

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 Narratie Theory. Then, the writereexplained which elements the story used and categorised 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 praplegic anymore. He is a perfect individual who can use his legs and have the body strenght 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.



sleeping state in cryo. It is a kind of frozen sleep in which people do not wake 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 Jake Sully

4.1.2.1 The Equilibrium Stage : Jake Sully

One of the soldiers, Jake Sully is brought to Pandora to help secure the unobtainium. 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.





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



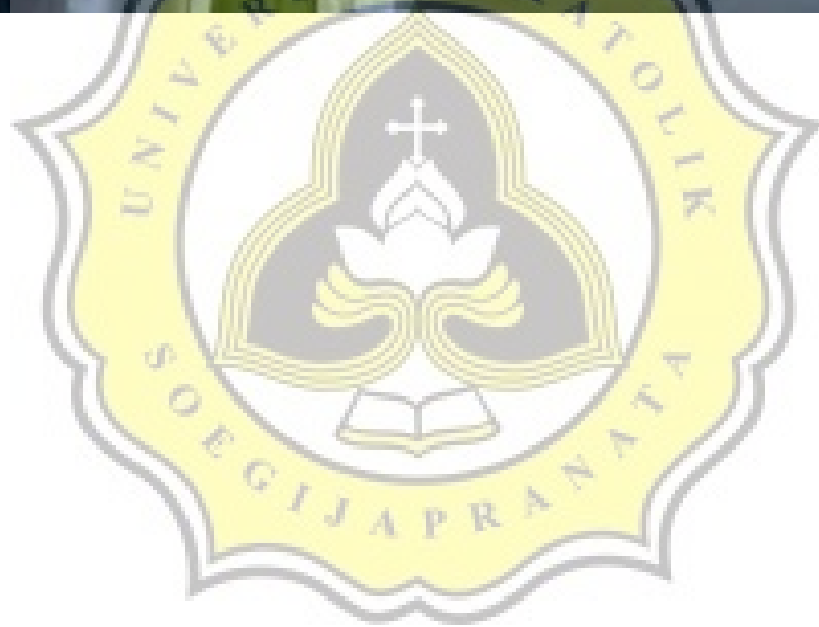
other. However, ever since the army underestimate Jake Sully and see him only as a future victim, there will be no good relationship in there. Some of them meet Sully when they are walking their robotic suits while Sully is cruising in his wheel chair. The army are not even patiently enough to wait and 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.



Yeah, yeah. I know who you are,
and I don't need you. I need your brother.





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 againsts 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.









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 unobtainium which is located under Na'vi big tree. The problem is that the Na'vi do not want to move away voluntarily. The idea to ask the Na'vi to move voluntarily 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.





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 Jake Sully

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 convinces 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:







