

## The Plot and Characters in Building the Romance Formula in Movie *Midnight Sun* (2018) by Scott Peer

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### ABSTRACT

*This study analyzes the romantic formula in *Midnight Sun* (2018) by analyzing the plot and characterization through the lens of John G. Cawelti's romantic formula theory, supported by Radway's theory. Using a qualitative research design and an objective literary criticism approach, this study identifies the key elements of the romantic formula, including the initial meeting between the protagonists, the development of their relationship, the introduction of conflict, and its resolution. The findings show that *Midnight Sun* successfully applies the classic structure of romantic narratives. The film follows Cawelti's stages from the first meeting, the development of the relationship, emotional conflict, and ends with a bittersweet yet meaningful resolution. The characterization revealed by Radway reflects the romantic formula that provides emotional depth and satisfaction for the audience. The findings show that *Midnight Sun* follows the common romantic structure, where the relationship between the hero and heroine develops through emotional and situational obstacles before reaching a resolution. This study contributes to the broader discourse on romantic narratives in popular cinema, offering insights into the application of formulaic storytelling in contemporary films.*

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### 1. Introduction

Romance is a genre that tells stories of romance, this genre usually tells the story of the struggle for love between lovers who accidentally meet, usually the romance genre has a light storyline and makes people who watch or read it emotionally carried away, as Ramsdell said in Joyce (2009, p. 132 in Ghifar Aufa, 2020; Abbas et al., 2023), romance as a love story that focuses on the development and satisfactory completion of a love relationship between two main characters, which is written in such a way as to provide readers with some level of representative emotional participation in the romance process.

As a literary mode, romance can be traced back to the first century AD, when Greek prose romances began to be written, telling stories of young men and women who meet, fall in love, are separated by various obstacles, undergo a series of journeys and adventures, and are eventually reunited by the gods to live happily ever after Jax Dixon (in Kamblee, et al., p. 2018; Suwarni et al., 2021; Abbas et al., 2024; Suheri et al., 2025).

Over time, the romance story evolved and Shakespeare's 16th and early 17th century works, including *As You Like It*, brought it closer to the modern romance novel. These plots centered on the lovers' freedom to choose and unite with each other, creating the happy ending that is the hallmark of romance, Regis (in Kamblee et al., 2018). And Romance continues to move from its roots in poetry and drama into the more structured and expansive world of prose fiction. The novel became the dominant form for exploring themes of love, desire, and societal dynamics, ushering in new subgenres and defining new literary traditions." Wilson (2025)

In the 20th century, the romance genre evolved with shifts in social values, media formats, and technology. Academically, it fits within film studies as it contains narrative elements like theme, structure, and socio-cultural functions. As a genre, romance meets film conventions of story, character, setting, and emotional patterns, making it a valid subject in film and genre analysis.

According to Altman in his book *Film/Genre* (1999) Any successful genre film depends upon both repetition and variation: it must repeat enough of the genre's conventions to be recognizable, while also introducing differences to keep

the audience engaged. The romance genre is characterized by its focus on the emotional connection between two individuals and the conflicts that stand in the way of their union, or cathartic/idealistic resolution. Therefore, romance as a genre is not only a medium of entertainment, but also a platform that presents the values of love, gender, and social norms in the context of a particular society.

Bordwell, Thompson, and Smith state that film is a relatively young medium compared to other arts like painting or literature, emerging only in the late 19th century. Despite its youth, film quickly became a powerful art form that fulfills the public's imaginative needs. Its development reflects not only technological progress but also deep connections to social, cultural, and economic contexts.

Midnight Sun (2018) contains various elements of the romance formula, such as characterization, plot, setting, and pacing. However, this study focuses specifically on plot and character. As a form of visual fiction, film combines spoken and written elements to convey stories through moving images, creating the illusion of life and supporting human communication. Weston (2003, in Nurlaeli: 2020) in analyzing films, of course, it will not be far from literature as Petrie & Boggs (2018, p. 35) said Literature and films do share and communicate many elements in similar ways. Perceptive film analysis rests on the principles used in literary analysis.

To analyze the whole or one of these aspects requires a film analysis guide, one of which is from the book the art of watching films which states that Analysis, generally, means breaking up the whole to discover the nature, proportion, function, and interrelationships of the parts. Film analysis, then, presupposes the existence of a unified and rationally structured artistic whole Petrie & Boggs (2018, p. 7). Through the explanation of Petrie & Boggs, analyzing a film requires understanding how each element works as a whole and supports each other to convey the main message or theme.

In this study the authors will focus on the romance formula contained in the film Midnight Sun (2018) using Calwety's theory and supported by Radway's theory The romance genre is one of the film genres that many people like from the story or characterization that makes the audience get carried away in the story as Javandalasta said (2011, p. 3) The romance film genre tells the romance of a couple of lovers Most viewers who see will be carried away by the romantic atmosphere played by the players.

The romantic movie itself has a main story about the main character's love relationship. The story can end happily (happy ending) or unhappily (bitter ending) in a romance story the most dominant character is usually played by a female character as said by Cawelti (1976, p. 41) According to Cawelti, romance in popular literature often features a dominant female character and elements of adventure that test and ultimately strengthen the love relationship. The story focuses on the protagonist's journey to find true love, highlighting relationship development, conflict, and emotional endurance as core parts of the romance formula.

The plot in romance fiction generally contains the development of the love story itself Cawelti, (1976, p. 5-6). The following is the plot mentioned by Cawelti as follows, the first meeting of the hero and heroine, The male character wins the female character, The conflict or obstacle, The end of the story. The plot is a series of grooves contained in the story, the plot in a romance movie provides emotional satisfaction that tells of sacrifice, true love and happiness for the audience. (Staton 2007, p. 26 in Aufa, 2020) says that plot is a series of events in a story. How a particular event affects other events cannot be ignored, because the event will affect the whole story.

Narrative romance above is the plot structure of romance according to Radway and has been put forward five novels that have been analyzed according to the narive romance, namely such as Lane Eyre, Pride and Prejudice, The Scarlet 31 Letter, The Hunchback of Notre-Dame is more complicated than the narrative structure of romance proposed by Radway. The difference is that the story in the high literary novel is more complicated so it tends to be more difficult to understand in (Resfayanda: 2020). besides the plot, Radway also suggests the characteristics of hero and heroine in romance stories, namely Radway said that "the ideal characteristics of male hero characters are categorized into nine: intelligent, gentle, protective, strong, brave, humorous, independent, attractive and athletic. Meanwhile, the ideal characteristics for female heroes are extraordinary beauty, intelligent, manly, independent women who have some contact with men, usually merciful, kind, and understanding" (82, 124-127) In (Aufa, 2020).

The object of this research is the film Midnight Sun (2018), directed by Scott Speer. The story follows Katie Price, a teenage girl suffering from Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP), a rare condition that prevents her from being exposed to sunlight. As a result, Katie lives in isolation and can only go out at night. Since childhood, she has secretly admired a boy named Charlie Reed, watching him pass by her house every day. One night, while playing guitar at a train station, Katie

meets Charlie by chance. Their connection grows as Charlie finds the songbook she left behind. Despite facing emotional and circumstantial obstacles, Katie and Charlie fall in love and stay together through the challenges.

Midnight Sun (2018) movie liked this movie by 82% and has a rating of 6.6/10 on IMDb, Midnight Sun (2018) movie also entered the award nominations at the Teen Choice Awards in 2018 with the category Choice Movie: Drama, Choice Drama Movie Actor, Choice Drama Movie Actress and Choice Movie Ship and then at the People's Choice Awards with the category Favorite Dramatic Movie.

Then, on this occasion, the author chose the film Midnight Sun (2018) because this film is a film that has a romance genre that matches the title to be analyzed. This film is interesting to study because it presents an emotional love story against the background of a rare health conflict, namely Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP) disease, which is owned by the heroine fan of the film Midnight Sun (2018) is interesting to study because the storyline follows the typical pattern of romance stories as described by Cawelti (1976) by starting from the meeting of characters, the emergence of conflicts, to an emotional ending, besides that this film is also in accordance with Radway's theory (1984) which shows how love can be a way for female characters to feel valuable. Therefore, the movie Midnight Sun (2018) is interesting to study because it is not just a love story, but also about hope, strength, and struggle in limitations.

There are several studies that discuss the same thing the first is a journal written by Nanda and Andang (2021) entitled "Factors Of Personal Motivation In Eric Ramiro Kirsten's Movie Script Midnight" in this journal has the same object of study but in this journal discusses the internal factors of personal motivation in the Midnight Sun movie script using McClelland's theory of motivation and this journal focuses on Charlie's character who has internal motivation related to swimming and achieving a scholarship to Berkeley. And there is a journal written by Vanessa et al., (2023) entitled An Analysis Of Katie's Personality In Midnight Sun Film, in this journal discusses the character analysis of Katie, the main character of the woman using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. "Living with Xeroderma Pigmentosum in the Midnight Sun Movie: Sociological Perspective" by Ilya (2021) discusses how the rare disease Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP) is depicted in the movie Midnight Sun through a literary sociology approach. This research also reveals the director's reasons for raising the issue of XP as a form of social awareness and empathy for people with rare diseases, as well as illustrating their struggle to live a normal and happy life in the midst of limitations. "Analysis of Discourse Deixis on the Film Midnight Sun" by Dhianuari (2014) discusses the types of discourse deixis that appear in the dialog of the film Midnight Sun and how they connect one event to another in the discourse. this study identifies five types of discourse deixis, namely prepositional phrases, noun phrases, time descriptions, place descriptions, and sentences, with a total of 28 data analyzed from the film script. "The Meaning of Father's Role in Childcare in Midnight Sun Movie" by Fanny (2023). This research examines the meaning of a father's dual role in childcare through Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis of the movie Midnight Sun. "The Analysis of Conversational Implicature in Midnight Sun Movie" by Maulina (2020) This study analyzes the types of conversational implicature as well as the maxims of cooperation that are violated or disregarded in the dialogue of the two main characters, Katie and Charlie, in the movie Midnight Sun (2018), using Grice's theory (1975).

The difference from previous studies that the author will review in this study is that the author will discuss how the romance formula in the film Midnight Sun (2018) focuses on the characters and plot, and previous studies only focus on the characters and their personalities but there are also those that discuss the script in the film, In contrast to this study, the author focuses on the two characters Charlie and Katie to see how the two characters build a romance formula using the romance formula theory from Cawelti and supported by Radway's theory, as well as to how to find conflict in the movie Midnight Sun (2018) using the romance formula theory. These previous studies provide references to romance formula analysis and provide in-depth references to the hero and heroine characters in the movie Midnight Sun (2018). Then, this research will focus on discussing the storyline and the role of the main character who specializes in formula romance.

Then, on this occasion, the author chose the film Midnight Sun (2018) because this film is a film that has a romance genre that matches the title to be analyzed. Which can be seen from the characterization, plot, and conflict in the film. By analyzing the romance formula in this film, it becomes important to know how each element of popular fiction in this film is applied. And the author also analyzes this film to find out the romance formula by using Cawelti's theory supported by Radway's theory.

## **2. Methodology**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with the object of the film Midnight Sun (2018) which is analyzed using Cawelti's theory which focuses on the plot and characteristics of heroes and heroine. The research uses descriptive qualitative with use of textual data rather than numerical data. The data collected is seen from the events in

the movie and then explained using descriptive qualitative methods. According to Vanderstoep (2009, p. 7) descriptive qualitative research produces narrative of textual descriptions of the phenomena under studies.

## **2.1 Source Data**

The main data source in this research is the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018) directed by Scott Speer and released in 2018. The movie was captured to collect data by downloading the movie. The data taken is part of the scene that matches the elements that display the romance formula and the conflict that supports the romance formula and then analyzed using Cawelti's theory and supported by Radway's theory.

## **2.2 Technique of Collecting Data**

In this study researchers used qualitative methods, qualitative methods according to Cresswell (2009, p. 292) qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and use diverse designs.

Cresswell (2009, p. 295) Qualitative researchers usually collect many forms of data, such as interviews, observations, documents, and audiovisual information rather than relying on one data source. These are all open-ended forms of data where participants share their ideas freely, unconstrained by predetermined scales or instruments. Then the researchers reviewed all the data made sense of it, and organized it into codes and themes that crossed all the data sources. After collecting the relevant data, the researchers watched the movie, and then screenshot the appropriate scenes while watching for analysis.

## **2.3 Technique of Analyzing Data**

In this study, researchers must be familiar with the plot and characters contained in the film *Midnight Sun* (2018), after all the data is collected, the next step is to analyze, then study all the data that has been collected from each source, the next step is to identify the elements of the romance formula based on the theory of John G. Cawelti and the last step is to draw conclusions from the results of the data analysis obtained. According to Meolong (2012, p. 296) the steps to analyze the data are, (1.) Identify the data (2.) Categorize the data (3.) Describe the overall data source (4.) Draw conclusions. In this study, following what Meolong stated, by identifying the data then categorizing the data by capturing the screen, then identifying the data in an orderly manner according to John G. Cawelti and Radway theory and finally drawing conclusions from the results of the analysis.

## **3. Result and Discussion**

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of the research regarding the construction of romance formulas in the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018). The analysis is based on John G. Cawelti's theory of formula fiction and Radway's concept of the romance genre. It focuses on how the plot and the characters in *Midnight Sun* (2018) follow the conventional structure and characterization typical of romance narratives. The findings are organized into two main discussions: first, how the plot builds the romance formula; and second, how the hero and heroine characters contribute to the development of the love story.

### **3.1 Plot in the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018) build romance formula**

The First, in this analysis, the author analyzes how the plot in the film *Midnight Sun* (2018) builds a romance formula by using Cawelti's theory. Formulas are cultural products and in turn, may have some kind of influence on culture because they become conventional ways of representing and connecting certain images, symbolic themes, and myths (Cawelti, 1976). The romance formula can be seen as follows: Plot is one of the formulas in romance fiction. The plot in romance generally contains the development of the love story itself (Cawelti, 1976). The following is the plot mentioned by Cawelti as follows, (1) The first meeting of the hero and heroine (2) The winning of the male character towards the female character (3) Conflicts or obstacles (4) The end of the story. The plot is a series of flows contained in the story, the plot in a romance movie provides emotional satisfaction that tells of sacrifice, true love and happiness for the audience. Staton (2007, p. 26) says that plot is the series of events in a story. How a particular event affects other events cannot be ignored, because it will affect the whole story. At the beginning of the romance, there is a moment that makes Charlie and Katie lovers. And that moment shows the formula of romance. Whether it pertains to romance fiction or popular literature. The following is an explanation:

#### **a. The first meeting of hero and heroine characters**

Scenes in the movie and match what is already in the first problem formulation, namely regarding the plot contained in the film *Midnight Sun* (2018) using Cawelti's theory, namely the romance formula, Cawelti (1976) says that the plot

contains the development of a love story. The first plot in the romance formula is the first meeting between the hero and heroine. The first meeting in a romance story is an important plot. Because this is the moment when love grows between the two characters. In the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018) Charlie and Katie are the characters that make the love story develop. Cawelti (1976) says that the plot contains the development of the love story. Supporting Cawelti's statement, (Radway, 1991) also states that a proper plot is the structure that makes the story a romance, Here is how the love story begins.

**Data 1**



**Data 2**



At minute 11: 52 in that minute the first meeting of the hero and heroine, Katie and Charlie, they meet at the train station at night when Charlie walks through the station and hears someone playing guitar and it turns out to be Katie and Charlie approaching Katie, but Katie panicked at being approached by Charlie because before this meeting Katie had seen Charlie in her bedroom window when Charlie passed in front of Katie's house, Katie always waited for Charlie to pass her house from childhood to adulthood but never met in person and Charlie did not know Katie's previous whereabouts because Katie only stayed at home from childhood to adulthood because Katie had XP disease which made Katie only allowed to go out at night, from there it can be seen that like Cawelti explained that the first meeting between hero and heroin contains the development of a love story.

#### **b. Boy wins over the girl**

The next stage after the first meeting of Katie and Charlie, Charlie as a hero character will win the heart of a heroine, Katie and make Katie fall in love here is also the initial stage of conflict because after this stage Charlie and Katie will face problems in a love relationship. At this stage the relationship between Charlie and Katie continues to develop so that both of them show that they have the same feelings to always be together because of the love that has grown in their hearts since they first met.

**Data 3**



**Data 4**



At minute 20:40 here it is shown that Charlie managed to win Katie's heart. After an accidental meeting with Katie and at that time Katie ran scared so she left her book and Katie who was initially afraid to meet Charlie because Katie was used to just staying in the house because of her illness, and Charlie who insisted on meeting Katie, in the end Katie ventured to meet Charlie at the station to pick up her book that was left behind and at that time there was also an interaction between Katie and Charlie, Charlie managed to make Katie fall in love and invite her to meet again and spend the day together and do something new together.

#### **c. Conflict or obstacle**

Conflicts occur in fiction as well as in life to build the tension of the story. Obstacles in romance stories are usually to show how the two characters maintain their relationship or to keep the commitment. In this stage is the process of getting to a better relationship, in this stage we can see how the hero and heroine face their problems. Based on Cawelti's theory, in the romance genre the conflict is usually a romantic relationship or misunderstanding that occurs between the characters. So, the conflict may make their relationship mature or end. They both love each other so they are more mature in dealing with the problems that occur in their lives.

Data 5



Data 6



Shown at 1:05:24 in this minute shows how Charlie and Katie deal with the conflict that occurs. Charlie who did not give up on Katie continued to try to maintain their relationship, the conflict that occurred was due to a misunderstanding between Katie and Charlie which became one of the emotional conflicts in the story. This misunderstanding occurs because Katie hides her disease, xeroderma pigmentosum (XP), from Charlie. Charlie does not know that Katie has a rare condition that makes her unable to be exposed to sunlight. As a result, as they grew closer, Katie kept avoiding situations where she had to explain her illness. The culmination of the misunderstanding occurs when Charlie invites Katie out for a daytime activity, and Katie feels trapped between her desire to be with Charlie and her fear of the consequences of her illness. When Charlie finally learns the truth, he feels disappointed not because of Katie's illness, but because Katie didn't trust him from the start to share the truth. However, after many obstacles, they eventually come to understand each other, and Charlie continues to support Katie until the end. This misunderstanding becomes an important element in building emotional tension in the story and strengthening the formulaic elements of romance in romance movies.

#### d. The ending of story

After going through the conflict that occurs the last stage in the story is the ending at this stage shows how the ending in the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018). Ending in romance stories, as Cawelty said, Every story has an ending. In every fiction there are two possibilities, a happy ending or a sad ending.

Data 7



Data 8



It can be seen at minute 1:25:23, at the end of the movie, Katie finally faces the fact that her disease, xeroderma pigmentosum (XP). At the peak of the story, Katie finally has to accept that her life will not last long. However, before her departure, she manages to realize one of her biggest dreams: sailing with Charlie during the day. This moment symbolizes the final freedom and happiness she feels, even though she knows that her time on earth is limited. On that voyage, Katie feels at peace and can let go of all the fears that have been weighing her down.

The movie ends with an emotional scene where Charlie remembers Katie, showing that their love is not lost despite her physical absence. Although this story does not end with a happy ending in the traditional sense, it still provides emotional satisfaction for the audience, a hallmark of the romance formula. The audience is invited to feel the deep sadness, but also see the beauty in genuine love and the sacrifices made in a relationship.

### 3.2 Hero and Heroine characters in the movie *Midnight Sun* (2018) build a romance formula

In romance there are two main male and female characters, namely the so-called hero and heroine characters, the hero is the main male character who makes the heroine character fall in love, the hero character is usually described as a handsome, kind, helper and fighting figure, the hero character is made with such characters because those who watch romance movies are mostly women who expect a male figure who has a good nature and appearance besides that the hero or female character is described as a strong, brave, intelligent, independent or loving figure. As said by (Radway,



1991: 124-127) for the ideal heroine are; extraordinary beauty, intelligent, gallant, independent women who have little contact with men, usually loving, kind, and understanding people.

(Cawelti 1976:41) argues that the concept of romance formula is the relationship between characters. Later, he says that the essential defining characteristic of romance is not that it stars a woman but that its organizing act is the development of a love relationship, usually between a man and a woman. This means that the love relationship in a romance story must have two characters, that is, the relationship between a man and a woman or a hero and a heroine.

#### **a. Hero's Character**

In romantic narratives, the hero plays a fundamental role in shaping the love story. Typically, he is characterized as strong, compassionate, affectionate, and charismatic qualities that endear him to the heroine. In *Midnight Sun* (2018), Charlie Reed embodies the archetypal romantic hero. He is depicted as a kind and considerate young man who deeply cares for Katie Price, the film's heroine. His demeanor and actions reflect the essential traits of a romance hero, aligning with the conventional formula of the genre. A more in-depth examination of Charlie's character is presented as follows:

#### **b. Charlie is Caring**

As in romance movies in general, the character of a hero must have a character that makes the heroine like the hero and the characteristics of a hero will accompany a heroine in the most difficult circumstances, the hero will remain beside the heroine. As Radway says (1991:57) Although the particular way they do so will be explored later, suffice it to say here that Dot believes a good romance focuses on an intelligent and able heroine who finds a man who recognizes her special qualities and is capable of loving and caring for her as she wants to be loved.

##### **Data 9**



It can be seen at duration 1:30:20 there Katie and Charlie fall in love with each other even though they are in difficult circumstances because of Katie's XP disease but Charlie remains beside Katie under any circumstances. This becomes very important in character growth in romance as what Radway (1991: 65) said that romance tells about a man and woman meeting, growing awareness and even though they are in a difficult situation, they will always be together and realize that they are in love.

#### **c. Charlie is Tender**

Charlie's character is portrayed as kind and gentle throughout the movie. He never gets angry, even when Katie hides the truth about her XP condition. Though slightly disappointed, he still loves her for who she is. as Radway (1991: 83) says that tenderness characterizes the attention given to the heroine. And it is also shown at 1:32:52 when Katie asks to finish her relationship with Charlie when Katie has just revealed her honesty to Charlie about her illness but Charlie responds gently, safely and non-judgmentally so that he chooses to keep loving Katie.

##### **Data 10**



#### **d. Charlie is strong**

As the male lead, Charlie naturally has a strong mental character. Charlie is emotionally strong because he is someone who does not give up easily, does not give up on his dreams, and does not give up on Katie.

##### **Data 11**



Charlie is also emotionally strong because it is shown at minute 1:18:44 when Katie asks Charlie to realize Katie's last dream, which is to go to the sea during the day, and it carries Charlie's emotional burden because Charlie knows that moment may be his last farewell to Katie and Charlie realizes that Katie's condition is getting weaker but Charlie does not show personal decisions or ego.

#### **e. Heroine Character**

According to Radway, the core of a romance story is the relationship between men and women, where the female character typically attracts the male and makes him fall in love. In this movie, Katie's mysterious charm draws Charlie to her. As Radway (1991) describes, an ideal heroine possesses beauty, intelligence, independence, and kindness—qualities reflected in Katie's character.

#### **f. Katie beautiful**

In romance stories, the heroine is typically portrayed as beautiful. In this movie, Katie is also shown as beautiful, and her beauty is acknowledged by her friends, father, and Charlie.

##### **Data 12**



We can see at minute 25:38, the minute shows that the female main character is recognized by the male lead that she is beautiful when they are going on a date for the first time where Charlie says "You look really amazing". Said by Radway (1984-128) Although not all romantic heroines are beautiful, those in the romances favored most by the Smithsonian women are characterized by an especially alluring appearance.

#### **g. Katie intelligent**

In addition to having a beautiful face Katie is also smart, smart in writing songs and playing musical instruments such as guitar. From the first minute to the end of the movie, it was shown that Katie was indeed smart in playing music and writing songs that she created herself in her notebook.



#### Data 13



It is shown at minute 1:11:02 this is evident when Katie is recording in the studio to release the song she wrote and with Katie's intelligence Charlie is very supportive of her talent so Charlie helps Katie to broadcast and help the recording process of her songs. this is very supportive in romance movies because the hero and heroine support each other and also love each other. As said by Radway (1984-54) that a good romance story focuses on a smart heroine who is able to find a man who recognizes her unique qualities and is able to love and care for her as she wants to be loved.

#### h. Katie Independent

Although Katie has limitations due to her illness and still lives with her father, Katie is also an independent person because Katie does not depend on people even though she has XP disease and she learns music by herself and even writes songs that she creates herself.

#### Data 14



Can be seen at minute 03:21 in this minute Katie is playing the guitar and writing a song. In the midst of the illness she is experiencing, Katie still never complains about her fate and this shows that Katie is an independent person not just waiting for someone to save her. And of course, Katie is a person who is not dependent on men or little contact with men.

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis that has been carried out on the film *Midnight Sun* (2018), it can be concluded that this film successfully applies the main elements of the romance formula as put forward by John G. Cawelti and supported by his Terry Radway. The storyline in this film follows the classic stages in a romance story, starting from the first meeting between the two main characters, the development of the relationship, the emergence of conflict, to the end of the story which gives a deep impression to the audience. The first meeting between the main characters Katie and Charlie is shown in a touching way, and it shows that love can grow in unexpected situations. As the story progresses, their relationship develops naturally despite the great challenges that must be faced, especially related to Katie's health condition. This shows that the romance formula is not only about ideal love, but also involves emotional depth and mutual growth.

In the movie *Midnight sun* (2018), the hero and heroine characters are also described as characters that match the characteristics of the main character in the romance story. Katie is described as a beautiful, independent, and intelligent woman who despite suffering from a rare disease still pursues her dreams and expresses herself through music. And

Charlie's character as an ideal figure in a love story, a loyal lover and emotionally and physically strong. Charlie's patience and tenderness add emotional strength to the story and strengthen the authenticity of their love story.

Overall, *Midnight Sun* (2018) can be considered a good representation of a modern romance movie that stays true to the classic structure of a love story. By incorporating strong character development, conflicts that are relevant and desirable in today's world of cinema. This research shows that elements of popular fiction still play an important role in shaping audience expectations and emotional engagement through familiar yet relatable story patterns.

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