

**AMERICAN CALL FOR WAR: CULTURAL READER RESPONSE TO  
RIDLEY SCOTT'S**

***BLACK HAWK DOWN* MOVIE (2001)**



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Naskah artikel tersebut layak dan dapat disetujui untuk dipublikasikan.

Demikian persetujuan ini dibuat, semoga dapat dipergunakan seperlunya.

Surakarta, 03 Desember 2015

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**ABSTRACT**

This study analyzes the American call for war of cultural reader response reflected in the *Black Hawk Down* Movie (2001). This study belongs to the literary study. There are three objectives of the study, the first is to describe the dominant issues by the reviewers in applying reader response theory and the second is to explain the background of the reviewer response to the movie and third is to explain the reasons that influenced American reviewer call for war to Somalia city. This study is a qualitative study and using two data sources; they are primary and secondary data. The primary data source is the reviews of *Black Hawk Down* movie (2001) by Ridley Scott from IMDb (Internet Movie Database). The secondary data of this study are taken from other sources such as literary book, previous studies, articles, journals, and also website related to reader response theory. This study aimed to reveal how the cultural reader response reflected to the *Black Hawk Down* movie. The dominant issue which is respond by the reviewers is the war movie dealing with the cultural reader response.

***Keywords:*** Culture Reader Response, Richard Beach, *Black Hawk Down*

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**ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini menganalisis panggilan Amerika untuk perang dari budaya respon pembaca tercermin dalam *Black Hawk Down* Movie (2001). Penelitian ini adalah studi sastra. Ada tiga tujuan dari penelitian ini, yang pertama adalah untuk menggambarkan isu-isu yang dominan oleh pengulas dalam menerapkan teori tanggapan pembaca dan yang kedua adalah untuk menjelaskan latar belakang dari respon resensi untuk film dan ketiga adalah untuk menjelaskan alasan yang mempengaruhi resensi Amerika panggilan untuk perang untuk kota Somalia. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dan menggunakan dua sumber data; mereka data primer dan sekunder. Sumber data primer adalah review dari *Black Hawk Down* film (2001) oleh Ridley Scott dari IMDb (Internet Movie Database). Data sekunder dari penelitian ini diambil dari sumber-sumber lain seperti buku sastra, studi sebelumnya, artikel, jurnal, dan juga situs yang berkaitan dengan teori tanggapan pembaca. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan bagaimana budaya respon pembaca tercermin pada film *Black Hawk Down*. Isu dominan yang menanggapi dengan pengulas adalah film perang yang berhubungan dengan budaya respon pembaca.

***Kata kunci:*** *Budaya Respon Pembaca, Richard Beach, Black Hawk Down*

## INTRODUCTION

Study of the reader response analysis may have been conducted by many researchers in some different ways. This study analyzes various responses from the some of the researchers. Some of the researchers' analysis the data of reader response from the *Black Hawk Down* Movie (Winda, 2013) she focuses on the word formation processes, (Philippa, 2002) he described the feminist activism post 11<sup>th</sup> September protesting to that movie, (Stephen, 2005) he focuses on the public character and simulacrum in the construction of the soldier, patriot and citizen agency to that movie, then some of researchers analyze the other object with same reader response theory (Patrick, 2010) he analyzed the phenomenology of reader response to the literary works, (Wendy, 2011) focuses the reader response to norm Friesen's place of the classroom and the space of the screen by relational pedagogy and internet technology, (Ghazi & Mirna, 2008) they differentiate between the reader response and new criticism in the effects on orientations to the literary reading, (Patrick, 2000) he reviewed of Karolides Nicholas in the Secondary and College classroom , (Shelton, 1994) he focuses reader response in the High School English classroom, (Mohammed, 2013) analyzed the phenomenology of reading the text and reader as its facial point, (Janet, 2010) focused on the novice teachers reflects their implementation process.

In this paper, the writer wants to reveal the culture reader response to *Black Hawk Down* movie. What issues that are dominant in the responses of the reviewers also how the responses related to the background of the movie.

## **THEORETICAL FOUNDATION**

According to Richard Beach in *A Teacher's Introduction to Reader – Response Theories* (1993) into five types: textual, experiential, psychological, social and cultural. Textual Reader Response theory in which the responses are driven by the text itself. Textual theorists focus on how readers draw on and deploy their knowledge of text or genre conventions to respond to specific text feature (Beach, 1993:08).

Experiential Reader Response theory is the readers' behaviour in responding a text. This theory focus on the nature of readers' engagement or experiences with texts- the ways in which, for example, readers identify with characters, visualize images, relate personal experiences to the text, or construct the world of the text (Beach, 1993: 08).

Psychological Reader Response assumes that readers responses as the cognitive or subconscious process and how those processes vary according to both unique individual personality and developmental level (Beach, 1993:80). Psychological is having relation to the body, so this theory is connected with the body of readers.

Social Reader Response is a way to respond text by connecting text to a certain social values or roles. Social theorists focus on the influence of the social context of the reader/ text transaction (Beach, 1993: 09). The social condition will influence the reader to building the meaning text. A literary work depends on the reader reception the work.

Cultural theorist focuses on how readers' cultural roles, attitudes, and values, as well as the larger cultural, historical context, shape responses (Beach, 1993: 09). It can be said that the readers will bring their personal background of the reading the text. One of the reader's background that affects their ways to respond text.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the researcher applies a descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (2001:3) said that qualitative research is a research that presents the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words of people and behavior which can be observed them. The primary data source in this study is reviewers of *Black Hawk Down* movie (2001) by Ridley Scott from IMDb (Internet Movie Database). The secondary data of this study are taken from other sources such as literary book, previous studies, articles, journals, and also website related to reader response theory.

The steps for analyzing the data are as follows; 1) Collecting the data reviewer the movie from IMDb website; 2) Classifying the data according the country, year

by using Microsoft Office Excel's table; 3) Reading the data that have been classified and selecting the data for analysis and give the evidence from the responses; 4) Researcher draws the conclusion from the analyzing of data.

The techniques of data collection are as follows; 1) opening website addressed to IMDb *Black Hawk Down* reviews, 2) saving the file of comments the reviewer in PDF format, 3) calculating the percentase of data reviewer by country and year, 4) selecting the amount of data reviewer by year based on the interval principle, 5) analyzing the data based on the theory, 6) drawing conclusion and formulate the suggestion.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This study, the researcher focuses on the culture reader response to analyzing the reviewers of *Black Hawk Down* movie on IMDb. According Beach (1993 :8) stated that “cultural reader response strategies focus on how readers ‘cultural roles, attitudes, values, or historical context shape response’”. It means that this research focus on the response of reviewers about the cultural roles, attitudes, or historical context responses. After collecting the data, the researcher finds the reviewer by country as follows;

No	Nationality	Total	%
1	USA	464	42,61
2	Canada	135	12,40
3	Australia	31	2,85

No	Nationality	Total	%
25	Ireland	1	0,09
26	Norway	1	0,09
27	South Africa	2	0,18

4	United Kingdom	118	10,84	28	New England	1	0,09
5	Scotland	6	0,55	29	Indonesia	1	0,09
6	India	5	0,46	30	Belgium	6	0,55
7	Denmark	11	1,01	31	Spain	2	0,18
8	Winnipeg	1	0,09	32	Malaysia	2	0,18
9	Hongkong	2	0,18	33	Monaco	1	0,09
11	Slovenia	2	0,18	34	Japan	1	0,09
12	Romania	1	0,09	35	Italy	5	0,46
13	Colombia	13	1,19	36	Norwegia	4	0,37
14	Germany	9	0,83	37	New Zealand	4	0,37
15	Finlandia	7	0,64	38	Turkey	3	0,28
16	Sweden	15	1,38	39	Argentina	3	0,28
17	Mexico	2	0,18	40	Somalia	2	0,18
18	Portugal	3	0,28	41	Amsterdam	1	0,09
19	Africa	2	0,18	42	Switzerland	6	0,55
20	Brazil	4	0,37	43	Afganistan	4	0,37
21	France	8	0,73	44	Phillipines	2	0,18
22	Singapore	4	0,37	45	Rusia	1	0,09
23	Pakistan	1	0,09	46	Hungary	1	0,09
24	Korea	4	0,37	47	Greece	2	0,18
				48	No Identity	185	16,99
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1089</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the 1089 reviewers *Black Hawk Down* movie on IMDb, the dominant reviewers by country is USA. USA is the federal country, a country which is the combination of several countries and became states of the state union. In this review, there are many states from the America, so the writer can't mention it. Many reviewers that commented the story of movie on the IMDb comes from America. It's related to the America case. After the World War II in Mogadishu, America has the mission to capture two mens a leader militant named is Mohamed

Farrah Aidid. The battle of Mogadishu has happened between the American Soldiers and Militant Somalis who loyal to the warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1993 in the Black Sea Mogadishu, Somalia. This event is known as the failure of America, it can be seen many victims of Somalia and America in the battle. That's why of the responses of *Black Hawk Down* movie mostly comes from America. Beside that the researcher identified the reviewer by year are as follows;

NO	YEAR	TOTAL	%
1	2015	1	0,09%
2	2014	11	1,01%
3	2013	9	0,83%
4	2012	13	1,19%
5	2011	18	1,65%
6	2010	16	1,47%
7	2009	14	1,29%
8	2008	21	1,93%
9	2007	18	1,65%
10	2006	36	3,31%
11	2005	55	5,05%
12	2004	63	5,79%
13	2003	121	11,11%
14	2002	682	62,63%
15	2001	11	1,01%
	TOTAL	1089	100%

According to the table calculation as above that the mostly year is 2002. The amount of this year is 682 with 62,63%. It means that this year is a half part of them. The least of year is 2015, this year one reviewer only with 0,09%. The movie of *Black Hawk Down* was launched in 2011. But that year only 11 people

with 1,01% which is interested to comment it. The most reviewers by year is 2002. *Black Hawk Down* is one of the Hollywood movies after the tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup> in WTC, America. This movie has a strong indication as media propaganda especially related to September 11<sup>th</sup>. From the 1089 reviewers of *Black Hawk Down* can be categorized based on the interval principle to be 75 reviewers only to analysis the data. After analyzing the reviewer by the country also year, the researcher finds the dominant issue that responded the *Black Hawk Down* movie.

NO	ISSUE CATEGORY	AMOUNT
1	Movie Production	49
2	Social	21
3	Propaganda	11
4	Military	10
5	Politic	8
6	Suffering	8
7	Race	3
8	Religion	1
	TOTAL	111

Based on the calculation table above, it can be seen the most amount of category issue. The dominant category of issues is movie production. It has got the highest amount is 49. Movie production is contain of the intrinsic elements of the movie. Intrinsic elements of the movie are contains of the character, director, plot, setting, actor, theme, etc. From the elements of the movie, the dominant of movie production is plot. Plot is the message about the story of the movie. There are variations telling about the story of the movie, it is like a war movie, great movie,

firefight, comradeship, American military, best editing, performance, best actor, etc. For example the story of the movie is a war movie, its means that telling about the war actions of the soldiers and Somalia city in the battle. Then a great movie, it means the reviewers concluded that the *Black Hawk Down* is the best movie. It's supported by the actors, characters, director and some properties. They are cooperate in the filmmaking. Then there is a reviewer concluded that the movie is about the firefight. It means that the story has the correlation with the experience of the reviewer. There is a friendship of the American military. According the analysis of the data, there are some story messages that expressed by the reviewers. That's why the mostly of the issue variation is movie production. Many reviewers comment the plot of the movie due to they have different opinions about the story of *Black Hawk Down* after watching this movie. What they have seen the movie, they will take conclusion what the happened of the movie actually.

The second issue category is social. This category has amount 21. This issue is reflection the social reality of battle in Mogadishu, Somalia. It means that the reviewers express their interpretation based on the reality in the battle. The movie shows the social condition what the happened in the battle. It means that the movie of *Black Hawk Down* is depicted the real event battle of Mogadishu, Somalia. This battle is happen on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1993 between the American soldiers and Somalia. The mostly of the reviewers said that this movie is based on the true story in Mogadishu, Somalia. It can be seen from the statements and the pictures the

beginning of the movie that based on the actual event and only the dead have seen the end of the war. The statements can be concluded that the story is really based on the real event of Mogadishu and many people died as the victims of the war. From that reasons, the reviewers can express their responses the story of the movie is based on the true story. This movie didn't show romanticize of the story. But, there are some reviewers stated that the movie is not the true story. The movie is fiction only.

The third issue category ispropaganda. This category reflection the super power country. It means that the are some responses from the reviewers comment that American is super power than Somalia military. The action of the movie is not shows the patriotic of the Somalia, it just shows the propaganda of America. The movie only show the brutality of the Somalia. It means that the movie has purpose show the propaganda of America. They show the patriotisme of America to the world. It can be said that America is super power country and must be apreciated.

The fourth issue category is military. The means of the military is reflection the strategy of soldiers to fight in the battle. The reviewer concluded that the story of the movie is described the military strategy between the American soldiers and the Somalia militia. Then this category consist of the variation such as; American military, Pakistan Army. It means that this category tells about all the forms of strategy to fight in the battle. It can be looked from the ways to use guns, the position to move strategic place.

The next issue category is politic. This issue is reflection on political legitimacy. It means that the interpretation of the reviewer that the causes of the battle in Mogadishu is politic. It can be said that there is a relation between the leader and the people which the policy of government are accepted or rejected. The variation is consist of foreign policy failure, a politic background, a real complaint, and a tactical mistake. The first variation issue of politic is foreign policy failure. It can be said that the battle of Mogadishu was fail because of the foreign policy. The second variation of politic is about the political background. It means that the happening of the battle in Mogadishu because of the political background between American and Somalia. This is not based on the strategically that has been planned by the soldiers. It's the plans of the American to capture the leader of the Somalia militia. The third variation is a real complaint. There is a reviewer of Black Hawk Down complaint that the President Clinton didn't get into the movie in the refusing used the gunsship of the battle. This response is reflected a disapointed expression of the reviewer. Then the last variation is a tactical mistake. It means that the battle of Mogadishu, Somalia can be said effect of conflict between the America and Somalia. The battle that has been planned by America was fail, it caused the tactical mistake from them.

Then the sixth issue category is suffering. This is refelection of war casualties. There are many victims from the soldiers and Somalia city, it caused the brutality of the war in Mogadishu. The variation of this category such as;

mutilation, violence, pain, traumatic stress, casualties, suffering and death. From all variations, it is the effects of the brutality of the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia. The battle make many victims between the America and Somalia city. The first variation is mutilation. The movie described mutilation that has been done by Somalia. It is looked from the part bodies of the soldiers flying in somewhere. It's caused the guns or explosive from the Somalia militia. The second variation is violence. The movie didn't portray the real event of battle in Mogadishu, Somalia but it shows the violence of the war. The thrid variation is pain. When we watching this movie, there are many people was pain, death or killed are described clearly. So, this reviewer concluded that this movie just shows pain only. No more than it. The fourth variation is traumatic stress. That sentence is effected the battle. It means that after the event of the war in Mogadishu, it effected the many people become traumatic strees. The fifth issue variation is casualties. The battle of Mogadishu, Somalia during 2-3 days take the many victims from American and Somalia. The effect of the war is many casualties for both sides. The sixth variation is suffering. After the battle is happened, there are many victims from Somalia and America were suffer. The last variation is death. The mission of American to get authority the Somalia land is fail. From that battle make the many people were die. They are many victims and destruction in Somalia.

The seventh category issue is race. The means of race, it reflected on the white supremacy. We know that American is white skin and Somalia with black

skin. There are some responses from the reviewer informed that a difference between the American and Somalia. In this category, there are some variations such as; Somalia militant & America, stereotypes, rangers & delta forces and white Vs Black. The variation of Somalia militant & America, it's telling about the difference race between the America and Somalia. From that difference, American soldiers have white skin so they are supremacy of race. It means that American feels the best one. They should be respected, their role must be obeyed. The second variation is stereotypes. The means of stereotypes in this movie is American underestimated to Somalia people. They do everything what they want. It can be seen from their act. They don't have pity to them, their purpose to get authority of Somalia land only. The third variation is rangers & delta forces, the means of it is the difference between the ordinary soldiers and elite forces. Rangers are described as a bunch of idiots of ordinary soldiers and Delta is described as the elite forces which they are confidence, knowledgeable and experienced. It means that Delta forces is better than rangers. The fourth variation is White Vs Black. White is reflect on the American soldiers and black is the Somalia militant. *Black Hawk Down* is portrayed the battle American soldier and Somalis in the Mogadishu. In the movie described that American soldiers have white skin, blue eyed clearly and Somalia with black skin.

The last of category issue is religion. From the 75 reviewers only one reviewer has an opinion that the story of the movie about the conflict religion. In

the movie described there is a conflict between the Christen and Muslim. From that variation, it can be said that American country has a mission to Somalia in religion case. They want to christianize the muslim people in Somalia city.

According to the analyzing data, the writer expresses the discussion of the cultural reader response in *Black Hawk Down* Movie. There are many reviewers that commented the story of the movie. The most country is comes from America. This country is dominant, it is caused the battle of Mogadishu has been planned by America. After the World War II, they have mission to capture the chief Somalia militant but, the plan is fail. There are many victims of the battle in Somalia. America interested to express their opinions/ arguments the reality cases about the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia.

*Black Hawk Down* is taken from the novel by Mark Bowden that based on the real event about the battle of Mogadishu. This movie was released on end december, 2001. *Black Hawk Down* is one of the Hollywood movies after the tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup> in WTC, America From the analysis of the data, it can be find the most reviewers by year is 2002. This movie is directed the public opinions in America about the war, based on the real event and background the condition America when launching this movie around 3 months after the terrorist attacks on the twin tower of WTC in New York. Based on the accuracy of information that this movie has strong potential to influence the American audience in the intensely patriotic mood. This year is very dominant till 2015.

From year to year (2002-2015), the reviewer of the movie was decreased due to emergence of many Hollywood movies after *Black Hawk Down*. After this movie, there are many hollywood movies were released to explore the story.

76 reviewers come from different countries, they express their opinions related the story of the movie. Based on the analysis of issue, the most issue variation in the analysis is movie production. This category is part of a art that consists of the elements of the movie such as; plot, director, actor, cynematography, acting, music, editing and etc. From the elements of the movie, the dominant of movie production is plot. Plot is the message about the story of the movie. Many reviewers comment the story of the movie due to they have different opinions about the story of *Black Hawk Down* after watching this movie. Then the other issue variations are social, propaganda, military, politics, suffering, race and religion. From those issues, it's reflecting on the message story of *Black Hawk Down*. The reviewers have the each background to explore their arguments about the movie.

This study using the reader response theory and focuses on the cultural. It can be said that this theory focus how the readers in the cultural roles, attitudes and values in the historal context and shape responses. The reviewer will bring their personal background of the reading text. In the explanation above mentioned that the dominant issue variation is movie production. The most movie production is plot, not only the reviewers commented the story messages about the movie. Every

country have different mind about what they seen of movie. To proven the theory of Beach, the writer takes the responses of the reviewer. The statement of the reviewer from the India, he said that the movie is excellent war movie. He explores his personal background that he has seen many war movies and he was a very die hard Military Technology Enthusiast. The other reviewer comes from Turkey interested the movie is the director could express the feelings in a war really well. It causes why they like it. They said that this is a nicely filmed movie but it is full of propaganda just like the other America movies. The reviewer comes from Malaysia also disliked with this movie because disappointed with the production of *Black Hawk Down*. The movie failed to portray the role played by Malaysian soldiers under Malaysian Battalion in the rescue of American forces. The reviewer comes from South Africa, he didn't repond about the story, but out of the movie. He concluded that this is not enertainment, it is a gross misrepresentation. The movie is excellent and the best war between Somalia and America. It's proven got some Oscar such as; the best picture, editing and the best director.

## **CONCLUSION**

The researcher draws several conclusions, there are eight issues variation. It consists of movie production, social, propaganda, military, politics, suffering, race and religion. The dominant of the issue variation is movie production. It consists of the elements of the movie that supported it such as; plot, director, actor,

cinematography, acting, music, editing and etc. The most of the reviewers explore the different plot of the movie; it's that why the movie production is dominant. Every reviewer has a different opinion of the story messages. The reviewers respond always connected with the background of the movie. The reviewers take the story of the message the movie after watching the *Black Hawk Down*. They take the conclusion based on what they catch from the story.

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