

## TEACHING HUMANISM IN PAY IT FORWARD MOVIE TO STUDENTS

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### Abstract

This research deal to know how teaching humanism in Pay it Forward movie by using Roger's model humanism learning theory. This is descriptive qualitative research. Th object of this study is Pay it Forward movie. The primary data derive from the movie focusing on humanism aspect in the movie and the secondary data covers some data that support the analysis. The technique of data analysis is carried out by applying the theory of humanistic by Roger. The focus of this resarch is on humaism principles in Pay it Forward movie for students. Based on the focus, the researcher find five principles of humanism aspect that students gain in this movie: (1) Desire to learn, (2) meaningful learning (3) learning without threat (4) learning under self-initiative (5) learning to change. The main humanism aspects are love and caring in society. And humanism aspect in this movie to educate students are loving and caring.

**Keywords:** Technology Teaching Humanism, Principles, Humanistic Learning, Pay It Forward

### Introduction

Rodgers (2002) defines education as a process of human development. He states that education is the reconstruction or reorganization of experience which adds to the meaning of experience, and which increases one's ability to direct the course of subsequent experience. It shows that individual experience is very important in education. In the educational process, a student makes interactions with other or with the environment. Students interpret many symbols within the interactions that possibly will enrich their experience. And this process runs continuously. Students are influenced by the environment and are also able to be effect the environment.

Education does not refer to school activity only, behavior or action is conducted to create students consciousness and knowledge. Humanism focuses on efforts to raise the dignity of humans being. The concept of humanism is focusing on human values.

Carl R Rogers humanism theory emphasizes on helping people maximize their potency and uniqueness to become

“fully functioning people”. In education, Rogers was the initiator of ‘learning’ as the focus in education, instead of ‘teaching’. He states that teacher acts as a facilitator.

Tomei (2004) mentions the principles of humanistic learning proposed by Rogers consist of: (1) students as young learners have curiosity to explore the environment and this curiosity is the basic assumption of humanistic education. In the class, teachers have to give the opportunity and freedom to satisfy their curiosity by exploring. It is to meet their interests or to discover what is important and meaningful for them. Students have desire to learn; (2) Children learn meaningful learning. Learning will have meaning or significance when it is relevant to the students' need and passion. In the other word, students will gain the meaningful value quickly; (3) students are learning without threat. students learn easily in a threat free environment, the achievement of the learning can be deeply recorded. The students gain the learning by trying new experiences; (4) Students are learning under self-initiative. Learners'

initiatives increase their motivation and widen students' opportunities to learn how to learn. The learning is done based on the students' initiative make the learning more meaningful. It also focuses on the students' process and also outcomes of learning. Rogers and humanistic experts believe that such learning will generate a feeling of belonging; (5) the most useful learning is learning about learning process. Students are learning to change.

*Pay It Forward* movie can be one of the examples of this humanism in teaching. This film is directed by Mini Leder in 2000. The actors are Haley Joel Osment as Trevor Mc. Kinney. He is a 12 year old boy who discover the idea of Pay it Forward; Kevin Spacey as Eugene Simonet (Mr. Simon), he is a social science teacher who has bum mark on his face; Helent Hunt as Arlene Mc.Kinney, an alcoholic single parent. She is Trevor's mother.

The story is melodrama genre. It tells about a teacher that gives students assignment at beginning of school year. The assignment is finding an idea to change the world and putting it into action. This assignment encourages Trevor to find and practice Pay it Forward idea. The concept of his idea is "helping 3 others people in surrounding and they must continue the kindness to next 3 people". The structure of this activity is indeed similar to MLM (Multi Level Marketing) activities, the difference between MLM is to pursue wealth, but Pay it Forward in a noble framework – a good deed that cannot be compared and valued with money

### Methodology

This is descriptive qualitative research. The object of this research is Pay It Forward movie. The primary data derive from the movie, focusing on humanism principle in the movie and the secondary data covers some data that support the analysis. The technique of data analysis is carried out by applying humanistic theory by Rogers. The focus of this research is on

humanism principles and aspect in teaching Pay it Forward movie to students.

### Findings and Discussion

The researcher found some principle of humanism according Rogers theory; namely:



Picture 1:

Desire to learn

Illustration: *After he is given the assignment by his teacher.*

*He rides his bike to home.*

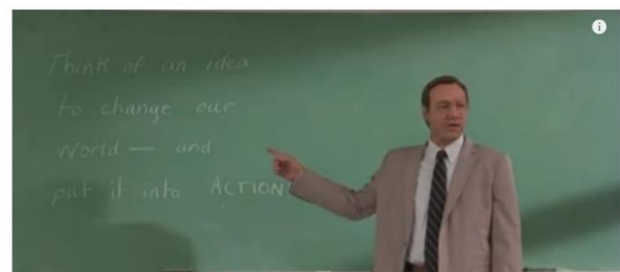
*He think an idea: Pay it forward idea.*

*He help someone, and he/she pay by helping others.*

*Trevor is looking for someone that can help to express his idea.*

*He is looking a homelessmen.*

Teacher asks the students for assignment. Trevor has an idea. He has high curiosity and then explores the environment to realize his idea. The first he found a homelessman near his house. He applicate his idea to the environment. He helps the homeless man, gives a ride, food, drink and clothes. He even gives his saving money to the homeless to do a business.



Picture 2:  
 Meaningful learning

Text in the board:

*„Think of an idea to change our world – and put it into Action“*

Teacher gives students meaningful learning. The meaning is relevant to the need and desires of students. In other words, students will learn quickly if it meaningful to them. By Mr. Simon assignment, the students make some kind of idea that can make them also interact with their society. This is appropriate the lesson and the assignment.



Picture 3:

Learning without threat

Illustration:

*For Mr. Simon assignment students are free to express their idea. Mr. Simon just asks to think an idea and put in action.*

Learning under a treat free make students have many creativities. It help students learn easily. As social Science teacer, Mt. Simon opened the opportunity for his students to think freely about the assignment. He accepts all the thoughts of his students and gives advice to them.



Picture 4:

Learning under self-initiative

Illustration:

*Trevor make a sketch of his idea. He draw one circle and followed three circle in bellow it. It illustrates that he will help one person, and that person help others as the pay.*

The assignments given by Mr. Simon make students act the work by themselves. They try to find their own sources, formulate problems, test hypotheses or assumptions and assess the results. They do it independently.



Picture 5:

Learning to change

*Illustration: many people come together in front of Trevor's house in the end of the movie. They came bringing the candles to show the condolences.*

Trevor's idea proves the learning process and implementating leaning outcomes can change the environment to be good. This can be seen from the final movie. It was proving that Pay it Forward idea turned out to be up to people. At the end the end of this film, shown when Trevor died because helping his friend, many people lit candles and came to his house. They feel the idea of pay it forward. People also can be able to learn from the environment that caves change.

Carl Rogers in Fauziati (2004:51) assumed that for a person to grow they need an environment that provides them with genuineness (openness and self-disclosure), acceptance (being seen with unconditional positive regard) and empathy (being listend to and understood).

Human have unique potential that can develop in different ways according to own personality. Roger belived that people are inherently good and creative. In teaching pay it movie, students gain:



Picture 6: Creativity

*Teascher Dialog: This is your assignment extra credit. Think an idea to change our world and put it into action*

This assigment makes students to have critical thinking of their world especially their environment. The students, then, explain many kind of creative thinking to do their assignment. And the examples of students' ideas are:



Picture 7: initiative

*Girl Dialog: For this assigment, I put up recycling flier at two supermarkets.*



Picture 8: critical thinking

*Trevor's dialog: That me. And that's thre people. And i'm going to help them. But it has to be something really big, something they can't do by themself. So I do it for them. Then they do it for three other people.*

The teacher also makes students realize their ideas. Mr. Simon in this movie invites students to realize their ideas in concrete actions, the teacher motives and monitors his students so that they can interact with their environment naturally. Students have social interaction by loving and caring each other without regards where other are or where they are from.



Picture 9: caring

*Illustration: Trevor cares and helps homeless man*





*Picture 10: loving*

Illustration: *Trevor loves and care his mother (he spill his mother alcohol, because his mother is an alcoholic and fills the bottle with water)*



*Picture 11: caring*

Illustration: *Trevor was caring his friend that being bullied, and he died for it*

The main aspect of humanism that teachers can teach and educate the students from this movie are: (1) Loving: in learning process, the teacher should strive to stimulate students to love each other; (2) caring: teacher should educate students and encourage them to caring others.

### Conclusion

This main aspect of humanism theory in this movie that teacher can deliver and educate to students from Pay It Forward movie are: loving and caring. The principle of humanistic learning in this movie are:

desire to learn, meaningful learning, learning without threat, learning under self initiative and learning to change.

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