

# HASIL CEK\_NIZAM\_Preference Of Novel To Movie The Kite

*by Nizam Ahsani Preference Of Novel To Movie The Kite Runner(2007)*

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# Preference Of Novel To Movie The Kite Runner (2007): Reader Response Theory

Shella Gherina Saptiany, Meicy Intan Sari, Nizam Ahsani

**Abstract:** This paper concerns with reader's preference over novel to movie version of The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. This research is descriptive qualitative. This research use reader response theory. The aim of this study is to know what the reader's reason for choosing the novel rather than movie. The data of this research were collected through document analysis. This research data accessed from Internet Movie Database (IMDb). This research used primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data of this research is the reader's response of The Kite Runner movie and the secondary data were obtained from several references from books, articles and journals to support the analysis. The researchers found 28 viewers who commented about the comparison between the novel and movie. The results of this research are; first limited visualization, second moral value, next bad adaptation, and the last one is less touching. Limited visualization can be caused by the feeling toward the novel, moments and emotions while bad adaptation is categorized into two kinds: the change of the event and detail of the character.

**Index Terms :** Readers' Preference, Reader Response, The Kite Runner

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In every year, the appearance of movie adaptation from literary works is increasing. James M. Welsh and Peter Lev in their book titled *The Literature/Film Reader: Issues in Adaptation* state that adaptation has always been central to the process of film making since almost the beginning and could well maintain its dominance into the cinema's second century[1]. From the statement, it can be said that movie adaptation has a very large percentage value. A movie adapted from the novel is usually bestseller. Many people are curious about the plot. They want to compare whether the character and the scene which described by the novel is same as in the film. Based on a polling by Debate org entitled "are movies better than book?" noted that 43% respondents said yes and 57% respondents said no. Those figures indicate that most people prefer reading novel to watch the movie. The adoption of the novel to this movie slightly raised people interest to read a novel. That interest can be seen from novel sales figures. Rahma Sugihartati found that the famous bookstores in Surabaya, Toga Mas, recorded 484 both novels by foreign and domestic writers sold in one month. Some popular novel and have a high sales figures are Harry Potter, The Lord of The Ring, Narnia, Twilight, *At-Ayat Cinta*, *Da Vinci Code*, *Laskar Pelangi* [2]. They assume that the novel is more interesting, have a quality, detailed, and complete rather than the movie. On the other hand, moviegoers are decreased in number if the film was adopted from the novel. The fact is there are many scenes or stories that are added or exaggerated in the movie, even the story can be distorted or often very different. It could reduce the attractiveness of people to watch the movie

version. One of the literary works adapted into a movie and a best seller is *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini. *The Kite Runner* is an unusual and powerful novel that become a beloved, one of a kind classic[3]. Tarana state the book is an impressive and memorable one both as a touching personal story about how our childhood mistakes affect our adult lives [4]. Hesham also said that the novel sold millions of copies worldwide, received critical acclaim and been classified as one of a classic [5]. According to Internet Movie Database website, *The Kite Runner* has received a rating of 7.6 / 10 and got nominations for 1 Oscar, another 6 wins and 24 nominations. From his film *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini has been asked to speak in many forums related to his work. Nadem said that the novel is also based on Hosseini's personal memories of growing up in the Wazir Akbar Khan section of Kabul and a subsequent migration to USA and adapting to life in California [6]. From the video Localmatters on youtube, Khaled Hosseini said that the movie has been honored the novel and is a great companion piece of the novel [7]. Based on the facts, the researchers want to find the response of the moviegoers and want to compare whether the content or storyline and the characters in the movie and novel are the same or which way of the story is more interesting.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Film Production

Film production is the process of making the film, commonly it purposes to the extensive theatrical exhibition. Film production is a labor-intensive activity that requires a large amount of skilled and nonskilled workers in both the creative and technical fields. Film creates direct part-time and full-time employment[8]. To produce the film, it needs some steps that should be done such as casting, shooting, screenwriting, sound recording, and reproduction. According to Mario Klarer in his book "Introduction to Literature Studies", the idiosyncratic of a film are the angle of the camera, the editing, montage, and the motion. Mario Klarer said that Although the film has its own specific characteristics and terminology, it is possible to analyze film by drawing on methods of literary

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criticism, as film criticism is closely related to the traditional approaches of textual studies [9]. There is some example of text-oriented literary criticism which relates with material aspects of the film, like a montage, editing, film stock, and sound. The study about the film has existed a long time ago, especially the Anglo-America world. The film has produced various cinematic genres and forms which not classify film as a product of drama. According to Jimmyn Parc the film industry has experienced many periods of difficulties [10]. Interestingly though, these hardships have helped it to form its own competitive advantage within the global film market.

## 2.2 Film Adaptation

Sung Ae Lee state that adaptation is often a transcoding into a different set of conventions, and here we argue that print to film adaptations introduce and depend upon a bundle of conventions and techniques which are already globalized and hence facilitate cross-cultural understanding more than print media might do [11]. The movie adaptation is the transfer of the written job, in full or in part, to the feature movie. It is the form of derivative work. The standard form of movie writing is the use of the book as the basis of the feature movie. Other jobs adapted into movies include non-fiction, biography, comic books, scriptures, plays, historical references, and even other movies. From the earliest times of film, in nineteenth-century Europe, writing from such different resources has been the ubiquitous knowledge of filmmaking. Between 1994 and 2013, 58 percent of these high grossing movies in the globe were adaptations. Sometimes there are possibilities that due to its condensed form film cannot justify the contents of the book properly. It tends to omit certain details. This leads to the poor quality of adaptation sometime. Context also encompasses components of presentation and reception, like the amount and type of publicity an adaptation gets: its advertising, press attention, and evaluations [12]. The prominence of the director or stars is also a central element of its reception background [13]. The changes of literature work to film are known as ecranization. Beside of ecranization, that transformation also called filmization. According to Suseno, ecranization means that a displacement of a novel to movie. In ecranization, the result of the transformation is always differed and change, whether it is an addition, subtraction, and varieties [14]. When doing the transformation, there is some subtraction that must be done by directors, such as the storyline, plot, setting or character. By doing subtraction, the director easier to arrange the duration. There are some aspects that must be considered when doing the transformation, the first is a duration. Audience spends more times to read the literary work or novel, but the time to watch the movie is limit. The second aspect is the purpose, the director in making a transformation has a purpose itself.

## 2.3 Reader Response Theory

This research used reader response theory. Reader response theory is the significant studies which used to analyze the responses. According to Mustafa reader response criticism literary theories aim to make readers get pleasure and to consider impressions given on readers [15]. Rachna Davi state that Reader response criticism suggests that a text gains meaning by the purposeful act of a reader's reading and interpreting it. The relationship between reader and text is highly valued; text does not exist without a reader [16]. It

suggests that a text obtain the meaning by the purposeful act of a reader when reading and interpreting it. This research uses the theory of reader response by Beach Richard. Beach states that the reader response strategy arises as a reaction to the New Criticism approach which greatly emphasizes text-oriented structuralism [17]. The concern of Reader Response theory is a meaning in the text. Wolfgang Iser said that literary texts provide the foundation for their interpretation, but they also imply the action of the reader [18]. Thoyibi said that the role of readers in reception theory is to build a meaning of literature work [19]. Fahmida said that the reader response theory highlights the role of reader and his emotional experience of the text [20]. Readers are related with literary work, then the readers determine the meaning and value from that literary work so that literary work has a value and meaning from the readers. The correlation between reader and text is important, a text does not occur without a reader. In this research project, the researcher applied reader response theory as it enable the researcher to find detail reason of the subject research. The reader response theory is a theory that requires people who has read a novel, then they will know the contents of the novel. With questions that have been prepared, the researcher can find the answers even in detail for what the people has read. Because reader response theory is basically to know the response of everyone who has read a literary work.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Research Method

This research uses qualitative method. Alexander state qualitative researchers need to know their literatures. Understanding the contribution of your qualitative research—whether doctoral thesis, journal article, or research proposal—to knowledge is dependent on your awareness and insight into past research literature [21]. Abrar states that Qualitative research is generally known as a major research methodology which focuses on the explanation, decipherment, and interpretation of people's behavior, feelings, perspectives or life experiences [22]. Al-Sabbah, Saher state that Qualitative research which needs more time to conduct the research and need more strategies to deeply understand the phenomena is the unfavourable method for researchers because they willing to have their researches done faster and easier by using quantitative researcher [23]. The type of the data is a text that include the words, punctuations, sentences, phrases that represent the responses of the viewers to The Kite Runner movie directed by Mark Foster.

### 3.2 Method of Collecting Data

To analyze this research, the present study will use document analysis. Gleen state that document analysis is a systematic procedure for reviewing documents both printed and electronic [24]. Document analysis found on existing sources, such as book, website, articles in newspaper, government reports, or medical record.

The following are the steps that researchers use to collect the data:

1. Access the website of Internet Movie Database and search The Kite Runner movie.
2. Go to user reviews and then view all the reviews.

- Copy and paste all the reviews into the researcher's document.

#### 15 Data Sources

The data in this research is taken from The Internet Movie Database (IMDb). IMDb is an online information database that deals with films, television programs, and video games that include information about film actors, production crews, characters, biographies, and user reviews of films. The researcher also used secondary data from some references that relate with this analysis.

#### 13 Method of Analyzing Data

Data Analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and/or logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data[25]. The researcher will use some techniques, namely data reduction, data display, drawing conclusion. Miles argue that data reduction refers the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting and transforming the data that appear in written up field notes or transcripts [26]. Data display become a second element type of qualitative data analysis. Data display is "an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing..."

The researcher will use the several steps to analyzed this research:

- Read all the reviews one by one to get the point of issues from the reviews.
- Take a note the point of issue from the reviews.
- Listed the gender and the continental background from the viewers.
- Group the issues that are often reviewed become a main issue.
- Discuss the issues and give quote from the viewers as an evidence.

## 4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will examine the finding of issues using reader response theory from IMDB. Since the first time released on cinema in October 2007, The Kite Runner got 235 reviews in IMDB. The following below is the table 1 that elaborate the result of this research. There are 4 main reason of preferring the novel to movie with a total 28 reviewers.

TABLE 1  
RESULT OF THE RESEARCH

No	Reason of preferring the novel to movie	Frequencies
1	Limited visualization	11
2	Moral value	1
3	Bad adaptation	15
4	Less touching	1
TOTAL		28

### 4.1 Reason of Preferring the Novel to Movie

This section contains the reasons why many viewers are preferring the novel than a movie of The Kite Runner. The researcher classifies the reason into 4 main reasons. The first main reasons are limited visualization and it categorizes into 3 reasons, there are hearts of book, moments, and emotions. The second is moral value. Next is poor adaptation which it can be categorized into 2 reasons. The last is Less Touching.

### 4.3.1 Limited Visualization

The first reason why viewers preferring the novel to movie is because of visualization in the movie is limit. Most of the reasons from viewers are not satisfied with the movie. The movie adaptation of Kite Runner has limited capabilities to describe the contents of the book, and leave out some important parts in the novel. There are 11 viewers who give their responses about the visualization in this movie adaptation. From the viewers' responses that available in IMDB, it can be categorized into 3 group. This limited visualization will be discussed below:

#### 4.3.1.1 The Feeling from the novel

The first limited visualization is the feeling from the novel. There are 3 viewers who discuss about this. The meaning of the feeling here is, movie cannot show or express which make book was good. As what viewers said on the review of Amanda gblakely and Janice Nicole, they did not find the heart of book. There are some points from book that should be in the movie, such as the relationship of Amir with Hassan, and his father, or his feeling of culpable, but movie did not catch those points. Other viewer, Joseph Gabo said that the movie failed to make the same feeling when he read the book. What makes a book is good is the feeling, and the movie killed that feeling.

#### 4.3.1.2 Moments

Moments are the second of limited visualization to The Kite Runner movie. There are some moments in the book that the director did not took it into the movie. The viewer is Pete Georgie\_Dim from United States. For him, the movie cut the moments where it can be influencing the story. Pete also said that from the moments, people can know the characters from actors. Other viewer is Maddie Grace talked about the movie only showed a half of Amir's life. Maddie argued that there are many of moments in the book that should appear in the movie.

#### 4.3.1.3 Emotions

The last of limited visualization is emotions. Reviewers feel that visualization of the emotions in the movie was very limited. There are 6 viewers who discuss about the emotions that they felt when they were watched the movie of Kite Runner. They said that the movie was in hurry so they cannot catch the emotions in The Kite Runner movie. Also, The Amir's emotion of culpable deeper in the book than in the movie.

### 4.3.2 Moral Value

The next is moral value. Moral value means that the movie did not able to show up more a lesson from the story. As the viewer give his comment in lmdb website, named dhon008 from United Kingdom. Dhon said that the movie be unsuccessful to catch the moral value such as human relationship and the things that we need a compensation from a mistake that we did.

### 4.3.3 Bad Adaptation

Bad adaptation is the reason why the viewer mostly prefers the novel to movie. Bad adaptation occurs if the movie changes some parts in the book and the changes should not be done because it will make the movie poor in quality. There are 15 viewers who write the response about the movie

adaptation of Kite Runner is bad. The responses of bad adaptation are about the events and detail of character.

#### 4.3.3.1 The Change of event

The change of event in the movie of Kite Runner are becoming a bad adaptation. This movie did not able to reveal some events who describe in the novel. There are 7 viewers who write the response about event. They said that, there is a different between book and novel. The following are some events that found in the book but when in the movie, it was changed or omitted: (1) The changes that occur is in the event when Hassan's birthday. In the novel told that the gift of Hassan's birthday is an operation to remove his harelip, while in the movie, Hassan just get a kite. The part of event is important in the book, so it should not be changed. (2) The scene which is Amir talked to Baba regarding a recent servant was done in the stairs, but unfortunately, it should be done when they were planted new tomato. In the book, there were no card games, hospital call on when Baba was sick. (3) The events when Sorahb try to kill himself and the moments when Baba and Amir trip were nothing in the movie adaptation of Kite Runner.

#### 4.3.3.2 Detail of Character

The second reason that this movie adaptation is poor when the movie cannot describe the detail of character from the actors. There are 8 viewers who discuss about the detail of character in movie, and they also compare with the novel. Some reviewers are very enthusiastic with some actor. The characters of them were described clearly in the novel. Viewers thought that the movie was changed or cut the important parts of actor. There is some detail of character that are not clearly describe in the movie. (1) Assef (the character) did not introduced well in the movie. Assef just introduced as troublemaker of Amir and Hassan. After that, the movie just mentioned Assef in the almost last scene when Amir save Hassan's son. Moviegoers who do not read the book yet will think that Assef just an accomplice player, while in the book, the character of Assef was introduced clearly. (2) the character of Assef is should be introduced explicitly, like Assef obsessed with Hilter, and also his character when he was crazy in the last part. (3) The detail of character Amir and Baba when they are struggling to live.

#### 4.3.4 Less Touching

The next reason for viewers chooses the novel to movie because of the movie is less touching. Viewers thought that they did not affecting when watching movie or their imagination did not same as when they read the book. There are 2 reviewers who discussed about this.

### C. CONCLUSION

The researcher will give the conclusion after analyzing the readers' response The Kite Runner. In this study, the researchers find 28 viewers who gave the response about the weaknesses from the movie adaptation of The Kite Runner. Thus, the researchers use their responses as a reason of choosing the novel than the movie. Their reasons vary greatly. It makes the researcher decide to grouping them. There are 4 main reason why the viewer chooses the novel rather than the movie. First, limited visualization, next is moral value, third bad adaptation, and the last one is less touching. In researching

main reason of reader reviews, the researchers used the theory of reader response by Beach Richard. This research included into the textual theories of response. This theory appropriate with reader response theory suggest, that it will produce the response from the reader or the moviegoers after they read a novel Kite Runner.

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