MORAL NIHILISM AS REFLECTED BY JOKER IN *THE DARK KNIGHT* MOVIE

A THESIS
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
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in English Department
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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that he compiles this thesis entitled "Moral Nihilism as Reflected by Joker in *The Dark Knight* Movie" by himself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that he does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, July 7, 2017

Satrio Jagad

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Nobody likes to fail. I want to succeed in everything I do, which isn't much. But the things that I'm really passionate about, if I fail at those, if I'm not successful, what do I have?

Eminem / Marshall Bruce Mathers III

Always Be Yourself, Express Yourself, Have Faith in Yourself, Do Not Go Out and Look For a Successful Personality and Duplicate It

Bruce Lee

Faithless is He That Says Farewell When the Road Darkens

J. R. R. Tolkien, creator of *The Lord of The Rings*

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family, friends, and also everyone who helped me get through this paper.

Thank you very much.

APPROVAL

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Semarang, July 7, 2017

Satrio Jagad

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ABSTRACT

This thesis concentrates on the movie, *The Dark Knight*, which focuses on Joker's character, as a moral nihilist. In this study, the purpose is to analyze the behavior of Joker in the movie as he believes in nothing and lives with immorality as shown in the story. The writer uses library research to obtain data from trusted books, e-books, journals, articles, online documents, and also reliable websites are used as supportive data. In the intrinsic aspects, the writer covers characters, settings, and conflicts while in the extrinsic aspect, the writer uses Friedrich Nietzsche and Donald Crosby's nihilism and moral nihilism theory which is practiced in the thesis to analyze the problem. The result of this thesis proves that Joker reaches the third state of nihilism as he believes nothing and also experiences amoralism, moral subjectivism, and egoism as forms of moral nihilism.

Keywords: Nihilism, Moral Nihilism Theory, The Dark Knight

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Popular culture has been influencing people throughout the world. According to Ray B. Browne in *Popular Culture Theory and Methodology: A Basic Introduction*, popular culture is "all those elements of life which are not narrowly intellectual or creatively elitist, including the spoken and printed word, sounds, pictures, objects, and artifacts" (2006:21). As a product of popular culture, movie is an effective tool to attract people. Further, movie could be explained as a combination between sound and picture which creates a moving animation. In the context of American popular culture, the representation of successful movie industry is Hollywood.

Movie has various genres that are still evolving until the present day. According to Miller and Stam in *Film Theory: An Anthology*, genre is a significant component for any narrative images in movie (2000:160). Nowadays, there are several genres of movie that exist. One of them is thriller genre. Thriller is "novel, play, or film with an exciting plot, typically involving crime or espionage" cited from Oxford University Press, accessed on April 25th, 2017 <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/thriller>. Furthermore, as cited from James Patterson in his book entitled *Thriller*, thriller can be defined as:

Thrillers provide such a rich literary feast. There are all kinds. The legal thriller, spy thriller (…) the list goes on and on, with new variations constantly being invented (…) but what gives the variety of thrillers a common ground is the intensity of emotions they create, particularly those of apprehension and exhilaration, of excitement and breathlessness, all designed to generate that all-important thrill (2006, p. iii).

Based on the previous statement, it can be seen that thriller genre is still moving on creating and combining its genre. The main goals are to make the whole situation intense, unpredictable, agitated, or even twisted at the same time while watching the movie. However, when a thriller movie fails to do its main goals, it could not be interpreted as thriller movie at all. It should consists the elements needed to bind the atmosphere of thrill.

Among thriller movie directors, Christopher Nolan is known as the one who is talented as thriller movie director. In making a movie, a director holds a position that has acquaintance and responsibilities among the crews, cited from Oxford University Press, accessed on April 25th, 2017 <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/movie_director>. He specializes in making thriller movies throughout the years. Some of his works, classified in box office movies, are *Following* (1998), *Memento* (2000)*, Inception* (2010)*, Interstellar* (2014)*,* and probably his masterpiece, *The Dark Knight* (2008) from *The Dark Knight Trilogy* (2005 – 2012)*. The Dark Knight Trilogy* earned $2.5 billion worldwide and making Nolan as his best movies he ever directed.

The writer chooses one of Christopher Nolan's movies, *The Dark Knight*, as the object of study. It depicts a story of Batman, one of the familiar superheroes

from DC Comics, and his notorious enemy, Joker. The genre of the movie is action thriller, cited from IMDb, accessed on April 25th, 2017 <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0468569/>. *The Dark Knight* was distributed by Warner Bros. It is adapted from graphic novels entitled *The Killing Joke* (1988) and *The Long Halloween* (1996). The main character is Batman or Bruce Wayne casted by Christian Bale while his enemy, Joker, is casted by Heath Ledger. Joker is not only the one playing as villain, but also Two-Face, casted by Aaron Eckhart as Harvey Dent.

In this case, Joker will be analyzed as the representative of moral nihilist figure. Joker has a unique character and he is different from other villains in movies. While they committed crime based on personal revenge, economic fulfillment, Joker does it his own way. He does not obey rules, laws, or even morals. He does whatever he wants. He has his own way in becoming a villain. Based on those ideas, the writer includes Joker as a nihilist. Ivan Turgenev in *Father and Sons* defined nihilist as "a man who does not bow down before any authority, who does not take any principle on faith, whatever reverence that principle may be enshrined in" (1862, chapter V). In the movie, Joker is feared by both cops and mobs because he is the only one who are able to do anything beyond their limits. Nihilism is being empty and meaningless in the world, even the world itself. Nihilism has several branches and one of them is moral nihilism. According to Donald Crosby on *The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism*, "moral nihilism denies the sense of moral obligation, the objectivity of moral principles, or the moral viewpoint" (1988:35). Moral nihilism denies all moral values and does not

believe something whether it is right or wrong to someone. Therefore, the writer will elaborate Joker as character by using moral nihilism theory.

1.2 SCOPES OF THE STUDY

The movie entitled *The Dark Knight* reflects several aspects both psychological and philosophical values that exist in the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. Those aspects are presented by the characters such as Batman, Joker, and Two-Face. In this study, the writer limits his analysis which will only focus on narrative and cinematic elements in the intrinsic aspects and Joker as character in the movie.

1.3 AIMS OF THE STUDY

The aims of this study are:

1. To analyze the intrinsic aspects of the movie.
2. To analyze Joker's philosophical view by using moral nihilism theory.

1.4 METHODS OF THE STUDY

The writer has two methods to analyze this study, which are methods of research and methods of approach.

1.4.1 Methods of Research

In this study, the writer uses library research to collect data and sources for the analysis. According to Wellek and Warren:

> Since the majority of students can find their source materials in libraries, a knowledge of the most important libraries, and familiarity with their catalogues as well as other reference books, is undoubtedly in many ways, an important equipment of almost every student in literature (1997:58).

Library research obtains data through printed and new media such as books, e-books, journals, and website. Those trusted and related sources for the analysis guide the writer directly in completing his study.

1.4.2 Methods of Approach

The writer uses one of the nihilism branches which is moral nihilism to analyze Joker's philosophical approach in the movie *The Dark Knight* directed by Christopher Nolan. According to Friedrich Nietzsche on *The Will to Power*, nihilism is "every belief, every considering something-true is necessarily false because there is simply no true world" (1968:14).

1.5 ORGANIZATIONS OF THE STUDY

There are five chapters in this study along with certain sub-chapters, which are:

Chapter 1: **INTRODUCTION.**

This chapter consists of background of the study, scope of the study, aim of the study, method of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter 2: **SYNOPSIS.**

This chapter summarizes the whole story from movie entitled *The Dark Knight* by Christopher Nolan.

Chapter 3: **LITERATURE REVIEW.**

This chapter discusses about theories that will be analyzed on both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects in the movie.

Chapter 4: **DISCUSSION.**

This chapter discusses the analysis on both intrinsic and extrinsic aspects as reflected in *The Dark Knight* by Christopher Nolan.

Chapter 5: **CONCLUSION.**

This chapter sums up the discussion according to the writer's analysis in his study.

CHAPTER II

SYNOPSIS

The hero of Gotham City, Batman, has been keeping peace and secure in his town with the aid of Lieutenant Jim Gordon and Gotham's District Attorney, Harvey Dent. Everything changes when the despicable criminal called Joker turns Gotham City into madness. The countless conflicts clash between the heroes and villains of Gotham City.

A group of men wearing clown masks are going to rob a bank. The group consists of five men, one of them is Joker who is hiding his plan to kill them one by one without laying his hands. One by one, as they are doing their job, each member kill another member to get larger amount of money. In the end, the last man is Joker himself revealing his identity to the bank manager and escape with all the money. In the afternoon, the mobs hold a meeting to discuss their money that have been robbed by anonymous. Joker enters the room and sits down of all sudden talking with the mobs and Lau that Gotham City has been controlled by Batman for years. He offers himself to kill Batman if they are able to share half of their profit. He also warn them about Batman's next move and they should give attention seriously. At one night, Harvey talks to Jim and they are calling Batman using "bat signal" on top of a building. They are talking about their distrust among each other officers and planning about their next move for the mobs. In a minute, Batman arrives to talk to them giving promises to capture Lau, who is the accountant of all

mobs in Gotham. Days after Lau disappears from Gotham, Batman brings Lau from China into the Gotham police station. Lau is interrogated by Rachel Dawes, Dent's assistant and Wayne's childhood friend, in order to give any information about the mobs. The mayor is satisfied with Gordon and Dent's excellent work.

Outside of mayor's office window, a dead body of fake Batman hit against the window with a Joker card pinned to him saying that Batman must reveal himself. Then, in a second, there is news and announcement from Joker that he will kill people every day if Batman against him. The city's judge and the police commissioner has been defeated as part of Joker's plan. The mayor and Harvey are the next target of Joker. When a funeral ceremony is being held, Joker disguises himself as a cop to shoot the mayor. Gordon protects the mayor and dies at the same time. After the death of Gordon, Batman interrogates Maroni, one of the Gotham's mobs, about Joker but Batman only receives information that Joker has no rules for everything. Then, Batman talks to Dent at the subway to hold a press conference in the morning to tell his true identity as Batman.

At the press conference, Dent surprisingly states himself as Batman instead of Bruce Wayne. Joker assaults toward S.W.A.T cars convoy with Dent inside. Batman shows up to save Dent and he faces Joker in the street. Gordon, who is faking his death, comes when Joker is about to put off Batman's mask. Joker is interrogated by Batman about where he kidnaps Rachel and Dent at the police station. Apparently, Joker lies about the location and Rachel dies. Dent's face is burned half, not long after the incident he becomes Two-Face by Joker's seductive words and Joker blows up the hospital in minutes after he shows up in television.

The city is in panic when Joker is on the news again, announcing that the road and bridge are blocked which makes sea as the only way. Joker sets up two detonator bombs on two ferries that carry passengers and criminals. At night, Joker says that the detonators are switched and he is going to blow them all if one of the ship does not press the button. Batman arrives on time facing him to prove that Joker is wrong because there are good people in Gotham, and yet those ferries do not explode at all. Batman captures Joker and quickly saves Gordon's family from Two-Face. In the end, Two-Face dies from heights and Batman is being chased by police, as the dark knight of Gotham City.

CHAPTER III

LITERATURE REVIEW

There are two aspects which are used to analyze a movie. Those aspects are intrinsic aspects and extrinsic aspects. Intrinsic aspects consist of narrative and cinematography elements. In narrative elements, there are three points that need to be analyzed in this study. Those three points are character, setting, and conflict. Meanwhile, in cinematography elements, sound and framing are also other significant aspects in the movie. In the extrinsic aspect, the writer uses nihilism theory by Friedrich Nietzsche. There are branches of nihilism but the writer narrows it into moral nihilism by Donald A. Crosby.

3.1 INTRINSIC ASPECTS

In this aspect, the writer uses narrative and cinematography elements to analyze the intrinsic aspects of *The Dark Knight* movie by Christopher Nolan. Including the narrative elements are character, setting, and conflict while cinematography elements cover sound and framing (Pratista, 2008: 44). These two elements will be combined in discussing the object of the study.

3.1.1 Narrative Elements

The first aspect that will be discussed in the intrinsic aspect is narrative elements. As mentioned before, it consists of character, setting, and conflict.

3.1.1.1 Character

In a movie, character holds an important role for the story to present the storyline for the viewer. According to James L. Potter in *The Elements of Literature*, "characters are basic element in much imaginative literature and therefore they merit the considerable attention paid to them" (1967:1). Characters show how the plot goes so it will not become an empty space. In addition, characters have different roles played by actors and actresses. According to Barsam in *Looking at Movie: An Introduction to Movie*, there are two characters, which are major and minor characters (2009: 135).

3.1.1.1.1 Major Character

The major characters take an important role as they are appear to show up often throughout the story. This role is the dominant part than any other characters in the movie (Barsam, 2009: 135).

3.1.1.1.2 Minor Character

The minor characters are usually show up less than minor character. They are not taking important part in the story but they are supporting the main character in the movie (Barsam, 2009: 136).

3.1.1.2 Setting

Setting helps a storyline in a movie to show to the viewer where it is taking place, time, and social background. Setting becomes another important element in

a movie that helps to reveal the background of the story. Holman, in his book *A Handbook to Literature: 4th Edition*, states that setting is the major background of a story to make it realistic (1980: 491). In a movie, there are various types of setting. Kennedy states in *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* that there are three types of setting, which are setting of place, setting of time, and setting of social background (Kennedy, 1987: 68).

3.1.1.2.1 Setting of Place

According to Kennedy, setting of place is usually framed as a location, street, or anything else as long as it has physical appearance (Kennedy, 1987: 68). Setting of place refers to a certain location or place which supports the storyline in the movie to ensure where the scene is taken.

3.1.1.2.2 Setting of Time

Another kind of setting is setting of time. Setting of time shows the time occurred in a movie, whether it is day or night, years ago, years ahead, or even present day (Kennedy, 1987: 68). As stated before, setting of time helps a story to show its period.

3.1.1.2.3 Setting of Social Background

This type of setting mainly shows about the society that surrounds character from the movie. Setting of place consists of belief, social class, and custom from society to strengthen the characters (Kennedy, 1987: 68). Setting of place shows that each character's background is different from another character. In this study, the writer uses social class as a reference to setting of social background. Brown in

Social Class and Status divides social class into three levels, which are lower class, middle class, and upper class (2009: 971). Lower class is the social class of working labor with minimum wage of jobs. Middle class stands in the middle of lower and upper class, which is usually called as working class with enough wage to live. Upper class holds the higher position among lower and middle class, the social class of wealth and power.

3.1.1.3 Conflict

Potter states that "it takes two to make an argument, it takes two opposed people or forces to produce the conflict basic to plot. Without this opposition there is no conflict, and without a conflict there is no plot" (1967: 25). Conflict is a crucial addition in a movie that movie itself will become empty and blank without it because plot follows conflicts, and there will be no plot without preceding conflicts. Conflict holds a role that will lead the whole storyline. Potter further stated that conflict takes part as another important aspect in the narrative elements that need to be analyze.

As mentioned before, conflict occurs when two people or forces are clashed to make conflict exists. Meyer H. Abrams in his book *The Mirror and The Lamp* states that there are two kinds of conflict which are internal and external conflict (1971: 46). These two conflicts exist between the characters of the movie.

3.1.1.3.1 Internal Conflict

Internal conflict occurs when a character or characters is having a fight between he and himself. Usually it happens when the character needs to resolve something in particular (1974: 46).

3.1.1.3.2 External Conflict

External conflict happens when a character fights with another character in the movie, in a small or large scale. It can be seen clearly in the story or the conversation within (1971: 46).

3.1.2 Cinematography Elements

The second intrinsic aspect of this study is cinematic elements. Pratista states that camera activity includes the recording of every scene in a movie and all the camera activities. Scenes do not only deal with film recording, but also relates to how to manage them using other elements such as sound, framing, and mise-en-scene altogether (2008:89).

3.1.2.1 Sound

Pratista divides sound into three types, which are music, dialogue, and sound effect (2008:23). Music gives a plain movie into life by adding theatrical sound to show the current situation of the movie (Pratista, 2008: 156). Dialogue is a media of communication in verbal form that is spoken by each character in the movie directly with different languages and voices (Pratista, 2008: 156).

Meanwhile, sound effect is added to give clear explanation about what happened in a scene or scenes indirectly so it makes viewer could imagine the sound (Pratista. 2008: 156).

3.1.2.2 Framing

Movie will become empty if there are no various shots taken when filming. Framing is needed to take moving object as an image in the movie itself, and to interpret what is happening during a scene. There are seven different angle shots in cinematic elements (Pratista, 2008: 105), which are:

3.1.2.2.1 Extreme Long Shot

The object is usually far off from the camera to show the distance between object and panorama which make that object looks almost invisible and distant (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.2 Long Shot

The background or panorama is still dominant among object and usually it was taken to show in the beginning of a visual media (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.3 Medium Long Shot

Medium long shot shows a full body of human being measured from the knees to the upper part of whole body (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.4 Medium Shot

Medium shot usually shows from waist to the upper part of the body but the background is not really dominant (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.5 Medium Close-Up

The body of human being is shown from chest to the upper part of the body (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.6 Close-Up

Close-up shows small object to make a clear view from the object itself (Pratista, 2008: 105).

3.1.2.2.7 Extreme Close-Up

This shot is the closer distance of close-up and it shows much detailed parts of small object (Pratista, 2008: 105).
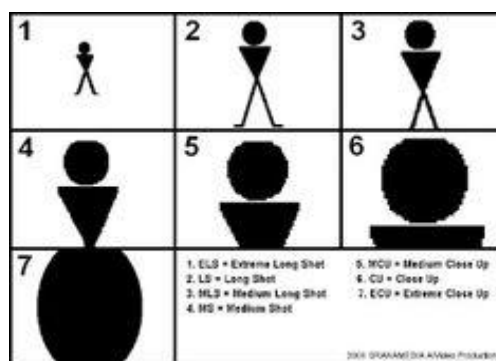
Pict. 1 *Camera shots* (source: https://www.pinterest.com/escalante_meme/camera-shots-and-angles/).

3.1.2.3 Mise-En-Scene

Mise-en-scene is associated with cinematic elements which is functioned to maintain the process of film making (Pratista, 2008: 61). Setting, costume, make-up, lighting, and acting are the important points that are reside in mise-en-scene.

3.2 EXTRINSIC ASPECT

In this aspect, the writer uses moral nihilism as one branches of nihilism theory to analyze the extrinsic aspect of the movie.

3.2.1 Nihilism Theory

The writer uses nihilism theory in the extrinsic aspects in order to analyze the object of his study. Nihilism consists of several states and one of the nihilism branches is moral nihilism theory. According to Friedrich Nietzsche in *The Will to Power,* nihilism are divided into three states before someone is truly become a nihilist:

a. First state

Nietzsche in his book *The Will to Power* mentions that nihilism has to be reached first when individual has no meaning in his life. Nietzsche states the first stage "nihilism as a psychological state will have to be reached, first, when we have sought a "meaning" in all events that is not there: so the seeker eventually becomes discouraged" (1968: 12). As we can see, when someone realizes that he has no meaning of life anymore, the first stage is reached. Usually this state comes a disappointment from society, God, or even himself.

b. Second state

Nietzsche, in *The Will to Power,* stated that a person in the first state has the meaning to understand about nothingness in his/her life. According to Nietzsche:

> Nihilism as a psychological state is reached, secondly, when one has posited a totality, a systematization, indeed any organization in all events, and underneath all events, and a soul that longs to admire and revere has wallowed in the idea of some supreme form of domination and administration (1968: 12).

Second state of nihilism occurs when individual has assured about his meaningless purpose and he has no hesitation, as the continuity of what happened in the first state. Everything is meaningless. This individual will not questioning his purpose of his life again because there is no turning back knowing that there are no purposes left for him; there are no reasons to live anymore.

c. Third state

The last state of nihilism is stated clearly by Friedrich Nietzsche. After someone has reached the first and second state, there will be another one which is the final state of nihilism. Nietzsche states that:

> Nihilism as psychological state has yet a third and last form. Given these two insights, that becoming has no goal and that underneath all becoming there is no grand unity in which the individual could immerse himself completely as in an element of supreme value, an escape remains: to pass sentence on this whole world of becoming as a deception and to invent a world beyond it, a true world (1968: 13).

From the statement above, the third or last state of nihilism is when individual is totally empty about everything but himself, and the only way to go

through the current situation is to do nothing that related to the world's value and to deny all the values that are existed in everything. Basically, when individual is being a nihilist, he will deny all the value in the world, such as metaphysical, partial, and moral. The world he sees now is completely different than the world in his own mind. Someone has a version of true world according to his mind which is different with the reality. All his beliefs and faith will become null and he will deny that everything in the world does not exist, including the concept of world itself.

3.2.1.1 Moral Nihilism Theory

One of the nihilism branch is moral nihilism. According to Donald A. Crosby on *The Specter of the Absurd: Sources and Criticisms of Modern Nihilism*, "moral nihilism denies the sense of moral obligation, the objectivity of moral principles, or the moral viewpoint" (1988:11). Moral nihilism denies all moral values and does not believe something whether it is right or wrong to someone. A nihilist would deny the existence of moral, and everything he will do is all in his control; no laws or jurisdiction which control him anymore. There are three forms of moral nihilism by Donald Crosby, which are amoralism, moral subjectivism, and egoism.

a. Amoralism

Amoralism is the denial of every moral values and the purpose to live with immorality (Crosby, 1988:11). Crosby takes an example from Wolf Larson, a novel character of *The Sea Wolf* by Jack London. In the novel, Larson says "it is like yeast, a ferment, a thing that moves and may move for a minute, an hour, a year, or a

hundred years, but that in the end will cease to move (1981:35)". This became Crosby's idea of amoralism because the idea is to assure that life is actually meaningless. Another idea comes up when Larson said "where there is room for one life, she sows a thousand lives, and its life eats life till the strongest and most piggish life is left (1981:48)". On the previous statement, Larson disagrees that someone has to show respect to other people's lives yet that someone has no value of life at all. Someone is in a position where he belongs to nowhere; not helping someone in valuing his life and not striving for his own benefits because he has his own perspective about life that not everyone cannot understand entirely. He is just living his own life like nothing really matters.

b. Moral subjectivism

The theory of moral subjectivism is a view or perspective from individuals who have their own morals and for sure, it is different from everyone (Crosby, 1981:12). It cannot be considered right or wrong by anybody else because each individual has their own perspective. Morals standard are relative among everyone. Nothing to be argued about one's view to another. There is no exact reason in maintaining a debate over something.

c. Egoism

Egoism is a view where an individual does things just for himself and nobody else (Crosby, 1981:14). In other words, the individual wants his own victory regardless whether what he does are true or false, right or wrong, etc. Egoism mainly disagrees anyone's moral principles because he thinks his own perspective

is right above any others. Anyone should follow someone's supreme rules in any ways. This happened because someone sees everybody else equally but him. The egoist wants his power above everyone and it can prolong into the right of someone's fate as prove that someone can really surpass other people power above any others.

CHAPTER IV

MORAL NIHILISM AS REFLECTED BY JOKER IN *THE DARK KNIGHT* MOVIE

4.1 INTRINSIC ANALYSIS

The first aspect that needs to be analyzed in this study is intrinsic aspect. As stated on chapter three before, intrinsic aspect consists of narrative and cinematic elements.

4.1.1 Narrative Elements

Narrative elements consist of character, setting, and conflict. Every aspect has their own breakdown that are also consist of analysis on each aspect. Character consists of major and minor character; setting consists of place, time, and social background; the last one is conflict that consists of internal and external conflicts.

4.1.1.1 Character

In analyzing character, the writer takes a look on his previous theory from Meyer Abrams which differs into two category of characters in a movie, which are major and minor character.

4.1.1.1.1 Major Character

There are two major characters in *The Dark Knight* movie by Christopher Nolan. They are Batman and Joker. As stated before by Richard Barsam, major character has a big role in playing their role and often show up in scenes. These two characters show different role in the movie.

    a.   **Bruce Wayne as Batman**

Batman or Bruce Wayne plays as the hero in the movie. He earns his reputation as the dark night of Gotham City. He shows up often in the story, conflicts rise up between him, and he is one of the main characters in the movie. However, Bruce only reveals himself in the morning as CEO of Wayne Enterprise and becomes Batman when the night comes without pulling his mask off. His two different sides make him as the major character that shows up in the movie almost all the time, and considering the movie entitled *The Dark Knight* which tells about Batman's story.

Pict. 2 *Bat-armor behind Bruce* (00:12:46)   Pict. 3 *Bruce in bat-armor* (01:38:40)

Those two pictures are from different scenes proving that Bruce Wayne is Batman, both are taken in medium shots. On the first picture, it is showing that Bruce, who is standing in front of an armor, is a Batman suit itself and it indicates

that Bruce Wayne is Batman. His appearances come in short black hair, sharp nose, oval face, white skin and athletic body. He is a bold and strong man, both in Bruce or Batman form. The setting happens in his underground secret hideout while he is talking to Alfred, the person who knew that place besides Bruce. Another indication is in the second picture, in which Bruce holds his Batman mask on his hands while he is still wearing the armor suit.

BRUCE : Alfred.

ALFRED : Yes, Master Wayne?

BRUCE : Did I bring this on her? I was meant to inspire good, not madness, not death.

ALFRED : You have inspired good. But you spat in the faces of Gotham's criminals. Didn't you think there might be casualties? Things always get worse before they get better.

BRUCE : But Rachel, Alfred.

ALFRED : Rachel believed in what you stood for, what we stand for. Gotham needs you.

In that dialogue (01:38:08 to 01:38:38), Bruce is contemplating about previous accident that made Rachel died by asking to Alfred. Alfred replies to his master, who is currently wearing Batman suit, if he is already messing up too much with Gotham's criminals. He encourages Bruce as himself and Batman because obviously Gotham City needs him as the hero. Alfred does not want his master to stop crime because Batman is what the people need to fight criminals. In short, the writer concludes that Bruce Wayne or Batman is one of the major characters in the movie.

b. Joker

Another major character in *The Dark Knight* movie is Joker. Joker plays as the main villain in the movie. He is the nemesis of Batman and often brings conflicts into the story. He often wears a white, black, and red make up with long green wavy hair. His crimes are uncountable and he is the biggest villain in the movie. The only one who could keep up with him is Batman. Batman could anticipates Joker's movement in order to save people in Gotham City.

Pict. 4 *Joker joins the discussion* (00:25:06)

In a dialogue, Joker enters in a restaurant kitchen full of Gotham's mobsters. He says that Batman is already changed things to them and it made them afraid to go out at night.

CHECHEN   : What do you propose?

JOKER   : It's simple. We, uh, kill the Batman.

MARONI   : If it's so simple, why haven't you done it already?

JOKER   : If you're good at something, never do it for free.

CHECHEN   : How much you want?

JOKER   : Uh, half.

Suddenly, Joker proposes himself to kill Batman to show that he is capable of doing it with half of their savings account. His statement proves that he is the only one who could kill Batman than any other mobster in that room because they are afraid of Batman even they have men to do it. One of them does not agree with Joker and he gets angry from Joker's jokes.


Pict. 5 *Joker intimidates the mobs* (00:25:34)

Joker takes off his tuxedo as he rises form chair that contains full of grenade bombs in order to anticipate any incoming attacks toward him, as seen in picture 5 from medium shot. In the end, all the mobs are shocked that Joker can do such things alone. He can do whatever he wants, plays smart, and breaks the rules. Joker is another major character in the movie in which frequently bringing conflict to the story (00:24:56 to 00:26:09).

4.1.1.1.2 Minor Character

There is only one minor character in *The Dark Knight* movie by Christopher Nolan. He is Alfred Pennyworth. As stated before by James L. Potter, minor character has a role in helping major character. Alfred is related either with Bruce Wayne or Batman's life in the movie. Alfred helps both Bruce Wayne and Batman to support, improve, and develop his role.

Alfred Pennyworth is an aged man occupied as the butler of Wayne's family since Bruce Wayne was born. He has a white hair, sharp nose, and round face. He always helps Bruce at any condition, not only the housework things but also life advices to Bruce.
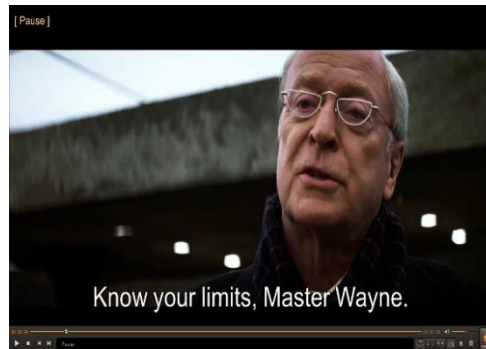
Pict. 6 *Alfred gives advice for Bruce* (00:13:33)

Alfred Pennyworth shows up less in the story. Usually he helps things out by giving advices, examples, and some time restrictions to Bruce when he is about to do good, as Batman. He always support Bruce in the story.

ALFRED	: I trust you don't have me followed on my day off.	
BRUCE	: If you ever took one, I might.	
ALFRED	: Know your limits, Master Wayne.	
BRUCE	: Batman has no limits.	
ALFRED	: Well, you do, sir.	
BRUCE	: Well, can't afford to know them.	
ALFRED	: And what's gonna happen on the day you find out?	
BRUCE	: We all know how much you like to say "I told you so".	
ALFRED	: On that day, Master Wayne, even I won't want to. Probably.	

The close-up picture and dialogue above (00:13:27 to 00:13:52) show when Alfred gives important advice to Bruce Wayne after he got fight with the mob and

dogs. Bruce is seriously injured that he needs to stitch his scars on his right arm. They creates a strong bond even though Alfred is only a butler. Alfred cares about what happened to Bruce, both in Bruce Wayne or Batman forms. Bruce has been reminded by Alfred if he must know his limit and not doing things out of proportion, even as Batman. Alfred does not want to lose him because he is the only family member of Wayne that live. On the other hand, Bruce insists that he is the only one who capable to do things as Batman, as the city hero. Even so, Alfred still cares about him and keep reminding the same thing over and over again.

Pict. 7 *Alfred in butler uniform* (00:13:33)

Another scene is showing when Alfred is wearing his butler uniform at the mansion, serving what Bruce tells him as can be seen on picture 7 in medium shot.

BRUCE : I need you plugged in, checking Gordon's men and their families.

ALFRED : Looking for?

BRUCE : Hospital admissions.

ALFRED : Will you be wanting The Batpod, sir?

BRUCE : In the middle of the day, Alfred? Not very subtle. The Lamborghini, then. Much more subtle.

After hearing the news that Joker will destroy a hospital, Bruce immediately goes to the hospital checking police officers whether there will be Joker's men or not. In the dialogue, Bruce tells to Alfred to check some information about police officers. Then, Alfred asks to him about what vehicle he needs to ride. In the end, Alfred prepares to do the tasks given by Bruce. Alfred obeys what his master tells him, without any hesitation and any complain spoken. He respects the way as a man and butler for Wayne family (01:45:03 to 01:45:12).

4.1.1.2 Setting

The second aspect that needs to be analyzed in the intrinsic aspect is setting. As stated by Kennedy before, setting consists of place, time and social background.

4.1.1.2.1 Setting of Place

The Dark Knight movie took its setting of place in a fictional city called Gotham city, as same as in the comic book by DC.

Pict. 8 *Gotham City News* (00:42:58)



Pict. 9 *Joker is on TV* (00:43:12)

As inferred from the two long shot pictures above, the setting of the movie takes places at Gotham City when GCN is on air. Joker and Brian Douglas, a fake Batman, are on the news mentioning Batman and Gotham continuously. It is indicated by the dialogue by Joker from 00:42:58 to 00:43:21.

> JOKER : So you think Batman's made Gotham a better place? Hm? Look at me. Look, at me! You see, this is how crazy Batman's made Gotham. You want order, in Gotham, Batman must take off his mask and turn himself in.

Joker mentions Batman and Gotham in the monologue above which is referring to the current city where he and Batman live, in Gotham City. In addition, the news channel itself named as Gotham City News, making it clear that the news is being reported in the same city.

4.1.1.2.2 Setting of Time

The movie takes its setting of time from around the year of 2007 – 2010, as indicated by these two pictures below.
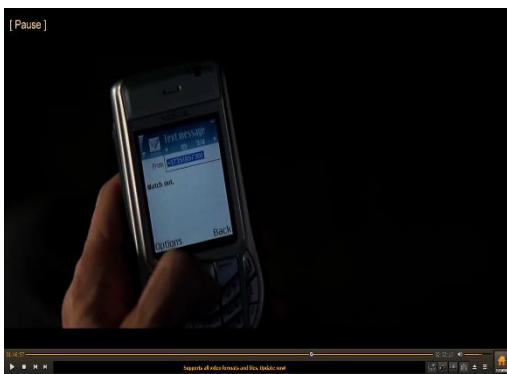
Pict. 10 *Nokia 6630* (01:46:57)   Pict. 11 *Lamborghini Murciélago* (01:45:18)

At the first medium close-up picture, Gordon takes his phone and reads short message service from his cell phone. The cellphone is on the first picture considered

as Nokia 6630. According to *company.nokia.com* in the article *Nokia goes full speed ahead with world's smallest 3G megapixel phone*, Nokia 6630 was first-released on 2004. The second medium close-up picture shows one of the famous sport cars, which is Lamborghini, owns by Bruce Wayne. It is a Lamborghini Murciélago LP640 that was released on 2007 as mentioned in *caranddriver.com* in the article *2007 Lamborghini Murciélago LP640*. Those two advanced technologies show that the setting of Gotham City takes period at 2007 to 2010, taken from which the car is first produced, not the cellphone one. It shows that setting of time tells about a year period as stated by Kennedy.

4.1.1.2.1 Setting of Social Background

There are three categories of social class in the movie, which are lower class, middle class, and upper class.

Pict. 12 *Laborers* (00:18:06)

Picture 12 is reflecting the lower class in the movie, as seen in long shot. Some laborers are working on the nightshift, unloading crates into the warehouse. These men are having an unstable working hours, with minimum wage to live. If there is a call, they will answer and work for it. Whether it is morning or night, they

will work for it. As long as they get paid in a short period. Usually these men have no vehicle to ride into their workplace, so they prefer to ride a public transportation. They can go in or out from their job anytime they want to. No written contacts are given to them. Still, their wage is not enough to survive because the job is unstable.

Pict. 13 *District Attorney* (00:15:46)   Pict. 14 *Security officer* (00:33:17)

Harvey Dent, as District Attorney in Gotham City, displays an illustration of middle class, or in other word he is someone occupied as a white collar in a medium shot of picture 13. His job is stable, and he works under the government. His working hours and salary are also constant. Thus, he could still climb into a higher position in his career. Meanwhile, the security officer works under a company as seen in medium close-up of picture 14. His job, working hours, and salary are also stable but he cannot climb into another position. He will be stuck in that occupation until his retirement comes or he signed out from the company. They have something in common. They are working under someone's authority, getting

their retirement salary for the rest of their life, and receiving enough wage to live on their own.

Pict. 15 *CEO* (00:20:01)   Pict. 16 *Gotham's Mayor* (00:41:15)

Bruce Wayne, the CEO of his family's company, holds a position where he belongs to the upper class. His wealth and power affect everything below him, including the whole city. As shown on the medium close-up of picture 15, he orders the restaurant's waiter to put tables together so Bruce can have conversation with Rachel and Dent. Surprisingly, he owns the fancy restaurant he had dinner with. With his power over something, in this case the restaurant, he makes himself as a man standing above lower and middle social classes. His position is not that easy to achieve, as well as the city mayor on the long shot picture. The mayor orders Harvey Dent, who is in lower position to sit and Harvey easily obeys him because Harvey works under the government. The two pictures are showing the power of upper class ruling above lower or middle social classes.

4.1.1.3 Conflict

The last discussion of intrinsic aspect is conflict. According to Abrams, conflicts are divided into internal and external conflict.

4.1.1.3.1 Internal Conflict

Bruce Wayne faces his internal conflict when people are being killed caused by Joker. Joker says he will kill people undoubtedly if Batman does not put off his mask.
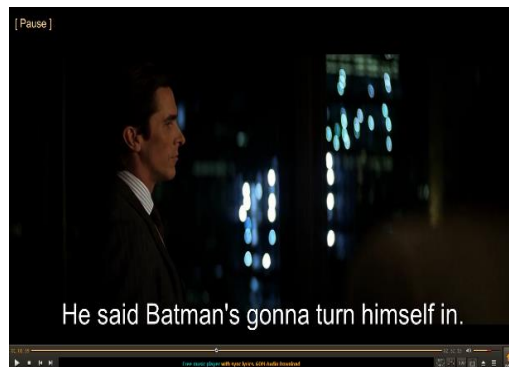
Pict. 17 *Bruce's dilemma* (01:08:45)

Bruce Wayne is having a dilemma whether he is about to surrender by revealing himself as Batman in front of the public or not, as shown in a medium close-up. He seriously thinks that all people who have died of Joker is also died of Batman. Bruce wants to turn himself in, which he has never done before. His identity will be exposed to the public and his life as Batman and Bruce Wayne will be done.

RACHEL   : Harvey called. He said Batman's gonna turn himself in.

BRUCE   : I have no choice.

RACHEL   : You honestly think that's gonna keep the Joker from killing people?

BRUCE   : Maybe not. But I have enough blood on my hands. And I've seen now what I would have to become to stop men like him.

As indicated from the dialogue, Bruce is making a bold move because he has no choice instead of giving himself to the public. He knows the effects even he surrenders, but it is the only option he got. He fights against his other personality in order to save people, in a different way. The crimes will raise up if Batman is dead, but at least no more people get killed. That is what Bruce had in mind, sacrificing one life to save people life (01:08:36 to 01:08:55).

Pict. 18 *Bruce is asking for Alfred's advice* (01:09:59)

BRUCE   : People are dying, Alfred. What would you have me do?

ALFRED   : Endure, Master Wayne. Take it. They'll hate you for it, but that's the point of Batman. He can be the outcast. He can make the choice that no one else can make. The right choice.

BRUCE   : No, today I found out what Batman can't do. He can't endure this. Today you get to say "I told you so".

ALFRED   : Today, I don't want to.

The scene above is showing when Bruce is finally decides about his choice to expose himself in medium-close up. Even in a doubt, he cannot go back pulling the option he takes. This is basically as same as the dialogue before, where Bruce is facing Batman, or other side of himself. Bruce is risking his own life and identity

to the public. To assure, he asks Alfred advice before he chooses the options. He is facing his own conflict about which perspectives he should take before he steps into another action (01:09:57 to 01:10:26).

4.1.1.3.2 External Conflict

External conflict is occurred when a character is having a problem with another character, whether explicitly or implicitly shown in the story.
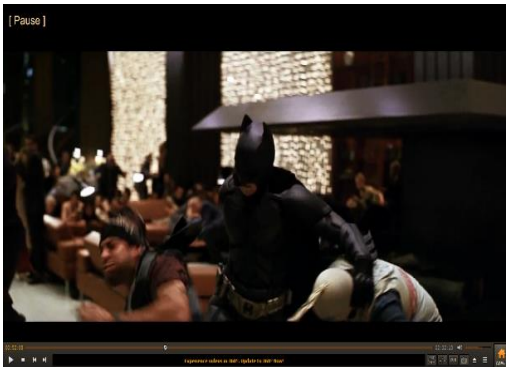
Pict. 19 *Batman vs group* (00:52:00)   Pict. 20 *Batman vs Joker* (00:52:12)

As shown from two pictures of medium shot above, Bruce Wayne is already changed into Batman when Joker and his clown gangs comes into a party. Joker's mission is to look for Harvey Dent location, but Bruce hides him. Then, Batman fights with Joker and his clown gangs saving Harvey's current location, Rachel, and people safety in the party. This is showing that Batman is facing his enemies alone, while they are in a group. Batman fights both in duel or group fights.

Pict. 21 *Batman's statement* (02:14:15)
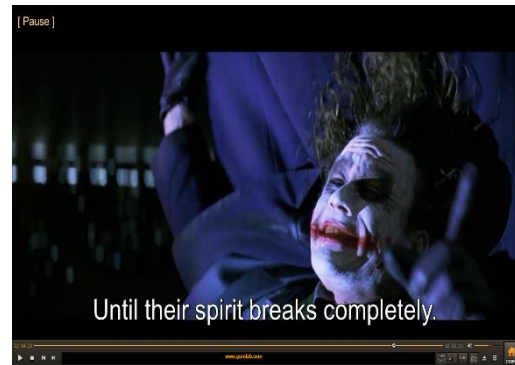
Pict. 22 *Joker's statement* (02:14:19)

BATMAN : This city just showed you that it's full of people ready to believe in good.

JOKER : Until their spirits broke completely. Until they get a good look at the real Harvey Dent and all the heroic things he's done. You didn't think I'd risk losing battle for Gotham's soul in a fistfight with you? No. You need an ace in the hole. Mine's Harvey.

BATMAN : What did you do?

JOKER : I took Gotham's white knight and I brought him down to our level. It wasn't hard. See, madness, as you know, is like gravity. All it takes is a little push.

When Batman is giving his argument towards Joker, out of nowhere Joker counter attacks his opinion by giving a statement as well, as shown on dialogue and both pictures in close-up. Their arguments are battling each other, showing whose statement is better. In the end, Joker wins his argument against Batman and this is displaying that Batman and Joker is not only having a duel fight but also an argument fight. (02:14:14 to 02:15:09).

4.2 EXTRINSIC ANALYSIS

The second aspect that also needs to be analyzed is extrinsic aspects. Hereby, there are nihilism and moral nihilism theories which are chosen to analyze the Joker's characteristics in the movie *The Dark Knight* by Christopher Nolan.

4.2.1 Nihilism Analysis

There is a scene where Bruce Wayne is questioning about Joker and his motives. Then Alfred gave him an example of a man that are similar to him years ago as an answer for him to think about, in a close-up shot of picture below.
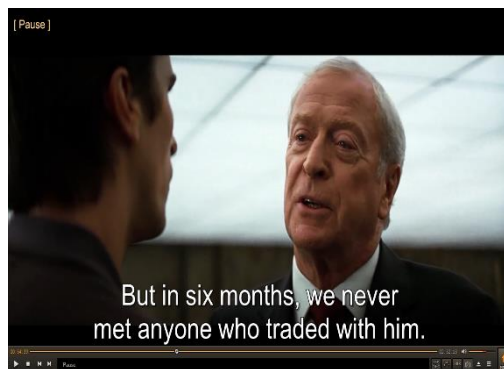
Pict. 23 *Alfred's example of a nihilist* (00:54:39)

There is a conversation between Bruce and Alfred questioning what kind of man Joker is. Alfred answers his question in a long description of a man refused to obey order by bribing him with precious stone. The way Alfred describes the man in the story is indicating that the man is a nihilist, judging from the behavior. In the fourth line of the dialogue, Alfred says "because some men aren't looking anything logical, like money. They can't be bought, bullied, reasoned or negotiated with. Some men just wanna watch the world burn". The first sentence of his line saying that some men, in general, are not looking for money, yet they have their own

purpose. No matter how big the amount is, they are still going to refuse it. The next sentence is showing the dominance of men who are looking those unusual things. The indication is on the last sentence of Alfred's dialogue to Bruce. Alfred does not even know anything about Joker, but he could describes his character in which Joker seeks the world collapsing itself. Joker does not look for anything in particular about the world. As the line says, Joker is also indicating as a man who cannot be negotiate with in any way. He does not looking for anything for himself and does not care about it. Joker succeeded to surpass the three states of nihilism that has been mentioned before by Nietzsche in *The Will to Power*, and proving that Joker is an example of nihilist. (00:54:00 to 00:55:10).

Pict. 24 *Joker almost faces his death* (01:22:09)

Another indication showing that Joker is a nihilist, when his truck is colliding in the streets, but he manages to survive and get up. Then he gets up facing Batman with his motorcycle, about to crash Joker. Yet, Joker does not even care for his own death as seen on picture, taken in medium close-up. According to the theory, a nihilist's indication is when someone thinks about everything is zero, empty, or null. Someone does not believe in anything in the world. In this scene,

Joker does not hesitate about his death, and even in contrast he is ready for it. Joker's behavior is indicating to the characteristic of nihilism.

4.2.1.1 Moral Nihilism Analysis

There are indications of moral nihilism in Joker's character in the story. The writer finds several indications as object of analysis in this study.

In the story, Joker's characters are indicating that he is a moral nihilist. According to the theory, there are three types of moral nihilism, which are amoralism, moral subjectivism, and egoism.

Pict. 25 *Joker's statement about moral and code* (01:28:40)

The picture is taken from a scene when Joker is being interrogated by Batman in an interrogation room, in a close-up. Joker says he is just having a perspective to what happened throughout the story.

JOKER	: You see, their morals, their code it's a bad joke. Dropped at the first sign of trouble. They're only as good as the world allows them to be. I'll show you. When the chips are down, these… these civilized people… they'll eat each other. See, I'm not a monster. I'm just ahead of the curve.
BATMAN	: Where's Dent?
JOKER	: You have all these rules, and you think they'll save you.
BATMAN	: I have one rule.

JOKER	: Oh. Then that's the rule you'll have to break to know the truth.
BATMAN	: Which is?
JOKER	: The only sensible way to live in this world is without rules. And tonight you're gonna break your one rule.

The conversation shows how Joker explains his perspective to Batman about moral and code. To him, people are only pretending to be good because of moral and code. Other than that, it is useless. People will fight each other eventually, in the end. Joker thinks moral and code are only a joke to him. Right or wrong does not matter for him, everything is nothing. In his view, moral means nothing and has no authority for him. So, he does not have any obligation to obey morals and code. On the last dialogue, Joker says undoubtedly that he truly lives his life disobeying rules. He thinks that rules are restricting people freedom. Different from Batman, he is still obeying rule even only one, as seen on the dialogue. According to the moral nihilism theory, these indications are showing that Joker is a moral nihilist. Thus, this conversation is also showing all the three forms of moral nihilism. Joker does not conforming any rules, because he thinks rules are nothing, as same as life from his perspective. He's just living his own life carelessly. His view is disbelieving moral values and because of that, he can do anything he wants without thinking about what people think of him (01:28:35 to 01:29:25).

a. Joker's amoralism

The first form of moral nihilism is amoralism. It is contradicting to people with moral values because they are living their life with morality, not against it.

There is a scene where Joker and his gangs are robbing one of the mobster's bank in the very beginning of the movie.

Pict. 26 *Joker's short statement* (00:05:10)   Pict. 27 *Joker's face reveal* (00:05:40)

This scene is showing when Joker first did his crime in the *The Dark Knight* movie. Joker manages to rob a bank along with his gangs, which eventually died one by one killing each other. The gangs do not know that one of them is Joker, because they are all wearing clown masks. The job given to them is different, including killing a clown who has been done doing the task. So, the last clown does not know what really happen to other clowns. The idea is arranged by Joker only, without being interrupted by any members. He plans it all alone. By this means, his amoralism is indicated from all those actions. Joker plans it all by himself, robs a bank, lets his gangs kill each other, and kills the last clown. Those actions can be categorized as amoralism, as defined from the theory that he sees someone life as zero value, no intentions of helping anyway. Yet, he focuses on his job without considering the others even his own gangs. He got the full money without paying all his gangs and escaped undetectable using school bus so the police will find only dead bodies and empty safe. Joker does not really care for what happens in the bank (00:01:10 to 00:06:23).

BANK MANAGER	: You think you're smart, huh? The guy that hired youse he'll just do the same to you. Oh, criminals in this town used to believe in things. Honor, respect. Look at you. What do you believe in, huh? What do you believe in?!
JOKER	: I believe whatever doesn't kill you simply makes you stranger.

Before leaving the bank, the bank manager, who is being shot in the knee, yells at Joker telling that he has no honor and respect. His statement against Joker is neither right nor wrong, yet Joker admits it on his dialogue. Joker states about a position where someone does not have to care about, in this case, leaving the clown gangs. This is showing how he does things undetected; leaving no trails because he has no sympathy to the others (00:05:18 to 00:05:44).

Another indication is shown from pictures 28 and 29, both are taken on medium shots. Before the scene occurs, one of the mob boss, Gambol, put a price on Joker's head, which is $500.000 dead or a million alive. The next day, a small group of men bring the dead Joker to him. However, Joker does not dead at all and he wakes up quickly, kills two men and points a knife into Gambol's mouth.

Pict. 28 *Joker's fake death* (00:29:54)

Pict. 29 *Joker kills Gambol* (00:30:04)

By faking his own death to get in to Gambol's place, Joker is cheating everyone in the room. Thus he kills two men at the same time without no one realizes as he wakes up. In the end, Joker will only recruit one of three remaining men in the room using only a broken pool stick as try-out, so, they will have to kill each other. All these actions direct to Joker's characteristic in amoralism, by cheating, killing, and exploiting a group of people like nothing really important to him (00:29:44 to 00:31:42).

b. Joker's moral subjectivism

In the story, Joker is also showing an indication of moral subjectivism characteristic as mentioned in the theory, which is, nothing can be said as right or wrong about something as everyone is having their own view and nothing can be debate over it. Someone can express his view without looking someone else's view.

JOKER : Hm? You know what I noticed? Nobody panics when things go "according to plan". Even if the plan is horrifying. If tomorrow I tell the press that, like, a gangbanger will get shot or a truckload of soldiers will be blowing up nobody panics. Because it's all part of the plan. But when I say that one little old mayor will die well, then, everyone loses their minds. Introduce a little anarchy, upset the established orders and everything becomes chaos. I'm an agent of chaos. Oh, and you know the thing about chaos? It's fair.

As shown in the conversation between Harvey Dent and Joker, Joker tries to tell him that he is not the one who did previous accident to Harvey and Rachel, instead, Joker blames Gordon and his men. Although Joker did that but Harvey does not know the details, so he just believe all what Joker is saying. During their conversation, Joker is saying about how he sees the world and telling it to Harvey one by one. He shares his thoughts to Harvey as shown in medium-close up of two pictures below. He has no intention in subduing Harvey because he is just describing what he has in mind. In his mind, the world is somewhat unfair when people are following plan without thinking it first. So, Joker chooses the way chaos works. He thinks it is reasonable to get in the world he lives in.

Pict. 30 *Harvey's current state* (01:49:52)   Pict. 31 *Joker in disguise* (01:50:20)

In the end, Joker does not intending in changing Harvey's mind totally. He just let his mind flows, without any argues, so does Harvey. Thus he is saying that he upset the established orders, which mean he is likely to be the person who is doing the same thing as he said. To Joker, chaos is applicable as a settlement for people in the world (01:47:37 to 01:50:50).

c. Joker's egoism

The first indication that leads Joker's characteristic of egoism comes up at the time when he is standing in all his huge pile of money from the mob, showing it to Chechen, one of their boss. While they are talking, one of the Joker's gang gives gasoline all over the money.

Pict. 32 *Joker demonstrates his power* (01:44:05)

CHECHEN : You said you were a man with your words

JOKER : Oh, I am. I'm only burning my half. All you care about is money. This town deserves a better class of criminal and I'm gonna give it to 'em. Tell your men they work for me now. This is my city.

CHECHEN : They won't work for a freak.

JOKER : "Freak". Why don't we cut you up into little pieces and feed you to your pooches? Hm? And then we'll see how loyal a hungry dog really is. It's not about money, it's about sending a message. Everything burns.

All the huge pile of money Joker gets are from the mob as seen in a long shot from picture above. He is saying it in the word "half" which is mostly all his money. On the other side, Chechen, who does not belong to any coin for this, feeling ashamed and at that moment Joker tells his view. Joker does not even give attention to his money, in fact, all his money by burning it in front of the mob. He wants to

burn his money, he got it right away. He wants the mob works for him and change the criminal game in city, he also got it. His power is bigger than anyone in that room even compared to Chechen, one of the mob's head. Chechen only cares about money all the time. However, Joker shows what he is capable of, and what he views being a criminal. So he does things as shown in the picture to prove to Chechen that Joker is more than him. He can rule everything whenever he wants to, with his power and control. Nobody in the room could surpass his supremacy (01:43:20 to 01:44:05).

Not long after that scene, another Joker plan is on the way. He manages to call Gotham City News presenter during on air, telling that he is about to do something next.

NEWS PRESENTER : Who is this?

JOKER   : I had a vision of a world without Batman. the mob ground up a little profit and the police tried to shut them down one block at a time. And it was so boring. I've had a change of heart. I don't want Mr. Reese spoiling everything but why should I have all the fun? Let's give someone else's a chance. If Coleman Reese, isn't dead, in sixty minutes, then I'll blow up a hospital.

On the news, Joker is saying about how he wants to show the city a whole new crime instead of playing hide and seek like the mob and police do, plus how he wants to test people's way of thinking. All his fun must have been done by killing specific person, Coleman Reese, in a short time without laying his hands. He wants other people to do it. People should follow his order to avoid death of their family

in the hospital. This plan is driving the entire city crazy. Only to satisfy Joker's personal need, people, who are basically stranger, should follow what order is given by him whether they like it or not. These options will both requires someone's life, as inferred from the definition of egoism. People have no choice except following orders by Joker.


Pict. 33 *Coleman Reese* (01:44:12)

Pict. 34 *Exploded hospital* (01:52:50)

Bruce Wayne and all the police officer comes to save Coleman Reese, as shown in a medium long shot of picture 33, and evacuate people in the hospital. Coleman Reese is saved but the hospital has been exploded anyway in picture 34, which is taken on extreme long shot. Joker does not lying about what he told on the news before. He can do things freely in the city without being confronted by someone else. Joker's command over people is strong that can decide death or life of someone (01:44:10 to 01:44:42)

There is also another indication of Joker's egoism, the third one. In the story, there is a scene when Joker speaks through the speaker in two ferry boats full of civilians and criminals at night.
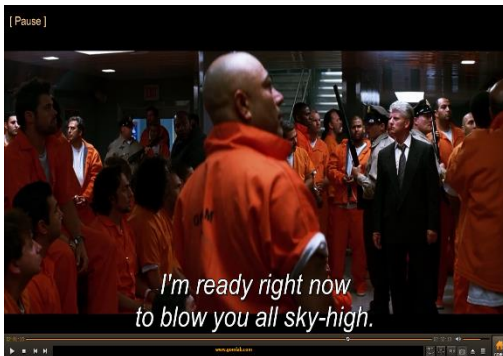
Pict. 35 *Ferry of criminals* (02:01:11)
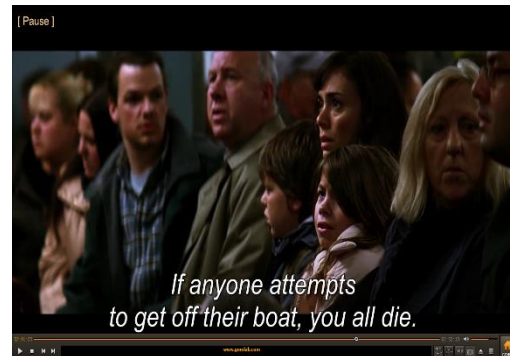
Pict. 36 *Ferry of civilians* (02:01:22)

JOKER : Tonight you're gonna be a part of social experiment. Through the magic of diesel fuel and ammonium nitrate, I'm ready right now to blow you all sky-high. If anyone attempts to get off their boat, you all die. Each of you has a remote to blow up the other boat. At midnight, I blow you all up. If, however, one of you presses the button, I'll let the boat live. So, who's it gonna be? Harvey Dent's most wanted scumbag collection or the sweet and innocent civilians? You choose. Oh, and you might wanna decide quickly because the people on the other boat may not be quite so noble.

Two different pictures above, which are taken from medium long shot, are showing where citizens and criminals listening to Joker's announcement. On the Joker's monologue, he is terrorizing people on both ferry boats using detonators and barrel bombs in the engine section. Every boat has the other boat detonator. Joker's purpose involves people of the city only to satisfy what he is after. He put people on the boat in horrifying situation. This act of controlling over something, especially in large scale, leads to egoism. Joker is powerful enough planning all that scenarios and driving people mind crazy, once again. Everyone should follow his terms and conditions in order to survive, even they do not like it at all. Joker has the power of deciding someone's life or death chance, and this behavior is indicating to egoism (02:01:01 to 02:02:21).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The result in this study shows that Joker's characters can be considered as an example of nihilist, a moral nihilist in specific. In the movie, Joker practices the third state in nihilism theory by Friedrich Nietzsche which anything means only nothing for him, whatever it is. Thus, Joker also experiences the three forms of moral nihilism, in which he does not believe in any value in this world. Joker does not looking for money, fame, respect, or anything in particular. Yet, he does not care about everything he has done as nothing is considered as right or wrong.

Joker's amoralism in the movie is reflected by killing people, killing his own members, robbing mob's money, hijacking trucks, blowing up a hospital, and all those indications are showing amoralism examples as a moral nihilist. His moral subjectivism comes when he shares his idea about chaos to Harvey Dent without both of them arguing, even people in normal would say chaos is wrong, but Joker is not. The egoism of his character is also dominant in the story, where he does things in a continuity, such as terrorizing people in the city, wanting Coleman Reese to dead, attempting to explode two ferry ships, all these are showing his power over people to satisfy his own needs. His behavior of being zero sympathy, having his extreme perspective, and breaking morals reflect it all. Joker proves the indication as a nihilist and experiences amoralism, moral subjectivism, and egoism as the forms of moral nihilism.

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