

**COURAGE IN PHILIP NOYCE'S *SALT* MOVIE (2010):
A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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ACCEPTANCE

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**COURAGE IN PHILIP NOYCE'S SALT MOVIE (2010):
A FEMINIST APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

The problem of the study is to reveal how major character reflects her courage. The objective of the study is to analyze the film based on the structural analysis and based on the feminist approach. The research is qualitative research. Type of the data of the study is text and image from two data sources: Primary and secondary. The Primary data source is Salt movie by Philip Noyce released in 2010 while the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, journals and internet related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzes by descriptive analysis. The study comes to the following conclusion. First, based on the structural analysis of each element, it shows that the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting point of view, theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related one another and form of unity. Second, based on the feminist analysis the writer concludes that the problems faced by the major character cause her become courageous woman.

Key words: courage, Salt, Feminist Approach.

1. Introduction

Background of the Study: Human beings were born with the two kinds of sex, male and female. Actually the term male and female in society has a different way since they were born, either physically or habits. People have basic trust that male have to be strong, powerful, and think rationally while female is powerless, emotional, and weaker than male. Its differences and also the patriarchal line that held in society automatically make the different treatments to the two sexes. Today not only man has courage, but also the woman. How the woman fights against injustice and criminal with her courage will be the fact that woman shows her powerful. Actually courage is the mental and moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.

The researcher giving the biography of the movie's director Philip Noyce while doing the research. Philip Noyce Born in the Australian outback town of Griffith, New South Wales, Phillip Noyce moved to Sydney with his family at the age of 12. As a teenager, he was introduced to underground films produced on shoestring budgets as well as mainstream American movies. He was 18 when he made his first film, the 15-minute "Better to Reign in Hell," utilizing a unique financing scheme selling roles in the movie to his friends.

In 1973 he was selected to attend the Australian National Film School in its inaugural year. Here, he made "Castor and Pollux," a 50 minute documentary which won the award for best Australian short film of 1974. Noyce's first professional film was the 50-minute docudrama "God Knows Why, But It Works" in 1975. This helped pave the way for his first feature, the road movie "Backroads" (1977) which starred Australian Aboriginal activist Gary Foley and iconic Australian actor Bill Hunter who would go on to appear in 2 other Noyce films. In 1978, he directed and co-wrote "Newsfront," which won Best Film, Best Director and Best Original

Screenplay at the Australian Film Awards, as well as proving a huge commercial hit in Australia. In addition to opening the London Film Festival, "Newsfront" was the first Australian film to screen at the New York Film Festival.

In 1982, "Heatwave," co-written and directed by Noyce and starring Judy Davis, was chosen to screen at the Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. The success of the Australian produced "Dead Calm" (1989), starring Nicole Kidman, Sam Neill and Billy Zane brought Noyce to Hollywood, where he directed 6 films over the next decade, including "Patriot Games" (1992) and "Clear And Present Danger" (1994) starring Harrison Ford, and "The Bone Collector" (1999), starring Oscar© winners Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. In 2002 Noyce returned to his native Australia, where released two films worldwide at almost the same time. "The Quiet American" starred Michael Caine in an Academy nominated best actor performance and appeared on over 20 top ten lists for 2002, including the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute. "Rabbit Proof Fence" was based on the true story of three Aboriginal girls abducted from their families by Australian authorities in 1931 as part of an official government policy. The film won Best Picture at the Australian Film Awards, and together with "The Quiet American" garnered Noyce numerous best director awards including National Board of Review in the US and UK's London Film Critics Circle. In 2006 Noyce directed Tim Robbins and Derek Luke in the South African set political thriller "Catch A Fire". In 2010 Saw Noyce re-teaming with Angelina Jolie for his biggest box-office hit, the spy thriller "Salt," this grossed \$295 million worldwide.

Salt is a 2010 American action thriller film directed by Phillip Noyce, written by Kurt Wimmer, and starred by Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber, Daniel Olbrychski, August Diehl and Chiwetel Ejiofor. Jolie plays Evelyn Salt

who is accused of being a Russian sleeper agent and goes on the run to try to clear her name.

CIA Agent Evelyn Salt (Angelina Jolie) is actually a Russian spy, having been recruited as a child. Her cover is blown on what is the start of Day X where two events are planned. The first is the killing of the Russian President which will look like the CIA did it and she appears to successfully complete it. The second is the stealing of the US Atomic weapon controls from the U.S. President and launching an attack on Tehran and Mecca.

There are four reasons why the writer interest to study *Salt movie*. The first reason is the movie had a good cinematography. Either from setting picture, visual effect, music illustration, sounds editing, or another aspect supporting in this movie.

The second reason, it was unpredictable ending, or watching the movie by guessing the ending of the story or plot was difficult thing.

The third reason, somehow this movie connected with the cold war. Although some of the stories are fiction but the other parts of the stories are based on fact and history. This movie is recommended for students who learn about cold war, because it shows how the Russia's strategy works to destroy America.

The fourth reason, it's about time when started to see female leads in serious spy movies which have a serious tone and It showed that woman in this movie was strong, had courage to fight against the criminal and showed about the sacrifice of woman love.

Problem Statement of this research is" How is woman's courage reflected in Philip Noyce's *The Salt Movie* by using feminist approach?

Limitation of the Study is the researcher is going to analyze Salt's character in The Salt movie directed by Philip Noyce's by using A Feminist Approach.

Objective of the Study is to analyze the *Salt* movie written by Philip Noyce based on the structural elements of movie and to analyze the *Salt* movie based on feminist approach.

Literature Review As long as the writer knows, the writer found the researcher who analyzed this movie before by Nona Hermawati The student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, entitled “Social Construction of Powerful Women to Fight against Criminal Acts in Philip Noyce’s *Salt* Movie (2010): A Feminist Approach.”

2. Research Method

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using feminist perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining the data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis. The object of the study is *Salt* movie directed by Philip Noyce and published in United States of America 2010. It is analyzed by using a feminist approach.

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research (1) Primary Data Source, the primary data source is the movie of Philip Noyce’s the *Salt* movie. The data are taken from the dialogue, character’s description, plot and all of the statements related to the problems. (2) Secondary Data Source, the secondary data sources are books and other sources that support the analysis.

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are: watching the movie several time, reading the English subtitles, determining the character that will be analyzed, taking note of important parts in both primary and secondary data, classifying and determining the relevant data, taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the

movie. The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and a feminist approach.

3. Feminist Theory

a. Notion of Feminism

Actually there are many definitions of feminism. According to Mandell and Elliot (1995, 4) feminism emerged at this time as a way to identify individuals who supported not merely an increased public role for women but also women's right to define themselves as a autonomous beings.

Based on the American literary critic bell hooks (1984) (in Mandell, 1995, 4) feminism constitutes a social, economic, and political commitment to eradicating race, class, and sexual domination and to recognizing society so that individual self development takes precedence over imperialism, economic expansion, and material desires.

b. Major Principle in Feminism

The analysis of Amazon Feminist concern that woman are strong, powerful and have physic like man. They can do what the man can do for long life. Usually the woman shows that they have similar opportunity and change in this world.

1) Women's Physical Equality

Along the history, women position not always subordinate to men. According to a story in this film that woman has such powers and abilities that sometimes men are not suspected. Physically held by a woman can do - an amazing thing. Feminist does not mean having a weak physically. But here will confirm that women are also able to act like men. Amazon Feminism is concerned about the physical equality. Women is opposed to gender role stereotypes and discrimination against women based on assumption that women are

supposed to be look or behave as if they are passive, weak, and powerless.

A number of critical elements have been identified for challenging gender discrimination and unequal gender relations, and establishing an enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women, in many different areas, including women and sport. They include improving women's capabilities, through education and health; increasing their access to and control over opportunities and resources, such as employment and economic assets; enhancing their agency and leadership roles; protecting and promoting their human rights ;and ensuring their ,security, including freedom from violence.([http://www.un.org/women watch/daw/public/Women and Sport.pdf](http://www.un.org/women_watch/daw/public/Women and Sport.pdf))

2) Women's Power

Women usually are trapped in taking their notes. Any woman getting serious about such an athletic pursuit is engaging in an inherently feminist and heroic act, in so far as she is talking control of her own body, building physical as well as mental strength, rejecting femininity as subservience, passivity and weakness (Nelson, 1994:31).

There is an increasing interest in real life female heroes such as lifeguards, fire-fighters, astronauts, and athletes. Women are gaining access to professions and positions traditionally associated with masculinity, including traditionally "masculine sport". Female of living flesh, are using the body as a vehicle to express determination, power, beauty and sexuality, an integration of mind, body and spirit (Frueh, Fierstein and Stein, 2000:12).

3) Women's Heroism

According to Mandell (1995: 5), in principle, every person wants to be given equal opportunities and civil rights. The category of

freedom in feminism includes politic, economic, and sexual freedom. “Feminist attempt to gain democratic right, the right to have education and occupation, the right to be the Member of Parliament also the right to divorce” (Humm, 2002: 53). “Women also demand the right to choose what they attend to, including having freedom to be what they want to be” (Humm, 2002: 102).

4. Theory of Courage

Courage is the mental and moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty. Courage, also known as bravery, will, intrepidity, and loyalty, is the ability to confront fear, pain, risk/danger, uncertainty, or intimidation. "Physical courage" is courage in the face of physical pain, hardship, Death, or threat of death, while "moral courage" is the ability to act rightly in the face of popular opposition, shame, scandal, or discouragement. Lopez, Koetting, O'Byrne, and Peterson (2003) assessed the physical aspects of courage by defining courage with respect to one's ability to, after assessing a situation as potentially harmful or fatal, overcome the fear and proceed with the task. Participants were rated as overconfident expressed higher levels of fear and anxiety when repeating a similar task. Fearless individuals were ones who did not indicate elevated levels of fear or apprehension when repeating a similar risky endeavor. Lopez et al. determined that components of courage included risks and facing fears. There are other theories of courage:

a. Western Antiquity and middle Ages

As a virtue, courage is discussed extensively in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, where its vice of deficiency is cowardice and its vice of excess is recklessness. In Roman Catholicism, courage is referred to as "Fortitude" as one of the four cardinal virtues, along with prudence, justice, and temperance. ("Cardinal" in this sense means "pivotal"; it is one of the four cardinal virtues because to possess any virtue, a person

must be able to sustain it in the face of difficulty.) In both Catholicism and Anglicanism, courage is also one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

b. Eastern traditions

The Tao Te Ching states that courage is derived from love ("loving, causes, ability, and brave") and explains: "One of courage, with audacity, will die. One of courage, but gentle, spares death. From these two kinds of courage arise harm and benefit."

c. Modernity

Søren Kierkegaard opposed courage to angst, while Paul Tillich opposed an existential courage to be to non-being, fundamentally equating it with religion:

"Courage is the self-affirmation of being in spite of the fact of non-being. It is the act of the individual self in taking the anxiety of non-being upon itself by affirming itself ... in the anxiety of guilt and condemnation. ... every courage to be has openly or covertly a religious root. For religion is the state of being grasped by the power of being itself." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courage>).

5. Research Finding

a. Feminist Analysis

1) Woman's Physical Equality.

Woman has the different physic with the men since they were born. But here, *salt* movie shows that different gander unable to make the women look like weaker than men. Physical equality can be shown through Evelyn salt profession as the spy in this movie. Since she becomes Spy, she needs more abilities and skills for successions of mission.

Salt : You,,re good . KA –program is brilliant
bull-shit.But I'm officially off duty, so
you can tell the rest of your Little
story to one of my colleagues.
Zykov : Salt.
Salt : Yes.

Zykov : The name of the Russian agent is, Salt.Evelyn Salt
Salt : My name is Evelyn Salt.
Zykov : Then You are a Russian Spy.
(*Salt, 2010, 00:14:10*)

Salt ever slowed down after its early triggering incident when a Russian defector denounces Evelyn as a Soviet sleeper spy, planted in the United States as a child is whether this return to action stardom suits or not. Mostly, it does: Her feline grace and imperturbable demeanor equip her well for physical roles.

2) Woman's Power

A woman usually looks weak and powerless. It's the statement that usually people said in the society. Not only a weak person, but also the women have not chance or opportunities in daily life. *Salt* movie refused that's all, because this movie showed that Evelyn salt can do like the man do. This is proven by the act in the movie when she decides to jump from the bridge to the truck and also rides the motorcycle.

Peabody: Give your self up .
That ,,s what you should be worried about.
There's nowhere to run .
Salt : I didn't do anything.
Peabody : She's on a blue semi truck,
Route one , heading north.
Winter : Get road block in place now.
Peabody : There she is on the tanker.
Peabody: Stop! stop!
Winter : Ev . . !
(*Salt, 2010, 00:36:15*)

From previous conversation, it shows that Salt is brave person. She gets big risk if her jumping is missed on the truck but she jumps from truck to other vehicles, finally she escapes from the CIA.

3) Heroism

To become Hero needs of courage and sacrifice, especially in the action movie. Only done by the one who certain professional. In this movie shows that Salt is the heroes. Great battle Salt and Winter, although she is full of blood. But she tries to stop Winter in smash

Mecca and Teheran. The computer active nuclear launching processes can be stopped by her.

Salt : Open the door?. Let me in.

Winter : You know I used to go to the Lincoln Memorial. When it was deserted. At one , two in the morning. And I would whisper to him in Russian.

Salt : You told Zykov, didn't you? About Mike. You told him my loyalty needed to be tasted.

Winter : How I longed for it over the years. To speak my native tongue.

Salt : Orlov was dead
(*Salt, 2010, 01:16:08*)

Salt tries to return her image from people though must battle great; she wants stop conflict between America and Russia because this is the great mission of her.

b. Courage Analysis

Lopez, Koetting, O'Byrne, and Peterson (2003) assessed the physical aspects of courage by defining courage with respect to one's ability to, after assessing a situation as potentially harmful or fatal, overcome the fear and proceed with the task. Participants were rated as overconfident expressed higher levels of fear and anxiety when repeating a similar task. Fearless individuals were ones who did not indicate elevated levels of fear or apprehension when repeating a similar risky endeavor. Lopez et al. determined that components of courage included risks and facing fears.

1) Risk

Risk is the potential that a chosen action or activity (including the choice of inaction) will lead to a loss (an undesirable outcome). The notion implies that a choice having an influence on the outcome exists (or existed). Potential losses themselves may also be called "risks". Almost any human endeavor carries some risk, but some are much more risky than others.

The movie shows Since, Evelyn Salt childhood she is trained by master spy. She can be self-defense. And also can jump from the high bridge to on the truck, without afraid from the risk. She runs to escape from the CIA agent. She rides the motorcycle around the blocked road.

Peabody: Give your self up .
That ,,s what you should be worried about.
There`s nowhere to run .
Salt : I didn``t do anything.
Peabody: She``s on a blue semi truck,
Route one , heading north.
Winter : Get road block in place now.
Peabody : There she is on the tanker.
Peabody: Stop! stop!
Winter : Ev . . !
(Salt, 2010, 00:36:15)

Salt can climb up the sides of buildings. She can leap from an overpass onto a truck, dress her own bullet wounds, and yank a guy off a motorcycle as he rides by on the highway. She can even chase an elevator that's going down by jumping from side to side along the shaft like a human fly. She is wonder woman.

2) Facing fears.

Fear is a feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger. A state or condition marked by this feeling: *living in fear*. Acknowledging and facing fear may actually mean a better chance of survival. It is nearly always an opportunity to grow, learn, and improve of confidence and success.

When Salt was Child, she has left the parents. She lived alone, because her parents were death. She faces of violence and fears have become common place. She grew up more and more faces how hard life is.

Orlov : Where will you work?
Salt : The central intelligence Agency.
Orlov : Who will you trust?
Salt : No one.
Orlov : Be very patient.
Remember your training,

Remember, you are not the only one
There are many others...
Salt : Yes
Orlov : And we will strike together.
Salt : yes.
(*Salt*, 2010, 00:58:30)

In the movie, Evelyn Salt is a senior CIA agent who is hunted by the government because they believe her to be a Russian agent planted many years ago. She pleads her innocence though and evades them. It is then revealed that she is actually a Russian mole and has been planted in America since childhood, along with many others. The Russians though kill her husband, whom she has fallen in love with, as a test of her loyalty after so many years in America. She then turns on the Russians and swears to hunt them down.

6. Conclusion

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, the writer would like to draw the conclusions as follows.

The writer represents two conclusions relating to the results of the study. First, from the structural analysis of the movie shows that Philip Noyce conveys a message that the women are not the weak people and they have courage and power. In doing this the director creates the characters, plot, point of view, and the visualization from *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, editing other technical elements of the movie has the unity structures that build the story. All of elements are successful in relating one to another and formulating to the good quality of a movie because the structural elements of Salt film have been done in the best way based of the effective processes of making movie.

Second, based on the feminist approach, this movie contains many facts that are shown by Philip Noyce which reflect physical equality, woman's power and heroism. Philip Noyce wants to show that woman is not a weak person. Through this film, it shows that is woman also like men who have courage and ability. It can be seen in her daily life. She always

faces many problems and it's hard. She fights against criminal act alone and she wants to return her image, bad image as the spy of Russia.

In reflecting courage of Salt life, Philip Noyce presents in this movie. Related with this movie entitle *Salt*, it is very suitable between content and the title of movie. Because the major character also named by *Salt*. The writer can interpret the intent of this title is always thinking to the future and don't be thinking the past. It is the key to be a success and pursuit of happiness. The theme of this movie is about courage and struggle to get the peaceful life.

Philip Noyce wants to submit the message that from physical equality aspect of this movie showed that the Salt as the spy, she can do something alike men. She is very strong character. She is Professional Agent and responsibility although she is defendant crenellated as spy and step white house without afraid.

From female power aspect, it shows that Salt has good physic and powerful. Since childhood she is trained by master spy. She can be self-defense. And also can jump from the high bridge to on the truck, without afraid from the risk. She runs and then rides the motorcycle around the blocked road.

Salt can climb up the sides of buildings. She can leap from an overpass onto a truck, dress her own bullet wounds, and yank a guy off a motorcycle as he rides by on the highway. She can even chase an elevator that's going down by jumping from side to side along the shaft like a human fly. She is wonder woman.

She also goes to the New York to complete the mission. She enters to the deputy burial ceremony president America to kill the President of Russia. She has successful to kill the President. In fact she doesn't kill the President; she just fired the president with poison from spider till the president paralyzed a few moments.

From the heroism aspect, the salt movie shows that Evelyn Salt as the Major character has big sacrifice in every actions. To become Hero needs of courage and sacrifice, especially in the action movie. Only done by the one who certain professional. In this movie shows that Salt is the heroes. Great battle Salt and Winter, although she is full of blood. But she tries to stop Winter in smash Mecca and Teheran. The computer active nuclear launching processes can be stopped by her. Finally Salt can stop the winter who wants to damage the Mecca and Teheran with active nuclear.

As conclusion, everybody has ability to show their courage for doing everything, they must realize with the power of courage. The reflection of women struggle is presented successfully by this film. The movie gives the point, as human being must be courage to decide the thing and while doing something, because life is never flat.

Certainly many problems will be faced in this world. Actually woman and man have difference since they were born, but it's not reason for women to be weak figure, because everyone has the same change and opportunities in this life.

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