

HUMAN-TECHNOLOGY RELATIONSHIP IN SPIKE JONZE'S *HER*

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ABSTRAK

Film *Her* adalah sebuah film yang menceritakan tentang kehidupan manusia yang sangat bergantung dengan teknologi. Film ini memperkenalkan sebuah teknologi terbaru yaitu sistem operasi komputer yang disebut *OS ONE* yang diklaim memiliki tingkat intelegensi tinggi dan dapat berkomunikasi secara personal dengan pemiliknya. Sedemikian dekatnya hubungan itu, karakter utama dalam film tersebut yaitu Theodore Twombly dan Amy memiliki hubungan spesial dengan sistem operasi komputer masing-masing. Sedemikian dekatnya hubungan itu Theodore akhirnya menjadi antipati terhadap kehidupan sosialnya di tengah proses perceraian yang sedang dia hadapi dan lebih memilih menyendiri di apartemennya.

Skripsi ini memiliki tujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh hubungan yang dimiliki Theodore dan Amy dengan OS ONE masing-masing terhadap pengembangan perilaku mereka dan mendeskripsikan perilaku kedua karakter sebagai sebuah refleksi dalam proses aktualisasi diri. Dalam proses penulisan skripsi ini penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kepustakaan dan menggunakan dua pendekatan. Pendekatan objektif untuk menganalisis unsur intrinsik pada film dan pendekatan sosiologi dengan memakai teori *Self-Actualization* milik Abraham Maslow untuk menganalisis lebih dalam proses aktualisasi karakter utama. Dari analisis, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa secara sadar maupun tidak ketergantungan yang dimiliki karakter utama terhadap *OS ONE* mempengaruhi kehidupan pribadi dan mengubah pandangan karakter utama dalam mencapai kepuasan terhadap kebutuhan hidupnya. Sehingga mereka akhirnya menyadari bahwa kepuasan yang telah mereka capai dengan bantuan *OS ONE* hanya bersifat sementara dan pemenuhan akan aktualisasi diri sebenarnya dapat tercapai tanpa harus bergantung kepada *OS ONE*.

kata kunci: *hubungan, kebutuhan hidup, aktualisasi diri*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Literary work is a verbal expression, verbal construct or an utterance which is defined through a special way. Related to its definition some forms of literature are poetry, prose and drama (Olsen, 1982:13). Drama or film is a well known form of art appreciation in society which

becomes a part of social life and culture. It also becomes as effective media to entertain as well as to give message to a large scale society. In other words, film can be communication media which are able to give impact to people because it always influences and forms society through the message behind it (Sobur, 2004:127).

The writer believes that technology has become an important part in modern life on how it helps human communicating, and accompanying. Specifically, in social aspects, technology plays an important role to fulfill human social life. Nowadays, the reason of people involving sophisticated technology or gadget in their interactions is not only helping them to communicate with other people but also becoming a companion through boredom and loneliness hence fulfilling their needs to actualize themselves in a larger function. Many people utilize technology as one of the tools to actualize themselves in society, some people might use the latest gadget to gain self-esteem among society while the others utilize many features in mobile phone or computer to assist them doing tasks. Looking at how important technology is in today's life and how every people's motivation is different one to another, whether they realize it or not, technology has changed their behaviors during the process of meeting their needs.

According to Self-Actualization theory by Abraham Maslow, it takes five stages to achieve self-actualization, they are biological and physiological, safety needs, love and belongingness needs, esteem needs, and the last is self-actualization. Self-Actualization is the state when a human finally becomes actualized to what he is potentially or in other words, the fulfillment of oneself. Once a stage is satisfied, another new higher stage or need will emerge until all five needs are fulfilled (Maslow, 1954).

HER is a science fiction movie which describes how dependent human life is on technology to the point it affects human's personal life and helps human to actualize himself.

The movie shows every technology is wireless and able to have two-way conversation with human. HER movie was directed by Spike Jonze and produced by Warner Bros. Picture in which its official website stated that the movie was successful to snatch Best Original Screenplay award in Academy Awards 2014. Therefore, the story of human and technology, specifically operating system shown in the movie is the reason why the writer chooses this movie to analyze deeper in the reflection of main characters achieving self-actualization.

1.2 PURPOSES OF THE STUDY

This thesis has three purposes, the first purpose is to analyze the intrinsic aspects of both narrative and cinematic elements in the movie. The second is to analyze the influences of relationship between human and technology toward main characters' behaviors. Lastly, the third purpose is to describe main characters' behavior in human-technology relationship as a reflection of achieving self-actualization from the uncommon relationship

2. HUMAN-TECHNOLOGY IN SPIKE JONZE'S *HER*

2.1 METHODS OF THE STUDY

The writer uses two kinds of method which are method of research to collect the data and method of approach to support the data which has been collected. The explanation is in the following;

2.1.1 Method of Research

This thesis is basically a qualitative research. According to Lexy J. Moleong in his book *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*, it is stated that the sources of qualitative research are usually from interview records, notes, images, and any other documents. The result of qualitative

research is descriptive analysis, because the writer should process the data in many different viewpoints in order to have dynamic analysis. Hence, the writer uses library research to collect factual information which comes from expert opinion and other necessary data to support other components of research (George, 2008:6). The main data for this thesis is *HER* movie which was directed by Spike Jonze and produced by Warner Bros Pictures, while the supporting data are relevant books, journals, and internet websites contain related references to support the analysis.

2.1.2 Method of Approach

The writer uses two approaches to analyze both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. Intrinsic aspects are analyzed by using objective approach which is focusing solely on intrinsic elements of the movie as the work of literature without involving other influences from the author, audiences or any external forces (Abrams, 1999:52). Meanwhile, extrinsic aspects are analyzed by using self-actualization theory by Abraham Maslow which is focusing on technology influences towards characters interactions and behavior as a reflection of self-actualization shown in the movie

2.2 DISCUSSION

2.2.1 Analysis of Intrinsic Aspects

The writer analyzes intrinsic elements of *HER* movie both narrative and cinematography aspects. The analysis covers some of narrative elements in the movie, such as characters, setting, and conflict, while the analysis of cinematography aspects is merged in order to have comprehensive analysis of intrinsic elements

2.2.1.1 Analysis of Major Characters

2.2.1.1.1 Theodore Twombly

Theodore Twombly is a lonely person and he seems enjoying his private time by himself because he prefers interacting more with his portable device to being socially active with people in real life after his split up with his wife.

2.2.1.1.2 Samantha

Samantha is an artificially intelligent operating system which is produced by Element Software. She is then purchased by Theodore, she really improves herself and she becomes much more than what she has been programmed before

2.2.1.1.3 Amy

Amy is Theodore's best friend, she is married to Charles. However, at the end, she chooses to split up with Charles and she is trying to be strong to live her new life and to be happy for the major choice which she has taken by enjoying herself living alone.

2.2.1.2 Analysis of Minor Characters

2.2.1.2.1 Paul

Paul is the receptionist where Theodore works. He is a positive person because even though he knows Theodore has a relationship with an operating system, Paul does not give negative comments to Theodore.

2.2.1.2.2 Catherine

Catherine is Theodore's former wife, she is a smart woman. She questions Theodore's real emotion after finding out Theodore's new partner is an operating system.

2.2.1.2.3 Charles

Charles is Amy's former wife, he always argues with Amy during their marriage.

2.2.1.3 Analysis of Setting

The setting of place in *HER* movie is generally taken in Los Angeles, California, United States of America. Specifically the movie takes place in Theodore's surrounding since the story focus on Theodore's life. The movie probably portrays time setting no more than ten years later from 2010s because it does not really show significant difference compared to the present day, unless the technology is more advanced and the buildings look more futuristic. Moreover, social setting in *HER* movie is a future urban life based on American cultural background when technology is integrated to human perfectly.

2.2.1.4 Analysis of Conflict

In the movie, Theodore already has internal conflict from the beginning because he keeps thinking of his life when he was still together with his former wife. He starts thinking of Catherine when he feels lonely and confused with her relationship with Samantha.

However Theodore also has external conflicts with Samantha and Catherine. Theodore and Samantha have many conflicts which are usually caused by different perspective between human and artificial mind of an operating system. Meanwhile the conflict between Theodore and Catherine happens due to their different point of views of relationship and emotion.

2.2.2 Analysis of Extrinsic Aspects

2.2.2.1 Human-Technology's Relationship Influences toward Main Characters' Behaviors

There are some significant changes happen between Theodore and Amy's behavior because of Theodore's bonding with operating system. Instead of scrutinizing deeper about OS ONE, the writer however merely uses OS ONE as a tool to analyze the behaviors development of main characters, which are Theodore and Amy, from the beginning until the end of the movie. The most tangible changes toward the behaviors of both Theodore and Amy are firstly they have

become more confident despite their flaws of life and secondly how they have become more sensitive to each other and understanding to how the others feel.

2.2.2.2 Main Characters' Behavior in Human-Technology Relationship as a Reflection of Achieving Self-Actualization

The movie is talking about human-technology relationship happens due to an effort of achieving self-actualization done by main characters. The first stage is physiological need, the relationship between Theodore and Samantha becomes intimate because she satisfies Theodore's sexual desire after Theodore's suffering of being left by his former wife, Catherine.

The second stage is security need, he also feels safe from the insecurity of living alone after his divorce with Catherine because he is accompanied by Samantha. The third stage is love and belongingness need, Theodore then grows sense of belonging and feeling for Samantha because of the experience they share together while getting closer to each other. However, it is different for Samantha as OS ONE because she is able to belong and fall in love with numerous people at the same time.

Samantha is a big help for Theodore's life because she helps him realizing his dream to become a writer and completing the fourth stage of needs of respect and esteem. Nevertheless, being a writer actually does not bring a complete satisfaction for Theodore because Samantha as his motivator is going to leave due to the OS ONE withdrawal issue. The same situation also happens to Amy who befriends with Ellie, the OS ONE which gives her confidence and understands her better than human being does. They realize that their satisfaction of their needs by the help of OS ONE is only a temporary feeling because at the end they are still not at ease.

However, in order to complete the last stage of need, which is self-actualization, a person should feel fully satisfied of his current state. The consciousness about humans who cannot

actually satisfy their needs in life by depending on technology is what Theodore and Amy have achieved after being left by OS ONE

3. CONCLUSION

The writer comes to conclusion that all of the satisfactions that Theodore and Amy have got from the help of OS ONE since the beginning are actually fake and temporary. Even if they felt satisfied until the fourth stage of needs, the OS ONE cannot help them to achieve self-actualization as the fifth or the last stage of needs. Both Theodore and Amy have actualized their self-potential by themselves because they become persons who are able to finally acknowledge their own ability as a human to overcome the hardship of living alone with the help of each other instead of OS ONE or technology in general.

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