



**THE ASPECTS OF HEROISM REFLECTED
IN *SPIDER-MAN 2* MOVIE**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis entitled “The Aspects of Heroism Reflected in *Spider-Man 2* Movie” by herself 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 she does not quote any material from other publications or someone’s paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, September 2018

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

One of the greatest diseases is to be nobody to anybody

Mother Teresa

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family and friends,

Thank you very much

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Praise be to God Almighty, who has given strength and true spirit so this project on “The Aspects of Heroism in *Spider-Man 2* Movie comes in a completion. On this occasion, I would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the completion of this research report.

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I realize that this project is still far from perfect, I therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, I expect that this final project entitled “The Aspects of Heroism Reflected in *Spider-Man 2* Movie” will be useful and worthy to the readers.

Semarang, September 2018

Hanesti Dhaneswara

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ABSTRACT

Spider-Man 2 is a film that tells about Peter Parker as a main character in this movie, that has super power abilities after he is bitten by a spider. Because those abilities, he is able to save others, detect villains and stop crimes. Peter Parker also has to deal with Dr. Octopus as the main enemy in this movie. The purpose of this paper is to show the nature of heroism which exist in Peter Parker. The writer uses library research in collecting data and Sosiological approach in analyzing the movie. In analyzing this paper, the writer uses the theory of heroism of Dr. Andrew Bernstein. The result of this paper is Peter Parker as the main character has symbols of heroism those are ability or prowess, moral greatness, action in the face of opposition, triumph in at least a spiritual of physical form. Activities, dialogues and scenes of the character Peter Parker symbolize him as a hero.

Keywords: Heroism, Spiderman, Peter Parker

1. INTRODUCTION

Superhero movie is an action movie that focuses in actions of one or more superheroes. Individuals in the movie usually possess superhuman abilities. In addition, superhero movie focuses on its action to attack enemies and save people from violence. It is also used to criticize social conditions in society, such as the existence of criminals in society that need to be concerned.

The superhero movie that is analyzed in this research is an American film entitled *Spider-Man 2*. This movie is produced by a Marvel Enterprises or Laura Ziskin in 2004. It is one of three sequels of *Spider-Man: Spider-Man* (2002), *Spider-Man 2* (2004), *Spider-Man 3* (2007). The sequels are adapted from superhero comic series published by Marvel Comics with the first title *Amazing Fantasy*. The movie introduces the superhero character—Spider-Man that is played by Peter Parker, who becomes Spider-Man after he is bitten by a spider when he is in the laboratory for seeing spider species, as seen in the *Spider-Man* (2002).

In this movie, Peter Parker is struggling to manage both his personal life and his duties as Spider-Man, while Dr. Otto Octavius becomes a diabolical villain after a failed experiment. He kills his wife and leaves his neurologically fused to mechanical tentacles. Spider-Man must stop him from successfully recreating the experiment, which threatens to annihilate the city.

The analysis focusses on the main character, Peter Parker, as the Spider-Man or the hero. The Spider-Man character in this movie is considered as a hero because the character reflects the characteristics of a hero. He helps everyone who

gets persecuted. Peter has an ability to know a crime in anytime and he never gives up in attacking the enemies. That characteristics is equal to the character of heroism by Dr. Andrew Bernstein Theory. Based on the Dr. Andrew Bernstein Theory, heroism is the qualities and actions of hero or heroine as quoted below:

“ A hero is an individual of elevated moral stature and superior ability who pursues his goals indefatigably in the face of powerful antagonist(s). Because of his unbreached devotion to the good, no matter the opposition, a hero attains spiritual grandeur, even he fails to achieve practical victory. Notice then the four components of heroism: moral greatness, ability or prowess, action in the face of opposition, and triumph in at least a spiritual, if not a physical, form.”

The character of Peter Parker in Spider-Man 2 movie is considered as a hero related to components of heroism. There are many objects that can be analyzed in Spider-Man 2 such as extrinsic and intrinsic elements, but the writer focuses on the intrinsic elements. Furthermore, this research will be focused on aspects of heroism.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Character

Character is a part of intrinsic elements and an important point in *Spider-Man 2*. A character has an identity to show the audience by their appearance, conversation, action, etc that are made by the author to represent the message through by the character. Richard Barsam (2010) says:

Thus, when we talk about characters in our analyses of movies, we should consider them both as beings who (much like living, breathing people) have discernible traits, habits, and dispositions and as formal elements that help develop the narrative.” (2010: 134). Major characters, the most important characters to the plot, make the most things happen or have the most things happen to them. Because plots depend on conflict, major characters—male or female—are often further described as protagonists and antagonists (2010:135)

According to the quote, it can be concluded that a major character is a character that shows up repeatedly as if it dominates every part of the movie. It represents the message of the author. Major characters can be divided into protagonists and antagonists. The protagonist experiences conflict caused by an antagonist and that must be resolved, whereas, the antagonist is a person who actively opposes the protagonist and is often considered as a wicked character.

2.2 Heroism

There is a theory about heroism that will be applied in this research. That is the theory of heroism by Dr. Andrew Bernstein. In his theory, Bernstein explains that heroism in a character is represented with moral greatness, skills, and the courage to face the problems physically or non-physically. Heroic characters can solve the problem with their own strength. The actions that they do are aimed to realize peace (Bernstein (2002)).

According to Bernstein's theory about Heroism, a hero is an individual of elevated moral stature and superior ability who pursues his goals indefatigably in the face of powerful antagonist(s). Because of his unbreached devotion to the good, no matter the opposition, a hero attains spiritual grandeur, even if he fails to achieve practical victory. Bernstein (2002) also divides the aspects of heroism, they are:

1. Ability or prowess, is physical and mental capacity that enables an individual to do something of exceptional valor and superior skill that is owned by someone, especially in combat or battle.

2. Moral greatness, is the quality of doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong.
3. Action in the face of opposition, is a planned movement in fighting enemy in certain situation.
4. Triumph in at least a spiritual or physical form, is an achievement that involve nonphysical or physical aspects.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Method of Data Collection

In this paper, the writer applies library research as the research method to find relevant information to analyze the object of the study. Mary W. George said that library research is “involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/expert opinion on a research question; necessary component of every other research method at some point” (2008:6).

The main data of the study are divides into two parts:

1. Primary data is a movie entitled *Spider-Man 2*
2. Secondary data are taken from books, journals, scripts and articles that related to the theory and the movie as the object.

3.2 Research Approach

The writer uses Sociological approach for analyzing the object of this research. According to Laurenson (1978:11), sociological approach is principally specific object of study to every person in community, the study of social institution and social process; it searches for the answer of some questions about the existence and structure of society, while literature is specifically focused on

the position of individual in society circumstance. The sociologists are concern that sociological approach is very helpful toward analyzing the extrinsic elements especially some reflection of cultural values phenomena in literary works.

4. THE ASPECTS OF HEROISM REFLECTED IN *SPIDER-MAN 2* MOVIE

4.1 Spider-Man's Ability or Prowess

Spider-Man 2 is the alter ego of Peter Parker, a teenager who attempts to balance normal adolescent struggles with the responsibilities of a costumed superhero. He is described as a hero character in a red-blue costume. He does not always wear his costume. He only wears it when danger comes and then he turns into Spider-man by his instinct. He also has ability to climb like a spider which he gets after he is bitten by a spider when he is in the laboratory for seeing spider species, as seen in the *Spider-Man* (2002). His abilities, such as the ability to cling in different surfaces and his quick reaction in dangerous situation, are the results of his spider-sense. Because of those abilities, he is able to detect villains and other potential hazards. Spider-Man's powers and abilities allow him to stop crimes and save lives in the city of New York, as seen in pictures 1 and 2 in the attachments.

4.2 Spider-Man's Moral Greatness

Peter Parker is an important part in *Spider-Man 2* and he can be regarded as main character. He appears in many scenes within *Spider-Man 2* to solve problems. Peter Parker solves that problem by his actions to fight villains and protect people in dangers. Peter Parker becomes a protagonist character because his behaviours which are helping and saving lives. Picture 3 in attachments shows two kids chasing ball that rolling toward the highway. When they want to chase the ball they do not see a truck coming toward them. At the same time Spider-Man sees it and swiftly saves the two kids before they get hit by the truck. Picture 4 in attachments the two kids are rescued by Spider-Man without any injury at all. The Spider-Man also advises the two kids to be careful and not to do it again. The heroic action done by Spider-Man is characteristic of protagonist, which is capable of carrying kindness's mission by saving others in danger situation and also the things that done by Spider-Man shows the characteristics of heroism that is moral greatness.

4.3 Spider-Man's Action in The Face of Opposition

Besides carrying kindness's mission by saving others in danger situation, aspects of heroism is also illustrated when Spider-Man is able to fight villains. There are many ways that can be concluded as heroic actions apart from helping people who are in dangerous situations as seen in pictures 5, 6 and 7 in attachments, which shows Spider-Man's actions against criminals. The villains in the movie can be regarded as antagonist characters because they demonstrate wicked behaviours. Picture 5 in attachments shows that Spider-Man is trying to

fight the villains who cause disorder in the city. With his abilities, Spider-Man paralyzes the villains using his spider-web. Before being paralyzed, the villains attack the police, who respond by chasing the villains and it leads to one of the police cars almost crashing into the crowd. Picture 6 in attachments shows people who afraid of police's car which will hit them. Picture 7 in attachments shows Spider-Man's web holds the police's car before fall and hit the crowd and the woman's utterance above shows that Spider-Man successfully saves the crowd by his spider-web and then the woman feels grateful and sparks him.

Spider-Man also has to deal with Dr. Otto Octavius also known as Dr. Octopus as the main enemy who mess up New York City. He is a genius scientist who has experimented titanium as a solar energy's replacement source. To conduct the experiment, Dr. Octopus develops a set of intelligent mechanical arms connected with a chip placed behind his neck. The mechanical arms are like an octopus' tentacles made from iron and resistant from heat and magnet. Unfortunately, his experiment fails and causes his mechanical arms to coalesce with his spine. The mechanical arms then affect his brain and change the way of his thinking to be wicked.

Although his experiment failed, Dr. Octopus neither rids his mechanical arms off nor stops his experiment. Dr. Octopus continues to plan and develop his experiment until he succeeds, even though he must carry out criminal conducts. It makes Dr. Otto Octavius become a super villain named Dr. Octopus. Picture 8 in attachments shows Spider-Man dealing with Dr. Octopus. Dr. Octopus tries to rob the bank to help finance his experiment. He goes into the bank and makes chaos

inside. At that time, Spider-Man is accompanying his aunty at the bank. Immediately, he leaves his aunty to change and become Spider-Man and then he comes back to attack Dr. Octopus. With all his abilities, Spider-Man fight and try to make Dr. Octopus loses. Unfortunately, Dr. Octopus decides to end his endeavour to rob the bank and goes to cause a scene somewhere else. Spider-Man does not give ups, he still chases Dr. Octopus and fights him. Seen in picture 9 in attachments, Dr. Octopus and Spider-Man are involved in a fierce battle, where Spider-Man tries to kill him. Dr. Octopus who has committed burglary continues messing up the city and endangers others. Dr. Octopus gains a super power with his mechanical arms. It is very difficult for everyone to be able to stop Dr. Octopus. However, only Spider-Man who able to fight Dr. Octopus with his superhero abilities, seen from the evidence of the dialog as follows,

J. Jonah Jameson : “It's all my fault. I drove Spider-Man away.”
Robbie Robertson : “He was the only one who could've stopped Octavius.”
J. Jonah Jameson : “Yes. Spider-Man was a hero.”
(*Spider-Man 2*, 01:40:48)

Based on dialog of the above, it shows the conversation between J. Jonah Jameson and Robbie Robertson. Robbie says Spider-Man is the only one who can stop Dr. Octopus. Seen in the conversation above, J. Jonah Jameson who gets role as Peter Parker's boss at Newspaper Company apologizes because he makes news that Spider-Man disappear. Because of that news, it makes Dr. Octopus comes and messes up New York City. Robbie Robertson who gets role as secretary of J. Jonah Jameson also says that only Spider-Man who can stop Dr. Octopus. Indirectly, words said by Robbie Robertson have a meaning if Spider-Man is very

important and he is the only one who can stop Dr. Octopus. So, it could be concluded that Spider-Man is a protagonist and also the main hero because he is an important figure in the movie. It is also clarified by J. Jonah Jameson's statement at the end of the conversation that says Spider-Man is a hero.

From the evidences and the conversation above it can be said if Spider-Man shows the aspects of heroism that is action in the face of opposition. He is always persistence and never gives up fighting criminals and Dr. Octopus. Even though it is very difficult to fight Dr. Octopus because he has a superpower that comes from his mechanical arms but Spider-Man still does not give up to fight him. Because only Spider-Man who can stop Dr. Octopus.

4.4 Spider-Man's Triumph in at Least a Spiritual or Physical Form

Spider-Man has characteristics of heroism that is the courage to face the problems physically. That is seen in pictures 10 and 11 in attachments, where Spider-Man tries to save the passengers from danger caused by Dr. Octopus. Dr. Octopus broke the train's brakes and caused the train to go faster and uncontrollable.

Train Conductor : [*after Spider-Man attempts to slow the train with just*

his foot] "Any more bright ideas?"

Peter Parker : "I got a few. Yeah!"

(*Spider-Man 2*, 01:46:48)

Then, Spider-Man swiftly comes and exerts all his energies to make the train stop before making any fatalities. Based on dialog of the above, Spider-Man tries to stop the train with his legs but it makes his feet hurt and he feels if it is not

effective. Spider-Man keeps trying and thinking how the train can stop before it hit the barrier and crashed. Then Spider-Man decides to use his spider-web to stop the train with all his possibilities. Luckily, Spider-Man succeed to make the train stop there will be no fatalities.

Man at fire : “Fire! Alisa, the Chens can't find their daughter.
Have you seen her?”
Man at fire : “Somebody call the fire department! Help! Help!”
Peter Parker : “Is anybody in that building?”
Man at fire : “We think there's a kid stuck on the second floor”
Peter Parker : *[he ran to the scene]*
Man at fire : “Hey, where you going?!”
Peter Parker : “ I’m coming!”
(Spider-Man 2, 01:24:30)

In order to help or save others, Spider-Man does not always wear his costumes. Based on the conversation the above and as seen in pictures 12 and 13 in attachments, describe Peter Parker or Spider-Man tries to help a little girl who is trapped in a fire. At that time Peter Parker does not wears his costume and also does not use his superhero powers. Peter Parker only uses his courage to help the little girl. It shows if the nature of hero in Peter Parker is not always portrayed only when he is in his superhero costume, but also from within Peter Parker. Luckily, Peter Parker can help the girl before bad things happen. From the evidence of pictures 10, 11, 12, 13 in attachments and the conversations between Peter Parker and a man around the scene is shown above, it can refer the aspects of heroism that is triumph in a physical form.

5. CONCLUSION

In *Spider-Man 2* tells about Peter Parker who became Spider-Man after he is bitten by a spider, when he is in the laboratory for seeing spider species, as seen in *Spider-Man (2002)*. He has superpowers like a spider, because of those abilities; he is able to save others in dangerous situations, he can detect villains or potential hazards, and also can stop crimes. In this movie, Spider-Man also has to deal with Dr. Otto Octavius also known as Dr. Octopus as the main enemy who messed up New York City because his failed experiment.

Movie that directed by a Marvel Enterprises or Laura Ziskin, also shows the aspects of heroism such as ability or prowess, Spider-Man have abilities to cling in different surfaces like a spider and also has a quick reaction in dangerous situation. Moral Greatness, from his abilities such as can detect villains and potential hazards, it allow him to stop crimes and save people in the city of New York. Action in the face of opposition, is when Spider-Man has to deal with villains and Dr. Octopus as the main enemy. Triumph in at least a spiritual or physical form, is when Spider-Man can stop the train and save the girl from fire before any fatalities.

Based on descriptions in the previous section of this final project, several conclusions can be drawn that the heroism emerges because of purpose to solve problems that represent with moral greatness, skills or abilities, and the courage to face the problems physically or non- physically, which aims at creating peace. Finally, the story ends with the defeated and drowned of Dr. Octopus.

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ATTACHMENTS



Picture 1. (00:56:22)

Spider-Man faces Dr. Octopus at the top of a building.



Picture 2. (00:57:37)

Spider-Man shows off his abilities to climbing down a building during the fight.



Picture 3. (00:05:31)

Spider-Man saves kids from truck.



Picture 4. (00:05:35)

Spider-Man carries kids after being saved.



Picture 5. (00:28:39)

Spider-Man against criminals.



Picture 6. (00:28:02)

Crowds around the scene.



Picture 7. (00:28:12)
Spider-Man saves the crowds
by his spider-web.



Picture 8. (00:53:06)
Dr. Octopus rob the bank.



Picture 9. (00:55:08)
Spider-Man against Dr. Octopus.



Picture 10. (01:46:35)
Spider-Man tries to stop the train.



Picture 11. (01:47:33)
Spider-Man tries to stop the train.



Picture 12. (01:25:03)
Spider-Man tries to help a little girl
who trap in a fire.



Picture 13. (01:26:15)

Spider-Man tries to help a little girl who trap in a fire.