

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the general description of the paper. It consists of the research background, statement of the problem, research objectives, research significance, previous study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background research

As widely known the main goal of a film is to entertain viewers. A movie may elicit social awareness, consciousness, and transformation as side effects. A movie is considered to raise awareness if it engages the viewer or if it provides them with entertainment, motivation, or inspiration. In addition to providing amusement, it is essential in changing the systems while upholding the fundamental principles. It also initiates conversations, changes laws, and engages communities around important social concerns. Through widely accepted narratives, they alter people's perceptions and introduce fresh angles and aspects. A protracted and intense process of investigation, invention, and implementation of novel approaches that have the potential to ignite people's curiosity has gone into the history of international cinema. Several methods have been tried and explored to offer filmmaking a position among the best performing arts worldwide.

One of the popular movies, *The 300*, is a 2006 American epic historical action film based on the 1998 comic book series of the same name by Frank Miller and Lynn Varley. Co-written and directed by Zack Snyder, with Miller serving as

executive producer and consultant, the film is a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae in the Greco-Persian Wars like its source material. The plot revolves around King Leonidas, who leads 300 Spartans into battle against the Persian "God-King" Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) and his invading army of more than 300,000 soldiers. As the battle rages, Queen Gorgo attempts to rally support in Sparta for her husband. The story is framed by a voice-over narrative by the Spartan soldier Dilios. Through this narrative technique, various fantastical creatures are introduced, placing 300 within the genre of historical fantasy.

Heroism is a recurring theme in film across various genres. It often serves as the central focus or underlying message of many movies, captivating audiences and inspiring them through tales of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice. Heroic characters can be found in almost every genre, including action, adventure, fantasy, science fiction, war, and even romantic comedies. In action films, heroes are typically portrayed as physically strong and skilled individuals who fight against evil forces or save innocent lives. These characters often display courage, determination, and exceptional combat abilities. Examples include superheroes like Superman or Spider-Man who protect the world from supervillains or military soldiers who go on daring missions to rescue hostages.

It often features heroes embarking on quests or journeys that require them to face numerous challenges and dangers. These protagonists demonstrate bravery, resourcefulness, and resilience as they overcome obstacles to achieve their goals. War showcase heroes fighting on the front lines during historical conflicts or fictional wars. These characters display acts of valour, patriotism, and self-sacrifice

while highlighting the horrors of war. Other genres also incorporate heroism to varying degrees. Historical fiction showcases heroes who navigate significant events or fight for causes during specific periods in history. Heroism is a fundamental element found across various film genres. Whether it's through action-packed adventures, fantastical journeys, futuristic battles, historical conflicts, or heartwarming romances, heroes inspire audiences by embodying traits of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice.

The reason researcher chooses *The 300* because there is an interesting element to research in the film, namely, heroism. The film depicts how the Spartans fought for their nation when the Persian army came to take over the Spartans' homeland. While the Persian tatas offered their leader Leonidas his choice of rights and freedoms, Leonidas resisted and rejected the offer. Leonidas chose to die as an honorable soldier rather than submit to them. These things illustrate indirectly how patriotic elements and heroism of the Spartans, in the courage to make decisions. Based on what is mentioned, research on aspects of heroism is worth researching.

1.2 Research Question

The following problems are formulated in the research questions in order to reach the goal of understanding the heroism in *The 300*.

1. How are the heroism's aspects shown in *The 300* film?
2. How does the film represent the Spartan as heroes?

1.3 Research Objective

1. To describe the heroism's aspects shown in *The 300* film

2. To describe the film represent the Spartan as heroes

1.4 Research Significances

This study aims to provide knowledge about film studies, especially in the semiotics film analyses, the following are significant which are described theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically significance

The significance of this research is to add insight, knowledge about the application of heroism theories in film studies and the methods used in analysing the object in question.

2. Practically significance

- a. Researcher and readers

It is useful to increase the knowledge of British literature, so it is expected to be an attraction to appreciate film studies, especially in the field of heroism film analysis.

- b. Student

This research can be used as a reference for other similar studies.

- c. Teachers and lecturers

The results of this study can be used as teaching material in learning the study of English literature. Excerpts of dialogues in film and scenes in film can be

used as a learning medium regarding the application of heroism in film studies material.

1.5 Previous Studies

300 movie is amazing film that attracts the audience. As far as the writer knows, 300 movie was already studied Jaya, Aditya Rangga (2011) *Grind of King Xerxes of the Nation in 300 Spartan Directed by Zack Snyder's: A Marxist Approach*. His study comes to the conclusion that in 300 reflects the grind of king Xerxes of the nation.

The second previous research has been done by Natalia Kosasih (2009), *Representasi Budaya Persia Dalam Film 300*. In this research, she finds that 300 movie presents of Persian culture seen from clothes and appearance where Persian's people including the king wear many piercings and ornament of gold in whole part of their body as sign of social class. Another aspect is like time and awareness of time, confession and appreciation, relations, norm and value, and also attitude and trust.

The Third is by Rahmat Rozin Afada (2011) *Striving for Superiority of King Leonidas in Zack Snyder's 300 Movie: An Individual Psychological Approach*, in this research focus on observing King Leonidas superiority when his problems appears and he has to solve his problems. to study more about individual psychological.

The researcher did have a different approach from the three studies above. This research will focus on how heroism in films is displayed by considering the intrinsic nature of films and theories of heroism in films.

1.6 Definition of key terms

According to Cawelti, these stories typically follow a similar structure that includes the following key components:

1. Hero/Heroine: The story revolves around a central protagonist who embarks on a quest or faces a challenge. They are often portrayed as brave and resourceful.
2. Goal/Objective: The hero/heroine has a specific goal or objective they need to achieve throughout the story. This can be anything from solving a murder mystery to finding hidden treasure.
3. Obstacles/Conflict: The protagonist encounters various obstacles or conflicts that hinder their progress towards achieving their goal. These can include physical challenges, emotional dilemmas, or confrontations with antagonists.
4. Sidekicks/Allies: The hero/heroine often has companions or allies who assist them in overcoming obstacles and achieving their objectives.
5. Villains/Antagonists: There are usually one or more villains or antagonists who oppose the protagonist's goals and create conflict within the story.
6. Climax/Resolution: The story reaches its peak tension point during the climax when the protagonist confronts the main obstacle or antagonist. This

is followed by a resolution where loose ends are tied up and the protagonist achieves their goal (or fails to do so).

7. Themes: Genre fiction often explores universal themes such as love, justice, morality, redemption, etc., which are woven into the narrative.

