

Jonas Taylor's Leadership in The Ocean Exploration Team in The Movie Entitled Meg 2: The Trench

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Abstrak

Objek penelitian ini adalah film yang berjudul Meg 2: The Trench. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan kepemimpinan tokoh utama dalam film Meg 2: The Trench. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan sosiologi untuk memperoleh data penelitian. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori kepemimpinan menurut Bernard M Bass yang akan mengungkap kepemimpinan Transformasional yang terdiri dari beberapa komponen kepemimpinan dan teori sosiologi dari Swengewood yang akan mengungkap hubungan pemimpin dengan masyarakat. Hasil penelitian berdasarkan teori Bernard M bass menunjukkan bahwa Jonas Taylor memiliki empat komponen kepemimpinan yaitu Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual stimulation, Individualized Consideration dalam memimpin penjelajahan di laut dalam. Kemudian hasil penelitian berdasarkan pendekatan sosiologi menurut teori Swingewood mengungkapkan hubungan antara pemimpin dan masyarakat. Hubungan Jonas Taylor dengan tim dan juga para wisatawan terjalin dengan sangat baik karena adanya interaksi sosial yang dibangun dengan baik oleh Jonas Taylor.

Kata kunci: Kepemimpinan; Meg 2: The Trench ; Film ; Sosiologi Sastra

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Abstract

The object of this research is a movie entitled Meg 2: The Trench. This research aims to explain the leadership of the main character in the movie Meg 2: The Trench. This research uses a qualitative method with a sociological approach to obtain research data. This research uses leadership theory according to Bernard M Bass which will reveal Transformational leadership consisting of several leadership components and sociological theory from Swingewood which will reveal the leader's relationship with society. The results of the research based on Bernard M bass theory show that Jonas Taylor has four leadership components namely Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual stimulation, Individualized Consideration in leading exploration in the deep ocean. Then the results of research based on the sociological approach according to Swingewood's theory reveal the relationship between leaders and society. Jonas Taylor's relationship with the team and also the tourists is very well established because of the social interaction that is well built by Jonas Taylor.

Keywords: Leadership; Meg2: The Trench; Film; Sociology of Literature

INTRODUCTION

In today's society, leaders are often only seen as a position without reflecting the true attitude of leadership. This explains that leadership as a social process is less understood than other branches of social science.

Leadership is a process that involves the ability to inspire, motivate and manage group dynamics. A leadership is not only determined by the individual but also influenced by social interactions among people (Hasler, D., 2021). Leaders are often influenced by the environment of the society they lead. The dynamics can be seen in the dialog and conflict in the literary text.

Literary works can show the challenges faced by leaders such as the impact of their decisions on society which can inspire or warn the leader. One form of literary work that can be a mirror of social reality in society is film. A movie is defined as a drama, which means it presents the story of a particular character in a complete and structured manner. One movie that tells about the social process is *Meg 2: The Trench*. *Meg 2: The Trench* is a 2023 action movie directed by Ben Wheatley from a story written by Steve Robert Alten. *Meg 2: The Trench* presents the character of Jonas Taylor as the leader of a team of ocean explorers with leadership responsibilities, and Jonas' adaptability in facing deep sea challenges. In today's society, a leader is only considered as a position without reflecting the behavior of the leader himself, so this is what reinforces that leadership is a social science that is little understood compared to other branches of social science (Akbar, J., I, 2020).

Leadership is a role that involves the ability to direct and influence individuals or groups in achieving specific goals. A leader has a huge responsibility in inspiring, motivating and supporting his or her team members. An effective leader is able to establish a clear vision, promote relevant values, and set a concrete direction for their team. They also have the ability to listen with empathy, understand the needs and aspirations of team members, and provide the necessary support to achieve common goals. Thus, leadership involves a set of

skills, creativity, and traits that aim to direct and inspire individuals or groups towards mutually desired success. Creativity can be facilitated by an "open" leader who structures the culture to be free enough to listen to everyone and not judge any ideas. That means listening to all ideas and not criticizing them. No one knows where the next great idea will come from (Davids, B., *et al.*, 2019).

To find out the leadership in the film *Meg 2: The Trench*, researchers will look at it through the transformational leadership of Bernard M Bass which is divided into 4 leadership components, namely Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual Stimulation, Individualized Consideration by using a sociological approach according to Swingewood which will reveal the social, familial relationship that exists between Jonas Taylor and the team and the society in the movie *Meg 2: The Trench*.

METHOD

This research will be conducted using qualitative methods to obtain research results. Qualitative research is research that produces discoveries that cannot be achieved using statistical procedures or quantification methods. Qualitative research can show community life, history, behavior, organizational functionalization, social movements, and kinship relationships (Ghony & Almanshur, 2016). In this study researchers will apply Sociological approach by using the transformational leadership theory Bernard M bass that divides leadership into 4 components of transformational leadership, namely Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual Stimulation, Individualized Consideration and using Swingewood. According to Swingewood there are three concepts in approaching literary works, namely literature as a reflection or reflection of the times, literature as seen from the process of authorship production, and literature in relation to history. Based on these three concepts, here are some explanations: a). Literary works as social reflections, According to Swingewood, literary works are socio-cultural which can be used to see a phenomenon in society. Swingewood places literature as a direct reflection in various social aspects, family relationships, class conflicts, other possible trends, and population composition. b).

Authorship and production. In this approach, Swingewood discusses literary works related to the production situation of literary works, especially the author's social situation. c). History and literature, in this approach, Swingewood discusses the importance of skill and effort to see how literary work can be accepted by a particular society at a particular historical event.

Based on the three concepts of Swingewood's approach, researchers only use one of the approaches, research on Jonas Taylor's leadership in the film *Meg 2: The Trench* in addition to looking at Jonas Taylor's leadership, researchers will look at social relationships, family relationships that occur between Jonas Taylor with the team and also the community.

In data sources, this research will be divided into two categories, namely main sources and supporting sources. In the main source of this research, researchers will collect data from films of the film *Meg 2: The Trench*, which is a film that discusses saving marine habitats. Apart from that, to obtain further sources of information, researchers will collect data through several reviews on the internet about the films to be researched, through journals, articles, books. Researchers will collect data through the following steps; (1) The researcher watched the storyline of the film *Meg 2: The Trench* via digital video in the researcher's office. (2) Researchers will highlight the data needed by classifying or categorizing Transformational leadership into 4 Component, namely Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual Stimulation, Individualized Consideration. So that the data obtained is structured to answer the researcher's questions. (3) Researchers will collect supporting data from various sources such as the internet, journals, books. In analyzing the film *Meg 2: The Trench*, researchers will carry out the following steps; (1) The researcher will identify Jonas Taylor's leadership in the movie *Meg 2: The Trench*. (2) Researchers will categorize Jonas Taylor's leadership through related theories. (3) The researcher will reveal the relationship between the society and Jonas Taylor as a leader.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Researchers will present some data regarding the research findings, namely how Jonas Taylor's leadership in the ocean exploration team in Meg 2: The Trench through Bernard M Bass' theory based on sociological approach from Swingewood. Researchers identify Jonas Taylor's leadership in the movie meg 2: the trench. Based on the identification of Jonas Taylor's leadership in the movie meg 2 the trench, fifteen data were found that showed Jonas Taylor's leadership in the movie meg 2 the trench. These results are identified using the theory of transformational leadership according to Bernard m Bass which is divided into 4 leadership components namely idealized influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual Stimulation and Individualized.

Categorizing of Jonas Taylor's leadership.

1. Idealized influence

As a leader who wants to contribute to society, it is important to have commendable behavior by building trust from the community so that it can provide ideal changes for its members.

Commendable behavior that builds trust with the society is always something to be proud of so that Jonas is very influential in the life of his team and society. An example can be seen from Jonas Taylor's dialogue in the movie Meg 2: The Trench below: Meiying who realized that her uncle Jiuming and Mac were being targeted by megalodons in the ocean, she immediately rushed to ask Jonas Taylor for help, Meiying from a distance immediately shouted calling Jonas and said " *Uncle Jiuming and Mac's in trouble*" Jonas Taylor who was heard from a distance immediately shouted calling Jonas and said "Uncle Jiuming and Mac's in trouble " Jonas Taylor immediately rushed and said "Stay here. I'll be right back."

The sentence above illustrates Idealized Influence. This can be seen from the sentence "Uncle Jiuming and Mac's in trouble" and said "Stay here. I'll be right back." The sentence "*Uncle Jiuming and Mac's in trouble*" states that Meiying gives

full trust to Jonas Taylor to save Jiuming and Mac who are trapped in the water without realizing they are being targeted by predators, namely megalodons. Then the sentence *“Stay here. I’ll be right back”* states that Jonas Taylor is able to change the situation by saving Jiuming and mac from the danger of the Megalodon and will meet Meiyong again. Jonas Taylor is very influential in protecting many people,

2. Inspirational motivation

Transformational leadership is related to individuals or inspirational leaders. Inspirational motivation describes a leader who has an energetic spirit in communicating the future of the group in order to create an optimistic group. An example can be seen from the dialogue in Meg 2: The Trench below:

[Meiyong]: Uncle Jiuming? where's uncle Jiuming? Where is he?

[Jonas Taylor]: We can't raise him. *“Hey we work the problems one by one, we do what's in front of us... and then we do the next thing. We're gonna be okay”*.

The sentence states that Jonas Taylor Jonas is trying to calm Meiyong who is worried about her uncle who was also hit by a bomb explosion caused by illegal miners under the sea. Jonas calms Meiyong by giving her strong motivation to stay focused and rise to save herself. Furthermore, another dialogue that shows Inspirational motivation can be seen below:

3. Intellectual Stimulation

Intellectual Stimulation produces a leader who is able to stimulate the thoughts and situations of his group members to solve existing problems. Intellectual stimulation leads to a leader who is intelligent in solving problems and solving solutions in a stressful condition.

One of example can be seen from the dialogue in Meg 2: The Trench below:

[Rigas]: Son of a bitch! I hate these things!

[Jonas Taylor]: *“Hey, Rigas. Let's try to keep it together. We ain't out of the woods yet.”*

The dialogue above illustrates intellectual stimulation. This can be seen from Jonas Taylor's sentence "*Hey, Rigas. Let's try to keep it together. We ain't out of the woods yet.*" The sentence expresses intellectual stimulation because it has the meaning of realizing the thoughts of an emotional team member in a chaotic situation. This can be seen when Jonas Taylor makes Rigas realize his emotions towards the Illegal Miner during the exploration of the ocean. Jonas Taylor did this so that Rigas could control his emotions so that they could solve the problem with a calm heart. Jonas Taylor exercised one of the leadership components of intellectual stimulation by encouraging his team to think clearly and creatively in solving problems.

4. Individualized Consideration

Individual Consideration leads to leaders who always position themselves as mentors. In this case, leaders are able to support and listen carefully to what their members need. Individualized attention directly leads to social sensitivity. Individualized Consideration gives an overview of leaders who always pay attention to their members by treating their members well, training and giving directed advice to their members.

One of example can be seen from the dialogue in Meg 2: The Trench below:

[Mac]: Jonas it's gonna be possible, the battery array. It shorted out the control board in the rescue sub. Jonas, we can't get to you.

[Jonas Taylor, breathing heavily]: *We're gonna walk back across the trench. Make it into that sea floor station. And we're gonna get inside, and then we're gonna get to the surface.*

[Mac]: Thosesuits have two hours of air tops. They're only designed for brief extravahicular work.

[Jonas Taylor]: *We'll go slow and steady. They'll hold*

[Mac]: It's Three kilometers. You'll be defenseless out there.

[Jonas Taylor]: *This is what we got, and this is what we're gonna do. [Breathing heavily] Half our team is dead, and I'm not losing the other half.*

[Mac]: Godspeed, Jonas.

The dialogue above illustrates Individual consideration. This can be seen from the sentence *We're gonna walk back across the trench. Make into that sea floor and we're gonna get inside, and then we're gonna get to the surface. We'll go slow and steady. They'll hold, This is what we got, and this is what we're gonna do. [Breathing heavily] Half our team is dead, and I'm not losing the other half.* The sentence states that Jonas Taylor portrays an attitude of individual consideration because in the process of finding solutions, Jonas emphasizes his leadership attitude in making mature decisions. Jonas himself positions as a leader in achieving the goal. When Jonas Taylor and the dive team needed help from Mac who was monitoring them from the ground, the help could not be sent due to a technical error. At that moment, Jonas made a decision that sounded impossible for Mac. However, Jonas tried to convince Mac of his decision to solve the problem without help from Mac, who at that time seemed doubtful and worried about the safety of Jonas Taylor and his members.

Based on the results of research on leadership components in the character Jonas Taylor in the film *Meg 2: The Trench*, it can be said that Jonas Taylor shows the existence of 4 leadership components derived from Bernard M Bass's Transformational Leadership theory in the film *Meg 2: The trench*. The story portrayed by Jonas Taylor is an overall depiction of human attitudes in dealing with complicated situations at work. From the findings of transformational leadership, Jonas Taylor has 4 components of transformational leadership, namely Idealized Influence, Inspirational Motivation, Intellectual Stimulation, and Individual Consideration. The results of the leadership component data contained in Jonas Taylor are dominated by the Intellectual Stimulation leadership component.

Jonas Taylor's relationship with society in the movie *Meg 2: The Trench*

Swingewood places literature as a direct reflection in various aspects of social structure such as family relationships that arise in a society. Relationships are needed by a leader in creating a bond between two or more humans to build good communication in achieving a common goal. social interaction between Jonas and the team and also tourist is very well established. Based on the results of the previous data on Jonas Taylor's leadership, it can be explained that the following is a dialog that reflects Jonas Taylor's relationship as a leader with the community:

[Jonas Taylor]: This doesn't look good. Rigas, get us there fast!

[Jonas Taylor]: Everybody out of the water!

[Jonas Taylor]: Get back on the beach! Get out of the water!

The sentence above illustrates Jonas Taylor's concern for the community. This can be seen from the sentence “*All out of the water!, Back to the beach! Out of the water!*” which can be explained that Jonas provides protection to people who are enjoying the beauty of the ocean without realizing that there are ancient animals roaming the surface of the sea to target these people. The role of Jonas as a leader is able to direct and mobilize tourists in order to bring the community to a good direction. Other dialogues that show Jonas Taylor's relationship with the community are as follows:

[Jonas Taylor]: You're gonna hide. See that lifeguard tower?

[Meiying]: Yeah

[Jonas Taylor]: You go there and you stay here. This is not one of those things where I tell you to do something, you say 'yes', and then you do whatever you want. Understand!

[Meiying]: Yes.

[Jonas Taylor]: You're not messing with me?

[Meiying]: No.

[Jonas Taylor]: I can't do what I need to do if I'm worried about you.

[Meiying]: I'll be fine. Promise me you'll come back.

[Jonas Taylor]; You know I love you.

The dialog above shows the family relationship between Jonas Taylor and Meiying. Jonas Taylor is a famous diving expert who acts as a dreamer to save many people but in addition there is a little girl named Meiying. Meiying is the daughter of his deceased partner. When facing the problems they faced at sea, Jonas positioned himself as a surrogate father figure for Meiying. Jonas' presence is important in Meiying's life, which is cheerful and full of curiosity. On a rescue mission, Jonas' resilience and courage are challenged in an effort to protect himself, his team, the community and the daughter he loves so much, Meiying. Despite Jonas' resentment towards Meiying for wanting to be active in the research mission at sea, he finally let Meiying participate in this adventure by always instructing the little girl Meiying to trust and listen to Jonas Taylor who did not want to lose Meiying. Another dialog that shows Jonas Taylor's relationship with the community is as follows:

[Jonas Taylor]: *Hey, you two! Find a way to call for help. Let everyone know what happened.*

[DJ]: Come on! Come on! This way! This way! [At that moment, his team immediately rushed to find help].

The sentence above describes the form of Jonas Taylor's relationship with his team in the process of saving the people on fun island. Jonas trusts the potential of his team to seek help in his direction by providing information to tourists about the threat of ancient animals that are targeting them. Social interaction is very well established between Jonas and his team. This can be seen when Jonas gave clear directions to his team, then responded

quickly by his team in carrying out the directions given by Jonas Taylor. It can be explained that the tense situation Jonas was able to provide direction because there was a close bond between the team members and Jonas Taylor.

CONCLUSION

Leadership in the character Jonas Taylor in the movie Meg 2: The Trench uses transformational leadership components from Bernard M Bass which consists of Idealized influence, Inspirational motivation, Intellectual Stimulation, Individualized consideration. Based on the results of the study, it was found that 4 components of transformational leadership are found in the character Jonas Taylor in the movie Meg 2: The Trench. Through this research, it can be found that Jonas Taylor's leadership consists of several components of transformational leadership, besides that relationships are needed by a leader in creating a bond between two or more humans to build good communication in achieving common goals. Social interaction, family relationships between Jonas and the team and also tourists are very well established.

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