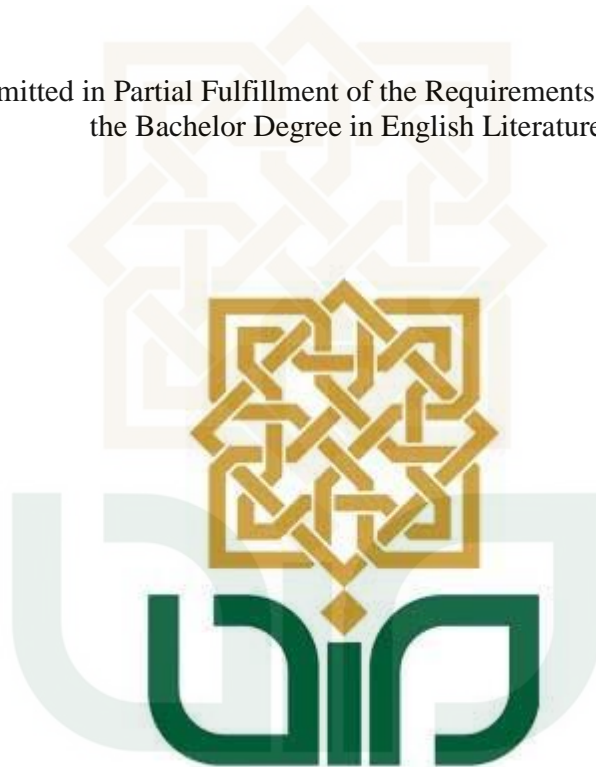


**FROM VILLAIN TO HERO; FROM ANTAGONIST TO PROTAGONIST:**

**DECONSTRUCTION SUICIDE SQUAD**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining  
the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY  
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**2017**

## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris

Atas perhatian yang diberikan saya ucapkan terima kasih

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# **FROM VILLAIN TO HERO: FROM ANTAGONIST TO PROTAGONIST; DECONSTRUCTION SUICIDE SQUAD**

By: Mahfud Sya'roni

## **ABSTRACT**

*Suicide Squad* is movie in hero theme. The story of this movie is complicated; when the main character rises from villain character. Those main characters are Deadshot, Harley Quinn, Captain Boomerang, El Diablo, Killer Croc, Slipknot and Enchantress. They are the member of Task Force X team which is created by government staff, Amanda Waller. The team is led Colonel Flag and he is supported by his bodyguard, Katana. The team consisting of villain people are obligated to do the heroic job. This movie makes new paradigm about main character in the movie. Commonly main character in a movie is protagonist character such as nice guy, good attitude and noble man, however in this movie the main characters is villain which play a role as protagonist. The researcher wants to analyze how the main character is shifting in this movie. It is that the main character who is played by villain can replace hero characterization and in this case they play a role as protagonist or antagonist character. Therefore, the researcher uses deconstruction theory of Jean Jacques Derrida and film theory of Ami Villarejo to gain the result of this problem. This is uses qualitative method with narrative approach. As the result of this analysis, the researcher finds how the villain character can shifting into protagonist character and they are can shift into hero characterization too. It is that can be happen depend on the situation.

**Keywords:** Character, Protagonist, Antagonist, Villain, Hero and Deconstruction Theory.

# **FROM VILLAIN TO HERO: FROM ANTAGONIST TO PROTAGONIST; DECONSTRUCTION SUICIDE SQUAD**

By: Mahfud Sya'roni

## **ABSTRAK**

*Suicide Squad* adalah film yang bertemakan pahlawan. Cerita dalam film ini cukup rumit, ketika menjadikan tokoh penjahat sebagai tokoh utama. Tokoh utama tersebut adalah Deadshot, Harley Quinn, Captain Boomerang, El Diablo, Killer Croc, Slipknot dan Enchantress. Mereka tergabung dalam Task Force X tim yang dibentuk oleh staf pemerintahan yaitu Amanda Waller. Tim dipimpin oleh kolonel Flag dan dia dibantu Katana sebagai pelindung pribadinya. Tim yang terdiri dari para penjahat ditugaskan untuk mengerjakan tugas kepahlawanan. Pada umumnya tokoh utama dalam sebuah film diperankan oleh tokoh seperti orang yang menyenangkan, memiliki etitude yang baik dan orang terhormat, tapi dalam film ini tokoh utama diperankan oleh para penjahat yang memerankan protagonis. Peneliti ingin meneliti bagaimana peran tokoh utama bergeser dalam film ini. Tokoh utama yang diperankan oleh para penjahat apakah dapat mengganti peranan pahlawan dan dalam hal ini mereka berperan sebagai protagonis atau antagonis karakter. Oleh karena itu, peneliti menggunakan teori dekonstruksi dari Jean Jacques Derrida dan teori film dari Ami Villarejo untuk mendapatkan hasil dari permasalahan ini. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan narasi. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan bagaimana tokoh penjahat dapat berpindah menjadi tokoh protagonis dan mereka juga dapat berpindah sebagai tokoh pahlawan juga. Hal tersebut terjadi tergantung dengan kondisi.

**Kata Kunci:** Tokoh, Protagonis, Antagonis, Penjahat, Pahlawan, dan Teori Deconstruction.

**DEDICATION TO**

My parents, Hafidz (RIP) and Alfiah

My sister, Afifahtul Chsanah

My teachers and my lectures,

My best friends,

English Department of Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University.



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**MOTTO**

Everything is Easy, Nothing is Impossible



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Yogyakarta, 21<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>COVER .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>APPROVAL .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>NOTA DINAS .....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT .....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>ABSTRAK .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>DEDICATION.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>MOTTO .....</b>	<b>viii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT .....</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT .....</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES .....</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Background of the Subject .....	1
1.2. Problem Statement .....	5
1.3. Objective of Study .....	6
1.4. Significances of Study .....	6
1.5. Literary Review .....	6
1.6. Theoretical Approach .....	7
1.6.1 Deconstruction Theory .....	7

1.6.2 Film Theory .....	8
1.7 Method of Research .....	10
1.7.1 Type of Research .....	10
1.7.2 Data Sources .....	10
1.7.3 Data Collection Technique .....	10
1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique .....	11
1.8 Research Organization .....	11
<b>CHAPTER II: DISCUSSION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 The Character of Enchantress .....	16
2.1.1 Enchantress as Antagonist Character in Villain Characterization....	18
2.2 The Character of Deadshot .....	20
2.2.1 Deadshot as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization .....	22
2.2.2 Deadshot as Protagonist Character in Hero Characterization .....	27
2.3 The Character of Harley Quinn .....	31
2.3.1 Harley Quinn as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization	32
2.3.2 Harley Quinn as Protagonist Character in Hero Characterization ...	37
2.4 The Character of Captain Boomerang .....	38
2.4.1 Captain Boomerang as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization .....	38
2.4.2 Captain Boomerang as Protagonist Character in Hero Characterization .....	41

2.5 The Character of El Diablo .....	42
2.5.1 El Diablo as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization .....	43
2.5.2 El Diablo as Protagonist Character in Hero Characterization .....	44
2.6 The Character of Killer Croc .....	46
2.6.1 Killer Croc as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization ...	47
2.6.2 Killer Croc as Protagonist Character in Hero Characterization .....	48
2.7 The Character of Slipknot.....	49
2.7.1 Slipknot as Protagonist Character in Villain Characterization .....	49
2.8 Identify the Characterization .....	50
<b>CHAPTER III: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION .....</b>	<b>52</b>
3.1 Conclusion .....	52
3.2 Suggestion .....	53
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE .....</b>	<b>57</b>

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## LIST OF FIGURES

Fig.1. The shot of Harley is injection explosive device by apparatus of jail .....	13
Fig.2. The shot of Amanda Waller giving the mission to team which make the villain character become protagonist character .....	14
Fig.3. Shot of Enchantress asking share power to Incubus .....	18
Fig.4. Shot Enchantress when she builds the weapon. ....	19
Fig.5. The shot of Deadshot surrender in fight with Batman. ....	21
Fig.6. The shot of conversation between Deadshot and Harley make plan to rebel and escape .....	22
Fig.7. The shot of Deadshot reign to Harley save Flag .....	24
Fig.8. Shot of Deadshot walking into the bar, after he rejected to finish the mission	26
Fig.9. Shot of Deadshot talking with Flag, he said to help him .....	30
Fig.10. Shot of Harley is arrested by Batman .....	32
Fig.11. Shot of Harley is transferred to join the team .....	33
Fig.12. Shot of Harley ride elevator went before command by Flag .....	35
Fig.13. Shot of Harley walk go to helicopter which ride by Joker .....	36
Fig.14. Shot of Boomerang try to take watch under the chair .....	40
Fig.15. Shot of Boomerang attack Incubus with his weapon .....	41
Fig.16. Shot of Diablo walking stand beside other villain .....	45
Fig.17. Shot of Killer Croc is injection explosive device by apparatus of jail .....	47
Fig.18. Shot of Slipknot is dead by explosive device .....	50

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Movie or sometimes it is called as moving pictures is a popular culture. Based on Srinati's argument, popular culture is various literary works and several of genre, text, image, and representation that can be found in various media (2004: 36-37). Movie is one of popular cultures that can be depicted in some different media. Movie presents a story from an original text story of movie with the comparison of video and audio which is delivered to the audience. In the book of *Film Studies the Basic*;

The cinema – film - arises truly from an interface: a technology of continuously moving still images and a process of perception on the part of the human spectator which readies him or her to receive this continuity as motion itself (Villarejo, 2007:4).

Moreover, Andrew in his book which cites from Morin calls it with "cinematographe". Cinematographe/cinematography is giving the viewers a visual video with slow and fast motion, with close-up and unlimited repetition giving the viewer access to the word of the movie (1984: 22). Hence, movie is more interesting than another literary works because it delivers text of the story through cinematography while other literary works such as short story, drama, and poem doesn't have it. Thus, researcher chooses movie to be analyzed using *Suicide Squad* movie as object of research.

*Suicide Squad* is a superhero movie based on several characters that appear in DC Comics publication. The story begins not long after the death of Superman, government worry about who can take up Superman role, to save the world from dangerous disaster or stopped villain with supernatural power that to want destroy the world. Government think needs new superhero to solve the problems, so the government assembles a squad of incarcerated criminals and Meta humans. The team is called "Task Force X", which are consist of assassin Floyd Lawton (Deadshot), former psychiatrist Dr. Harleen Quinzel (Harley Quinn), robber Digger Harkness (Captain Boomerang), pyrokinetic Chato Santana (El Diablo), the reptilian mutation Waylon Jones (Killer Croc), the rope wielding Christopher Weiss (Slipknot). The squad was created by Amanda Waller a government agent, the squad under the command of Colonel Rick Flag. Among Waller's invited to join in the squad is Dr. June Moon an archeologist (The Enchantress) and Tatsu Yamashiro (Katana), a mystic sword wielder to serve as Flag's bodyguard. Colonel Flag as boyfriend of Dr. Moon held responsibility to oversee Dr. Moon, because she has possessed with ancient spirit after opening cursed idol and she difficult to control the spirit power. In the reality the squad who headed by Colonel Flag that consists of incarcerated criminal and Meta human refuse the invitation of Waller to join the squad, but when government really need superpower human to help them, Waller force them to join the squad with implant explosive device to their neck. If they attempt to escape or try to mutinied, the device will explode and destroy their neck and head. In the fact the squad created to deadly mission for the United State government. This is sacrifice



squad that prepare to die to save the world.

([http://dcextendeduniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Suicide\\_Squad](http://dcextendeduniverse.wikia.com/wiki/Suicide_Squad))

From the explanation above, *Suicide Squad* movie has new point of view for the hero character. This movie wants to reveal that the villain can be a hero as well. That make the researcher consider this reason makes the movie interest to be analyze. In any ordinary movie, hero is person who is admired, has outstanding achievements, be guide for everyone and has a good attitude. Hero is always in right position in the perspective of people. Whereas villain in the opposite from hero line. As explanation from Abrahams and Harpham, the villain is the antagonist character as like evil or criminal action (2009: 265). Villain is antagonist character in narrative story which is opposite of protagonist character as like hero. Abrahams and Harpham state that:

The chief character in a plot, on whom our interest centers, is called protagonist (or alternatively, the hero or heroine), and if the plot is such that he or she pitted against an important opponent, that character is called antagonist. (2009: 265)

*Suicide Squad* movie tries to break the paradigm of hero, it wants to show that every single human can be a hero even a cruel person as villain.

This research focuses on characters that appear in *Suicide Squad* movie consisting in Task Force X. The characters in the movie show a new paradigm about the stereotyped of heroes. *Suicide Squad* movie invents new hero from villains who tries to save the world. It is strange in a narrative story because in narrative story there are protagonist characters and antagonist characters in the across side characters

in story. Protagonist character is character which has emotional relation to the reader such as empathy and sympathy, one of protagonist character that has there is hero (Altenbernd & Lewis, 1966: 59). Whereas position of the villain in the story is usually as antagonist character. Antagonist character is the character that has main conflict with protagonist character. The villain in *Suicide Squad* movie is a protagonist character. It shows that protagonist character is not always hero and antagonist character is not always villain. Hero and villain are characteristics or adjectives which attach to an object. If the character of hero is replaced by the villain to take over the protagonist, it will disturb the emotional relation between viewer and protagonist character. Villain hardly gets sympathy and empathy from viewer or audiences because the characteristic of villain is like a bad person whereas the characteristic of hero is like kind person. Even the villains save the world, it can replace role of hero.

Aristotle said that there are four structure of a plot. The first structure begins the story with a good man from bad fortune pass the good fortune. The audience mostly likes this story which ends in happy ending and the audience easily feel sympathy and empathy to the good man character in the story. The second structure is good man passing from good fortune to bad fortune. Not many audiences like this structure because the structure will shock the audience feeling with sad ending of story. The third structure is a bad man passing from bad fortune to good fortune. Audiences will lose their interest with this plot, because audience does not like bad

man character that has a good ending. And the last structure of plot is bad man from good fortune passes bad fortune. This structure may satisfy audience feeling, because a bad man deserves with bad ending ([http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0056%3Asection%3D1452b, 1453a](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0056%3Asection%3D1452b,1453a)). Related to *Suicide Squad* movie, whether the movie uses villain as the protagonist characters or heroes as the antagonist is still questioned. The story with villain characters is appropriate with the third structure which the villain as the bad man passing from bad fortune to good fortune. The villains are forced to join Task Force X team doing the deadly mission and then into good fortune as they are get some deduction of the imprisonment. Yet, it can also be said that in the movie the villains redeem their sin by becoming heroes to save the world. If they become heroes, it is appropriate with the first structure. That is the ambiguity of the structure of plot in *Suicide Squad* movie. It is that the main character who is played by villain can replace hero characterization and in this case they play a role as protagonist or antagonist character. From that phenomenon the researcher is interested to analyze each characters in Task Force X in the *Suicide Squad* movie.

## 1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the issue above, the researcher focuses on the characters in Task Force X in the *Suicide Squad* movie. This research concerns on Deconstruction theory. Then the problem statement related to this research is how can the role of the

main characters be explained in the perspective at shifting role from antagonist to protagonist? And shifting characterization from villain to hero?

### **1.3 Objective of Study**

Objective of study in this research related to the problem statement that has been stated above is to identify the role of the main character which is explained in the perspective of shifting role from antagonist to protagonist and shifting characterization from villain to hero.

### **1.4 Significances of Study**

The significance of this study is to explain how the villain characterization as antagonist character plays as the main character in this movie. Instead, the character can shift into protagonist character as hero characterization. But usually main character in the movie is protagonist as nice guy. Hence, this research informs that the *Suicide Squad* movie describes the opposite side to the general thought with deconstruction theory.

### **1.5 Literature Review**

Researcher found some researches that have same perspective of subject in library and online web. The first is from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga, graduating research from Crisnanto Tri Wibowo. The title is “*Deconstructive Reading in Lang Leav’s Poem “All or Nothing”*”. The second one is from Indonesia University, a graduating research from Ribka Sangianglili with the title

*“Deconstruction and reconstruction hero’s concept in Megamind”*. Both of the researchs have same subject as this research in using deconstruction theory, but it is applied in the different object. The searcher decides that this research is the first research that uses deconstruction theory to *Suicide Squad* movie.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

### **1.6.1 Deconstruction Theory**

The theory that uses for this research is deconstruction theory from Jean Jacques Derrida. The theory appears to counter structuralism paradigm. Structuralism stated that literary work and the researcher already separated when it published. Both of them are independents. So structuralism on literary criticism is a critic for structure system of the literary work. One of the theories of structuralism is binary opposition. Binary opposition is combination of opposites that have relation to each other. Carter in his book *“Literary Theory”*, said that there is a hierarchy that argues ‘Something’ is appear because the opposite. ‘Something’ that can appear because it has relation to ‘Another something’. ‘Something’ is substantively there is in ‘Another something’. In example as a word, ‘light’ has already implied ‘dark’. Deconstructive aim to invert the hierarchy is dependent each other (2006: 110,111). Binary opposition is the main problem in critic a literary on Derrida’s theory of deconstruction. Addition from Abrams and Harpham,

Several of Derrida’s skeptical procedures have been especially influential in deconstructive literary criticism. A cardinal procedure is to subvert the

innumerable binary opposition such as speech/writing, nature/culture, truth/error, male/female which are essential structural in logo centric language. Derrida show that such opposition constitutes a tacit hierarchy, in which the first term functions as privileged and superior and the second term as derivative and inferior. Derrida's procedure is to invert the hierarchy, by showing that the primary term can be made out to be derivative form or special case of, the secondary term (2009: 71, 72).

In short, theory deconstruction aims to reverse the hierarchy of binary opposition.

Derrida prove the first term not always dominant than the second term.

### **1.6.2 Film Theory**

This research uses movie as source of the data. Hence, the film theory needed to help the researcher in understanding the movie. First is the cinematography of the film. According to Timothy Heiderich, "Cinematography is the art of visual storytelling. Anyone can set a camera on a tripod and hit record, but the artistry of cinematography comes in controlling what the viewer sees (or doesn't see) and how image is presented" (2012:3). This analysis focuses on framing and camera angel.

Framing techniques are divided into the extreme long shot (ELS) in which one can barely distinguish the human figure, the long shot (LS) in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background, the medium long shot (MLS) or plan americain in which the human is framed from the knees up, the medium shot (MS) in which we move in slightly to frame the human from the waist up, the medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up, the close-up (CU) which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently), and the extreme close-up (ECU) in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips). (Villarejo, 2007:38).

Another theory used in understanding the film is camera angel shot.

According to Bowen and Thompson, there are two types of camera angle shot which

are horizontal and vertical angle shot. This research focus on uses vertical camera angle shot only. Bowen and Thompson divide vertical camera angle into two categories:

First, high angle shot also called a high shot or down shot; covering any shot of a person or action from a higher vantage point immediately that informs the audience of an implied meaning. The grammar of a high angle shot often yields an understanding within the viewer that who they are seeing on screen is smaller, weaker, subservient, diminutive, or is currently in a less powerful or compromised position. Second, low angle shot also called low shot; The character seen from below becomes larger, more looming, more significant, more powerful, and, of course, also physically higher in the film space. It is part of the accepted film grammar that a shot from below implies that the person or object you observe from that angle has a substantial presence, is considered larger than life, or may, at that point in the narrative, have the upper hand (literally and figuratively) (2009:41-42).

In addition, there is a known which support this research on analysis the compositional guidelines movie is called as “the rule of third”. The line places the important compositional elements which should be at the intersection of imaginary lines that divide the image into third horizontally and vertically (Krages, 2005:9).

Second is *mise-en-scene*. The meaning of it is the all of the narrative from the beginning until the ending of the scene that is showed in the movie. There are six parts of *mise-en-scene* elements. Those are setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior. This research focuses on lighting and costume to analyze the character. These are uses to show characteristic of the character. Lighting is used to establish mood and directs attention to detail. And costume is part of movie which is described world of the movie and its characters (Villarejo, 2007: 28-35).

## **1.7 Method of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

There are three types of research: qualitative, quantitative, and mix methods. This research uses qualitative method. Qualitative method is a method to analyze and interpret the data on phenomena that are not easily reduced to number (Charter and Thomas, 1996: 31). The researcher uses qualitative method with narrative approach because he observes the film as the data. The primary data is *Suicide Squad* movie.

### **1.7.2 Data Sources**

The researcher use primary data and supporting data in this research. The primary data in this research is *Suicide Squad* movie. The supporting data are books, websites, journals that have same topic with this research. The data units that used in this movie are the scenes that showing and telling the Task Force X characters and the characterizations, and the events.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

For collecting the data the researcher has done in several steps. The first step is watching the movie to get the intrinsic elements of the movie such as plot, characters and characterization, theme and the setting. The second step is making the categories. The first category is the character and action of the character that to show



protagonist or antagonist and hero or villain characterization. The second category is the events of the movie that has impact on character shifting.

#### **1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique**

For analyzing the data, there are several steps that the researcher has done. From the categories above, the researcher input the characters in action into several categories. The first is categorizing the characters which appropriate to protagonist or antagonist. The second is classifying the characters which appropriate to hero or villain. Both of the categories are the binary. The third is relating to the binary then analyzing with deconstruction. The fourth step is interpreting the data. Interpretations here mean is that the character in the protagonist is appropriate in role of hero or the otherwise. And the last step is making conclusion of the analysis.

### **1.8 Research Organization**

This research consists of three chapters; in the first chapter is introduction. It describes the background study, scope of study, problem of study, significant of study, theoretical approach, method of research, analysis of data research, and thesis organization. The second is analysis of the data. The intrinsic elements in counted in this chapter because this research analysis the data narratively. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion. In this chapter, it serves the outline of the analysis result in the previous chapter.

## CHAPTER III

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 3.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the data in chapter II, for this chapter the researcher wants to conclude this research. The conclusion is drawn based on the deconstruction theory from Derrida because this research wants to break usually structure like good and bad, protagonist and antagonist, hero and villain. Deconstruction is applied to analyze the main character played by villain character. The villain characters are Deadshot, Harley Quinn, Captain Boomerang, El Diablo, Killer Croc, Slipknot, and Enchantress. They are member of in Task Force X team as a main character in *Suicide Squad* movie. From the explanation of chapter II, the researcher concludes that:

1. In hero movie protagonist character is not only played by hero characterization, but it is also can be played by villain characterization. It happen depend on the situation. In purpose to replace Superman as a super hero who was died in the fight, the villains are forced to join in Task Force X team and do the super hero job as the protagonist character.
2. Villain characterization sometimes can shift into hero characterization depend on the situation. Take a look at the Deadshot character, sometimes his act and thought are for his daughter's goodness. It means he is hero for his daughter

as a good father. Then, for whole villain character when the team are freed by Flag but they decide to help him. They can help Flag sincerely without compulsion. It means that they shift into hero characterization.

The structuralism is not absolute. It can be deconstructed depend on the situation. Protagonist can be replaced by antagonist and hero can be replaced by villain.

### 3.2 Suggestion

This research analyzes a movie “*Suicide Squad*”, this movie has a theme about heroic. This movie shows new stereotype of hero from villain character. The villain which becomes hero looks like he or she get second chance for redeem their sin. The researcher as Muslim tries to relate that phenomenon to verses which gives second chance for Muslim, in the Quran surah Al Imran verses 135-136:

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا فَعَلُوا فَاحِشَةً أَوْ ظَلَمُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ ذَكَرُوا اللَّهَ فَاسْتَغْفَرُوا لِذُنُوبِهِمْ وَمَنْ

يَعْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَمْ يُصِرُّوا عَلَىٰ مَا فَعَلُوا وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ (١٣٥)

أُولَٰئِكَ جَزَاءُ هُمْ مَغْفِرَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَجَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا

وَنِعَمَ أَجْرُ الْعَامِلِينَ (١٣٦)

*"And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves [by transgression], remember Allah and seek forgiveness for their sins - and who*

*can forgive sins except Allah ? - and [who] do not persist in what they have done while they know.”*

*“Those - their reward is forgiveness from their Lord and gardens beneath which rivers flow [in Paradise], wherein they will abide eternally; and excellent is the reward of the [righteous] workers.” (https://quran.com/3)*

The researcher suggest for the future researcher which uses the same subject, it can be identified more deeply in perspective religion. It can be identify in other cases like character and theories because lot of aspects from this movie that can be analyzed.

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