

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN FRANK DARABONT'S THE SHAWSHANK  
REDEMPTION (1994): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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## ACCEPTANCE

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Hence later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will fully be responsible.

Surakarta, 24 August 2021

The Researcher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Auliagna', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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# SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN FRANK DARABONT'S THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION (1994): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

## Abstrak

Tujuan besar dari diadakannya penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan bagaimana pelecehan seksual yang terjadi berdasarkan film Shawshank Redemption dari Frank Darabont. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab beberapa hal mendasar yang menjadi rumusan masalahnya: mendeskripsikan mengenai pelecehan seksual, mengidentifikasi mengenai gambaran umum pelecehan seksual tersebut dan menjelaskan alasan mengenai mengapa bisa terjadi pelecehan seksual kepada narapidana laki-laki. Sehingga nantinya penelitian ini akan memberikan jawaban mengenai masalah-masalah pelecehan seksual yang terjadi melalui film yang telah ditetagan sebagai objek penelitian. Tehnik pengumpulan data yang peneliti gunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah dengan cara menonton film tersebut terlebih dahulu, dan memberikan tanda mengenai informasi penting yang berhubungan dengan rumusan masalah yang telah peneliti miliki. Dalam menandai informasi penting yang menjadi data pada penelitian ini, maka tehnik lebih lanjut yang peneliti gunakan adalah dengan melakukan tangkap layar dan mencatat semua hal penting ng berhubungan dengan hasil tangkapan layar tersebut. Sehingga ditemukan bahwa hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada empat tipe pelecehan seksual yang terjadi pada narapidana laki-laki berdasar film ini, yaitu; pelecehan secara fisik, pelecchan secara verbal, pelecehan secara non-verbal, pelecehan secara psikologi/ emosi.

**Kata kunci:** Shawshank Redemption, Pelecehan seksual

## Abstract

The major purposes of this study were to describe about how the sexual harassment which happened in the male prison through the movie Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont. The study aims to answer the following specifics objective; describe the indicators of sexual harassment, identify about the depicted of sexual harassment and explain the reason why the director addressed the sexual harassment through the male prison in this movie. The data were collected through the movie the Shawshank redemption. With using the parameters of the sexual harassment which happened in the male prison to the main male characters, and it provides answers about the sexual harassment which happened through this movie. The technique which researcher used in to collect the data was watched the movie and mark the important information with capturing taking to write the dialogue which related to the scene which captured. The result of this research revealed there are for types of sexual harassment which happened in this movie. It was the physical harassment, verbal harassment, non-verbal harassment, and psychological/ emotional harassment.

**Keyword:** Shawshank redemption, sexual harassment

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Sexual violence is an act that is carried out in the form of humiliating, attacking, insulting, against someone related to someone's sexual desire for another person by force, against

someone's will or an action that makes someone feel unable to give an act or feeling of repression to someone. Due to the imbalance of one's power which causes suffering misery to or psychologically and physically to others. As for sexual harassment, namely sexual acts through physical or non-physical touch with the sexual target or sexuality of the victim. What is included in the act of harassment in the form of whistling, sexual overtones, displaying sexual desires. poking or touching someone's body that causes uncomfortable feelings that make the victim feel depressed and insecure.

Although cases of sexual harassment that often occur in society are usually experienced by women and children, it turns out that men are not immune from sexual harassment itself. As for the effects that are usually caused by sexual harassment itself, namely the emergence of sexual trauma, psychological impact and even the urge to commit suicide and the behavior that tends to change that occurs in victims of sexual harassment. Basically, the way people speak up about harassment was through literary work such as novel and movie. A lot of movies talked about how does the sexual harassment happened as the reflected of the real situation in society.

One of movie which told about the sexual harassment is the Shawshank redemption. It is an adaption movie that adapted from Stephen King's novella Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption. This movie is about a banker Andy Dufresne that accused of killed his wife and her lover even he admitted that he didn't kill his wife and he got lifelong penalty for a crime that he did not did. While on the prison, Andy makes a friend with Red, a prisoner that knows how to get things in the prison. A technical term about someone whose can smuggle things for the prisoner on the prison. Someday, Andy meets Bogs and his fellas called "Sisters" a homosexual group that aims Andy as their prey. They come to Andy and say that he wants to be Andy's friend. But Andy knows that the Sisters have bad indication with him, so Andy refused it. During his first two years in Shawshank prison, Andy violently assaulted by the sisters in many times. Sometimes he can survive by battling the sisters alone, sometimes he only give up. Until one day, Captain Byron Hadley helped Andy to feed from the Sisters because he helped Captain Hadley and Captain Norton for their money laundering operations. After that Andy never meet the Sisters again especially Bogs.

As the explanation above, this research tried to answer about the indicators of sexual harassment in the Shawshank Redemption. how is the depiction in the movie, and why did the direction address sexual harassment through the movie Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont.

## **2. METHOD**

To criticize the movie *Shawshank Redemption* by Frank Darabont the researcher used descriptive qualitative data collected. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2011) they agreed that it is type of scientific research in order to find out the answer of particular question, use a type of scientific research which consists of an investigation that tries to seek answers of a question. Moleong (2005:6) said that, qualitative research is research that intends to understand the phenomena that experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language in a special nature context and by utilizing various natural methods. As the brief of the study before, the researcher used this type of study because it is suitable and aims of this research which is describe the experience of research subject phenomena. To conduct this research, the researcher used previous research that discussed sexual harassment and sociological approach as formal object.

## **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Finding The indicators of Sexual Harassment in The *Shawshank, Redemption* movie is about Physical Harassment, Verbal harassment, non-verbal harassment (Sign), Visual harassment and Psychological/ emotional harassment. In this research, researcher found there are the indicators of sexual harassment in the *Shawshank redemption*.

- a. Physical harassment Physical teasing that also include as harassment and bullying, usually someone or some people may tease other just only make them feel better or more powerful than other person. In sexual harassment cases, it can be said as sexual harassment if the victim feels unwelcome or unsafe in the workplace that caused by the jokes or the teasing based on their sex. From the movie which already analyzed, it found the indicated of physical harassment in this movie is about beaten and raped.
- b. Verbal harassment In this research, researcher found that there is sexual harassment whose included as the verbal harassment. Verbal abuse is a kind of harassment that makes other people feel uncomfortable, intimidated and unhappy. Type of verbal abuse can be divided into bullying, cat calling, gas-lighting, blaming and abusive anger. In this scene, showed a new prisoner being uncomfortable when Heywood started called him as "fat ass" to tease him, because the others prisoner bet that who

can make a new prisoner cry in their first night on prison will get cigarette as the present.

Not only that, it impacted to the noise of all the prisoners, they yelled at the new prisoners and his cry getting louder and it makes the guards came and it showed in scene when the guard did verbal abuse too by saying him as "fat barrel of monkey spunk" in minutes 18:11. According to explanation below it was picturing there are the verbal harassment which happened in the movie. Actually, with saying those word, it is means that they want Andy to be their next victim as their sexual needs desire. This can be including as verbal abuse especially bullying because the agent who has a physical component that became the subject of verbal abuse. After that, the guards forced him to out from his cell and started to beat him hardly until the new prisoner unconscious then taken to the prison hospital.

Hence, the other scene there is the verbal harassment which might happened in the prison as well. It was reflected when the other prisoner was said "Hey, we all need friends in here." (24:03). This quotation could be seen in minutes 24:03 in the movie, when the sisters tried to get in touch to Andy. In the other hand, the verbal harassment was shown in scene when the sister saying "Honey..hush." in minutes 31:25.

It was included as cat calling. In this scene showed that the sister, Bogs try to assault the main character, Andy with his word and his body language. But Andy defended himself so The Sisters could not do that to Andy. In another hand, researcher also find there is the other which include as the verbal harassment. It was belonging to scene were Hadley did verbal abuse to Andy by saying "You're gonna look funnier sucking my dick with no teeth," (35:41)

The other finding verbal harassment which included as the verbal harassment in this movie was when Bogs have the conversation with Andy. as we can see from scene;

*"and you're gonna swallow what I give you to swallow."*

*"Then you're gonna swallow Rooster's. "(43:25)". It can be included as abusive anger because beside he said it, he also tortures Andy.*

From those words mean that The Sisters forced Andy to satisfy them by swallowing their genitals.

- c. Non-verbal harassment In this movie, researcher was found there are some non-verbal harassment. It was described when the felon was used their body language



to scrutinize the main characters with desire. It showed that Bogs as one of Shawshank prisoner stare at Andy with the gaze that full of desire. In this scene is the first time Bogs saw Andy at the Shawshank Prison. And also Bogs tried to approach Andy when they are showered. From this sight we can see that the gaze of Bogs to Andy representative the non-verbal harassment because his gaze is full of desire.

- d. Psychological/ emotional harassment In terms of the psychological or emotional harassment which the main characters got from the felon was reflected from the scene when the sister force Andy to do the sexual activity with them. it was found that the part of psychology emotional or harassment which the main character gets was seen in those scenes that already exist. It was indicated the part of as psychology or emotional harassment because when the felon met the main characters, he always forces to do the sexual activity.

Meanwhile, in movie Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont was addressed the sexual harassment which might be happened in the mail prison. It depicted through was characterization, setting, event and visualization. According to Shite (2018), characterization, setting, event and visualization is the one of the elements in literary works. It was consisting as the important part in some literary works. The characterization in movie Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont was divided into protagonist and antagonist.

The protagonist in this movie is Andy as the main characters. Moreover, the main characters were faced with a conflict must be resolved. Based on the above explanation about the characterization in this movie, In this movie, protagonist figure represented by Andy Dufresne and Ellis Boyd Redding: Andy described as the smart banker, He also has known as someone who likes to spend his time alone and did not like to talk to anyone at first. Until he met Red, and asked Red to get a hammer for him and they became a best friend after hat. In the spring 1949, Andy chosen as a volunteer in the roof of license-plate factory worker with his some friend, included Red. In that time, Andy heard Hadley talked about tax with some staffs.

So, Andy encourages his self to approach Hadley to offer his help to do his tax. He helped Hadley with free charge but he only asked to him to give his coworkers three beers apiece. After that all of the staff's tax handled by Andy, included Norton as the chief of Shawshank Prison. Because of that, Andy got a privilege to move

from laundry to Shawshank Prison Library help Brooks. His life changed when he moved to library. He arranged the library and sent a letter to State Senate fund the book to their library. He also helped other prisoners how to read and how to write. From here, Andy knew as one of the smart prisoners at the Shawshank Prison. So, he asked by Hadley to be his assistant to launder the money.

Ellis Boyd Redding or also known as Red is an Irish man that known as someone who can get everything from the outside. After someday someone came to him and asked him to get a hammer for him that was Andy, and then they became a best friend. In this movie, Red became the important part of the story; he became the narrator who tells the whole of the story until the end. In his first 20 years of his punishment, he tried to convince the Parole Board that he is rehabilitated, but he rejected. the next 20 years, he also did the same thing, but again he got rejected from the Parole Board. After that, Red became a pessimist person. He said to Andy that his life is has depended on the prison, and he believed that he will be released when he is old. Red also said to Andy to stop dream about the better life.

Hence the antagonist this movie was Bogs whose described as a homosexual person that has rapist groups named the Sisters. When Andy came to Shawshank prison, he targeted Andy as his ey, he tried many times to approach to Andy. Helped by his group the Sister, Bogs sometimes tortured Andy and forced Andy to masturbate him. Until one day in 1949, he beaten up Andy until he forced to spent a month in the infirmary. After that Bogs entered to whole for a week, and when he returned to his cell, Hadley waited for him and beaten up him as he did to Andy. Finally, he transferred to other prison and never back again to Shawshank prison.

Beside the characters there is setting which became the important element in this movie. As we know, in literature setting is the important part which should have exists in the story. In movie the Shawshank and redemption by Frank Darabont was showed the setting of time around the year 1960-1970. The researcher believes because it was seen from the way the characters dresses, the furnishing, the vehicle and the architecture itself. Meanwhile the setting of place which usually showed in this movie were the Shawshank prison, the rooftop prison, in a beach when the main characters escape from the prison successfully and in the car when the main character want to murder his wife.

Also, the event was talked about the first time Bogs saw Andy. At the beginning of the story, that was Andy first day to breakfast with the entire prisoner. At that

time, Bogs saw Andy for the first time and showed that he interested with Andy. After saw Andy at the dining room, Bogs tried to approach Andy at the bathroom. At this time, Bogs said that he wants to be Andy's friend but Andy didn't feel interesting at all with that offer so Andy left Bogs just the way he did. After that the important event might indicated as the factors why the sister tried do the sexual harassment is when Bogs got carious with Andy and stalked him for the first time and after it they tried to attack Andy and so on.

Beside it the reason why the director addresses the sexual harassment in this movie it was because he looked the fact of Shawshank prison itself. According to Winemiller (2017) the real prison that serves Shawshank in this movie was called the Ohio State Refomatory. The image of the prison was got from the Ohio State Reformatory which conveying a sense of hopelessness, scary.cruel and strict.

Based on the statement of Winemiller (2017) it has the same image with the prison in the movie. The director got imagine of the prison because of he inspired by the real prison in Ohio America. The reason why the director can easily address the sexual harassment inside the prison it was because the fact the strictness, hopeless, cruel, and scary prison of the real Shawshank prison in Ohio America. Hence, the prison only for a man, which mean there is no women inside, and because of the strictness the prison does allow and does not give the facility for the prisoners to visited by their wife and doing the sexual activity. Because of the reason, the one and only that they can do to deliver their sexual desire is do the same sex or the sexual harassment to the other prisoners. As the strict prison, the director describes the Shawshank prison as the prison who's only can live by man. In the fact, the researcher found because of the prisoner only men, their sexual orientation was change by time. It was proven in scene 360-364:

*"The sisters have taken quite a liking to you. Especially Bogs. I don't suppose it would help any if I explained to them, I'm not homosexual. Neither are they. You have to be human first. they dont qualify".(00;26;40- 00;26;49)*

From the text above, it could see there is the changed of sexual orientation. It was because as a normal human being, man and women should dispense their sexual desire. According to Kamur, et al (2019), as a human being, man especially prisoner should fulfill their sexual needs. It was because, if they did not fill the sexual needs it will give the negative impact to their self. As the research had been done, it was

showed the one that they can do is only through imagination, or the masturbate. The worse things that they can do if they cannot fulfill their sexual desire is, they will do the sexual harassment with others.

The Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont is the movie which based on the bestseller novel written by Stephanie King. This movie was release in early 1994. Actually, the prison of this movie was inspired by the real prison which located in Ohio, America. Because of the fact that the Shawshank prison based on the real prison in Ohio, researcher could analyze this movie using the sociological approach.

Actually, this movie was told about the banker named Andy whose send to Shawshank prison because of his charge as the murder of his wife. In the Shawshank prison, Andi met Red whose became Andy's best friend and always help him. In another hand, Andy also met the sister whose became the troublemaker in his live. Side of it, the sister does the sexual harassment to Andy as the main characters as well.

According to finding that researcher found, there is the new gap that was found compared to the other researcher. The first one is the gap which from Emi and Gustaman (2020). In their researcher, they were analyzed about the supremacy and racism in the Shawshank redemption. Hence, the research from Arif Setiawan (2013) also discuss about the other perspective through this movie. It was analyzed about the freedom which used the sociological perspective. Not only Arif (2013) whose analyzed about freedom, the other researcher was done by it as well. It was from Elly Aftavinani (2010) which analyzed about how to getting freedom as a human being. But the point which made her research different from the other one is she used the psychological perspective as the approach.

Meanwhile, through the previous research that was found, researcher could say that this research was exist to fill the researcher gap. It was about the sexual harassment. As the explanation above, this research was analyzed using the sociological approach to see how the sexual harassment which happened in this movie. Actually, this movie was tried to tell to everyone in the world about how is the live during stayed in male prison for several years.

As the researcher found there are the reason why director address of the sexual harassment through this movie. It was because the Shawshank prison is the prison who only lived by men. Because of the all of residence is the man, their sex

orientation changed by time. It was supported by research of Pamudji (2005) which stated there is deviation of sexual oriented of man whose happened in prison. Hence, according to Febrya & Elmirawati (n.a) the factors whose made the deviation of sexual oriented was changed because of their environment. It was mean their sex orientation was change because they only made the same gender as long as they stayed in the prison.

The same statement was from Faradilla (2019) which stated the way to express their sexual desire through the masturbation, anal sex, oral sex, and homosexual. It was the same case with happened to the sister in the movie Shawshank redemption. To express their sexual desire, they do the anal sex to the main characters, Andy and also. they became the homosexual.

Meanwhile, the researcher was found there are the sexual harassment activity which done by the sister to the others characters. According to Winarsunu (2008), there are five types of sexual harassment, which is verbal harassment, physical harassment, non- verbal/ sign harassment, psychological lemothional harassment and visual harassment. But in this research, researcher only found four types of sexual harassment activity which addressed to the main characters. It is physical harassment, verbal harassment, non-verbal harassment and psychological / emotional harassment.

#### **4. CLOSING**

Based on the finding above, there three scene which becoming the data which refers as the indicators of the physical harassment. It was indicated as the physical harassment because according to Winarsunu (2008), the one whose indicated as the physical harassment is when someone got physical activity which doing to him without any permission. The physical harassment can show as the activity such as kissing, hugging or other activity which included the skin ship. In the research finding, researcher was found the physical harassment which happened in this movie to the main characters was beaten and raped by the antagonist. It was support by Kurnianingsih (2003) which stated the indicators of the physical harassment such as rape, touching the sensual area, slapping and the other activity which have the physical contact. Meanwhile the other scene was indicated as the verbal harassment. Verbal harassment is the most harassment whose come up in this movie. That harassment whose protagonist got from the antagonist. It has six scenes that reflected as the verbal harassment. It is bullying and sexual joking. According to Winarsunu (2008) the verbal harassment is the one which indicated

as the verbal action, such as cat calling, bullying, sexual joking or body shaming. whose someone get from the other people. The other discussion that was researcher found is the non-verbal harassment and psychological/ emotional harassment. There are five scene which told about nonverbal harassment and three scene which describe about the psychological/ emotional harassment. To sum up, this research found there are sexual harassment indicated which addressed to the main characters. It was show through the scene which explained above.

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