
THE THRILLER FORMULA OF PLOT IN *DON'T BREATHE* FILM BY FEDE ALVAREZ

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ABSTRACT

This research is about Thriller Formula of Plot in *Don't Breathe* film by Fede Alvarez. The objectives of this research is to describe how is the thriller formula explain through plot in *Don't Breathe* film. The method use in this research is structuralism method. Then, the object and the source of data in the film *Don't Breathe* by Fede Alvarez, which was published in 2009 and the duration consists of 1 hour 28 minutes. Based on the findings and discussion, the writer concluded thriller formula can be seen through plot. In this research, the researcher finds thriller formula through plot consisting of complicated stories, frequent plot twist, violence, emphasis story on action and conflict, the protagonist triumphs over evil and survive and suspense. The result of the analysis shows that there are 40 data of plot. The implication of this research is to give understanding to the readers especially focused on the thriller in order to improve the ability of learners and readers in understanding literature. Expectantly, this research can give many benefits for the readers and all of students of English Literature to learn more about thriller.

Key words: *Don't Breathe*, thriller, thriller formula in plot.

Introduction

Film is a part of popular literature. According to Adi (2016, p. 19) the type of popular literature consists of various kinds, which is in the form of novels or films. It is one of popular literature that can be accepted as a useful media to express peoples feeling. Film is a form of entertainment that enacts a story. The existence of the film has been created as one of the media are really preferred even now. According to Adi (2016, p. 54) film is a work of literature and film history is also influenced massively by the history of literary works. With the existence of narration or more commonly referred as story, then where there is a story, literature review can be applied there. Film present action, images, and words replicating life. Film have some genres such as western, science fiction, horror, detective, mystery, adventure, romance and thriller.

Thriller is a type of film thrilling action and usually the type of storyline usually prioritizes stories that the hero race against time, are full of challenging actions, and get assistance that happens to be badly needed which has to thwart the cruel plans of stronger criminals and more complete weaponry. Thriller film has a purpose to make the audience thrilling when the story is watch. Thriller film focuses on fear and axienty story. According to Saricks (2009, p. 72) although characters may not be in life-and-death situations, they always face danger of some kind, certainly from a conspiracy if not a physical antagonist. In general, thrillers tell

ordinary people who is trapped in an extraordinary or precarious situation that is not desired as a mystery, acts of terror to murder. Thrillers heavily stimulate the viewer's moods giving them a high level of anticipation, uncertainty, surprise, anxiety and terror.

Don't Breathe is a thriller genre film, where in a thriller genre film has a thriller aspect. *Don't Breathe* film was directed by Fede Alvarez, and written by Alvarez and Rodo Sayagues and it was first released on 2016. This film has a great thriller because raises an interesting story, how the protagonist quickly and unexpectedly becomes an antagonist even a merciless monster. The story starts from three members of the thief's group, including Rocky, Money and Alex. The three of them had a hobby of entering an uninhabited house and then taking valuables inside. It's just that they make the hobby a job. But they still have a code of ethics, do not take cash and the nominal amount of goods taken is not more than 10 thousand dollars. They did not seem to get the opportunity to complete college education. To achieve dreams, practical actions, such as robbery, are the only choices. Until finally Alex, Rocky and Money found a new target, a blind the veteran living in his house with only a guard dog. There was news that there was 300 thousand dollars in his house, this became a target that was easily conquered. But behind the blindness experienced by the veteran actually he unexpectedly has an unexpected ability that is used as a trigger for thriller.

Plot will be the focus of this research. As already known, plot is intrinsic elements of making a literary work. Literary works in this case the film certainly experiences development, especially in the plot, if the film has an interesting plot, the film will be able to get the audience carried away in the story of the film. Films have various genres, one of the film genres that makes interesting films is the thriller genre.

The researcher has a several previous studies related to illusion of reality. First, "A Variety of Thrills (Thrillers and different ways of approaching them)" by J.S. Hurley, K.A. Kamphuis, 2013. Second, "Analisis Genre Thriller Dalam Film Pintu Terlarang" by Reni Hapsari, Universitas Airlangga Surabaya, 2011.

This research discusses the thriller formula of plot in *Don't Breathe* film By Fede Alvarez. The researcher has to focus on the following question of how is the thriller formula explain through plot in *Don't Breathe* film?

Discussion

Don't Breathe film is a thriller genre by Vede Alvarez. In this film have such a terrifying from the sound of broken glass, the vibration of cellphones or creaking floors. The slightest sound can endanger lives. *Don't Breathe* doesn't betray the title. The title used in this film is a lesson taken by main character while trying hard so that every action and sigh of their breathe is not heard by a sensitive old man. Unexpected this old man is an Iraq war the veteran is still fit in his old age, maintaining a dog that gets training. The hearing and smell that he has is almost equivalent to the dog.

Don't Breathe film tell about three thieves, they are Alex, Money and Rocky, they planned to rob a house inhabited by the blind veteran. They were eyeing hundreds of thousands of dollars in the veteran's house, the house is in a dormant housing complex. Plans for robbery carried out by them are not as easy as

what they expected before, because these the blind veteran have unexpected abilities. This veteran fights back the thieves mercilessly. Even the situation changes 180 degrees. Now it is the thieves who are the target of this old and blind man. *Don't Breathe* present a unique story. The audience was curious about figure of the blind veteran. Various twist revealed throughout the storyline that managed to make the audience dumbfounded and feel suspense. The blind veteran figure is indeed the main attraction of *Don't Breathe* film. No one can guess about the true nature and what he will do next.

The method use in this research is structuralism method. Culler (1975:4) said structuralism is thus based in the first instance, on the realization that if human action and productions have a meaning there must be an underlying system of distinction and convention which makes meaning possible. Film has a structure that must be studied to understand the meaning in it. The structure that has been form with others. The word structure shows the arrangement of all related with others. Film consists of intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Research with a structural approach emphasizes the study of relationships between literary builders. Abrams (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012:7) to equate structural with an objective approach to literature and can be contrasted with other approaches, such as the mimetic, pragmatic expressive and objective approaches. Therefore, analyzing the work structurally, can be done by identifying, reviewing and describing functions and relationships between elements so that together it can produce a whole. The intrinsic elements examined in this research focused on the plot.

Plot in thriller is portrayed through events in the story. Thriller makes the audience interested in a story. The function of the plot in thrillers is to provide good or bad results for the character and provide clues or signs of the situation what happened next in the story. The storyline thriller makes the audience ask about the continuation of the story. In the story it has a pattern of arranging the inevitable chase scenes carried out by villains to protagonist. Confrontation between hero and villain is important to the success of a thriller. The more closely matched the two, the more tension is created. There may be a physically strong antagonist pitted against a weaker but more intelligent protagonist. According to Saricks (2009, p. 75) plot in thrillers tend to be complication, with frequent plot twists that surprise protagonist and reader alike. Power is often at the heart of the action. The antagonist plots to gain power for his own ends, and the hero is out stop him or her. There violence or the threat of violence, and a sense of constant movement, which increases the pace of the story. The emphasis of the story line is on action and conflict. The hero triumphs over evil and survives. Therefore, it can be concluded that the plot is in the thriller have complicated stories, frequent plot twist, violence, emphasis story on action and conflict, the protagonist triumphs over evil and survive and the last is suspense.

Complicated

The story in the thriller is usually complicated, the audience is curious and tense with an identity or action character that has not been revealed. Stories in thrillers are not easy to guess, there are unexpected or unthinkable events. This will make the audience interested in watching thrillers.



The woman who crashed the veteran child was found in the basement
(Don't Breathe film 0:43:07)

The picture above depicts about the woman held captive by the veteran in the basement. By chance she was discovered by Alex and Rocky. This event can occur when Rocky and Alex were in the basement, they were looking for a way to get out of the house. When they were looking for a door to get out of the house, they were suddenly startled by a woman who was confined and bound. Alex and Rocky were confused and didn't understand why the woman could be in the basement with very poor conditions, the woman was found with her hands and feet tied, she was placed in a place that was not feasible. The woman asked Alex and Rocky for help, then she gave a torn newspaper which contained news about Cindy Roberts not guilty of a car accident, after which Rocky realized that Cindy was the woman who killed his daughter. Cindy is evidence that has been hidden by the veteran. Cindy is someone who bumped into her child who was then held captive in her warehouse with her mouth gagged, the place was very closed and uninhabitable. In addition to being treated improperly, she was even pregnant with the veteran child, because she was injected with sperm in order to ask for a replacement for his dead child because of being hit by the woman. The veteran treats women as very cruel and inhumane.

Frequent Plot Twist

In thrillers, usually unexpected events occur before, the thriller has a plot twist that can make the audience shocked to feel annoyed, shocked or even sad. Because the function of the plot twist is to give the audience a shocking effect. The twist plot is an element of story that makes the audience startled in a moment and even the audience is made not to believe in the events that occur in the story. The twist plot is an unexpected occurrence of character, so the twist plot is part of the thriller.



The veteran dragged Rocky
(Don't Breathe film 1:18:16)

The picture above depicts about unconscious Rocky was dragged by the veteran to get back into his house. This was an unexpected event, because before Rocky felt that if she was outside the home, the veteran would not be able to catch her, the veteran won't be able to see where Rocky is headed, at that time the veteran didn't chase her but the veteran beast that when it chased her. She did not expect that she would be caught again by the veteran and be in that house again. Rocky felt tired at the time, she didn't know what to do. She did not expect that the blind veteran who was initially considered weak turned out to be too strong to fight.

Rocky regretted that she had left her sister, she was also sorry for deciding to come to the house to commit theft. Rocky surrendered to what would happen in the future, because she was helpless at the time and the veteran would not be able to let her go. Rocky has done various ways to be free from the pursuit of cruel the veteran. Let alone to be free from her pursuit, even being able to get out of the house feels very difficult. She felt that she would not be able to survive the killer veteran, her fate would be the same as Money and Alex who died as a result of being killed by the veteran. But soon after there was something that made her realize, something that made her return to having the spirit of survival, she still had hope to save herself from the pursuit of the veteran and get out of the house.

Violence

In the thriller displays scenes of violence committed between the protagonist and the antagonist. This violence occurs because stories in thrillers highlight conflicts that are emotional or psychological, so that in thrillers there are elements of physical violence. In addition, usually in thriller stories use weapons, explosions and dangerous equipment or equipment. So that the conflict between the protagonist and antagonist is inseparable from violence.



The veteran attack Rocky mercilessly
(Don't Breathe film 1:03:05)

The picture above depicts about the veteran who is crippling Rocky, and he wants Rocky to be responsible for the death of a girl who is pregnant with his child. Rocky who lived alone tried to survive. When she was almost able to get out of the house, her whereabouts were known by the veteran, she was finally caught back in the house. Rocky at that time was helpless, because before being caught and trapped again by the veteran, she had tried to save herself from the pursuit of the veteran dog. With conditions that were helpless Rocky remained beaten by the veteran to faint the veteran did not look at anyone who dared to disturb him, even though he knew that Rocky was a woman, he still beat her and gave no mercy, until finally Rocky fainted.

Emphasis story on action and conflict

The existence of conflict between the protagonist and antagonist in thrillers is very important. The story in thrillers, with the existence of a conflict will trigger many actions that resemble the life of the protagonist. The main purpose in thrillers is to provide tension, one of which can build tension is the action and conflict in the story.



Money opened the door lock using a gun
(Don't Breathe film 0:26:30)

The picture above depicts that Money is opening a door lock using a gun, this is a very fatal mistake and could endanger their lives. This incident began when the three of them found a door that thought the money was in the room, Money tried to open the door, but it turned out that the door could not be opened because it was locked. After trying and still not being able to open Money felt exhausted, Alex asked and advised Money to open the door with other tools.

Unbeknownst to Alex and Rocky, it turns out that Money pulled out a gun in his bag. Alex is shocked to see Money carrying a gun, because Money brings a gun when carrying out a theft without the knowledge of Alex and Rocky. After learning that Money was carrying a gun, Alex finally hesitated to continue the theft, because he learned that according to him carrying a gun while carrying out a theft would give stolen homeowners the right to shoot them.

There was a little fight between Money and Alex, and it was also known that Money was the first time trying to use a gun, but Money ignored what Alex said, finally Money kept opening the door using a gun he had prepared beforehand. Seeing Money firing a gun to be able to open the door, Alex was angry and decided to withdraw from this theft, before leaving the house Alex had taken Rocky to join him and went out of the house. But Rocky refused Alex's invitation and finally Alex left the house alone leaving Rocky and Money.



The veteran attacks Money
(Don't Breathe film 0:28:50)

The picture above depicts about the veteran who managed to strike back at Money, even though Money had threatened him to remain silent and shoot shots as a warning, the veteran ignored the threat and he did not back down, he moved forward slowly approaching Money even with a bit of money finally being defeated the veteran wins the gun from Money's hand. The veteran had time to ask and forced Money to tell how many people had entered the house and participated in the theft, whether Money only acted alone or with other people, before answering questions from the veteran Money looking at Rocky who was at his side, at that time Rocky looked very scared because Rocky had seen the incident between Money and the veteran, in the end Money decided to give false info to the veteran, he replied that he was only alone in the house.

The protagonist triumphs over evil and survive

The story in the thriller is always a crime, the crime is committed by an antagonist to the protagonist, the crime committed is not easy to defeat. The protagonist must do various ways to survive and be free from the crimes committed by antagonists.

Alex and Rocky are trapped inside the house and are involved in the murder mystery of the cruel blind veteran. They tried to save themselves by finding a way to get out of the house. Getting out of the house is not easy, even though the veteran is blind but he has unexpected abilities. There were several failures made by them to defeat the veteran and save themselves in the face of various threats to personal safety. Before committing theft, they are underestimated and considered the situation, but they are didn't know that they had faced a war veteran despite being old and blind. Money was killed in the incident and the veteran knew that there were still others people where Rocky and Alex were trapped and tried to get out of the house.



The veteran almost knew Alex and Rocky in his house
(Don't Breathe film 0:38:02)

The picture above depicts about the existence of Alex and Rocky which is almost known by the veteran. This incident happened because when Alex and Rocky, after successfully taking the money in the safe, Alex and Money planned to save themselves by going out of the house through the door that had been successfully opened by Money with a gun. The door directed them towards a basement which later they could exit directly on the courtyard. The veteran's wild dog was located right next to the veteran's house. They tried to get inside the door, when Rocky tried to open the door suddenly the veteran came out of the door to retrieve the corpse of Money. Rocky and Alex fell silent because almost their whereabouts were known by the veteran.

When the veteran tried to move the corpse of Money in the room, Alex stepped slowly to retreat and it turned out that his step was stepping on the loose wooden floor, the sound of the wood was heard by the veteran. The veteran immediately stops and saves Money's corpse and then points a gun at Alex and Rocky. The two of them could only shut up and try not to make a sound, there was an expression of extraordinary fear on their faces. Not long after Money's cellphone lying on the floor suddenly rang, the veteran immediately fired his gun at the cellphone then destroyed the cellphone. Luckily the bullet is not about anyone. After the veteran felt there were no people, the veteran continued to drag the corpse of Money. Alex and Rocky survived at that time, although their existence was almost known by the veteran.

Suspense

The aim in thrillers is to give or present a tense atmosphere among the audience. Therefore the story in thrillers gives rise to tense scenes such as challenging actions that almost eliminate the life of the protagonist, usually growing mysteries, sometimes bringing the audience as a detective investigating a murder case, so that suspense makes the audience curious until the end of the film.



The veteran knows the whereabouts of someone in his house
(Don't Breathe film 0:27:05)

The picture above depicts about the veteran who knows where someone is in his house. No one thought that the veteran would know of their whereabouts, because they committed theft at night and at that time the veteran was sleeping in his room. Even Money had activated drugs in his room, so they felt safe and could be freer to steal and could find money that was the main target in their theft.

This incident began when they suspected the room in which the money was stored, Money tried to open the door lock, but it turned out the door was locked very strong. Money could not open the door, but in the end Money decided to open the door using a gun, and in the end the door was successfully opened. Even though he managed to open the door but they had to be confronted with the veteran who turned out to wake up from sleep, it seemed like a veteran woke up from his sleep because of the gunshot and he knew that someone had entered his house.

Conclusions

The writer found thriller formula through the plot. The thriller formula through plot can be caused by the existence of a complicated, plot twist, violence, emphasis on action and conflict stories, the protagonist triumphs over evil and survive in a story and the last suspense. In the complicated in this research the writer found three data, nine of plot twist, three of violence, nine of emphasis story on action and conflict, 13 of the protagonist triumphs over evil and survive, and three of suspense. Based on the result of the research the total of thrillers through the plot is 40 data.

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