

AN ANALYSIS OF MORAL MESSAGES IN TODD PHILLIPS' JOKER (2019) AND CARL SANDBURG'S GOVERNMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to show that there is a relation in literary works between film and poem, namely the moral message. The works have similar messages in referring to government. The government has its own actions to show the roles, but it is opposite in action like giving injustice roles to the society. Both of works, the society feels pressure with the government's act. The protest actually did to get the justice. The efforts of society to get the freedom become tragedy when the government is protected by police with striking the society. It is also related to humanity, struggling human rights. It includes to the human right when the people in lower class want to get the justice. It has the similarity with the poem when the people in upper class can do everything to the government with paying judge to dismiss the problem. It is injustice for the society. The writers use the theory of Nurgiyantoro (2007) about moral message in literary works that he said moral message related to humanity, struggling human rights. With this description, the writers use the method of comparative literature by Bassnett (1999) and descriptive qualitative by Creswell (2009) to compare the works and to describe them through narration and visual. Many pictures show to give description about the events happened in the story.

Key words: Film, poem, government, moral message, struggling human right.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan bahwa ada hubungan dalam karya film dan puisi, yaitu pesan moral. Karya-karya tersebut memiliki pesan serupa dalam membahas pemerintah. Pemerintah memiliki tindakannya sendiri untuk menunjukkan perannya, tetapi dalam tindakannya memberikan peran terbalik seperti ketidakadilan kepada masyarakat. Kedua pihak saling berkaitan, masyarakat merasakan tekanan dari tindakan pemerintah. Banyak protestan beraksi untuk mendapatkan keadilan. Upaya masyarakat untuk mendapatkan kebebasan menjadi tragedi ketika pemerintah dilindungi oleh polisi dengan menyerang masyarakat. Ini juga terkait dengan kemanusiaan, memperjuangkan hak asasi manusia. Termasuk hak asasi manusia ketika masyarakat kelas bawah ingin mendapatkan keadilan. Mirip dengan puisi ketika orang-orang di kelas atas dapat melakukan segalanya untuk pemerintah dengan hakim yang membayar

untuk mengabaikan masalah. Ini adalah ketidakadilan bagi masyarakat. Penulis menggunakan teori Nurgiyantoro (2007) tentang pesan moral dalam karya sastra yang menurutnya pesan moral terkait dengan kemanusiaan, memperjuangkan hak asasi manusia. Dengan deskripsi tersebut, penulis menggunakan metode sastra komparatif oleh Bassnett (1999) dan deskriptif kualitatif oleh Creswell (2009) untuk membandingkan karya-karya dan menggambarkannya melalui narasi dan visual. Banyak gambar yang ditampilkan untuk memberikan gambaran tentang peristiwa yang terjadi dalam cerita.

Kata kunci: Film, puisi, pemerintah, pesan moral, hak asasi manusia.

INTRODUCTION

Every human has imaginations to make something new in life. Sub of them prides writing as an activity to express it. Writing is a way to create the history through a book, a diary, and a literary work. Literary work is an art of language through words created by human's mind. Human creates the literary work to express life, circumstance, beauty, and so on. The concept idea of authors fills in the literary works to present authors' imagination. Literature as "a creative activity, an art" and literature is identical with the words: the expression of human feeling, imaginative process and creativity. The creation of literatures refers to the readers with their sense, thought, feeling to get the imagination from author (Austin & Wellek, 1972, p. 2). In getting inspiration, the authors refresh their mind with other way such as reading, hanging out, being alone in a place to deliver message to the readers. Literary work is the form and outcome of a creative, is essentially a media that uses language to express about human life. The authors create literary works in every model such as film and poetry.

In every literary work that the authors created, the writers analyze the literary works in film and poetry. Film is a visual through showing pictures and narrative texts to convey the message to the audiences. Nurrahmat (2019, p. 1), film is a visual medium, and the best-shot films are ones where you can tell what is going on without hearing any of the dialogue. Film is one of media to give the spectators narration. The focus of film is to convey message through the artists' action in the film. In short, film is recognized as a unique and powerful art form on a par with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and

drama (Petrie & Boggs, 2018, p. 3). Klarer (1999, p. 54) said that at the end of the twentieth century, it is impossible to neglect film as a semi-textual genre both influenced by and exerting influence on literature and literary criticism. Klarer said that film influenced to literature. It is impossible because literature points to give the message (Muller, 2006, p. 32).

Thus poetry presents the thing in order to convey the feelings of the writer. In this case, poetry has its own feeling, image and effect that can be caught differently both by the writer and the readers. Hudson (in Aminuddin, 2011, p. 134) stated that poetry is a literary work that uses the words as media in delivering to create illusion and imagination, it is like painting with lines and colors in describing painter's idea. It can be concluded that poetry is a literary work which made by author using words to express the feeling to the readers. The authors create significant words to make the readers imagine the meaning inside. Aminudin (2011, p. 134) poetry means "create" and "product" because of through the poetry, someone has created something his or her own world, which might contain message or describe situations.

In analyzing these literary works, the writers assume that the film and the poetry have the same analysis. Film *Joker* by Todd Phillips and poem *Government* by Carl Sandburg are aimed to the government. Both of these literary works, they describe about the disappointing society through the government. The writers assume that these works have similarities to be compared although they are different in works to express the disappointment.

METHODS

Film and poetry are products of literature but there are the differences in expressing the message. Film uses visual and narrative text to convey the message while the poetry only uses narrative texts in expressing the message. Although they are different, the writers found the similarities in these literary works. The researchers assumed that it is moral message. Nurgiyantoro (2007, p. 321) states:

“Literary works, fictions, offers moral message that are related to humanity, struggling human rights. The humanity, actually, is universal. This means it belongs to the whole mankind. It is not only universally, individually, through there is a rule about moral that belongs to certain groups.”

He explains that moral in fiction is created by authors to express their problems in life. They want to give relation inside words on attitude, behavior, and social intercourse. “Moral in literary work can be viewed as a commendation, order, message”. Moral message is formed as religious moral, which has religious thing and social critic, is found in fiction or in other literary genres (Nurgiyantoro, 2007, p. 326). Message in literature has many varieties. He states that message refers to religious and social critic. As some poetry inside, they show about social critic. The authors want to give a message to the readers that the description of moral message through visual and narration.

To analyse the visual and narration, the writers uses two methods such as comparative literature and descriptive qualitative. The writers use method of comparative literature because they have the relation of moral message and it is about comparison in literary works. Bassnett (1993) says “... the apparent continuation of the old idea of comparative literature as binary study, i.e, as the study of two authors or text from different systems...” The statement of Bassnett said that comparative literature compares two authors or text from different systems. The writers compare two authors and more than two texts or works. The literary works that the writers analyzed have different works and authors. Then, the writers find similarities and differences appear in the literary works which in addition of Bassnett

said comparative literature attempts each other where the similarities and the differences cannot be separated.

Thus the writers use method of descriptive qualitative to solve the problems with showing the data and describing. Creswell (2009), the way in descriptive qualitative method is with purpose of sampling, collection of open-ended data, analysis of text or pictures representation of information in figures and tables, and personal interpretation of the findings. The phases in analyzing the data, the writers gather the data like Creswell said. The writers have collected the data such as pictures and narration in both. Isaac and Michael (In Nurrahmat, 2019, p. 24) states:

“The purpose of descriptive research is to describe systematically the facts and characteristics of a given population or area of interest, factually, and accurately. One of the characteristics of descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situations or events.”

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As Isaac and Michael said that descriptive research point to describe the fact, it used literal sense of describing situation or event. In film *Joker* has many pictures to show the disappointing situation to government. It is not only in film *Joker* but also in the poem *Government* has many narrative texts to show the disappointing situation too. It connects each other between film and poem. The writers analyze them to get the main topic. There are moral messages both of them show through the visual and narration.

Based on the description about moral message, the writers divided into two research questions such as the comparison film *Joker* and poem *Government*, then moral message in film *Joker* and poem *Government*.

1) Comparison works

In comparing the works, the researcher found data to be shown.

<i>Joker</i>	<i>Government</i>	<i>Message</i>
<p>Well, what I will say is, there's something wrong with those people And I'm here to help them. I'm gonna lift them out of poverty help make they're lives better. That's why I'm running</p> <p>(01:01:56 - 01:02:01)</p>	<p><i>THE Government--I heard about the Government and I went out to find it. I said I would look closely at it when I saw it. Then I saw a policeman dragging a drunken man to the calaboose. It was the Government in action.</i>(Sandburg, 2003: 71)</p>	<p>The government's act</p>
<p>Arthur, I have some bad news for you They've cut our funding We're closing down our offices next week The city's cut funding across the board, social services is part of that This is the last time we will be meeting They don't give a shit about people like you, Arthur</p> <p>(00:40:33 - 00:41:33)</p>	<p><i>I saw a ward alderman slip into an office one morning and talk with a judge. Later in the day the judge dismissed a case against a pickpocket who was a live ward worker for the alderman. Again I saw this was the Government, doing things.</i>(Sandburg, 2003: 71-72)</p>	<p>Injustice to the society</p>
<p>Down with Wayne! Down with Wayne! Down with Wayne! Down with Wayne!</p> <p>(01:02:22)</p>	<p><i>I saw militiamen level their rifles at a crowd of workingmen who were trying to get other workingmen to stay away from a shop where there was a strike on. Government in action.</i>(Sandburg, 2003: 71-72)</p>	<p>The government's strike</p>

Table 1

In the table above, the writers show the comparison between film and poem. The writer got the point for the analyses based the data. There are three views after the data are compared. They are the government's act, injustice to the society, and the government's strike. The writers collect the data with the same message. Like in the first line, the writers compare the word of "I'm gonna lift them out of poverty" and "I saw a policeman

dragging a drunken man to the calaboose". Based on Bassnett (1993) said comparative literature attempts each otherwhere the similarities and the differences cannot be separated. In those quotations, the writers believe that the government's act helps the people to show justice. It can be concluded that the government has the role to solve the problem of poverty and the government has role to arrest the badguy then the police take him to the calaboose. It is the best way for the

government. There are the similarities in the government's role to solve the problem between the differences in literary works.

In the second line, the writers compare the word of "They don't give a shit about people like you, Arthur" and "I saw a ward alderman slip into an office one morning and talk with a judge. Later in the day the judge dismissed a case..." the two quotations still use the theory of Bassnett (1993) about the comparison where the similarities and differences cannot be separated. In the quotations, the writers got the point that it is an injustice act where the people like Arthur, in film *Joker*, that has the mental illness cannot get the support from government. He does not get the medicine for making his health better then in poem, the author saw the government's act with looking the people slip to the office and talk with a judge to dismiss a case. With the description, the writers concluded that it is injustice to the society.

In the third line, the writers compare the word of "Down with Wayne!" and "I saw

militiamen level their rifles at a crowd of workingmen who were trying to get other workingmen..." in these quotations, the writers concluded that it is a brutal act from government. In film *Joker*, the society conveys the disappointment to the government with act. The society directly protests the government for the situation is. The speech of governor did not fit with the reality in solving the problem. The society feels disappointment and protests to the office, then the police strike them to protect the government. It has the similarity with the poem of "Government", the police protect the governor with showing rifles at a crowd then the workingmen will be afraid to the government. With these descriptions, the writers concluded that it is the government's strike.

2) Moral message

After comparing the works, the writers analyze the data through description.

a. The government's act

<i>Joker</i>	<i>Government</i>
	

In those pictures, they show about the government's act. Both of works show about humanity. As Nurgiyantoro (2007: 321) stated that literary works, fictions, offers moral message that are related to humanity,

struggling human rights. In film, the governor delivers a speech to solve the poverty then in poem, the government's act is right to arrest the badguy to the calaboose.

b. Injustice to the society

<i>Joker</i>	<i>Government</i>
	

The data do not show justice, the main character Arthur does not get the justice where his mental illness cannot get the support with giving medicine by government. As Nurgiyantoro (2007: 321) stated that literary works, fictions, offers moral message that are related to humanity, struggling human rights. It includes to

the human right when the people in lower class want to get the justice. It has the similarity with the poem when the people in upper class can do everything to the government with paying judge to dismiss the problem. It is injustice for the society.

c. The government's strike

<i>Joker</i>	<i>Government</i>
	

In those pictures, both of them have the similarity in doing the protest to the government. In film show that the police try to protect the governor with fighting with the society then in poem, the police show rifles to make the society afraid and they do not against the government. Based on Nurgiyantoro (2007, p. 326), moral message is formed as religious moral, which has religious thing and social critic, is found in fiction or in other literary genres. In this case, the writers found social critic where the authors, both literary works, have the same view to the government. These pictures show that the society wants the human rights to reach justice in life because the government is bad in doing the system and the society cannot get the freedom. The poverty happens everywhere while the rich man becomes richer in government. So, protest is the way to get the equality, but the police strike the society to protect government.

CONCLUSION

Literary works are the products from human mind. The humans create various works to convey the message inside them. They usually have the special meaning such as describing situation, understanding life, and more. In this paper, the writers analyse two literary works in different genres, film and poem. Both of them have the similarities in showing message. It called moral message. The moral message shows

to describe the life. The description of life expresses through the visual and narration. The works have the significant points to deliver the moral message such as the government's act, injustice to the society, and the government's strike. The points show referring to the society that feels the government does not give justice and freedom to society. The society suffers in living there.

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