THE SEMIOTICS ANALYSIS OF THE TORTURE DEVICES

AS SEEN IN SAW 1

A GRADUATING PAPER

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By:
DZULFIKRI RIDWANUL KHAQ
09150011

ENGLISH DEPARTEMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN KALIJAGA
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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper, other writer’s opinion of findings include in the graduating paper are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

Yogyakarta, 20, Oktober 2013

The Writer.

Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
NOTA DINAS
Hal: Skripsi
a.n. Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq

Yth. Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Di Yogyakarta

Assalamu’alikum wr. wb.

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudari:
Nama: Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
NIM: 09150011
Prodi: Sastra Inggris
Fakultas: Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Judul: The Semiotics Analysis of Torture Devices as Seen in Saw I

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Atas perhatian yang diberikan, saya ucapkan terimakasih.
Wassalamu’alaikum wr. Wb.

Yogyakarta, 10 Oktober 2013
Pembimbing.

[signature]

Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, SS, MA
NIP: 19810203 200901 2 007
PENGESAHAN SKRIPSI/TUGAS AKHIR
Nomor: UIN.02/DA/PP.009/22.82/2013

Skrípsi / Tugas Akhir dengan judul:

THE SEMIOTICS ANALYSIS OF THE TORTURE DEVICES AS SEEN IN SAW 1

Yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:
Nama : Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
NIM : 09150011

Telah dimunaqosyahkan pada : Kamis, 10 Oktober 2013
Nilai Munaqosyah : B-

Dan telah dinyatakan diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga.

TIM MUNAQOSYAH

Ketua Sidang

Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, M.A.
NIP 19810203 200901 2 007

Penguji I

Daniah Hidayatulliah, M.Hum
NIP 19760405 200901 1 016

Penguji II

Dwi Marsa Yuwono M.Hum
NIP 19770419 200501 1 002

Yogyakarta, 25 Oktober 2013
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
MOTTO

And for those who fear Allah, He (ever) prepares a way out. And he provides for him from (sources) he never could imagine. (At-Talaq: 2-3)

Keep Fighting for What You Want to be Tomorrow (calis)

Today I am Running after Money but Tomorrow Money will Run after Me (cami)

Dedicated with honor, love, and affection:

My beloved Parents (M. Alchojat & Siti Khalimah)

All of my Brothers (Amali, Qulup, Tantowi) & My Sisters (Fitri, Puji)

My Calis & you always support me, thanks for your Love, affection and motivation.
INTISARI
INDEKS ALAT-ALAT PENYIKSAAN DALAM FILM SAW 1
Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
E-mail: Pejoeank_09@yahoo.com

Dalam industri perfileman tema penyiksaan masih kalah pamor dengan tema hero dan percintaan. Tapi setidaknya penyiksaan adalah budaya yang terjadi di barat dan ini adalah manifestasi dari penyiksaan yang terjadi pada zaman dahulu dan berlanjut hingga sekarang. Dan ini juga terjadi di Indonesia, yaitu penyiksaan yang menimpa para tenaga kerja Indonesia serta dari kasus Rian Jombang hingga yang terbaru penyiksaan yang terjadi di Tamansari Jakarta. Dalam dunia perfileman Saw 1 adalah salah satu filem yang menyajikan tema penyiksaan. Tapi dalam pola penyiksaan di Saw 1 sangat menarik karena mempunyai tujuan untuk memberi pelajaran manusia untuk lebih menghargai hidup. Dengan analisis ini maka penulis ingin meneliti indek dibalik alat-alat penyiksaan yang digunakan dalam Saw 1 serta hubungan dengan metode penyiksaan pada abad pertengahan dan awal modern.


Ada tuju jebakan dan tuju alat penyiksa dalam Saw1. Dari analisa semeotik alat penyiksa dapat disimpulkan bahwa ada satu elemen yang disetiap alat penyiksa mempunyai arti yang sama yaitu sebagai insting bertahan hidup bagi korban jebakan Jigsaw. Selain itu penulis juga menghubungkan dengan model-model penyiksaan yang terjadi pada abd pertengahan dan awal Eropa modern yang mana sebagian alat yang digunakan oleh jigsaw mempunyai kesamaan konsep dengan ala-alat penyiksaan pada zaman dahulu. Ini tentu tidak terlepas dari penyiksaan itu sendiri yang telah terjadi sejak zaman dahulu. Penulis juga menghubungkan alat-alat penyiksaan dalam film Saw1 dengan sejarah penyiksaan, agama Kristen dan pandangan Islam.

Kata kunci : Saw1, Semiotik, penyiksaan, Intregrasi
ABSTRACT

THE INDEXES OF THE TORTURE DEVICES AS SEEN IN SAW 1

Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq

E-mail: Pejoeank_09@yahoo.com

In the movie industry, the torture themes rarely produce than action themes and romantic themes. Actually torture is a culture that happens in the west and it is a manifestation from torture that occurs in long time ago until today. Relating to this case, it also happens in Indonesia such as Indonesian’s workers, Rian Jombang and the newest torture that in Tamansari Jakarta. Saw 1 is the movie that has a genre torture. The writer prefers Saw 1 movie than others torture movie because this movie has purpose to teach people about human responsibility. Through this research, the writer wants to reach the index of the torture devices which are used to torture the victims and the relation between torture in the medieval and early modern Europe.

In analyzing, the writer uses Charles C. Pierce’s theory of triadic quality. Those are sign, object and interpretation. Sign is divided in to three elements, they are icons, index and symbols. Icons are sign resulting from resemble, indexes are sign that show relation of some kinds to something else and symbols stand for some conventional practice, whereas object is reference of symbols and interpretation result of object analysis base on sign concept. Then object is referred to the data, concept, and event. The signification is referred to the interpretation and the meaning.

There are seven traps and seven torture devices in Saw 1. As a result of semiotics analysis there is one element which has same meaning in every torture device, which is the survival instinct of Jigsaw’s victims. Besides, the researcher also integrates the indexes of the torture devices in Saw 1 into the tortures happened in the medieval and early modern Europe because most of them have the similar concept. It cannot be separated from the tortures happened in the past and the history of the tortures. The writer also relates the torture devices in Saw 1 to the history of tortures, Christian, and Islamic perspectives.

Keys word: Saw 1, Semiotics, Torture, Integration
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In the name of Allah, the most gracious and merciful, her gratitude is dedicated to Allah; Lord of the World because of His blessing, the writer is able to finish this graduating paper. Only with Allah’s blessing, this graduating paper entitled: The Semiotic Analysis of Torture Devices as Seen in Saw I be accomplished.

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The writer realizes that this graduating paper is far from being perfect. Any constructive criticism for the better of this graduating paper will be welcomed. The writer also hopes that this graduating paper can give advantages for the readers.

Yogyakarta, 20 September 2013
The Writer.

Dzulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Torture is not a simple problem and easy to throw out from our life. The writer believes that this case is influenced by the real condition and the history of our life that happened long time ago. Jeremy Morris said (2010:43): “A sober appraisal must recognize that torture-horror is a manifestation of a recurring form of recreation whose milestones include gladiator battles, inquisitions and public executions”. According to Michel Foucault from his book Discipline and Punish stated that torture is tradition (1977:27) in the west that have become political operation, political function and political tactic. That means torture has be part of the human being in the west like the function of politic that to arrange people in every country that uses democracy as the system of the nation.

Torture and violence have relation they do not directly and instantly happen in this world. There are some factors that cause them happen. People must differentiate the factors that are on purpose and not on purpose. Steven pinker stated in his book The Better Angels and Nature about the origin of violence both in term of logic or history. From the biological side, violence is the consequence of the survival of the fittest and the survival of human as machine. To survive, human always uses the machine it means people cannot life without machine. Machine can be devices to help people in his lives. This case agrees with Hobbes’s statement quoted by Pinker (2011:37) that the causes of violence consist of three elements: Competition, Diffidence, and Glory. The first make the men
invade for gain then make themselves masters of other men’s persons, wives, and children. The second is for safety it uses to defend people. The third, for reputation it is for trifles, as a word, a smile, a different opinion. The relation with torture is when the act of violence is caused great physical or mental pain in order to persuade someone to do something or to give information it can be categorized as torture.

Believe or not that this era is the safest and the most peaceful because now every nation has its own rule and law to handle the human rights and crimes on human. Nowadays if there are crimes people just report it to the police. Then the punishment in prison does not use any torture to punish the prisoner since every nation is aware that torture is a wrong way to punish someone. Finally, to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Steven Pinker said (2011:29):

Believe it or not—and I know that most people do not—violence has declined over long stretches of time, and today we may be living in the most peaceable era in our species’ existence. The decline, to be sure, has not been smooth; it has not brought violence down to zero; and it is not guaranteed to continue.

Despite the strict law enforces the respect on human right, but torture still happens in life. On television and newspapers, people often see the news that someone gets tortured or violence. For example, in Malaysia, many Indonesian workers still become the victims of violence by the employer or vice versa. Moreover, Ramdhan Muhaimin from DetikNews said that Yuliana, an Indonesian worker from Aceh who slammed a baby nine times in Malaysia, was sent to the
jail for 20 years. This news became a headline in Indonesia and Malaysia. Then, according to FivaNews, Sumiati, an Indonesian worker from Donpu, Nusa Tenggara Barat, was almost paralyzed and her fingers were cracked because she was tortured by her employer. The newest torture according to Kompas is happened in Tamansari West Jakarta. The security agent who is kidnapped and tortured two people because they happen pay their debt.

Themes of violence and torture are also brought to movie productions and it attracts many audiences because it uses audio and video media. Besides that, Movie is kinds of popular culture and also product of culture. Therefore, torture and violence becomes the consumption of human in the world, especially in Indonesia and America. Their film vendor Company made many kinds of genre that include violence or torture, such as Saw, Hostel, Frankenstein and etc.

Saw I is one of the most popular horror movies in the world that is different from other movies. It shows a lot of torture scenes where Jigsaw traps the victims. Saw I shows viewer that many people torture themselves because of Jigsaw’s traps. When people watch this movie, people also feel hurt as if people experience it. Richard Sinus said:

Scary movies are nothing new, but films like those in the Saw and Hostel series have offered something different: They focus less on the suspense of the chase and more on the suffering of the victim. (www.webmd.com)

Another evidence that Saw I has different character is from the plot. Jigsaw gets the victims to plays his trap game is not randomly or accidentally kills someone whom Jigsaw hates. According to Thomas Fahy, in his book Philosophy
of Horror he said: The designer of these crimes announces that his purpose is to teach the world a lesson about human responsibility. This is also the purpose of the “Jigsaw Killer”, and according to saw1 script Jigsaw always gives the clues for the suspense to escape with tape and video recorder. In order to escape from the trap the suspense must hurt him or others.

*Saw1* is interesting to analyze because it is one of the horror movies that has seven sequels. This evidence shows that *Saw1* is a favorite horror movie. In the first sequel it gets $103 million with operational budget $1, 2 million. This becomes the real evidence that *Saw1* is a favorite movie because many persons watch and it makes the movie very profitable. (www.anneahira.com).

*Saw1* is not only about suspense and thriller but also about the semiotics analysis of torture devices which are skillfully used as the part of killing games. In the traps, there are many devices that are very unpredictable. Those all are traps delivered by the movie through torture devices in every trap. According to *Semiotic Theory and Application*, semiotic is the study of meaning making through signs and is premised on the notion that signs have a triadic quality. (Hamel, 2011:193).

From those explanations, the sign of torture devices in every trap of *Saw1* are important to be analyzed, because is functions to explain the audience about the meaning of torture devices in every trap of *Saw1* and also to know that the sign of the torture devices have a correlation with the torture devices in the medieval and early modern Europe.
B. Scope of Study

*Saw*1 can be analyzed from several different perspectives like the character, characterization and moral value. However, this research is focused on analyzing the traps and the sign of the torture devices and the correlation with the medieval and early modern Europe.

C. Problem Statements

There are several traps in *Saw* 1 and each trap is sign of something. This paper aims to analyze the traps and the sign of the torture devices. So, this paper will be focused on:

1. What are the traps and the torture devices found in *Saw*1?
2. What do the torture devices function in terms of semiotic analysis?
3. Do the torture devices have anything to do with medieval and early modern Europe and Christian torture and Islamic perspective?

D. Objectives of Study

Based on the problem statements of the paper, here are the objectives in this research:

1. To find out the traps and torture devices in *Saw*1.
2. To describe what the devices function in terms of semiotic analysis.
3. To explain the torture relation from history and relation with Islamic and Christian religion.

E. Significances of Study

Theoretically, this research is to add knowledge and reference, and to understand the meaning of sign in scientific theory of popular culture especially the meaning of each torture devices. Practically, this research is to analyze the
traps and the semiotic analysis of the torture devices and to explore about the
development of torture and the correlation with medieval past era.

F. Prior Research

The writer finds one similar research dealing with the same object. The first
is an essay entitled “The Justification of Torture-Horror Retribution and Sadism
The difference between the writer’s thesis and the essay is that the essay uses the
theory of Retribution in analyzing the torture in Saw 1.

G. Theoretical Approach

There are many theories that can be used to analyze a movie, but the writer
uses semiotic theory from Peirce. According to Semiotic Theory and Application,
semiotic is the study of meaning making through signs and is premised on the
notion that signs have a triadic quality. (Hamel, 2011:193) The Triadic quality are
the physical sign itself (e.g., word, gesture); the entity being referred to (e.g.,
object, idea), and the sign’s meaning or signification. According to Pierce and
Saussure the signifier or physical sign or represent a man can be words, gestures,
physical objects and pictures that call attention to or signify an object, event, idea
or concept or being. The signified is also referred to as the reference or objects.
The process by which the object, event, idea or concept is captured and organized
in some way by the sign is a form of representation. (Hamel, 2011:193)
However, Pierce also describes three ways that signs are created – resemblance, relation, and convention – in turn represented through: icons, indexes, and symbols. Icons are signs resulting from resemblance, constructed to resemble their referents in some way (e.g. photographs, diagrams, models). Indexes are signs that show relations of some kind to something else in time, space, location (e.g., pointing finger, arrow, timeline graph, adverb –here, there, I, you, they). Symbols stand for some conventional practice (e.g. the V sign for peace, words, sentences, Greek letters representing constants in math) and in science, a knowledge system of society, examples of symbols include: terms, equations, and formulae. (Hamel, 2011:193-194)

In addition, the researcher also uses film theory to analyze the symbols of the torture devices since the researcher analyzes movies. However, it is only the secondary theory to support the analysis. The theory will be used to analyze the movie point of view camera angle, depth of field and also lighting. According to (Himawan Prasista 89), there are many types of shot, they are:

a. Extreme long shot is the long distance camera to the person’s physique. It uses to show the long object or to show the wide screen or panorama.

b. Long shot is a type of shot where the person’s physique is shown but the background of setting is still dominant and it is to open a shot before the close shots.

c. Medium Long shot is a type of shot where all parts of body are shown clearly and the background of setting is shown clearly too.
d. *Medium shot* is a type of shot where a person is only shown from the waist to the head and the facial gesture expression is shown clearly.

e. *Medium close-up* is a type of shot where a person is shown from the shoulder to above. The person dominates in the frame and the background is not clear anymore. A conversation act usually uses this type of shot.

f. *Close-up* is a type of shot that commonly show hand, face, foot or another small object used to show the expression and the gesture clearly. It is usually used to show a close dialogue or to show us a detail object or thing.

f. *Medium close-up* is a type of shot used to show more detail about our parts of body or other objects.

Then, the depth of field is degree to which an image is in sharp focus in depth (usually the function is to open the scene). In shallow focus (shallow depth of field), a very narrow zone of depth is in focus at any one time (foreground or midground or background), and everything closer and further from the camera is out of focus. Out of focus means the image are burred and luck linear definition. However, deep focus all distance planes (foreground, midground, and background) remain clearly in focus, from close up (Dembrow, 2013 195).

The other hand of film theory is Camera angle. (Denbrow, 2013 195) says that the camera angle is the position of the camera, in relation to the subject being filmed. There are many camera angles. First, low angle shot the camera position is below the subject, and shoots upward at it. The effect is to make the subject looks dominating and powerful. Second, eye-level shot the camera is located at normal
eye level (five to six feet from ground). Third, high-angle shot the camera is positioned somewhere above the subject and shoots down of it. Fourth, Tilt angle shot the camera is tilted so that on screen the horizon appears to be tilted. It is often used as a subjective shot to indicate the stress.

In terms of lighting, lighting can be described in terms of the direction from which the light enters the set (front-lighting, back-lighting, top lighting, cross-lighting). Lighting may also be described in terms of contrast between light and dark. High key a style of lighting that is bright, even, and produces little contrast between light and dark areas of the scene. Low key lighting is a lot of shadows (very contrast, with some parts of the set highlighted and the rest in darkness). It means of emphasizing a specific character like hair face etc. (Dembrow, 2013 195).

H. Method of Research

1. Type of Research

There are two types of research. Those types are Quantitative (field) and Qualitative (library) research. The type of research in this paper use qualitative descriptive research.

2. Data Resources

This research belongs to a qualitative descriptive research. The data of this research can be divided into main data and supporting data. The main data of this writer is SawI movie and the supporting data is the script.

3. Method of Collecting Data
In collecting data, the writer watches the movie and reads carefully the script and pays attentions to statements, words, or sentences that have close relationship with the problem statements. The researcher also lists the index of the trap and the torture devices in *Saw I* that will be analyzed.

4. Method of Analyzing Data

The process of data analysis is the most important step in the research. This research is governed through three steps.

a. Firstly, the researcher watches the movie and reads the scripts repeatedly and deeply. Then, the researcher makes the list of data, selects the data that deal with the problems.

b. After collecting and classifying the data, the researcher applies the theory that is Semiotic theory from Peirce.

c. After describing and analyzing the data, the researcher infers the entire discussion to the certain conclusion.

I. Thesis Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter I, Introduction, describes the reasons why it is important to analyze the symbols of traps and the torture devices in *Saw I*. It also provides the objective of study, the theoretical approaches, and the method of analysis. Chapter II elaborates the traps and torture devices in *Saw I*. Chapter III provides the analysis of the data which shows the sign. Chapter IV is the conclusion of this research.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

*Saw 1* is a movie that presents many tortures that function as indexes. There are seven deadly traps in *Saw 1*, Razor wire, Flammable jelly, Jaw Trap, Drill Chair, Quadruple Shotgun Hallway, Bathroom Trap, and Zep’s Test. Besides, there are seven torture devices in *Saw 1* that are Wire, Flammable jelly, Jaw, Drill, Quadruple shotgun, Saw, Poison.

To conclude, the torture devices analysis have the function as indexes than as the symbol. *Saw 1* has three torture devices which can be seen as part of exposition. First device is Wire. Wire shows in exposition of the plot because it introduces the scene with flashback of Paul who tries to escape from the torture device. In terms of index wire has sign as total and extreme pain also as survival instinct of Paul. Second device is Flammable jelly which shows in exposition because it consists of the flashback scene of Mark. He is burned by fire. In term of index, Flammable jelly has sign as an entirely illness, a broken nerve and survival instinct of mark. The Last device is Jaw. Jaw shows in exposition because it consists of flashback scene that Amanda tries to take and to open the key from a man stomach next to her. In term of index, Jaw has sign as fatality, dead and survival instinct of Amanda.

Relating to the second part of plot is rising. *Saw 1* consists of two torture devices that are seen as part of rising action. First device is Drill. Drill shows in rising action because in this device appears when the complication occurs
between police and Jigsaw appears. In term of index Drill has a sign as a voice destroyer and a survival instinct of Jeff. Second device is Quadruple shotgun. In term of rising plot Quadruple shotgun is the rising because this device happens when the complication acts between police and Jigsaw. In term of index Quadruple shotgun have a sign as deathly shot and a survival instinct of Sing.

For the last part is climax, climax is the main point of the plot of movie. In Saw I consists of two devices in climax. First device is Saw. Saw shows in climax because it is a crisis of the action and the dramatic action between the actor Gordon and Zep. In term of index, Saw has a sign as a long pain and a survival instinct of Gordon. Second device is Poison. Poison shows in climax because it is also the crisis and the dramatic action between two actors Gordon and Zep. Finally Zep dies and Gordon can be able to escape with one of his leg is cut. In term of index, Poison has a sign as a silent killer and a survival instinct of Zep.

Another interesting thing is that based on the analysis, Saw I and the medieval early Europe tortures have the relation. The similarities are based on the functions of the torture devices. There are many of the torture devices are similar, for example one of the torture device is the saw and the sawing torture devices have different shapes but similar function.

In addition, the writer also analyzes the element of integration. Firstly from the historical torture, torture has happened since long time. Torture also as manifestation of violence that happens in longtime ago, one example is come from the story of Qobil and Habil is Islam. Torture became very popular after it
was influenced by the gladiator and became the purpose of European modern Europe in 1450 to 1789. People use torture for authority, prestige, glory, and power. Secondly, in the early modern Europe, Christian church had ever used torture to punish people who made mistakes then they were punished using torture devices so that they will be considered for sainthood. Thirdly, in Islamic perspectives, Saw1 can be integrated to Islam by relating the bad habits of the victims in Saw1 to Ma’siat (violation of God’s law). The traps in Saw1 can be considered as the examination from God. The last, according to Hadist Tirmidzi, people who can pass the tests, will have a strong belief, which in Islam is called Taqwa (piety) and people who cannot pass the tests will die.
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CURRICULUM VITAE

DATA PRIBADI

Nama Lengkap : Zulfikri Ridwanul Khaq
Tempat & tanggal lahir: Madiun 10 Januari 1989
Jenis Kelamin : Laki-laki
Agama : Islam
Alamat : Kembangsawit Kebonsari Rejosari Madiun 63173
HP : 085643169575
E-mail : Pejoeank_09@yahoo.com

PENDIDIKAN FORMAL

- Sekolah Dasar (1996 - 2001) MI Salafiyah kembangsawit
- Sekolah Menengah Pertama (2001 - 2004) MTS Al-Mukmin Ngruki Solo
- Sekolah Menegah Atas (2004 - 2007) MA Al-Mukmin Ngruki Solo