

Desmond Doss' Struggle in Defending his Value in "Hacksaw Ridge" Movie

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Abstract

This study describes struggles of a man named Desmond Doss in "Hacksaw Ridge" movie. This movie tells about a man in his World War II experiences. Doss rolled as an American pacifist combat medic who was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. It was directed by Mel Gibson and written by Robert Schenkkan and Andrew Knight. This study has some objectives; to identify the way Doss defends his value in the movie and to identify kinds of struggles that Doss do in defending his value in the movie. In addition, it is to describe three disrespect forms that happen to the main character in "Hacksaw Ridge" Movie. This study is qualitative research because it analyzed the descriptive data based on the conversations in "Hacksaw Ridge" movie. The data are collected from MP4 video and the script of "Hacksaw Ridge" movie. It is found the struggle of Doss that causes a violation on his body, the struggle of Doss that makes all of his rights denied, and the struggle of Doss that makes his way of life affected by other people.

Keywords: Struggle, Value, Movie

INTRODUCTION

There are some ways for people to enjoy their leisure time. Some might spend their time by doing their hobbies such as reading books, watching movies, enjoying opera, or writing on their diaries. These activities are part of literary work activities. Bennet (2004;144) states thinking about literature provides innovative ways of thinking.

Based on the above statements, the researchers are interested in analyzing movie as a part of literary work. The movie entitles "Hacksaw Ridge". It is a biographical war drama movie that tells about a man named Desmond Doss and his World War II experiences. Doss is an American pacifist combat medic who was a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. In the movie, there are several struggles, such as Doss' struggle in defending his value, struggle to influence Doss to give up by Sergeant Howell, struggle to defeat the enemy by all American soldiers include Doss and any kind of struggles by another characters. In those struggles, the researchers reveal many moral values that both director and writers want to deliver to the audiences. The researchers are interested to comprehend the struggles and hopefully can figure out the main purpose that the director and

writers mean. Moreover, the researchers only focus on Desmond Doss as the main character.

As the limitation of the study, the researchers are interested in analyzing the struggle of Desmond Doss in defending his value. The researchers identify some theories needed in this study. Based on Desmond Doss' experiences in "Hacksaw Ridge" movie, the researchers consider reviewing struggle theory.

Nowadays if people want to understand the concept of struggle, it is first required a phenomenological analysis of all forms of moral offenses that occur in the movie. The link between morality and new recognition is obvious, if negative experiences, such as injustice, it serves as a point of reflection. In a negative experience there is an element in the human being that is no longer recognized. This is what is called as moral injury. From this point of view, a physical injury becomes a moral wound, and the victim experiences it as "an act which intentionally wants to deny the major aspects of the wholeness of his personality." Moral injury arises when a person feels he or she no longer accepted and is recognized as fully singular personality.

There are three types of disdain (disrespect), as follows:

a. The Violation of the Body

This is a type of physical humiliation, for example the various tragedies and humiliations experienced by a person, such as torture or rape.

b. The Denial of Rights

This type of humiliation is what Honneth calls "a denial of social rights and exclusion, in which human beings feel violated with no moral rights and full legal responsibility in the community." Mutual recognition, in which each individual may be regarded as a subject having rights in the presence of other individuals.

c. The Denigration of Ways of Life

Third form of humiliation includes all actions that do not recognize particular values of particular social groups. As a result, the subject is no longer able to determine the way and way of life itself, but must fully align with the majority. (Honneth, 1995)

METHODOLOGY

This study is categorized as qualitative research. According to Cresswell (2009, p.173) qualitative research is a way for exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or groups assign to a social or human problem. Moreover, Kothari (2004, p.3) explains, qualitative research is concerned with qualitative phenomenon relating to or involving quality. In addition, Gay and Airasian (2003) say qualitative research is specially appropriate for exploration, for beginning to understand a group or phenomenon.

The data are taken from “Hacksaw Ridge” movie from the beginning until the end. The duration of the movie is around 138 minutes. The sources of the data are movie script and scenes of “Hacksaw Ridge” movie. The movie script and scenes are chosen as the data source because they can represent the story of the movie in textual and contextual.

The researchers classify the source of the data of this research into two parts as follows primary source and secondary source. Hox and Boeiji (as cited in Jashari, 2016) mention primary data are data collected for the specific study problem at hand, using procedures that fit the research problem best Primary source is a main data that collected by the movie and script of “Hacksaw Ridge” movie. It obtains all the words, dialogues, phrases, and sentences in the movie. Hox and Boeiji (2005, p.593) add secondary data sources consist of the data which correlate to the study, such as other relevant information. It means secondary data enrich and increase the analyses which are taken from journal, magazine, article, internet, book, and reference relevant with this study. Hence, secondary source is data that used to support the main data.

RESULT

The researchers found the struggle of Desmond Doss that causes a violation of his body, the struggle of Doss that makes all of his rights denied, and the struggle of Doss that makes his ways of life are affected by other people. The struggle of Doss in defending his value that makes him get the violation of the body are shown in the following datum:

DATUM 1



Smithy Ryker : What'cha got there, Dessie?
 Desmond Doss : You know what that is.
 Smithy Ryker : It just seems kind of small. It's half the Bible for half the man.
 Randall Fuller : For Pete's sake, Smitty, give him back his Bible.
 Smithy Ryker : I don't remember speaking to you. So, how come you don't fight? You think you're better than us?
 Desmond Doss : No.
 Smithy Ryker : What if you was attacked?
 Man 1 : Whoa!
 Smithy Ryker : Say, like that. The Bible says to turn the other cheek, don't it? See, I don't think this is a question of religion, fellas. I think this is cowardice, plain and simple. Is that right, Doss? Are you chickenshit, that it? Go on, take a poke. Tell you what, I'm going to give you a free shot. Right there. Hit me, Doss. Go on.
 Man 2 : Let him have it.
 Man 3 : Go ahead.
 Smithy Ryker : No?
 Man 4 : Chickenshit.
 Smithy Ryker : Oh. Hold on here. What is this?
 Desmond Doss : Give me that.
 Smithy Ryker : This is a fine-looking broad.
 Man 5 : Nice.
 Man 6 : Hey, pass it around.

Smithy Ryker : Now, this would be the kind of broad that
deserves a real man.

Desmond Doss : Give me that back.

Smithy Ryker : Please.

Desmond Doss : Please.

Smithy Ryker : "Please give it back, Smitty."

Desmond Doss : Please give it back, Smitty.

(“Hacksaw Ridge”, 2016 : 00:40:05 – 00:42:00)

At the night in base, his army friend, Smithy, bullies him. When Desmond Doss is reading his bible, Smithy takes it from him. The other friend tries to stop Smithy by asking Smithy to give the bible back, but he cannot. Smithy asks Doss why he does not want to fight, if Doss thinks that he is better than anyone. Doss says no, and then Smithy asks how if Doss is attacked and Smithy punches his face. Smithy says that this is not about religion, but coward. Then Smithy tells Doss to punch back at him, Smithy gives his face to Doss but Doss does not want it. After that Smithy opens Doss’ bible and find a picture of Doss’ girlfriend, Smithy adds that the girl deserves a real man. Doss asks Smithy to give the picture back but Smithy plays on him. Smithy tells Doss to say please, Doss does it and in the end Smithy gives the bible and picture back to Desmond Doss.

The data shows that Doss gets punched by Smithy Ryker in the basecamp. Smithy Ryker wonders why Doss does not want to touch a rifle. When Smithy Ryker says “Say, like that. The Bible says to turn the other cheek, don't it? See, I don't think this is a question of religion, fellas. I think this is cowardice, plain and simple. Is that right, Doss?”, He punches Doss face. Then Smithy Ryker offers Doss to punch back, but Doss does not do that because it is not about who is stronger but it is about his value that he is struggling for.

The struggle of Desmond Doss in defending his value that makes him get the denial of rights is shown by the following datum:

DATUM 2



Sergeant Howell : This is a personal gift from the United States government to each and every one of you. A standard issue U.S. rifle, caliber .30, M1, a clip-fed, shoulder-fired, semi-automatic weapon designed to bring death and destruction to the enemy. This is to be your lover, your mistress, your concubine. Perhaps the only thing in life you will ever truly love.

Corporal : Fellas, let's dance. Grab a girl.

Sergeant Howell : Don't point your gun forward. I do not want to be shot today. No matter how much you are tempted. Place the weapon by your side. Pay attention. Problem, Private Corn Stalk? Is there not one in your size, or is it the color that is the issue?

Desmond Doss : No, Sarge. I was... I was told I don't have to carry a weapon.

Sergeant Howell : Come again? Step forward, Private. I can't be hearing this right.

Desmond Doss : Well, I'm sorry, Sergeant. I can't touch a gun.

(“Hacksaw Ridge”, 2016 : 00:35:34 – 00:36:50)

In the academy of military, Doss is given rifle training. His Sergeant will train his friends and him how to handle and use a rifle, his Sergeant adds that the rifle will be the most important thing for them in war. Then his Sergeant tells them to grab their own rifle, but his Sergeant finds that there is one rifle left and that is Doss' rifle. His Sergeant suddenly asks him why he does not grab the rifle; Doss replies he was told that he does not have to carry a gun. When his Sergeant asks him to repeat what he said, Doss says he is sorry that he cannot touch the rifle.

This datum describes the situation when Doss is having rifle training. When his sergeant commands him to grab a gun, he does not do that. Doss' statement "I was told I don't have to carry a weapon." means he has told by the army that he has right not to touch or carry a weapon when he joins up. On the other hand, his sergeant denies it by telling Doss to repeat what he said before, and Doss still insists with his value by apologizing to his sergeant that he cannot touch a gun. Then his sergeant reports Doss to the Captain.

The struggle of Doss in defending his value that makes him get the denigration of ways of life is shown by the following datum:

DATUM 3



Desmond Doss : Momma said come see you here.
 Thomas Doss : Yeah. These three were my best friends. I grew up with 'em, I got into trouble with 'em, chased girls with 'em. And I enlisted with 'em. Now my friends are there, covered in dirt and grass and eaten by worms. I don't want to have to visit my sons here.

Desmond Doss : Daddy, I signed up already. I couldn't do otherwise, Pap. Everybody else is doing...

Thomas Doss : You ain't everybody else! Everybody else jumps in and does things quick, without thinking! Like the damn idiot fools we were. And soldiers who live, they live because they can do that! You can't! Look, you gotta sit and think and pray about everything. I mean, look at you, you're doing it right now. You won't be able to live with yourself if you go.

Desmond Doss : No, I won't be able to live with myself if I don't. I'm going to be a medic. That's going to be my way to serve.

Thomas Doss : See, there you go, thinking it all out. What, you figure this war is just going to fit in with you, your ideas?

Desmond Doss : Well, I don't doubt it's going to be hard.

Thomas Doss : It won't be hard, it'll be impossible. You know, whatever beliefs you have in your crazy head now, they won't ever play out. It don't work that way. And if by some, I don't know, miracle chance you survive, you won't be giving no thanks to God.

(“Hacksaw Ridge”, 2016 : 00:24:38 – 00:26:34)

In the graveyard of heroes, Doss comes to his father to talk. His father tells him that his friends are buried there, and his father does not want to visit him there too. However Doss says that he has signed up to military, he adds that he cannot turn around because everybody else does that too. His father tells him that he is not everybody else; his father says that everybody else does that without consideration the same as his father and friends. His father adds that soldiers who survive from war are because they can do that, but his father is doubt if he can do that or no and he should sit, think and pray about everything before join up with the military. His father says he will not be able to live with himself if he goes, but Doss says that he will not be able to live with himself if he does not go. Desmond Doss adds that he will be a paramedic and that is how he will serve the country. His father asks him if the war will be suitable with his idea that he will just save people without killing someone. But Doss says that he knows it will be hard, and his father says that it will not be hard but impossible. And his father adds whatever in his head and whatever he is thinking, the war does not work that way, and if he can survive from war nothing but because a miracle and he will thank to god. After all, his father cannot hold him to go.

This datum shows the conversation between Desmond Doss with his father; Thomas Doss. Thomas Doss prevents Desmond Doss to join the army with his statement “I don't want to have to visit my sons here.”. But Desmond Doss tells Thomas Doss that he has signed up to the army, and it makes Thomas Doss

angry. Thomas Doss influences Desmond Doss to cancel it, Thomas Doss says “You won't be able to live with yourself if you go.”. Then Desmond Doss replies that he will not able to live with himself if he does not go instead. Thomas Doss adds “It won't be hard, it'll be impossible. You know, whatever beliefs you have in your crazy head now, they won't ever play out. It don't work that way.”. But it does not change Desmond Doss decision on his way of life to serve for his country.

CONCLUSION

The researchers have described all the way of Desmond Doss' struggle in defending his value, and the researchers also have classified all kinds of struggle that Desmond Doss do to defend his value into three form of disrespect.

First, the researcher describes the struggle of Desmond Doss that causes a violation of his body. It is when Desmond Doss gets tortured by the other soldier while he is sleeping and when his friend, Smithy Ryker, punches his face because Smithy Ryker does not like with his value not to kill.

Secondly, the researcher describes the struggle of Desmond Doss that makes all of his rights denied. The following datum which describes the struggle is when Desmond Doss is commanded to take a rifle in rifle training, Desmond Doss has told that he does not have to carry a rifle when he signed up but his sergeant denies his rights. The other datum that describes the struggle is when Desmond Doss goes to the court martial, he is asked if he denies the commander's order and he says no. The judge does not accept Desmond Doss explanation about why he does that, and the judge almost gives a punishment to him.

Third, the researchers describe the struggle of Desmond Doss that makes his ways of life are affected by other people. The affects come from his father, his colonel, his sergeant, a psychologist, his commander, his friends, even his fiancé. But Desmond Doss can hold his commitment of ways of his life until the end.

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