

**COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NOVEL AND THE MOVIE VERSION OF
MARIO PUZO'S *THE GODFATHER*:
A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS**



RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Achieving
Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by:

EKO HERI SISWANTO

NIM: A 320 000 120

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2009

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary works have given valuable contribution of the world of movie. Many good movies are made from adaptation upon literary work. The movie itself is also a product of the art. Art is best through of in relation to a perceiver who reads the novel, listens to the music or views the movie. The reason of the transferring the novel to movie is done to adapt it with the condition of the time and to make the audience easy to get the meaning from the story in the different way and view. The purpose is to give entertainment and certain message to all community.

Many producers and directors have brilliant ideas for making movie from novel or other literary. Movie can give a clear understanding about the story, setting, plot, point of view, etc. Beside that, the reader will be more satisfied by direct performance in the movie. Most of good movies are made from adaptation upon literary work. There are some novels performe become of movies. The works of Shakespeare's dominated namely *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *King Hendry V*, and *Midsummer Night Dream*. The other movies are Charles Dicken's works, Such as *Great Expectation*, *David Cooperfield*, *Oliver twist*, *Pick Wick Paper*, and *a tale of two cities*. John Grisham's *The Rain Maker*, Ernest Hemingway's *In Love and War* and Jane

Austine's *Sense and Sensibility*. The original novel has interested the director to perform classical play in the world of movie. Sometimes the movies become box office on the era.

The phenomenon above cannot ignore three important relationships of psychology, sociology, and aesthetic aspects. Both film and novel have some psychological, sociological and aesthetic aspects. Both film and the novel have some psychological principles. They are made for offering the same kind of pleasure inside the work for community. From sociological aspect both of two versions are addressed to give entertainment and message for mass audience. People watch and read it to enjoy the thing, inside. So if the work does not has a little of beautiful side, they will leave it and mull over the other attractive movies to be watched.

One of the novelists whose novel has been adapted into the movie is Mario Puzo. He was the successful Sicilian novelist who was born in an immigrant family in New York City in the area known as 'Hell's Kitchen' at October 15, 1920. His father was a railway trackman. Puzo lived with his six brothers and sisters above the railway yards. The discovery of public libraries and the world of literature led Puzo in the direction of writing. During World War II Puzo served in the US Air Force stationed in East Asia and Germany. After the war he stayed in Germany as a civilian public relations man for the Air Force. Puzo then studied at the New School for Social Research, New York, and at Columbia University. During this period he took classes in literature and creative writing. In 1946 he married Erika Lina Broske;

they had five children. (http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/mario_puzo.html; May 17th, 2006)

The themes of love, crime, family bondage, and Old World values were further developed in Puzo's novel *Godfather* (1969), his international breakthrough story about the roots of mafia, corruption, violence, and honors. His other works were *The Dark Arena* (1955) *The Fortunate Pilgrim* (1965) *The Runaway Summer of Davie Shaw* (children's book) (1966) *The Godfather* (1969) *Fools Die* (1978) *The Sicilian* (1984) *The Fourth K* (1990) *The Last Don* (1996) *Omerta* (2000) *The Family* (2001). His nonfiction *The Godfather Papers & Other Confessions* (1972) *Inside Las Vegas* (1977). Mario also wrote several screenplays, including *"Earthquake"*, and *"Superman"*. He received two Academy Awards for his three *"Godfather"* movies. (http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/mario_puzo.html; May 17th, 2006)

The *Godfather* story revolves around Vito Corleone, He was born Vito Andolini on December 7, 1891 in Corleone, Sicily, a leader of organized crime in the 1940s. He was known as *"The Godfather"*. He is a man who rules with quiet persuasion, asking those who wish favors from him for their loyalty and dealing mercilessly with those who cross him. His youngest son, Michael Corleone becomes the Don upon his death. Two other sons, Santino "Sonny" Corleone and Fredo Corleone, and a daughter, Connie Corleone. He also informally adopted another son, Tom Hagen, who grew up to become the Family's *consigliere*. His youngest son Michael has returned from World War II just in time to see the

wedding of Connie Corleone (Michael's sister) to Carlo Rizzi. All of Michael's family is involved with the Mafia, but Michael just wants to live a normal life.

Virgil "The Turk" Sollozzo asks Don Corleone for legal protection and a million dollars in financing for the heroin business. Because he is concerned that the politicians and policemen in his control will not see narcotics as the same kind of innocent pursuit as gambling, prostitution and illegal alcohol, Don Corleone refuses to get involved. After Don Corleone's refusal, Sollozzo unsuccessfully attempts to assassinate him. Realizing that Sollozzo will not rest until his father is dead, Michael volunteers to kill Sollozzo and his bodyguard, Captain McCluskey, during a meeting designed to end the conflict. Tom Hagen's intelligence network discovers in advance where the meeting is to be held, a Louis restaurant in the Bronx, and Clemenza has a pistol planted in the bathroom there for Michael to use. During the meeting, Michael excuses himself to go to the bathroom, retrieves the weapon, and murders Sollozzo and McCluskey. Michael is sent to Sicily, under the protection of Vito's old friend and business partner Don Tommasino, to avoid arrest for the murders. There, he meets and marries the beautiful young virgin Apollonia, who is later killed by a car bomb meant for Michael. Back in America, Don Corleone returns home from the hospital and is heartbroken to learn that Michael, for whom he had political aspirations and therefore wanted to keep "clean" and away from the family's illegal operations, was the one who killed Sollozzo and McCluskey. Don Corleone

realizes that it was Don Emilio Barzini, not Philip Tattaglia, who was behind the war and Sonny's death. Don Corleone places Michael in charge of the Family, since the next oldest brother Fredo, who has been sent to Las Vegas for his health and to learn the casino business. Vito Corleone, while advising Michael about strategy and possible assassination attempts, confesses that he had hoped his youngest son had not been drawn into the family business. Although dreaming Michael would one day be a governor or a senator, Vito admits that "there wasn't enough time." While playing in the garden with his grandson, Michael's son Anthony, Don Corleone dies. During the funeral, Corleone Family caporegime Tessio conveys a proposal for a meeting with Don Barzini, on Tessio's turf so Michael will be safe. As Vito Corleone told him and Tom Hagen confirms at the funeral, Michael's enemies will attempt to kill him by using a trusted acquaintance to set up a meeting once Vito Corleone and his important political connections are gone. Michael then arranges for the murders of the other families' heads (Philip Tattaglia, Emilio Barzini, Victor Stracci, and Carmine Cuneo), Moe Greene (whom the other families support), and Sal Tessio (for betraying Michael to Barzini) and those murders are carried out while Michael is standing up as godfather to his nephew, Connie and Carlo's second son, Michael Francis Rizzi.

From the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze the differences and similarity of the novel and movie version of *The Godfather*. That is why; the writer chooses the title: "*Comparison Between the Novel and the Movie Version of Mario Puzo's The Godfather: A Structural Analysis*".

B. Problem Statement

The problem of this research is, “What are the differences and similarities between the novel and movie version of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*?”

C. Literary Review

The first study about Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* has ever been conducted in Muhammadiyah University by Dian Kusuma Suci (2006) with entitled *Mario Puzo's World Viewd in The Godfather, A Genetic Structuralism Approach*. In his observation the researcher found another study of Mario Puzo's work entitled *The Analysis of Figure of Speech in Mario Puzo 's The Godfather* by Iriana Sulistyani (UNS, 2003, Research paper).

The second study was conducted by Topik (2006) entitle: “*A Comparison Between The Novel and The Movie Version Of James Fenimore Cooper’s The Last Of The Mohicans: Structural Analysis*”. The researcher is going to compare them by using structural analysis. The aspects being compared are characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and theme.

Mean while in this research the writer wants to analyze the comparison between the novel and movie version of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*.

D. Limitation of the Study

In comparing the novel and the movie version of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to

compare them by using structural analysis. The aspects being compared are characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and theme.

E. The Objective of Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of both novel and movie.
2. To compare the structural elements of the novel and the movie in order to find out the similarities and differences of both the novel and the movie.

F. Benefit of study

The benefits of this study are divided into two, those are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The research will give benefits for the world of literature, especially in the form of comparative criticism of literary work.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. The research will give the deeper understanding about the content of novel *The Godfather* to the common reader.
- b. This thesis can be a reference to sub sequent researchers who are interested in analyzing this play with other form of criticism.

G. Research Method

The methods that the writer uses in this research paper consist of:

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Godfather* both the novel and the film.

The novel was written by Mario Puzo in 1969 and the movie was directed by

Francis Ford Coppola and was released in March 15, 1972.

2. Types of the Study

In this research paper, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative method, because in this research, the researcher is gathering the data, arranging, classifying, analyzing, and concluding the result of this research. This research is also a qualitative study, because the subject and the object of the research are described through words to solve the problem (Nawawi, 1991: 63). This research purposes to compare the differences and similarities between the novel and the movie of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

The types of data are text and movie observation. The data that he gained is by observing the structural element of both versions. And the sources are classified into two categories namely primary data and secondary data.

- a. The primary data are taken from both novel and movie version of *The Godfather*.
- b. The secondary data are taken from some references and materials related to the study whether picking up from the books or internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collecting

The writer uses library research. The technique of data collecting is done by following step.

- a. Documentation

The data is collected through by documentation. The writer collects and records the evidence to know the similarities and differences

between the novel and the movie version. It is conducted by watching *The Godfather* the movie version and reading the novel several times to get understanding of that version.

b. Library Research

Besides observation, the writer also uses library research. The data are collected from the books related to the topic. The procedures used by the writer are as follows:

- 1) Reading the novel more than once.
- 2) Exploring the main data, relating to the object that will be analyzed.
- 3) Marking the important part of the novel.
- 4) Taking note on the parts related to the analysis of the part.
- 5) Classifying the important part into some categories.
- 6) Watching the movie.
- 7) Marking the important part of the movie.
- 8) Categorizing then begins to compare them.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. The writer puts the collected data into their categories and then he begins to compare the novel and movie version by using the structural analysis theory. The writer uses the technique of data analysis as bellows:

a. Structure of the Novel

Here the writer uses the structural construction of the novel, such as characters and characterization, setting of places and time, plot, point of

view, theme and style. These explanations are supported by some theories, which have correlation with the structural construction.

b. Structure of the Film

In this research the writer also analyzes the structural elements of the film. These elements are divided into two: narrative and technical elements. Narrative elements consist of characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view and theme. Whereas technical elements include: *mise en scene*, cinematography, sound and editing. The writer will give explanation which is supported by some theories related with the structural elements of the film.

c. Comparative Study of Literature

This research is entitled *Comparison Between the Novel and the Movie Version of Mario Puzo's The Godfather: A Structural Analysis*, the writer thinks that it is very important to clarify the comparative study of literature. Based on this classification the writer will take one of the kinds of the comparative study on his thesis.

H. Paper Organization

The study consists of six chapters. Chapter I is the introduction that includes the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory of the structural analysis. Chapter III consists of the structural analysis of *The Godfather* novel and chapter IV consists of the structural analysis of the movie version. The last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.