

---

**A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL “THE DEVIL ALL THE TIME”  
(2011) & MOVIE ADAPTATION “THE DEVIL ALL THE TIME” (2020)**

*Mohammad Fardani Rizqullah*  
Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Email: rizqullahfardani@gmail.com  
*Dr. Diana Anggraeni, M.Hum*  
Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Email: diana-anggraeni@ubb.ac.id  
*Dian Fitri. K, S.S., M.A*  
Universitas Bangka Belitung  
Email: dian.fitri.k13@gmail.com

**Abstrak**

Sastra perbandingan adalah disiplin ilmu yang mengkaji hubungan dan interaksi antara teks-teks sastra dari berbagai budaya, bahasa, dan periode sejarah. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi persamaan dan perbedaan tematik, gaya, dan struktur naratif dalam karya sastra yang berasal dari latar belakang yang berbeda. Seiring berkembangnya zaman, perkembangan sastra perbandingan berkembang menjadi lebih variatif dalam segi objek yang dikaji. Pada penelitian ini menganalisa adaptasi film dari sebuah novel dengan judul karya “The Devil All The Time” oleh Donald Ray Pollock. Menggunakan teori comparative literature yang dikemukakan oleh Susan Bassnett. Studi ini mengidentifikasi karakter, adaptasi genre dari novel ke film. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan perbedaan karakter Arvin Russell, Carl Henderson, dan Lee Bodecker pada tahun 1960an ketiga karakter ini memiliki jalan hidup dan ceritanya masing-masing dan takdir mempertemukan mereka pada hal yang tak terduga. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif descriptive dalam bentuk kalimat, teks dialog pada novel dan scene, teks dialog pada film. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Joseph M. Boggs dan Dennis W. Petrie, dan teori plot dari Eneste. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara membaca novel “The Devil All The Time” dan menonton film “The Devil All The Time” secara bersamaan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan 25 data dari total 48 data dapat merepresentasikan perbedaan karakter yang mempengaruhi plot. Berdasarkan data yang ditemukan terkait perbedaan karakter dan plot bisa disimpulkan novel dan film memiliki perbedaan tidak terlalu signifikan mempengaruhi garis besar cerita. Namun sifat dan sikap yang diambil oleh karakter mempengaruhi jalan cerita antara novel dan filmnya. Hasil dari penelitian ini dapat memperluas pemahaman kita tentang sastra perbandingan dan memberikan perspektif tentang nilai-nilai dan ide-ide disampaikan dan diterjemahkan di berbagai periode waktu.

**Kata Kunci : Sastra perbandingan, Perbedaan karakter, Novel, Adaptasi film**

### ***Abstract***

*Comparative literature is a discipline that studies the relationships and interactions between literary texts from different cultures, languages, and historical periods. It aims to explore thematic similarities and differences, styles, and narrative structures in literary works from different backgrounds. As time goes by, the development of comparative literature has become more varied in terms of the objects studied. This study analyzes the film adaptation of a novel with the title of the work "The Devil All The Time by Donald Ray Pollock". It uses the theory of comparative literature by Susan Bassnett. This study identifies character genre adaptation from novel to movie. This study aims to describe the differences in the characters of Arvin Russell, Carl Henderson, and Lee Bodecker in the 1960s. These three characters have life paths and stories, and fate brings them together unexpectedly. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method in the form of sentences, dialogue text in the novel, and scenes dialogue text in the film. This research uses the theory of Joseph M. Boggs & Dennis W. Petrie, and Eneste's plot theory. The data collection method was done by reading the novel "The Devil All The Time" and watching the movie "The Devil All The Time" simultaneously. The results of this study show that 25 data out of a total of 48 data can represent the differences in character that influence the plot. Based on the data related to the differences in character and plot, the novel and the movie have differences that do not significantly affect the story's outline. The results of this study expand our understanding of comparative literature and provide a perspective on the values and ideas conveyed and translated across different periods.*

**Keywords: Comparative literature, Characterization differences, Novel, Movie Adaptation**

## INTRODUCTION

*Literature* is a creative work that pictures human life in a society that can be appreciated, understood, and used by society. Literature is a means of social expression, a mirror of life, and an interpretation of human faces that helps us know how to live. At the beginning of the development of literature, poetry and prose were considered literature. However, with the development of time and society, the things considered literary works are multiplying. Novels, movies, and games that have a storyline can also be considered a form of literature. This study uses Wellek and Warren's (2024, p.22) definition of literature, which "also states that the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature." Literature is also produced by the author's imagination. Literature is not just a document of facts; it is not just the collection of real events, though it may happen in real life.

Literature can create its world as a product of the unlimited imagination." Therefore, literary works can be studied and discussed using current theories and studies. Every object that discusses literature can be discussed using theories related to the object of research and theories that already exist in the world. An example of theories that can be used to study literary works is comparative literature theory as a part of literature.

*Comparative literature* is an academic field that studies literature and cultural expression across linguistic, national, geographic, and disciplinary boundaries. Comparative literature may also be suited to works of the same language if the works originate from different nations or cultures in which that language is used. According to Susan Bassnett (1993, p.1), comparative literature is the study of cross-cultural texts characterized by interdisciplinarity and concerned with patterns of relationships in literature across time and space. Comparative literature can compare two or more other disciplines in terms of time—the purpose of this comparison is to trace the connections between aspects of life.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is directed with qualitative methods. A *qualitative research method* is a research method that highlights analysis or description. Qualitative research methods deeply explain a phenomenon by collecting data as deeply as possible. Qualitative methods prioritize observation of phenomena and examine the substance of the meaning of these phenomena.

### **Time and Place of the Study**

This study was completed at Bangka Belitung University from when this research was written until this research was completed. In addition, this research was completed for seven months in 2024. In June 2024, the research data on characterization similarities and differences from the analysis of dialogue texts in the novel and scenes from the movies were collected. Then, the data was classified according to the characterization theories of Joseph, M. Boggs, and Dennis W. Petrie and plot theories from Ernest. From July to August, the data was studied to answer the research questions. The final step to conclude the analysis results was carried out in August.

### **Object of the Study**

The object of study is the main focus and target of a study to get answers from analyzing the problems that happen in this study. According to

Nurhayati (2020, p.22), *objectives* can be defined as the goals that you arrange to succeed in your research. The object of this study relates to the novel *The Devil All The Time* by Donald Ray Pollock (2011), first published on 12 July 2011 in the United States by Doubleday; it has seven parts, 55 chapters, and 297 pages. The film adaptation of *The Devil All The Time* by Antonio Campos (2020) was released streaming on Netflix in the genres of crime, thriller, and drama, with a duration of 138 minutes. Telling about in rural southern Ohio and West Virginia, *The Devil All the Time* follows a cast of compelling and strange characters from the end of World War II to the 1960s. There is Arvin Eugene Russell, Willard and Charlotte's orphaned son, who grows up to be a good but violent man in his own right. There is Carl and Sandy Henderson, a husband-and-wife team of serial killers who troll America's highways searching for suitable models to photograph and kill. Moreover, Sheriff Lee Bodecker, a law enforcement officer in Meade County, used his position to do something illegal. In the novel and its film adaptation, can analyze some significant differences and similarities as well as the character's role that affects the novel version's storyline and its film adaptation.

### **Data Collection**

According to Sugiyono (2020, p.105), there are generally four kinds of data collection techniques: observation, interviews, documentation, and combined / triangulation (observation, interview, and observation). This study uses documentation data collection techniques. According to Sugiyono (2020, p.124), documentation is the collection of records of events that have taken place in the form of writing, pictures/photographs, or monumental works of a person/agency. Relatable to the object to be studied. Therefore, there are steps for collecting data in this study were carried out, they are:

1. The first step is to buy the novel *The Devil All The Time* by Donald Ray Pollock (2011) on e-commerce.
2. The second step is to read and understand the content of the novel *The Devil All The Time* (2011).
3. The third step is streaming; this step is taken from the internet to obtain *The Devil All The Time* (2020) film from Netflix.
4. The fourth step is watching *The Devil All The Time* film. This step is repeated many times for the important things in the film scene, done by listening and watching language use data. Facts and data consist of all the scenes and dialogues of the characters in *The Devil All The Time* film, which contain comparative events.
5. The fifth step is data transcription. This technique is the process of converting data from spoken to written. This change is in the form of dialogue found in *The Devil All The Time* (2020) film.
6. The sixth step is note-taking and classifying. At this step, note-taking carries out activities in the important data. After that, the data is classified based on the character's similarities and differences classification from novel and film adaptations.

### **Data Analysis**

Data analysis organizes and sorts data into patterns, categories, and basic descriptive units. According to Sugiyono (2020, p.131), data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, field notes, and documentation by organizing data into categories, breaking it down into units, synthesizing, compiling into patterns, choosing which ones are important and which ones will be studied, and making conclusions so that they are easily understood by oneself and others. Qualitative data analysis begins with collecting, classifying, and categorizing data to find patterns and significant connections. Data analysis in this study is as follows:

1. Re-checked the data that had collected to see whether it was collected correctly.
2. Analyze the similarities and differences between the characters in the novel and film adaptation. Character analysis is the step to finding the characterization of the characters in the novel and film adaptation of *The Devil All The Time* by observing their behavior and dialogue. Then, find similarities and differences between the novel version and the movie adaptation.
3. Classify the data collected from novels and movies. Then, it will be categorized into two parts: characterization analysis and plot analysis. In characterization analysis: characterization through appearance, dialogue, external action, internal action, and reactions of other characters. The plot analysis is divided into reduction, addition, and variation.
4. Drawing conclusions after finding the results, based on the results, is the last step of data analysis, and re-checking the results to verify their validation.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This research compares *The Devil All The Time*, focusing on the similarities and differences between the characters in Donald Ray Pollock's novel (2011) and Antonio Campos's movie (2020). It uses comparative literature theory by Susan Bassnett (1993), characterization theory by Joseph M. Boggs and Dennis W. Petrie (2022), and plot theory by Eneste (1991).

**A. Characterization Analysis**

This part will analyze a character that has an important role in the story of *The Devil All The Time*. There is Arvin Russell, Carl Henderson, and Lee Bodecker.

**1. Characterization through appereances**

**Datum 1**

<p><b>Novel :</b>                  “It’s been a rough summer, hasn’t it, Arvin?” Charlotte said, running her bony hand through <b>his dark hair.</b>” (p.47)                   “Bodecker trained the flashlight on <b>the skinny, dark-haired boy.</b>                  “Well, what is it, son?” he said.                  “He’s dead,” Arvin said, putting a hand up to block the light shining in his face. (p.67)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>                  Shown in minute scenes (00:19:56-00:20:05)  <b>Arvin Eugene Russell has a skinny body, white skin, a freckled face, slightly brown hair, and bruises on his face.</b></p>
--	---

Based on this data, it is explained that in the novel version, young Arvin Russell is described as having black hair; this can be seen in Arvin's conversation with his mother, Charlotte, and is expressed through the narrator's point of view. Charlotte talks to Arvin while stroking Arvin's head. "It's been a rough summer, hasn't it, Arvin?" Charlotte said, running her bony hand through **his dark hair.**" (p.47) besides having black hair, the novel version explains that Arvin has a skinny body. This is known from the narrator's explanation when Arvin and Sheriff Lee Bodecker are talking. Arvin told Sheriff Lee Bodecker that his father had died in the prayer log because he had committed suicide. "Bodecker trained the flashlight on **the skinny, dark-haired boy.**" "Well, what is it, son?" he said. "He's dead," Arvin said, putting a hand up to block the light shining in his face. (p.67)

There are differences with the film version; young Arvin Russell is visualized as having brown hair, white skin, a skinny body, a freckled face, and bruises on his face. It is shown in the movie's minutes (00:19:56-00:20:05). The bruises he got were beaten up on the school bus by his school friend because Arvin was considered an outsider from the area where he lived. However, the Russells have lived there for nine years. This difference in appearance makes a difference in how young Arvin Russell is portrayed in the novel version by Donald Ray Pollock and the movie version by Antonio Campos.



*Figure 1 Young Arvin appereances in movie*

Arvin is talking with his father, Willard Russell. Willard came home from work and saw Arvin playing with his pet dog, Jack. Willard realized that his son Arvin had bruises on his face as a result of being hit by a friend at school because their family was considered an outsider who had no relatives in the Knockemstiff. Willard tells Arvin to go home with him and not use his school bus anymore to avoid incidents like this.

## 2. Characterization through dialogues

### Datum 22

#### Novel :

“Up on the main road a car with a burned-out muffler went by slowly, and Carl cocked his head and listened to the pop-pop sound until it faded away. Then he looked over at Sandy kneeling beside him, studied her face for a moment in the gray dusk. **“Jesus, I hate it when they cry like that,” she said. “That’s the worst.” Carl shook his head as he flipped through the boy’s wallet one more time. “Girl, you got to get over that shit,” he said. “Them tears he shed is the kind of thing makes for a good picture.** Those last couple minutes was the only time in his whole miserable life when he wasn’t faking it.” (p.75-76)

#### Film :

Shown in minute scenes

(1:19:47-1:21:14)

**(Carl singing the song from the radio in the car)**

Carl Henderson : “You’re snoozing through Ferlin.”

Sandy : “I don’t like this gospel shit.”

**(Carl turns off the radio)**

Carl Henderson : “You know, we did him a favor. He was just gonna get shot up and killed in Vietnam anyways.”

Carl Henderson : “God dammit. He wasn’t nothing but another model.”

Sandy : **“I told you I don’t like this anymore. Ain’t in fair if i hate the way some of ‘em cry?”**

Carl Henderson : **“Not that you’d appreciate it, but tears make for a good photograph.”**

Narrator : **“What Sandy didn’t understand was that to his way of thinking, this was the one true religion. Only in the presence of death could he feel the presence of something like God. The sick fuck.”**

Based on the data above, there are similarities in the dialogue between Carl and Sandy. In the novel version, Carl and Sandy drive on the road while talking. They were traveling back after killing a soldier named Private Gary Matthew Bryson, and Sandy felt that what they did was very wrong; especially Sandy felt guilty when Private Gary cried, begging for his life. Sandy told her feelings to her husband, and Carl Henderson responded, "**Girl, you got to get over that shit,**" he said. "**Them tears he shed is the kind of thing makes for a good picture.** Those last couple minutes was the only time in his whole miserable life when he wasn't faking it." Carl felt with a cry and begged to make a better picture. Because of that last moment of their life, they cannot lie, so the moment that can be captured is authentic without being made up. Carl also felt Sandy didn't need to make a big deal about their victims crying. Carl himself didn't care about his victims. He just wanted a good moment so that the results of the picture he captured would be great.

However, in the film version, there is a modified dialog between Carl and Sandy when they are on the way after murdering Private Gary Matthew Bryson in the forest. As shown in minute scenes (1:19:47-1:21:14), Carl, sitting in the passenger seat, was singing while listening to a song on their car radio. Sandy, who seemed quiet, made Carl wonder what Sandy was thinking.



*Figure 2 Sandy Henderson*

But Carl finally realized that this was about Private Gary, and Carl said, "**You know, we did him a favor. He was just gonna get shot up and killed in Vietnam anyways.**" Carl felt that Private Gary's innocent looks and behavior made him unsuitable for the army. Because if he had the appropriate instinct defense skills taught in the military. Carl and Sandy should have died first. Therefore, Carl felt that what they were doing was no different from later when Private Gary was sent to Vietnam because Private Gary would die, too. Seeing Sandy not replying to Carl's words, Carl said, "**God dammit. He wasn't nothing but another model.**" Carl felt that what he said was true, that Private Gary was just a model to be photographed, and there was no need to cry about it. Sandy responded to Carl's answer that she didn't want this anymore; Sandy didn't like it when they were crying and begging for their lives.



**Figure 3 Carl talking to Sandy**

In this picture, Carl is talking to his wife, while she's driving the car and looks upset. After finding out the cause. Carl responds to Sandy's answer, **"Not that you'd appreciate it, but tears make for a good photograph."** Carl felt that their final cry was the most honest moment. So, by crying and begging for mercy, Carl came up with a great photo to capture.

**3. Characterization through reaction of other characters**

**Datum 48**

<p><b>Novel :</b>                  Hank smiled. Two of his bottom teeth were missing. "You had that pie on your face. Damn Bodecker thought it was blood. Remember that?"                  "Yeah, I remember everything about that night."                  "I just heard on the radio where his sister got killed."                  Arvin reached for the doorknob.                  "Is that right?"  <b>"I didn't know her, but it probably should have been him instead. He's about as no-good as they come, and him the law in this county."</b> (p.281)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>                  Shown in minute scenes (1:14:36-1:16:08)                  Leroy : "Word starts going around Sheriff's got his eye on the girls at Tecumseh. That's gonna cost me my money. Me losing money is gonna cost you your cut."                  Lee Bodecker : "It didn't have anything to do with you."                  Leroy : "It does now."                  Leroy : "Bobo, you ever go and beat the shit outta someone I made my money off?"                  Bobo : "No. Never cross my mind, thinking about that."                  Lee Bodecker : "Guy running against me is going door-to-door telling folk I look the other way when it comes to Sandy."                  Leroy : "Bobo, don't eat my scraps. Give over the envelope."                  Leroy : "There's debt you owe me. What I'm gonna lose at the bar."                  Lee Bodecker : "Horse shit. You ain't losing nothing there."                  Leroy : <b>"Yeah? And you know that cause you're a loaded diaper like everyone else who works for</b></p>
--	---

	<p><b>me or because all of Meade knows you're dirty?"</b>  Leroy : "That's your weekly earnings 'til we're square."  Leroy : "Now, get the fuck out of my diner.</p>
--	--

Based on the data above, there are differences in opinions from other characters about Sheriff Lee Bodecker in the novel and movie versions. The novel version describes Arvin Russell talking to Hank. Arvin accidentally met Hank because he wanted to see the old house where he still lived with his parents. They spoke of the incident of Arvin's father committing suicide. At one point, Hank talked about Sandy, the sister of Sheriff Lee Bodecker, who had murdered along with her husband, Carl Henderson, in a forest not far from Meade, Ohio. Then Hank said, "**I didn't know her, but it probably should have been him instead. He's about as no-good as they come, and him the law in this county.**" Hank felt that the one who should have killed was Lee Bodecker himself; Hank thought that Lee Bodecker was not good at doing his duties in the county. Rumors about Lee Bodecker taking bribes and his sister whoring around during his service as the people of Meade County had heard sheriff. The negative image of Lee Bodecker made people in Meade County feel unprotected and safe from criminals because Lee himself cooperated and accepted bribes so that criminals in Meade County could bring out their activities without being noticed by law enforcement in Meade, Ohio.

Unlike the movie version, the explanation of Lee Bodecker's character according to another character is shown in scenes minute (1:14:36-1:16:08) Lee Bodecker at the White Cow restaurant to meet Leroy, the owner of the bar in Tecumseh, where his sister, Sandy Henderson works as a barmaid. Lee met Leroy because of the distribution of percentages from the underground business that Leroy and Lee Bodecker ran as sheriffs in Meade County, Ohio. Responsible for securing the company so it runs without being noticed by other law enforcement. During a conversation between Lee and Leroy, Leroy had heard rumors about his sister at his bar in Tecumseh. Leroy didn't like the rumors interfering with his business, which he discussed with Lee Bodecker.



**Figure 4 Lee Bodecker talking to Leroy**

Lee tried to explain that some people purposely spread these rumors so that his image as sheriff would be bad and that the people in Meade would not vote for him again in the upcoming election. Lee Bodecker tries to reassure Leroy that these rumors will not interfere with his business. However, Leroy knows that this has annoyed him because rumors about his sister whoring around at his bar in Tecumseh have spread widely in the Meade. Leroy then took out an envelope containing Lee Bodecker's weekly money, but he cut the money smaller because of the news about his sister.



**Figure 5 Leroy knows the rumor about Lee Bodecker**

Then Leroy said, **“Yeah? And you know that cause you’re a loaded diaper like everyone else who works for me or because all of Meade knows you’re dirty?”** Leroy knew that the entire Meade people didn’t like Lee Bodecker as sheriff Lee Bodecker as sheriff and the news of their closeness, as well as his sister. It could impact his business, and Leroy felt working with Lee was no longer safe.

#### **4. Characterization through internal action**

##### **Datum 8**

<p><b>Novel :</b>  <b>“Pick your own time, he remembered his father telling him, and Arvin learned that lesson well, catching whoever his enemy happened to be at the moment alone and unaware in the restroom or stairwell or under the bleachers in the gymnasium.”</b>                  (p.110)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>                  Shown in minute scenes (00:22:40-00:24:27)                  Willard Russell : “Roll up your window.”  <b>(Willard getting in a fight)</b>                  Willard Russell : “Now you remember what I told you? About them boys on the bus that gave you the black eye?”</p>
--	--

<p>“Whenever Emma asked him about the fighting, Arvin always thought of his father and that damp fall day long ago when he had defended Charlotte’s honor in the Bull Pen parking lot. Though it was the best day he ever remembered spending with Willard, he never told anybody about it, or, for that matter, mentioned any of the bad days that soon followed. Instead, he would simply say to her, his father’s voice echoing faintly in his head, <b>“Grandma, there’s a lot of no-good sons of bitches out there.”</b> “My lord, Arvin why do you keep saying that?” “Because it’s true.” (p.111)</p>	<p>Willard Russell : “That’s what I meant. <b>Just gotta pick the right time.</b>”  Arvin Russell : “Yes, sir.”  Willard Russell : <b>“There’s a lot of no good sons of bitches out there.”</b>  Arvin Russell : “More than a hundred?”  Willard Russell : “Yeah, at least that many.”</p>
--	--

Based on the data above, some differences occur between the novel and movie versions. In the novel version, there is a conversation between Arvin and his grandmother, Emma Russell. When Emma asks about the fighting he did at school. Arvin's mind was carried away, remembering what his father, Willard, fought for Charlotte's honor. He never told anyone in his family about this. It can be seen from the sentence in the novel: **"Arvin always thought of his father and that damp fall day long ago when he had defended Charlotte's honor in the Bull Pen parking lot. Though it was the best day he ever remembered spending with Willard, he never told anybody about it, or, for that matter,"** At that time, his father, Willard, say **"Pick your own time"** what his father meant by this was always to choose the right time. When to act, and when to hold back. Willard told Arvin this was a form of self-protection. Willard himself always waits for the moment when his target is unaware of the situation, and then he acts to beat up the person who verbally harassed his wife. It is what Arvin remembered until he was a teenager. Arvin will pick his own time. He waited for his target to be caught off guard and then acted. No matter how long he waits. He would wait for the right time.

The movie version is shown at the minute (00:22:40-00:24:27), the scene when Arvin and his father, Willard, are heading to the Bull Pen parking lot. His father tells Arvin to wait in the car and close the window. Then, his father got out and beat up the person who had verbally harassed his wife.



***Figure 6 Willard beating people up***

Before the incident, Willard and Arvin prayed at a prayer log in the forest near their home. Two men came past them after hunting, and one of them said something harassing about his wife. Willard & Arvin ignored them and continued praying at the prayer log. Willard waited for the right time to take his revenge on those guys who said terrible things to his wife. That is when they were chilling and off guard. Willard beat them and left them with severe injuries.



***Figure 7 Willard getting back in car after beating up people***



***Figure 8 Willard told Arvin***

In these pictures, after Willard beat up the people who verbally harassed his wife, he returned to the car. He said to Arvin, who was waiting for him in the car and witnessed the incident of his father beating up the people after beating the two men unaware. Willard said to Arvin, "Now you remember what I told you? About them boys on the bus that gave you the black eye? That's what I meant. "Just gotta pick the right time." Arvin answered, "Yes, sir." His father's words became Arvin's guideline in life, which he believed in.

5. Characterization through external action

Datum 7

<p><b>Novel :</b>                  “The deputy trained his light on a man, dressed in a white shirt and dress pants, crumpled loosely over a log. He took a few step closer, he sniffed the air and gagged. “My God, how long he been laying here like this?” Arvin shrugged. “Not long. I fell asleep for a little while and there he was.” Bodecker pinched his nostrils together, tried to breathe through his mouth. “What the hell is that smell then?” “That’s them up there,” Arvin said, pointing into the trees. Bodecker lifted his flashlight. Animals in various states of decay hung all around them, some in the branches and others from tall wooden crosses. <b>Bodecker fumbled with his gun. “Goddamn it, boy, what the hell is this?” he said, Bodecker waved his revolver around as he started to back away. “It’s a prayer log,” Arvin said, his voice barely a whisper now. “What? A prayer log?”</b> Arvin nodded, staring at his father’s body. “But it don’t work. “ he said. (p.69)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>                  Shown in minute scenes (00:33:37-00:34:04)                  Arvin Russell : “He’s right there.”                  Lee Bodecker : <b>“Jesus. What’s that smell?”</b>                  Lee Bodecker : <b>“God dammit, boy.”</b>  <b>(Pointing his flashlight to the crucified dog)</b>                  Lee Bodecker : <b>“What the hell is this?”</b>                  Arvin Russell : <b>“It’s a prayer log.”</b>                  Lee Bodecker : “Prayer log?”                  Arvin Russell : “Yeah. But it don’t work too good.”</p>
---	---

Based on the data above, there are differences in the actions taken by Lee Bodecker when he finds out about the prayer log in the novel and movie versions. In the novel version, it tells that young Arvin guided Lee Bodecker, at that time still a deputy, to follow Arvin to the forest behind his house, where his father committed suicide. Lee Bodecker pointed his flashlight at the body of Arvin's father, Willard Russell, near a wooden log. Lee smells of decaying corpses, so he asks Arvin how long his father has died. Arvin replied that his father was found dead not long after Arvin fell asleep for a while.

Then Arvin searched for his father around the house and searched for him in the prayer log, finding his father dead doing suicide. Lee Bodecker asks if his father's death just a moment ago, why does the body smell so bad. Arvin told him that the smell was not from his father's body but from the bodies of the animals that Arvin's father had sacrificed as a form of sincerity

to God for his wife's healing. At that time, it was already night, and the only light was from the flashlight held by Lee Bodecker; then, he pointed his flashlight at the crucified animal bodies. Lee Bodecker saw this and pulled out his gun; this is known from the sentence in the novel: "**Bodecker fumbled with his gun. "Goddamn it, boy, what the hell is this?" he said, Bodecker waved his revolver around as he started to back away.**" Lee Bodecker sensed danger, so he pulled out his revolver gun; he felt that what Lee saw was not like the faith he understood. Instead, it is like a cult that presents bodies or souls as a form of loyalty and sacrifice to the glorified. Lee Bodecker asked Arvin what kind of place they had come to. Arvin then answered in a low voice that they were at the prayer log. Lee didn't understand what Arvin meant, reassured Arvin that they were at the prayer log. Arvin did not respond to Lee Bodecker's question and replied that the prayer log didn't work too well for his father and mother.

The difference in Lee Bodecker's actions in the prayer log in the movie version is shown in scenes minute (00:33:37-00:34:04). Arvin guided deputy Lee Bodecker where his father committed suicide, exactly in the forest behind Arvin's house. Arvin showed Lee Bodecker where his father's body was. Lee Bodecker pointed a flashlight at Arvin's father's body. Lee Bodecker complained of a smelly stench; Lee thought the smell was from his father Arvin's body. But when he pointed his flashlight at the wooden Christ cross, he saw the crucified dog corpse. Lee Bodecker asked Arvin, "**What the hell is this?**"



*Figure 9 young Arvin answered Lee Bodecker question*

Lee Bodecker saw this and didn't overreact to it. He responded calmly and, feeling confused about what the Arvin family was doing in this forest with the crucified dog corpse. Then Arvin replied that the place they were in was a prayer log. Lee reassured Arvin's meaning and asked, "**Prayer log?**" Arvin answered yes, but the place didn't turn out well for Arvin and his family.



**Figure 10 Lee Bodecker asking to Arvin**

In this picture, Lee Bodecker accompanied Arvin to the place where his father committed suicide. Precisely in the forest behind their house, Lee found Arvin's father's corpse in a horrible condition. Lee Bodecker smelled a smelly scent and was shocked by the dog's corpse on the Christ cross. And Lee asked Arvin what the meaning of this place was.

**B. Plot Analysis**

In this part, will analyze the plot of The Devil All The Time series. Using the theory by Eneste (1991) explains that the plot is divided into plot reduction, plot addition, and plot variation.

**1. Plot Reduction**

**Datum 43**

<p><b>Novel :</b>                  “When Hank saw the cruiser pull in the gravel lot, he folded the newspaper and set it on the counter. He watched Bodecker tip up a bottle, as the sheriff came in the screen door. "I was hoping you'd still be around," he said to Hank. "Why's that?" the storekeeper asked. "You recall the time that crazy Russell bastard killed himself up in the woods behind here? You had his boy with you that night. Arvin was his name." "I remember." "That boy come through here maybe last night or this morning?" Hank looked down at the counter. "I was sorry to hear about your sister." "I asked you a question, goddamn it."</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>                  Shown in minute scenes (2:03:04-2:03:27)  <b>“The scene shows Sheriff Lee Bodecker walking through the forest to find Arvin Russell who is at the prayer log in the forest.”</b></p>
--	--

"What did he do? Get in some trouble?"

"You might say that," Bodecker said. He grabbed the newspaper off the counter, held the front page up in front of Hank's face. The storekeeper's brow wrinkled as he read the black headlines once again.

"He ain't the one done that, is he?"

Bodecker dropped the paper on the floor and pulled out his revolver, pointed it at the storekeeper. "I ain't got time to fuck around, you dumb bastard. Have you seen him?"

Hank swallowed and turned his eyes toward the window, watched Talbert Johnson's hot rod slow down as it passed the store.

"What you gonna do, shoot me?"

"Don't think I won't." Bodecker said.

"After I splatter your little bit of brains all over the candy case, I'll put that butcher knife in your hand you got laying over there by your scroungy meat slicer.

It'll be an easy self-defense. Judge, the crazy sonofabitch was trying to protect a killer." He cocked the gun.

"Do yourself a favor. It's my sister we're talking about."

"Yeah, I seen him," Hank said reluctantly. "He was in here a little while ago. Bought a bottle of pop and some cigarettes."

"What was he driving?"

"I didn't see no car."

"So he was walking?"

"He might have been, I guess."

"Which way did he go when he left here?"

"I don't know." Hank said. "I wasn't paying attention."

"Don't lie to me. What did he have to say?"

Hank looked over at the pop case where the boy had stood and drank the root beer. "He mentioned

<p>something about the old house where he used to live, that's all." Bodecker put the gun back in his holster. "See? That wasn't so hard, was it?" He started out the door. "You'll make a good little rat someday." Hank watched him get in the cruiser and pull out onto Black Run Road. He placed both hands flat on the counter and bowed his head. Behind him, in a voice faint as a whisper, the radio announcer sent out another heartfelt request." (p.285-287)</p>	
---	--

Based on the data above, a plot reduction happens in the novel and movie versions. In the novel version, it is explained that Sheriff Lee Bodecker visits Hank's store. Hank saw the sheriff's car pulling up to his store and immediately folded the newspaper he was reading. Lee Bodecker entered the store and asked Hank if he still remembered the incident of Arvin's father, Willard, who committed suicide in the forest not so far from Hank's store. Hank remembers the incident and asks again by Lee Bodecker whether Arvin stopped by Hank's store around last night or this morning.

Hank didn't answer Lee Bodecker's question and said his condolences for what happened to his sister. Hank knows about the deaths of Sheriff Lee Bodecker's sister, Sandy, and her husband, Carl Henderson, from the newspaper he read. Lee Bodecker felt upset that Hank didn't answer his question and said, **"I asked you a question, goddamn it."** Hank is confused as to why Arvin was searched by Lee Bodecker and asked if that boy had a problem. Lee Bodecker gets upset by Hank, who doesn't answer his question and shows the news in the newspaper about his sister's death. Hank began to understand that the suspect might be Arvin. Hank asks Lee to make sure the suspect is Arvin, and Lee gets more angry. **"Bodecker dropped the paper on the floor, pulled out his revolver, and pointed it at the storekeeper. "I ain't got time to fuck around, you dumb bastard. Have you seen him?"** Lee threatened Hank if he didn't want to cooperate and answer his questions. Hank felt that Lee Bodecker's actions were too much and say **"What you gonna do, shoot me?"** Lee Bodecker felt he had the power because he is the sheriff, said he could have shot Hank, and made it look like Hank is the perpetrator for trying to protect his sister's killer. Hank began to think about his actions and finally replied that Arvin had come here earlier, stopped by his store and bought few things for himself. Lee Bodecker asked Hank where Arvin now. Hank replied that he didn't know where Arvin went, but he remembered that Arvin mentioned about his old house where he used to live. Lee Bodecker already calm down and knew where Arvin goes to, said to Hank and put his gun back **"Bodecker put the gun back in his holster. "See?**

**That wasn't so hard, was it?"** Then he went to where Arvin was going and left Hank at the store.



*Figure 1 Lee bodecker search Arvin in the forest*

The movie version doesn't explain the scene of Hank's meeting with Lee Bodecker after the incident with Arvin's father; Lee is shown at the minute (2:03:04-2:03:27) he is already in the forest looking for Arvin's wants to avenge the death of his sister, Sandy Henderson. Lee Bodecker, doing an investigation with Sheriff Thompson in Coal Creek, found similarities in the death of Preacher Teagardin and the death of his sister in the use of the same weapon and bullets in the victim. All the incidents that happened to Preacher involved a suspect, Arvin Russell.

## 2. Plot Addition

### Datum 31

<p><b>Novel :</b>            “That night, after they went to bed, he packed some clothes in a gym bag and put it in the trunk of his car. He leaned on the porch railing and listened to the faint rumble of a coal train over the next swath of hills heading north. <b>Going back inside, he stuck a hundred dollars in the tin box that Emma kept her needles and thread in.</b> He didn't sleep any that night, and in the morning he just drank some coffee for breakfast.” (p.217)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>            Shown in minute scenes (1:35:32-1:35:57)  <b>(Arvin sneaks into his Grandma's bedroom and puts in a letter and a couple of money)</b>            Arvin Russell : <b>(From his letter)</b>  <b>“Dear Grandma...”</b>            Arvin Russell : <b>“I’m writing to you because i cannot say goodbye to your face. I love you and I will always remember the things that you have done for me. What I’m about to do, I do because I have to, not because I want to. Please do not try and find me. Love, Your grandson, Arvin.”</b></p>
--	---

Based on the data above, there are similarities between the novel and movie versions. The novel version tells that the night before, Arvin kills Preacher Teagardin. He prepares his needs for the next day, and Arvin prepares some clothes that he brings in a gym bag; on that night, Arvin doesn't sleep; he can't sleep because he thinks about tomorrow. The next day, Arvin

prepared himself before his grandmother, Emma, and uncle, Earskell, woke up for their activities. Arvin only sipped coffee that morning without eating to fill his stomach before he left his house for the last time. He left money for his grandmother and uncle. It can be seen from the sentence in the novel: **"he stuck a hundred dollars in the tin box that Emma kept her needles and thread in."** Arvin did this with the intention of fulfilling the needs of his grandmother & uncle, who were getting old. Arvin doesn't want to leave them in a condition of despair, so he gives some of the money he gets from working as a form of Arvin's thankfulness to his grandmother & uncle, who have been willing to take care of Arvin after the death of his father and mother.

The same thing happens in the movie version, but there is an addition in the plot; it is shown in scenes minute (1:35:32-1:35:57) before Arvin leaves his house to leave forever because of the consequences of the actions he will take to kill Preacher Teagardin. Arvin is seen giving money to his grandmother, Emma, while she is still sleeping and the letter he left for Emma. The letter says, **"I'm writing to you because i cannot say goodbye to your face. I love you and I will always remember the things that you have done for me. What I'm about to do, I do because I have to, not because I want to. Please do not try and find me. Love, Your grandson, Arvin."** Arvin wrote the letter because he couldn't say his reasons for leaving home, but he said that the action he will take because he wanted. But he did it because he had to do it. Arvin also doesn't want to be discovered. Arvin reveals that he loves his grandmother and will remember the good things that his grandmother has done for Arvin.



***Figure 12 Arvin left the money and a letter for his grandmother***

In this picture, Arvin is shown sneaky entering his sleeping grandmother's room. Putting money and a letter containing an apology for the actions he's about to take, Arvin left home to avenge the death of his stepsister, who committed suicide because of preacher Teagardin. Arvin planned to kill preacher Teagardin and leave Coal Creek so that he would not be searched by law enforcement at his home.

### 3. Plot Variation

## Datum 40

<p><b>Novel :</b>  <b>“Arvin saw the newspaper in the rack outside the doughnut shop when he went to get some coffee the next morning. He bought a copy and took it back to his room and read that the local sheriff's sister and husband had been found murdered. They were returning from a vacation in Virginia Beach. There was no mention of a suspect, but there was a photo of Sheriff Lee Bodecker alongside the story. Arvin recognized him as the same man who was on duty the night his father killed himself. Goddamn, he whispered. Hurriedly, he packed his stuff and started out the door. He stopped and went back inside. Taking the Calvary picture down off the wall, he wrapped it in the newspaper and stuck it in his bag.”</b> (p.279)</p>	<p><b>Film :</b>          Shown in minute scenes (1:57:57-1:58:22)          Hank : <b>“You had that pie smeared all across your face. Damn Bodecker thought it was blood. Remember that?”</b>          Arvin Russell : <b>“Yeah, I remember everything about that night.”</b>          Hank : <b>“He ain’t the lawman that I expected. Shame about his sister though.”</b>          Arvin Russell : <b>“Why? What happened?”</b>          Hank : <b>“Well, his sister and her husband were found dead. Not far from Meade.”</b></p>
---	---

Based on the data above, there is a plot variation between the novel and movie versions; in the novel version, it's explained that Arvin, on his way to Knockemstiff, is resting at the Scioto Inn Motel in Meade, Ohio. Arvin decided to rest at the motel because he had been travelling all day to his old house; the next day, Arvin visited a doughnut shop to buy breakfast and coffee; he saw a newspaper and bought it to read at the motel. When Arvin arrived at the motel, he drank the coffee and ate the doughnut he had bought. He also read the newspaper he had bought; in the newspaper, there was news that caught his attention. The news about **“The local sheriff's sister and husband had been found murdered. They were returning from a vacation in Virginia Beach. There was no mention of a suspect, but there was a photo of Sheriff Lee Bodecker alongside the story.”** Arvin realized that the couple he had killed was the sister of the sheriff in charge of Meade County, Ohio. The sheriff's name is Lee Bodecker; his photo was in the newspaper. Arvin recognizes him as the person who helped him during the death of his father, who committed suicide.

Arvin killed the couple Carl & Sandy Henderson because they tried to kill Arvin when he hitchhiked in their car at the time. Arvin noticed the suspicious behaviour of the couple, and his feelings came true. Arvin had to take action as a form of self-defence. But what the public doesn't know about

the news that has spread is that Arvin killed the couple because they had bad intentions for Arvin. Arvin, at that time, knew about Lee Bodecker and had killed his sister, Sandy Henderson, left the motel and continued his trip to Knockemstiff to see his old house where he lived with his parents.

In the film version, there is a plot variation of Arvin realizing about Sandy Henderson. It is shown in scene minutes (1:57:57-1:58:22) that Arvin is talking to Hank in his store before he continues his trip to his old house, which is not far from Hank's store. Arvin expresses his thankfulness for his kind act of helping and calling the sheriff at the time of his father, Willard's death. At that time, Arvin did not have time to say his thanks to Hank because he was still in shock from his father's suicide. Hank is happy with Arvin's words and tries to remember the incident several years ago by saying, "**You had that pie smeared all across your face. Damn Bodecker thought it was blood. Remember that?**" Arvin remembers everything about that night and never forgets what happened to him then. Hank then mentions Bodecker's sister to Arvin, so Arvin asks Hank, "**Why? What happened?**" Hank tells Arvin that he got the news about the "**His sister and her husband were found dead. Not far from Meade.**" Arvin listened to what Hank said and suddenly realized that it was the couple that Arvin killed. Arvin had to do this as part of self-defence because Carl & Sandy wanted to kill Arvin. Arvin realized their suspicious behaviour and immediately took action to kill them both.



*Figure 13 Hank told Arvin about the death of Bodecker sister*

In this picture, the expression on Arvin's face when he hears Hank tell about the murder of Sandy & Carl Henderson in the woods not far from Meade, Ohio. Arvin realizes that law enforcement has found their bodies and also realizes that he killed the sister and the husband of Sheriff Lee Bodecker. Arvin realized that he was in big trouble with law enforcement for killing the brother of a sheriff. Arvin had to kill Sandy & Carl because they intended to kill Arvin first.

Overall, The Devil All The Time series has differences in the characters between the original novel version by Donald Ray Pollock and the movie adaptation by director Antonio Campos. The differences found overall do not affect the storyline. However, the attitudes and traits of the characters Arvin Russell, Carl Henderson, and Lee Bodecker in the movie adaptation are different from the novel version. It affects the plot even though it does not change the story significantly. As the director of The Devil All The Time,

Antonio Campos managed to visualize the novel version by Donald Ray Pollock. In the end, this film fulfils the expectations of fans of the novel. It attracts new audiences to follow The Devil All The Time series as a result of the awards and positive reviews received.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Mohammad Fardani Rizqullah is an English Literature student at Bangka Belitung University. He was born in Pangkalpinang on 7 July 2001. His friends usually call him Dani. He spends most of his time playing games and hanging out. He is active on social media platforms and participates in various organizations. His hobbies include automotive and reading.

### **REFERENCES**

- Bassnett, S. (1993). *Comparative Literature A Critical Introduction*. UK : Blackwell Publishers.
- Eneste, P. (1991). *Novel dan Film*. Flores. Penerbit Nusa Indah.
- Nurhayati, D.A.W. (2020). *Research Methodology*. Tulungagung : Akademia Pustaka.
- Petrie, D., Boggs, J. (2022). *The Art of Watching Films*. Ne York : McGraw Hill.
- Sugiyono. (2020). *Metode penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, Dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- The Devil All The Time. (2020). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7395114/>
- The Devil All The Time. (2020). <https://www.netflix.com/id-en/title/81028870>
- Wellek, R., Warren, A. (2024). *Theory of Literature*. Dallas : Deep Vellum Publishing.