CHAPTER 4
DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter is intended to answer the questions mentioned in problem formulation. The writer has the elements of the film which match parts of the Narrative Theory. Then, the writer explained which elements the story used and categorized them according to the stages mentioned by Todorov.

Unlike other films which may only have one linear stage from the equilibrium until the new equilibrium, Avatar is a unique film which have two parallel stages. This is likely to happen because the Avatar has two kinds of perspectives when it is seen from the main character, Jake Sully.

The first perspective is when he becomes his real self, Jake Sully, who is a paraplegic marine. A person from Earth who is sent to Pandora as a replacement for his brother. He is the person who has the job to be a scientist under Dr. Augustine’s lead and is also secretly ordered by Colonel Miles to learn about the Na’vi and so the army can use the info to defeat them if there is any war between the human and the Na’vi.

The second perspective is when the main character becomes a Na’vi, Jakesully. It seems like there is no difference between Jake Sully and Jakesully, but actually they have differences in the way they are pronounced. The Na’vi call Sully by Jakesully. In this perspective, the main character is not a paraplegic anymore. He is a perfect individual who can use his legs and have the body strength as good as the real Na’vi.
4.1 The Equilibrium Stage

The equilibrium stage in *Avatar* is following Todorov’s theory, which is in the beginning of the film. The writer divides his explanation of equilibrium stage in Avatar into two parts, on the space setting and the main character. The main character is then divided again into the equilibrium stage when the main character becomes Jack Sully and when he becomes Jakesully, a Na’vi.

4.1.1 The Equilibrium Stage : Space Setting

The first stage of Todorov’s narrative theory is the equilibrium stage. It is a stage that usually appears at the beginning of a film. It is a stage when everything should be in a calm situation and everything is just fine. In this stage, the characters and the situation are introduced. Therefore, it can also be said that this stage is the movie introduction.

Todorov’s equilibrium stage in this film happens when the film shows a view of a foggy forest. The view is a bird’s eye view. Then there is a narrator which then tells the viewers that the foggy forest view is actually only a dream. The narrator says that the dream is absurd because he feels like he can fly in that dream.

Then narrator tells himself that like any other dream, the person has to wake up. The narrator opens his eyes and there is a view of a man staying inside a box. The unique thing is that there are some drops of water floating around.
Figure 4.1
Awaken Jack Sully is introduced to the viewers while he is looking at the floating drops of water (01:12). The drops of water are used to introduce the setting of the film. Things will not float around like that if it is not in the place with zero gravity. The movie shows its viewers that the setting of place will be somewhere related with the space.

Figure 4.2
The spaceship which brought Sully and the other crews is not visible. The introduction of the setting of place is strengthened by the image of the huge spaceship. The spaceship has brought the people for around 5 years and put people in...
sleeping state in cryo. It is a kind of frozen sleep in which people don’t awake at all and do not eat or drink either.

The scene about the spaceship and the background of Sully as the main character here are calm and normal which are the characteristics of equilibrium stage (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969). In this scene, it is totally showing the setting of place that becomes the background of the film. The setting of the place is called by Bordwell & Thompson (2010) as the space. It is a place where the story begins. However, this place will not be the main setting of place later in the film.

4.1.2 The Equilibrium Stage: Jake Sully and Jakesully

4.1.2.1 The Equilibrium Stage: Jake Sully

One of the soldiers, Jake Sully, is brought to Pandora to help secure the unobtanium. He is a paraplegic who lost the use of his legs in an earlier battlefield injury. He is brought in to replace his dead twin brother. Sully is chosen because he and his brother are identical twins with the same genetic structure, so the corporation can assume his brother’s Avatar body, combined with his military background, can be useful for his selection for the project.
Figure 4.3 Sully is ready to be stationed in the headquarters. The Equilibrium stage appears when the film shows Sully in a box for the first time. It is another calm situation for Sully. He is stationed to a base where he will be ordered to be one of the Avatars. The calmness of the scene matches with the thing equilibrium stage (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969). He is so curious to see everything in Pandora like the gigantic vehicle the human use, and the robotic ride which can be driven by a marine inside it. Although he is not familiar with the new place, everything seems fine for him.

4.1.2 The Equilibrium Stage: Jakesully

One of the equilibrium stages happens when the main character becomes the Na’vi. It is shown when Sully’s mind is transferred to the body of his brother’s Avatar as a Na’vi for the first time. This scene happens in the lab.
Figure 4.4 Sully is wriggling his toes when he becomes a Na'vi.

Sully has to lie down inside a kind of special coffin and wait for his mind to be transferred and synchronized into the Avatar body. He is not a paraplegic anymore when he becomes a Na'vi. He can wriggle his toes. It makes him happy because he can no longer feel his legs in his real body. The first time he is in his Na'vi body, Jake is not like the other people who just stay in the lab and pass the adaptation process. Jake is so happy that he has legs which he can use for running, and so he runs out of the lab happily and enthusiastically.

This stage is also showing to the viewers the comparison between the height of a human body and a Na'vi. It can be seen that a Na'vi can be as tall as the height of three humans. They also have really fit and slender bodies with good muscles which enable them to have outstanding physical abilities. Jake can run really fast and jump really high when he becomes a Na'vi.

Another thing which is introduced to the viewers is the Na'vi's tail. It is shown when Jake accidentally hits the lab equipment when he first enters his Avatar...
body. He can not really control his tail and hits the equipments. Later in the film, it will be shown that the tail has the function to connect a Na’vi to the animal which they tame. When the tail is connected, the Na’vi can fully control the animal. There are two animals which the Na’vi usually uses; they are a horse and a banshee.

4.2 The Disruption Stage

The disruption stage in Avatar is following Todorov’s theory, which happens after the beginning stage of the film finished. It is the stage when the calmness and peacefulness that the characters had experienced in the equilibrium stage starts to be disturbed. The problems begin but the characters do not really consider it as a big problem.

4.2.1 The Disruption Stage of Jake Sully

In this stage, Jake Sully starts to experience the problem as a human. He is underestimated by the army because of his inability to walk and his fellow scientists because he does not know anything about the Avatar program. Furthermore, he also gets a secret job from Colonel Miles who wants him to get detailed information about Na’vi. Knowing about Na’vi will help human to defeat Na’vi if there is a war between the human and the Na’vi. The detailed explanations are as follows:

4.2.1.1 Underestimated by the fellow army

Pandora is a truly beautiful place. Although the plant and the nature look different from how they are on Earth, all of them are so pretty. However, that beauty does not mean that Pandora is a friendly place to live, especially for human. The air is
poisonous for human and the animals are so wild. Not only that, things can be worse when the human have troubles with the Na’vi. All those things make Pandora a difficult place to live on for even a normal person with no disability. Jake Sulley, who is paraplegic, can not move his legs and needs wheelchair to move himself. His condition makes his fellow army underestimate him so much. It can be seen from the picture when some of the army underestimate Sully. One of them even say that Sully is like the meals on wheels. It means that Sully will be just like the meal on a wheelchair who will be easily becomes the victim of Pandora's wilderness. This scene is a disruption stage because there is a problem which arises but it is not really felt by the main character. As a marine who is sent out from the Earth to Pandora, it will be good to have a good relationship with his fellow army friends. The good relationship itself can only present when there is the feeling of respecting each
other. However, eversince the army underestimate Jake Sully and see him only as a future victim, there will be no good relationship in there. Some of them meet Sully when they are walking their robotic suits while Sully is cruising in his wheel chair. The army are not even patiently enough to wait and let Sully pass with his chair first and even intend to hit Sully if Sully did not move away. For Sully himself, he does not seem to bother these things. He seems like enjoying his new place.

4.2.1.2 Underestimated by the fellow scientist

Jake is not a scientist from the very beginning. He is a marine. However, things change when his twin brother passed away. He has to replace his brother’s position to run his brother’s Avatar. Since Sully’s brother is a scientist, Sully also has to work with the other scientist. To run his brother’s Avatar may not be a big problem for Sully because all he needs to do is get inside a special coffin. It is different from when he is demanded to replace his brother’s position as a scientist. He does not have any knowledge about either the Na’vi or the Pandora. All these things make Dr. Augustine, the leader of the scientists group, gets angry.
Figure 4.6 Dr. Augustine refuses to grab Sully’s hand. She doubts that Sully will have any use for her. She underestimates him so much that even she refuses to grab Sully’s hand when they first meet in the lab. She said that she knew who he was and she did not need Sully. This scene is a disruption stage because Sully is actually not only assigned to run his brother’s Avatar, but he is also assigned as the scientist. His lack of knowledge in both Na’vi and Pandora makes him have a bad meeting with Dr. Augustine, the leader of the scientists and the Avatar project. She underestimates him so much that she even refuses to grab his hand when Sully introduces himself to Dr. Augustine. However, Sully himself does not really care about that. He is more interested with the Avatar bodies which are floating inside the big glass cylinder as if they are sleeping.

Yeah, yeah. I know who you are, and I don’t need you. I need your brother.
4.2.1.3 Got a hidden job to get the info of the Na'vi to defeat them

Jake Sully is assigned to Pandora as the replacement for his brother’s Avatar. However, he is actually a marine. It is not explained in the film how or what his job is when he becomes a marine on Earth, but Jake comes to Pandora as a marine. He flies with the army flight and follows the army gathering where he meets Colonel Miles for the first time once he arrives on Pandora.

Miles explains to the soldiers on the briefing Pandora is not a friendly place to live. There is danger when they are not aware therefore Miles orders them to be cautious when they are away from the headquarter. When the briefing finishes, the soldiers are dismissed including Jake. Miles has not approached Jake personally until then, he orders Jake to meet him at the barrack.

Figure 4.7 Col. Miles promises to make Jake able to walk again when Jake finally meets him at the barrack, Col. Miles orders him secretly that he must give the detail information about the Na’vi. Miles think that the Avatar
program is useless. In his opinion, if the human’s purpose is to take the worthy unobtanium, the human should just ask the Na’vi to move out either voluntarily or by force. Knowing that Jake will join the Avatar program, Miles asked him to get the info and get the Na’vi trust. He wants to make Na’vi cooperate with human or even force them if they do not want to.

This scene is a disruption stage because Miles orders Jake to be his informant. He is sure that the human’s purpose of getting the unobtanium will not be accomplished if they want to achieve the purpose by making the Na’vi move out voluntarily. Therefore, Miles needs Jake to get as much information as he can. He promises Jake that giving him the information will benefit Jake because Miles will make Jake able to walk again with the help of the company’s funding. This cause a problem for Jake because he wants his legs back but technically he works for Augustine. His objective is to run for his twin brother’s Avatar, not as the military informant.

Furthermore, the objective given by Miles will be against Augustine’s objective. According to Augustine, it is best to make the Na’vi move voluntarily and the best way to do that is by learning their culture deeper. She hopes that by knowing more about them, it can help the human to formulate some kind of offer to make them move. This situation makes Jake in trouble. If Augustine knows that Jake does something else for the army, she will not hesitate to shut down Jake’s avatar and perhaps send him back to Earth. Jake will not only lose his chance to get his legs back to walk as what Miles promised but he also will not be able to feel like he can walk
again when he becomes the avatar. However, Jake does not think that it is a real problem for him. As long as he carefully does Miles’ secret task, he will not get caught by Augustine. He can be the avatar and when he has accomplished the task he can get his legs back to walk again as promised. He does not really care whether the human will wait until the Na’vi move away voluntarily or by force.

### 4.2.2 The Disruption Stage of Jakesully

This part will explain the disruption stage when Jake is into his avatar body. The Na’vi call him Jakesully. The disruption stage of Jakesully in the film *Avatar* are as follows:

#### 4.2.2.1 Lack of knowledge about the nature of Pandora

Jake’s background as a marine on Earth makes him know nothing about neither Pandora nor the Na’vi. Pandora is a beautiful planet but it does not mean that it is a nice place to live, especially because there live some dangerous animals which camouflage themselves and have big size.

A scene when Jake Sully is in his Avatar body finally lands on the pure nature part of Pandora a disruption stage because Jack’s lack of knowledge cause him trouble. However, Jake is a very brave man. Although he almost gets himself killed, he does not really think that it is a really big problem.
Jake has got his first trouble because of his lack of knowledge related to the animals. He is having his first trip with Augustine out of the headquarter. He soon gets bored when he is waiting for Augustine and Norm to get their samples of the plants. Jake is walking around when he sees some beautiful flowers. He touches some of them and they shrink to the ground followed by other flowers.

Figure 4.8 Jake is looking at a good looking flower and trying to touch it

Jake does not realize that the flower is actually somehow connected with a very big animal with a thick armour which can stand the shoot of a bullet. Augustine notices that situation and asks Jake to just stay on the ground. She also orders Jake not to shoot because it will be useless. However, the animal seems too pissed off. It looks angry and destroys the plants around it. Jake jumps forward to scare it. The animal looks scared and goes backward. Jake thinks that he is successful, but then a big black animal which looks like a panther suddenly tiptoes behind Jake. It jumps in front of Jake and roars to the crowd of the big animals which is about to attack.
It seems that the animal wants to claim Jake as its prey and that no one other than the animal itself should approach Jake.

Figure 4.9 A panther-like animal roars to drive away the other animals. Jake's lack of knowledge brings him to danger more than once. After Jake successfully runs away from the panther-like animal, he feels like he is observed by many animals. He gets a stick and makes some fire with it. His instinct proves to be true. He can see that there are so many animals eying him from the darkness. They are like black dogs with slender body and sharp teeth. Jake does not realise that by making fire, he will attract the animals to attack him because they notice his presence.
Figure 4.10 Neytiri is helping Jake

The first time they attack, Jake can avoid and counter attack them. However, because their number are too many, Jake is pushed to the edge. Fortunately, there is another Na'vi called Neytiri. She notices Jake's presence and senses that Jake is not the real Na'vi as she is. She is about to attack Jake with her arrow when she sees a white floating thing which represents the Eywa which is believed by the Na'vi as their mother nature suddenly flies on her arrow. Neytiri decides not to shoot Jake but to help him get rid of the animals.

4.2.2.2 Hated by many of the Na'vi

Jake's avatar really looks like the real Na'vi. The only real difference is his outfit. When he gets out of the headquarter, Jake wears the human's outfit. It is not clear whether the Na'vi recognizes the difference from Jake's outfit or from his lack of knowledge about the Na'vi culture. The Na'vi call the avatar of Jake, Norman and Augustin as the dreamwalkers. They know that the avatar body is not the real one. The real people are not there but stay inside a special coffin.
Jake is disliked by many of the Na’vi. Even when Neytiri first sees him, she wants to kill him instantly. A Na’vi who hates Jake very much is Tsu’tey’s. He is the chief warrior of the Na’vi. He first meets Jake after Neytiri saves Jake from the dog-like animals. Tsu’tey and his soldiers want to kill Jake in an instant but luckily Neytiri prevents him. She explains that she gets some sign from the Eywa.

This is a disruption stage because Jake’s accomplishment both for Miles and Augustine are all related to how good he can get closer to the Na’vi. The big dislikeness he gets from the Na’vi makes his job more difficult. If the Na’vi hate Jake, he may fail to get the information about their culture and the things that may motivate the Na’vi to move out from their place.

Luckily, Jake is a clever man. When Neytiri scolds him for his stupidity, Jake admits that he knows nothing and asks Neytiri to teach him the culture of Na’vi. Jake is brought to Moat, Neytiri’s mother, who then asks Neytiri to teach everything she
knows about Na’vi to Jake. Moat is also the one who stops the members of her tribe from attacking Jake.

4.3 The Recognition Stage

The recognition stage in Avatar is following Todorov’s theory, which happens after the disruption stage. It is the stage when the characters can really see the problem and feel that the problem has to be solved. On the previous stages, the discussion is divided into two parts because the things faced by both the Jake Sully as a human and a Na’vi are different. However, in this stage, they are not divided into two anymore. In the recognition stage, Jake realizes that he faces the biggest problem in his human side. The problem is when the human starts to lose their patience and declare to forcefully move the Na’vi by attacking them. The detailed explanations are as follows.

Jake’s assignment as the replacement of his brother’s death actually has only one main purpose, which is to get the unobtanium which is located under Na’vi big tree. The problem is that the Na’vi do not want to move away voluntary. The idea to ask the Na’vi to move voluntary is suggested by Dr Augustine. Dr. Augustine proposes a humanic approach to understand the Na’vi and makes an offer based on human’s understanding about the Na’vi. However, Dr Augustine’s approach is slow to take effect. The human beings finally lose their patience and decide to use military force.
Figure 4.12 Jake's figure gets caught by the camera when he is trying to destroy it.

The recognition stage happens when the humans finally decide to attack the Na'vi and force them to move away. Jake, who previously had no problem with the forceful action, cannot let the humans do that action after he has a closer relationship with Neytiri. Jake tries for one more time to convince the Na'vi to move while he is also trying to convince the humans to stop their military action. Jake realizes that if the humans really start their military action, they will destroy the beautiful nature of Pandora and kill many Na'vi.

Trying to be on both sides of the humans and the Na'vi does not bring any good to Jake and his friends who choose to help him. They are punished by the Na'vi because they think that they are traitors. They are also punished by the humans for doing the same thing. They are casted away from their lab so that they cannot access their avatar anymore.
4.4 The Restored Order Stage

The restored order stage in Avatar is following Todorov’s theory, which happens after the recognition stage. It is the stage when the characters work together to solve the problem.

4.4.1 The Restored Order Stage of Jake Sully

4.4.1.1 Jake gets out of the jail and access his avatar body away from the lab

In this stage, Jake Sully starts to solve the problem as a human being. He tries to convince Augustine and the others to do something because if they do not, the human will destroy Pandora to get the unobtanium. He gets away by asking help from Trudy, a kind pilot, who steals the plane and brings away the special coffin to access the avatar’s body. The detailed explanations are as follows:

Figure 4.13 Jake and the others are trying to escape by a plane
Being put in jail because of helping the Na’vi rather than the human, Jake, Norm and Augustine are helpless and cannot do anything. Luckily, Trudy the pilot has the idea to release them from the jail. They manage to escape from the jail but when they want to get into the plane, they are caught on camera. Miles notices it too and he hurriedly gets a gun to shoot them down. He does not manage to stop the plane from flying but his shot hits Augustine and makes her dying.

Jake has no other choice but to ask Neytiri’s mother who is a shaman to help heal Augustine. However, he does not dare to do that yet. The Na’vi hate him and his friends very much. He has to get into his avatar body and tries to tame Toruk, the biggest flying banshee. The continuation of the stage will be explained on the part when Jake is in his avatar body.

4.4.2 The Restored Order Stage of Jakesully

4.4.2.1 Jake becomes a Toruk Macto

In this stage, Jake Sully starts to solve the problem as a Na’vi. He knows that he has done a terrible mistake to the Na’vi because he has told the human the information about Na’vi. The information that convices humans that the Na’vi will never move out from the big tree because it is their houses. The information makes humans decide to attack the Na’vi. Knowing that he will not be forgiven if he just comes and says sorry, Jake remembers that there is a story about Toruk Macto. The detailed explanations are as follows:
Figure 4.14 Jake becomes a Toruk Macto

When Jake realises that he cannot be forgiven if he does not do something to win the heart of the Na'vi, he remembers that he ever heard the story of Toruk Macto, a Toruk rider. Toruk itself is the biggest flying banshee. It is the strongest one too. It is believed that if a Na'vi can be a Toruk Macto, he deserves to be the leader of all the Na'vi clans in the entire Pandora. Jake believes that if he can be the leader of the Na'vi, he can make the Na'vi united and they may have the chance to win the war with the human. Jake realises that human's strength is incomparable to the Na'vi because the human has a far advance weaponry compared to the traditional one owned by the Na'vi.

His opinion proves to be true. Jake can win the Na'vi's heart after becoming a Toruk Macto. He can ask Neytiri's mother to heal Augustine because she is dying. Neytiri's mother accepts Jake's request and starts doing the prayer to move the sick human body of Augustine to her healthy body. However, it was too late. Augustine's injury is too severe. Augustine passes away during that procession. Jake accepts that bitter reality and gathers the Na'vi from different clans by the help of Tsu'tey.
Figure 4.15 Jake is asking for Tsu'tey's favor. Tsu'tey does not like Jake from the very beginning. He even hates Jake more because Jake wins Neytiri's heart. However, Tsu'tey accepts that Jake is the Toruk Macto. He acknowledges Jake and is ready to help Jake for the sake of the Na'vi. Jake with his past experience as the marine does not only gather the Na'vi. He also tries to manage the strategy for them. At first, it seems like the Na'vi has the hope to win against the superior advantage of the human weaponry. However, the weapon's different level is proven too far. It makes the Na'vi pushed to the corner.

You are Olo syktan and you are a great warrior.
Figure 4.16 The Pandora's animals take part in the war. When it seems like the Na'vi are about to be defeated, the animals of the Pandora help the Na'vi to fight back the human. The help of the animals makes the Na'vi able to win the war.

Unfortunately, Jake's coffin is spotted by Miles. He approaches the coffin and wants to kill Jake. Neytiri knows that and tries to stop Miles. Jake comes to stop Miles too, but Miles with his robot is too strong. Jake can defeat Miles in the end, but Miles manages to make a hole in Jake's real body's coffin. It makes Jake suffocate and lose his breath.

4.5 The New Equilibrium Stage

The new equilibrium stage in Avatar happens after the restored order stage. It is the stage when the problems are solved and things go back to normal. This stage is not divided into two because when things go back to normal, Jake as a human does not exist. He permanently becomes a Na'vi.
In this stage, Jake's body is severely injured due to his loss of breath during the battle with Miles. Neytiri finds Jake's body lying outside his hollow special coffin.

Figure 4.17 The procession to transfer Jake's mind permanently to his avatar body.

Jake is dying when Neytiri brings Jake's avatar and Jake's real body to her mother. There is a procession done just like when Neytiri's mother tries to save Augustine. The procession is successful. Jake's life as a human finished. He is not a human anymore.