firstly indicates that attitudes refer to emotion, feeling, view, and behavior (McGuire 228). In social sciences, attitude means a position of mind

rather than of the body. Allport G.W. gives many meanings of attitudes such as mental set, attitudes to respond, and attitudes to criticize the behaviors. This means that an attitude is not behavior, but it is a beginning of behavior. The term of attitude is used to think about people, places, ideas, or situations: an individual's thoughts and feelings for the objects, persons, groups or institutions. In addition, the term attitude refers to feeling of like or dislike. An attitude is more than feeling; it is a way to think of subject and how to respond to it. People can reject, accept or stay neutral on certain subject. In other words, it is a way that you respond as rejection or acceptance; it shows how you feel about the subject (798).

Attitudes also involve public opinion. The term public opinion refers to the attitudes of the members of a social group. Public opinion is based on the attitudes of the members in the society. It is a way that the society expects people to behave in a particular way. An individual develops the desire to belong, to be accepted, and to prove himself or herself among his or her social group. This makes an individual accept major attitudes of societies. In sociology, public opinion begins with the attitudes of the members in a society. In general, public opinion means that people convey their thoughts, attitudes, and feelings from one person to another within a particular public

and at a specific period of time. When people express feelings and attitudes, they not only convey their own thoughts or attitudes but also the thought of society. People are likely to follow the attitudes of majority members in the society.

However, public opinion causes two main problems. First, public opinion influences an individual's attitudes. An individual's attitude changes because of public opinion. Public opinion is very powerful to control emotion and feeling because attitudes of people are always stimulated and strengthened by words, expressions, pictures, and many other sensitive factors. These factors make people's attitude change because the opinion of the majority of people influences their attitudes. When people come to live together in a society, they communicate and share ideas with each other. Each person receives the information from the attitude of the majority of social members. People think that the public opinion is acceptable and believable, so they change their attitudes to the public opinion. Public opinion comes to each individual member to distort the reality. Finally individual members can lose their identity, which is a significant problem. People have their own choice to think or to express feelings. If they are concerned with public opinion more than their attitudes or need, they can lose their identity because they tend to make decision to follow the other members of

their social groups. They might forget who they are or what they want. When people are concerned with public opinion more than reasonable information, the power of public opinion will influence their thoughts or lead to the second problem of public opinion.

The second problem is that public opinion can influence behavior of people.

People are a part of society, so they need to realize how to be a social member. A social member means a person who performs in accordance with the social habits. It is necessary for social members to know what they should do or should not do. However, people cannot isolate. Their thoughts, attitudes, and action unexpectedly involve with those of other people around them. In all daily activities, people think and act following other people with whom they involve in a network of communication such as friends, classmates, instructors, and many social clubs. These are factors that affect humans' behaviors. For example, our actions are partly shaped by social members. In social world, people's lives, and whatever they think and do involve others. People depend upon others for their view of the world around them. People follow the standard which the society sets. For human beings, social world is a place of determinant of behavior. When we consider the relationship between people and social group, it is found that a

social group is related to its people because people are so completely interdependent with others. It is necessary for people to maintain relationship with others, so others can influence their behavior in various ways. In this way, a social group can shape an individual's activities. People think that whatever they do within a group's attitudes will be more efficient than individual's attitudes. In sum, public opinion influences behaviors in which the individual acts as a social member rather than of his or her personal behaviors. Public opinion will have effects on his/her future actions. Public opinion motivates the members of a group to perform within the social standard and to accept a goal which established by the social group as their own personal goal.

Public opinion affects people's behaviors because people rely on other people for information, opinion and advice. They behave within the social standard or a fact of social life. Also public opinion has effects on people's personality, such as person's cognitive, emotional expression, self-identity, and personal values. People tend to accept public opinion because they would like to reduce social fear and anxiety. It seems that people still need to maintain their relationship with social members more than being apart from the society (Cohen 7).

In addition, public opinion is the primary factor that leads to social judgment. There is the attitude measurement in the society. It is used to evaluate people to be in ways that others people expect from them. When people live together in a society, they set the standard of behaviors from public opinion which is called norms. According to the *Britannica Encyclopedia*, norms mean rules or standard of behavior for members of a social group. Norms also refer to attitudes or opinion of a social group. People in a social group will be judged by standard social norms. People might be forced to follow social norms. A norm is more specific than value and idea because a norm is the rule of behavior in a particular situation.

Therefore, people conform to norms. People behave in accordance with social norms because they are a part of society and they need to maintain the social relationship. The social norms that people have to conform are a basic fundamental of social judgment. Social judgment refers to the common rules of behaviors, which controls people's interactions. Their behaviors are established and practiced. People have to deal with their behaviors, which are limited by social norm. People concentrate on what they should do within the limitation of social norm. Social judgment is also used to determine the meaning or appropriateness of a specific behavior. For example, most people behave differently

when they have dinner at home with family and when they have dinner in a restaurant.

They change their behaviors to match social norms. However, social judgment is also affected by other changes in thinking because it depends so much on pulling together a large amount of information.

Social judgment is based on large attitudes of social members or public opinion.

People think individually at first. Each person has different attitude. When people live together in a society, they express attitudes and feelings to each other. It becomes a network of communication. Next, they communicate and share their attitudes to the society. There is the large amount of information from social members. The large information from social members is understood, as it is the most acceptable; finally the society applies this information to set social norms.

People cannot live separately from the society because each person has a relationship with another person in the society. People in a social group are categorized within social norms. Whatever people do, or whatever they think, is limited by the way that society sets. The society has social norms for social members because each person has different way of living. The society needs to set social norms, in order that social members have the same appropriate pattern of living. Social norms are

apparently applied to control social members within the direction that the society expects them to conform.

The way that a society expects its members to conform demonstrates the significant aspect of social judgment. Social judgment is related to people's attitudes and behaviors. Social norms not only are applied to control the social members, but also affect people's attitudes and behaviors. It is found that social members apply social norms to evaluate other people's behaviors. Normally, people follow acceptable social norms. If there are people who do not follow social norms, they will be judged from the society. The society judges social members who do not conform or practice its norms. For example, people wear black or white when they join the funeral, which is a social norm. If people wear colorful suits, they are judged from the society that they perform inappropriately.

Social judgment which based on public opinion influences people's behaviors as well. It is found that people in our society evaluate and judge other people because they gain the information from the society. They respond to objects or persons in the way that society thinks. The society influences people's decision; in other words, they judge other persons from the society's expectations. For example, people prefer

beautiful women than clever women. The society admires beautiful women. If women think that beauty is an important factor that the society expects from women, they will change their behaviors so that they are acceptable for the society. It demonstrates that the social judgment influences the way people think and behave. It also reflects an oppression by the society. People live in the judgment and stereotype system. This social judgment oppresses individual feelings and behaviors. If people do not behave as the society expects, they are judged to be different or being strangers of the society. Social judgment requires a person to make appropriate decisions and behave appropriately in social situations (Sherif 5).

Related Research

There are many studies on social judgment. For example, Lewin and his association studied the effect of group decision on attitudes and behaviors of members toward traditional food preferences. Their purpose was to change the food consumption patterns of housewives, who ordinary ate meat. The housewives were organized into two groups and were exposed to two different experimental treatments. In the first

group, the lecturer gave information about nutrition and demonstrated the recipes for their preparation. The housewives had an opportunity to argue. In a different method, the housewives of the second group were asked to indicate whether they intended to serve the unfamiliar meats. When all of the housewives were again questioned after the experiment, it was found that they differed considerably. Most of the women from the groups who made individual decisions were serving unfamiliar meats (32 percent) more than the housewives from the groups who had just heard the lecture (3 percent). From this experiment, it could be concluded that the groups could influence individual's decision.

In another study, the same investigators selected farmwomen who had just had the first child nearby the state hospital as subjects of the study. Before they were allowed to leave the hospital, the mothers received information about the value of feeding new babies with cod-liver and orange juice. Normally the new mothers received such information individually from a nutritionist in the hospital. In order to test the efficiency of this traditional practice against the group procedure, Lewin and his students had to arrange mothers into groups of six that they could receive the same information. They set in the form of a group discussion. When the discussion finished,

the mothers were asked to state publicly whether or not they intended to give their children orange juice and cod-liver oil. The follow-up studies processed two and four weeks later. It was found that the method of group decision was more effective than the lecture method.

These studies indicate that the group decision has a great effect on changing attitudes and behavior. The studies demonstrate that an individual will follow "social members' attitudes" rather than personal decision.

In *The People's Choice*, Lazarsfeld, Berelson, and Gaudet discussed an effect of social judgment on 1944 election in Pennsylvania. Their study made use of the panel technique in order to measure the attitudes and effect of communications during repeated interviews with the same persons over a period of weeks or months. The investigators found that radio, newspaper, leaflets, and similar media had less influence on voting. However, other people such as friends, family, community had more influence on voting. Mass media and other people were public opinion, which could influence people's decision. Social members communicated ideas from television, radio, and among themselves. The result demonstrated that there were connections between persons and social groups. The result was that mass media did not have

much influence on the change of attitudes, but attitudes were shaped and changed in accordance with social members' attitudes.

Kelly and Woodruff investigated what happened if members of a group listened to a persuasive communication. In this experiment, a group of students had to listen to a recorded speech which other members had expressed. Half of the students told that they were listening to members. Many listeners changed their attitudes to the persuasive speech. And the other half were called the outsiders because they think individually. Therefore, the social members' attitude and persuasive speech could influence their attitudes. The result demonstrated that the students changed their attitudes because they would like to maintain the relationship in a group. In addition, the students believed that they were a part of social members, so their attitudes tended to change in relation to the group's standards.

Unfortunately, the researcher has not found any studies on social judgment in literary works yet. Therefore, the researcher proposes to examine social judgment presented in *The Outsider*.

CHAPTER 3

AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL JUDGMENT IN ALBERT CAMUS'

THE OUTSIDER

According to the theory of social judgment discussed in chapter 2, people live together within the rules which the society set and expect social members to follow.

Rules of the society are called social norms. Social norms influence people in two ways: to people's living and to control people's attitudes and behaviors. They also have to realize what they should not do.

The Outsider of Albert Camus demonstrates clearly the effect of social norms.

The characters in the story of *The Outsider* represent real life in our society. They live together within social norms, which are set to control social members as well.

Each character has to follow social norms that the society expects them to follow. If anyone does not follow social norms, he or she will be judged from the society that he or she is different and finally become an unacceptable person. The main character of *The Outsider*, Meursault, is a good example; his life demonstrates the effect of social judgment on people's attitudes and behaviors.

Meursault is a Frenchman who works as a shipping clerk in Algiers. He is a good employee. Meursault stays alone in an apartment. His favorite activity is swimming. He always feels comfortable or fresh when he puts himself in natural environment. He feels that the real happiness comes from nature. He has different attitudes and behaviors from other neighbors. Meursault expresses feelings and attitudes individually. He thinks for himself, not for the society he lives. However, he lives in the society where social norms control or limit social members' performance. Therefore, the ways that Meursault behaves influence his life in the society. There are examples, which identify that Meursault does not accept and follow social norms.

First, family is a fundamental of social norms; the society expects its members to live together as a family. Normally, people live with their relatives such as parents, grandfathers, grandmothers, daughters, and sons. They have close relationship with each other so that they will know well about their relatives. The social norm of being a family is that social member should know or concentrate on how to be good members in the family. The society expects social members to be interested in what is going on with their relatives.

The society expects social members to be interested in their parents. Normally, people in the society have relatives whom they have to take care of. They should know background or information about them. People should realize that their parents are the most important people in their lives because their parents are people who give birth to them. Therefore, the society expects social members to be interested in their parents.

However, Meursault is not interested in what is going on with his mother until she passes away. Meursault begins his story when he receives a telegram about the news of his mother's death. He is unsure when his mother dies. He says, "Mother died today. Or maybe yesterday. I don't know" (3). He reacts to the news of his mother's death as if her death does not mean anything to him. He does not care when his mother's funeral occurs.

He does not think that his mother's death is an important thing. Therefore, he feels that it does not matter for him or nothing changes.

In addition, Meursault is not interested in his mother. After the funeral, Meursault goes to work. His boss and co-workers ask him about the funeral. Some of them ask him about the age of his mother. Surprisingly, Meursault does not know how old she is. He just answers the question that she is around sixty. Meursault thinks that her age is not important

to him. He does not seem to care much about his mother's details. He has no idea about the age of his mother. His response about his mother demonstrates that he lacks interests about his mother. The co-workers feel that it is strange and surprising that Meursault does not know how old his mother is. The co-workers expect Meursault to know her age, but Meursault does not know. Thus, the society judges Meursault that he has strange attitudes and behaviors which are also different from other social members.

☺ Second, the main responsibility of a daughter or a son is to take care of their parents. The society expects social members to treat their parents well, so this is regarded as a social norm as well. Members of a family should take care of their parents. The society expects a daughter or a son to realize the importance of being good children and concentrate on their parents' kindness.

However, Meursault has different attitudes because he does not think that it is important to take care of his mother by himself. When he arrives at the House of Age, he has an opportunity to meet the warden who takes care of the House of Age where his mother used to live before she passes away. The warden asks him why he sends his mother to the House of Age. Meursault answers that he thinks his mother will be happier than living with him. He says, "She was happier here." And he adds, "You

see, she had friends here, people of her own age. She could share her interests with them" (4). The warden disagrees that Meursault sends his mother to live in the House of Age. He expects Meursault to take care of his mother by himself more than sending her to the House of Age. However, Meursault has different attitudes from other social members. He just feels that his mother will be happier if she lives with her friends in the same age. His attitudes and behaviors to his mother make other social members around him such as the warden, feel that Meursault behaves unsuitably.

Third, there are many social norms in a funeral. The society believes that relatives should see the face of a dead person before the caretaker buries the body because they will memorize the dead person.

In *The Outsider*, the warden expects Meursault to see his mother's face before they will bury her body; however, Meursault refuses to follow this social norm.

Therefore, the warden speaks to Meursault, "I expect you'd like to see your mother."

Meursault stands up without saying anything. Then the warden asks him again, "The undertaker's men have just arrived. I'm going to ask them to close up the coffin.

Before I do, would you like to see your mother one last time?" Meursault says "No."

After that the undertaker comes to see Meursault and says, "We covered her up. But I

was to unscrew the coffin to let you see her.” Then the undertaker asks, “Don’t you want to?” Meursault does not want to see his mother’s face, so he still insists, “No” (6).

Although the warden asks him the second time and the undertaker also asks him, Meursault still refuses to see his mother’s face. From this conversation, Meursault feels that seeing his mother’s face is not important or necessary. In this way, the villagers feel that Meursault does not behave properly when he attends the funeral. Meursault ignores social norms and does not care how the villagers will respond to him.

Moreover, the society expects the attendance in the funeral to be polite, calm and mournful. People should realize how they behave appropriately. The way that people should be polite in the funeral is regarded as social norms because the society believes that it is a good manner to respect the dead person.

However, Meursault does not follow this social norm. He asks for a cigarette from the caretaker, but he hesitates whether he should smoke in front of his mother’s body. He knows that smoking at the funeral is one of the social norms that people not do in front of the dead person. Meursault thinks that it is not a problem, so he ignores it and decides to smoke a cigarette. Meursault says, “I drank. I then wanted a cigarette. But I hesitated because I didn’t know if I could smoke in front of mother. I thought it is

over, it really didn't matter. I offered the caretaker a cigarette and we smoked" (8). He still enjoys drinking and smoking cigarettes. People around him feel that his behaviors at his mother's funeral are not appropriate. The villagers feel that Meursault does not mourn. His manners signify that he does not respect his mother.

In addition, the society expects social members who just lose their relatives to be in a period of sadness. People should express sadness if they lose someone they love, especially their parents. Meursault does not show emotion or tears at the funeral. Moreover, he decides to go swimming and meets Marie Cardona, who used to work as a typist in his office. After they swim together, Meursault asks Marie to watch a comedy movie in the evening. She feels surprised to see him in a black tie and then she asks "Were you in mourning?"

Meursault tells her that his mother has died. However, Meursault shows no feelings of sadness about his mother's death as Meursault says to Marie, "It wasn't my fault. It didn't mean anything" (19). His attitudes and behaviors toward his mother's death demonstrate that his mother's death is not important. His action after the funeral makes Marie feel surprised. Although the funeral was over few days ago before they meet, Meursault still enjoys swimming and watching a comedy movie without any sign

of sadness. Marie is one of the social members who follow social norms. Therefore, Marie expects to see Meursault is mourn; however, Meursault behaves as if nothing happened. His Sunday is still the same as usual because he sees that his mother's death is meaningless. His behaviors make other people in the society feel that he lacks emotion because his mother's death means nothing to him and then he can continue his routines enjoyably. In this way, other people including Marie feel that Meursault is a strange and unemotional person.

Next, the society believes that social members should develop themselves in their works because social members will be able to develop the society they live as well. For example, in business world, when people advance themselves, their performance will be useful for other social members and then people can develop the society. Ordinary people want to advance themselves and succeed in working. Thus, they attempt to work in higher positions.

However, Meursault has different attitudes toward working: he does not want to get a higher position as other social members do. After the funeral, Meursault meets his boss in the office. His boss offers Meursault a new higher position in Paris. He expects Meursault to advance in working because he is a good employee. His boss

thinks that Meursault will be satisfied with his new life and new position in Paris, so he says, "I'd be able to live in Paris and travel around for part of the years as well. You're a young man, and I imagine that sort of life must appeal to you."

However, Meursault refuses his offering. He does not think that moving to Paris will change his life. He is satisfied to work at the same place. Therefore, Meursault replies to his boss, "You could never change your life, that I wasn't at all dissatisfied with mine here" (39). Meursault ignores to develop himself in the business world. He does not expect anything that the society offers him. Meursault believes that the new position does not challenge him in any way. He does not think that changing work will be necessary and significant to him and the society he lives. Therefore, his attitudes and decisions about working in Paris makes his boss feel disappointed, he feels that Meursault lacks ambition, especially in the competitive world.

Next, marriage is regarded as one of social norms. The relationship of a couple is based on love. Actually, people have to love each other before they become lovers. Therefore, the society expects social members to realize the importance of love before they get married. The society believes that love is a significant aspect for their relationship as the society think that social members can maintain the relationship if

they still love each other. If they do not love each other, they have to break up or end the relationship. If they live together without love, they cannot live together happily.

However, Meursault does not believe in love. When Meursault has a close relationship with Marie, she wants to know if he loves her. His answer makes Marie sad because Meursault responds to her question that 'love' does not mean anything (39). For Marie, she loves Meursault, and she wants to know if he loves her or not. She thinks that they are lovers, so she expects that he will love her as well. But Meursault does not show love to Marie. He is not careful with his speech that can upset Marie. He is not worried about Marie's expectations. His response to Marie demonstrates that he does not follow this social norm. He does not care about Marie's feeling. He just wants to associate with her because he only admires her. Although his behaviors make Marie feel that he loves her, Meursault does not think it is love. Therefore, Marie and other neighbors believe that Meursault is a strange person.

In addition, when lovers have known each other long enough, they will get married. It is a typical social norm that social members know. The lovers get married in a traditional ceremony because they would like to announce themselves that they live together suitably within the society.

However, Meursault does not have the same attitudes as other people. He does not think that marriage is significant. Meursault feels satisfied with Marie, but he does not want to marry her. By contrast, Marie concentrates on the importance of marriage. She feels that Meursault and she love each other, so they should get married. As Marie asks if he wants to marry her, Meursault says, "I didn't mind and we could do if you wanted to." Marie asks him more, "Why marry me then?" Meursault explains to her that it really does not matter and that if she insists to marry, they can get married. Marie then remarks that marriage is important, but Meursault says, "No" (39). Meursault's attitude toward marriage demonstrates that he does not want to follow the society's expectations. He has different attitudes toward marriage from other social members. Most people, including Marie, believe that marriage is important, but Meursault does not think like other social members. Therefore, his response makes Marie confused and disappointed with his decision.

Also, the society expects people to associate only with an acceptable person. If people associate with an unacceptable person, they will be judged from the society that they are bad as well. However, Meursault thinks differently. He ignores how other people in the society feel. He refuses to behave or follows social expectations. He associates with

Salamano whose neighbors believe that he is unacceptable. Meursault does not think as his neighbors do. He is satisfied to associate with Salamano. Salamano is an old man who lives alone with his dog. Its skin was diseased. Both dog and the owner are disgusting.

Salamano walks with his dog every morning and evening. He often beats the dog.

Salamano is condemned from the society that he is a disgusting person. Therefore, the

neighbors do not want to get involved with Salamano. However, Meursault does not feel

disgusted at Salamano as other neighbors do. Meursault thinks that he has no reasons to

feel disgusted at Salamano. For example, once the neighbors ask Meursault about

Salamano, "Isn't it dreadful? It didn't disgust you?" Meursault responds, "No" (27). Meursault

does not condemn Salamano as his neighbors do. Because of Meursault's attitudes and

behaviors toward Salamano, the neighbors get bad impression about Meursault. They think

that he has the different attitudes from other social members. The neighbors expect

Meursault not to get involved with Salamano, but Meursault does not care how the neighbors

feel. As a result, Meursault is condemned from the society as well, and he becomes a

strange person who associates with a disgusting person.

The society also expects people not to associate with a hooligan because they could be in trouble. A hooligan is an unacceptable person for the society because he or she can cause problems.

However, Meursault does not follow this social norm. He chooses to associate with Raymond, a hooligan. The neighbors do not want to get involved with him because they are afraid that they might be in trouble if they get involved with a hooligan like Raymond. Meursault ignores how the neighbors respond to Raymond. Even though most of his neighbors do not like Raymond because of his dishonest job and violent personality, Meursault associates with him. He feels that Raymond's speech is interesting. Then Meursault and Raymond become close friends. Raymond says to Meursault, "Now you're really my mate." He repeats his remark and then Meursault says, "Yes" (31). Meursault expresses that he does not mind being Raymond's friend. His attitudes toward Raymond are different from his neighbors. Therefore, his neighbors judge Meursault a hooligan, too. Moreover, this causes a significant consequence, which affects Meursault's life because it leads him to disaster.

When Meursault associates with Raymond, a hooligan, he gets involved with Raymond's revenge on his mistress. Raymond asks Meursault to write a letter to his

mistress because Raymond plans to revenge on her by having sex with her, spitting on her face and beating her. Then, his mistress asks her Arab brother to revenge on Raymond.

The Arab thinks that Meursault is Raymond's mate, so the Arab wants to take a revenge on both of them. Once Raymond and Meursault find the Arab, but Meursault convinces Raymond to give him a gun. Nothing happens and the men walk back. Meursault feels hot, so he goes back to the beach. He meets the Arab by chance again and they come closer and closer. With the heat, Meursault shoots the gun once and four more times, killing the Arab. Meursault was arrested. Meursault becomes the criminal because he gets involved with Raymond, who the society believes that he is a hooligan. Their relationship results in having conflict. He becomes the murderer who shoots the Arab. This event leads disaster to Meursault.

Legal system is related to social norms because it is based on people's attitudes.

When social members evaluate the acceptable social norms, social norms then become parts of the law to control and categorize people's behaviors as well. Good or bad behaviors will be clarified by social norms and law. Social norms and law lead to judgment because the society believes that attitudes from the majority members are acceptable and reasonable.

In the legal system, the society expects the criminals to find his or her own lawyer to precede the legal system in court. First, the jury will judge the criminal from the witness.

The society expects the legal system to proceed within social's expectations.

However, Meursault refuses to follow social's expectation because he refuses to choose his lawyer for his case. The policemen take Meursault to jail. A week later Meursault is questioned by a magistrate. The magistrate wants to know if he would like to choose his lawyer. However, Meursault thinks that he does not require a lawyer. Meursault says to the magistrate, "I thought my case was very simple." And the magistrate smiles and says, "That's your opinion. But this is the law. If you don't choose a lawyer yourself, we'll appoint one for you automatically" (59). The magistrate accepts that the legal system is one of the important social norms that social members should follow. Therefore, the magistrate expects Meursault to accept and follow the legal system. He expects Meursault to provide a lawyer for his case. However, Meursault does not agree that he needs a lawyer. Thus he responds to the magistrate, "I thought it is the most convenient that the legal system should take care of such details" (59).

Secondly, the legal system in *The Outsider* is an important example, which demonstrates how social norms influence members' attitudes and the judgment of the court.

Usually, the jury investigates and judges the criminal by asking witnesses who are involved with the situation of the criminal. The witness is a person, who the society believes that he or she represents the large social members. The voice of witness is a significant factor to investigate and judge the criminals.

In the story, the law court consists of the juryman, the prosecutor, and Meursault's lawyer. The judgment begins by asking the witness. The first witness is the warden of the House of Age. He talks about Meursault's relationship with his mother. The judge asks him whether his mother used to complain Meursault for sending her to the House of Age and the warden says, "Yes" (82). To another question, he replies that he is surprised by Meursault's calmness on the day of the funeral. He adds that Meursault does not want to see his mother. He does not cry and leave right away after the funeral without having respect to his mother's grave. He also says that Meursault does not know how old his mother is.

According to the warden's testimony, it means that the warden feels that Meursault fails to follow social norms in taking care of his mother by himself, being interested in his mother's details and behaving appropriately in funeral. Thus, the warden believes and judges

Meursault to be *The Stranger*.

The caretaker is the second witness. The caretaker says that Meursault does not want to see his mother, but he smokes, takes a nap, and has some white coffee in the funeral of his mother. The caretaker feels that Meursault does not care about what he should do in the funeral. The caretaker expects Meursault to behave more suitably by being polite and calm in the funeral. However, Meursault still smokes, takes a nap, and has white coffee (83). Thus, the caretaker judges Meursault that he does not follow social norms. The third witness is Thomas Perez, who is a friend of Meursault's mother. The Public Prosecutor asks him whether Meursault cries in the funeral, Perez answers, "No" (84). Thomas Perez thinks that ordinary people should be sad if they lose someone they love. However, Meursault does not express sadness or cry in the funeral of his mother. Thus, Thomas believes that he is a strange person. Then Marie is asked about the relationship with Meursault. Marie responds that she is his girlfriend, and she wants to marry him. However, the jury asks Marie about their date after his mother's death. She mentions the date and states that they watch a movie together (86). The Public Prosecutor asks her what kind of film she watches. She answers that it is a *Fernandel* film, which is a comedy. The Prosecutor then stands up, and then he pronounces, "Gentleman of the jury, on the day after the death of his mother, this man was swimming in the sea, entering into an irregular liaison

and laughing at a Fernandel film" (87). According to Marie's expression about her date with Meursault after the funeral, the Prosecutor feels that Meursault should not enjoy having a date with a woman or watching a comedy movie. The Prosecutor expects Meursault to be sad after the funeral of his mother. However, Meursault's behaviors which are opposite to social norms influence the judgment of the court. The next witness is Salamano. He says that Meursault avoids talking about his mother, and later he sends his mother to the House of Age. Even Salamano does not agree with Meursault to send his mother to the House of Age, so he tells Meursault that Meursault is not a good son because he cannot take care of his mother by himself. Finally, the judgment about Meursault's behaviors is made from the speech. The jury summarizes from his mother's death. He refers to Meursault's ignorance when he is asked how old his mother is. He swims the next day with a girl; they watch a comedy movie (92). After that the jury comes to Meursault's relationship with Raymond. He says, "Meursault writes a letter in collusion with Raymond as bait for his mistress in order to subject her to ill-treatment by a man of doubtful morality. Meursault asks for Raymond's gun and goes back with the intention of using it. He shoots the Arab as he plans. He waits to make sure he does the job properly." The voice of all witnesses influences the judgment of the court because the jury believes that their expressions are acceptable and reasonable.

The public judges Meursault from the opinion of witnesses he acts without consideration. He adds, "Has he even expressed any regrets? Never, gentlemen. He does not show any emotion with regard to his crime." He also states, "He does not have a soul, and that he has no access to any humanity or to any of the moral principles which protect the human heart. Again according to him, he cuts himself off from the society of men" (94). He announces that Meursault has no place in a society because he ignores fundamental rules of the society about basic human reactions. All witnesses and the jury accept social norms. They expect social members to follow social norms. However, Meursault refuses to follow social expectations. His neighbors judge Meursault that he is apart from the society and he does not follow social norms. When large social members believe that Meursault is *The Stranger*, they create social judgment, which influences people's attitudes. Social judgment makes people express feelings and attitudes the same way as the majority social members. Therefore, the court believes in attitudes of witnesses and their speech also influence to the jury to judge Meursault as a cruel criminal. This demonstrates that attitudes of witnesses influence the judgment. As a result, Meursault is judged from the jury court that he is a cruel criminal because he does not follow social norms and separates himself from the society. In addition, before Meursault is dead, he ignores the social norm about religion.

In a society, the society expects its social members to follow the belief of a religion. There are many different religions in our society nowadays, such as Buddhism, Christianity and Hinduism, etc. However, the religion is also related to social norms as well, because a religion becomes a standard of living in a society. When people believe in their religion, they will realize what they should do within their religion. They concentrate on the concept of their religion; and their lives are based on and limited by the religion as well. The society expects that social members to believe in their religion and behave properly based on their religion. In Albert Camus' *The Outsider*, the main character, Meursault ignores to respond to anything when the magistrate shows him a crucifix, and he also refuses to tell the magistrate that he believes in God. When Meursault responds that he does not believe in God or any religions, the social members such as the magistrate, think that he is a strange person and the magistrate calls Meursault "Mr. Antichrist." He adds that Meursault's life will become meaningless. Moreover, for French legal system, the magistrate expects and allows the criminals to meet the chaplain before they are judged from the jury. However, Meursault refuses to see the chaplain. Meursault feels that he has nothing to say to him. Although Meursault refuses to meet the chaplain, the chaplain still comes

to see him in jail. The chaplain asks, "Why do you refuse to see me?" And Meursault replies, "I didn't believe in God." Meursault adds, "I had no reason for asking myself that question: it didn't seem matter." The chaplain thinks that Meursault is in despair, but Meursault explains, "I wasn't in despair." However, the chaplain, who believes in his religion, thinks that God will help the criminals to free from sins. Meursault remarks, "I didn't want anyone to help me and time was the very thing I didn't have for taking an interest in what didn't interest me" (108). Meursault's attitudes toward religion demonstrate that he does not believe in religion as the society expects its social members to do. Moreover, he refuses to follow any religious customs. For example, the Christian people who respect the Roman Catholic priest will call the priest as "father." Meursault refuses this custom. When the chaplain asks, "Why weren't you calling him 'father'?" Meursault tells him that he wasn't my father: he was the same side as the others (110). From his expression and performance to the chaplain, the audience can understand how he reacts to religion. Obviously, Meursault does not believe in religion. He feels that a religion is not important to him. His attitudes toward a religion make the society think that he is different from the majority social members,

who have their religions to believe and follow. Thus, the society judges Meursault that he is a strange person, who lives without any religions.

From Meursault's attitudes and behaviors discussed above, the society judges that he behaves unsuitably and unacceptably. He ignores social norms, which the society expects him as a social member to follow. This causes the society to judge him as *The Stranger* or *The Outsider* as the title of the novel suggests because he thinks and behaves differently from other social members. Finally, this social judgment influences Meursault's life: he is sentenced to death at the end of the story.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the findings are summarized. Then the discussion of the study is presented. Finally, recommendations for further studies are presented.

The findings demonstrate that the society has many influences on Meursault's life. Meursault is condemned to death because he refuses to follow social norms. Meursault does not behave himself the way the society expects him to. There are many social norms in the society, but Meursault ignores these social norms. He prefers to live by himself.

First, the society expects its social members to take care of their parents. However, Meursault thinks in a different way. He feels that his mother will be happier if she moves to live with people in the same age. Therefore, he sends his mother to the House of Age. Moreover, the society expects social members to be interested in their family members. However, Meursault is not interested in his mother so he never knows how old his mother is.

Second, the society expects social members to have good manners in funeral, such as wearing black or white and seeing the face of the dead person before burying the dead body. However, Meursault denies accepting and following this tradition. He does not think that it is necessary or important to see his mother's face before burying his mother's dead body. Moreover, the society expects social members to be sad when they attend the funeral. However, Meursault does not care about this social norm. He does not cry or look sad at his mother's funeral. This demonstrates that he does not follow the social norm.

Third, normally people want to succeed in their work. However, Meursault does not want to advance himself in working. He is satisfied with his life. He believes that it cannot make his life better. Thus, he prefers working at the same place. He makes his boss disappointed because his boss feels that Meursault lives without ambition or hope. This demonstrates that Meursault thinks and behaves differently from other social members.

Next, the society expects social members to love each other before they get married. However, Meursault does not think that marriage is important. This makes

Marie feel disappointed and confused why Meursault wants to marry her although he does not love her.

Next, the society expects social members to associate with acceptable people. The society does not want social members to get involved with the hooligan. However, Meursault associates with Salamano, and Raymond, a hooligan. Meursault ignores how the society reacts to him. At last, he kills the Arab and that incident leads him to disaster.

Next, the society expects social members to accept and follow the system of law, which is based on social norms. Meursault rejects to have a lawyer. This causes the magistrate feel confused with Meursault's attitudes and behaviors, and feels that he is strange.

Moreover, the society expects social members to believe in their religion and follow the belief of their religion. Each religion has different ways of belief. For example, Christianity believes in God, the crucifix, and the priest. They believe that these all things symbolize Christianity. However, Meursault does not believe in God; and he also ignores to respect the crucifix and refuses to call the priest as his father.

This makes his neighbors feel that he refuses to believe in religions, so he is as “Mr. Antichrist”.

The society judges Meursault to death at the end of the story because attitudes of the majority members influence humans' mind. The majority social members have the same attitudes that social members should accept and follow social norms because they believe that their attitudes are acceptable and reasonable. They evaluate and judge members from acceptable attitudes. In this way, most of Meursault's neighbors believe that Meursault is different; in other words he is “The Stranger” or “The Outsider.” This demonstrates that social judgment influences humans' mind because their neighbors judge Meursault from the majority attitudes.

Also, the attitudes of social members influence the jury's judgment because the jury accepts their attitudes. Then the jury judges Meursault that he is the guilty as his neighbors think he is.

It is obvious that throughout the novel, Albert Camus wants to criticize social problems, such as how social norms influence people's attitudes and behaviors. Camus attempts to illustrate that social norms influence thoughts and behaviors of human beings. However, it cannot be said that social norms, which are set up by the majority

are totally reasonable and believable. People have freedom to express their feeling. In addition, they can think and behave freely. If people have to follow all of social norms, they will lose their identity. Therefore, social norms are not the main factor to evaluate human beings. People should understand and respect different attitudes and behaviors. They can express feelings and attitudes whatever they want. Therefore, he creates the main character, Meursault because he wants to demonstrate that Meursault chooses to think and behave for himself, not for the society.

As John Cruickshank states Meursault chooses to say the truth, which happens with his life. He ignores social norms because he respects himself whereas other people around him believe in the majority (John 4). Like Albert Wendt's idea, *The Outsider* expresses suitably and apparently about living in exile. In addition, the novel invites audience to understand that the main character, Meursault is separated from the society because of the effect of social norms. He is sentenced from the society that he is the stranger who behaves differently from the majority (48).

Social judgment, which influences Meursault's living, demonstrates social problems, especially in the present time. For example, teenagers set their rules to limit their members' attitudes and behaviors. They expect their members to accept and

follow their rules. If any members do not follow their rules, they will be judged from their groups: they are rejected from the groups and finally they become the strangers.

Teenagers set many rules for their group, such as dressing and speaking.

They also judge their members who do not accept or follow their rules that they are the strangers of their groups. Apparently, attitudes of large members about dressing and speaking teen's words or slang become the rules of teenagers to limit member's attitudes and behaviors. Members who do not want to be apart from their groups will attempt to dress as the majority members do or they speak the same teen's words and expressions. This demonstrates the social problems because teenagers who want to be members of the group will accept the rules of the group and ignore their own opinions. And they might lose even their own identity.

From discussion above, the problems of humans' attitudes are still significant social problems in present. The attitudes of social members cause people's limitations. They lack freedom to think or do for themselves. Social norms direct people's attitudes and performance because they do not want to be isolated from the society. Therefore, people follow social norms more than their own needs. *The Outsider* is a good example to show this problem.

Suggestions for Further Studies

1. This study will be useful to study the theory of alienation, which is related to the theory of social judgment. For example, Meursault is judged from the society that he is *The Outsider*. He becomes an alienated person of the society because of the effect of social judgment.

2. This study will be helpful and significant to further studies on other social problems in Albert Camus' writings.

3. This study will be important to study of social problems in other writings such as *Frankenstein*.

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