

Teaching *Othering* In Education Using “X-MEN” Movie

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Abstract

Teaching abstract concept in literature like *othering* to English students can be challenging for it is difficult for students to visualize and relate to their reality. Using popular movie can help them visualize the concept lively. Popular science fiction movie like X-Men is not merely imaginative and full of fantasy; it also has relevant issue on concept of *othering* in Education. Therefore, instead of using it as means of teaching English skill, it can also be used as mean of helping students easily to understand difficult and abstract concept especially about *othering* in education. Deconstruction method and theory of movie for ELT is explored to describe *othering* in X-Men movie and how to the use of X-Men film as the mean to teach *othering* in education. It is found that X-Men provided critics of *othering* in education represented by negative views and different treatments to mutants in field of education. The practices of *othering* were in form of discourses like seeing mutants as abnormal, a threat to normal people, and diseases needed curing and they were not allowed to go to normal school. To present the *othering* concept in X-Men, the lesson session were divided into three parts; previewing, viewing and post viewing.

Keywords: X-Men, movie for ELT, *othering* in education

Abstrak

Abstrak ditulis dalam bahasa Indonesia yang ditulis miring. Abstrak terdiri latar belakang, metode penelitian, hasil dan/ atau pembahasan, dan kesimpulan. Jumlah kata dalam abstrak maksimal 250 kata.

Kata kunci: *ditulis dalam bahasa Indonesia. Jumlah maksimal kata kunci adalah 5.*

INTRODUCTION

Learning literary theory aims as a tool for analyzing literature. The use of literary theory to analyze literary works produces deeper analysis. However, the teaching of abstract literary theory requires innovative methods and learning media so that students easily understand it. One of the right media used to help students understand abstract concepts in literary theory is to use popular films. Popular movies are effective learning media because:

1. popular movies are ideological texts that represent popular culture.
2. popular movies contain abstract philosophy or concepts.

X-Men is one of the popular movies that can be used as a medium for learning literary theory. X-men told about discrimination against mutants because of differences in their appearance and abilities. In one of the episodes of X-Men: The Last Stand, discrimination against mutants is represented in the human effort to "treat" them so that they become ordinary people and deprive their superpower abilities.

One of the concepts of literary theory that can be taught through X-Men films is the concept of othering. Othering is to look down on people because they think they are not part of themselves or their groups. Othering arises from the binary opposition "I vs Other" whereas "I" is considered to be higher than "Other". in the film X-Men: The Last Stand, the concept of othering is reflected in the binary opposition between "human vs mutant"

LITERATURE REVIEW

Popular films offer great potential for learning. Champoux (1999) states that film can improve the quality of learning that is different from other media. Giroux (2008) considers Hollywood films as public pedagogy because it is an embodiment of the dominant culture legitimized through a process of audience identification. Morrell (2002) even states that popular culture can be used as a means to deconstruct dominant ideologies and challenge oppressive practices.

Marvel X-Men stories contain philosophical values and concepts that can be used as learning media. Gerde & Foster (2011) uses X-Men comics to teach business ethics. While Zingsheim (2011) revealed the concepts of subjectivity and identity in the X-Men film. Fisher (2005) found that X-Men is an interesting representation of boundaries between humans and animals which is sometimes confusing.

To adopt popular movies in teaching, there are some steps. Russell III & Waters (2014) create model for using film in teaching which consists of four stage; they are 1) the preparing stage, 2) the previewing stage, 3) watching the film stage/ viewing, and 4) the culminating activity stage/ post viewing.

METHODS

This research is development research. In this study, X-Men Film was developed into learning materials for English language and literature. To use X-Men films for learning about othering concepts, first of all, X-Men: The Last Stand is described using the deconstruction method. In this deconstruction method, the binary opposition in the X-Men: The Last Stand film is exposed. Then, each side of the binary opposition is shown which has privilege and which is marginalized. The results of other identification in the X-Man: The Last Stand movie are then arranged in a learning step in the lesson plan: pre-view, view, and post-view. Finally, the lesson plan was tested in class.

FINDINGS

A. Binary Opposition

In the film X-Man: The Last Stand, there are binary opposition as follows

Binary Opposition	
Human	Mutant
Normal	Abnormal
Good Health	Disease
Security	Threat / Danger

From the binary opposition above, the othering practices in the film are conceptualized as follows.

1. Mutant As Abnormal

In the film X-Men: The Last Stand, mutants differ from humans in genetic terms. Mutants are humans undergoing genetic mutations due to various things including due to human laboratory experiments themselves. However, this difference is precisely the reason humans consider mutants to be abnormal humans. Humans are generally considered a standard of normality while mutants are a deviation from that normality.

As a result, humans look down on mutants because they are not considered to be whole human beings. There is a deficiency in mutants that makes them lower than humans. Moreover, many mutants have appearances such as wild animals such as lions, or other strange forms.

Therefore, being a mutant is a bad choice, there is no good in it so it should mutant follow the "healing" program organized by the government.

Mr. Worthington : Everything's going to be fine.

Warren : Wait, I can't do this.

Mr. Worthington : Yes you can. Just relax son. Take it easy, calm down. I promise you it will be fine Warren, relax. (Warren breaks away from the bond)

Mr. Worthington : Warren it's a better life, it's what we all want.

Warren : No, it's what you want.

2. Mutant as a disease

In the film X-Men: The Last Stand, physical differences and super mutant abilities are considered a disease that must be cured. Therefore, drugs in the form of specially made to mutant like ordinary humans and lose their superhuman strength.

Dr. Hank : A major pharmaceutical company has developed a mutant antibody. A way to suppress the mutant gene.

Wolverine : Suppress?

Dr. Hank : Permanently. They calling it a cure.

Storm : That's ridiculous. You can't cure a mutant.

Dr. Hank : Scientifically speaking...

Storm : When did we become a disease?

3. Mutant as danger for human

Super mutant ability is not considered as extraordinary potential but a threat to humans. Humans are threatened by the presence of mutants whose powers are beyond the control of ordinary humans.

Mutants are considered enemies because of the refusal of government programs that force mutants to be "treated" as human beings. The government even uses military force to capture and dissolve special schools for mutants such as schools led by Professor X.

B. Teaching Othering in Classroom

To teach the concept of othering in class, the X-Men: The Last Stand film was cut in several parts / scenes. Each stretch of a maximum of 10 minutes contains about the practice of othering in the X-Men film.

1. Pre-viewing

In the previewing activity, the teacher introduces the main plot of the X-Men film: The Last Stand to give students an idea of the film's story. In addition, students are given an exercise sheet to find binary opposition or conflicting parties in the film and characterization of the hostile parties.

2. Viewing

At the viewing stage, X-Men: The Last Stand is played and the students are filmed. When students watch, they work on the exercise sheet that has been distributed.

3. Post-viewing

At this stage, the lecturer discusses the results of student answers. The lecturer guides students to understand the concept of othering by giving real examples in film.

CONCLUSION

Popular films have great potential as a learning medium because besides many people like popular films, they also offer ideological texts and abstract philosophy / concepts. Therefore, popular films can be used to explain abstraction concepts taught in literary courses.

X-Men: The Last Stand can be used as a medium to explain about othering concepts in literary theory. In learning othering concepts, the X-Men: The Last Stand film

was cut in several clips containing othering concepts. The selected clip is then presented in the lesson.

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