



SUICIDAL THOUGHT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *LOGAN* MOVIE

A FINAL PROJECT

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Submitted by
Mardiana Al Ma'ruf
13020114130055

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that he compiled this final academic paper by himself without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in the bibliography.

Semarang, May 15th, 2018

Mardiana Al Ma'ruf

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

"Come on, Thanatos! Greet each day with a smile!"

-Zephys

This project is dedicated to

my beloved parents and family, my friends and everyone who supported and

motivated me, I am sincerely grateful to you

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IN LOGAN MOVIE**

Written by:

Mardiana Al Ma'ruf

13020114130055

Is approved by project advisor

On May 16th 2018

Project Advisor

Prof. Dr. Nurdien H. Kistanto, MA

NIP. 195211031980121001

The Head of English Department

Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M. A.

NIP. 196408141990011001

VALIDATION

Approved by

Strata 1 Project Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On July 27th 2018

Chair Person

First Member

Retno Wulandari, S.S., M.A.
NIP. 19750525 200501 2 002

Dra. Christina R., M.Hum
NIP. 19560216 198303 2 001

Second Member

Third Member

Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 19750711 199903 1 002

Hadiyanto, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 19740725 200801 1 013

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE.....	i
PRONOUNCEMENT.....	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	iii
APPROVAL.....	iv
VALIDATION.....	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	viii
LIST OF PICTURES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background.....	1
1.2. Research Questions.....	3
1.3. Thesis Statement.....	4
2. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORKS.....	4
2.1. Previous Study: <i>Logan</i> Movie Reviews.....	4
2.2. Definition of Suicide.....	5
2.3. Causative Factors of Suicide.....	6
3. RESEARCH METHOD.....	8
4. ANALYSIS OF SUICIDAL THOUGHT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN <i>LOGAN</i> MOVIE.....	9
4.1. The Signs of Logan's Suicidal Thought.....	9
4.2. The Causes of Logan's Suicidal Thought.....	12
4.3. Logan's Feeling When He is About to Die.....	14
5. CONCLUSION.....	14
REFERENCES.....	16

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture		page
1.	(00:18:57) Caliban shows the adamantium bullet he found	10
2.	(00:19:30) Caliban tries to talk to Logan	10
3.	(00:20:04) Logan get irritated Caliban's statement	10
4.	(01:47:00) Logan is having a nightmare	11
5.	(01:47:52) Logan explains the use of adamantium bullet	11
6.	(01:48:33) Logan admits that he wants to kill himself	11
7.	(00:56:24) Logan finds Laura's <i>X-Men</i> comic	13
8.	(00:56:48) Logan confronts Charles and Laura	13
9.	(00:56:59) Logan become furious as he explain a truth of being heroes	13
10.	(02:06:26) X-32 impales Logan	14
11.	(02:06:35) Laura shoots X-32 to save Logan	14
12.	(02:08:05) Logan peacefully embraces his death	14

ABSTRACT

Proyek ini membahas mengenai keinginan bunuh diri yang dialami oleh tokoh utama dalam film *LOGAN* bernama James Howlett (Logan/Wolverine). Dalam proyek ini akan dibahas apa saja tanda-tanda yang mengindikasikan bahwa Logan mempunyai keinginan bunuh diri, penyebab mengapa ia mempunyai keinginan bunuh diri dan bagaimana akhirnya ketika ia menghadapi kematian. Dalam proyek ini penulis menggunakan metode studi pustaka untuk mengumpulkan teori-teori dan pendekatan psikologi-sosial untuk mengamati tokoh Logan. Dari penelitian proyek ini disimpulkan bahwa Logan memiliki keinginan bunuh diri karena kehilangan teman-teman dan keluarganya dan keinginan bunuh diri itu diindikasikan dengan kebiasaan Logan yang sering mabuk-mabukan dan mudah tersinggung, dan ketika ia sekarat ia justru merasakan kedamaian.

Kata Kunci : Studi Amerika, Film Amerika, Bunuh Diri

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Recently, there are a lot of heroic movies in the movie industry, in which most of the heroic movies come from the adaptation of several comic books. The most adapted comics come from two of the best comic companies in the US, Marvel and DC, where Marvel movies are more dominating in the market. The heroes from Marvel comic films share the same universe, creating what is called Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Interestingly, one of the best Marvel superheroes comic adaptations based on review scores on IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes is not under the right of MCU but belongs to one of the "Big Six" American film corporation, the 20th Century Fox Companies. The Movie is *Logan*.

Logan is the third spin-off of *X-Men* movies that tells a story about James Howlett better known as "Logan" or "Wolverine". The story takes place in the future in 2029 where almost all mutants have vanished, and these include Logan's X-men comrades. The only one of his closest friends left is Professor Charles Xavier. Now, mutants become more alien in the society and almost no one ever heard them anymore. Moreover, there is a special unit force that hunts them down. One day a woman asks Logan to save a mutant girl named Laura and takes her to a mutant haven, however unknown to Logan, the special unit force is hunting Laura. Logan and Charles, who want to save Laura, have to run away as now they are being hunted as well. Unlike most of the mainstream superhero movies, *Logan* focuses more on the

main character emotional issue as the plot driver. As *Logan* also becomes the last appearance of both Hugh Jackman as "Wolverine" and Patrick Stewart as "Charles Xavier" in the X-Men movie franchise, the movie tries to emphasize the finality of Logan and Professor X, and how they pass their legacy to the young mutants.

Logan tries to emphasize the finality of the main character in this movie, Logan and for some extend, Professor Xavier, so we can feel how sorrow the movie atmosphere is. First impression, at the beginning of the movie we can hear the main title song of the movie, which is played with simple piano notes. The music really contradicts with the previously fighting scene with lots of gore and tension, and how people, when Logan drives his taxi, make noisy and lively sound in the next scene. It can illustrate how Logan life right now, even though he live in lively society, somewhere inside him, he feel nothingness. The movie tries not to make the movie has too many fantastic elements, thus reduce the amount of CGI and some futuristic elements compared to its prequel, which makes the movie much more natural.

The title of the movie itself, *Logan*, is also very interesting, as Logan is the Wolverine middle name of his original name "James Logan Howlett", which is not as badass other title as "The Wolverine" or "X-Men". This simple titled name on superhero movie implied that the movie will try to depict Logan from a humanistic view rather than a superhero. Logan also looked older and messed up right now, showing that his life is not as good as the old days. He looked so weary, tired and defeated. Throughout the movie, Logan looked so sick and there is even a scene

where his hand is shaking after being injured. His condition makes so much pity when the audiences see him.

In the movie, Logan has emotional issue in which he shows some signs of suicidal. The suicidal thought is really interesting to be analyzed from Logan since for someone who has lived for almost two centuries and see many deaths, why would he develops that kind of thought just right now. The project will try to find out what the cause of Logan's suicidal thought is, along with several theories and evidences to support the argument. The project will only focus on what indication showed that he had suicidal thought, and why he has it.

1.2. Research Questions

To find out Logan's suicidal thought, the writer comes up with several questions to help him finds the evidence of Logan's suicidal thought, as the following;

1. What are signs that indicate Logan has suicidal thought?
2. What is the cause of Logan suicidal thought?
3. How does Logan feel when he finally knows he is going to die?

1.3. Thesis Statement

Logan suicidal thought is caused by the death of his friends. The indication that shows he has suicidal thought is that he begins to drink alcohol heavily, symptoms of depression such as easy to get irritated and angry, and does not want to get along with other people. When he is dying, he accepts his fate happily.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

2.1. Previous Study: *Logan* Movie Reviews

Tasha Robinson (2017) wrote that *Logan* is not only the most brutal X-Men movie, but also the saddest. She wrote that the most brutal part in the movie is not severed heads or limbs, but rather the dark emotional content as *Logan* tells an actual story about despair, decay and death. The amount of pain is tremendous in the movie. It shows about Laura past and how she becomes so furious, Caliban stress and misery, Prof. Charles who becomes an old, feeble man with degenerative mental state, and most importantly, Logan physical agony as his healing ability decrease and his adamantium (a fictional metal) skeleton has started poisoning his body. Not to mention that all the main characters except Laura died. She wrote that *Logan* by far the grimmest the X-Men series has ever been.

Another review came from Angela Watercutter (2017); she wrote that *Logan* is following the *Deadpool* movie style, being an R-rated movie, making *Logan* has a

lot of gore, violence, and heavy profanity. She also mentioned on how Hugh Jackman perfectly portrays the character, both as a drunken, suicidal old man Logan and the berserker Wolverine.

2.2. Definition of Suicide

According to Encyclopedia Britannica (2017), suicide is an act of taking one own life intentionally or willingly. The word suicide derived from Latin words, *Sui* which means "self" and *Caedere* which means "to kill". Kartono (2000:143) explained that, suicide is a severe form of escapism from a harsh truth of reality that cannot be tolerated. It is a form of psychological regression for someone to return to a comfort and peaceful state. Suicide is a way to cope with personal distress, including loneliness, revenge, fear, physical pain, sin, etc.

Emile Durkheim in his book *Le Suicide* (1897) divided suicide into 4 types:

- a. Egoistic suicide, a suicide done by a person who lack of social integration. Excessive individuation causes a sense of not belonging for someone. This can cause the feel of meaninglessness, apathy, despair and depression.
- b. Altruistic suicide, occurs in a highly integrated society, where a person has to perform suicide for the sake of others. The society expects the person to commit suicide because it is considered as his/her duty or responsibility, and the suicide feels honored for doing so.

- c. Anomic suicide, result of an individual confusion in an unstable society with almost no law. A society with no regulation is chaotic, and will lead individuals lose moral compass, do not know the limit of their desire and constantly in disappointment and lose their goals or purpose. The suicide also can occur in a sudden extreme change of a person life and he/she cannot cope with it.
- d. Fatalistic suicide, suicide that occurs due to excessive regulation and oppression.

2.3. Causative Factors of Suicide

There are several factors that drive someone to commit suicide, which can be from internal or external factors. The causative factors include psychological disorder such as schizophrenia and depression, alcoholism and drug addiction, personality disorder, physical illness, genetic factors, labor market, and family condition (Silva: 2014).

Kartono (2000: 158) explains that there are also interpersonal and intrapersonal motivations for someone to commit suicide. In interpersonal factor, a person commits suicide because he/she wants someone else, usually close to the suicide, to change his/her attitude after the suicide die. These types of motivation are more likely found in teens as an expression of anger and rejection. Intrapersonal motivation usually found in older people, where they lose their emotional bond with

other people. Over time there are some strong feelings of loneliness, being no longer needed, the body become weaker and easily get sick. He/she will feel already live too long, depressed and want to isolate him/herself. After he/she is tired both physically and emotionally, the thought of suicide come up.

According to Chan in *Preventing Suicide* (2014), generally there are 5 factors that drive people to commit suicide as the following;

1. The difficulty of accessing health care, especially for mental health.

This factor is mostly found in developing countries where mental health care is very lacking. The governments in those countries try to raise the economic welfare of their people and improve their trade and economic system. However, the economic change will also cause some mental burden due to heavy work that will eventually result in stress. People with mental disorders also cannot be treated well due to the lack of mental health care.

2. Stigma and culture that can drive or even encourage suicide. Cultural views that deem seeking help to other people shameful can increase the rate of suicide (Chan, 2014: 34).

3. Poor living conditions of the community where suicides live that can cause trauma, such as in a war, disaster, discrimination or abuse.

4. Interpersonal factors such as conflict in relationship, loss and isolation.

5. Individual factor, where the cause of suicidal thought comes from the suicide him/herself. The factors include genetic and biological factors, mental disorder, alcoholism, hopelessness and financial loss.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This project will use a qualitative type research method as the project will try to analyze and describe the social and mental condition of Logan, his background, and characteristic and then draw a conclusion from the information. Library research method will also be used to gather information from other various previous studies from books and journals. The information will be used as theories that will support the finding in this project. For the approach, socio-psychological approach will be applied to the project where the writer will try to find the correlation between Logan interpersonal interaction and the sign of suicidal thought. As the subject of the project is a movie, the writer will use close viewing to observe each scene where the characters act, close hearing to hearing to for what the characters said and the background music, and close reading to find out some important note in the movie.

The project will focus on the causative factor of Logan's suicidal thought that can be seen in the movie and the sign of his suicidal thought. It will also include several factors from his past so some explanation will be taken from *Logan* movie prequel such as *X-Men* original trilogy, *X-Men: Wolverine Origin* and *The Wolverine*

as reference. The project also will focus more on social influence to Logan, his interaction and reaction toward people. The project will not try to analyze Logan mental state in psychological level. His suicidal thought may be influenced by depression and loneliness driven by several factors such as his now poor living conditions due to discrimination, the interpersonal factor in the death of his friends and his own individual factor that prefers to isolate himself and alcoholism. The writer, however, will not try to describe what kind of depression that is in psychological level because the matter is beyond the writer scope of study.

4. ANALYSIS OF SUICIDAL THOUGHT OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *LOGAN* MOVIE

4.1. The Signs of Logan's Suicidal Thought

The signs of Logan's suicidal thought are not clearly apparent in several first minutes in the movie. The signs appear in a scene where Logan and another mutant named Caliban have a conversation in their shelter. During the conversation, Caliban takes an adamantium bullet from his pocket, the only kind of bullet that can hurt and kill Logan if it is shot to his head. Caliban said that he found it from Logan's cloth pocket. Caliban is sure that Logan has intention that he wants to commit suicide because there is no other reason that the bullet was in his pocket. Caliban says what he thought, but Logan immediately denies it harshly and tells Caliban to stay away from his belongings. It is certainly a part of Logan's defense mechanism because he may be too afraid or ashamed to admit it.

Later, Caliban mentions that Logan has changed and seems has a lot of problems, but wondering why Logan never wants to share the burden with him. Caliban mentions that he saw Logan have bad dreams, and start drinking alcohol, and how his healing ability getting weaker. Upon hearing what Caliban says, Logan gets irritated and smack Caliban's mug, and immediately get out of the shelter to do his job again. This Logan behavior can be identified as part of his depression, which can be translated as the second stage of suicide thought since depression, as mentioned by Kartono (2000:143), usually come when someone has a problem that they cannot handle. Logan irritation in the scene shows that Logan has slightly unstable mental state. When he does not want to share his problems with Caliban, it is a sign that Logan prefers to be alone and isolating himself.



Picture 1 (00:18:57)
Caliban shows the adamantium bullet he found



Picture 2 (00:19:30)
Caliban tries to talk to Logan



Picture 3 (00:20:04)
Logan get irritated by Caliban's statement

Logan's individuation and depression are signs that he may have developed an egoistic suicidal thought, as loneliness and lack of solidarity to society tend to create a suicidal thought (Durkheim, 2005:114). Also note that Logan, as Caliban said, start drinking alcohol heavily in the movie as part of his escapism from the

depression. This isolating attitude and alcoholism actually do not overcome a depression, but instead make it worse (Chan, 2014: 34).

The signs of suicide are getting apparent as Logan and Laura arrive at the supposedly a mutant haven in North Dakota. When Logan is in North Dakota, he experiences a nightmare. Part of a sign of depression is having intense nightmares, which is understandable from someone like Logan, who most likely have some trauma due to fighting with a lot of enemies and saw his friends were injured badly during his fight. Later, when Logan wakes up, he sees Laura next to him. Laura asks Logan why he had such a nightmare, and Logan explain he saw his friends died and how he fears himself hurts other people. Laura than shows Logan an adamantium bullet, Laura asks what it is, so Logan explains the use of it. Logan also tells Laura that adamantium is the only thing that can kill them both. Logan says that he keeps the bullet just in case that he may need it someday to shoot himself, admitting that he actually has the suicidal thought for a long time.



Picture 4 (01:47:00)
Logan is having a
nightmare



Picture 5 (01:47:52)
Logan explains the use of
adamantium bullet



Picture 6 (01:48:33)
Logan admits that he
wants to kill himself

4.2. The Causes of Logan's Suicidal Thought

Throughout the movie, Logan never mentions the reason of why he wants to die. However, his annoyance toward people who mention about his past or his personal problems can indicate why he develops depression that leads to his suicidal thought. Logan may develop a trauma due to his fighting against villains during when he was still the member of X-Men. His annoyance that indicates his trauma can be seen in the scene when Prof. Charles meets Laura for the first time. Charles says that she is a mutant and he and Logan have to save her. Logan, however, disagrees with him. He does not believe that she is a mutant as there are no mutants born in the past 20 years. From his reaction we can see that he is sick with the "saving all the mutants" agenda as the previous attempt failed.

In the prequel, *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, Logan was sent back in time to save mutant-kind from the genocide from the government, but in the future as in this movie, mutants are almost extinct, so his attempt to save them failed. This failure may cause both disappointment and desperation on Logan, things that can cause the loss of purpose of life, which is the cause of anomic suicide (Durkheim, 2005:209).

In Oklahoma, Logan finds out that Laura is inspired by X-Men comic and the mutant haven also comes from the comic. Realizing this, Logan becomes very furious. He states that all what the comic depicts is made up, and mostly are fake.

When Logan says, "In the real world, people die", it can be seen Logan's feeling toward his friends that fall in all of the fighting in the previous sequels, and how he has enough with that. Later, when they flee from Oklahoma, Charles tells Logan that he now remembers everything, that Charles is the one that accidentally kills all X-Men squad, and because of that, they lost their comrades. Charles knows that Logan is sad, but also said that Logan does not have any sense of purpose now, meaning that he does not know what to do in his life anymore.



Picture 7 (00:56:24)
Logan finds Laura's X-Men comic



Picture 8 (00:56:48)
Logan confronts Charles and Laura



Picture 9 (00:56:59)
Logan become furious as he explain a truth of being heroes

After Charles died during their journey to North Dakota, Laura says that Logan is dying. It was Charles who told Laura that Logan actually wants to die. It is also really obvious that during this scene, Logan looked extremely lost all of his hope from his indifferent reaction. After all, he just lost two of his last companions, Charles and Caliban, the only things that delay his attempt to commit suicide. If Logan does commit suicide after the death of Charles and Caliban, he clearly commits an anomic suicide, as he always in constant disappointment for failing his cause of fighting discrimination from the government and sudden traumatic change that he cannot cope with.

4.3. Logan's Feeling When He is About to Die

In the final scene of the movie, after being impaled to a wood by X-32, we see Logan is dying. His healing ability is weakened by the mutant serum overdose. After shooting X-32, Laura tries to save Logan, but Logan says his final words to Laura, "So, this is what it feels like", implying he finally can feel the feel of death, something he is longing for. He embraces his death with a peaceful expression, knowing that everything is finally over. So it becomes obvious that, even at the beginning of the movie Logan may deny it, he really just wants to die, as he no longer has any connection to society and keep isolating himself. However, he cannot commit suicide because he still has two friends left, Charles and Caliban. If Charles and Caliban were not around, he clearly would shoot himself with adamantium bullet.



Picture 10 (02:06:26)
X-32 impales Logan



Picture 11 (02:06:35)
Laura shoots X-32 to save Logan



Picture 12 (02:8:05)
Logan peacefully embraces his death

5. CONCLUSION

From the analysis, the writer can summarize that Logan has egoistic-anomic type of suicide as the lack of any companions and the death of his X-Men comrades causes his depression, also due his lack of integration with any member of society as

he is a mutant. His behavior of drinking and easy to become too irritated is also signs of depression. The fact that he keeps adamantium bullet also prove that he actually indeed want to die, and even stated by both Caliban and Charles. In his final moment, he is in peace when dying, knowing that everything is finally over.

The writer concludes that *Logan* tries to portray how real heroes sometimes have to face a bitter end. Being heroic not always end up having a good life, from time to time sacrifice is needed to do the deed. However, even after someone performs a heroic deed, sometimes the society thinks the other way around if he/she has something different with the majority such as race or religion. This condition, both the sacrifice and how the society response, can break even the hardest person and go into the lowest point in life so much to even think to commit suicide, which is sadly a truth in the daily life. From the movie, it can be learnt that heroes are not always strong, occasionally they need help too.

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