



The Role of Teacher in *Dangerous Minds* Movie

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ABSTRACT

This research is about the role of teacher in *Dangerous Minds* movie. In this study the writer used the library research. It is a study in the library to get relevant data to the topic that will be discussed. In this study, the writer uses two types of research approach. They are Exponential approach and Theories of Pedagogy which is related with the sociological literary approach. Teacher play an important role, especially for her students. In *Dangerous Minds* movie, which a lot of conflicts, and each characteristics, with these differences, each character interacts with another one. From the interactions, role teacher can be seen. From the discussion, it can be said that in *Dangerous Mind* movie, Lou Anne Johnson is a teacher that have a unique method to teach her students. This makes her students become closer and closer to her. Her teaching methods are unique and make her student respect her as her behavior. Miss Johnson very important and involved in the role of the teacher, such as direct contact, one-to-one precepting, and role modeling. Three main role of the teacher can played by Ms Johnson well, so her students can make good development in her behavior and scores.

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The media is the eye of our culture. Because it offers insight into a society, it can be valuable for youth workers trying to understand teens. "Movies driven to be financially successful, attempt to attract the largest viewing audience possible. Youth, ages 13 to 19, comprise 25% of the world population" (Borgman, 1997: 82). Therefore, movie producers often create stories that will be well received by people in this age group. Because of the powerful influence of movies, it is important for people who work with youth to seek the current messages communicated to them. The film is a series of images projected on a screen in order to create a living movement. Moving pictures are a form of popular entertainment, which brings people in the world of imagination to dissolve a certain time.

This topic discussion will specifically address the role of teacher through the movie, *Dangerous Minds* with regard to the cast roles of African-Americans. "This 1995 movie, produced by Buena Vista, was ranked 12th out of the top 100 movies for that year; total box office revenue in 1995 was \$84,211,543" (Aasen, 1998: 62). *Dangerous Minds* effectively uses characterization, music, and theme to target a large teen audience.

Dangerous Minds is a 1995 American dramahood film based

on the autobiography *My Posse Don't Do Homework* by former U.S. Marine LouAnne Johnson, who took up a teaching position at Carlmont High School in Belmont, California, in 1989, where most of her students were African-American and Hispanic teenagers from East Palo Alto, a then-unincorporated town at the opposite end of the school district. The film, starring Michelle Pfeiffer as LouAnne Johnson, was released to mostly mixed-to-negative critical reception, but became a surprise box office success in the summer of 1995, leading to the creation of a short-lived television series of the same name.

Here the writer will discuss this film with the theme of a teacher's experience. A teacher is the first public figure who teaches students formally in school with a proficiency in education. A great teacher will make next brilliant generation. The teacher's support will have positive or negative effect on students.

From the discussion about teachers above the writer would raise the theme of a teacher's experience reflected in *Dangerous Minds* movie, a popular film in the era of 1995. This movie gives us an inspiration about teacher's important role along with the achievement of a life choice. A teacher named Mrs. Johnson, an ex-Marine who has different job experience from teaching work now tries to socialize herself as a teacher. She is collided with

some problems that make her re-think whether she wants this job.

The writer is interested in learning about this movie because it has a moral value of how to be a teacher. The teacher's role in the film has made the writer change her perspective. This movie teaches her about the importance of a choice that will determine our future rather than just follow the flow conditions that occur and become our way of life. Here the writer also gets a new understanding of language used not only as a method of learning but also purely formal sense of communication among a community that can change a person's perspective.

Based on the background above, this thesis is entitled: **The Role of Teacher in *Dangerous Minds* Movie.**

B. Purpose of the study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer can propose some objectives of the study below:

1. To analyze the role of a teacher in *Dangerous Minds* Movie.

To analyze the teaching methods that are used Ms. Johnson in *Dangerous Minds*.

C. Direct Contact

1. Real Life Context

As mentioned, a teacher plays an important role in every action and his/her student's behavior because a teacher is similar to the second parents to his/her students.

Teachers not only have to understand his students from the aspect of the school environment, but also have to have a deep understanding of the environment of each student. In other words, a teacher has a role as the second parent of a child. He/she has to draw sympathy and become the idol of the students. Teachers should be able to motivate their student's life, especially in learning.

Dangerous Mind movie has a lot of scenes which include the direct contact of the player. Direct contact is practicing communication skills through direct contact with students. This includes providing real life setting and context, providing learners with a variety of hands-on experiences and providing continuous feedback.

This dialogue below reflects the conflict in the real life context that happens in this movie, that is Callie's pregnancy :

LouAnne Johnson: Oh, wait a minute.

You mean this isn't a rule?

You mean this is your preference?

Principal: Well, yes.

From the dialogue, we can say that Ms Johnson does not agree to remove Callie because of her pregnancy but the headmaster will make Callie move to another school. So Ms Johnson, after her hard argument can make the headmaster let Callie stay in the school. This reflects that the real life context in this film evokes some conflict between Ms Johnson and the

headmaster about Callie's pregnancy.

2. Experiences

The second aspect of direct contact is experiences. From the Callie Roberts case, Ms Johnson makes Callie calm down and she tries to persuade Callie to be strong and brave. Ms. Johnson uses her own past experience as an example.

*LouAnn Johnson: Well, Kimboley's wrong. I was married and I was pregnant.
Callie: So what happened?
LouAnn Johnson: We got divorced and I had an abortion. He beat me.
Well, sometimes you start out wrong*

Dangerous Mind movie has the scenes that are related to the experiences. Based on the dialogue, which is taken in medium close up, we can say that Ms. Johnson has experience in the past related to her marriage. Her husband is very rough, and she experienced violence and abortion, and in the end she has a divorce. From her experience, Ms Johnson can give advice to Callie to be strong in facing her condition. From that picture and dialogue, we can say that Ms Johnson is a role modelling for Callie, she can persuade and convince Callie to be a strong woman.

3. Continuous Feedback

Direct contact refers to the communications skill of the teacher to make contact with her students. The third section is continuous feedback. This picture below shows the scene when Ms Johnson meets Callie to speak about Callie's pregnancy:

*Louannee Johnson: and I wanted to come tell you personally. You do not have to go to Clearview. There is nothing in the rules that says you can't stay exactly where you are.
Callie: But, uh, I already enrolled in Clearview.
Ms Johnson: Uh, well, that's all right. But you don't have to go there.*

From the dialogue, we can say that the direct contact between Ms Johnson and Callie provides solutions for Callie's pregnancy, provides continuous feedback, and also promotes development of communication and problem solving skills. The direct contact according to the theory is one of the role of teacher methods to make her student close to her teacher. This is what LouAnne Johnson does to her students and makes her students close to her and she also the role modelling for Callie.

D. One-to-One Precepting

1. Building Teamwork and Cooperation

One-to-one precepting involve the personal interaction between

teacher and students, and may involve building teamwork and cooperation. In the *Dangerous Mind* movie, Ms Johnson has one-to-one precepting with Emilio, her student:

Ms.Johnson:But if you tell Mr Grandey about him not about his threatening you, but about his being on crack he'll be turned over to the juvenile court for-for drug abuse in school.

H-He won't serve hard time, but by the time he gets out and he's detoxed, he-he will have gotten over trying to kill you.

Emilio: No, I can't rat on him.

Ms.Johnson: Right. Kill him. That's better.

Emilio: Man,

Ms Johnson: you don't understand.

You asked me once how I was gonna save you from your life.

This is how. This moment.

Right now.

This will make the difference in your life forever.

The dialogue describes the scene when Ms Johnson speaks with Emilio after his problem with another student. This involves one-to-one precepting. Another conflict happens when Emilio dies. The beginning of the problem is Emilio with his girl friend, Angela because Angela's ex boyfriend is jealous with Emilio. Ms Johnson tries to make Emilio understand the problem and solve them. Ms Johnson precepts Emilio to think positive and try to see and talk to the headmaster to solve Emilio's

problem. Ms Johnson will help Emilio, but first Emilio must have appointment with the headmaster. This refers to building teamwork and cooperation between Ms Johnson and Emilio to solve Emilio's problem. From that dialogue, we can say that Ms Johnson is a role modelling because she can advise Emilio, that stubborn student to obey her to consult with the headmaster.

2. Promoting Development of Verbal Communication Skills

Another one-to one precepting is promoting development of verbal communication skills. The picture below shows when Ms Johnson has a conversation with Raul in promoting development of verbal communication skills:



1:03: 55

Picture 1.

Dialogue : 1:03:55

Raul: So, what's the condition?

Ms Johnson: You have to pay me back

on the day you graduate.

Raul: But-But what if I don't graduate?

Ms Johnson: Well, then you'll never

pay me back the money.

But I know that if you say you will,

you'll kill yourself keeping your word.

Well, what do you say?

Raul: I don't get it. Why do you care so much if I graduate?

Ms Johnson: Weird, isn't it?

Raul: All right, I'll pay you back. You have my word.

Ms Johnson: Hey. It is a very nice jacket.

Picture 1., which is taken in medium close up, and dialogue, express the scene when Ms Johnson tries to help Raul from his problem, Raul has a financial problem and Ms Johnson lends her money to Raul to pay Raul' jacket. This scene emphasizes on the communication skill of Ms Johnson to persuade Raul to accept her money to pay the jacket. From this discussion, we can say that Ms Johnson is a role modelling for Raul and teaches Raul about keeping promise. s.Johnson as a teacher plays an important role for her students' perspective and have changed their behavior. So Ms Johnson is a role modeling for her students (only picture without dialogue).



1:33:49

Picture 2.

From picture 2. above which is taken in long shot, we can say that Ms Johnson has an important role in

her students' life, so her students do not want her to quit teaching in this school. As a good role model, Ms Johnson encourages her students to make good development in their behavior, and also in their scores. In this picture, the emphasis is from the expression without the dialogue, because of the role modeling and the behavior of Ms. Johnson as a good model for her students.

C. CONCLUSION

Annabelle Worthington has a great Teacher play an important role, especially for her students. In *Dangerous Minds* movie, which a lot of conflicts, and each characteristics, with these differences, each character interacts with another one. From the interactions, role teacher can be seen.

From the discussion, it can be said that in *Dangerous Mind* movie, Lou Anne Johnson is a teacher that have a unique method to teach her students. This makes her students become closer and closer to her. Her teaching methods are unique and make her student respect her as her behavior.

Miss Johnson very important and involved in the role of the teacher, such as direct contact, one-to-one precepting, and role modeling. Three main role of the teacher can played by Ms Johnson well, so her students can make good development in her behavior and scores.

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