
**GENETIC STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS ON A VIGILANTE MOVIE BY
SARAH DAGGAR-NICKSON (2018)**

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Abstrak

Karya sastra merupakan sebuah bentuk yang terstruktur secara sistematis untuk merefleksikan fenomena sosial yang terjadi dan berkembang di masyarakat. Karya sastra dalam penelitian ini adalah film A Vigilante (2018) karya Sarah Daggar Nickson yang memuat komunitas sosial yang mendukung korban kekerasan rumah tangga dengan menggunakan teori Lucien Goldmann, yaitu Strukturalisme Genetik. Melalui teori Strukturalisme Genetik, Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa komunitas sosial yang diperlihatkan di A Vigilante (2018) yang menunjukkan sebagai tempat aman bagi para korban kekerasan rumah tangga dengan mengaitkan sudut pandang pengarang. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dalam bentuk kata-kata dialog karakter dan adegan dari A Vigilante (2018). Hasil dari penelitian ini menemukan bahwa terdapat 17 data yang teridentifikasi menggambarkan komunitas sosial dalam film. Data-data tersebut mengelaborasi dinamika komunitas sosial yang tergambarkan di dalam film. Secara ringkas, penelitian ini menemukan bahwa film A Vigilante sebagai karya fiktif merefleksikan isu sosial, yaitu komunitas sosial untuk tempat aman para korban kekerasan rumah tangga yang terjadi di masyarakat

Kata kunci: A Vigilante, Komunitas sosial, Strukturalisme Genetik

Abstract

Literary works are a systematically structured form which reflects social phenomena that occurs and develops in society. The literary work in this study is the film A Vigilante (2018) by Sarah Daggar Nickson, which depicts a social community that supports victims of domestic violence by using Lucien Goldmann's theory, namely Genetic Structuralism. Through the theory of Genetic Structuralism, this study aims to analyze the social community depicted in A Vigilante (2018) which is shown as a safe place for victims of domestic violence by linking the author's perspective. The research method which is used in this study is to use a qualitative research method in the form of character dialogues and scenes from A Vigilante (2018). The results of this study found that there were 17 identified data items depicting the social community in the film. These data elaborate on the dynamics of the social community depicted in the film. In summary, this study found that the film A Vigilante, as a work of fiction, reflects a social issue, namely a social community as a safe haven for victims of domestic violence that occurs in society.

Keywords: A Vigilante, Genetic structuralism, Social community

INTRODUCTION

Literature is not only an imagination of a writer but also a reflection of the reality environment of human including the society, politic, economic, and social conflict which happen. Through literary works, writers are able to share and express freely their ideas, opinion, and imagination about something that may be correlated and connected with the real life condition. Literature is used to explain about written and spoken material. According to McFadden (1978:56), he states: “Literature is a canon which consists of those works in language by which a community defines itself through the course of its history. It includes works primarily artistic and also those whose aesthetic qualities are only secondary.

Sociological criticism examines the relationship between literature and society, viewing literary works as reflections of the social conditions in which they are created. As Lee (2025) explains, literature is shaped by and responds to the cultural, political, and economic realities of its time, making it a valuable mirror of how society functions.

Genetic structuralism is a widely used theoretical approach for understanding literary works in a broader sociocultural context. Rooted in Lucien Goldmann’s framework, it functions within the sociology of literature by examining the relationships between a text and the real-life conditions and experiences of its authorial community. This paradigm asserts that literary analysis must consider both intrinsic (textual) and extrinsic (social/historical) aspects to fully grasp a work’s meaning and significance (Purnama & Ningsih, 2021).

The object of this study comprehends and depicts about the existence of a social community which happened to the main character itself, Sadie (Olivia Wilde). The story tells about Sadie (Olivia Wilde) who is going to a victim violence supporting group and working as a vigilante to support her life after receiving violence from her husband years ago. Sadie is one of the individuals in a social community which provides a safe place to support, get emotional help, and share their traumatic experiences.

The researcher believes that there is social phenomenon which is depicted in this movie by using genetic structuralism from Lucien Goldmann in order to deepen and broaden the understanding of the research of social community that supports the victims of domestic violence. *A Vigilante* by Sarah Daggar-Nickson was produced and published in 2018 in United State. In 2018, the rate of domestic violence was significantly high by 20 people per minute were the victims of physical violence by an intimate partner, making it become one of the most important social issues to analyze (IACP, Enforcement Policy Center, March

2018). This indicates that the background of a literary work which conveys the socio-political factors as the author's worldview of making a literary work.

According to Hamdi Bacha and Soltani (2024), the theory "tracks worldviews through an implicit correspondence between literature and society," highlighting how literary form mirrors socio-cultural realities and ideological structures. This reveals Sddie's struggle reflects in a social community in the movie. *A Vigilante* (2018) has been known for its portrayal of traumatic experience by being victims or survivors of domestic violence, but there is a film's depiction of social community and collective consciousness that raise each individual's sense of belonging and togetherness in to face the domestic violence they have endured and experienced. This film, which centers on a woman's journey through trauma, and resistance. This serves as a rich cultural text that expresses not only individual 6 psychological struggle but also the worldview of a collective group of survivors of domestic violence and victims of systemic injustice.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design which is used in this research is the Descriptive Qualitative method. Qualitative description uses questions to explain and collect the data. Qualitative descriptive method divided several parts, they are sampling, data collection, and data analysis (Seixas et al., 2017). The descriptive qualitative aims for collecting and emphasizing objectivity of the research by analyzing and interpreting the phenomena of the object of the research. The descriptive qualitative has the goal which defines and describes the phenomenon of the object of the research (Nassaji, 2015). In order to have brief explanation and understanding, descriptive qualitative method is able to suit the research methodology in this study.

Time and Place of the Study

This research was written until the completion of this research, all parts of the study were completed at the University of Bangka Belitung. In addition, this research was conducted for 2 years from September 2023 to July 2025. In September 2023,

Object of the Study

The object of the study is to attain and collect the scientific purposes which are the data which can define the research. According to Sugiyono (2017) the importance of the object of the research is to obtain data for specific purposes and the data must be reliable and valid. In this research, the research uses a movie to collect the scientific data. The movie is used in this research is *A Vigilante* (2018), a film by Sarah Daggar-Nickson as a director.

Data Collection

Data collection is the way of finding, gathering, and measuring scientific information or evidences from analyzing the object of the research. Data collection is a basic step of collecting and finding the objectivity on the object of the research. In order to find the understanding of the object, the data must be reliable and valid. . The following steps of collecting the data are:

1. Obtaining the access to watch *A Vigilante* repeatedly to comprehend the understanding.
2. Identifying the scenes and the dialogues based on the film to obtain the vivid evidences. The dialogues will be proceed from the spoken to the written form.
3. Classifying the collected scenes and dialogues into the classification of the appendix. The appendix contains the data actualization and classification.

Data Analysis

Data analysis is fundamental to find the result of the research. Data analysis is the way of processing and measuring the data to the data classification. To classify the data into groups, it is fundamental to analyze the data so it can be understood clearly and vividly. Using the qualitative descriptive approach has each step to be followed. The steps of the data analysis in this studies are:

1. To analyze the data that have been collected and found from the object of the study using the world view and structure in genetic structuralism.
2. To classify and connect the data that have been collected into the world view, structure, and the social context.
3. To elaborate the conclusion after having the result of classifying and connecting the data as the last step of the data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Genetic structuralism, in particular the structure of literary works and world view as the reflection are needed in order to uncover and reveal the literal or actual meanings of literary works. Moreover, the first part is to discuss about the structure of the literary work, such as characters, plots, and settings which are showed and seen in the movie as the intrinsic elements of the literary works that are essential and important to be comprehended and analyzed widely and vividly. On the other hand, the second part is to discuss about the relationship or the representation of the structure of the literary work with the world view which is the social community that is showed and depicted in the movie in order to elaborate and expand the comprehensiveness of the study.

A. The structure of literary work

Genetic structuralism notifies the aspects or components of literary works make literary works as one unified thing. The components of literary work here mean the intrinsic and extrinsic elements which unite and make literary works become as of one important written resources to be reflected and studied. Structure here indicates that the aspects or components of literary works which are able to unite and make literary works as one unity of the human works.

a) Character related to the social community

1. Sddie

Datum 1

Margaret : I just tell people he left me? Mm-hm. For another woman.

Sddie : No one will question it. **Keep going to Group, it'll help.**



Figure 1. Sddie suggests the victim go to the group

Sddie, who acts as the helper to the poor victim symbolically shows a community group as the safe place. This means that the existence of group, shelter, or organization is important for human beings to share what they feel and experience and support each other to reach one big purpose. Collective consciousness gives human beings a picture about condition and situation that they face and challenge together.

Sddie is the main character who tries and puts lots of efforts to oppose and contradict the system of marriage that sees men often have the upper hands. Sddie symbolically represents what the social community wants to offer and change to the society. Through her actions, it can be analyzed and concluded that she puts an effort to ensure and assist the poor and helpless victim of domestic violence that the victim has gone through by having social community or shelter which surely gives supports to the victims and provides a safe zone.

b) Plot related to the social community

1. Exposition

Datum 8

Mr. Schaund : Are you a lawyer?

Sddie : I know what you do to her, Mr. Schaund, and what you'll do to the kids if she leaves.



Figure 2. Sadies's effort to help the victim of domestic violence

Sadies comes to help the helpless victims by showing her motif to support and assist the victims to get the justice and equality in the structure of the society. Sadies indicates and represents the social community as the support system for the victims who have endured and shared the same things in their families because they likely seem helpless and powerless to fight back. Sadies's assistance encourages and heartens the victim not to hold back against injustice, physical abuse, intimidation, and domestic violence. Sadies, who is one of the important roles in the social community depicted in the movie represents her message and direct support and her social community as the place to assist the victims.

2. Rising action

Datum 9

Joyce Richards : I never called them when he abused of me, but
once it got to my kids, I wasn't gonna let it
happen



Figure 3.

expresses her thought of being victim

Joyce Richards

Joyce Richard who is one of the individuals in the counseling group which social community has significantly stated the condition where she had vulnerable and terrible situation due to the abusive husband. Her husband who is told and mentioned by Joyce Richard awfully did evil actions to her where she could not even defend herself and speak up for her rights. Her husband not only abused her, but also abused their kids which made Joyce Richard was not able hold back her anger toward her husband's terribleness. Joyce Richard speaks her experience to other individuals of the social community which triggers their anger and sympathy to assist her and provide a safe zone to state when they have discussion together to solve it.

The other individuals of the social community are able to feel and understand Joyce Richard's feeling and experience about that traumatic and tragic story she has faced and experienced. Understanding this problem makes them to unite and bond together in order to face the problems they have in such patriarchal society.

3. Climax



Datum 11

Beverly : What makes you say that, Sadie?

Saddie : Cause it's true

Beverly : Can you share your leaving story with us?

Figure 4. Beverly shows the support for Sddie through discussion

As indicated by this datum, it shows that Sddie feels the same way as counseling group woman 2 who feels really hesitate about her feelings which lead to the domestic violence which is caused by the abusive husband. At this point, Sddie does not have a willingness to share and express her traumatic story because she feels afraid and powerless to demonstrate herself. Beverly, who is one of the individuals of the social community, tending to consolidate the issue that correlated to victims of domestic violence that happens to helpless and powerless women. This scene indicates that Beverly stands with the victim who is Sddie to openly discuss and comprehend her traumatic experience as it stands as the goal of the social community that supports and protects those victims who are in unpleasable and susceptible environment.

4. Falling action

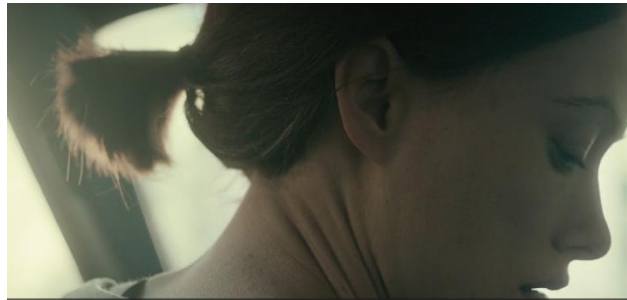
Datum 14

Sddie : I wanna use it to help people who can't escape. I won't kill. But I'll get them free from the abuse quickly and for good.

Figure 5. Sddie decides her determination of helping victim

It finds that Sddie finally finds her big resolution in order to help people who can't avoid and escape from the abuse which is done and carried out by the abusers. Sddie's resolution stands in the line with the social community's purpose to assist and get the victims of domestic violence free from the abuse and torture they have endured and suffered for their life. Symbolically, Sddie represents the social community by seeing and having her action to assist and advocate the helpless victims from being tortured and abused by the abusers.

She has the courage to oppose the abuse which is done by the husband during her life. Sddie stands with the victims' traumatic and tragic experiences they have encountered. Sddie, who is one of the individuals of the social community, showing the efforts to help the victims to escape the violence and give social supports for the victims. Symbolism of collective solidarity is well-represented by helping the people who are in a horrible state which is caused by the abusers of domestic violence.



5. Resolution

Datum 15

Lawyer : Glad the **shelter was able** to find you.

Sddie : Why did the police wanna see me?



Figure 6. The existence of the support group

Based on this datum, it indicates that the shelter that provides Sadies a safe place to speak out and social community that movie has saved and when she was helpless because of the had. “The shelter was



advocate which is is depicted in the found Sadies and vulnerable conditions she able” explains that

the existence of the social community is literally important and crucial to assist the victims that have trapped in terrible and susceptible condition which is caused by the abusive husband in a patriarchy concept.

Sadies’s rebellion and revolution towards to the abusers of domestic violence have made a change for her satisfaction and revenge although she did it without formal law and justice. Sadies’s actions to vengeance and take a justice symbolically represent and indicate the social community goal which is trying to consolidate their environment, get emotional and social support, and also state their rights and opportunities to defend themselves from being victims of domestic violence.

c) Setting related to the social community

1. Setting of time

Datum 6

Figure 7. The setting of time

In accordance with this datum, this explicitly explains that the time that occurs during the time scene of the social community that appears and displays in the movie. From this scene, it can be seen and concluded that the activity of the social community only happens in a day and during winter season. This shows the exact time that happens during the day when the social community has discussion and conversation which talk about their determination and willingness to oppose and resist to the domestic violence that has suffered and tortured the victims for a long time. The time scene that occurs in the movie necessarily show that the social community is active during the day.

2. Setting of place

Datum 16

Figure 8. The place where social community takes a place

This datum clearly shows and explains the place where the social community does take a place to discuss and have conversation about their determination, sympathy, and consolidation to share their feelings, tragic and traumatic experience and also the discussion about domestic violence they have endured. The social community surely takes a secretariat house to have conversation and discussion which talk about their heartbreaking story and resolution to fight back the abusers of domestic violence. The secretariat house has seven characters inside including the main character of the movie, who is Sddie, and the other two important characters in the movie, who are Joyce Richards and Beverly who are significantly correlated with the social community that is seen and depicted in the movie.



B. World view reflected as social community

The author's represents the community in the the author's real where people who suffered the same



world view existence of social movie because of life environment have endured and experiences tend to

create shelter or community as their symbol to resist or oppose the injustice they have received from communal society. This togetherness of being isolated individuals in order to resist significantly the abuse and unfair treatment from the society, making that the author's worldview explicitly issues the importance of having social community as a place to voice their aspirations and rights.

In accordance with the author's worldview about social community that is depicted in *A Vigilante* (2018) movie, there is a social community that exists in real life where the author created this literary work in order to protect, provide, and advocate the victims' aspirations and rights through Support Circles in United State of America. As the author is American and was born there, this significantly shows that literary work is the representation of real life environment where it becomes the inspiration and imagination for the author in order to make a literary work. This explains that literary work has relationships with real life condition that becomes the inspiration for the author. The author's worldview sees the importance of having a social community as a place to shows the togetherness as the result of having social consciousness.

Datum 17

Beverly: **We gotta get up outta there.** If we wanna go, we can go! And then we get scared. Start to feel like there's no escape.

Figure 9. The sense of belonging of each individual through social community

The social community depicted in movie is born because the characters who are correlated with the social community appear to create a safe zone for the victims to share and understand tragic experience, create social solidarity, and collectively strengthen each other's trauma. . As it is supported by McMillan and Chavis who stated that the sense of belonging makes the individuals who take a role in community feel the togetherness that involves the belief and life values they stand (McMillan & Chavis, 1986, p. 10). The author's worldview elaborates the social and collective consciousness are able to be obtained by those individuals who have endured and faced the same problem.

This also means that human being often appears to live in communal society because human being is a social creature. . In an interview at the South by Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival, she emphasized that the film was "inspired by the strength of survivors of domestic violence," and aimed to reflect the ongoing emotional toll they endure even after leaving abusive environments (The AU Review, 2018). In 2018, it was one of the most domestic violence cases when there were 20 people per minute were the victims of physical violence by an intimate partner (IACP, Enforcement Policy Center, March 2018). This issue has been a critical issue in United State for a long time because there are lots of domestic violence cases over the years.

Having this explanation, it significantly shows the reason the existence of social community in United State because the society appears to intimidate the intimate partner and the state often failed to overcome the issue. Support circles as a social community in society exists in order to protect the unheard voices and helpless survivors of domestic violence. The author's worldview reflects the social community in the real life environment with social community in the movie. The author's worldview indirectly shows there is a significant correlation between the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literary work.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The survivors or the victims of domestic violence not only feel their traumatic and tragic experience as one individual's pain, but also the survivors recognize the domestic violence experience as one social consciousness that makes survivors try to oppose and protect themselves through having a social community to represent their

values. Sddie as the main character is not only depicted as one of survivors of domestic violence, but also Sddie is depicted as the character who offers helps and protections for the victims of domestic violence to get out from the cycle of domestic violence that exactly occurred in the movie. The author's worldview is able to be concluded by having a social community which is reflected in the movie as it is aligned with Support Circles in United State. The author's worldview is able to give a reflection of the real social environment which happens in human history. This explains that the author's worldview is a collective and social consciousness which are experienced by a particular social group that is steadily manifested and recorded in the structure of literary works.

Suggestion

Based on the research, this shows how social community depicted in the movie works and exists to be a safe place for the victims as it relates the author's worldview. This research can be used as reference in order to analyze genetic structuralism in a literary work to get the relations of the author's worldview and the author's literary work as it may be understood that a literary work is a reflection of the real environment where it becomes the background of a literary work. For the sake of development research, the future research are able to explore or discuss more about *A Vigilante* (2018) to get deeper and wider discussion. The future research may analyze the trauma that the main character's experience by using another theory that relates to the trauma in order to assess the object used in this study by using another perspective.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Habib Alkautsar Ramadhan is an English Literature student at the University of Bangka Belitung. He was born in Pangkalpinang, on November 22, 2001. His friends normally call him Habib. In his spare time, he likes enjoying reading, listening to music, hanging out with friends, and drinking a cup of coffee. During his college years, he was active on participating in some college activities and creative projects.

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