

PETER PARKER'S HEROISM IN SAM RAIMI'S SPIDER-MAN (2002) : MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract

The research focuses on Peter Parker's Heroism in Spider-Man (2002) : Movie Script. The objectives of the study are to find out the portrayal of Peter Parker's Heroism, the causal factors of Peter Parker's Heroism, and the effects of Peter Parker's Heroism. This study applies the theory of Heroism stated by Philip Zimbardo. The study uses intrinsic and extrinsic approaches and conducts qualitative research to analyze those problems. The result of this study shows that Peter Parker's Heroism is portrayed by four elements. The causal factors of Peter Parker's Heroism are seen in one's self as capable of committing a heroic act, the certain situation that may lead a person to do a certain act that makes him a hero, and the term of stimulation of heroic imagination refers to the ability of a person to imagine the physical and social risky situation and to be able to think about the problem he is going to face dealing with the situation and think about the consequences of the situation. The effects of Peter Parker's Heroism in Spider-Man (2002): The movie Script is the physical sacrifices such as physical threat, torture, serious injury, or even near-certain death in the service of a cause, and also the social sacrifices such as loss of status, and loss of job.

Keywords: *Heroism, movie script.*

A.INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics have been the tip of the spear fighting coronavirus. All healthcare workers are putting their lives in danger to help other people. Therefore, they can be considered heroes and people owe a debt of gratitude for the heroic work they have done. The reality described above attracts writer's attention to choose heroism.

Heroism act can be an inspiration for people as well as the discussion of field of study. It is supported by Campbell (1949: 257) who stated that "Heroes have been described as support for all human life and the inspiration of philosophy, poetry, and the arts and function as a vehicle for the profoundest

moral and metaphysical instruction". Campbell (1949: 256) further suggested that "The metaphors by which heroes live have been brooded upon, searched, and discussed for centuries: they have served whole societies, furthermore, as the mainstays of thought and life".

B.RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses qualitative research to answer the research question. She applies qualitative research in evaluating the document which is the role-play strategy in an English textbook because she thinks that qualitative research is the most suitable research for her topic. It is stated in Neuman's book entitled *Social Research Methods* (2007:89) that:

Qualitative researchers use a language of cases and contexts, examine social processes and cases in their social context, and look at interpretations or the creation of meaning in specific settings. Instead of trying to convert into variables or numbers, qualitative researchers borrow ideas from the people they study and place them within the context. Qualitative data are empirical. They involve documenting real events, recording what people say (with words, gestures, and tones), observing specific behavior, studying written documents, or examining visual images.

Based on Neumann's explanation, the thesis writer assumes that qualitative research does not concentrate on numbers and tables to analyze, but the emphasis is based on experiences expressed from documenting real occasions, recording with words, gestures, and tones, observing particular behavior, and studying written documents.

The thesis writer also applies an extrinsic approach to analyze the research topic. According to Alex Thomson (2007):

An intrinsic approach to literature focuses on the work of art as an autonomous artifact; an extrinsic approach seeks to explain particular works, or the development of series of works, in relation to social, political or historical events.

The statement means that the intrinsic approach focuses on the elements of literature itself such as point of view, character, theme, etc. Meanwhile, an

extrinsic approach will be needed with other fields of study, such as social, political, and historical occasions.

C.FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

After conducting, the writers answer the problem. the writers present the analysis of the portrayals of Peter Parker's heroism, the causal factors of Peter Parker's heroism, and the last one is the effects of Peter Parker's heroism based on the theory of heroism proposed by Zimbardo.

a. The Portrayals of Peter Parker's Heroism

To analyze the portrayals of Peter Parker's heroism, the thesis writer applies the theory of heroism proposed by Philip Zimbardo. It has been explained in the theoretical background ~~in chapter II of this thesis~~ that Zimbardo presents four main characteristics of heroism. The first characteristic is that the heroic act in heroism is engaged in voluntarily. The second characteristic is that heroism involves heroic acts conducted in service to one or more people or the community. The next characteristic of heroism is that it involves a risk to physical comfort, social stature, or quality of life. The last characteristic of heroism according to Zimbardo is that heroism is characterized by initiating heroic acts without the expectation of reward. Based on Zimbardo's characteristics of heroism and the research data that have been collected, the thesis writer presents the analysis of Peter Parker's heroism as follows:

1. Being Committed voluntarily

The first characteristic of heroism is that the heroic act in heroism is engaged in voluntarily. It means that the act should be done willingly or it should be committed based on one's own accord or by free choice.

Dealing with Peter Parker's heroism, Peter does his heroic act based on his own free will. No one instructs or orders him to do such an act. Peter Parker, as Spiderman, displays incredible kindness to all those around him based on his

own free will. He helps and saves lives because he cares deeply about others around him. The first proof of Parker's free will be doing a heroic act can be seen in the following quotation taken from the movie script:

INT CAFETERIA DAY

Peter approaches a table with an absurdly overladen tray of food. He sits. M.J. moves past him on her way to her group. As she passes, she slips, her feet fly out under her. She's about to crash hard. Peter's spider-reflexes are at work and he moves - lightning speed - up and out in front of her, catching her tray with his left hand, and dropping his right shoulder just enough for her to grab onto. It's one of the most graceful moves we've ever seen. She regains her balance, looks at him, impressed.

M.J.

Wow. Great reflexes!

Peter shrugs, freaked out, he can't believe he did.it either.

She takes her tray back from him.

M.J.

Thanks.

(Raimi, 2000:26, script 24)

The above script shows the cafeteria scene early in the movie. There is a moment when Peter Parker is getting adjusted to his brand-new superpower. In a moment of vulnerability, Mary Jane slips on some spilled juice and she is about to crash onto the floor and have her lunch fall all over her face. But thankfully, Peter's Spidey senses are alerted. He catches the girl and, in one fell swoop, catches all the items that were on her tray. He makes it look completely graceful.

2. Involving a Risk to Physical Comfort, Social Stature, Or Quality of Life.

The second characteristic of heroism is that there should be a risk to physical comfort, social stature, or quality of life. Peter Parker, as Spiderman, exhibits incredible bravery. He stands in the way of danger to protect others. Neither Spiderman nor his alter ego, Peter Parker, ever displays any semblance of fear. He may have been concerned for other people, worried about society, or angry about villainous misdeeds, but he never is afraid of risking his own life.

The following script is proof of Peter's eagerness to risk his physical comfort and even his life quality.

THE GREEN GOBLIN!

Be turns and THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Swings down from a building above and (PON!) smacks right into the Goblin, knocking the villain clean off his Glider.

IN MID-AIR

The Glider comes sailing down after the Goblin, as with a homing device. It slashes through the globe replica, which is knocked off its perch, and comes out the other side, heading for the Goblin.

SPIDER-MAN clings to the side of a building, overlooking the chaos. His eyes zip over to ON THE BUILDING, Spider-Man fires a web at a billboard high atop a nearby building. AND SWINGS in a huge arc. Straight for-Billy. Be sweeps the child up, just as the globe rolls past, stamping out parking meters like matchsticks.

(Raimi,2000:99-100, script 77)

The script above contains a description of a fight between the Green Goblin and Spider-Man. Spider-Man shows up and saves a kid from getting crushed by a falling festival facade, and then he and the Green Goblin duke it out, flinging each other across the plaza. Parker's heroic act in saving the kid certainly risks his safety.

3. Conducted In Service to One Or More People or the Community.

The third characteristic of heroism as it is proposed by Zimbardo is that heroism involves a heroic act conducted in service to one or more people or the community. Seen from the story of *Spider-Man* (2002), Spiderman is a great altruist. He thinks of the welfare and happiness of other people more than anything else. When Spiderman helps other people, he never once thought he was fighting for his safety and security. He commits what he does to save the

lives of others. Peter Parker's services to people can be proven by the following scene from *Spider-Man* (2002) movie:

A ROBBER races out of a Korean deli, gun in one hand, sack of money in the other. The GROCER chases him out, carrying a baseball bat, the Robber turns, to shoot him, when suddenly

--THIWP! A web-stranded wraps around the gun and attack it sharply out of the Robber hand. Stunned, both Robber and Grocer turn.

(Raimi, 2000:70, script 63)

In this quotation, Peter saves the life of a Korean deli owner from a robbery. Parker catches the robber using his superpower. He commits that heroic act for the sake of conducting service for other people's safety.

4. Initiated Heroic Act without the Expectation of Reward.

The fourth characteristic of heroism is that there should be no expectation of reward for conducting a heroic act. A hero does not expect reward or recognition for his actions. He runs into a burning building because it is the right thing to do, not because he expects the attention of the media and the praise of the world for his actions.

Peter Parker is considered a hero because he does not expect a reward for a heroic act he does. The following script is evidence that Parker does not expect a reward for his heroic act.

EXT DARK STREET NIGHT

A WOMAN holds out her purse, huddling before a MUGGER, who's holding a gun on her

-- until he is suddenly gone, swept up into the air by the red and blue blur that flashes through the frame.

Her purse falls back into frame. She scoops it up.

A Note attached reads, "COURTESY, YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN."

(Raimi, 2000: 73, script B66)

The scene above shows that Spider-man saves a woman from a robbery. After saving the woman, Spider-man does not ask for a reward from the woman. Spider-man leaves a message saying that what happens is help from a friendly friend.

b. The Causal Factors of Peter Parker's Heroism

After analyzing the portrayal of Parker's heroism, the thesis writer continues to find out the causal factors of Parker's heroism. Zimbardo proposes three causal factors of heroism. The first causal factor is the capability of the resolve necessary for heroism. The second causal factor is immediate life and death situations. The last causal factor is heroic imagination.

1. Seeing One's Self as Capable of the Resolve Necessary for Heroism

The first causal factor is the capability of the resolve necessary for heroism, It means that the person who does a heroic act can carry out his heroic act. Peter Parker starts to know that there is something different in him after being bitten by a spider. The following script is proof that Peter starts to think that he has something different.

INT PETER'S BEDROOM NIGHT

Two empty glass bottles stand on a bookcase on the far side.

Peter's bedroom. SPLAT! A web strand fires towards them, misses by a mile.

Peter, sitting on the opposite side of the room, frowns and tries again. SPLAT! Another wild miss. He looks down at his wrists, thinking.

(Raimi, 2000:36, script 28)

The script above shows that Parker starts to think that he has something different. He can fire a web strand out of his wrists.

2. Lead a Person to Commit a Heroic Act.

The second causal factor of Heroism is immediate life and death situations. It means that certain situations may lead a person to do a certain act that makes him a hero. Peter Parker's heroism is also triggered by certain situations. It is the life-and-death situation that makes Parker commit a heroic act. The following script can be proof that certain situation triggers Parker to do a heroic act. This scene can be proven in the following script:

A WOMAN holds out her purse, huddling before a MUGGER, who's holding a gun on her until he's suddenly gone, swept up into the air by the red and blue blur that flashes through the frame.

Her purse falls back into frame. She scoops it up. A Note attached reads, "COURTESY, YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN."

(Raimi 2000:73 script 54)

Based on the script above, the thesis writer concludes that Peter commits a heroic act because he witnesses a situation in which a woman is being robbed. That life-and-death situation makes Parker commit a heroic act.

3. Stimulation of heroic imagination

The third causal factor of heroism, according to Zimbardo (2016: 34) is the idea of the stimulation of heroic imagination. It means a mindset, a collection of attitudes about helping others in need. It begins with caring for others in compassionate ways and is followed by moving toward a willingness to sacrifice or take risks on behalf of others or in defense of a moral cause.

Peter Parker's heroic imagination is inspired by Peter's uncle's message as it is stated in the following script.

UNCLE BEN (V. 0.)

Remember. . . with great power

comes Great responsibility ~

(Raimi, 2000:70, script 54)

The message stated by Peter's uncle shapes Parker's mindset to help other people using the superpower that Parker possesses.

c. The Effect of Peter Parker's Heroism

Dealing with the effect of heroism, Zimbardo, as it is stated in the theoretical background of this thesis, explains that the effect of heroism is sacrifice. The sacrifice as a result of heroism can cover two kinds of sacrifices. It can be in the form of physical sacrifice and social sacrifice. Peter Parker knows how important sacrifice is. He also knows that sometimes, sacrifice is not only in the form of physical sacrifice but also in the form of social sacrifice.

1. Physical Sacrifice

Parker, as Spiderman, also undergoes the effect of heroism in the form of physical sacrifice. The following script is proof of the physical sacrifice undergone by Parker as the effect of Parker's heroism.

IN MID AIR

The combatante trade blows. The Goblin rears back, the delivers a crushing elbow to Spidey's jaw, sending him plummeting toward the balcony.

(Raimi, 2000:108, script 75)

The evidence above describes a fight between Green Goblin and Spiderman. At that time, Spiderman undergoes physical sacrifice when Green Goblin crushes his elbow into Spiderman's jaw.

2. Social Sacrifice

For first script of Social Sacrifice is when Peter gets fired from his job because always getting late, this can be seen in the following script:

HARRY

What's wrong with you? Somebody run over your dog?.

PETER

No. I, uh... I was late and Dr. Connors fired me.

HARRY

Late again? What is it with you?
Where did you go all the time?

PETER

Around.

(Raimi, 2000:84, script 61)

Then a judge from his boss, Jameson. who does not like the reason why Spider-Man wears a mask, which makes Jameson not really know who Spider-Man really is.

D.CONCLUSION

The first portrayal of Peter Parker's heroism can be proven by the many heroic action scenes with Philip Zimbardo's four elements. The first is committed in voluntary when Peter saves Mary Jane who almost slipped and a baby trapped in a burning building. The second involves physical comfort when Peter rescues a baby trapped in a burning building and saves a small child from a festival parade that falls due to a green goblin. Then conduct in-service when Peter Parker caught the robber who had brought a sack of money from the Korean shop and caught the robber from the jewelry shop. Also, the last one is the Initiated Heroic act without an expecting reward when Peter saves Mary Jane from robbers with an unexpected gift, a kiss.

Then, the causes of Peter Parker's Heroism which is divided into three according to Philip Zimbardo, Seen one's self as Capable of the resolve necessary is when Peter finds out that he has superpowers and trains his powers in his room, which he then uses to earn money. For leads a person to commit a heroic act when Peter saves a woman from the robbers and when Peter is almost defeated by the Green Goblin because of his actions which makes Peter confused about saving who first. And third, there is Stimulation of Heroic Imagination, which is when Peter has a strong memory from his uncle, namely "Great Power Comes Great Responsibility" which makes Peter accept himself as Spider-Man and is evidenced by the scene where Peter saves a baby from a burning building, catches a robber from a Korean shop and save the woman who fell because of the robber.

Finally, the Peter Parker Heroism effect which is divided into two kinds of effects according to Philip Zimbardo's theory, namely Physical Sacrifice and Social Sacrifice. The physical sacrifice can be proven when the Green Goblin crushes his elbow to Spider-Man's Jaw and when the Green Goblin sprays gas into Spider-Man's face. Then the Social Sacrifice can be seen when Peter loses his job and when Peter's boss, Jameson, really doesn't like Spider-Man's heroic actions, and when many people talk about Spider-Man on television, the newspaper and also help Peter to distract Green Goblin.

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