

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Constantine is a 2005 occult detective is directed by Francis Lawrence and starred by Keanu Reeves as the protagonist, John Constantine. In the movie, Constantine also has supporting characters. They are Rachel Weisz as Detective Angela Dodson and her twin Isabella Dodson; Shia Labeouf as Chaz Kramer, who is Constantine's student; and Djimon Hounsou as Papa Midnite. John Constantine is the protagonist in this movie and serves as a hero.

Kohen (2013) describes a hero as "people who faced the fact of their mortality, who took serious risks and/or overcame major hardship, and who did so in the service of a principle." In the movie, John Constantine, an occult detective, is helping a female detective, Angela Dodson, to investigate the suicide of her twin sister, Isabella Dodson. Constantine and Dodson, were assisted by Chaz (Constantine's student) to save Isabella's soul, so she would not be tortured in Hell. Throughout the movie, Constantine risked his own life by fighting dangerous demons to complete his mission.

Constantine's attitude and heroic action can be set to have matched with Kohen's definition of a hero, who took seriously his services as an investigator, like informed above. I am interested in finding out more about Constantine as a hero, which interestingly has some supernatural powers to assist him in becoming

a good detective, so the focus of my research study will be about the heroic actions of the main character, John Constantine.

In 2011, Alison & Goethals researched heroism. They classified heroes into 1) fictional heroes, 2) family members as heroes, and 3) nonfictional heroes who were also not family members. They collected data from college students about heroes' values. The result from the research was that most students believe that heroes possessed eight values: smart, strong, caring, selfless, charismatic, resilient, reliable, and inspiring (Allison & Goethals, 2011, p. 54). Kinsella et al (2015) examines the concept of heroism and found a result that most central values of heroes have bravery, moral integrity, conviction, courageousness, self-sacrifice, protecting, honesty, selfless, determined, saves others, inspiring, and helpful. In the movie, Constantine possessed several of these values that made him help Dodson to solve her twin sister's suicide case.

Franco et.al. (2011) also made a research about a hero. He collected a sample from 3.696 adults age eighteen and over in the internet-based study to determine which type of heroes are predominantly heroic. The result of the study is there are four types of heroes that society thought as predominantly heroic. Those are politico-religious leaders, good Samaritans, bureaucracy heroes, and whistle-blowers.

My study will find out what kind of heroes will Constantine fall under in accordance to Farley's twelve kinds of values. I choose to use Farley's values because this theory is the simplest theory that I can relate with John Constantine's values in *Constantine* movie when compared with the other theories above.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of this research is literature, especially the popular culture of movies, which focuses on the values of Heroism by Farley (2011).

1.3. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is about the hero's values of a movie character in the *Constantine* (2005) movie.

1.4. Problem Formulation

In this study, there is only one problem formulation to answer:
What of Farley's heroism values are shown in John Constantine as the main character of the movie "*Constantine*" ?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem formulated above, the objectives of this study is:
To find out what of Farley's heroism values are shown in John Constantine as the main character of the movie "*Constantine*".

1.6. Significance of the Study

The research about the heroism of John Constantine in Francis Lawrence' Constantine is significant to do because it allows researchers to know what kinds of values should a hero have.

1.7. Definition of Terms

1.7.1. Hero

Individuals who choose to take physical risks on behalf of one or more people, despite the possibility of suffering serious consequences, including death (Becker & Eagly, 2004, p. 164)

1.7.2. Value

Something (such as a principle or quality) that is intrinsically valuable or desirable (cited from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>)

1.7.3 Heroism

heroic conduct especially as exhibited in fulfilling a high purpose or attaining a noble end (cited from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>)