PUBLICATION ARTICLE

FIGHTING THE PLAGUE FOR FATE OF THE WORLD IN DOMINIC
SENÁ’S SEASON OF THE WITCH MOVIE (2011):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The problem of the study is how fighting the plague for fate of the world reflected in Season of the Witch movie. The objectives of the study are to analyze Season of the Witch (2011) movie based on the structural elements of the movie and to describe the fighting plague of the world in Season of the Witch (2011) movie based on the sociological approach.

This study belongs to qualitative research. In this research, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the movie itself, meanwhile the secondary data source is any literature related with the study. The researcher collects the data from both, primary and secondary data source in a short of document as evidence. The study uses library research of descriptive analysis.

Based on the analysis the researcher draws some conclusions as follows: firstly, based on the structural analysis of each element, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, style, theme and point of view are related to each other and form a solid unity. Secondly, based on sociological analysis, the researcher concludes that how to create world peace needed a sacrifices even tough until the lost live it can be seen from the main character of the movie when fight with demon to end the terrible black plague.

Key words: plague, Season of the Witch movie, sociological analysis.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study


Season of the Witch is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is because *Season of the Witch* has the uncommon story. The movie tells the story of a group of people who fight the evil that is Nicolas Cage as Behman von Bleibruck, Ron Perlman as Felson, Stephen Campbell Moore as Debelzaq, Robert Sheehan as Kay von Wollenbarth, Ulrich Thomsen as Johann Eckhardt, Stephen Graham as Hagamar, Christopher Lee as Cardinal D'Ambroise. They are fighting evil for saving the world to secure the world.

The second aspect is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Dominic Sena makes audience feel enthusiastic with the epic drama movie, even when the movie shows about the crimes and war conducting in physical crimes. The casts of this film also have a valuable part. In this film, Nicolas Cage who was play as Behman von Bleibruck is really life. His acting is successfully representing the man as the group of people that travelling to Severac church to deliver Anna to fair a punishment.

The third is the message from the film. Dominic Sena makes the audience feel enthusiastic about the stories presented in this movie. Moreover, this story gives a good moral message and enviable, that the compactness always brings good luck and the emotion it brings destruction in the compactness.

The last of fighting of plague for fate of the world of which reflected in Season of the Witch Movie That one of the appealing aspects
interesting to be studied. Dominic Sena, the director wants the audience to underline. The black plague that swept the world and very dangerous is important for saving the world. The society is drawn in the life of Behmen and Felson. The effect can be studied in sociological terms of which studies the social life.

Based on reasons the writer will observe Season of the Witch Movie using sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurenson. So the writer constructs the title Fighting the Plague for Fate of the World in Dominic Sena’s Season of the Witch Movie (2011): A Sociological Approach.

2. Literature Review

The first research was conducted by Wijayanto (2009), a Student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, entitled An Analysis of Politeness Principle in the Expressive Act in the Movie of Pearl Harbor. In his research, he uses the expressive acts used by the characters of Pearl Harbor (2001) movie as the data. Then, he uses politeness principle in analyzing the data. The objectives of his research are to describe the types of expressive utterances, the intentions of the utterances and the politeness principle patterns. The results are there are five expressive acts used in the film, 24 speakers intention used in the film and there are the application and also the violation of politeness principle.

The second research was conducted by Agung Budi Santoso (UMS,2008), entitled The Origin of Social Media to The world Communication in the Social Network Movie. In his research, he uses descriptive analysis which focuses on analyzing the data. The result of this study states that the structural elements the movie presents a unity inyo a good quality movie. It appears in the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view, theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing. The sociological analysis, there is a close relationship between the movie story and the reality of
American life that America takes the origin of social communication in the world.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Wijayanto writes Expressive Acts in *Pearl Harbor* movie (2001) by using politeness principle in pragmatics perspective. While, Agung Budi Santoso writes The Origin of Social Media to the World Communication in the *Social Network* movie (2010) by using descriptive analysis in term literature perspective. The researcher analyzes Fighting the Plague for Fate of the World in *Season of the Witch* movie (2011) by using descriptive analysis in term literature perspective.

3. **Problem Statement**

Knowing that the problem is the important part of research, the writer proposed “How is fighting the plague for fate of the world reflected in *Season of the Witch* movie”?

4. **Limitation of the Study**

Limitation of the Study is “the writer focuses this research in analyzing fighting the plague for fate of the world in *Season of the Witch* Movie Directed by Dominic Sena based on Sociological Approach.”

5. **Objectives of the Study**

Objectives of the Study is to analyze *Season of the Witch* (2011) movie based on the structural elements of the movie and to describe the fighting plague of the world in the *Season of the Witch* (2011) movie based on the sociological approach.

6. **Benefit of the Study**

There are some benefits expected from this study: first, Theoretical Benefit the study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Season of the Witch Movie*. Second, Practical Benefit, the study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another
Universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from Sociological Approach.

7. Underlying Theory

a. Sociology of Literature

Sociology is the main factor that influences such literary work and the study to discuss the relation between society and literary work itself called sociology of literature. Sociology of literature is “a branch of literary study that examines the relationship between literary works and their social context”. The social contexts include patterns of literacy, kinds of audience, and the social class positions of authors and readers. The social context takes a big role in producing some literary works.

b. Major Principles of Sociology of Literature

The theory is introduced by Swingewood and Laurenson (1972:13), which stated three approaches to grasp the sociology of literature. The basic principles of literature are follows:

1. Literary Works the Social Document

   Literary works are related with the author’s view about the situation of a society when they are produced the literary work. Literary works reflecting the society condition in a certain period and what happen in society that time. We can discuss the social phenomenon in certain time and place through literary works. According to Swingewood and Laurenson (1972:13) “the most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literary arguing that it provides a mirror to age”.

2. Literary Works as Reflection of Social Situation of the Writer

   Swingewood and Laurenson stated (1972:16) “we learn both of the nature of sociology and the ways individuals experienced it through the fictional character that see and record not only the reality but their hopes, wishes, dreams, and
3. **Literary Works as the Manifestation from the Historical Moment**

Literary works that are created by the author cannot be separated from the social background of the author. Many studies about the social background of literature show that the works are accepted by the readers. To get the readers’ sympathy, the author must make attempts to create a work which reflects certain period of the time that describes special issues. The reader that studies the literary works based on sociological approach will develop the sociology of literature itself.

c. **Structural Elements of the movie**

1. **Narrative Elements**

   a) **Character and Characterization**

   Character is a person created by the director who acted in some drama. Based on Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:58) the personality of characters is the expression of face, body posture, and also their clothing. The characters can involve attitudes, skills, preferences, psychological drives, details of dress and appearance, and any other specific quality the film creates for a character.

   b) **Plot**

   Bordwell and Thompson (1990:57) stated “plot is used to describe everything visibly and audibly present in the movie before us”. Based on Douglass and Harnden (1996:48) basically plot contain of three parts, they are; the beginning, the middle, the end.
c) Style

Style refers to the author’s written choice which consists of grammatical structure, sentence construction, diction, figurative language and imagery.

d) Theme

Theme requires the attention because it is a reason of the story for being. As Douglass and Harnden (1996:3) state: “theme allows us to focus our attention (audiences) on certain aspects of the subject while excluding others”.

e) Point of View

Douglass and Harnden (1996:31-32) argue point of view refers to the interests, attitude and a belief associated with a character’s group particular perspective. There are three categories of point of view based on perspective of story teller, namely first person, second person and third person.

2. Technical Elements

a. Casting

Casting is one of the movie elements in which it is a process of selecting actors, dancers and others, so those actors can form breathtaking performance because of their acting.

b. Mise-en-Scene

Bordwell and Thompson (1990:127-133) pointed that Mise-en-Scene means “staging and action” and it was first applied to the practice of directing play. Mise-en-Scene consists of setting, set dressing and props, costumes and make-up, and lighting.

c. Cinematography

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990:156) the moviemaker also controls the cinematographic qualities of
shot. It consists of three features; photographic quality of the shot, framing of the shot, and duration of the shot.

d. **Sound**

Based on Bordwell and Thompson (1990:248) the moviemakers should consider how speech, music and noise are selected and combined for specific functions within movie. Sound can be made from music, rooster’s voice and so on.

e. **Editing**

Bordwell and Thompson (1990:207) said editing in movie production is the task of selection and joining camera takes. Editing is easy to notice, it is only because of the prevalent technique but also because the disjunction of space, time and graphics made by editing step to the eye attention. Editing is called the process of casting and arranging the result of camera shot.

B. **Research Method**

1. **Type of the Study**

The research of this study is qualitative research, which takes the sources data from words and other written text.

2. **Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study is *Season of the Witch* Movie directed by Dominic Sena. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. **Types of Data and Data Source**

There are two types of data, namely Primary Data Source of the study is the movie itself: *Season of the Witch* Movie by Dominic Sena. Secondary Data Source is taken from other sources such as internet, article, book, author’s biography, essay, comments, criticism, and other relevant information.
4. **Technique of Data Collection**

The data collecting techniques used in the study is documentation, the steps are as follows: first, watching the movie for the several times. Second, reading the script of movie. Third, determining the character that will be analyzed. Fourth, taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary sources. Fifth, classifying and determining the relevant data. The last, taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

5. **Technique of Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It involves with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.

C. **Finding and Discussion**

1. Finding

a. **Social Aspect**

On the social condition analysis, social status gives important role in a friendship and togetherness. The role of Behemen and friends is different, but they can work well. Teutonic knights Behmen and Felson assigned by the Cardinal D’Ambroise to deliver a girl suspected witch to Abbey of Severac. Debelzaq and Eckhart accompany Behmen and Felson. The well travelled swindler Hagamar who is serving as their guide to the monastery. Kay a young altar boy who wants to become a knight, and he followed a journey to Abbey of Severac.

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Debelzaq: You want to speak with the Cardinal?
Behmen: Tell him we will deliver the girl to Severak, on one condition, that she is given a fair trial.
Debelzaq: You cannot bargain with the Church.
Behmen: This is not for your Church.
And we want our weapons returned
Felson: And all charges dismissed
(script SOTW, 00:24:15)
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b. Economic Aspect

The economic aspect is reflected through the economic condition of the characters. Behmen and Felson are the knights who devoted themselves to the church. Because they are a knight, wherever they want to go they always carry a sword. To go everywhere they use horses as vehicles and they pay using coins. It can be seen in the following dialogue:

Stableman: Here you are two of my finest
Behmen: Thank you
          Leave it!
          Felson, this way
Felson: What is it now?
Behmen: They saw my sword’s crest
Felson: I told we should’ve gone around
(script SOTW, 00:16:54)

In the Season of the Witch movie, Dominic Sena was described life at the time was very bad. The people look poor with a very wrinkled clothes and look very dirty. Moreover plague called the black plague so widespread, the longer of life was dead. It can be seen in the following dialogue below:

Felson: What madness is this?
Eckhart: Plague.
Felson: Plague?
Eckhart: Like no other the pestilence over all the land.
Behmen: Is there no cure?
Eckhart: None.
Felson: How long is it been so?
Eckhart: Three years in a season.
Behmen: How many died?
Eckhart: Some says as many in three and four.
          But with my own hands I have buried two children
          and the wife who bore them.
          (script SOTW, 00:16:07)

Political Aspect

Political aspects contribute to the character and characterization, plot and setting. The political aspect in character and characterization describes the condition when Behmen and Felson want to leave the war but, the Holy Father would not let him. But eventually Behmen and Felson keep going. It can be seen in the following dialogue below:

Holly Father: A glorious of the church!
Behmen: You call this glorious?!
          Murdering women and children?
Holly father: Know your place, Knight.
You pledge your life for the cause.
Behmen: For God, not for this.
Holly father: I am a herald of God in this world.
His voice rings ever in my ears.
Behmen: Perhaps it is not his voice you hear.
Holly father: How dare you?
I am the voice of the church!
Bathed in truth and blames in light of the
lord you no more than a drop of blood on
his hands! Who controls your insolent tongue?
Felson: Let’s get the hell out of here
Holly father: You cannot leave!
Behmen: Who is going stop us?

Political aspect in the plot of *Season of the Witch* movie, Dominic Sena describes political condition many interfered by the church. The Holy Father is in control of the rights of the people who participated in the war. The setting of the time in Season of the Witch movie begins from 13th Century until 14th Century. About the time, in Europe was a dark age.

d. **Science and Technology Aspect**

In *Season of the Witch* movie begins from 13th until 14th Century, it is a medieval age. At that time the paper has been found in this film and paper has been in use. Paper is a thin material produced by pressing together moist fibers, typically cellulose pulp derived from wood, rags or grasses, and drying them into flexible sheets. Paper is a versatile material with many uses. It can be seen when Behmen, Felson, Eckhart, Debelzaq will deliver the girl to the Abbey of Severac. Behmen and Felson are taken to the library and shown a map to the travel route to Severac, which is six days travel distance.

Debelzaq: We're here. The Abbey is is here. The distance is nearly 400 leagues. That's roughly 6 days travel. As you can see, we charted a course.
Behmen: You would lead us through here?
Debelzaq: That is the most direct route, yes.
Behmen: Across the river, through...
300 Leagues of heavy forest and a mountain pass?
Eckhart: This forest is called Wormwood. It's not a place to be trifled with. Men have lost their way there, and were never to be seen again.
Behmen: Tell me, priest, have you ever made the journey yourself?
Debelzaq: No.
Behmen: Naturally.
Eckhart: These are the best maps in the land.
Behmen: But, we will do better to have a guide.
Felson: You know someone who has traveled from here to there.
A tax collector, perhaps a merchant.
Debelzaq: There is someone, but...
Hagamar: Ahhh, ... Visitors!
What can I do for you gentlemen?
Perhaps, you would like to help me with fruit, or kick me in the groin.
Behmen: You're Hagamar? The swindler?
Hagamar: Yes. I... I mean no!
I am Hagamar, but I never swindled anyone. I sold relics.
Genuine relics.
Behmen: Where did sell your trinkets?
Hagamar: Everywhere. I have happy customers from here to Prague.
Behmen: And in Severak?
Hagamar: Yes. The monks. I sold them the tail of an asteroid and a flag from Egypt.
Felson: Quite a bargain. I am sure
Behmen: Then you know the way to the Abbey.
Hagamar: Like the back of my hand. I'd happy to draw you a map, only
Behmen: The bailiff has prepared to pardon you on one condition.
You serve as our guide to Severak.
Hagamar: Condition accepted.
(script SOTW, 00:26:07)

e. Cultural Aspect

Cultural aspects contribute to the character and characterization, plot and setting.

The character and characterization are contributed by cultural aspect. The movie maker in Season of the Witch is respecting the others. They are togetherness toward Severac. Because of their background of a warrior, so the costumes that they wear used a knight costume. They also carried a sword as a symbol of a knight.

The cultural aspects contribute to the plot, when a horrible plague that has spread everywhere, people torturing himself by hitting the back using a rope. They are doing that, because they hope the God will be forgiving. The setting reflects the time when the plague called the Black Death is rampant and cause death. So, those who have died from the plague were buried in mass.

f. Religious Aspect

Religious aspects give contribution in Season of the Witch movie, the character and characterization. A knight Behmen and Felson dedicated
they life to serving the church. They devote their lives to fight against the infidels in the eyes of Christians. At that time, the Christian church was very influential. They believed the existence of God. It can be seen when at the night Kay tell to Behmen how he and Felson came to enlist in the crusades. It can be in the following dialogue:

Kay: Well, tell me about it, where did you enlist?
Behmen: It was a priest who came to Felson's village. He told us "whoever went on Crusade, would receive blessings from the Church". "Remission from sin". It was the part about sin that perk young Felson's interest.
Felson: That's not true.
Behmen: So he asks the priest: "what sins would be forgiven"...
"Would they forgive adultery?"
The priest says: "Yes, for two year pledge".
"What about theft?"
"Yes, for a three year pledge."
So Felson mulls it over and says to the priest: "better sign me up for ten."
(script SOTW, 00:34:45)

2. Discussion

Dominic Sena’s Season of the Witch tells about the Europe society in the fourteenth centuries. In this film, Dominic Sena criticizes some aspects in the social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspects. Dominic Sena rebellion is reflected on the character of the film. At the time, the social status gives important role in a friendship and togetherness. Sena is against this condition by showing that social condition through the plot of the story. He shows unharmonious and harmonious in the story of this film.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion

After analyzing sociological analysis of Season of the Witch movie, the researcher draws conclusion in the following. Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in the movie, Dominic Sena wants to convey a moral message that the sacrifice until the lost live that become
peace of the world like what is done by the main character in the movie. All of aspects in the movie support each other.

Secondly, based on sociological analysis of this movie, the social realities of Europe give contributions to the story creation. It was clear in the movie how to create world peace needed a sacrifices even tough until the lost live it can be seen from the main character of the movie when fight with demon to end the terrible black plague

2. Suggestion

Having studied the movie based on sociological perspective, the researcher found that the movie could also be studied from other perspective by the other researchers. Among others is the psychoanalytic of literature that reveal the anxiety of Behmen in destination his life.

Season of the Witch movie is directed by Dominic Sena it is interesting to watch and study. The researcher, therefore, suggests the other researchers to make deeper research about the movie from other approaches. For example, by analyzing the struggle of Behmen and Felson to kill the demon by using Individual Psychological Approach is suitable as the approach to analyze Season of the Witch movie.

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