



Sincerity of Main Character in *The Maze Runner* Movie Directed By Wes Bell

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to observe the characteristic of sincerity shown in the main character and discover the effect of the main character's sincerity. Using a qualitative method, the characteristic of the main character is analyzed based on the theory of a. characteristic of sincerity b. the effect of the main character's sincerity. As a result of analysis, the writers found that: 1. The characteristics of sincerity shown in the main character along the story 2. The effects also objective truth along the story 3. The primary moral messages implied in the movie are about improving a better person, making a judgment, and the principles avowed by society and the sincerity of its citizens.

Keywords: Main Character, Maze Runner, Sincerity

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a term that describes anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific work. It is often recognized as written works with such an artistic value: the art of written works, the expression of human nature, and significant human experiences. There are many kinds of literary works, such as poetry, novels, and other fiction or nonfiction. (Krystal, 2014) "Literary means not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed, what is invented, in whatever form." It means that literary is not written, voiced, expressed, and invented but literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression.

One of the literary works is the movie. Many people consider movies interesting and enjoyable activities, and it becomes their favorite. Since it has become such an interesting activity, people can choose movies such as drama, comedy, adventure, action, etc. Movies visualize a story, usually presented on television or theatre. (Bordwell, D., & Thompson, 2008) "Over recent decades, cinema has increasingly come to be incorporated into university literature courses, and literature professors have been pronouncing film, as well as on novels, poems, and plays." A movie is a literary work that contains a lot of lessons to be learned. People around the world can learn many

languages and different cultures from watching movies, as well as s reading other types of literary works, such as novels, poems, etc.

The Maze Runner is an incredible movie with an equally incredible cast that can carry meaningful stories. However, it is different and sticks out like a sore thumb amongst many young adult movies for the sentimental values and tension it has to the point where everyone can be on the edge of their seats when they watch it. Everything is amazingly well-done in terms of production and acted almost seemingly so that every scene feels like it has a sturdy foundation within it.

The previous research was delivered by (Alatas et al., 2022). They revealed the sincerity of the main character in the Vow movie and classified sincerity by thought, feelings, and desires. In addition, the sincerity role was also analyzed in communication (Eisinger & Mills, 1968), social communication (Rothermich et al., 2022), social movement (Holdo, 2018), and politics (Rafferty, 2009).

The writers chose the movie because it has an intriguing main character, storylines, and moments that can be applied well to daily life, such as strong friendships and struggle against the higher-ups. The writers choose to analyze the sincerity of the main character in the movie because it is one of some psychological dimensions commonly owned by people who want to help their friends in any situation, connecting to the main problem to be discussed. Sincerity is acting earnestly without holding a

certain hidden agenda or pretense. In the movie, the main character's sincerity shines through as he tries to help his friends overcome challenging obstacles without being selfish. (Markovits, 2008) implies that "sincerity, like nature, is bedrock waiting to be rediscovered rather than an invented condition". Achieving sincerity means purifying oneself of cultural influences that have distorted one's true nature rather than extending one's cultural consciousness.

For further analysis, how sincerity can influence how people think and act while maintaining friendship is an interesting topic for those who love watching movies, especially for writers. There is also a different level of sincerity, the virtue of who speaks and acts truly about his or her feelings, thoughts, and desires according to the different parts of beings.

The writers formulate the problems, then become the research objective, as follows: How are the characteristics of sincerity shown by the main character in the story *The Maze Runner*? What are the effects of the main character's sincerity? This paper is limited to only identifying the main character's sincerity in the movie "*The Maze Runner*" and presenting several scenes supporting the analysis.

In this modern society, trust is very important as the moral infrastructure of society. To become a trustworthy person, people must be sincere. Through sincerity, everyone understands that man acts according to his conscience. If he acts according to the dictates of

his conscience, people accept his sincerity. In that case, he is sincere to himself.

Alphen et al. (2009) implies that sincerity, like nature, is a bedrock waiting to be rediscovered rather than an invented condition. Achieving sincerity means purifying oneself of cultural influences that have distorted one's true nature rather than extending one's cultural consciousness.

According to Wikander (2002), "The ideal of sincerity, truth itself. The word came into the English language in the late sixteenth century, explicitly referring to the quality of Christ. Still, it rapidly spread into secular context, where it is immediately prized and privileged." It relates to sincerity as a moment of self-transcendence, of grace and truth, as an essential condition of virtue, and has discovered how it is to be attained.

Based on (Simon, 2019), sincerity means that one's intentions are genuinely loving. That's what makes the command to love others in the manner we would love ourselves so foundational. We harbor no hidden agendas when we're of sincere heart and purpose. We're not out to get something in a slimy, underhanded, or undeserving way. And we're not out to exploit or take advantage. Instead, we're out to advance the cause of life. We do so for our benefit and the overall well-being of all. Sincerity is all about loving someone without any excuses.

Alphen et al. (2009) Explains that such sincerity may be esteemed moral excellence for

the lover of truth, who is truthful even when nothing depends on it. Truthfulness or sincerity is a desirable meaning between deficiency of irony or self-depreciation and the excess of boastfulness. Sincere is an adjective that means free from deceit, proceeding from genuine feelings. The term is also used to describe someone saying what they genuinely believe or feel, not dishonest or hypocritical.

Some scholars view sincerity as a construct rather than a moral virtue, although any virtue can be constructed as a construct' rather than an actual phenomenon. Sincerity has the division only in the scene of duty and stands in equal independent relation to the claimed person.

According to (Yoshiki, 2004), there are two types of sincerity. "One is a noble high virtue in response to the righteous request, and the other is the fundamental duty is the response to lawful light." In the law field, this sincerity is a 'good faith' is not a virtue but more legality to perform a duty. However, both are good themselves as sufficient guides for men in society.

Moreover, (Trilling, 2003) states that society includes the assumption that a given society can be charged if the judgment passed upon it is adverse. Therefore, it can be explained that in framing such a judgment, the ideal of sincerity is of substantial importance. It is adduced as a criterion in three considerations:

1. Of the sincerity of the person making the judgments. This must be a question and fully manifest.

2. Of the degree of correspondence between the principles avowed by society and its actual conduct.
3. Of the extent to which society fosters and corrupts the sincerity of its citizens.

From all theories of sincerity above, it can be assumed that social trust is very important for a particular exchange or social relation in modern society. But, on the other hand, theatrical sincerity opposes the deal of sincerity, that is, truth to oneself as natural sincerity.

People play roles of being themselves. They sincerely act as part of a sincere person with the result that a judgment may be upon their sincerity that it is not authentic.

According to Alphen et al (2009), "When spontaneity and sincerity are perceived as virtues, repetition and rehearsal appear as vice." The rehearsal and repetition practice do things repeatedly until people get them right. All aspects become suspect when they leach into social life and lie only in rigidity or repetitiveness.

Vendler (1988) stated, "Sincerity claims to achieve between subjective experience or belief and objective truth." This statement indicates that a person who integrates his emotions is rational, social, and gentlemanly to the same extent as his mind; his sincerity is partial if it is limited to the mind and external manners.

As (Wikander, 2002) states, "It is indeed that modern society builds on contradiction." It implies individualism, and for this very reason, it destroys all sincere individuality. Trying always to be true to oneself can lead to the

contradiction between a better self and a devout self.

All preceding theories above give one's worked the character of an expression. It is concerned only with conveying his impression, simply seeking to be himself and no one else.

METHODS

The writers choose a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the problem in this paper. (Glass & Hopkins, 1984) stated that a descriptive qualitative method involves gathering data describing events and organizing, tabulating, depicting, and describing the data collection. To complete this paper, the writers use library research to analyze this movie by finding and getting some data, then analyzing the data information by searching on the internet.

The first step is the writers took *The Maze Runner* movie to be analyzed and also prepared some theories to support the analysis. Then the writers studied the movie by watching *The Maze Runner* several times and identified the movie by taking notes for essential dialogues and capturing scenes. After that, the writers started to analyze the movie. In this section, the writers found the result of the statement of the problem. Finally, the writers made the closure and conclusion of the analysis of the sincerity of the main character.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Dylan O'Brien plays the main character Thomas, who shows that he tries to find the way out of the Glade with Newt, Minho, Teresa, and

all friends left. This movie shows the sincereness of the main character who tries to help each other and keep his friend alive. It can be seen in some scenes captured below.

1. The sincerity of The Main Character

There are a lot of traits that build the character of a person in a movie. These traits are not a complete overview. The first piece of evidence shows in the maze. It shows that Thomas cares a lot about Alby and Minho, especially Alby, the first person who talks to and helps him adapt to his new society there. Although Thomas already knows that he cannot help them much, Thomas still helps them both, whatever it takes. Alby gets stung by one of Griever's at night when he and Minho retrace Ben's steps at the maze. They return in the morning, but the entrance will close soon. Thomas, Gally, Chuck, Newt, and other boys wait near the entrance, but no one intends to help them.

The second scene is when Thomas, Alby, and Minho get trapped in the maze. They do not know what to do with Alby because when a person gets stung by a Griever, they turn into zombies. Night comes so fast that Thomas and Minho argue about Alby's condition and decide where they want to hide Alby or leave him alone in the middle of that maze. After that, Thomas gets an idea. He finds a huge bush to hide Alby. With Minho's help, he saves Alby's body there, but Minho sees a Griever by far and decides to run away.

Third, Thomas leads Teresa, Chuck, Newt, and other boys to escape the maze, but not for Gally and the other runners left. He rejects Thomas's suggestion to run because Gally blames Thomas for what happened to Alby, and Grievers attacked that night. But he keeps on his faith to escape from the Glade without Gally and the other runners. They follow Minho's instructions because he is the only boy who knows well about the maze and its movements. In the maze, they get a lot of obstacles that can distract their movement through the escape route, starting from the labyrinth that changes every second, debris coming from above the maze, and the Griever's attack. While they almost got close to the escape gate, one of the Grievers got Minho instead. Thomas, Chuck, Newt, and other boys try to save Minho. Unexpectedly, Jeff, a potion specialist, comes to Minho and intends to keep him. Instead, he got caught by another Griever. The boys finally can save Minho and enter the gate because Jeff makes the Griever pay attention to his movements.

Last, Thomas finds a video on the computer. This is the leader of WCKD on that video named, Ava Paiged. In that video, she tries to tell the boys that WCKD is good. This organization is not trying to hurt or gain advantages from them because they all have the strongest immune system in that era. After that, she killed herself at the end of that video. While Thomas, Newt, Teresa, and the other boys are looking for an escape, Gally suddenly comes and makes them

scared because he brings a gun and points it at Thomas. All the boys and Thomas himself try to stop what Gally wants to shoot him. Instead, Gally shoots Chuck, who saves Thomas by blocking it, and Gally gets shot by Minho with his spear. Chuck is dead, and Gally is as well. Then, the rescuer comes into the lab and secures all the boys and Teresa. Thomas tries to bring Chuck's body back, but the rescue forces Thomas not to get his body.

2. Effect of sincerity's main character

Every trait has its effect on each person included in this movie. The main character in a movie has his/her traits that can be influenced by himself /herself. In *The Maze Runner* movie, Thomas, as the main character, gets the effect from one of his traits which means sincerity, and they are:

a. Care

Without experience in that maze, Thomas suddenly runs into them, and the entrance closes. He officially breaks the rules as a Greeny. Thomas does not know what he has done. He just wants to help his friend who helps him adapt to the Glade. Minho is confused about what happens when Thomas wants to help them without experience. They look after Alby, who gets stung by a Griever while he wants to save Ben till dawn.

b. Wise

In the maze, Minho asks Thomas to leave Alby, but he does not. Thomas keeps holding the rope that hangs Alby's body on the huge bush

until Griever passes by. After that, Griever walks in front of Thomas, he ties the rope up to the root near him. But he feels something is wrong when Thomas finds a liquid on the floor, which falls into his right shoulder. Suddenly a Griever comes from above and tries to attack Thomas. He runs away and does not know what to do. After Thomas passes many obstacles while being chased by a Griever, Minho shows up and tries to save Thomas. Minho finds a maze that has changed and asks Thomas to run through it.

c. Stubborn

The other night, all entrances from each corner were open. So, the Grievers come and hunt them all. Thomas, Chuck, Teresa, and the other boys hide in a hut. Suddenly one of the Grievers comes to them and gets Chuck. The boys, including Newt and Alby, standby but not for Thomas. Although he knows he cannot defeat the Griever, Thomas tries to help Chuck alone. Unexpectedly, Alby, Newt, and the other boys help Thomas to save Chuck. Unfortunately, but unlucky, Alby gets caught by another Griever from another side of the hut.

d. Faith

Thomas finally can gather the rest of the boys and Teresa to escape the maze. They get a lot of obstacles that can distract their movement through the escape route, starting from the maze that changes every second, debris coming from above the maze, and the Griever's attack. While they almost got close to the escape gate, one of the Grievers got Minho instead. Thomas, Chuck, Newt, and other boys try to save Minho.

Unexpectedly, Jeff, a potion specialist, comes to Minho and intends to save him. Instead, he got caught by another Griever. The boys finally can save Minho and enter the gate because Jeff makes the Griever pay attention to his movements.

e. Facing failure

They enter the laboratory outside the maze. Thomas finds a video on the computer. This is the leader of WCKD on that video named, Ava Paiged. In that video, she tries to tell the boys that WCKD is good. This organization is not trying to hurt or get the advantages from them because they all have the strongest immune system in that era. After that, she killed herself at the end of that video. While Thomas, Newt, Teresa, and the other boys are looking for an escape, Gally suddenly comes and makes them scared because he brings a gun and points it at Thomas. All the boys and Thomas himself try to stop what Gally wants to shoot him. Instead, Gally shoots Chuck, who saves Thomas by blocking it, and Gally gets shot by Minho with his spear. Chuck is dead, and Gally is as well. Then, the rescuer comes into the lab and secures all the boys and Teresa. Thomas tries to bring Chuck's body back, but the rescuer forces Thomas not to bring his body.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In the previous analysis, it can be concluded that several scenes in the main character's sincerity are shown in *The Maze Runner* movie. A scene of his sincereness for being together and

always protecting their friends from all threats they faced.

After the analysis, it can be found that positive and negative impacts can influence parts of the story, such as the plot and other characters' emotions. They are stubborn and face failure the negative effects. But then, the positive impacts are care, wisdom, and faith. Each effect is represented by one supporting the scene and the explanations.

The writers suggest that the next researchers who want to arrange a similar literary analysis are that they must collect the data needed to analyze the subject and prepare some steps, such as watching the movie many times, finding the supporting materials from many sources, observing the movie's detail, such as the scenes, characters, durations, and also the moral message to get an accurate data. The next researcher can also analyze the plot from *The Maze Runner* movie as it has an exciting plot and stories with many meaningful values behind them.

Meanwhile, general readers should have basic knowledge, especially about the literature, because there are many literary terms used through the discussion that the readers must understand before exploring the analysis of this paper. Finally, the writers hope this paper can be a good reference for future researchers.

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