

# Moral Conflicts in Squid Game Movie

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## ABSTRACT

*This study aims to analyze the moral values in the conflict squid game movie, namely the values of survival strategies, self-sacrifice, cooperation, egoism, and values contained in conflict. In conflict, there are morals that we can reflect on ourselves in everyday life, and these moral values are often found in experiences, events and even stories. The research method used is a qualitative method by selecting dialogues that contain moral elements in the conflict. And the descriptions are written using dynamic structuralism by Levi Strauss, Wallek and Warren to express the idea of moral values in conflict in the selected dialogues. The results of this study show that the moral characters that can be described in the Squid game movie by Hwang Dong Hyuk consistently show how to survive, be willing to sacrifice and make conflict a good moral value in everyday life.*

**Key words :** *Moral, Survival, Self-sacrifice*

## INTRODUCTION

Literature is human expression in the form of written or oral works through language media. The literary work is a medium for expressing the thoughts of the author. According to Wellek and Warren (1971:3) state, literature is the mirror of human life that portrays human feelings, thoughts, perceptions which can be viewed based on personal judgement. An author can communicate with the readers of a literary work if they can understand what the author wants to send. Literature can be seen as a way to help cultures learn from each other. Literature learning can help improve literacy skills, increase cultural knowledge, develop creativity and initiative, and help form strong character traits.

Wellek and Warren (1963:22) says that, the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by the imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events through it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination

Literary works can be in the form of novels, prose, poetry, movies, and other literary works. One example of research that has been examined by the researcher here is about movies. A movie is a form of visual art used to simulate experiences that communicate ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, beauty, or atmosphere by recording programmed images.

Movie means a series of moving picture recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at cinema/movie (Hornby 2006:950). In the film or movie theory, genre refers to the primary method of movie categorization. The main types are often used to categorized movie genre; setting, mood, and format. There is also a film genre according to Panca Javandalasta (2011) genre or it can be called the type of form of a film from the whole story, the goal is to make it easier for the audience to watch what film they are going to watch.

There are many kinds of genre in film, namely Action film genres, comedy film genres, horror film genres, thriller film genres, survival thriller genres, scientific film genres, drama film genres, romantic film genres. As example of genres is survival thriller genres. Survival films is a film genre in which one or more characters make an effort at physical survival. It is a sub-genre of the adventure film but are more darker and emphasizes the heroic triumph over obstacles.

The role of the movie as a means of mass communication media is very important in spreading the message to a wide audience. These messages can have a positive or negative impact on life. In the movie, there is a conflict. Conflict is often found in various forms of entertainment media, one of which is a movie. Every story has conflict, and conflict is very important in a story because without it, the story cannot run and the plot feels stagnant. Conflicts in movies can often involve various problems, and the source of the conflict can be more than one.

In conflict, some morals can be learned in the conflict. According to Hurlock (1977:386), the word “moral” comes from the Latin word “mores”, meaning manners, customs, and folkways. Behavior which may be called true morality not only customs to social standard but also is carried out voluntarily. It comes with the transaction from the external to internal authority and consists of conduct regulated from within. It is accompanied by a feeling of personal responsibility for one’s act (Dristle, Gail&Glick, 2007: 684).

Moral will provide a strong impetus for everyday life, morals will also automatically push us to a life of good morals high, and we know that high decency is the basic moral in the development and life of the nation. Based on the description above, the writer is interested in conducting research entitled *Moral Conflicts In Squid Game Movie*.

*Squid Game Movie* is a South Korean internet television survival drama series written and directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk. Episode series nine, starring Lee Jung-Jae, Park Hae-soo, and Wi Ha-Joon. The series has been released worldwide on September 17, 2021, by Netflix. The squid Game movie tells the story of four hundred and fifty-six people, all of whom are struggling financially in life, who are invited to play a mysterious survival competition. Various children's games in South Korea are packaged into a game between life and death by an old man who wants to spend his wealth at the end of his life. Although the reason behind the creation of the game is quite trivial, the system used is very complicated starting from determining and utilizing the location.

This research uses a structuralism study. Structuralism is a way of thinking about the world which is predominantly concerned with the perceptions and description of structures. According to Saussure in *Course in General Linguistics* (1916), distinguished langue, the system and rules of language, from parole or speech. Structuralism focuses on literature as a system of signs in which meaning is constructed within a context. Cultural communities determine the meanings and relationships of signs. This method used in this research is the qualitative method. The results of qualitative research are in the form of the researcher's interpretation of a phenomenon so that the research report will contain more descriptions.

## **METHOD**

This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative research. The qualitative descriptive method collects data from the script *Squid Game* movie and analyzes

the moral conflicts from the Squid game movie. A literature study is also carried out in collecting data relevant to the subject matter, to find out things that can support reading and writing activities. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is a form of research that is intended to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the quality or privilege of social influences that cannot be explained using a quantitative approach. Qualitative research explores people's lives, histories, habits, corporate functionalization, social movements, or family ties relationships (Corbin and Strauss, 2007).

The purpose of this qualitative research is to understand the situation in a context by guiding to a detailed and in-depth description of the situations in a natural context, depending on what actually occurred in the course of research (Nugrahani, 2014). Qualitative research focuses on the study of social phenomena and on giving voice to the feeling and perceptions of the participants under study. This is understanding social knowledge is a legitimate scientific process.

A qualitative method is a research method that aims to understand what phenomena are experienced by research subjects, such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, and others. Using a qualitative method and phenomenology approach, it is possible to identify the concept of *Moral Conflicts In Squid Game Movie*. The methods are used in this research because the data collected is written data in the form of words in the dialogue of *Squid Game movie* script. The discussion of this research examines data one by one in order to interpret problems regarding the research topic.

## DISCUSSION AND RESULT

The writer requires analysis and findings to obtain results, along with analysis, discussion, and findings of Moral Conflict in Squid Game Movie. The writer wants to answer the research problems by presenting the data and analyzing the data using theory of structuralism dynamic by Levi Strauss Warren & Warren. The writer wants to analyze about What kinds of moral conflicts are experienced by the characters in the *Squid Game* movie and How does moral conflict-affected with the character's social relations in the *Squid Game* movie. The writer discuss Survival, Self-Sacrifice and Moral Conflicts by the characters in *Squid Game* movie .The writer found some datas that allow being examined in some points about Moral Conflicts.

### 1. Moral Conflicts of Survival

The first Moral Conflict in this research is Survival Thriller.

Dialogue 1

Cho Sang Woo : Gi Hun, don't look back. Just listen. You can't stay there much longer.

Cho Sang Woo : I think that doll senses when you move around. You won't get caught if you're behind somebody else.

*Scene minutes (00:49:03) - (00:49:15) Eps.1*

Description: When the doll said it was green light, some of the participants were shot and shocked Gi- hun, Cho Sang Woo ordered Gi Hun not to move and turn his head, because the doll felt movement if the participant moved,the participants would die.

Dialogue 2

Min-nyeo : Are you going to go in there?

Kang sae-byeok : I wanna see what's up in there. Buy me some time. Then i'll tell you if i find anything.

Min-nyeo : Deal. Step up here.

*Scene minutes (00:19:51)-(00:20:02) Eps.3*

Description: While in the toilet, Min-nyeo and Kang sae-byeok work together to open the air vent and enter it to investigate what game will be done next. Kang sae-byeok ordered Min-nyeo to buy time to stay alert so as not to be caught by the masked man.

Based on overall dialogue, as we can see, there are various aspects of Moral conflict of survival thriller in the dialogue between of several character. Hwang Dong Hyuk shows his readers that surviving for the sake of family ,friends ,and loved ones is one of the main keys in this survival genre film, and players are tried in this game like loyal friends,enthusiasm in maintaining life and having high loyalty traits. The moral conflict based on survival in this movie is explained further in the following dialogue:

Dialogue 1 The first dialogue, shows that cho sang wook as Gi-hun's childhood friend, cares for gihun telling Gi-hun not to move and take cover to the person in front of him because one of the keys to the game is not to move at a red light because the the doll detects movement, so it doesn't move when the light is on red is the way to survive in this game. In the dialogue it can be seen how cho sang wook cares for gihun when the atmosphere is precarious and anxious cho sang wook still pays attention to gihun.

Dialogue 2 Kang Sae-byeok has extraordinary survival skills because he is used to living alone after boycotting North Korea. In this scene, we can see the extraordinary thoughts that Sae-byeok does when he has the opportunity, she uses her best to find out about the next game, by working together with Min-nyeo to enter the air vent.

## **1.2 Moral Conflict of Self-Sacrifice**

The second moral conflict in this research is a moral conflict Self-sacrifice.

Dialogue 1.

Seong Ga-Yeong :Dad,you can be in all of the fights that you want, but don't get hurt too bad.

Gi-hun : I'm sorry, sweetie. I really am. You know i wanted to buy you a nicer dinner than this.

*Scene minutes (00:13:47)-(00:14:04) Eps.1*

Description: When he wanted to take his daughter to dinner, unfortunately his wallet was stolen. In the end, Gihun ate with his daughter in a simple restaurant and gave his daughter a present on her daughter's birthday

Dialogue 2

Gi-hun's Mom :i'm too tired to go on. Stop arguing with me. Lt's end this

Gi-hun : Damn it, i'll get what you need. I 'll get all the money you need.

*Scene minutes (00:27:00)-(00:27:18) Eps 2.*

Dialogue: when Gi-hun's mother entered the hospital, Gihun felt guilty for what he did to his mother, one of which was using his mother's health insurance, after that he promised to get money for his mother's needs.

In general, all the dialogues above provide an explanation of a social behavior that contains moral value. Based on moral conflict on the sacrifice of life, we will get the social context that the author is trying to give to the readers in this movie. Hwang Dong-hyuk abandons placing in the moral value of social behavior in sacrifice in various situations in this movie. According to Peters (1984) state that, sacrifice is performed for the sake of collective goals, consecrates one's individual commitment to the network of relationship within which he is immersed, and symbolized the significance of social relation. Willingness to make sacrifice is driven by different motives, projected outcomes and rooted in the nation that the act is carried out with no expectation of direct personal benefit.

Dialogue 1 From the role that was represented by Gi-hun, it can be seen that the care and responsibility of a father for his daughter is by continuing to give gifts and dinner to his daughter even in a simple way. That's one thing that makes Gi-hun call and ask to join the Squid Game. He is willing to sacrifice himself to take custody of his child.

Dialogue 2 When his mother entered the hospital, Gi-hun felt guilty for what he had done to his mother, including using his mother's insurance for gambling and betting, Gi-hun felt like a burden on the family and that's when Gi-hun promised to earn a lot of money. From this moral conflict we can take a lesson that a mother's love for her child is eternal and infinite, so from there we are devoted and obliged to respect and love him, and do not make ourselves one of the thoughts of a mother especially when we are married, because when we were small children, she had sacrificed a mother's life and death for the sake of her child.

Wealth is not a guarantee of welfare as a billion won winner, Gi-hun feels empty and loses the people closest to him. Not only the mother, but her comrades in arms who failed to risk their lives. In fact, he felt guilty for killing them, even if it didn't directly get his hands dirty. His attitude represents humans who regard and pursue money as a source of happiness, often ask for excess sustenance when saying prayers, and continue to feel lacking in everything they have.

### **1.3 Moral Conflict**

The last Moral Conflict in this research is Moral conflict from various scenes of players that we can learn as life lesson.

Dialogue 1

Woman on PA : Here is the first game. You will be playing Red light, Green light. You are allowed to move forward when it shouts out, green light. Stop when it shouts Red light.

#### ***Scenes Minutes (00:44:53)-(00:45:11) Eps.1***

Description : In this scene, the narrator shows the participants the rules of the red light, green light game. They are required to follow the rules otherwise they will be shot and eliminated.

Dialogue 2

Gi-hun friend's : i don't have any money

Gi-hun : just lend me, three million won, please. I'll pay it all back.

Gi-hun friend's : Friends shouldn't talk to each other like this. You know how strapped for cash we both are.

#### ***Scenes Minutes (00:40:53)-(00:41:05) Eps.2***

Description : After finding out his mother was sick, Gi-hun tried to borrow money from his friend for his mother's medical expenses, but his friend didn't have the money and couldn't lend it to Gi-hun.

### Dialogue 3

Woman on PA : Players, lights-out in two minutes. Attention staff. The special game will begin momentarily. We will managers, soldiers and workers. Please make your way to your designated locations.

#### *Scenes Minutes (00:14:06) Eps.4*

Description : In this scene, the participants do not know what game to play. Narrator calls for the masked man for a special game to be started and the officers, workers and troops are assigned to take their respective positions then the lights are turned off.

### Dialogue 4

Cho sang woo : Ali. Huh? Your pouch there. It's too dangerous to keep it out. These people are bound to go crazy before the end. Who knows what'll happen then?. Lose it and we, both die you got that?

#### *Scenes minutes (00:38:09) Eps.6*

Description : In the marbles game, Cha Song-woo brings up his kindness to his co-star Ali, and deceives Ali by replacing Ali's bag of marbles with gravel.

Overall, the dialogue shown indicates moral conflict as researched based on structuralist dynamic which requires that the reader has an autonomy in understanding a literary work, so that the reader has the authority to express, pour, fill the empty space in the literary work. The drawback of dynamic structuralist theory is that it does not emphasize the analysis of the overall elements of literary works because the global structure according to the initiators of dynamic structuralist theory is not limited. So that in this moral conflict there are moral values that can be learned in life.

Dialogue 1 First, the game of red light, green light overcomes the player's selfish ethics. Here we can see that it is okay for players to see other players killed while continuing to play the game to win money. This is an illustration of modern citizens today. People see terrible things happen to those around them, such as being exploited, abused, and tortured, but it seems okay for everyone to watch. Another form of egoism is when a player devises a strategy to hide behind another player to protect and let that player fall for them. In this section, he tells you to do bad things to others or let others blame your own mistakes if you want to be on top. This is what causes conflict due to the advantages of one party and the other is detrimental, so for that we must get used to living alone without depending on and using other people for our own personal gain.

Dialogue 2 In this scene, teaches us not to go into debt. Don't gamble. Don't make money in an illegal way. The participants who were recruited to play the Squid Game were people who had financial problems. Easy Money usually comes in a package with problems. Debt and gambling is not the beginning in alleviating financial problems, in fact it only adds to the problem. Life will be easier if we do good things, so for that think before taking action.

Dialogue 3 Self-interest becomes more intense in this scene, when players find that if they kill each other outside the game, there will be no punishment. This only adds a portion of the disqualified player's prize to the overall winner's prize pool. It's a game changer for everyone, as a ruthless tribe emerges, with the strong devouring the weak, demonstrating the importance of law and order. Without it, these incentives will lead to the complete destruction of civilization. They no longer see themselves as competitors, but as enemies.

Dialogue 4 Cho Sang Wu betrayed his partner. They each had families to feed, so they were desperate for a way to survive. This episode taught us that the slower you adjust and accept the elimination, the worse your chances of survival becomes. Wanting to outwit the system to save you both produces an emotional blind spot that makes you more vulnerable to being duped and fooled. In a state of urgency, most humans can act inhumanely and will justify any means to save themselves. Learn from Ali's death, be a good human being, but don't be careless. and don't easily trust others, we never know what other people will do to us.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclution**

After alyzing and finding in Moral Conflict in Squid Game Movie, using structuralism theory of Levi Strauss and Wallek and Waren in this chapter, the researcher concluded the conclusion of the research based on the problem statement from Moral conflict in Squid Game Movie as follows :

1.The moral conflict in the squid game movie can be divided into 3, namely survival, self-sacrifice, and finally moral conflict. The 3 morals consistently show how life is too difficult, stressful, and meaningless without money at this present time. The Squid game taught us the meaning of incentives, human nature, the cruelty of humans in life and death situations, the reminiscence of childhood innocence, and the ultimate desire for money.

2.The influence of conflict in the Squid game movie in the social relationships of the characters shows that money can't buy happiness, don't play gambling and get into debt, for that use money as well as money and the importance of learning financial management. In every action, think carefully and don't make decisions when you are emotional and the character of this movie shows us to always be grateful and do good to others.

### **Suggestions**

Here are some of suggestion related to this research:

1. To the readers, Watching movies has many purposes, not only as a means of entertainment but also as a means of education, learning, especially in our daily social life. From watching movies we can instill moral values because we can get about attitudes through the film. Thus we must learn to distinguish between bad and good behavior. Watching movies gives us inspiration, life motivation and also knowledge.

2. To the next researcher can be used as material for comparison and reference for further researchers. And as consideration and further research using the same theory and different objects. There are still many movies that depict moral interpretation in conflicts that need to be dissected to be able to see the phenomena that occur in social life.

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