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THE STUDY OF TODOROV'S FIVE STAGES OF NARRATIVE ON JAMES CAMERON'S AVATAR

A Thesis

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i

THE STUDY OF TODOROV'S FIVE STAGES OF NARRATIVE ON JAMES CAMERON'S AVATAR

A Thesis

By : [19] [5] [22] [57] ...
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A THESIS APPROVAL

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CAMERON'S AVATAR

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ABSTRACT

There are many genres of films. They can be horror, romance, science-fiction or thriller. However, although there are different genres of films, generally, a film follows five stages as proposed by Todorov in his Narrative Theory. The stages are equilibrium, disruption, realisation, restored order and equilibrium again. The writer in this study used a film titled Avatar as the subject of discussion. The writer watched the film and chose the scenes which were matched with Todorov's Narrative

Theory. There were two perspectives that were used by the writer to categorised a certain scene as the part of the Narrative Theory stage. First was when the main character, Jake Sully, was a human. Second was when the main character got into his Avatar body and became a Na'vi.

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ABSTRAK

Ada banyak jenis film yang dibuat. Film-film itu bisa berupa horor, romansa, fiksi ilmiah, atau thriller. Namun demikian, meskipun ada banyak jenis film, umumnya, sebuah film mengikuti lima tahap seperti yang dipaparkan oleh Todorov dalam Teori Naratifnya. Tahap-tahap itu yakni equilibrium(keseimbangan), disruption(gangguan atas timbulnya masalah), realisation(kesadaran akan adanya masalah), restored order (usaha menyelesaikan masalah) dan equilibrium (keseimbangan) lagi. Penulis pada studi ini menggunakan sebuah film berjudul Avatar sebagai subyek diskusinya. Penulis menonton film tersebut dan memilih adegan-adegan yang sesuai dengan teori Naratif dari Todorov. Ada dua sudut pandang yang digunakan oleh penulis dalam mengategorikan sebuah adegan sebagai bagian dari tahapan teori Naratif. Pertama, ketika karakter utama menjadi Jake Sully yang merupakan seorang manusia. Kedua. Ketika karakter utama masuk ke dalam tubuh Avatarnya dan menjadi seorang Na'vi.

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1

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1. [6] [22] [26] [49] ... 1 Background of the Study

There are many ways to deliver a story to listeners or viewers. [61] [6] [86] [101] ... The ways vary from book to film. Film itself is one of the popular ways. [7] It is shown by the number of people who enjoy a story through films.

Film is popular because people can see visually the details portrayal of a story. The detail can be in the forms of the face expression of the character, the details of the set, and the sound effect. [10] Watching all of those things in film gives its viewers the feeling of 'being' on the set.

When people are watching films, actually there are some aspects of the story that unite to form a good film. They are setting, plot, and characters (Fog, K; Budtz, C; Yakablyu, B, 2001). According to Kaliszewski (2012), setting deals with the location of the scene. Second is the plot. It is about the time framing between one scene to another scene. It can be linearly forward or the combination between both forward and backward. Third is the characters. It is about the actor and actresses who become the characters in the film. If the three things can unite well, then the film will be a good one.

There are many genres of films. They can be horror, romance, science-fiction or thriller. However, although there are different genres of films, generally, a film follows five stages as proposed by Todorov in his Narrative Theory (Todorov, T;

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Weinstein, A, 1969). The stages are equilibrium, disruption, realisation, restored order and equilibrium again.

Todorov (1969) explains that the equilibrium stage shows that the characters have peaceful life and everything runs normal. The disruption stage shows that there is a problem which annoys the characters' life. Realisation is the stage when everyone realises a problem and there will be a chaos. Restored order explain that the characters try to fix the and solve the problems. The last stage is equilibrium. [0] [3] ... It shows that the problem has been solved and everyone can live normal again.

To see the application of Todorov's narrative theory, the writer would use a film titled Avatar as the subject of discussion. It is interesting to analyze Avatar movie using the Narrative Theory proposed by Todorov to find out whether the movie actually follows the plot proposed by Todorov or not. For this study, the writer used Avatar movie because it is a world record movie for the highest ticket sold which then can be assumed that so many people liked it. The film was directed by James Cameron and was released on 18 December 2009. [98] [100] Avatar is a film which has the combination of great story, and wonderful graphic. The story focuses on a soldier Jake Sully who is paraplegic. He is given the opportunity to infiltrate the native race of the distant moon Pandora. [23] In order to do this, his mind is transported into an alien body, an Avatar. [23] However, once he arrived on the planet and is introduced to its spiritual culture by the beautiful Neytiri, he faces a decision. [23] allow his military unit to decimate the planet in search of renewable sources or stay and defend it with the Na'vi race. [23]

1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

This study is in the field of literature especially film.[3] [27] [56] [6] ...

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focus on the application of Todorov's Narrative Theory in Avatarfilm.[3] [27] [95] [30] ...

1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this research, the writer formulates a problem that needs to be answered.[4] [7] [49] [15] ...
The problem is how is Todorov's Narrative Theory applied in Avatar film?

1.5.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Based on the problems formulated above, the writer hada main goal for this study that is to apply Todorov's Narrative Theory in Avatar film.[39] [28] [38] [103] ...

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The writer hopes that the findings of the study will be helpful for the readers to give a better understanding about the plot of the Avatar movie as proposed by Todorov in his Narrative Theory.[50] [32] [60] [43] ...

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1.[0] [3] ... The Narrative Theory

Theory about plot proposed by Todorov explains that in every narrative movie, basically ithas general plot.

CHAPTER 2
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In literature review, the writer explained more about Avatar and the theory that was used to guide the analysis.[28] [58] [30] The main theory relates to The Narrative Theory proposed by Todorov was used to analyse the plot of the Avatar movie and also the character change of the the main character, Jack Sully.

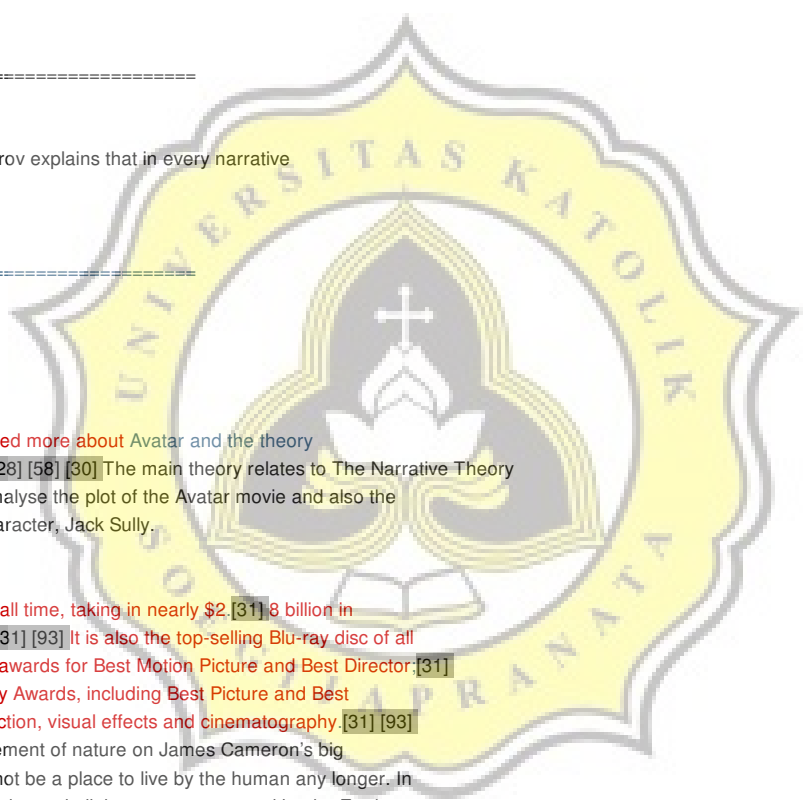
2.1 AVATAR Synopsis

Avatar is the highest grossing film of all time, taking in nearly \$2.[31] 8 billion in worldwide box office(Petrikina, 2014).[31] [93] It is also the top-selling Blu-ray disc of all time.[31] Avatarwon Golden Globe® awards for Best Motion Picture and Best Director.[31] and was nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, and won Oscars for art direction, visual effects and cinematography.[31] [93]

Avatar was a movie which put the element of nature on James Cameron's big question about what if the Earth cannot be a place to live by the human any longer. In 2154, it is told that human have already used all the resources owned by the Earth. People do not have any source of energy anymore. Human need to look for another source of energy wherever it exists. They keep searching until then they find out that there is a source of energy in a valuable mineral called unobtainium outside the Earth. The place is called Pandora.

Pandora is a wonderful planet. It is full of numerous green plants, flying island, and exotic animals. This planet is located on a faraway space. It is not like

Earth which is on Milkyway Galaxy. Pandora is located on Alpha Centauri. It has different air composition so that humans can not breathe the air of Pandora. Like Earth which is occupied by the humans, there are the occupants too in Pandora. The occupants are Na'vi. Like humans, they walk on their two feet. They can also communicate to each other. However, unlike humans, Na'vi are taller and they have blue skin. There is a part of their hair that can be connected to the animal they want to use. The connection is so private because within that connection, both parties can feel each other's feeling and mind. Avatar itself is actually a human-Na'vi hybrid. It is a genetic engineering program which put a human consciousness on a Na'vi body(Taylor, 2013). This program is actually made for two purposes, socially and military. The social strategy is scientific and is led by Dr. Grace Augustine. She is a researcher who learns for the plant and also the culture of the Na'vi. Her primary passion is to learn about the



moon's environment and the Na'vi's environmental and social systems, but she also has to provide information that may be useful to the RDA so that the corporation can get the unobtainium without force. If this strategy fails, the military strategy will take it by military force.

Jake Sully was brought to Pandora to help secure the unobtainium. A paraplegic who lost the use of his legs in an earlier battlefield injury, he has been brought in to replace his dead twin brother. Augustine and her anthropologist assistant, Norm Spellman, also have Na'vi Avatars, enabling them to breathe the Pandoran air, which is toxic to humans, and to interact with the natives of Pandora, Na'vi. Sully is chosen because he and his brother were identical twins with the same genetic

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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. Sully is ordered to learn enough about the Na'vi to convince them to leave the regions that are targeted for commercial extraction together with Augustine. Sully failed to convince the Na'vi. The failure will then lead to the upcoming war between the humans and the Na'vi.

2.2 The Narrative Theory by Todorov

When people think of narrative, they normally think of it as art. They imagine novels or tales and think of narrative as something they may read or be told.

Narratives may not only be considered as art, but they are also something people all engage in every day (Kaliszewski, 2012). Narrative is realised in many different medias. It can be in films, in television, in radio, and in various media of print culture. The most important part of defining narrative is whether that media can tell the viewer a story or not. Avatar movie can also be categorised as narrative.

Among the vehicles of narrative are articulated language, whether oral or written pictures, still or moving, gestures, and an ordered mixture of all those substances which might present in myth, legend, fables, tales, short stories, history, tragedy, drama, pantomime, paintings, stained-glass windows, movie, local news, conversation. [37] [45] (Barthes, R; Duisit, L, 1975)

In all narratives, there are characters, existents and events (Haruki, 2006). [52] The characters explain that it was impossible to see movie which nobody or nothing

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exists. Commonly the characters in a movie are humans. However, the characters actually do not have to be human beings. The animals or even the unliving thing can be characterised. It can be seen in a fable or a cartoon movie. [17] Instead of human, the characters may be the animals as in a fable or the unliving thing such like a car as in Cars which is a cartoon movie created by Pixar studio.

The existents are the things which make the movie look a lot better. It makes the movie screen look better as the screen has something else to see than only the characters.

The events are the stories. Stories are supposed to have some plots similarities, although actually there were some different plots like linear, flash back and the mixed of them, a Russian language structuralist named Tzvetan Todorov (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969) stated that there are actually five stages appeared in every narrative. The generality of the Todorov's Theory application made some researchers, including the writer, use the theory as the basic theory of their studies. Todorov divided the stages in a narrative as follows.

1. Equilibrium, when there is normality and calmness.
2. Disruption, when the calmness was started to be annoyed.
3. Recognition, when the characters have started to notice the problems.
4. Restored order, when the characters try to work together to find a way. [99]
5. New equilibrium, the life of the main character got back in normal way.

It can be seen that Todorov divided the plot of the movie by five stages from the equilibrium stage which is a time when the main character is usually introduced

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and ended by the fifth stage, new equilibrium, which tells that the main character's life has returned to normal as he or she has solved the problem arisen.

The following figure shows Todorov's stages, the details are as follows.

Todorov's Narrative Theory (Todorov, T; [3] [95] Weinstein, A, 1969)

Furthermore, Todorov added that the five stages can be divided again into two groups. There are narrative 'adjectives' and narrative 'verbs' (Todorov, 1977).

There are two types of episodes in a narrative: [22] [30] those which describe a state (equilibrium) and those which describe the story from one state to the other.

The first type will be relatively static; the same kind of action can be repeated indefinitely. **The second on the other hand, will be dynamic and in principle occurs only once.** [90] [52] [92] (Todorov, 1977).

It shows **that among the five stages of the narrative theory, actually the stages can be divided into two groups.** [81] [87] They are the static and the dynamic ones.

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Haruki(2006) adds that narrative **adjectives are those predicates which describe a state of equilibrium and new equilibrium.** [52] **While, narrative verbs are those which describe the passage from one to the other which can cover the other three Todorov's narrative stages (disruption, resolution, and restored order).** [52]

Todorov's pattern was also supported by Bordwell & Thompson (2008) who also had their opinion about a narrative story. **They stated that in a narrative story, much alike what had been proposed by Todorov, there should be the beginning of a situation, the series of changes that occurs according to the pattern of cause and effect, and the end of a situation** (Bordwell, D; [0] [3] Thompson, K, 2008). The people will enjoy a narrative story basically from how well they understand the patterns which **consist of plot and story, cause and effect, time, space, openings closings and the pattern of development** (Bordwell, D; [0] [3] Thompson, K, 2008).

The first pattern is the plot and story. Although both of them sound similar, actually they have different meaning. **Bordwell and Thompson (2008) explained that plot is used to describe everything visibly and audibly present in the film, while the story is used to describe all the events in a narrative, both the ones explicitly presented and those the viewers infers.** [0] [3] ...

The second pattern is **the cause and effect.** [0] [3] ... **The narrative depends much on the cause and effect to make the story flows.** [3] The thing which becomes the cause in a narrative is the character. The characters whether they are persons or at least entities like persons, such as the singing tea pot in the Beauty and the Beast have the roles as **the agents of cause and effect** (Bordwell, D; [0] [3] Thompson, K, 2008).

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The third pattern is time. It is the second most important thing after the cause and effect because without its presence, the cause and effect events will be confusing. Bordwell and Thompson (2008) divided the time of a narrative into three kinds. They are temporal order, temporal duration, and temporal frequency (Bordwell, D; Thompson, K, 2008). The temporal order is the **chronological order of a film.** It runs simply like childhood – adolescent – adulthood. Avatar is one example of the films which apply this chronological order. However, the temporal order does not always go this way. It can be reversed as in flashback to become adulthood – childhood – adolescent. The temporal duration is the time span of the events in a narrative. Avatar's temporal duration is the time when Sully as a paraplegic human came to Pandora until when he finally turned into a Na'vi. **The temporal frequency is the number of the same actions which happens in the film.** [105] Commonly a story event is presented only once in the plot, but in some movies a story event may appear twice or even more in the plot treatment (Bordwell, D; Thompson, K, 2008). Avatar is one of the common films which its story events appear only once. Those are all explanations about the time. **Next the writer will discuss about the space.** [39] [43]

The fourth is the space. It is the place of where a story took place (Bordwell, D; Thompson, K, 2008). It can be either in a place which is real, like London or Manhattan or in an unreal one, like the Pandora, the planet where the Na'vi live.

The fifth is **the openings, closings, and the patterns of developments.** [0] **The opening provides a basis for what is to come and initiates the film viewers into the story** (Bordwell, D; [0] Thompson, K, 2008). In Avatar, the opening is narrated by Sully telling that he was flying above a place which look like a forrest. Then it continued as

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Sully opened his eyes. The viewers were shown that Sully was lying inside a kind of sophisticated box. The patterns and development mostly depend on the way that causes and effects create a change in a character's situation (Bordwell, D; Thompson, K, 2008). In Avatar, the change in a character's situation appeared in two ways. They are the character's knowledge and the character's physical body. Sully's knowledge changes as he was not as ignorant and pessimistic as he had been. While, his physical body also changed. In the end, Sully was not a human anymore. He had become the Na'vi. Sully's physical body change also became the closing of the Avatar.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Type of Research

The main purpose of this research is to analyse the application of the element of the short story and Todorov's narrative theory in Avatar movie. [82] ... The writer watched the movie, understood the story, then put them into the group of the short story elements. [28]

Furthermore, the writer also got the parts which applied the Narrative Theory. The writer analysed the movie by interpreting it. The interpretation in this study can be categorised as qualitative research. Cresswell (1994) defined qualitative research as an interpretative research. It is a way to analyse the data based on the writer's interpretation and understanding. [26] The interpretation is not only based on the writer's knowledge, but it has to be based on the related theory that is used for the study. [26] The writer has to be able to find the relation between the data and the theory, then makes the analysis based on it.

3.2 Data Source

The writer took the data for the analysis from the following movie:

Title : Avatar

Director : James Cameron

Genre : American comedy-drama film

Company : [0] [3] ... 20th Century Fox

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Release Date : December 10, 2009

Running Time : 2 hours 41 minutes

Country : United Kingdom

United States

Language : [0] [3] ... English

3.3 Method of Data Collection

The writer used Avatar movie as the material to be analysed. [4] [5] [51] [55] ... The writer analysed the parts of the movie which had the elements of the story and to find out which part had the stages of narrative theory (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969).

3.4 Procedure

By using the data obtained from the movie, the writer did several analyses. They were as follows.

- The writer watched Avatar movie more than one time so that he could understand the movie better.
- The writer got the parts of the narrative theory.
- The writer explained which of the elements of the story used and the parts of the movie which were matched to Todorov's narrative theory.

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

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By using the data obtained from watching Avatar movie, the writer did several analysis as follow : [8]

1. The writer selected the parts of the movie which matched with Todorov's theory.
2. The writer put the parts of the movie into the five stages accordingly.
3. The writer explained each of the stages.

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CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter is intended to answer the questions mentioned in problem formulation. [28] [73] [58] 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 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, Jake Sully. It seems like there is no difference between Jake Sully and Jake Sully, but actually they have differences in the way they are pronounced. The Na'vi call Sully by Jake Sully. 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.

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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 Jake Sully, a Na'vi.

4.1.1 The Equilibrium Stage : Space Setting

The first stage of Todorov's narrative theory is the equilibrium stage. [3] [0] ... It is a stage that usually appears at the beginning of a film. [73] [3] 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. [0] [3] ... 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.

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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

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

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

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Figure 4.3 Sully is ready to be stationed in the headquarter

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.

4.1.2.2 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.

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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 then waits for his mind to be transferred and synchronised into the Avatar body.

He is not a paraplegic anymore when he becomes a Na'vi. He can wriggle his toes. It makes him really happy because he can not 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 which then makes him run 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 body with good muscles which enable them to have outstanding physical ability. 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

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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. [0] [3] ... 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

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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 Sully, who is paraplegic, can not move his legs and needs wheelchair to move himself. His condition makes his fellow army underestimate him so much. They think that Sully's presence is just useless.

Figure 4.5 The army men underestimate Sully

It can be seen from the picture when some of the army underestimate Sully. [15] [38] [10] ... 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, 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. [106]

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. [0] [3] 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. [33] He is more interested with the Avatar bodies which are floating inside the big glass cylinder as if they are sleeping.

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 follow 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 during the briefing. 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 unobtainium, 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 unobtainium 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

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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. [44]

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.

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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 realise 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 animals seems too pissed off. It looks angry and destroys the plan 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

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Jake before. 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 eyeing 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.

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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.

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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.

Figure 4.11 Jake is under the arrows of the Na'vi

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

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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. [0] [3] ... 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. [44] 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.

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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 has no problem with the forceful action, cannot let the humans do that action after he has 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 human to stop their military action. Jake realizes that if human really starts their military action, they will destroy the beautiful nature of Pandora and kill many Na'vis on the process.

Trying to be on both sides of the human 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 the human for doing the same thing. They are casted away from their lab so that they cannot access their avatar anymore.

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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 unobtainium. 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

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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.

4.4.2The 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 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 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:

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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 hears 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 to 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 strenght 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 gather the Na'vi from different clans by the help of Tsu'tey

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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 for 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.

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Figure 4.16 The Pandora's animals take part the war.

When it seems like the Na'vi about to be defeated, the animals of the Pandora take part in the war. They help the Na'vi to fight back the human. The help of the

animals make the Na'vi able to win the war. Unluckily 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 manage to make 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 is following Todorov's theory, which happens after the restored order stage. **It is the stage when the problems are solved and things back to normal.**[0] [3] ... This stage is not divided into two because when things back to normal, Jake as a human does not exist. He permanently becomes a Na'vi.

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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.

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CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

The Narrative Theory which was proposed by Todorov had 5 stages. They were equilibrium, disruption, realisation, restored order, and equilibrium again. The writer tries to see the application of a movie titled Avatar. It is a movie which was made by James Cameron. The main character of this film is Jack Sully. He is a paraplegic marine who has to replace his brother's position as the Avatar user. He is deployed to Pandora with two missions. The first is for helping Augustine to know more about the culture of the Na'vi while the second is for getting as much information as he can to defeat the Na'vi. The second one is actually a secret mission. At first, he does not so care about that. Until then, he realises that he loves Pandora and the Na'vi. He does not want the human to destroy Pandora to get the precious unobtainium and kill the Na'vi.

This movie is unique because some of the stages have two perspectives. The first one is a perspective when Jack Sully is a human. The second one is a perspective when Jack becomes a Na'vi. He is called as Jack Sully by the Na'vi. **The equilibrium stage is divided into two.**[0] [32] ... The first is when the viewers are shown that Jack is a paraplegic marine and he is on his way to Pandora. The second is when Jack successfully gets into his Avatar body. **The disruption stage can be divided into two perspectives.**[18] [25] [44] [81] ... From Jack Sully's perspective, it is when he is underestimated by his fellow army and scientists, and when he gets a secret job to get info to defeat Na'vi.

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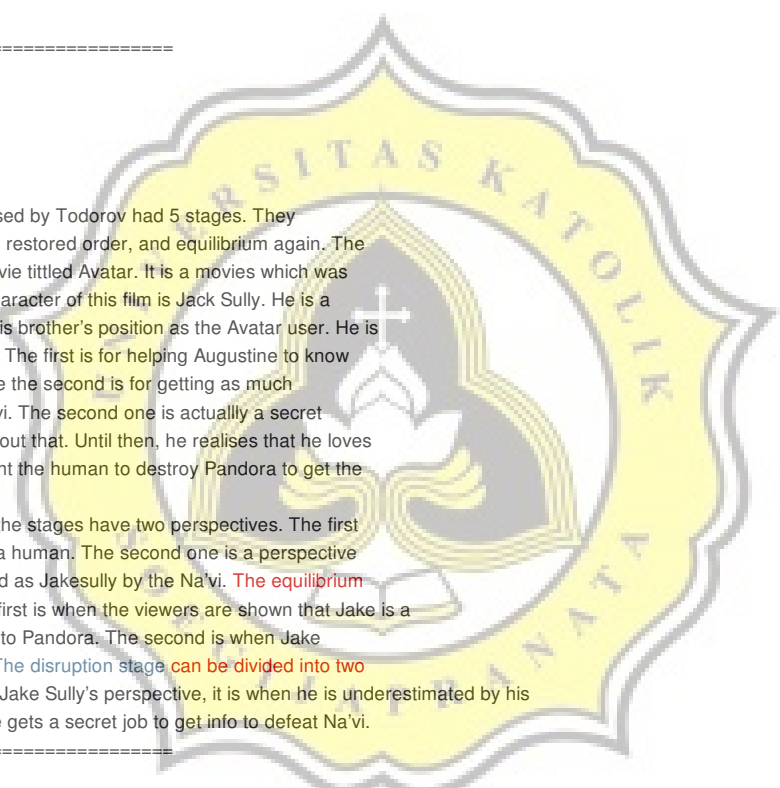
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From Jack Sully's perspective, the disruptive stage happens when he has lack of knowledge about Pandora nature. It almost makes him lose his life. He is also hated by many of the Na'vi because they think that he is fake. His body is like a Na'vi but his mind is a human. The recognition stage of this film is not divided by two perspectives because the problems mostly faced by Jack Sully as a human. Jack realises his mistake and he has to try to stop the humans from attacking the Na'vi and Pandora. His fellow humans do not like his action and put him in jail together with his fellow scientist team. The restored order stage is divided into two perspectives again. As a human, Jack Sully tries to do something to help the Na'vi because the humans have decided to attack them. He tries to get out of the jail and accesses his avatar body away from the lab because the lab has been closed. As a Na'vi, Jack Sully decides that he has to be Toruk Macto to get the heart of Neytiri and the Na'vis back. The new equilibrium stage has only one perspective, too. It happens because in the end, there is no Jack Sully as a human anymore. This stage happens when Jack finally becomes the real Na'vi after moving his mind permanently to his avatar body and leaving his human body.

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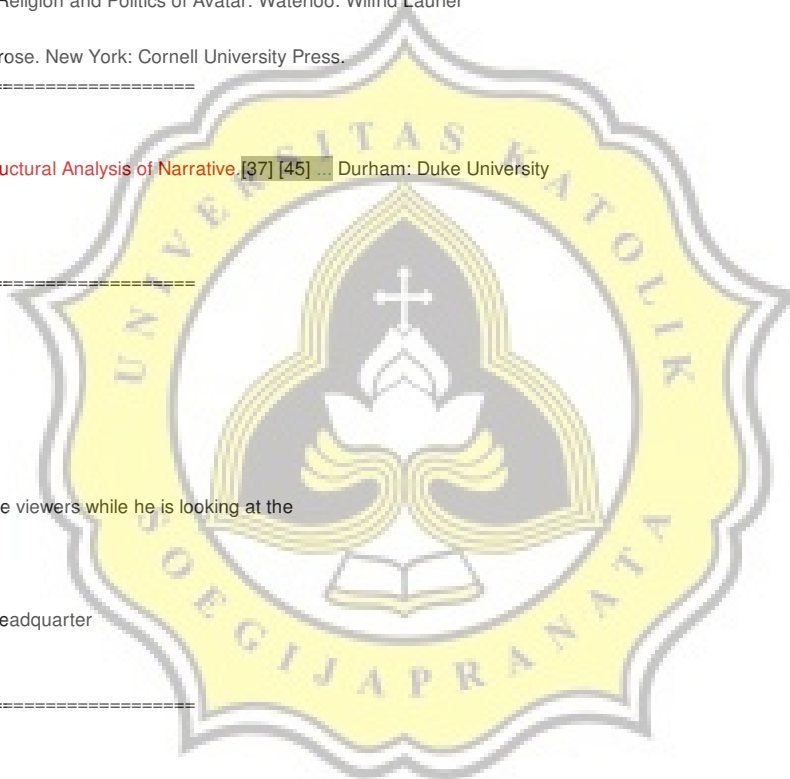
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