

# ECTANISATION OF LOIS LOWRY'S THE GIVER NOVEL INTO PHILIP NOYCE'S THE GIVER MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

This research was about Ecranisation which aimed to find out the kinds of changes in the ecranisation process and the motive of ecranisation process of novel into movie "The Giver". This research focused on Eneste's Theory about Ecranisation. The data were analyzed through descriptive qualitative method. This research used note taking as the instrument to get the valid data. The findings revealed that ecranisation process were only found in characters and settings element between novel and movie and the motive of ecranisation process to make the story is interesting of perfect for audiences. The researcher concluded that the book and the movie are two different products which were never be the same.

**Keywords:** *Ecranisation, Ecranisation process, The Giver, Lois Lowry's Novel, Philip Noyce's Movie, Character and Setting Elements*

### I. Background

Literary work, both oral and written form, is a life reflection of the community as it inspires the stories of that life occurring in the community. Literary work is also an imaginative composition presenting an entertainment that can benefit the readers, since the essence of literature is fun and useful (Wellek and Werren, 2014: 23).

Based on the development of literary works, society does not only recognize literary works as printed media or written form, but also audio

visual media such as movies, video clips, documentaries and so on. Audio visual media offer more sophisticated entertainment and easiness for the connoisseur of literature, for example movies. By watching movies, we only use two of our senses they are eyes and ears. As the result audio visual preferred by many people than the printed media. Audio visual media is more interesting, especially for people who do not like to read. Unlike the people who like to read, they prefer to read in enjoying a work. They will feel more satisfied as they can use his own imagination in interpreting what is described by author.

The development of literary work nowadays becomes more advanced with the existence of movies adapted from literary works, especially good prose such as novel and short story increasing year by year. According to Sumarno in Venayaksa (2006:14) based on the history movie maker, 90 % movie was produced by novel adaptation especially in hollywood.

The adaptation of a novel into a movie is motivated by the public who warmly welcomes a literary work to be a bestseller and loved by many people. Based on that case, there are many movie producers who are interested in adapting the story in the literature of written language. For example, novel and short story into the big screen by hoping that the movie would be successful. Some hollywood movies adapted from novel, including: *Inferno* by Dan Brown , *Insurgent*, *Harry Potter* by J.K Rowling , *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, *Dr. Zhivago* by Boris Pasternak, *In The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco, *The God Father I, II, III* by Mario Puzo, *The Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien, and so on.

The transformation of a novel into a movie will make some function changes certainly. It happens because the stuff used in the novel is different with the movie. Some changes happen generally that make the people want to compare the movie with the novel as an original creation. By comparing novel and movie there are some public who give positive and negative response. But, they often get negative response because the public feel dissapointed or dissatisfied in the process transformation of novel into movie. Eneste (1991:9-10) said that the people sometimes feel dissapointed after watching the movie because the story in the movie is not better than novel. It because there were some changes happening in the movie that were not same in the novel.

The process of adaptation from literary work in written language into movie is called the ecranisation process. According to Eneste (1991: 60) ecranisation is a process white screen of a novel into movie. The process of novel extrusion is the transfer of written language in the novel into the world pictures and sustainable images in the movie.

Based on definition of ecranisation, there are transformations happening from the original one to the another one, and it can be related as what is cited in the holy Qur'an surah Ar-Rum (30: 20):

II. وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ تُرَابٍ ثُمَّ إِذَا أَنْتُمْ بَشَرٌ تَنْتَشِرُونَ (٢٠)

*And of His signs is that He created you from dust; then, suddenly you were human beings dispersing [throughout the earth].*

The verse of surah Ar-Rum, tell that human were created by Allah from dust. Sihab (2009:184) stated that the beginning of human life is from dust.

This piece of verse, parable in the manner of an authors write or create their

own literary work, such as novel and Allah as a creator who create human as a creation. Then, the human dispersing throughout the earth, Shihab (2009:184) deals that not only throughout in the earth but also in the sky, even there rare humans going to the moon and some people imagine to live dispersing in the planets. It is also explained from the *hadis* below:

Imam Ahmad narrated from Abu Musa, That Rasulullah. SAW said: *Allah has created Adam from a grasp He has gripped from all the earth. Then came the sons of Adam according to the earth, some white, black and some of them. There are also evil, good, happy, and grieving and among these*”

The relationship between the ecranisation process, that verse, and *hadis* is creation of a literary work in one form that can occur transformation into another form. Like a novel, it can be disperse to another creation with human creativity, such as game, movie, and so on . In the case of The Giver, the first is The Giver from Novel and then there is a process creativity by human to make another The Giver into another form, that is Movie.

The creativity process was also did by Philip Noyce by creating Lois Lowry’s The Giver into big screen or movie with the same title The Giver. The Giver won the 1994 Newbery Medal and it had sold more than 10 million copies worldwide as of 2014. In Australia, Canada, and the United States, it is on many middle school reading lists, but it is also frequently challenged and it ranked number 11 on the American Library Association list of the most challenged books of the 1990s. A 2012 survey based in the U.S. designated it as the fourth-best children's novel of all time. In 2014, a

film adaptation was released starring Jeff Bridges, Meryl Streep and Brenton Thwaites. The novel forms a loose quartet.

The Giver is one of the best seller novels because it has a good and interesting story, it tells about the power of children in social life but this story is unusual with our life. It is a circumstance where the world does not allow for differences and choices. All of their life is running well without obstacle, no war, frightened or anxious. What if it really happen. Although the story of The Giver is different when it compares between its novel and its movie where we can see the change on what happen in the novel and what happen in the movie, “The Giver” is not a drastic change anymore but radical. This becomes why the researcher is interested in analyzing “The Giver” with the movie adaptation based on ecranisation process.

Novel and movie are two different areas of study. Novel is part of the field of literature studies, while the movie is part of the field cinematographic study. Both areas can be combined through ecranisation proces. This is due to the novel is role in providing a basic concept of the story becomes the basis of the creation of an ecranisation process.

### III. Ecranisation Theory

According to Eneste (1991:60) ecranisation is a transformation process of a novel into a movie (*Ecran* is derived from French meaning Screen). The transformation of a novel into a movie will make some change inevitably. Eneste (1991: 61-66) also said that moving from a novel to a big screen or a movie will lead to change in the movie nevitably. They are: **1) Ruduction;** Reduction is a

process of reducing some parts of the novel to be shown in the movie. 2)

**Addition;** Addition is a process of adding some part into the movie. The director gives some addition to the movie in order to make the movie much interesting. 3)

**Modification;** Modification here could happen in the realm of story ideas, style of storytelling, and so forth. Modification in transformation is influenced by several factors; the media used, the question of the audience, the duration of playback time.

However, the most influential cause of change (though not the only one) according to Bluestone is the media, in technical terms, and their implications. The novel is understood as a medium, even though it is printed on paper, in the form of language; if the novel is edited, the language is changed, not the paper. Meanwhile, movie (as narratives) are understood as a movie media (as objects) themselves; if the movie (as a narrative) is edited, then the movie (as an object) is cut into pieces, merged, and so on. Therefore, although it is still possible to have other influences (such as the director's or audience's wishes), the main reason for the change in ecranisation is the media itself; novel is not converted, but the appropriated.

To analyze the ecranisation process in novel into movie, it use based on structural approach in novel and movie, such as plot, character, setting, tone, theme, and so on.

#### IV. Ecranisation process in The Giver novel into The Giver Movie

##### a. Reduction in Character

**The Attendant**, “*it’s good to have some volunteers here today.*” The attendant told him. This conversation told about Jonas visited the nurturing center and the attendant gave information about the volunteers in the nurturing center.

It is categorized as a reduction of character filmed because she did not appear again in the movie. In addition, it also did not give big influence in the life of Jonas as a main character in the movie because The Giver is a sci-fi movie. So, it does not need The Attendant to enter in a room.

The next character reduced is **Roberto**. The novel presented Roberto as be shown in datum 21 “*The morning we celebrated the release of Roberto*” but in the movie he was reduced. His character was no longer considered important in the course of Tris as a Dauntless. This character is removed too because part of the novel told the story of himself with Larissa, a medical patient in House of Old and he also were not raised in the path of the story in the movie. Because there were no story about House of Old that presented in the movie.

All the data of reduction character happened because it was influenced by the setting of place. Because the setting of place “House of Old” in the novel did not appear in the movie automatically the character in the House of Old did not appear too. As a result all the data of reduction found in House of Old.

##### b. Addition of character

**Dinah** categorized as addition of character because it was presented by the directors to the story line in the movie being better understood by the audience without reducing part of the story of the novel. In addition Dinah also helped rising action to the other character in the movie such as Jonas' father, as we can see the picture below:



Jonas' Father and Dinah in Nurturing Center for realizing one of Twins baby

The next character is added is **Security Officer**. Security Officer is categorized as addition part of character because he was presented by the directors in the movie. The reason of this character was added because he helped making the conflict in the story of movie



more interesting. It can be seen from picture below:

**Security Officer run to catch Jonas and Fiona**

c. Modification of Character



Jonas is character modify because there is information varies modification happens at this character in the movie that was did by director. As we can see on **quotation below:**

*“When I was an Eleven, as you are, Jonas, I was very impatient, waiting for the Ceremony of Twelve.”*

It tells Jonas was still eleven years old when waiting the Ceremony of Twelve. The modification happen is in age of Jonas. Jonas is 12 years old in the novel but Jonas is about 17 years old in the movie. It can be seen from the scene of the picture below:



**Picture 8: Jonas has been chosen as a next Receiver when 17 years old.**

## V. CONCLUSSION

Ecranisation process happened in the movie because there are some situation either in the novel or in the movie which cannot happen at the very similar situation. In the case of The Giver movie, those things also happen in which the researcher found related in ecranisation process. The motives of ecranisation happens between the novel and the movie are most happen in modifications because the novel was published in 1993 and the movie was presented in 2014. Therefore, director made changes with modify the movie in modern era to make the movie more interesting for audiences and it also based

on the market needs by changed the movie into scifi-thriller. However, the director success retain the spirit, the heart of the book, the innocence and potential of the boy, and the relationship of the boy to the old man. Those things are all in movie.

Novel when created into movie it must be changes because novel and movie are different media and have each characteristic that cannot be same. However Bluestone (1966) acknowledges that novels and movies have different audiences and creators, what he emphasizes most is the technical difference between the two medias, which requires changes in the text in the process of ecranisation; the movie, according to Bluestone, leaves behind novelistic traits so that what is actually filmed is not the novel itself, but the novel story that has been paraphrased. As a result, the ecranisation process must be happened in novel and movie, such as reduction, addition, and modification.

This research is expected to be beneficial both theory and practical. Theoretically, this research makes the researcher and the reader more understand about ecranisation process and this research can be reference for the next researcher who want to make a similar resarch. Practically, this research makes the researcher and the reader to be open minded about the differences between novel and movie by ecranisation process so we know better how important to compare the literary work into another media, especially novel into movie.

This research focused on intrinsic elements in novel and movie. Hence, from many scenes in the novel that are inserted into the movie, there were many changes either reduced, added, and modiflicated scenes. This research is

limited to the transformations that appear in the facts stories, they are plot, character, and setting in novel and movie "The Giver". Furthermore, this research also focused on the conversation of Philip Noyce and Lois Lowry in transcript interview to find the motive of ecranisation process.

Based on findings and discussions in the previous chapter, this research is concluded, as follows:

1. Ecranisation process happens in the movie because there are some situations either in the novel or in the movie which cannot happen at the very similar situation. In the case of The Giver movie, those things also happen in which the researcher found relation in ecranisation process. Most of the data were found in the characters and settings element from 3 elements analyzed, such as Plot, Characters, and Settings. All the elements were analyzed with a similar way, however the researcher could only find the ecranisation process in the characters and settings element.
2. The motives of ecranisation happens between the novel and the movie are most happen in modifications because the novel was published in 1993 and the movie was presented in 2014. Therefore, director made changes with modify the movie in modern era to make the movie more interesting for audiences and it also based on the market needs by changing the movie into scifi-thriller. However, the director succeeds to retain the spirit, the heart of the book, the innocence and potential of the boy, and the relationship of the boy with the old man. Those things are all in the movie.

Based on the conclusion and the previous chapter, the researcher would like to give several suggestions as follows:

1. For the director, it is better to observe more about the novel that want to be shown in movie, and analyze more what important in novel what must be presented and not be presented in movie. It because to avoid miss understanding between the author and the audience.
2. For the readers, it is better to know that the novel and movie are different areas because novel is written language and movie is language that presented in audio visual. Therefore, it is not relevant to say that the novel is better or bad than the movie.

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