

**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN LUIS MANDOKI'S *INNOCENT VOICES*
MOVIE (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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By

KHOIRUN NISA

A 320 060 128

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

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Violence against children happens frequently. It is not being executed at urban area, but it could be found as well in rural area. Violence against children usually happens on second class. The children become vulnerable target of violence. Violence against children can make children be cruel man in the future. For example, violence against children is told in *Innocent Voices* movie where the children are forced by the military. When they are twelve years old, they lose their childhood. They must follow recruitment of military. They grow up with hard heart as stone. Many children die because they are not obedient.

Innocent Voices movie is a Spanish drama and war movie, co-produced by Altavitas film and distributed by Santo Domingoes film. The stars in this film are carlos padilla as Cava, Leonor Varela as a Kella, Gustavo Munoz as Ancha, Jose Maria Yazpik as Uncle Beto, Jorge Angel Toriello as Fito, Adrian Alonso as Chele, Andres Marquez as Marcos, Alejandro Felipe Flores as Ricardito, Ana Paulina Caceres as Rosita, Paulina Gaytan Ruiz as Angelita, Alan Andree as Antonio, Lourdes Villareal as Mrs Celia, Prisiliana Hernandez as Mrs. Amalia. This movie was distributed by Santo Domingoes film and the first release date in Mexico was on January 28, 2004. This movie has running time or duration 110 minutes. This movie is directed by Luis Mandoki. This movie uses

Spanish and English language. This movie gets twelve win and nine nominates from some countries, like from Berlin, Bangkok, USA, etc. Ariel Awards Mexico, it gets categories best make up, best special effect, best supporting actress, best Actress, best Art Direction, Best Cinematography, Best Direction, Best Editing, and Best Sound. Bangkok International Film Festival, it gets category best film. Berlin International Film Festival, it gets category best featured film. Heartland Film Festival, it gets freedom expressions. RiverRun International Film Festival, it gets category best feature film. This movie is based on true story from small country in El Salvador.

Luis Mandoki is a director *Innocent Voices* movie. Mandoki was born and raised in Mexico City. Luis Mandoki is a native of Mexico; he has evolved to become one of Hollywood's foremost filmmakers. Mandoki attended a number of film schools including San Francisco Art Institute, London International Film School and London College School of Film. During his training in England, he directed his first film, *Silent Music*, and received a major award from the international Amateur Film Festival for his pains. He returned to Mexico to direct several short films and documentaries.

Completing his education, he returns to Mexico to direct several short films and documentaries one of these, *The Secret* (1980), he wins an Ariel (Mexico's Oscar). This same year he meets poet and writer Gabriela Brimmer on a talk show, and he becomes inspire her life overcoming

cerebral palsy. The two works together to create the feature film *Gaby: A True Story* (1992). Although he received no award nominations for his work, his cast and crew are awarded with numerous honors from the Academy Awards, Golden Globes and the Bogota Film Festival.

He returns to Mexico to direct several short films and documentaries for the Instituto Nacional Indigenista, Conacine, SA, and Centro de Produccion de Cortometraje. In 1980, Mandoki won the Ariel Award (Mexico's Oscar) for his short film, *The Secret*. His first feature, *Motel*, was chosen to represent Mexico in five film festivals.

In 1980, the war has happened in Small country in El Salvador. This is beginning from conflict between El Salvador soldier and farmers. All farmers make one organization and become guerrilla with name FMLN. The government takes children who are twelve years old to be soldier. The government compels them and makes them lose their happiness. This conflict has happened for twelve years. This movie tells about Cava, one of children who could avoid from death and soldier recruitment.

Cava lives with his mother (Kela) and young brother and sister (Ricardito and Rosita) in an area which near with soldier and guerrilla. Cava's father leaves his family to go to America when the war is begun. Cava becomes a leader in his family. Cava's mother is very protective with her children especially with Cava, because he will be twelve years old and the soldier will bring him to be soldier. The guerrilla tries to save

Cuscatanzngo in order not to hold soldier and tries to save children in order that they can laugh and smile like before. Because of that, the soldier and the guerrilla always combat. Custanzngo has Pries, the priest dislikes soldiers because they always take and recruit children who are twelve years old to be soldier and take the girl in street without opportunity. In school, cava has friends. They are Marcos, Antonio, Raton, and Ancha. Among his friends, Cava becomes a leader and has high responsibility. The students who study in their school cannot study with comfortable ability and they always feel afraid and worried because in their school they always hear shooting from soldiers and guerrilla. Moreover, the bullet could emerge the classroom and make students be running in feel afraid and worry

At the night in Cava's area, Cava and his young brother and sister hear bullet from soldiers and guerrilla when his mother is not in home. She works until night. The bullet could emerge the house and Cava tries to save Ricardito and Rosita from shooting. He closes the door and the window soon, then he raises mattress to save their body from bullets. Cava tries to hide his worry and his fear in front of Ricardito and Rosita. He saves both of them with responsibility and love. At that time Ricardito cries and calls his mother, but Cava could hold this situation. He makes a joke by drawing his face with mother's lipstick and both of them can laugh together. Cava's mother is surprised and worried when she looks condition in her village. She smiles when looks his children are sleeping. Next

morning, Kela visits her mother and tells what happened in the last night. Grand ma Toya gives advice in order to move on from her home to Grand ma Toya's area. Cava's mother refuses because she is afraid if Beto (her brother) comes to her house. She chooses to stop working to keep her children. Grand ma Toya gives her money to buy weapon.

After that Cava's mother does not work out, she makes dress then she asks Cava to sell it. Unfortunately, Cava's dresses are not demanded by people. A driver offers job to Cava. Cava comes late back home and his mother is angry, but after he tells what happened that day, his mother gives smile and hugs him with full proudly. Then Cava gives money to his mother. The next morning, Cava buys soft drink to his friend. He tells his friends about his new job. They and the other students play and laugh together. Suddenly, group of soldier from government come to their school. The students run and look worried on their face. The soldiers come to recruit children who are twelve years old. The school situation is strained. One by one name is called; one of the names listed is Antonio. He looks so afraid and worried. They take Antonio and kills Temo because he tries to go from rear. He tells his mother about Antonio with strained face, he hugs his mother and cries.

Someday Cava meets beautiful girl in his school. He is falling in love with her. Her name is Christina. Cava invites her to play lampions together at the night. When he accompanies her to back home in the street they hear shooting and they run quickly. Cava keeps his girl well. After

returning to home his mother is angry with him and gives him punishment. Next morning uncle Beto comes to Cava's house. They have dinner together. Suddenly, they hear shooting bullet and they save each other. Angelita dies because of the bullet shot. All families are crying. Uncle Beto wants to bring Cava to go away from that area because a month later Cava will be twelve years old. Cava's mother does not permit him. Uncle Beto gives radio to Cava. Cava goes to school as usually, when the students are studying suddenly they hear shooting bullet. When he is in the class he looks his mother is hidden. He comes to his mother to help her. Cava's mother makes decision to move on and live near her mother (Grand ma Toya). Someday when Cava is twelve years old, his family and his friends makes small party but Cava looks dislike because he feels worried and afraid with her age now. He goes away from his home. Next morning he meets Uncle Beto's friends. He tells Cava that tomorrow soldier will recruit the children who are twelve years old in his village. Cava and his friends tell to all children by writing letter and put it in front of the children's house. They all are hidden in top of root. Cava and his friends make decision that they will follow guerilla. Before he comes to guerrilla area he goes to his girl but he is very surprised because her house is shattered and he finds a piece of her dress. He is very angry and sad. Then he and his friends come to guerilla area but unfortunately, suddenly the soldiers attack them and bring them to river. They kill Cava friends one by one, when they will shoot Cava suddenly the guerillas help Cava,

Cava can run away from them. Cava back to his home and he is surprised with what happens. He meets his mother.

Seven days after this war, Cava and other people move on to America with other people. In America, he follows his father. Before he goes and leaves his family, he makes promise with his mother that he will back when Ricardito is eleven years old and he promises will take his family. After some years, he comes back to El Salvador and brings Ricardito before he is twelve years old.

In this movie, there has been pro and contra from the society. Chicago Tribune says that *Innocent Voices* movie is an unusually beautiful- *Innocent Voices* movie is an unusually beautiful-looking movie about an ugly, painful subject: the effects of war and violence on children. James Berardinelli : *Innocent Voices* movie is an angry movie, and for good reason. Anything less serious would have been a gross injustice. Mandoki has given us a powerful motion picture.

But on the other hand say, James says that *Innocent Voices* has a good actors and the script honest-seeming, but it is not realized in the way they have expect: with raw realism and a harsh, naturalistic look. The other people; Laura said that Luis Mandoki's subject matter is dramatic and heart breaking; his film is slow and repetitive.

There are four reasons that make the movie interesting, important, unique-nature, and challenging to watch. The first reason is that the movie is interesting. This movie is based on true story which has happened in El

Salvador in 1980 between the soldiers and guerrilla. This movie tells story about the government who take the children who are twelve years old to be military. From this movie, it can enlarge viewer's knowledge what happened in El Salvador. Moreover, this movie exposes between war and romantic side. It makes this movie different and more interesting than the other film.

The second reason is that the movie can show the condition of children when the war is happened. *Innocent Voices* movie tells the violence against of children when the soldiers recruit them. When they are twelve years old, they must be a soldier and their happiness loses.

The third reasons is unique and nature. Natural impresion which is different from other movies. The acts are done by actor or actresses were still natural style and with great appropriate acting. This movie also describes the real situation in El Salvador at that period.

The last reason that makes the movie challenge is when the children try to run off from the soldiers. They hide on top roof their house when the soldiers come to take them. It makes the writer is strained when watches this movie. The study will elaborate the social life of human. This study covered entitled "VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN LUIS MANDOKI'S *INNOCENT VOICES* MOVIE (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH".

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who conducted study about *Innocent Voices* movie. The first researcher is Jimmi Briggs. His journal entitled “The Innocent Voices of War-Affected Children (2005)”. He focuses on the effect of the war to children. In more than three dozen conflicts around the globe between three hundred thousand and five hundred thousand children under the age of eighteen years are actively participating in combat as scouts, cooks, porters, sexual servants and front-line fighters. The only avenues out for these child warriors are capture, risky escape, wounding, or death. Finally, he tells that the war brought bad effect for children. It makes children traumatic and always fell worried. The effect can bring them to death. He focuses on psychoanalytic of children because of the war.

The second researcher is Robert Siegel. In his article in NPR news on October 18, 2005 entitled “Innocent Voices, reliving El Salvador's civil war (2005) “. In his article, he focuses on conflict that happened at that time in El Salvador in 1980. He also discusses the social, politic, and economy aspect in El Salvador at 1980. Finally, he discusses conflict that happened in that period. In his article he also discusses the effect from this civil war. He analyzes his article generally and not detail.

Different from two previous researches, the writer has different perspective and object in analyzing the data. The writer uses sociological approach to analyze the data and focuses on the children's condition in *Innocent Voices* movie.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research the writer proposes a problem statement. The problem of this research is “How is violence against children being reflected in *Innocent Voices* movie directed by Luis Mandoki?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits her analysis for understanding violence against children in *Innocent Voices* movie directed by Luis Mandoki.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the research is to expose the violence against children in *Innocent Voices* movie with Sociological Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The result of this research has expected to give some benefits as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit.

This research will improve knowledge the study of literature as the modern art especially in *Innocent Voices* movie and the elements.

2. Practical Benefit.

The research will give deeper understanding in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the movie especially based on social of life with sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Types of Research

This type of research is qualitative in which the researcher does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.

2. Types of data and data source

In this research, the researcher takes two kinds of data. They are movie and script.

a. Primary source

Primary source is taken from Innocent Voices movie and script of Innocent voices movie and DVD of Innocent voices movie.

b. Secondary source

Secondary sources are taken from other referential data, which have relation with research, the underlying theory and other materials concern to the analysis. It can be from book and internet.

3. Research Object

The object of the study is Cava (in Innocent voices movie) directed by Luis Mandoki with duration 110 minutes.

4. Method of the Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research. The data are collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is watching *Innocent Voices* movie many times to identify the problem and find the data. Next, the writer reads the script of this movie. Next, the writer reads the relevant theory with the subject, finally is collecting the supported data from any critical review, internet and the other references related to the topic.

5. The Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis is descriptive, in which the researcher uses sociological approach especially Swingewood's theory and draws a conclusion.

H. Research Organization

The research paper organization of *Violence Against Children In Luis Mandoki's Innocent Voices Movie : A Sociological Approach* is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Theoretical Approach; it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Major Principles of Sociology of Literature. Chapter III is social background of El Salvador in 1980, which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of the movie. Chapter

V is Sociological Analysis of *Innocent Voices* movie. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.