

**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RECIPROCAL
DETERMINISM IN *SILENCE* (2016) AND *THE MESSAGE*
(1976)**

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor



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KEMENTERIAN AGAMA REPUBLIK INDONESIA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA YOGYAKARTA
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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami mengucapkan terima kasih.

Wassalamualaikum Wr. Wb.

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MOTTO

“It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.”

-Paulo Coelho

“Tidak ada mimpi yang gagal, yang ada hanya mimpi yang tertunda. Cuman sekiranya kalau kau merasa gagal dalam mencapai mimpi, jangan khawatir, mimpi-mimpi lain bisa diciptakan!”

-Windah Basudara

“To all of you out there, please keep your dream alive!”

-Ke Huy Quan (OSCAR 2023)

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my father, mother, siblings, teachers, friends, and everyone who believes dreams and hopes are real.





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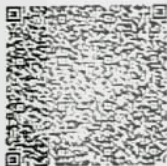
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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the author expresses deep gratitude to Allah Ta'ala, who has given all His gifts and affection, so that at this time, the author can do all affairs without any obstacles. Secondly, the author devotes *shalawat* to the Messenger of Allah S.A.W who has saved us from the age of darkness and always awaits his *syafaat* later on the last day. This thesis is not only for graduation requirements but also as a form of understanding of the process of struggle and life learning. This thesis can't be perfect without the help of several people. Therefore, as respect and affection, the author would like to express his gratitude to:

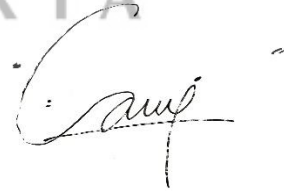
1. The Dean of Adab and Cultural Sciences Faculty, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, Prof. Dr. Nurdin, S.Ag., S.S., M.A.
2. The Head of English Department, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, Dr. Ulyati Retno Sari, S.S. M.hum.
3. My thesis consultant Mrs. Harsiwi Fajar Sari, S.S, M.A., who is always willing to take her time, devote her thoughts, and always give opinions and suggestions on my thesis.
4. The rest of English Department Lecturer, Dr. Danial Hidayatullah, SS, M.Hum., Anisah Durrotul Fajri, S.S., M.Hum., Dr. Arif Budiman, S.S., M.A, Bambang Hariyanto, S.S., M.A., Ph.D., Dwi Margo Yuwono, M.Hum., Febriyanti Dwiratna Lestari, SS., MA, Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd. M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D., Dr. Ubaidillah, S.S., M.Hum., Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd.
5. To my beloved mother, Endon Nurcahyati,
6. To my proud father, Muhsin Anwar,
7. To my two younger siblings, I'am, and Athipa, who will always accompany me in joy and sorrow.

8. To my teacher, KH. Afif Muhammad, S.ag., M.A, who has always been my religious guide.
9. To my best friends, Arkan, Hafiz, Rahman, Albab, and all my English Literature 2020 friends.
10. To my FORSIMBA friends who always encourage me, Tito, Dimas, Hadi, Anis, Imas, and Ayuk.
11. To all members of KKN Tasikmalaya, Andre, Nova, Iday, Mey, Syahrul, Kresna, Ibam, Isna, and Intan.
12. To all my DEWARUCI friends who have always been loyal to accompany my college days
13. For all my fellow Santri of Komplek H, who always provide motivation and enthusiasm.

Finally, I would like to thank the readers of this thesis. I hope this final assignment can be helpful for everyone. For my limitations, I also expect all forms of criticism and suggestions. Thank you very much.

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A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RECIPROCAL DETERMINISM IN *SILENCE* (2016) AND *THE MESSAGE* (1976)

Oleh: Muhammad Syauqi Aunillah

ABSTRAK

Film “*Silence*” (2016) dan “*The Message*” (1976) memperlihatkan dinamika peran karakter misionaris dalam konteks permasalahan sosial yang menentang. Perbandingan dua karya film tersebut menjadi tujuan penelitian untuk memahami hubungan pengaruh sosial terhadap individu. Dengan menggunakan konsep reciprocal determinism dari teori kognitif sosial, penelitian ini menganalisis hubungan antara faktor personal, perilaku, dan lingkungan yang mempengaruhi pembentukan diri kedua karakter utama. Studi komparatif sastra juga diterapkan dalam penelitian ini untuk mengeksplor bagaimana kedua karakter menghadapi tantangan sosial dari sudut pandang budaya yang berbeda. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan analisa data yang berupa scene, dialog, dan berbagai macam aspek dalam film. Hasil penelitian ini menungkap perbedaan dalam respons dan strategi dari masing-masing karakter. Meskipun keduanya menghadapi kondisi sosial yang sama, temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat perbedaan variasi yang mencolok dalam faktor personal, perilaku dan pengaruh lingkungan mereka, yang pada akhirnya mempengaruhi output yang berbeda. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini memberikan pemahaman lebih lanjut tentang bagaimana individu berinteraksi dengan sosial, serta bagaimana pilihan personal dan perilaku dapat membentuk atau diubah oleh lingkungan.

Kata kunci: Reciprocal determinism, perbandingan sastra, karakter, *Silence*, *The Message*

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RECIPROCAL DETERMINISM IN *SILENCE* (2016) AND *THE MESSAGE* (1976)

By: Muhammad Syauqi Aunillah

ABSTRACT

The films “Silence” (2016) and “The Message” (1976) portray the dynamic role of missionary characters in the context of opposing social problems. The comparison of the two films is the purpose of the research to understand the relationship of social influence on individuals. Using the concept of reciprocal determinism from social cognitive theory, this study analyzes the relationship between personal, behavioral, and environmental factors that influence the self-formation of the two main characters. A comparative literature study is also applied in this research to explore how both characters face social challenges from different cultural perspectives. This research uses descriptive qualitative methods and uses data analysis in the form of scenes, dialogues, and various aspects of the film. The results of this study reveal differences in the responses and strategies of each character. Although both characters face the same social conditions, the findings show that there are different variations in their personal factors, behaviors and environmental influences, which in turn influence their different outputs. As such, this research provides further understanding of how individuals interact with the social, as well as how personal and behavioral choices can shape or be altered by the environment.

Keywords: Reciprocal determinism, comparative literature, characters, *Silence*, *The Message*

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

There are many things that can be represented through the delivery of literature. Literary delivery in characterization is the closest idea to the representation of literary works in the field of psychology. In accordance with the opinion stated by Semi, human beings consistently show various kinds of behavior. Psychology is needed to understand humans more deeply (Semi, 1993). The relation between literature and psychology is directly proportional which helps individuals to understand personality and individual differences through various approaches. Works of literature and art enable individuals to be aware of their personalities and individual differences and to question life and existence, the main data in the field of psychology as well. (Aras, 2015)

The film is one example of a literature work that can represent the relationship between literature and psychology. Film is a popular literature work of an author's imagination. Through this work, an author can express his thoughts and views on life around him. The depiction of its characters, a movie becomes an inspiration through the storytelling of the characters. Film studies represent many things, and then the researcher intends to analyze the film approach by using the scoop of psychology. This is in accordance with the opinion of Halász (1989) stated that in understanding the

meaning of literary works, the perception of characters, and the relationship between cognitive and emotional processes, the impact of learning social psychology is needed. The relationship between psychological studies and literary works is one of the media that is often used to study the concept of human life through storytelling in films.

Following the idea of this research, *Silence (2016)* by Martin Scorsese and *The Message (1976)* by Moustapha Akkad are the two films featured in this study. Both protagonists share similar roles as the missionaries and show the depiction of the characters' struggle. The journey of both characters and their struggles can be used to describe the state of the characters, which in turn can provide insights into human behavior as studied in psychological research. By examining the problems faced by both characters, researchers have proposed that literary psychology analysis is an effective method for examining characterization in this films study.

Silence (2016) tells the story of a Jesuit priest named Rodrigues. Father Rodrigues a devout Christian is assigned to rescue their mentor, Father Ferreira who was lost in Japan. With the mission of saving his mentor, he realized that Christianity in Japan also had to be saved. In carrying out his mission, Rodrigues had to overcome many tough obstacles by the Japanese authority that prohibited the entry of outside cultures and religions.

The Message (1976) is a historical journey of the last prophet of Islam. The call of Islam and Muhammad as the messenger was a threat to the Arabs, especially to the

Quraysh tribe who at that time held the power of the city of Mecca. The Prophet Muhammad and his companions had a mission to spread the teachings of Islam which was believed to bring truth and justice at that time, but Muhammad's mission had to be tested by the cruelty of the Quraysh tribe. In order to respect the Islamic tradition, Akkad depicts Muhammad by not showing his character, but by describing the perspective and interpretation of other characters and the narrator through the dialogue.

From the brief explanation of the two films, researchers found different patterns even though both characters have similarities in their struggles. Both characters in the film are portrayed as missionaries who have strong personalities. The struggles of both characters are equally challenged by their society which strongly rejects their mission. Rodriguez was hunted by the Japanese government because of his preaching, as was Muhammad, opposed by the Quraysh tribe, who prohibited the teachings of Islam.

The discussion about social influence on individuals is very interesting as it is an aspect that relates to our lives. The environment is continuously influencing our learning processes and is contributing to our personal development. The diversity of environmental conditions is serving as transformative factors that are affecting individual development. However, certain viewpoints are maintaining that social conditions don't have significant influence over individual development.

Nevertheless, both characters are showing different outcomes in their individual and social relationships. In this research, both films are becoming important to discuss, as they are showing depictions of the self-formation phenomenon of characters who are similar being influenced by environmental conditions. The same character roles that are showing different self-formation, as well as the cultural differences that are present in both films, are becoming interesting points for this comparative literature research.

Therefore, this research attempts to seek the influence of the social environment on both characters' self-formation systems in reciprocal determinism and focuses on character development that shows the relationship between behavioral changes and social conditions. This research compares the two representations of social influence on character change. This method enables an understanding of two similar issues separated by different cultural backgrounds by observing their differences and similarities. This research uses a comparative literature approach because, comparative literature has intrinsically a content and form that facilitate the cross-cultural and interdisciplinary study of literature and it has a history that substantiates this content and form (Tötösy de Zepetnek, 1998). Comparing *Silence* and *The Message* can help to analyze the different influences of social conditions on both character's behavior.

Following the problem statement that has been explained, the researcher found a correlation with Bandura's opinion that, the influence of human behavior change is

caused by the feedback between their social environments. Humans have cognitive abilities to motivate and regulate their behavior and create social systems to organize and structure their lives (Bandura, 1986). The concept of mutual causation of behavior, cognition other personal factors, and environmental influences that operate as determinants and interact to influence each other (Abdullah, 2019). Both characters in *Silence* and *The Message* films represent their personalities that relate to their environment, then they experience a similar environment and eventually shape their personalities. From the statement above, the researcher attempted to analyze this study with *Social Cognitive Theory* by Albert Bandura.

1.2 Research Question

This research aims to analyze two characters in the films *Silence* and *The Message*. To achieve the objective of this study, the author formulates two research questions as follows:

- 1). How is the portrayal of reciprocal determinism of characters Rodriguez in *Silence* and Muhammad in *The Message*?
- 2). What is the influence of reciprocal determinism on the characters of Rodriguez in *Silence* and Muhammad in *The Message*?

1.3 Objective and Significance of Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the picture of the influence of social environments on self-formation of behavior in *Silence* and *The Message*. Through understanding the problem from the depiction and comparison in the two films, this study has significance in providing better insight into the process of self-learning through personal and environmental factors. Furthermore, it can provide a better understanding of psychological strategies in both social and personal behavior.

There are two benefits in this research which are theoretical benefits and practical benefits. The theoretical benefit of this study is to provide information and increase insight to the researcher and readers about the concept of reciprocal determination in social cognitive theory. The practical benefit of this study is for students of English literature as an additional reference in the analysis of literary works, especially research using the film object approach.

1.4 Literature Review

Silence and *The Message* are historical biographical films that have religious themes, both of which are not widely researched or commonly studied. However, as a motivation for this research, several previous studies with the same object or with similar theoretical approaches were used to expand the reference knowledge and to get different perspectives for this research.

Sitasari (2023) Discourse Analysis of Ethical Leaders in the Movie *The Message*, in this analysis the Prophetic Journalism method is used to understand the significant controversy related to the depiction of the Prophet Muhammad. This research uses a constructivist paradigm with a descriptive qualitative research approach and uses prophetic journalism theory. The method used to analyze related data is Theo Van Leeuwen's discourse analysis, which focuses on how the character is portrayed. The results of this study show that the film "The Message" has applied Theo Van Leeuwen's discourse analysis and shows how the use of imagery, dialog, and narration in this film affects the construction of messages and understanding conveyed to the audience. The movie can depict the life of the Prophet Muhammad and highlight Islamic values such as justice, equality, and peace.

Another study Novitasari (2018) examined film characters using Albert Bandura's psychological theory approach due to the psychological method of studying human behavior through literature. The analytical study aimed to examine the self-efficacy of the main character, Sayaka Kudo, in the movie *Birigyarū* directed by Nobuhiro Doi and released in 2015. Social Cognitive Theory developed by Albert Bandura was also used by applying the concepts of self-efficacy. The results showed that Sayaka reflects a high level of self-efficacy in the depiction of her courage in facing challenges, perseverance, and a strong sense of responsibility toward achieving her goals. This high self-efficacy is due to her previous performance of personal behavior and her personality.

Furthermore, Sihaloho (2018) analyzed the switch of language usage found in the narration of the film *Silence*. This study aims to classify and describe the types and factors of the use of code-switching contained in the movie *Silence* and its causes. The research method used is descriptive. The analysis is done by interpreting the types of codes using the theory proposed by Wardhaugh, Hudson, and Suwito. Based on the analysis, it is found that in the movie *Silence*, the types of code changes that occur are external, internal, and metamorphosis changes.

By reviewing several research, the researcher is motivated to do another study with the same context, which is film analysis using Albert Bandura's theory. By researching this study, the researcher aims to provide the results of evidence that examples of literary research with a psychological theory approach can be represented. More specifically in analyzing characters using the social cognitive theory approach. Thus, this analysis also requires a review of several film studies as a renewal and reference.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

1.5.1 Film Theory

The researcher uses film theory to help analyze elements other than character and storytelling. Furthermore, it can help analyze the elements in the film by using the *mise en scene* theory. Lathrop & Sutton (2006) argue that filmmakers have borrowed the term and have extended the meaning to suggest the control the director has over the

visual elements within the film image. Several elements are important in filmmaking. Four aspects of mise-en-scene that overlap the physical art of the theater are setting, costume, lighting, and movement of figures. Control of these elements provides the director with an opportunity to stage events (Lathrop & Sutton, 2006). By using these elements in the movie, the storytelling in movies is depicted. The aspects of intrinsic applied in this research to help understand the object of this study, and then several aspects of intrinsic in this research follows:

1. **Setting**

An important element in the narrative that explains the time and events in a movie. One method of setting control lies in the selection of natural or artificial locales. Setting's ability to add meaning to narrative that also implies part of the control directors dictate in film art.

2. **Custom**

Costumes can serve to enhance the narrative, or story, for instance, by suggesting the social position of characters.

3. **Figure Behavior**

Figure expression refers to the facial expressions and the posture of an actor, whereas figure movement refers to all other actions of the actor, including gestures.

4. **Lighting**

Lighting can help define the setting of a scene or accentuate the behavior of the figures in the film

5. **Framing (Shot Distance)**

Shot camera types that help to depict cinematography and describe meaning.

Lighting can help define the setting of a scene or accentuate the behavior of the figures in the film. Following types of shot distances;

Extreme long shot: A panoramic view of an exterior location, sometimes an establishing shot that sets the context for later closer shots.

Long shot: A broad view of objects or actions of principal interest. This shot allows general recognition of the subject at the expense of detail. Also used as an establishing shot. Reveals the full human figure, though more in the middle- than fore- or background

Medium shot: A relatively close shot, usually revealing the human figure from head to knees, feet to the navel.

Close-up: Reveals the head and shoulder of the human figure in the central focus of the frame.

Extreme Close-up: Reveals a body part: a face, an eye, a pupil; a finger, a fingernail, etc.

(Lathrop & Sutton, 2006)

1.5.2 Social Cognitive Theory

Social Cognitive is a theory of Albert Bandura's ideas that refers to a person's psychology through the influence of the social environment. Bandura (1978) explains that reciprocal determinism is proposed as a basic analytic principle for analyzing psychosocial phenomena at the level of intrapersonal development, interpersonal transactions, and interactive functioning of organizational and social systems. Social cognitive theory is a theory that emphasizes the idea that most human learning occurs in a social environment. By observing others, humans acquire knowledge, rules, skills, strategies, beliefs, and behavior (Yanuardianto, 2019).

In this theory, there is a concept that explains the mutual relationship of factors in the formation of self, where a person has three factors that influence each other. In this regard, Bandura argues that personality is the product of three interacting forces: environment, behavior, and personal factors. The interaction between these three factors is called triadic reciprocal determinism.

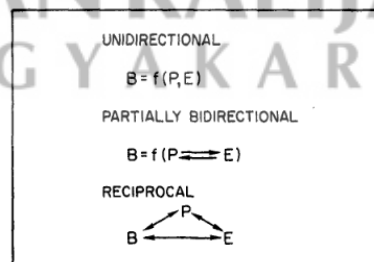


Figure 1. Schematic representation of three concepts of interaction (Reciprocal Determinism Triadic). B signifies behavior, P signifies personal (cognitive and other internal events, that can affect perceptions and actions), and E signifies external environment. (Bandura, 1978)

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1 Types of Research

The descriptive method is used by the researcher to analyze the film. The qualitative evidence analyzed using the qualitative descriptive method involves describing and analyzing the data, then making explanations based on the researcher's point of view. Data analysis is applied when all primary data from the two literary works are collected and selected, the literary work data in the form of scenes and dialog related to the research problem from the characters.

1.6.2 Data Sources

The researcher uses two films by analyzing primary data and secondary data to examine the purpose of this research. Scene and dialogue that contain reciprocal determinism in the characters are taken as primary data sources. Following the secondary data is taken from character representation and visual cinematography. Furthermore, the research may draw upon additional sources, including books and previous journal articles, to reinforce the data and arguments presented.

1.6.3 Data Collection Technique

To collect comprehensive information and analyze the relevant data, several methodologies are based on closely reading the movie scenes. The researcher first watched both movies to collect relevant information. The researcher then takes on an

extensive review to find information on the character's behavior taken by the primary character. Following the collection of primary data the researcher uses the stages of reciprocal determinism to categorize and connect the data that was gathered to the subject of this study.

1.6.4 Data Analyzing Technique

The data analysis stage is reviewed by comparing the collected data from two movies, and then, the data is organized by using the concept of reciprocal determinism. The researcher believes that it can help to analyze both characters using the variable that relates to the research problem. The analysis includes descriptions or explanations of the phenomena found in both films. Moreover, the theory is taken to examine the reciprocal determinism pattern that is shown in both characters of the movies. The data were investigated to identify the reciprocal determinism of the main characters towards their struggle. This study also draws on previous research related to the topic of literary psychology.

1.7 Paper Organization

There are three chapters in this research study. The introduction is contained in the first chapter. The background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, paper organization, and theoretical framework that used Reciprocal Determinism of Albert Bandura's Social Cognitive theory are included in this section.

Data findings and analysis of the character's behavior in the films *Silence* and *The Message* are presented in the second chapter. The third chapter, which concludes as the conclusion of the final chapter described based on the researcher's analysis.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

Based on a comparative analysis of the films *Silence* and *The Message*, reciprocal determinism is evident in both Rodriguez and Muhammad's characters. While the environmental challenges faced by both characters share similarities, the outcomes of their interactions with these environments are significantly different. In *Silence*, social conditions force a painful transformation, causing contradictions in Rodriguez's character, while in *The Message*, opposing social conditions strengthen Muhammad.

The personal factors of both characters in the film show that inner beliefs are the force that shapes character. In *Silence*, unstable faith, doubt, and internal struggles affect personal character. Meanwhile, in *The Message*, strong belief, optimism, and perseverance influence the character's outcome. The behavior of both characters shows that reactions, actions, and emotions are produced by various self-forming factors. In *Silence*, Rodriguez expresses his sadness and emotional reactions through isolation, accompanied by weak faith, which leads to anxiety and despair. In *The Message*, Muhammad expresses his emotional response adaptively, and support from other factors generates optimism within him.

In terms of the environment, both films depict conditions of oppression and rejection of similar character goals. In *Silence*, the environment shapes personal and behavioral factors, forcing Rodriguez to change, largely due to his weak personal factors, which result in negative behavior. On the contrary, in *The Message*, Muhammad gradually transformed his environment, resulting from strong personal factors and mutually positive influencing behaviors.

Through the comparative analysis of both characters, the results are showing different patterns of self-formation. Although they are sharing similar experiences, their different ways of thinking and behaving are determining the influencing factors on their environment. Both characters are representing the learning process between humans and their environment, and the subjective process of self-system change. From the application of reciprocal determinism, both characters are demonstrating different learning outcomes where Rodriguez is learning about his faith understanding through his experiences and environmental factors, while Muhammad is showing self-transformation as a prophet and becoming an agent of change in his environment.

Therefore, from this analysis, the researcher concludes that personal behavior can be influenced by the environment. Self-system can influence our self-formation in the context of environmental learning process. However, it depends on ourselves, the environmental factors, and how strong our personal factors are, where in the end these two factors can affect our behavior.

4.2 Suggestion

This study provides an insight understanding of psychology through the literature. Furthermore, this study suggests several ways to improve future research. The researcher suggests looking at more characters that have similar struggles to better understand how the social environment affects character development. Comparative literature using another scope of psychology theories could also help us understand the relationship between individuals and the social environment. Future research could also focus on specific aspects of social learning theory, especially in analyzing how an individual can act as a catalyst for social change. Thus, the research can make a deeper contribution to our understanding of the complex relationship between individual characters and social transformation in the context of film narratives.

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