# Reading Pi's Struggle in Life of Pi Movie

# A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining

The Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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## A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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

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## Reading Pi's Struggle in *Life of Pi* Movie

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#### **ABSTRAK**

Film merupakan salah satu karya sastra yang mengalami perkembangan signifikan pada zaman sekarang. Film menceritakan sebuah karya sastra dari fiksi maupun non-fiksi, dari kisah nyata ataupun berdasarkan novel. Salah satu film yang dirilis berdasarkan dari sebuah novel adalah film Life of Pi. Film ini menceritakan tentang perjuangan Pi Patel untuk tetap bertahan hidup selama 227 hari di tengah samudera bersama dengan seekor harimau. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menjawab pertanyaan yang penulis dapatkan dalam penelitian ini, yaitu Bagaimana usaha Pi untuk bertahan hidup dalam film Life of Pi? Penulis menggunakan film sebagai obyek penelitian dengan menggunakan teori strukturalisme pada tokoh Pi Patel serta teori film oleh Villarejo. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan teori strukturalis yang mengacu pada pandangan Jonathan Culler. Culler menjelaskan bahwa bahasa yang orang ungkapkan merupakan hasil dari apa yang orang pikirkan. Hal ini juga berlaku di dalam mengekspresikan dalam media. Metode penelitian yang diterapkan adalah metode kualitatif. Sebagai hasil dari penelitian ini, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Pi Patel berjuang sendirian dan terus berusaha untuk bertahan hidup dengan 3 cara. Pertama adalah negosiasi dengan diri sendiri. Kedua adalah negosiasi dengan makhluk lainnya. Ketiga negosiasi dengan Tuhan.

Kata Kunci: Film, Life of Pi, Strukturalisme, Teori film, Negosiasi

## Reading Pi's Struggle in Life of Pi Movie

By: Moh. Saifulloh

#### **ABSTRACT**

Movie is one of the literary works experiencing significant developments today. The movie tells the story of a literary work of fiction or non-fiction, based on the true story or novel. One of the movies based on the novel is the *Life of Pi* movie. The movie tells the story of Pi Patel's struggle to survive in the middle of ocean along 227 days with a tiger. The writer uses this film as an object of study by using the structuralism theory to Pi Patel. This research is conducted to answer a question that writer get in this research; How is the portrayal of Pi's struggle in Life of Pi movie? In this study, the writer uses the theory structuralism by Jonathan Culler. Culler explain that the language that people speak determines of what people think. It means that thought of one language can be expressed in another media. Movie theory by Villarejo is also used since the object of this research is a movie. In this research, qualitative method is applied. As a result of this research, the writers concludes that Pi's struggle in the middle of ocean with is conducted in three ways. First is negotiation with himself. The second is negotiation with significant others. The third is negotiation with God.

Keywords: Movie, Life of Pi, Structuralism, Movie Theory, Negotiation

# **MOTTO**

# "MAKE EVERYTHING BECOME SIMPLE, AND STILL RESPONSIBLE"

-Moh Saifulloh



# **DEDICATON**

This final project I dedicate to:

- 1. My Beloved Parents: Edi Samhudi and Suparmi
- 2. My Beloved Sister and Brother: Dwi Ferawati and Muh Khoirul Umam
  - 3. All of My Big Family

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   Thanks for everything you have given to me.

Finally, the writer realizes that there are some errors in writing this graduating paper. Thus, the writer really allows all readers to give suggestions to improve this graduating paper. The last, the writer hopes that this graduating paper can provide the benefits for the readers.

Wassalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

Yogyakarta, 12 July 2016

MOH SAIFULLOH

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#### **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

In the modern era, movie becomes a popular culture which included in literary works. The way of communication change every time, movie gives new ways to communication and give new knowledge about the world. As written in Cultural Studies, Thompson said that

"We should not be off guard in a note the fact that in a world increasingly overrun by media industry products, the main arena of the completely new has been created for the process of clearing themselves. This is the arena that is able to deal with temporal constraints applicable within and spatial interaction face-to-face and for its global expansion television and accessibility; it is increasingly possible for many individuals all over the world". (Chris Barker, 2000: 276).

The writer chooses movie as an object of study because movie gives the visualization and cinematography effect to make the audience know what the producer want to show. The combination of image, movement, and sound is obviously something quite mysterious in its effects on human beings, almost magical, often describe as a kind of doubling of life itself, a form of immortality, a permanent and permanently fascinating mirror. (Thomas Elsaesser and Warren Buckland, 2002: 1).

Literary works in previous era are identical with prose, poem, and play which mostly about tragedy, comedy, and romance. Movie is considered as a new media of literary works that serves many various genres: fiction, action, horror, documentary, comedy, adopted from novel and many more. As soon as the

cinema began to see itself as a narrative entertainment, the idea of adopting the novel that already established of narrative fiction as source material got underway, and the process has continued more or less unabated for ninety years (McFarlane, 1996:6).

One of genres in movie is drama. The discipline of drama impulses to depict human experiences, communicate understanding about these experiences, and give them form and meaning.

Drama is a powerful mode of expression that has evolved over time to include a variety of forms and techniques. It seeks to bridge the real and the imagined, the concrete and the symbolic, the practical and the inspired. Drama is an interactive, creative process that engages students in relationships with others and the environment (Drama 11 and 12: Movie and Television, 2011:1).

The drama genre puts a lot more implications in act and represented by a real life because an education in drama provides students with opportunities to examine human experiences through imagined roles and situations and to value the essential contribution of drama in bringing meaning to ideas and feelings. Christopher Russell Reaske defines drama in his book *How Analyze Drama*, as a work of literature or a composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various of and dialogues between a group of character (1966: 05).

In this research, the writer chooses a *Life of Pi* movie as object study. *Life of Pi* movie is one of the best movies in America made by Fox 2000 Picture. *Life of Pi* movie has won a best cinematography, best visual effect, best direction and best original score in Academy Awards 2013. *Life of Pi movie* directed by Ang

Lee was released on November 21, 2012. This movie was adapted from a novel by Yann Martel that was released in 2001 and successfully adapted by David Magee. *Life of Pi* movie gives a different feeling to the audiences, the audiences are invited include into a movie with a complex story.

Life of Pi movie, tells about the journey of a young man named Pi Patel who survives from the accident of ship in the middle of ocean with a tiger as long as 227 days. Pi survives alone in the middle of ocean without knowing what he must do and doesn not know whether he can keep alive or die. In another side, there is tiger named Richard Parker that also keeps survive from the accident. Not only for himself, Pi also helps Richard Parker to keep survive until Pi and Richard Parker strands at Mexico beach.

In the *Life of Pi* movie, a lot of problems are presented and they make the movies become more interesting to review. In this reserach, the writer focuses on Pi's struggle to keep survives in the middle of ocean with Richard Parker. The struggle of Pi is in the middle of ocean without anyone and he is just accommpanied by Richard Parker. To analyze properly, the writer uses structuralism as theory. Basically, structuralism is a theory used to analyze a structure of language in sentence. But in the reality, structuralism can be used to discuss other disciplines especially literary works. According to Culler, the language that people speak determines of what people think. It means that thought of one language can be expressed in another media. (Culler, 1997:59).

Besides the major analysis of Life of Pi movie, the writer finds Islamic perspective in relation to survive. It is stated in Q.S Ar-Ra'd verse 11:

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا (٢) وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى (اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَالِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا (٣

"To one who fears God, He will grant a way out [of his difficulties] 3 and God will provide for him from an unexpected source; God suffices for anyone who puts his trust in Him. God will surely bring about what He decrees. He has set a measure for all things."

The verse above explains the current condition of people who try hard and never give up, God will give the way out from the problems and give all that the human needs. Like in the movie, after the accident which sinks the Pi's family's ship and Pi's must be alone to survive, Pi feels depressed. It makes Pi struggle alone in the middle of the sea without knowing what he must do.

## 1.2 Research Question

The writers make a question that becomes a subject matter on the research:

How is the portrayal of Pi's struggle to survive in *Life of Pi* movie?

## 1.3 Objectives of Study

Objective of the study is to find out the portrayal of Pi's struggle to survive.

### 1.4 Significances of Study

This research has some significances, namely:

1) Theoretically, the main objective of this study is to determine the purpose of *Life of Pi* through the story of Pi Patel in the movie. This movie shows how the main character in the movie, Pi Patel survives after he lives alone in the middle of ocean with a tiger. This movie is adapted from the best novel of Yann Martel *Life of Pi*.

## 2) Practical significances:

- a. For students, the writer hopes that it can support the sudents to know more about the theory which writer uses.
- b. For lecturers, it can be used for some supporting sources about Pi's struggle in *Life of Pi* movie.
- c. For common people, it invites them to watch the *Life of Pi* movie and to enrich knowledge about the way of Pi's struggle in the movie.

#### 1.5 Literary Review

Life of Pi movie has previously been examined by one of students at Sanata Dharma University, named Rendy Yoewono with his paper "The Messages Revealed through the Main Character's Ways to Survive in Yann Martel's Life of PI". In his paper, Rendy describes a boy who is swayed in the Pacific Ocean along with a tiger beast. Rendy explains the efforts of the boy who struggles to survive.

In his paper, Rendy has three problems to review. The first problem is the portrayal of the main character, Pi Patel in the movie. The second is the issue about how the main character survives in the pressure. The third is the messages conveyed by the main character in his efforts rescuing him selves. But Rendy prefers to discussing the ways and efforts of the main character to survive. In the manufacture of his paper, Rendy uses library research method because all the required data obtained from books or the internet. Rendy uses formalistic approach for his more focus on elucidating the intrinsic elements of literary works. It will be different from the analysis of the writer refers it in the same theme. In this research, the writer puts focus on the fear experienced by Pi.

Besides Rendy, the *Life of Pi* movie also has been researched by three lecturers of English Department of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, they are Danial Hidayatullah, Fuad Arif Fudiartanto, and Dwi Margo Yuwono with their paper *Semiotika Multikulturalisme dalam Novel Life of PI Karya Yann Martel*. They explain about the multiculturalist's aspects in their journal. They say that Pi is a protagonist quieter of multiculturalism, even he is so far from hero's categories. There are two theories that they use in the analysis such as semiotic and objective as a theoretical approach. The differences of the writer research with their research is in the object focus analsis where the writer focuses on the movie wheresas the three lecturers focus on the novel.

This research focuses on the main characters, Pi Patel finds the struggle of Pi's in the middle of ocean. This research also chooses the movie as the object of

the research. This is different from another research which focuses on symbolic on Life of Pi story and also objects study to research.

### 1.6 Theoretical Approach

Since the writer analyzes the character which is one of structures of the movie, the writer uses structuralism theory as a basic theory for discussion.

#### 1.6.1 Structuralism Theory

Structuralism is a theory of language was founded by Ferdinand de Saussure. Saussure rejects the idea that language is a word heap gradually accumulated over time and that its primary function is to refer to things in the world (Selden, 2005: 63). According to Saussure, words are a sign which has two aspects: the signifier (what is written or spoken) and the signified (what is thought when the word is written or spoken). It means that the meaning is perceived not through the words relation to something but in understanding it as a part of system of relationship, as a part of a sign system (Carter, 2006: 42).

In the reality, structuralism used to analyze a structure of language in sentence. But now, sturcturalism can be used to discuss another discipline especially literary works. According to Culler, the language that people speak determine what people think. It means that thought of one language can be expressed in another media (Culler, 1997:59).

### 1.6.2 Movie Theory

Since the object of study in this research is movie, the theory movie is used as the secondary theory. According Thomas and Warren, the aim of theory is to construct different conceptual perspectives on movie, each informed by a specific set of values. The cognitive and psychoanalytic movie theorists focus on the specific nature of the interface between movie and spectator; either the way a movie addresses unconscious desire and fantasies, or the knowledge and competence spectators employ to comprehend movies. (Thomas Elsaesser and Warren Buckland, 2002: 5)

The writer uses theory of cinematography as the supporting data in the. Amy Vilarejo in his book *Film Studies: The Basics* (2007, 28-38) written some basic of film analysis as bellows:

- 1. The Extreme Long Shot (ELS), covers a wide area, including the human figure and environment.
- 2. The Long Shot (LS), the focus is the subject but the background still visible;
- 3. The Medium Long Shot (MLS), frames the whole subject from knees up;
- 4. The Medium Shot (MS), frames the whole subject from the waist up;
- 5. The Medium Close-Up (MCU), frames the subject from chest up;
- 6. The Close-UP (CU), frames the subject, especially the face;
- 7. The Extreme Close-Up (ECU), frames just the person's facial features;

The theory of film helps the writer to make great deal between the writer and and the readers. It will help the readers more clearly to understand it.

#### 1.7 Method of Research

### **1.7.1** Type of Research

This research uses qualitative research in completing the final paper. According to Mack, "The qualitative method is a method which allow greater spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the study participant" (Mack: 4). The writer does library visit and web browsing to get data in several books and e-books which researcher needed. Therefore, the writer also finds some journals in order to get sufficient and necessary data to analyze the movie.

#### 1.7.2 Data Sources

In this research, the writer uses two data resources; the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data are *Life of Pi* movie and movie script. The secondary data is document that relates to the analysis of movie which are available in the library or available in the internet to help the writer..

#### 1.7.3 Method of Collecting Data

In this collecting data, the writer uses the documentation. It is done by the writer like movie documentation, library research and surfing internet. First is movie documentation, it means that the writer watch the movie and read the script

in order to mark the important acts and dialouges. Second is the library research, it means by doing any collecting data from many literary books by browsing any supporting website from internet. The important data such as the movie record, the movie review, the movie theory, and books relating to stucturalism theory.

## 1.7.4 Method of Analyzing Data

This step is the most important in the research. In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to analysis data. This research is divided into three steps.

- a. The main source of data, "Life of Pi" screen play and finding the actions and dialouges that relate to the research. Then, the writer makes the list of data, selects the data that deal with the problem and excludes the data that are unnecessary.
- b. After collecting data and classifying the data, the writer applies theory.
- c. After describing and analyzing, the writer infers the entire to certain conclusion.

#### 1.8 Thesis Organization

This graduating paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which includes background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and thesis organization. The second chapter is instrinsic aspects. The

third chapter is discussing about sturggle of Pi in *Life of Pi* movie. The last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis and suggestion.



#### **CHAPTER IV**

#### **CONSLUSION**

#### 4.1 Conclusion

The objective of this research is to understand the struggle of Pi in *Life of*Pi movie to get a reasonable answer, the writer applies structuralism to analyze in this research.

From the discussion in previous chapters, the writer finds some three points in the struggle of Pi. The first is negotiation with himself. This negotiation is between Pi Patel with his mind, to accept the current of condition and survive to continue his life. The second is negotiation with significant others. This negotiation is among Pi with others animals surrounding Pi. In this research, the writer focuses on the animals which are safe from the ship accident. The last is the negotiation with God. In this negotiation, Pi surrenders from the tests which God has given and give his life to the God, but God gives Pi one change to survive. Pi finally can be safe by landing at Mexico beach.

## 4.2. Suggestion

The writer realizes that this final paper is still far from the perfect one, there are a lot of errors and shortcomings in explaining the struggle of Pi to survive in *Life of Pi* movie. Thus, the writer hopes this final paper is capable of being a reference for anyone who wants to review the same study object and the other researchers should be better to analyze the similar of objects of the research

especially in the structuralism analysis and identity theory to reveal Pi's existence in life struggle.



# APPENDICES

# **Negotiation With Self**

No	Scene Shot	Context	Dialouge	Description
1.	00:59:46	Pi stand on the raft	PI (CONT'D): God I	Pi accepts his
	_	and talk to the God	give myself to you. I	condition and ready to
	01:00:02		am your vessel.	start survive in the
			Whatever comes I	middle of ocean.
			want to know. Show	
			me.	
2.	01:09:44	Pi write a number	PI (WRITING - V.O.):	Pi make collect of
	-	of food supplies	93 cans of water	number food supplies
	01:09:49			for survive
3.	01:00:18	Pi reading the	PI (READING - V.O.):	Pi doing anything to
	-	guide book How to	"Set your house in	keep busy
	01:01:07	survive	order and dig in for the	
			battle to survive.	
			Establish a strict	
			schedule for eating,	
			keeping watch and	
			getting rest. Do not	
			drink urine or sea	
			water. Keep busy, but	
			avoid unnecessary	
			exertion. The mind can	
			be kept occupied by	
			playing card games,	
			Twenty Questions, or I	
			Spy. Community	
			singing is another sure-	
			fire way to lift the	
			spirits. Telling stories is	
			highly recommended.	
			Above all, don't lose	
			hope.	
4.	01:43:43	Pi standed on	Adult Pi: By the time	Pi thanksfully can
	-	Mexico beach	we reached the	survive
	01:44:36		Mexican shore, I was	
			afraid to let go of the	
			boat. My strength was	
			gone. I was so weak. I	
			was afraid that in two	
			feet of water, so close	

to deliverance, I would drown. I struggled to shore and fell upon the	
shore and fell upon the sand. It was warm and soft, like pressing my face against the cheek of God. And somewhere two eyes were smiling at having	
me there.	

# Negotiation with Significant Other's

No	Scene Shot	Context	Dialouge	Description
1.	00:47:46	Pi sit on the boat	PI (CONT'D):	Pi recieve Orang Utan
	-	recieve orang utan	Welcome to Pi's ark!	which also save from
	00:47:48			the accident to join
				with him on the boat
2.	00:50:00	Pi sit far away	PI: No! Stop it! Stop	Pi try to stop the
	_	from the animals	it! No! Stop it! Stop	animals which kill
	00:50:17		it! NO!!! NO!!! NO!!!	each others but he
	01.00.15			scare to do it.
3.	01:20:47	Pi sit on his raft	PI (WRITING -	Pi feel peace and
	-	and feeling peace	V.O.): I never thought	don't scare anymore
	01:21:30		a small piece of shade	with Richard Parker.
			could bring me so	
			much happiness. That	
			a pile of tools – a bucket, a knife, a	
			pencil might become	
			my greatest treasures.	
			Or that knowing	
			Richard Parker was	
			here might ever bring	
			me peace. In times	
			like these, I remember	
			that he has as little	
			experience of the real	
			world as I do. We	
			were both raised in a	
			zoo by the same	
			master. Now we've	
			been orphaned, left to	
			face our ultimate	
			master together.	

			Without Richard	
			Parker, I would have	
			died by now. My fear	
			of him keeps me alert.	
			Tending to his needs	
			gives my life purpose.	
4.	01:05:07	Pi give Richard	PI (V.O.): Tigers are	Pi prepare all of food
	_	Parker food	powerful swimmers,	supplies for Richard
	01:05:28		and, if he gets hungry	Parker.
			enough, I'm afraid the	
			little bit of water	
			between us won't be	
			any protection. I need	
			to find a way to feed	
			him. God made tigers	
			carnivores, so I must	
			learn to catch fish. If I	
			don't, I'm afraid his	
			last meal will be a	
			skinny vegetarian boy.	
5.		Pi try to tame	PI (V.O.): I can't risk	Pi try to tame Richard
<i>J</i> .		Richard Parker	my life every time. I	Parker. So Pi can be
		Richard Farker	have to climb onto the	don't afraid anymore
			boat for supplies. It's	to Richard Parker and
			time to settle this. If	can save from his
			we're going to live	condition and also
			together, we have to learn to communicate.	keep Richard Parker
				keep alive.
			Maybe Richard Parker	
			cannot be tamed, but	
			with God's will, he	
			can be trained.	

# **Negotiation with God**

No	Scene Shot	Context	Dialouge	Description
1.	01:28:52	Pi talk to the God	PI (CONT'D: WHY	Pi surrender with God,
	_	in the middle of	ARE YOU SCARING	submit with his
	01:29:06	storm	HIM! I'VE LOST MY	condiition and make
			FAMILY - I'VE	peace with God.
			LOST	_
			EVERYTHING! I	
			SURRENDER!	
			WHAT MORE DO	
			YOU WANT?	

2.		Pi and Richard Parker dying after the storm	PI: We're dying, Richard Parker. I'm sorry. Amma, Appa, Ravi - I'm happy I'm going to see you soon. (Pause) Can you feel the rain? God, thank you for giving me my life. I'm ready now.	Pi submit his life to God. Pi lost his hope to survive and he ready to meet his family.
3.	01:43:08 - 01:43:41	Pi continue his journey to survive with Richard Parker	PI (V.O): No one has ever seen that floating island since; you won't read about those trees in any nature book. And yet if I hadn't found those shores, I would have died. And if I hadn't discovered that tooth, I would have been lost, alone forever. Even when God seemed to have abandoned me, He was watching. Even when He seemed indifferent to my suffering, He was watching. And when I was beyond all hope of saving, He gave me rest, then gave me a sign to continue my journey.	God save Pi and Richard Parker with mysterious island. Than Pi collect some food supplies for him and Richard Parker, then Pi continue his journey to survive.

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