HYPERMASCULINITIES OF TEENAGERS

AS SEEN IN *GOOD KIDS* MOVIE

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HYPERMASCULINITY OF TEENAGERS AS SEEN IN *GOOD KIDS*

By: Nadiyatusy Syarifah Nurbaiti

ABSTRACT

This graduating paper aims at examining teenage life by portraying their struggle to be accepted in their peer group through their practices of machismo. To understand machismo, the researcher applied the theory of Hypermasculinity. The practices of machismo in the teenage life is critical because it is the initial stage where teenage recreate and struggle for their focus of masculinity. This research aims to describe the practices of Hypermasculinity by main characters. In analyzing the data, this research uses descriptive qualitative method. As the result, the researcher finds the practices done by the main characters to be categorized as Hypermasculinity. Those are drinking alcohol, party, drug, violence, and sexual behavior.

Keywords: *teenager, machismo, hypermasculinity.*

HYPERMASCULINITY OF TEENAGERS AS SEEN IN *GOOD KIDS*

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk menguji kehidupan remaja dengan menggambarkan kesulitan mereka agar dapat diterima oleh teman sebaya mereka lewat kegiatan-kegiatan yang berhubungan dengan machismo. Kemudian, untuk memahami machismo, peneliti menggunakan teori Hipermaskulinitas. Kegiatan-kegiatan tersebut begitu penting dalam kehidupan remaja, karena merupakan fase awal dimana remaja membentuk dan berjuang pada kemaskulinasan mereka. Dalam menganalisis data, penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskripif. Sebagai hasilnya, peneliti menemukan praktek-praktek yang dikategorikan sebagai hypermaskulinitas. Praktek-praktek tersebut yaitu meminum alkohol, pesta, narkoba, kekerasan, dan kegiatan seksual.

Kata kunci: *remaja, machismo, hipermaskulinitas.*

MOTTO

It always seems impossible until it's done

(Nelson Mandela)

DEDICATION

I dedicate my graduating paper to:

My beloved mother and father, *Ibu* Isro' Wati Ningsih and *Bapak* Asrul Wahid.

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Nadiyatusy Syarifah Nur Baiti

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of Study

Literature is a creativity of a work of art. Literature is also an imaginative work that is deemed a broader understanding of the work of fiction (1995: 3-4). Although literary works is a kind of art and imaginative work, the important thing is it conveys social criticism that reflects social conditions, social issue, and even religious values.

One of imaginative works is movie or film. Bordwell and Thompson say that film communicates information and ideas, and they show us places and ways of life we might not otherwise know (2008: 2). Thus, film is able to gives an idea of the real object, and events, from the story by seeing the moving picture from film.

In this paper, the researcher chooses movie as material object because movie has strong visualization on presenting the story. According to Boggs and Petrie in their book "Art of Watching Films", film is recognized as a unique powerful art form on a par with painting, sculpture, music, literature, and drama (2008,03). Many aspects such as visual effect, sound effect, angle of camera and actor make movie has more devotees and popularity than other media. Based on the aspects of movie, when watching the movie, audiences are driven   to   see   and   to   feel   the   story   real.

Otherwise, movie production has been rapidly increased in the society. Therefore, not only as a mass culture it also provided a forum of education and critique through the tradition of social documentary.

There are many topics that are produced by movie industry, such as politic issue, religion issue, family issue and teenager issue. Therefore, the researcher chooses a movie with teenager issue. The reason is because teenagers are the important thing for the future of nation. That is why teenager becomes a worldwide concern.

Teenager is a young person whose age falls within the range from 13-19. Most of them are in high school period. During this period, teenagers are experienced process of mental and physical development named puberty. Hence, the transition period from childhood of teenager is called adolescence.

Many process for boy to construct and to prove the manliness. It can be from family environment until in general society. Therefore, as a result if he fails to prove it he becomes a 'lesser' man. A 'lesser' man will have undignified life as a disempowered person. Then, people with high position abuse such a person by calling him with a nickname such as a wimp, a golden boy and so on. Thus are the core of male pressure to prove the manliness during adolescence and early youth. The process of puberty affects their behavior. It can be a good behavior or bad behavior it is according to where they place their circle. Even though they done many good things but many of them also done bad

things, e.g. in the news about teenager's car accident while drunk, teenager kills random stranger to impress their buddies or rapes a woman while the other just watching. Thus kind of behavior includes a sign of the active construction of identity. The construction of adolescence owing to social pressure forced their natural masculinity within themselves. Sometimes, it develops into a negative unhealthy form, which is destructive for self and others (2006:4).

The phenomenon above indicates response done by teenager in puberty period is to point out their identity. The social environment standard points out male to do what is expected behavior depend on its social culture.

There are many movies which the topic is about teenager issue such as *Boyz n the Hood* (1991), *Boy A* (2007), *Rape for Profit* (2012) and *Good Kids* (2016). These movies that are produced from many years ago until at the present time show that social problem of how teenager or youth are surrounded by violence, alcohol, and crime still exists. Therefore, researcher thinks that teenager issue is still important to be discussed.

Here, the researcher chooses "Good Kids" as material object of the research. "Good Kids" released on October 21th, 2016 in USA. This movie is directed and is written by Chris McCoy.

The *Good Kids* movie is about teenagers issue. The researcher finds that the movie shows the life of teenager. It shows life style that

most of them do in their senior high school lives. Party, sex, and drug are showing in the movie. Those activities become social standard from some significance circles in the movie.

The story tells about teenagers where they are victims of the society. The reseacrher pays attention on Andy, Nora, Lion, and Spice as the main characters in this movie. In *Good Kids* movie, the main characters are depicted as successful students in academic. They are described as smart kids. Whereas one of the important gender role has message states that: "man are not beautiful but are smart" (2006:6). It implies that the main characters have quality for gender role as well as receive an education. Moreover, in social urbanization era, education becomes the important aspect to enter labor market than brawn (Joan Huber, 2006:76). Thus, people with good education will receive honor in labor market position other than thus who does not have education. However, in this movie the main characters have the quality in social range but they are still not accepted by the peer. There must be some other aspects or practices need to fulfill within peer.

Furthermore, in this movie Andy, Lion, Spice and Nora, become victim of bully. There is one boy named Conch who often bullies other. In one scene for example: Conch is making fun of Andy and his friends, one of the reasons is because they are drinking cola. In contrary, Conch is showing drinking alcohol with his group. The bullying scene above is to exclude Andy and friends from his circle.

Therefore, to sustain their existence in the peer, Andy and his friends try to do standard practices which exist in the peer. Andy and his friends agree to challenge themselve by doing some risk activities such as drinking alcohol, taking drug, violence, which their peer usually do. Their action is in order to get an acknowledgment from their peer and also to redefine their identity. In addition personal people have qualities that society ascribes for men or women, either smart or beautiful. Yet, the society pressure has suppresses the qualities from the person to adopt the appropriate standard quality. "Consequently, boys often make mistakes . . . they are misguided and take wrong decisions which harm them" (2006:2).

Therefore, talking about teenager, teenager is the children of parents which also become hope of parents. In Islamic perspective children is mention as *Qurrota a'yun* ('the coolness of the eyes'). The meaning is that children who always pray well and follow Allah's guidance willingly. Allah has mention in Surah Al-Furqaan verse 74:

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

"And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and children who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous."

The verse implies that children have special position in parents' life. The sentence "be comfort of our eyes" here means that parents

hope that their children can bring them peace in their life with their good behavior. Furthermore, if it is in society, teenager become hope for society in order to get better generation.

In addition, the movie maker presents teenager take concept of masculinity from their peers to be the model of their identity. The concept can be called as Hypermasculinity or Machismo. According to Mosher and Sirkin, Hypermasculinity is behavior related to sexuality, violence, and danger as excited. The theory focuses on adolescence in stage they construct the masculine identity. This research focuses on the main characters of the movie: Andy, Lion, Spice and Nora. Moreover, *Good Kids* movie has never been discussed yet in literary studies. Thus, it become the researcher's reason to discuss this movie from their hypermasculine behavior. Therefore, this research tries to explore the practices of hypermasculinity depicted in main characters of *Good Kids* movie.

1.2   Research Question

Based on the background of study, the research question of this research is:

How are the practices of hypermasculinity depicted in the main characters of *Good Kids* movie?

1.3   Objective of Study

By referring to the research question above, this research aims to analyse the practices of hypermasculinity depicted in main characters in *Good Kids* movie.

1.4   Significances of Study

This research has two significances. First this research is expected to give valuable contribution on the development of literature studies, especially in masculinity. This research is needed to understand the application of Hypermasculinity on literary works. The researcher also hopes this research can be used as a review of "Good Kids" film. Second, for general readers this research is expected to give information about teenager phenomenon in modern era. Teenagers are the generation that need to get special attention, because in that age they make struggles of their lives in their social area, such as in school, the challenging of coming age as teen in social exclusion. This research is hoped to inform readers about teenager who find the ways to stay out of violence, respect, and equality. Moreover male in general understands violence as common thing. Practically, this research is intended to give better understanding about Hypermasculinity.

1.5   Literature Review

The research has found three literature researches with the same theory of Hypermasculinity. The first is a journal entitled "*Hypermasculinity and Violence as a Social System*" written by Thomas J. Scheff (2006). This journal disscusses the causation of violence which greed for power is often invoked. According to Thomas, violence can be understood in terms of cultural processes that give rise to hyper-masculinity. This journal also explains that violence is a feedback from alienation and emotion within and between individuals and groups.

The second literary research is a journal titled *Shaping of Hypermasculinity and Its Influence on Sexual Behavior: A Study of Youth in Slum Communities of Mumbai, India* written by Ankita Siddhanta and Singh SK (2015). This research focuses on youth people in India. Siddhanta and Singh analyze the data from alcohol use, sexual health risks and HIV prevention among young people in low income communities in Mumbai, India. The analysis tries to find out the correlation between hypermasculinity and its influence on sexual behavior and sexual satisfaction among youth residing in Mumbai. As the result, in the slum of Mumbai, a little over one-third of youth is having low masculinity, two-fifth is having moderate masculinity, and one-forth is having hypermasculinity which show that hypermasculinity is very much spread widely in the community.

The third literary review is a journal entitled *Scripting the Macho Man: Hypermasculine Socialization and Enculturation* written by Donald L. Mosher and Silvan S. Tomkins (1988). Mosher and Sirkin say that macho personality consist of: a) Callous sexual attitudes, b) Violence as manly, c) Danger as exciting. In this journal, Tomkins introduces the Script theory. Script theory is a set of rules for interpreting, directing, defending, creating the scenes making up the life of macho man. Furthermore, both adolescent and processes of enculturation in the American culture are continuing the hypermasculine socialization in mass media.

In brief, this research has same ideas from studies above. Those studies concern on youth generation. However, the discussion of teenager issues and the practices of hypermasculinity in *Good Kids* movie have not been done yet.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In this research the researcher applies two theories to analyze *Good Kids* movie. The theories are Hypermasculinity as the main theory and film theory as secondary theory. This research aims to figure out the practice of hypermasculinity depicted in *Good Kids* and also focuses on main characters as the object of analysis.

According to Siddhanta and Singh, hypermasculinity is a psychological term for the exaggeration of male stereotypical behaviour related to phsycal strenght, aggression and sexuality.

Hypermasculinity is a concept where teenager takes as an idea of machismo. According to Tomkins (1988,61) Machismo is the ideological of macho personality. Macho personality behavior consists of: a) entitlement to callous sexuality, b) violence as manly, and c) danger as exciting. Hence, the basic unit of hypermasculinity analysis is the scene. The scene is related to an event in a teenager's life that organized by at least one affect and its object. Mosher and Tomskin explain that "affect" is defined as muscular and glandular responses located in the face, but also widely distributed throughout the body. Thus means "affect" is the motivator principal for human action in life. The word "affect" itself means "to have an influence on someone or something; or to cause them to change" (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary 3rd Edition Digital). Then, teenager's actions of affect give a feedback either inherently "acceptable" or "unacceptable".

Furthermore, affect influences the process on how macho man shaped are from the response of boy on threatening and challenging situation. The threatening and chalanging situation are produced by society. Thus can be pressure such as intimidation or bullying. Then, the response of the situation produces opportunity for macho man to take their manly role appropriate with the concept of machismo. In addition, hypermasculinity behavior is most likely take place during adolescence. The developmental activity period during adolescence supporting by peer

group for hypermasculine behaviours is believed to be high (2015: 01). Mosher and Tomskin add that transition in adolescence phase trial from "real boy" to "real man" has a term as "rites of passage" (1988: 71). According to the Cambridge dictionary, Rites of passage means: Official ceremony or informal activity which marks an important state or occasion in person's life, especially becoming an adult (Cambridge Advance Digital Dictionary 3rd Edition).

The rites of passage have a ritual that shape from boyhood to manhood. There are three rituals of physical action to test a "real man" in the social network of adolescence those are: 1) fight scene 2) danger scene 3) sex scene (Mosher and Tomskin: 1986: 71).

Whereas the physical action test has male youth group as the jury stand in for judging the 'participants'. The judge goes with acceptance or rejection. Furthermore, acceptance means victor with honor and pride. Meanwhile, rejection means victim with distress, fear and shame. That is acceptance by male peer becomes importance. Hypermasculinity concerns on teenager's behavior in which they take concept from their peer. The rites of passage during adolescence produce from the male youth group as reference in socializing and enculturating the macho man. Mosher and Tomskin state that socialization and enculturation mean:

"Socialization means to make social or fit for life in companionship with family and others, enculturation means to adapt to a culture and adopt its values" (Mosher and Tomskin, 1988:).

Social construction of machismo characterizes men as aggressive, exhibiting sexualized behaviors, participates in heavy drinking, and dominating women (as cited from Kulis Et Al. 2012: 113).

By referring to the explanation above, hypermasculinity is shaped by the affect that creates scene as response to be a macho man. This theory is applied to identify the research question and to find the conclusion in *Good kids*.

Film analysis has evolved an authropocentric taxonomy for describing distance, that uses the human body as the reference point for each designation. There are seven techniques used in cinematography.

a. The extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure.

b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background.

c. The medium long shot (MLS), or plan americain, in which the human from the knees up.

d. The medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from waist up.

e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the humanfrom the chest up.

f. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most permanently). The

g. extreme close-up (ECU), in which we see a mere position of the face (an eye, the lips).

Furthermore, camera angles are used to give emotional information to the viewer so that they can understand the expression and guide their judgment about the character or object in shot. There are several types of camera angles. First, a bird's eye angle is an angle that puts the audience in a godlike position, looking down upon the scene. This angle is used to establish setting. Second, a high angle is a camera angle that looks down a subject. The object or character often gets swallowed up by their setting. Third, an eye level angle puts the audience on an equal footing with the characters. This is a fairly neutral shot which the camera is positioned as though it is a human actually observing a scene. Last, a low angle is a camera angle that looks up at a character. This angle makes character look more powerful. (as cited in http://www.skwirk.com/). Beside the masculinity theory, film theory is also used to get the picture of characters' actions. Therefore, the film theory is applied.

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of research

The researcher uses qualitative research in completing this research. Qualitative research is when the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives (the multiple meanings socially and historically constructed, with an intent developing a theory or pattern) or advocacy/participatory perspectives

(political, issue oriented, collaborative, or change oriented) or both (John W. Cresswell, 2003: 18). The method attempts to explain the data instead of shows number and calculating the data.

In addition, the researcher collects the data from studying the events, and activities in the movie. In this research, the researcher applies library research. The researcher collects some information from website to support the data. The researcher analyzes the data and describes the result in text.

1.7.2 Data Sources

In this research, the main data and supporting data are necessary. In this research the main data is taken from the movie entitled *Good Kids*. The data form in this research is images and dialogues. On the other hand, the supporting data for this research are from websites, journals and books containing literary work that support this study in analyzing the main data. The forms of the data in this research are pictures, utterances, and actions that relate to the masculinity characteristic of main characters. However, the type of these data is primary data.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

In collecting data the researcher uses documentation method. Furthermore, the researcher watches the movie entitled *Good Kids* closely to understand the intrinsic of the movie. Then, the researcher

finds the practices of hypermasculinity that happen in the movie. After that the researcher reads some books which relate to Masculinity and Hypermasculinity theory and visits web browsing to get more information about the movie. Thus, the researcher selects the data that support the topic discussion. The data that has been found help the researcher in analyzing the movie. The data unit of this research is event. The researcher classifies the event based on the categories of a) entitlement to callous sexuality, b) violence as manly, c) danger as exciting.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

In analyzing the data, the researcher uses objective approach to analyze the data. The researcher analyzes the data with three steps. First, the researcher makes a list of data. Then, the researcher selects some data that deal with the problem from the movie. Second, the researcher classifies the data that describes the practices of hypermasculinity depicted in main characters in *Good Kids* based on the categories of a) entitlement to callous sexuality, b) violence as manly, c) danger as exciting. Third, after collecting and classifying the data, the researcher analyzes it by figuring the connection among the data for the classification. Then, the researcher finds the conclusion from the entire analysis.

1.8 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the general information about the research including background of study, problem statement, objective of study, significances of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter presents the intrinsic elements of *Good Kids* movie. The third chapter presents the discussion that contains data analysis. The last chapter is the conclusion of this research and suggestion for further research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1   Conclusion

The aim of this research is to explore the practice of hypermasculinity. The reseach applies the concept of hypermasculinity by Donald Mosher and Silvan S. Tomskins. After analyzing the data, the researcher finds that the concept of masculinity understood by young adult called machismo. The practices of hypermasculinity in *Good Kids* movie are depicted as a socialization and enculturation of macho personality from 'boy hood' to 'real man' in adolescence period. Furthermore, the ritual test of Physical Dimension of masculinity is complete such as danger scene, fight scene, and callous sex scene. Likewise, seen from their high risk activities, those indicate some kind of negative activities. Those activities such as drinking alcohol, taking drugs, violence, and sexual behavior through peer hegemony by oppression and exclusion.

Furthermore, the researcher also finds that social life is important for young adult. However, success in academic does not guarantee successful in social life. Likewise, in real life young adult will experience this phase. Therefore, they will move up to the mature side of them. Some people through this phase positively and some choosing negative

way. It really depends on where people life and to whom the people close
to.

4.2 Suggestion

There must be some aspects from the movie which are necessary
to be analyzed. It can be psychoanalysis theory, masculinity theory, and
so on. The researcher thinks there is still another way to analyze the
movie. Thus, it is the suggestion for the next research to be analyzed
Good Kids movie.

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