

NARRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE MINDS OF BILLY MILLIGAN NOVEL AND SPLIT FILM

A Comparative Study

M. Keanu Adepati^{1*)}, Samanik²⁾

Universitas Teknokrat
Indonesia

*keanuadepati09@gmail.com

Abstract

This paper discusses about the narrative structure adaptation of *Split* Movie (2017) from *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel by Daniel Keyes. Mainly, this research is to reveal how the *Split* movie by M. Night Shyamalan adapts the narrative structure of *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel by Daniel Keyes. In order to achieve the research objective, the writer used a qualitative method since the writer would like to describe the detail of the adaptation. In this research the theory that used is the narrative structure theory by Tzvetan Todorov in the concepts of equilibrium, disruption, recognition, restored order, equilibrium and using a structuralism approach in characters and the setting. The data sources of this analysis are from both *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel by Daniel Keyes and *Split* movie by M. Night Shyamalan. After getting the data, the writer classified the data based on the Todorov's theory. Subsequently, the analysis describes the comparison of both works structurally. Eventually, this study shows the narrative structure of *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel which are adapted in *Split* movie.

Keywords: narrative structure, structuralism approach, *The Minds of Billy Milligan*, *Split*

Introduction

1. Background

The work of a book like novel or short story is often times transformed into a film. The story that is written adapted into a film and makes some differentiation within that movie. This action that is commonly done by film industry called as film adaptation. The meaning of word adaptation is defined as “the transformation of printed works to another medium” (Kranz and Mellerski, 2008, p. 1). This definition says that the adaptation is the work that is exist and written could be transformed to another work that can be shown in another form of medium such as film or play.

In this current time, there are a lot of works that is written in a form of novel or short story that has been transformed into a movie. The works that has been adapted into another medium could bring the new sensation of the story because there are some things that has been added or omitted by the directors while transform the works into a film. Desmond and Hawkes states that “Film

companies know that literary text are good candidates for filmmaking because their stories have already proven to be enjoyable to many people” (Desmond and Hawkes, 2006, p. 16). This means that work that has been published before and spread into society will leave a mark in the society and will attract society anyway because they already know the work before.

Furthermore, in film adaptation the transformation could be diverse because there are several modifications that are given as added value of the work that can make the film adaptation be more fascinating than before. According to Stam (2005) “a filmic adaptation gets caught up in the ongoing whirl of intertextual references and transformations, of text generating other texts in an endless process of recycling, transformation, and transmutation, which no clear point of origin”. This says that somehow the content of film adaptation could be exactly the same with the source work or in the other hand the film adaptation could be far from the source work.

The works of a novel and the film adaptation have a lot in common, the stand correlated to each other. The literary work which relies on the text is become the strong key factors of that work and allows its reader to have more imagination based on each reader. While in a film, the sounds effect, moving pictures and other elements are becoming the power of that work but it limits the imagination of the viewer toward its work. According to Monaco (2000, p. 44) “film and novel stand closed in that they share the same narrative capacities and tell stories from narrator’s perspective”. This quotation shows that novel and film have the same things that are shared to its reader or viewers they share a narrative which has a structure like setting, character, plot, themes and others.

In the year of 2016, there was a movie released with the title *Split* directed by M. Night Syamalan. This movie tells about a person who possesses the psychological illness called Dissociative Identity Disorder, a person having 24 personalities in one body. While IN 2017, a year after the movie released, there was a statement from The Straitimes that says *Split* film is based on the previous work *The Minds of Billy Milligan* by Daniel Keyes a book published in 1977. It describes about the person who possess a psychological illness, Dissociative Identity Disorder.

Therefore, the writer would like to conduct the comparative analysis to reveal that statement. According to Azarian (2011), “conventionally comparative analysis emphasized on the “explanation of differences, and the explanation of similarities” (p.2). It means that in comparative study, the thing that will be analyzed is about the sameness and differences between works that are compared.

Furthermore, according to Tzvetan Todorov (1960) “there are 5 stages that a character should gone through in a story; those are Equilibrium, Disruption, Recognition Repair the Damage and

Equilibrium Again.” Based on this quotation, every single story that is created must have these 5 stages to be presented on the works. However, this theory is not fully true, in some stories that has been created by authors are not fulfilling the theory of narrative structure that is presented by Todorov. There are several stages that do not exist in one story while the other story has gone all the stages of narrative structure.

Therefore, based on that assumption, the writer would like to analyze the narrative structure between two works and see the stages of narrative structure that are presented in those works. The writer chooses the *Split* (2016) film and *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel by Daniel Keyes as the objects of analysis. The reason why the writer chooses these works as the object is because both work are describing the same issue about psychological illness that is possess by a character. Moreover, this analysis also aims to argue the perspective that exist in society that says the film adaptation will always the same with the previous work that has been published. That is why, in this analysis the writer would like to see the stages of narrative structure that are presented in both works and will be focusing on Equilibrium, Disruption, Recognition Repair the Damage and Equilibrium Again by looking the intrinsic elements of both works.

2. Narrative Structure Theory

Narrative structure theory by Tzvetan Todorov (1960) is about how the narration in a story is created. In this theory, Todorov mentioned that there are 5 stages that a character will go through; those are Equilibrium, Disruption, Recognition Repair the Damage and Equilibrium Again. There are a lot of works that has been implementing this narrative structure in the story. The stages of narrative structure are:

- a. Equilibrium, this is a stage where the character is having a normal live and doing the daily activities that a character has.

- b. Disruption, this is a stage where the character started to get disturbance in life.
- c. Recognition, this is a stage where the character has realized the problem of disturbance that affects the character's life.
- d. Repair the Damage, this is a stage where the character tries to fix and manage the entire problem that is happening in the story.
- e. Equilibrium Again, this is a stage where the character has fixed and managed all the problems that happen in the story and in this stage, the character is having the normal life as in the first story or adjusting the new situation in the story.

kidnapped case that happened with the victim two college girls, the police directly do the investigation on that case to find out the doer	characters still mingle out with some other characters and having chitchat on the party until the party was over. After that the main character was waiting to be picked up to go home.
--	---

Methodology

In this research the writer use library research and collect the data from internet source. To support the method of research, the writer also considers the use of descriptive qualitative method. According to Sandelowski (2000, p. 39) qualitative method is straight description of phenomena are desired. Especially, it is useful for researcher wanting to know the *why, how and what*. From the quotation above, descriptive study has meaning that the writer will explain the result of analysis in the form of words and sentences.

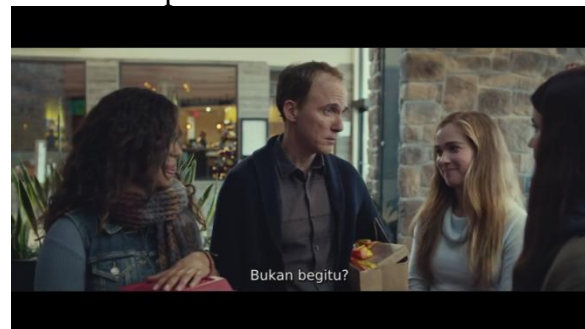
The description on the novel can be seen from the quotation below:

“For the second time in eight days, a young woman had been kidnapped from the campus, at gunpoint, between seven and eight o'clock in the morning. The first was a twenty-five year old optometry student, the second a twenty-four year old nurse. Each had been driven into the countryside, raped, made to cash checks and then robbed.” (Keyes, 1977, p. 3)

Findings and Discussion

Equilibrium is one of the stages in the theory of narrative structure by Todorov. In this stage, it is explained about the condition that happens with a character. The condition where the main character having a normal life and still able to do the daily activities that the character usually does.

The picture of the scene on the film:



1. Disruption

In this stage it explains about the condition where the main character started to get problem in life.

Novel	Film
In the beginning of the story in the novel, the narration directly describing the issue that happen in the story. There was a report of	The phase of equilibrium on this film can be seen where a character attending a party. The situation described that the

Novel	Film
The phase of disruption in the novel is described when there is a group of police come to the main character's house and search the	In the film, the phase of disruption described where the main characters and her friends kidnapped and brought to a place

evidence of the rape case that happen before and the main character still do not know what is happening because he has no memory of it and let the police do the jobs.	by a man and they are locked up in basement.
--	--

The description on the novel can be seen from the quotation below:

“Has anyone read him his rights?” No one answered, so Boxerbaum pulled out his rights card and read it aloud. He wanted to be sure, “You’re accused for kidnapping those girls from the campus, Bill. Do you want to talk about it” Milligan looked up, shocked. “What’s goin on? Did I hurt anybody? I hope I didn’t hurt anybody.” (Keyes, 1977, p: 11)

The pictures of the scenes on the film:



2. Recognition

This stage explains about the main character who has realized about the problem that occurs and ruins his or her live.

Novel	Film
In the stage of recognition on the novel, it is described where the personalities in the main character found out about the reason why they are got in trouble with the police, they (represent Billy) blamed on the rape cases that happened and put in jail because of that act.	The stage of equilibrium on the film described where the characters who are kidnapped realize that the kidnapper will do something really bad to them. They start to think that they will be killed or something worse than murder will happen to them.

The description on the novel can be seen from the quotation below:

“I guess, since you have been blamed for those crimes you didn’t commit, you have a right to know.”
 “vat she have to do about it? Did she take the money?”
 “No, Ragen. She’s the one who raped your victims.”
 “*She* raped girls? Arthur, how does a *she* rape a girl?”
 “Ragen, have you ever heard of a lesbian?” (Keyes, 1977, p. 76).

The pictures of the scenes on the film:



References

- Ashton, William. (2017). *Comparative Research*. Rural Development Institute. Brandon Unibversity.
- Casprov, Alexandra. (2010). *Two Film Adaptations of Larsson’s novel The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo: A Semiotic and Audience Reception Study*.
- Dian, Wijaya. (2016). *A Study of Tzvetan Todorov’s Narrative Structure in MarcWebb’s 500 Days of Summer (2009)*.
- Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research Methodology Method and Technique*. Published by New Age Internationaal.
- Lathifa, Faiqotul. (2008). *The Main Character’s Multiple Personality in Daniel Keyes’ The Minds of Billy Milligan*.
- Monacco, James. (2000). *How to Read a Film. The World of Movie, Media, andMultimedia. Languange, History, Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Raitt, George Douglas. (2011). *Visualising Literature: Screen Adaptation and theProcess of Reading/Viewing*. Australia. Deakin University.

- Reisenauer, Andrea. (2015). *Film, Literature, and Translation*.
- Renaldi, Ahmad. (2017). *Visualizing Literature: Modes of Adaptation in Wirkola's Hansel and Gretel the Witch Hunter Film from Grimm's Hansel and Gretel Fairy Tale*.
- Riki. (2017). *Analysis of Structure of Narrative on Best Animation Short Films in XXI Short Film Festival Based on Todorov's Theory Approach*.
- Vaden, Matthew. (2015). *Literature and Film: Fantasy Across Media*
- Zenuchova, Martina. (2015). *Between the Novel and Film: A Comparative Analysis of F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby and its two Film Adaptations*.