PREFERENCE OF BOOK TO MOVIE VERSION OF KHALED HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER* (2007): READER RESPONSE THEORY

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ACCEPTANCE

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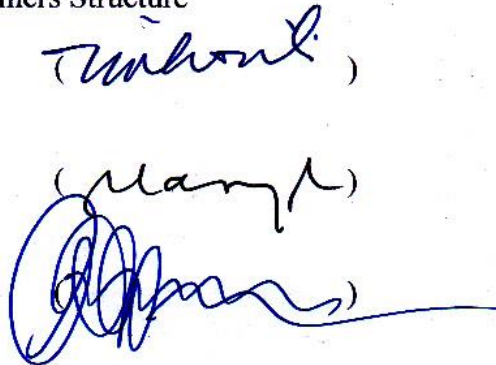
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PREFERENCE OF BOOK TO MOVIE VERSION OF KHALED HOSSEINI'S *THE KITE RUNNER* (2007) : READER RESPONSE THEORY

Abstrak

Penelitian ini tentang pemilihan pembaca terhadap buku untuk versi filmnya *The Kite Runner* (2007) karya Khaled Hosseini menggunakan teori Reader-Respon. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apa alasan pembaca dalam memilih buku tersebut. Penelitian ini termasuk kedalam penelitian Qualitative yang menggunakan sumber data utama dan sumber data tambahan. Data diperoleh dari IMDb (Internet Movie Database) sebanyak 235 tanggapan peninjau merupakan sumber data utama. Sementara itu, referensi-referensi yang lain seperti buku-buku, penelitian-penelitian terdahulu, jurnal, dan yang lainnya yang berhubungan dengan analisis ini merupakan sumber data tambahan. Ada tiga hasil yang ditemukan di penelitian ini. Pertama, peneliti menentukan 10 isu utama dari ulasan- ulasan peninjau. Kedua, peneliti mengambil latar belakang peninjau berdasarkan benua mereka. Yang terakhir adalah alasan pemilihan buku terhadap film yang dikategorikan ke dalam 5 isu.

Kata Kunci: pemilihan pembaca, Respon Pembaca, The Kite Runner

Abstract

This research is concerning to reader's preference of book to movie version *The Kite Runner* (2007) by Khaled Hosseini using Reader-Response theory. The objective of the study is to know what the reader's reason for preferring the book. This research belongs to Qualitative research that used primary data and secondary data source. The data was gained from IMDb (Internet Movie Database) as many as 235 reviewers' response is the primary data source. Meanwhile, other references such as books, previous studies, journals, and another which associated to this analysis are the secondary data source. There are three results that found in this research. First, the researcher decided 10 main issues from reviewers' response. Second, the researcher took the reviewer's background based on their continental. The last is, the reasons for preferring a book to the movie were categorized into 5 issues.

Keywords: Readers' Preference, Reader Response, The Kite Runner

1. INTRODUCTION

The Kite Runner movie (2007) and book (2003), both of them are a successful literary work. So, there are many researchers who has been analyzed this literary work. The researcher took 4 previous studies to support this research. The first previous study is Triana Dewi (2015) from Islam Darul Ulum University of Lamongan who analyzed the feeling of redemption and guilty based on the George Kelly in Larry A Hjelle' book "Personality Theories" and others. The second researcher is Tika Annisa Lestari Koeswandi (2014) from Indonesia University of Education. She analyzed about the perception of the

children in the middle school through the novel *"The Diary of Wimpy Kid"* from Jeff Kinney using reader response theory and questionnaire. The next researcher is Muhammad Thoyibi (2017) from Muhammadiyah Univesity of Surakarta which doing his research to find how the audience response to the film of *The Kingdom of Heaven* between reflection and construction. The fourth previous study is Ajeng Pancar Tamara (2013) from Dian Nuswantoro University of Semarang. In her study, she used a psychological approach to analyze the main character, that is Amir's anxiety and motive.

The previous study which has been analyzed by another researcher is mostly used descriptive qualitative research. The discussion is often about the redemption and the main character. Another discussion in the previous study about reader response theory, but the literary study is not the same as the researcher. It is proved that there are many researchers who analyzed *The Kite Runner,* but there is no researcher who did this research using Reader-Response theory.

This study discusses the reason for reviewers who prefer the book to movie. The differences between this research to another research is absolutely the theory. Next is about the issue of this study. Then, the data analysis that most researcher used is only from *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini, while this research analyzes the reader response through *The Kite Runner* movie directed by Marc Foster.

By doing this research, the researcher used reader response theory to analyse the data. There is two understanding of reader response theory from the figures who often regarded as representations of reader response. Wolfgang Iser (b. 1926) said that "literary texts provide the foundation for their interpretation, but they also imply the action of the reader". Klarer (2004) said that reader-oriented approach is also known as reception theory. Readers are related to literary work, and then the readers determine the meaning and value from that literary work so that literary work has a value and meaning for the readers.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed the descriptive qualitative method in which make the researcher easy to interpret the data. The primary data source is gain from the total 238 reviewers who write their comments of *The Kite Runner* movie (2007) directed by Marc Foster in IMDB since it was released in October 2007 until October 2010. The secondary data will take from some references that relate with this analysis such as books, articles, journals, previous research which have the same theory and objects, or other sources that can support this analysis.

The researcher used some techniques to analyze the data, namely data reduction, data display and drawing a conclusion. From the techniques, the researcher used the several steps in following; a) Find the data in IMDB website; b) read all the comments that has been obtained to looking for the issues; c) count the issues to decide what the issue that most talked and determine to be the main issues; d) explain the reviewer's background based on their continental; e) discuss the issue of the reason why most reviewers prefer the book than movie; f) draw a conclusion based on this research.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 FINDING

3.1.1 The Main Issues

Since the first time released on cinema in October 2007, The Kite Runner got 235 reviews in IMDB. The researcher chooses them all reviews to analyze the issues. Generally, there are 43 issues that researcher found from 235 reviews. The researcher only takes 10 as the main issue from 43 issues. The main issues will be explained as follow:

1) Setting, there are 33 reviewers; 2) The Casts, There are 88 reviews for the total of the casts. 3) Cinematography, The reviewers who were talking about the cinematography reach 23 reviewers. 4) Storyline, the reviews about storyline reach 29 reviews. 5) Moral Value, There are 15 reviewers who have discussed about moral value. 6) Scene (Rape), there is 16 reviewers who have discussed this issue. 7) Director, the responses for the director Marc Foster are 19 reviewers. 8) Military Invasion by The Soviet Union, There are 8

reviewers who have response about this issue. 9) Poetry by Rumi, only 1 reviewer. 10) Soundtrack, only 1 reviewer.

3.1.2 Reviewers' Background

This section willl discussed about the background of reviewer *The Kite Runner* movie in IMDB. The researcher only found a little bit their identity it is because of the limitations of IMDB to include the reviewer's identity.

Table 1. Background of the reviewers in IMDB

No	Continent	Frequency
1	America	115
2	Europe	53
3	Unidentified	24
4	Asia	31
5	Australia	5
6	Africa	5
	Total	**235**

Can be known from the table above that the most of reviewer's background is from America continent with 115 reviewers. The second larger of reviewer's background was obtained by Europe continent as much as 53 reviewers. The Unidentified of their nationality also get quite a number of 24 reviewers.

The next is the gender of reviewers. The researcher also found many of reviewers who do not include their name in the comment. The gender will be categorized into male, female, and unidentified gender.

Table 2. Gender background found in IMDB

No	Gender	Reviewer
1	Male	99
2	Unidentified	93
3	Female	43
	Total	235

Based on the table, the most reviewer of *The Kite Runner Movie* is Male. The researcher assumes that is because they have followed the novel by Khaled Hosseini for a long time, and because the author is male too, so they suitable with the writing Khaled Hosseini rather than female reviewers. The next is Unidentified reviewer which got 93 reviewer.

3.1.3 Reason of Preferring the Book to Film

The Researcher classified the reason into 5 reasons from 37 reviewer who discussed about this.

3.1.3.1 Limited Visualization

There are 12 reviewers who can be categorized into 3 group of limited visualization.

3.1.3.1.1 Hearts of book

The meaning hearts of book here is the film cannot show or express the hearts of book which make book was good, as what the reviewer named Amandagblakely from United States on the data 02 05 said that there are some points from book that should be in the movie, such as the relationship of Amir with Hassan, and his father, or his feeling of culpable, but movie did not catch those points. While according to JaniceNicole in United States on data 07 03, the hearts of book that limited is when the director deliberate slash some parts, so that the length of movie can be recognize.

3.1.3.1.2 Moments

There are some moments in the book that the director did not get it into the movie. According to _Pete_Georgie_Dim from the United States on data 03 02, the moments that limited is when the movie cut the parts where it can be influenced the story. Pete also said that from the moments, people can know the characters from actors. While according to Maddie Grace in somewhere on data 05 07 who talked about moments that limited is when the movie only showed a half of Amir's life. Maddie argued that there are many of moments in the book that should appear in the movie.

3.1.3.1.3 Emotions

Reviewers feel that visualization of the emotions in the movie was very limited as Hramcha said from Washington DC on data 22 03 about the emotion that limit is the movie was in hurry so Hramcha can not catch the emotions in *The Kite Runner* movie. While as Joseph-gabo said about

the emotion that limit on data 09 07 in Texas that he prefer book to film is due to the movie failed to make the same feeling when he read book. What makes a book is good is the feeling, and the movie was kill that feeling. Additionally, the emotions that limit also put forward by Martinsapinis on the data 04 01 in Latvia explained that the main idea and the emotions which in the book were nothing. The emotions that can make a Martinsapinis shed tears is nothing in the movie.

Another reviewer who said that the emotions is limit come from Tiiuzca on the data 05 08 in Helsinki. There is no feeling anything when Tiiuxca watched the movie, and it was so differ from book. While Jeethjohnp on the data data 14 05 in Qatar said that the emotion was limited because there is a different scenario in the movie when it compare with book. The scenario is some emotions that differ. Meanwhile, The other reviewers who said that the emotions was limited because of the director kill the elements which is they are important for audience to recall the moments of scene. Reviewer also felt that the movie is so hurry, it made the emotion lost. This review is from Jer_manosteel in United States on data 21 04. Another opinions who said that the emotions was limited is bobbobwhite from san ramon ca on the data 19 02. In the comment, bobbobwhite said that the Amir's emotion of culpable more deep in the book than in the movie.

3.1.3.1.4   Moral Value

The last from limited visualization is moral value. As dhon008 said on data 15 07 from the United Kingdom that the moral value was limited because the movie was unsuccessful to catch the human relationship and the things that we need as the compensation from a mistake that we did.

3.1.3.2 Poor Adaptation

Poor adaptation occur if the movie change some parts in the book and the changes should not be done because it will make the movie poor in quality.

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3.1.3.2.1   Events

The first explanation of poor adaptation is the film did not able to reveal some of the events who describe in the novel, such what the reviewers said named Cssmonkey on the data 02 04 from the United Kingdom, the events was poor when there is a different between book and novel. The changes that occur is in the event when Hassan's birthday. Cssmonkey said that part of event is important in the book, so it should not be changed. While Shivajyotis Kundu on the data 01 05 from Kolkata who also talked about poor adaptation of the events argued that Khaled Hosseini had wrote some pages to report detail of Amir's scene when he sad to remember Hassan with regretful feeling. Unfortunately, the movie was hurried to show how Amir's feeling, so the moviegoers cannot catch up and feel the emotion of that scene. Meanwhile, reviewer who proved if the events was poor is Sekonda Huet on the data 20 07 from Northern Ireland. Scene which is Amir talked to Baba regarding a recent servants was done in the stairs but unfortunately, that happens when they were planted new tomato. In the book, there was no card game or the scene when hospital calls when Baba was sick. While another reviewers who said that the events was poor is Pazu Kong from Lhasa, Tibet on data 15 02, the events was poor because there are some events in the book such the integrity of kids when pursue the kite, for Pazu that scene was valuable due to showed up the Hassan's immolation.

Furthermore, the reviewer who said that the event was poor is from United Kingdom on data 15 05 named Teneighteen. Teneighteen argued that the movie has discarded the events or moments to the storyline. While the reviewer from mistarkus in USA on data 22 08 who said that the events was poor is because there are many parts of event that left out, so it will be influenced the plot. Another reviewer from (ivincic@cox.net) in United States on data 22 09 who said the events was poor is because of some events in the book do not appear in movie, such as about a monkey joke and davinci's code.

3.1.3.2.2   Detail of Character

The second reason why reviewer prefer the book to film is because detail of character. According to Jornlaveyne from Belgium on data 09 04 said that the detail character was poor is because the actor of Assef did not introduce well in the movie. Assef just introduced as troublemaker of Amir and Hassan. In the book, Assef was introduced clearly. While the reviewer who also talking about detail of Assef, comes from Keepaskin in United Stated on data 02 03. According to Keepaskin, the detail of character was poor because the character of Assef did not introduced explicitly, like Assef obsessed with Hilter, and also his character when he was crazy in the last part.

Furthermore, the reviewer Kinoviewer in somewhere on data 06 06 said that the detail of character was poor because the characters were not related with their nature. Kinoviewer had imagined the characters will be same as the book, but it is not. While the reviewer who is talking about the detail in character which poor is Raji from India on data 09 09. According to Raji, the actors cannot bring the emotions that the movie had showed, so that it make a Raji cannot attach the characters. Meanwhile, the reviewer named singwaileung-1 in the United Kingdom on the data 09 05 said that the detail of character was poor because the actors except the actor who played Amir, have the same character. Even though the actors should have a different character, so the audience can more understand when watching a movie.

According to greenvolume_656 in Qatar on data 19 06, the detail character was poor because the reviewers does not accept any changes to the characters in the movie. While the reviewer who also talked about the lack of detail character is celluloid_self from Singapore on the data 20 09. Celluloid_self said that the movie cannot tell the detail of character Amir and Baba when they are struggling to life. Meanwhile, according to Rynew in United States on the data 24 05 the detail of character was poor

is because the director gives many pictures of character, but the movie-goers only get a little bit understanding about the detail of characters.

3.1.3.2.3 Holliwoodish

The third reason why reviewer preferring the book to film is because the film almost same as a type of hollywood movie. According to Asef_gj in Iran on the data 12 05. The movie was poor adaptation is because the director was changed the story and made the movie like Hollywood movie. He just believed that this movie was about a redemption Amir to Hassan. While according to Chrysanthepop from Fraggle Rock on the data 13 04, the movie felt in hurry and also hollywoodish. The plots and characters were changed and cut out, so it is not appropriate with the book.

3.1.3.2.4 Scene

The reviewers judge that there are some scenes in this movie were failed. According to SnoopyStyle in somewhere on the data 05 02, the scene which poor is in the poetic ending. It should not be presented in the movie. It is more suitable to put in the book. While according to Gsygsy in London on the data 11 04 said that the the movie was bad about the cinematic incarnation and was failed to show about the differences. According to Norman Gelman by his email (normangelman@verizon.net) on data 16 number 2 comes from Washington, D.C. he thought that the noisy scene when Soviet invasion was not real. He also seems like doubt to the intolerant Taliban regime which appear in the movie. Meanwhile, the reviewer named Maruthi Raj on data 09 03 from India said that some scenes in the book were dispose of, there are many scenes that were not important to the movie, which is make the movie is not understandable.

3.1.3.3 Less Touching

The movie become a less touching when reviewers think that they did not get an affect when watching movie or their imagination did not same as when they read the book. According to Melissaslist on the data 03 09 from United States, the movie cannot make her cry like when she read the novel. While

according to Bigg Whoop on the data 16 10 from India, the book is more touching rather than the movie.

3.1.3.4 Language

Language in the movie has become a reason for preferring a book to movie, because there is one reviewer said that the choice of using English and Afghanistan language be a problematical. According to Gradyharp on the data 10 05 from United States, the language was poor because the option of the Afghanistan language translation.

3.1.3.5 Relationship

Another reason why reviewers prefer the book rather than film is because of the relationship. It means that the movie cannot catch the correlation between the actors. This reason is coming from Eclectic in India on data 16 05.

3.2 Discussion

Seen from the background data of the reviewers, the researchers only observed which continent are the most reviewers. Researchers found that in the American continent, there are many male reviewers. The researchers assume that perhaps Americans more want to know how the director who comes from the United States describes the situation in Afghanistan during Soviet invasion. it could also be many Americans who know the director who has successfully directed many films then they are curious to see his work again through the film *The Kite Runner*.

In this study, in examining the reasons of the readers prefer books rather than films, researchers can only find 37 reviewers who say that they do not like this film adaptation. Their reasons vary greatly until researchers decide to share them into the parts. In researching 37 and 10 major issues of reader reviews, the researchers used the theory of reader response by Beach Richard's book. This research is included into the textual theories of response. Georges Poulet and Roman Ingarden describe the attentiveness of this textual theory in how the meaning of a text is. Phenomenological theories by Poulet showed that the

readers are grouped their prejudices and suppositions to reach an intense appointment with these ways of perceiving.

Different to Poulet, Roman said that according to the reader's assumption, a text can be concretized with a more active role. According to Ingarden, there are a stratas in a various schemata from his text. The reader create a different concretizations from that work to synthesize some indeterminacy the schemata. The readers should use their knowledge to know how to understand the text and think to make sense the text. Phenomenological by Roman is more has an active role than Poulet. Considering to the gaps of indeterminacy in the work of schema, the readers can make an infinite number of "concretizations" by Poulet.

4. CONCLUSION

The researcher will give the conclusion after discussing the issues that use reader response theory from The Kite Runner movie. First, there are 43 issues discussed by reviewers in IMDb. The researcher only took 10 as main issues because there are many attentions of those issues and also the anxiety from reviewers. The 10 main issues of which are Setting, The Casts, Cinematography, Storyline, Moral Value, Scene (Rape), Director, Military Invasion by The Soviet Union, Poetry by Rumi, and Soundtrack.

Second, the background of reviewers can be grouped into 6 continents, that is America, Europe, Unidentified, Asia, Australia, and Africa. The most reviewers come from America continental as much as 115, then the less reviewers is from Australia and Africa that gained each only 5 reviewers. Meanwhile, from the gender, it can be known that the most reviewers are male as much as 99, then unidentified 93, and female only 43 reviewers. The most male reviewers are came from America continental, it can be concluded that maybe American people like watching the film, or maybe because the director who came from America.

The third is the reason for prefering a book to film. Preferring a book to movie can be categorized into 5 issues that is limited visualization, poor adaptation, less touching, language and relationship. Limited visualization is contain of hearts of book, moments, emotions, and moral value. Moreover about poor adaptation that

belonging to events, detail of character, Hollywoodish, adapting. Then, the next issue is less touching, language, and relationship. According to reviewers, there are many important events or story that cut out by the director. Additionally, the film cannot touch the heart as the book done. So that the reviewers choose the book than the film, the book is more complete of the events, the storyline and the most important is the feeling.

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