

DECONSTRUCTION IN MOVIE ENTITLED GRETEL AND HANSEL

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to find out Plot deconstruction in Gretel Hansel movie storyline compared to the original story and Characterization of Hansel Gretel deconstruction in Gretel Hansel character movie compared to the original story. The data analysis technique in this study used literature study technique by collecting dialogue and proofs, then combine with descriptive qualitative as a research method. By using those method and technique, the result showed that the plot has deconstructed Gretel and Hansel movie into horror and thriller atmosphere. The idea was to, look for the opposition binaries and analyse Gretel and Hansel character. The deconstruction of plot took place with the background of Gretel and Hansel where they lived with their mother, without a father and there is no scene when Hansel leaving a mark in a street as used to be in original story. The deconstruction of character also existed on Gretel and Hansel character, where in movie Hansel is innocent, weak, submissive and coward. While Gretel in movie shown has magic power, brave, clumsy and dominant.

Keywords: *Deconstruction, Movie, Hansel Gretel*

INTRODUCTION

Following the eras development, literary works are contributing in historical facts, humaniores facts, the awareness of culture and many more. In this case, folklore and tales are well-spread by the internet in current times and helping the development in culture and historical aspects. While, folk and fairy tales already done a very long historical record in providing moral education (Lykissas: 2018). Then, folklore and tales only spread by oral tradition and has limited access to the worldwide. All the folklore and tales have their own distinctions that really different from one among the others according to Infoplease online site. Firstly, Legend that formed in a narrative of tribal beginnings, supernatural beings and historical figures (e.g., *King Arthur and his Excalibur Sword*) This type of tales are connected to the fact and concern such a specific time and place. Second is fairy tales, which definitely a fictional narrative story and commonly started with “*once upon a time....*” In this type of tales, there are some creatures like mermaid, fairy, elves, etc (e.g., *Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, The Little Mermaid*) Third is a tales without the existence of human in it but still assuming human personalities, mostly known as animal tales or fable (e.g., *The Turtle and The Hare*) The last one is Myth which related to the gods, giants, heroes and villains’ existence (e.g., *Asterix and Obelix*).

In this study, the writer decided to pick one of the folklores that become a movie entitled Gretel and Hansel aired in 2020. Gretel and Hansel are basically a movie that based on the original story of Hansel and Gretel written by Grimms Brother that publicised in 1812 lots and become popular with the other title e.g., *Little Red Riding Hood, Snow white and Seven Dwarfs*, etc. Hansel and Gretel storyline according to Grimms Brother is a story about a woodcutter, his wife which a step mother for the children, one son, and one daughter, Hansel and Gretel. The woodcutter’s wife planned to tricked the children and want to

abandon them in the middle of the forest to avoid starving. Luckily, the step mother's plan is heard by Hansel and Gretel in their bedroom.

The story continues and shows how clever Hansel and Gretel are, since they start to collecting pebbles. The next day, their parents ask Hansel and Gretel to follow into the woods and then abandon them there. Little did they know, while walking Hansel left the pebbles on the way home, and they wait until the moon shine on the pebbles and show the way. They finally returned home safely but the step mother will do the second attempt on the other day. Unluckily, this time Hansel cannot collect pebbles, so he takes a slice of bread instead. This time they fail to make their way home and get lost in the woods, together. Long story short, they found a home full of foods, but they did not know the fact that there is a witch wanted to eat Hansel but failed because Hansel and Gretel tricked them. This story basically tells about how clever Hansel and Gretel in facing a trouble, and how brave they are in defending their self when being kidnapped by the witch.

Hence, by analysing the movie the writer depicted some deconstruction that existed inside the movie. Deconstruction in literary works is allowed people to improving their thinking skills, literature appreciation skills, and awareness of cultural problems. The term of "*deconstruction*" was first used by French philosopher named Jacques Derrida in the late 1960s, and its successfully gained popularity in America in the 1970s and 1980s. Jacques Derrida was an actual well-known figure behind deconstruction discourse in the philosophy aspect of post-structuralism. Simply, the definition of deconstruction itself according to Jacques Derrida as well explained by Mishra that deconstruction seeks to find out the differences, contradictions, paradoxes, ambiguity, and disintegration inside of literature works and its mean that literature works has multiple meanings (Mishra: 2018).

While movie according to (Stanley: 2012) is an audio-visual medium to delivering a message to a crowd of people who have gathered together in one place. Movies are viewed as a medium of mass communication that is effective against the masses, who are the target, due to their audio-visual nature, which allows them to convey a lot in a short amount of time. When viewing a movie, the audience has the impression that they may move through time and space, telling tales and even having an impact on them.

Therefore, the writer aimed this study to find out; 1) Plot deconstruction in Gretel Hansel movie storyline compared to the original story. 2) Characterization of Hansel Gretel deconstruction in Gretel Hansel character movie compared to the original story. To make it happen and finally answering the writer's curiosity above, the writer using descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method is a process of inquiry that aimed at the human understanding behaviour by building complex, holistic pictures of the social and cultural setting in which such behaviour occurs and existed. It done by analysing words rather than numbers, and by put the report in a detailed views of the people who have been studied before (Latief, Mohammad Adnan: 2019). In a simple way is a way to elaborates the results of the data finding in a clearer way and form of paragraph.

In supporting the method, there were some stages that used by the writer in collecting the data as follows:

1. Watching the Gretel and Hansel movie on Idlix which an online streaming platform.
2. Take a note which part of scene that might consist a deconstruction.
3. Mark and screen captured the scene on the Gretel and Hansel movie.

After collecting the data, the writer decided to analyse the data by literature study until finally put the chosen scene in finding and discussion by following some stages:

1. Re-watch the Gretel and Hansel movie on Idlix and pay more attention in the dialogue and situation that occurs in movie.

2. Opening the original story of Hansel and Gretel as a guide to find out which part is deconstructed in the movie.
3. Analysing the scene and dialogue following the movie situation and make a note to put in finding and discussion.
4. Drawing a conclusion towards the data.

During the analysis data, the writer also looks for some previous study that related to deconstruction as a guide in analysing and learning more complex about deconstruction. The writer found out some article that discuss about deconstruction in movie. The first one came from Alya Safira and Eni Nur Aeni (2020) article entitled “*Deconstruction of Peter Pan’s Character in Edward Kitsis’ and Adam Horowitz’s Once Upon a Time, Season Three*” which explained about the deconstruction of Peter Pan Character, for example is Peter Pan honest personality deconstructed into manipulative, fearless into fearful, etc. The second article came from Eno Nur Hasanah (2022) article entitled “*A Deconstruction of Characters in Spongebob Movie: Sponge on The Run*” that explain the deconstruction from characters in Spongebob movie which same with the previous article, but Eno in this article explain more complex about the character deconstruction and give the evidence with the screen capture. After learned and read the article above, the writer realize that this study has something that makes it different with the other study. The difference is on the way the researcher above is only focusing on character deconstruction while the writer here is also finding out the plot or storyline deconstruction in movie of Gretel and Hansel.

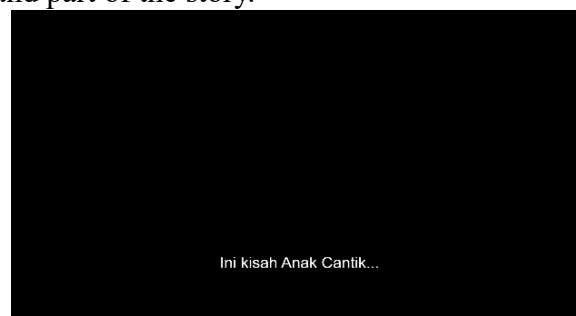
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Inside the movie of Gretel and Hansel that released on 2020 shows a plot and characterization that are different from what the writer have been read in the original story of Hansel and Gretel, written by Grimms Brother in 1812 and already deconstructed into brand new story in form of movie that are not safe for kids and can not be included as fairy tales anymore. Here, the writer elaborates the deconstruction of plot and characterization that divided into two parts to ease the understanding.

Plot deconstruction of Hansel and Gretel

As what has been explained above that the storyline in movie Gretel and Hansel have been deconstructed, the writer put some screen capture to support the explanation.

In the opening scene on (00:46) the narrator says that, this is about a beautiful girl with a strange gift which a powerful sight and magic she gained from the dark enchantress because of her father want her to survive from an illness and lived. It shows with the narrator dialogue in Picture 1.1, “*It’s the story of a beautiful child with a little pink cap.*” This mean that there is a deconstruction occurs to the plot, on the original story the beautiful child with a pink cap is not existed and part of the story.



Picture 1.1

In minute (07:55) shows a scene where Gretel sat with her mother and her mother told her that Hansel and Gretel cannot live in that house. This is due to their house is already full of a greedy ghost that is not clear enough what her mother meant in saying that. The dialogue continues with Gretel mother said that their father who already passed away will sit there in the dining chair for not so long. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 1.2, “*Your father sits right there.*” This is the evidence of plot deconstruction, where in the original storyline their father is still alive and will live happily ever after with Hansel and Gretel in the end. The one who passed away in original story is the witch and their step mother.



Picture 1.2

In duration (01:12:15) shows a scene where the witch background is revealed. Fact that the witch is actually the mother of the little girl with pink cap who got power by eating her own child and take off the limitation through anything. It shows in the dialogue of Picture 1.3, “*I eat my children, so hungry was I to realise my own power.*” This is evidence of deconstruction, since in the original story the witch’s background where did she got her power is not revealed clearly.



Picture 1.3

In duration (01:14:22) shows a scene where Hansel is hypnotized by the witch and the witch is commanding him to give Gretel a goodnight kiss before the witch planned to burn and eat Hansel, but failed. It shows on the dialogue in Picture 1.4, “*Go kiss your sister goodnight.*” This is the proof of plot deconstruction where in the original story Hansel is not give Gretel a goodnight kiss and did not hypnotize by the witch power, instead Hansel is fully conscious in fighting against the witch with Gretel and their intelligence in pushing away the witch into the oven and then burned her in the oven.



Picture 1.4

In minute (01:18:57) shows a scene where Gretel told Hansel that they will be separated from now on due to Gretel owns a power that kind of same with the witch and did not mean to hurt her brother in the future. This is the last time Gretel see Hansel and after the scene, Hansel is taken away by a horse. It shows on the dialogue in Picture 1.5, “*A single story that we shared now splits in two, let me take the forking paths.*” This is evidence of deconstruction in plot which on the original story Hansel and Gretel will be together until the end and live happily ever after with their father and because of the witch wealth now they are not starving anymore.



Picture 1.5

Original Characterization of Hansel and Gretel

The writer has been read the original version of Hansel and Gretel by Grimms Brother and found out that Hansel character is brave, smart, uneasily to give up on the situation, dominant, lovely and responsible to his sister. While, Gretel character is wise, has no magic power, submissive, and innocent. All of that are according to the analysis from the dialogue and conversation line in Hansel and Gretel original story.

Character deconstruction of Hansel

Same with the plot or storyline explanation, here is the character deconstruction the writer put some screen capture from the scene to support the argument and explanation.

In minute (11:51) shows that Hansel ask Gretel to help him during the scary scene where they are getting hunted by a strange creature. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 2.1, “*Gretel! Help! Get him out of me!*” Which shows Hansel inability to deal with the strange creature by himself and needed Gretel assistance to get him out and set Hansel free from the creature.



Picture 2.1

In minute (09:58) shows a scene where Hansel and Gretel had expelled from their home and walk in the woods. In this scene, Hansel ask his sister the time they can go back to their mother like before without knowing the fact that they already expelled and need to go to the monastery. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 2.2, “*When we go back to mother?*” which shows how innocent Hansel in that situation because he had no idea what have been going on to him and his sister.



Picture 2.2

In minute (16:35) shows a scene where Hansel and Gretel in the woods after dark and then Hansel said that he is scared because it is already dark and quiet. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 2.3, “*Gretel, I’m scared*” which shows how fearful Hansel was in that situation and he is a coward that afraid and scared of the darkness.



Picture 2.3

Character deconstruction of Gretel

In minute (01:14:58) shows a scene where Gretel are convincing her brother even, he is hypnotized by the witch but Gretel will set him free after promise to him. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 3.1, “*That is my forever promise to you,*” which makes Gretel more

dominant in this scene because the one that will help Hansel is Gretel and because she has power to do it.



Picture 3.1

In minute (19:59) shows a scene where Hansel and Gretel are hungry after a whole day in the woods and they found mushrooms there. In this scene, Gretel made up her own thought that the mushrooms are edible and fine to eat. But in the end, they made a mistake and got delusional because of the mushrooms side effect. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 3.2, “*Strange but I think it says, eat me,*” which shows how clumsy Gretel was to think that the mushrooms are edible and fine to eat without causing any side effects to them after ate it.



Picture 3.2

In minute (01:21:46) shows a scene where Gretel finally realise about her destiny and her own path to control her magical power. This is aimed to avoid bad things that might happened like before with the witch and required braveness and strong determination. It shows with the dialogue in Picture 3.3, “*And all that was required for me is to be brave,*” which makes Gretel become powerful since she already has magical power (supranatural gifts) that she needed to manage in a correct way.



Picture 3.3

CONCLUSION

In the movie Gretel and Hansel they are expelled by their mother, meet a witch which the mother of little girl with a pink cap that gain power by eat her own children, and then needed to separate because Gretel has a strange power too. While in the character deconstruction, from the original story Gretel character is wise, has no magic power, submissive, and innocent, in other side Hansel character is brave, smart, uneasily to give up on the situation, dominant, lovely and responsible to his sister. All of those character of Hansel and Gretel deconstructed into the opposite in the movie of Gretel and Hansel. Which make Gretel has magic power, brave, clumsy and dominant. While, Hansel character deconstructed into innocent, weak, submissive and coward.

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