

**HEGEMONIC MASCULINIY ANALYSIS OF ROGER FERRIS
CHARACTER AS SEEN IN *BODY OF LIES* (2008)**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining the Bachelor

Degree in English Literature



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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut dapat diajukan pada sidang munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terima kasih.

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MOTTO

“Life has no remote, get up and change it yourself.”

-Mark A Cooper-

DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper to:

My beloved parents, Moh. Kanif Anwari and Richanah Hanif

My beloved little brother, Saghif Halwan Saqif

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First of all, I would like to say thank you to Allah SWT for all His blessing, help, and also His guidance in completing this graduating paper entitled “HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY ON ROGER FERRIS CHARACTER AS SEEN IN *BODY OF LIES* (2008)”.

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Finally, I realize that there are many errors in the writing of this paper. Because of that, I really hope and allow all of the readers to give any suggestion to improve this paper.

Yogyakarta, December 6th 2022

Hifni Bahiroh Ruwaida

**HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY ON ROGER FERRIS CHARACTER AS
SEEN IN *BODY OF LIES* (2008)**

By: Hifni Bahiroh Ruwaida

ABSTRACT

Masculinity is unstable and can be different and change according to human character. In general, masculinity is more dominantly attached to men than women. The characteristics attached to the term masculine are courage, independence, and firmness. However, within these characteristics, some more attitudes or characters represent masculinity. This representation is contained in *Body of Lies* (2008). In this film, things that show masculinity are depicted through the main character, Roger Ferris. This film shows an attitude that shows how men should behave. This study uses the theory of masculinity from R.W. Connell. This study aims to analyze masculinity issues shown by Roger Ferris. In this study, researchers used qualitative methods. The researcher started collecting data through his research object, namely the film *Body of Lies*. In this research, the writer collects data through dialogue in the film and observes the main characters' behavior. In addition, researchers also use film theory to analyze the elements in the film and its cinematography. The researcher found several shooting method techniques in several scenes related to the research, such as Medium Shot and Medium Close Up. The writer concludes this research that masculinity attitudes are not always ingrained from birth but can also appear over time due to environmental factors, work, and the people around them. In addition, shooting methods on objects affect the audience's comfort in watching all film scenes from beginning to end.

Keywords: *men, representation, masculinity, characteristics.*

**HEGEMONIC MASCULINITY ON ROGER FERRIS CHARACTER AS
SEEN IN *BODY OF LIES* (2008)**

Oleh: Hifni Bahiroh Ruwaida

ABSTRAK

Maskulinitas merupakan hal yang tidak stabil, dapat berbeda dan berubah-ubah sesuai karakter manusianya. Pada umumnya, maskulinitas lebih dominan melekat pada diri laki-laki daripada perempuan. Ciri-ciri yang melekat pada istilah maskulin adalah keberanian, kemandirian, dan ketegasan. Namun, di dalam ciri-ciri tersebut lebih banyak lagi sikap atau karakter yang merepresentasikan maskulinitas. Representasi ini terdapat dalam sebuah film berjudul *Body of Lies* (2008). Dalam film ini, hal-hal yang menunjukkan maskulinitas digambarkan melalui karakter utamanya yaitu Roger Ferris. Dalam film ini, terdapat sikap yang menunjukkan bagaimana seharusnya laki-laki bersikap. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori maskulinitas dari R.W Connell. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa hal-hal maskulinitas yang ditunjukkan oleh Roger Ferris. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif. Peneliti memulai mengumpulkan data melalui objek penelitiannya, yaitu film *Body of Lies* (2008). Dalam penelitian ini, penulis mengambil data melalui dialog dalam film dan mengamati perilaku dari karakter utamanya. Selain itu, peneliti juga menggunakan teori film untuk menganalisa unsur-unsur di dalam film serta cinematographynya. Dalam film ini, peneliti menemukan beberapa teknik metode pengambilan gambar seperti Medium Shot dan Medium Close Up dalam beberapa adegan yang berhubungan dengan penelitian. Penulis mendapatkan kesimpulan dari penelitian ini yaitu sikap maskulinitas tidak selalu tertanam sejak lahir tetapi dapat juga muncul seiring berjalannya waktu karena faktor lingkungan, pekerjaan, dan orang-orang sekitar. Selain itu, penggunaan metode pengambilan gambar pada object mempengaruhi kenyamanan penonton untuk menyaksikan semua adegan film dari awal sampai akhir.

Kata kunci: *laki-laki, representasi, maskulinitas, karakteristik.*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Humans are creatures created with various advantages and disadvantages. God created humans into two sexes, male and female. Each gender has characteristics and personalities that have their features. One of the characteristics that exist in a man or woman is masculine. Masculine traits are socially defined and biologically created, and these masculine traits differ from gender.

Masculine (masculinity) is a trait associated with boys or men. The concept of masculinity has many variations, depending on history and culture. Men are often compared to have very masculine, masculine, or not masculine traits. A book entitled *Masculinity Reconstructed* by Ronald F. Levant explains that the characteristics of someone considered masculine, namely avoiding femininity, ambition, independence, solidity and aggressiveness. These traits strengthen gender roles which are grouped as male humans.

Masculinity, which is generally found in men, can not only be found in real life but can also be seen in literary works, such as in films. A film can be said as a medium of communication because we can take the message contained in the film's story or from the roles played by the actors and actresses. Male roles in a movie are bound to vary, and each actor usually has more than one character

to play. In this study, the researcher aims to analyse a film in which one character has masculinity.

In this research, the writer is interested to analyse a film titled *Body of Lies*. This movie was released on October 5th, 2008 in United States with Leonardo DiCaprio as Roger Ferris, Russell Crowe as Ed Hoffman, Mark Strong as Hani Pasha, Mehdi Nebbou as Nizar, Alon Abutbul as Al-Saleem, and Ridley Scott as director. Roger Ferris (Leonardo DiCaprio) is a CIA agent who was sent to Jordan to reveal the identity of a terrorist leader suspected of operating outside the Jordanian brother. To complete this task, Roger was forced to ask for Ed Hoffman's help (Russell Crowe), a former CIA agent. Although he still doubted Ed's honesty, inevitably Roger had to learn to depend on Ed. On the other hand, Roger also had to work closely with the head of the Jordanian intelligence agency, Hani Pasha (Mark Strong). Roger was faced with a difficult choice between carrying out his task and hanging his life on people he did not really trust. In addition to carrying out the duties of Hani Pasha, Ferris must immediately save the woman he likes because the terrorist group kidnapped her. The woman was abducted as a threat that Al Saleem gave to Ferris to stop him from carrying out his mission.

This movie basically tells about the pursuit of a terrorist leader. The writer is interested in analysing Roger Ferris's character because of his role in the film; he is brave and always carries out his responsibilities thoroughly. According to Leonardo DiCaprio's scenes often plays in his films, Roger's character shows that he stands out for masculine traits either directly or indirectly. One was when

Roger met the older sister he liked for lunch. He could fit into a family of women he wanted even though his older sister didn't like him.

One of the reasons the author takes *Body of Lies* (2008) as an object of research is because a man is a being who looks strong and is always considered a leader for other men and women. Men must always look wise and dignified and dare to be responsible. However, in reality, men can also look weak even though they do not show it to the people around them. The statement mentioned above can be found in this film, with the main character representing masculinity in his character. Besides, many of us will meet the masculinity he shows in real life.

In this research, the author uses the theory of masculinity by R.W Connell (2001). Connell said that hegemonic masculinity is the culturally idealized form of masculine character. In a simple sense, hegemonic masculinity is the ideal form of a man constructed by the community. Raewyn Connell's concept of hegemonic masculinity (Connell 1987) serves an analytical instrument to identify those attitudes and practices among men that perpetuate gender inequality, involving both men's domination over women and the power of some men over other men. In a recent review, a usual conceptualisation of hegemonic masculinity is described as:

a set of values, established by men in power that functions to include and exclude, and to organize society in gender unequal ways. It combines several features: a hierarchy of masculinities, differential access among men to power

(over women and other men), and the interplay between men's identity, men's ideals, interactions, power, and patriarchy. (Jewkes and Morrell ²⁰¹², 40)

Masculinities are multiple, fluid and dynamic and hegemonic positions are not the only masculinities available in a given society. They may also be seen as positions that are occupied situationally, in that the position occupied, practices and values espoused in one context may be different from those of another. Basically, masculinity is defined as a gender characteristic that describes the traditional value of men's attitude or behaviour that is accepted by the society.

Beside the masculinity theory, the writer also applied a film theory to analysing the object. The writer is interested in using a theory written in a book entitled *Film Studies: The Basics* by Amy Villarejo. Ultimately, this study uses masculinity by R.W. Connell and film theories to generate all the data.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background research above, the researcher formulated a research question stated below ;

How Roger Ferris shows his hegemonic masculine identity in the circumstances described in this film?

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the problem statements, this research is going to focus in exploring general knowledge of masculine identity and explaining how masculine identity can be formed in Roger Ferris's character as seen in *Body of Lies* (2008).

1.4 Significance of Study

This research is significant to the development of social science. First, this research is to be one of references to those who are study literature, especially Connell's masculinity theory. Another significance of this research which is related to the object is to find out masculine characters in general and also in the character of Roger Ferris.

Second, as research it is important to student to understand about masculine theory and how to implement it in literature. This research also aims to explain how Roger Ferris characters in *Body of Lies* solves his work problem as well as his personal affairs. The other significances of this research are useful to common people who want or starting to learn the masculinity.

1.5 Literature Review

In this study, researchers need many references related to the topic and a discussion written. During the research, the author finds a journal or thesis related to the object or theory used by the author.

The first literary review is a paper written by Muhammad Abdul Muhyi from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2015 entitled "*The Portrayal of Modern Masculinity in Pirates of the Caribbean 1: The Curse of the Black Pearl*". This study contains about Jack Sparrow's masculinity. The researcher explained about masculinity of Jack Sparrow based on the Islamic perspective and also explain the general knowledge about the portrayal of modern masculinity.

The second literary review is a paper written by Umi 'Afini from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2018 entitled "*Passing Down Masculinity from Father to Son as Depicted in Chef Movie*". This research talks about the relations between father and son that shows a great buddy to each other. The researcher also tells that the masculine character can be passed down to his son.

The third literary review is a paper written by M. Dymas Hamdan Noor Salam from State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta in 2020 entitled "*Non-Observance of Quality Maxim by Characters in Body of Lies Movie*". In this research, Dymas discusses each character in *Body of Lies*. He discusses the situation seen through conversations between film actors, which shows that they do not practice or show maxims of quality. The author took this work as a reference because it has the same research object.

Based on all the graduating papers or literary reviews above, the authors focus on reintroducing the image of masculinity in one of the actors in the *Body of Lies* (2008) by using the theory of masculinity initiated by R.W Connell.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

1.6.1 Masculinity Theory

In this research, the researcher uses masculinity as a main theory. Masculinity is related to men or boys who have a power, but women also have a side of masculinity. According to Kimmel and Aronson (2002), masculinity is a concept about social roles, behaviours and meanings that are attached to men at

the certain times. Men are not just born with the masculinity character in nature, but masculinity is shaped by the culture. Although masculinity is largely thought to be socially constructed, some researches indicate that some behaviours considered masculine are biologically influenced.

The researcher uses the theory of masculinity by R. W. Connell (2001). Connell explained that hegemonic masculinity is defined as a practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and justifies the subordination of the common male population and women, and other marginalized ways of being a man. Connell explains that masculinity is not just an idea or personal identity but also includes a direct social relationship. Connell mentioned (2005: 840) that the configuration of practice determines production or negotiation to form masculine identities. Hegemonic masculinity is formed by contradicting people's character to maintain the hegemony.

Based on the theoretical explanation above, the author uses masculinity to analyse the main characters in the *Body of Lies*. As Connell has explained, masculinity is related to the position of a man who always stands out in social life. A man must be a strong human being, always stand out, and have the character of a leader.

1.6.2 Film Theory

Film is part of a complex literary work consisting of audio and visual. Movies are often interpreted as visuals (images), which can affect the audience's emotions from the visuals shown. Film is also defined as a play (story) of living pictures (KBBI, 1990). As part of the industry, films are part of communication,

which is the most crucial part of a system used by individuals or groups to receive or convey messages (Ibrahim, 2011).

In its literal sense, the film is a *cinematographie*. *Cinematographie* comes from the word cinema, which means "movement," *tho* or *phytos* which means light. Therefore, a film can also be interpreted by painting a motion using light. According to Amy Villarejo in her book *Film Studies: The Basics*, there are two important aspects to analyse a scene in a movie. The first is *mise-en-scene*, it is used to make the movie such as a representation of real life. *Mise-en-scene* has six elements that consist of setting, properties, lighting, costume, make up and figure behaviour (2007: 28-36):

setting, where the scene is played,

properties, supporting tools to build the character,

lighting, to shows the visual scene and expression from the actors,

costume, the clothes used by actors

make up, to highlight the characteristics that will be presented by actors,

figure behaviour, to show facial expression and gestures of the actors.

There are soft lighting, high lighting and key lighting. Those lighting are used to emphasize the emotion or the expression in the current shot. Those elements are needed in the movie to make it more interesting and impressive.

The second one is cinematography. It is used to shoot an object by a camera. There are three dimensions in cinematography: camera distance, camera angle,

and camera's movement (Villarejo: 36). "Every placement of the camera can be analysed in terms of the distance between the camera and its object(s)...using the human body as the reference point for each designation (2007: 38):

- a. The extreme long shot (ELS), distinguished the human figure from the wide environment;
- b. The long shot (LS), focused on the subject, but the background is still visible;
- c. The medium long shot (MLS), framed the human from knees up;
- d. The medium shot (MS), framed the subject from the waist up;
- e. The medium close-up (MCU), framed the human from the chest up;
- f. The close-up (CU), framed the human, especially face;
- g. The extreme close-up (ECU), framed the human's facial features.

The researcher will analyse the character of Roger Ferris in *Body of Lies* using the two theories described. The evidence derived from the data will be used to explain the analysis representing what the researcher thinks in the *Body of Lies* (2008).

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

In this study, researchers used qualitative research methods suitable for research objects. According to John W. Creswell, in his book entitled *Research Design*, qualitative research is a method to describe, explore, and understand the meaning that several individuals or groups of people ascribe to social or humanitarian issues. In more straightforward sentences, Creswell means that

qualitative research is research used to examine human and social problems. (Creswell, 2013:17)

In research, qualitative methods are divided into several types, including phenomenology. For this study, the authors used a phenomenological qualitative method to examine *Body of Lies* (2008). In simple terms, phenomenology is an attempt to find experience in the life of the research object. In this research, the researcher examines the main character, Roger Ferris, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. The researcher takes the character of Roger Ferris and observes his behaviour toward the environment and the people around him. The researcher observes to get the masculine character contained in him.

1.7.2 Data Source

In this research, the researcher uses two data sources. There are primary data and secondary data. *Body of Lies* (2008), that use by the researcher are used for primary data. The author got this *Body of Lies* (2008) film by taking it from a web, namely <https://layarkaca21.tube/body-lies-2008/>. The secondary data obtained from scripts and dialogues in the movie and also take from the books, journal, and article that contain about theory of masculinity.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

In this study, the researcher obtained evidence regarding the masculine nature and behavior of Roger Ferris by identifying intrinsic elements in the film, especially the characters and characterization. Besides these two things, other elements such as plot, setting, and moral values are also analyzed coherently. After identify the intrinsic elements, the writer collects the data from the character of

Roger Ferris such as his dialogues that contain a masculine identity, then the researcher categorizes the data into the events, the shots, and the dialogues that related to the analysis.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

In this research, the researcher used qualitative methods to generate data. In this research, the qualitative method used is phenomenology, by observing the activities and attitudes shown by the main characters in the film. After collecting the data, the researcher uses some steps to analysing. First, identifying the character who become the object that based on the theory of masculinity. In this case, the researcher will use Roger Ferris as the main character as a research object. Second, the writer classifies the events of the character using Connell's theory. After classified the events, the researcher analysing the character's event that show how the masculine is in his character. Last, the researcher writes the conclusion of the research.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research consists of four chapters. The first chapter is an introduction. It contains of background of study, research question, objectives of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research and paper organization. The second chapter is intrinsic elements of *Body of Lies* (2008). The third chapter delivers the analysis of Roger Ferris's character with the masculinity theory and also the film theory. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The analysis in the previous chapter concluded that Roger Ferris shows several attitudes to show his masculinity. In general, masculinity is inherent in men. As R.W Connell writes in his book, true masculinity is almost always thought to proceed from men's bodies and is attached to the male body (Connell, 2005, p. 45). Masculinity is shown through the actions and words he uttered while carrying out the mission given. Throughout the research, masculinity is not only about courage and strength; responsibility and manners can represent masculinity in a man.

Besides that, the hegemonic masculinity represented in the *Body of Lies* (2008) occurs due to environmental factors and the people around them. In every scene, Roger Ferris, as the main character, is only sometimes hegemonic in acting. Sometimes he shows a little masculinity, depending on his situation. Hegemonic masculinity also does not appear directly from the beginning of the main character's appearance in the film. Hegemonic masculinity often grows when Roger Ferris encounters problems that must be resolved by himself or with those around him.

Some of the masculinity shown by Roger Ferris cannot be imitated in life. Ferris is stubborn and always feels he can solve his own problems. On the other hand, he still shows his courage to face those who try to harm him. Besides the statement, Ferris's attitude in respecting women did when he first met a nurse named Aisha. A man who can respect women properly can increase his masculinity in

social life. It can conclude that masculine characteristics are represented by courage, responsibility, and respect for women.

4.2 Suggestion

Body of Lies (2008) tells the story of a CIA agent sent to the Middle East on a mission to catch a group of terrorists. In this study, the writer analyzes the main character in the film. Moreover, the writer focuses on how masculinity is shown through the characterizations in the film. Thus, researchers analyze this using the masculinity theory. For future research, the authors advise applying other theories, such as semiotic or psychoanalytic theory.

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