ABSTRACT

The film "I Not Stupid" revolves around 3 EM3 students, whom at an age of 10, have been decided by the government that they are not academically inclined as their peers who have been placed in an express or normal stream. Besides touching on issues of educational streaming, the importance of Chinese language and the focus on academic excellence, the film also portray the problems faced by their parents, in particular the threat posed by foreign talent at work. I have found out that the issues touched on in the film actually reflect the Singapore society, especially a changing Singapore society. Singapore has changed in the last 20 years, in terms of education system, and foreign talent policy, as being reflected in the film. In fact, these changes affected almost every Singaporean’s ways of living, and the film also reflected the feelings of the people. In addition, political satire is also being used in the film. Director Jack Neo pokes gentle fun at government polices usually discussed with utmost seriousness. Such bold mainstream entertainment is considered a breakthrough here, since out of bounds markers do apply.
Chapter one will be an introduction on how Singapore society is changing, as being reflected in the film.

In Chapter two, I shall examine how the film and the Singapore society are closely related together, and how the film is a reflection of the Singapore society.

In Chapter three, I will analyze how the Singapore education system has changed and how these changes have affected schooling kids and their parents.

In Chapter four, I will analyze why the government is placing emphasis on foreign talent policy than before, and why the change is important.

In Chapter five, I will analyze why political satire is used openly in the film, and whether Singaporeans are more vocal than before.

In the last Chapter, I will discuss whether these changes have any side-effects, and the response received from the society.