THE CONTROVERSIAL EXPRESSION OF TRUE LOVE IN HANEKE’S AMOUR (2012) : A READER RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting Master’s Degree of English Education Graduate School Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta

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I hereby stated wholeheartedly that the Publication Article entitled “The Controversial Expression of True Love in Haneke’s Amour (2012): A Reader Response Analysis” is an original and authentic work written by myself and it has satisfied the rules and regulations of Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta with respect to plagiarism. Everything which is written in this thesis related to others works are written in manuscript and mentioned in the literary review and bibliography. If it is then proved that I cheat, I will hold fully responsible.

Surakarta, 21 Januari 2019

The Researcher

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Abstrak


Kata Kunci: Amour, Readers’ Response

Abstract

This research aims to determine the readers’ response to the Amour by E.L James which is analyzed with Reader Response theory by Richard beach. This research was conducted to identify the readers’ response to: 1) how are the responses of the audiences towards Amour movie 2) how is the response of the reviewer based on different gender background 3) how is the response of the viewer based on the different marital status background. This research used qualitative research methods. The data of this research consists of two kinds, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is readers’ reviews by using questioner towards Amour movie. While the secondary data obtained from other sources such as literary books, previous studies, journals, articles, internet, and others related to the study. The technique of collecting data is using document analysis. The result of this research shows that there are different views about Amour caused by the different backgrounds of the reviewers.

Keywords: Amour, Readers’ Response
1. INTRODUCTION

The story of the Amour film tells the discovery of the dead body of an old woman in an apartment room, then flashback to a scene in the past that tells the life of a dead-old-woman with her husband. At the end of the Amour film, the plot returns which can be seen by the arrival of a woman, the child of the Anne (old woman who has been found dead in an apartment room). First, Amour movie is an interesting movie because it has become the world attention. Second, The selection of Michael Hanake’s Amour film by researcher was due to plot complexity, Third, Amour is the love story film so the writer wants to know how the audience responds to this film.

In this section the researcher presents some previous study which is related to the Amour, there are some researchers which is done the research of Amour movie. The research is done by Deni Andri Yanto (2016), Ben Tyrer, (2016), both researchers are using psychoanalytic approach in order to analyzed Amour. Melanie Robson, (2017) the researcher focus to how the viewer’s complicit relationship with the onscreen action is developed in Amour through Haneke’s formal choices. Andrea Gogrof, (2015) the researcher focus to explore the dialogue Haneke has with naturalism and to show that compassion is less in this director a new element than a fundamental premise of the humanist order. Laura Tusa Ilea, (2014) the research shows to address the film Amour by Michael Haneke from the point of view of a conceptual migration Amir Cohen Shalev and Esther Lee Marcus (2016), the research focus on how certain forms of love, seen from within, unfold in tandem with age or life phases that affect the pace, emotional, and interpersonal nature of the partnership. Milosz Paul Rosinski (2015) focus on explores the provocative nature of Amour in contact with philosophical questions of death and care. From all the previous research, they focused on the psychoanalytic theory and stuctural elements of the movie.

The researcher find the gap between previous research with current research. The previous research are only focus on the text of the novel while, reader is the main component in the literary work, but until now there are no researches that
discuss the readers’ response. Departing from the readers’ response, the researcher focused the readers’ response in this movie. From the explanation above, current research is different with the previous research. The current research focused on the response of the reader after they watch Amour movie. And also, the use of theory is reader response theory. The previous research has never conducted about reader response theory. To give novelty to the research on the Amour movie, this study will analyze the response of the reviewer.

Reader response is one of the theories of literature which is focused on the reader experiences about literary work. According to Tompkins (1930: 9) reader response theory is a term which associated with a work of critics which use reader to give their response in order to investigate the literary work. In Davis (2001: 51) the readers usually express their response based on what they read and explore the meaning of the text they read. (Beach, 1993) says that the response of the readers are usually based on the emotion what they feels about, when facing the text in order to understanding the literary work. There are five perspectives on Beach’s reader response. They are textual perspective that focused on the reader’s knowledge to interpret meaning of literary work. The interpretation is primarily directed by the text or work. Experiential reader response is focused on the reader experience when they create meaning of literary work. Psychological reader response is related with the text to our lives. It speaks with personally and makes the reader to better understand about phenomenon in everyday life. Social reader response focuses on the influence of the social context of the reader. And the last, cultural reader response towards to reader' attitudes and value shape their response draw on a range of different disciplinary perspective: poststructuralist, feminist, anthropological, historical, and Marxist.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of this research is qualitative research. There are two types of data sources which are needed to conduct this research namely; primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is contains of readers review of Amour movie. The researcher give some questioner for the viewers,
the questioner are consist of several question. The secondary data obtained from other sources such as literary books, previous studies, journals, articles, internet, and others related to the study. The technique of data collection in this study is using library research. It was done by collecting and selecting both of primary and secondary data source which is compatible with the problem statement and objectives of the study. The technique used in analyzing the data is qualitative analysis that consists of three phases namely data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions (Miles and Huberman, 1994: 11).

3. **RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

3.1. **Research Findings**

In this part contains of analysis data by respondents which has different background.

3.1.1. Reviews persepction about the Story, Male Character, Female Character, Relationship, The expression of true love. Gender and marital status background have differences to the perspective on the story of this movie.

3.1.1.1. The Story

The respondents have different perspectives toward the Amour movie, there is no similarity between them. The movie Amour has a complex storyline. The complexity of the plot can be seen through the sequence which obtained by observing the pictures and sounds from the movie itself, it can be proof by this data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Boring</td>
<td>Touching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romantic</td>
<td>Inspiring</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

4
3.1.1.2. Male Character

Respondents are also argue that male character of this movie is a person who does not have stance in this movie. George is the main protagonist character. He has such an important role in the sequence of events occurred in the storyline. George is an elder. In the movie, he is portrayed as a man in his 70s who lives alone with his wife in their apartment. Based on every scene presented, physically, George has wrinkles on his face and bald hair on the front side of his head. However, in his daily basis, George always dresses up neatly and often wears knitted sweater.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faithful</td>
<td>Impressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.1.3. Female Character

Anne is a supporting character who plays a role as the main character’s partner who also causes the conflict in the story. Anne is an elder woman who is a retired music teacher. She is around 65 years old. Despite the illness she suffers in her old ages, Anne always dresses up neatly. Her hair is loose neatly from her head to her shoulder. The old Anne is very stubborn. Her stubbornness is presented when she does not want to stay in the hospital for the second time and insists for George to take care of her in their apartment instead.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Does not want to be a burden</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Surrenders</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Impressed</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Smart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romantic</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.1.4. Review about relationship between George and Anne

The relationship between George and Anne in the movie portrays a husband and wife who live their elderly period of life with various things until one time, a conflict raises when Anne is ill which leads to other conflicts. However, the romanticism of the married couple is seen from the beginning until the end of the movie.

According to the responses of the audiences towards the film Amour, George is pictured more in the movie. Nevertheless, in the end of the movie, George behaves differently. He can get offended easily and be more sentimental. This change is shown after the conflict which comes up because of the second stroke happens in Anne.
3.1.1.5 Review expression of true love

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
<td>Romantic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table above, on the table above, all the respondents say that the true love does exist and have many types. In this movie, the true love also implicitly appears in George’ and Anne’s relationship. However, they picture differently from respondents’ perspectives.

3.2 Discussion

According to the finding presented in section Amour film, this can be concluded that gender and marital status influence their view toward the
movie Amour. Males tend not to have interest to watch this movie because of the movie duration and the romanticism within the movie. Meanwhile, female tend to love this movie because of the romanticism pictured within the movie despite its long duration. In addition, they love the genre of the movie in which this movie is very emotional, thus, makes them cry. This is proven by male respondents’ responses in which they tend to put less interest to this movie because it is boring seen by the duration and setting of the movie. Meanwhile, female respondents view this movie as a good movie seen from its plot and story which is very inspiring and touching. Hence, they can spend long time to watch the movie. Finally, the setting of the movie is also considered as interesting.

The respondents view George is a great man who takes care of his wife. All respondents view that George tries hard to heal his wife. He is also considered as a charismatic, soft and lovely man. Even though at the end of the movie he kills his wife, respondents do not change their mind towards Joe’s nice characteristic. In addition, he could be a model of a husband that people can learn to. Especially his role in taking care of his wife both when she is healthy and being sick. Nevertheless, they become sad that finally he killed his wife at the end of the story. Simultaneously, character George has a certain charisma which cannot be describe in words for all the respondents. He is a very great, kind-hearted and lovely husband.

Male respondents tend to give a positive perspective towards Anne because they feel pity to her since she is fighting her illness. They also cannot see Anne suffering at her old age. Meanwhile, female respondents tend to have a negative perspective towards character Anne. They see her behaviour changes after she gets the illness.

This is proven by the responses from male respondents who view that Anne is an independent woman who always fights her illness so that she would not be a burden to her husband. They actually think that Anne could be just given up to her illness, however, she always tries her best to heal
herself with the help from her husband. Meanwhile, female respondents tend to think that she becomes more stubborn after she finds out that her illness cannot be healed. Thus, her behaviour slowly changes which then makes her husband feels sick towards this. For example, she says that George would not be able to face her, and she just want to give up and die.

The respondents view that George’ and Anne’s relationship pictured in the movie is a romantic relationship between a husband and a wife that actually tries to deal with their issue in their old ages. This matches to what Collins & Read (1990) say that one of the characteristics in a person which decide their relationship is togetherness. In addition, according to Hazan & Shaver (1987), togetherness is a emotional relationship which has been existed from the very beginning to throughout a person’s life in a purpose to have a safety feeling.

According to the respondents, the relationship between George and Anne has a deep strength until they are at their old ages. This is proven by all respondents’ responses that their relationship is very romantic. This can be seen on how George is very helpful when Anne really needs her. For example, George makes his promises to take care of Anne when she does not to stay in the hospital. This George’s strong commitment can be a model for the audiences.

Male respondents tend to see that George’ feelings and actions toward Anne is already compatible. However, the female respondents tend to view in a way around since he becomes more temperamental and even does not hesitate to do a violence to Anne. This shows that he is impatience even though he already promises to take care of Anne with all his heart. This matches to what Freud (cited in Semiun, 2006, p.42) that in unconscious world of a human-being, there can be desire, lush, and mind which are being repressed. An unconscious world is massive and having important powers which are unseen but it controls minds and conscious behaviour in every individua.
This is proven by female respondents that George’s unconscious world shows that there is no different between his feelings and actions when Anne is being sick and started to be annoyed. Furthermore, the respondents say that George is being sick towards Anne’s behaviour which makes him to become more sentimental each day. This leads him to his decision to kill Anne despite he could be sad. This happens because he is crazy for Anne so he could not kill his wife. However, he gets depressed and disappointment to his own life which is no longer comfortable because of his wife’s illness. Consequently, he is forced by the situation to kill his wife. However, in his unconscious world, he already gets sick to take care of Anne who is getting older and older. Meanwhile, according to male respondents, George’s feelings and actions are already compatible because he already takes care of Anne with all his heart. He also makes his promises which shows how responsible he is.

According to respondents, a true love does exist. All the respondents view that the true love a strong relationship even though the couple are at their old ages. In addition, it varies. According to John Lee (1973) “The Colours of Love” resembles the type of love by using colour wheel or colour circle theory, that is an abstract illustration about a relationship of the main, seconder and supplement colours. Lee explains that there are three main kinds of love; 1) Eros which is a love feeling to a person who s/he thinks that person matches most, 2) Ludos which believe that a love is a game, 3) Storge that believes a love as a friendship. Similar to colour wheel analogy, love is a combination of Eros, Ludos and Storge. They are: 1) Mania (Eros + Ludos), an obsessive love, 2) Pragma (Ludos + Storge), a practical love, 3) Agape (Eros + Storge), a selfless love.

Based on the presented explanation above, the audiences with gender background (male and female) tend to have more varieties in expressing their responses so that there can be some different opinions. Meanwhile, the audiences with marital status background tend to view George as a man who
does not have usual characteristics. Hence, he could have a romantic marriage relationship with Anne, i.e. they fight together to deal with their issue. Unfortunately, the story has a sad ending. This finally leads to their view towards the true love. They believe that it does exist in the movie and in the real life.

4. CONCLUSION

According to the responses of the audiences towards Amour film, there is a relationship between marital status and gender, there are differences in views between male and female respondents, as well as the influence of marital status on the opinions of respondents regarding the Amour film. Men tend to be less interested in seeing this film because of the long duration and tend to be fewer men like this romantic film because they rarely even never watch romantic films that are a long duration. Whereas women love romantically themed films even though they have a long duration because they like the genre of films that drain hearts and tears

The gender and marital status backgrounds have not led to any differences to the perspectives on the acting played by Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Riva. Respondents consider that the acting played by the two characters in the Amour is very captivating and able to make the audience being lulled. Gender and marital status do not lead to differences in views on the expression of true love. They agree that true love exists and many forms, if associated with this film, there is a lot of true love depicted in this film.

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