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SUPERNATURAL POWER IN *WONDER WOMAN* FILM AND *CAPTAIN MARVEL* FILM: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

Maria Serliana Mau[1], Marianus Woda Liru[2], Febe Fenny Irawati Wanggai[3]
English Literature Study Program, University of Flores Ende, Indonesia
elynsherlyana@gmail.com, limanada@gmail.com, fheiralexon@gmail.com

ABSTRAK: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis-jenis kekuatan supernatural yang dialami oleh karakter utama dan untuk menemukan perbedaan dan persamaan kekuatan supernatural dalam kedua film. Desain penelitian adalah metode penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Kekuatan Supernatural dari Jonathan C. Smith dan teori Studi Bandingan dari Robert John Clemens. Data tersebut berupa ucapan dan tindakan. Tipe data yang digunakan terdiri dari dua film. Hasil menunjukan bahwa ada lima jenis kekuatan supernatural yang terdapat dalam film *Wonder Woman* dan film *Captain Marvel*. Jenis kekuatan supernatural yang ditemukan dalam film *Wonder Woman* adalah telekinesis atau psikokinesis, telepati, dan indra keenam sedangkan jenis kekuatan supernatural yang ditemukan dalam film *Captain Marvel* adalah telekinesis dan retrocognition. Sementara itu, persamaan yang ditemukan adalah alur, genre, dan sejarah dan kritik sastra. Perbedaan yang ditemukan adalah, gerak dan generasi, tema, dan mitos.

Kata Kunci*: Kekuatan Supernatural, Telekinesis, Telepati, Indera Ke-enam dan Sastra Bandingan*

ABSTRACT: The aims of this study were to find out kinds of supernatural power experienced by the main character and find out the differences and similarities of supernatural in both of films. The research design was qualitative research method. This research used theory of Supernatural Power by Jonathan C. Smith and theory of Comparative Study by Robert John Clemens. The data were in the form of utterances and actions. The type of data used in this study consists of two films. The result shows that there are five kinds of supernatural power as seen in *Wonder Woman* film and *Captain Marvel* film. Kinds of supernatural power find in *Wonder Woman* film are telekinesis or psychokinesis, telepathy, and sixth sense while in *Captain Marvel* film; the kinds of supernatural power are telekinesis and retro cognition. Meanwhile, the similarities found are, plot, genre, and history and literary criticism. On the other hand, the differences found are, movement and generation, theme, and myth.

Key Words*: Supernatural Power, Telekinesis, Telepathy, Sixth Sense and Comparative Study.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the result of author's thought and feeling, through expression with social life or their communities in their surroundings, which are the put into language, become a work or literary work. Damrosch (2009:6) says that literature is simply means in written with letters really any text at all. Based on explanation by Damrosch, the writer concluded that literature is how people trying to enjoyed the literary works. Some people do not know the important of literary works. Person whom spend their time or reading books, watching films, write books have different thoughts from others. Ade and Okunaye (2008:3) also stated that literature is imaginative,

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literature expresses thoughts and feelings, literature deals with life experiences, literature uses words in a powerful, effective and yet captivating manner literature promotes reaction and relevation of hidden facts.

Literature is not just a document of fact, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in real life but literature can create its own world as a product of unlimited imagination. According to Owa, Separ, & Wanggai (2021), literature also known amazing idea comes from the thoughts of the author to make an amazing art in the form of literary work and can be enjoyed by people. Otherwise, literary works is not only made based on imagination but also taken from the real story. We can found several literary works based on true stories that immortalize real-life moments, memories and individuals. We can find several literary in addition, this ideas can be poured into various forms of literary works in accordance with the phenomena that have occurred, are happening or will occur as a manifestation of the reality of life that is packaged attractively into the form of literary works.

One of the best popular literary works is film. According to Brodwell and Thompson (1997:25), film otherwise known as movie; moving picture, motion or flick is defined as a sequence or photographs projected in to a screen with sufficient rapidity as create the illusion of motion and continuity. By the explanation above, it means that film is one of the special literary works that has different ways to be enjoyed. This is supported by (Tolok, et al., 2021) who said that film is a combination of human art and technology to produce high quality visual arts that also represent human life. On the other hand, film is one branch of literature that has different ways for people to enjoy. In this study, film is determined to be used as the object of the analysis because film is one of the literary works that can be analyzed. According to Petrie and Boggs (2012:3), film communicates directly, not through abstract symbols like words on a page, but through concrete images and sounds. It means that films are produced by recording image from the world with cameras, or by creating images using animation techniques or special effect. Meanwhile, Thompson and Smith (2017:2) also state that films communicate information and ideas, and they show us places and ways of life we might not otherwise know. Generally, we know about something by watching a film. It offers us to seeing and feeling that we find something that we did not know before. Film is one of the literary works that become popular because it can be enjoyed by all ages in various parts of the world, ranging from children to adults.

The writer chooses two films with similar genre, action. The first film is *Wonder Woman* (2017) directed by Patty Jenkins from a screenplay by Allan Heinberg and a story by Heinberg, Zack Snyder and Jason Fuchs. This film takes the setting in some places of the United States. In this film, the Amazon princess, Diana, sets out to stop World War I, believing the conflict is started by the longtime enemy of the Amazons, Ares, after American pilot and Spy Steve Trevor crash-lands on their island, Themyscira, and informs her about it. Diana really wants to go to the world war to kill Ares because she believes Ares to be responsible for the war. Diana arms herself with the “God-killer” sword, owned by Zeus before leaving the Themyscira with Steve to locate and stop Ares for good.

The second film *Captain Marvel* (2019) was written and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. Development of the film began as early as May 2013. Carol Danvers becomes one of the universe’s most powerful heroes when Earth is caught in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. After crashing an experimental aircraft, Air Force pilot Carol Danvers is discovered by the Kree and trained as a member of the elite

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Starforce Military under the command of her mentor Yon-Rogg. Six years later, after escaping to Earth while under attack by the Skrulls, Danvers begins to discover there's more to her past. With help from S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Nick Fury, they set out to unravel the truth. Both of films are talking about how supernatural power plays a

role in the story. In *Wonder Woman,* a sword is believed to have great strength and supernatural power to kill Ares. Diana also believed to be the one who can use the sword to kill Ares, but, she did not know that the real supernatural power is herself. Meanwhile, in *Captain Marvel,* Carol has the supernatural power in her power. She used her hand to manage the power. For some reason above, the writer feel interested in reviewing more about the supernatural power who experienced by the main character entitled **"Supernatural Power in *Wonder Woman* Film and *Captain Marvel* Film: A Comparative Study"**. From the result of the background of the study, the writer found that there were two problems that arise from this study. The first is what are the kinds of supernatural power experienced by the main character in *Wonder Woman* and *Captain Marvel* films?, and the second is what are the similarities and the differences of supernatural power between *Wonder Woman* and Captain *Marvel films*?.

METHOD

The study uses descriptive qualitative method by Cresswell (1998:24) who states that qualitative research is a loosely defined category of research designs or models, all of which elicit verbal, visual, tactile, olfactory, and gustatory in data in the form of descriptive narratives like field notes, recordings, or other transcriptions from audio and videotapes and other written records and pictures or films. This shows that qualitative research methods the way of collecting and analysis data to find the purpose of the research. Furthermore, Kothari (2009:31) stated a research design is the arrangement of conditions for collecting and analysis of data in a manner that aims to combine relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. Based on explanation above, it could be concluded that research design is the way of collecting and analysis data to find the purpose of the research. The sources in this study are *Wonder Women* film and *Captain Marvel* film. This study took some steps in collecting data by watching films, writing the utterances and actions refer to kinds of supernatural power and elements of film. After obtaining the data, the analysis was administered by classifying and analyzing the data based on the theory supernatural power and comparative study, then making the conclusion based on the data analysis.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this topic, the analysis will lead the supernatural power in *Wonder Woman* film, *Captain Marvel* film, and the similarities and the differences between two films.

The Supernatural Power

Supernatural is an events that have no natural explanation. It commonly refers to divine acts, but can additionally include extraordinary acts caused by negative forces (Dunwich, 2002:17). The researcher believes that supernatural is an event that cannot be explained by natural law or natural law beyond supernatural is often associated with ghosts, gods, spirits, paranormal, curses, spells and others.

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1. Supernatural power in *Wonder Woman* film

Wonder Woman tells about a girl with supernatural power named Diana. In this film Diana lives in Temyscira with her mother, sisters and aunties. There is no man who lived there. From her childhood, Diana has not been met the man, but she knows the man is exist. Diana was not born by her mother, but by the magic from Zeus. Her mother told her that, she sculpted a little Diana from clay by herself and begged Zeus to give Diana a life. She really overprotective to Diana and cannot allow her daughter to go to the Ares.

a. Telekinesis

Telekinesis or Psychokinesis is the ability to move many objects using mind and move from one place to another in secondly. Telekinesis is the direct of thought on physical objects or process like moving things or bending spoons (Smith, 2010:65). It means that telekinesis is the ability of move some things by using ability of mind. Mentally, telekinesis is manipulates and move matter. Diana got supernatural power telekinesis since she was born.

Sameer : There is a whole island of women like her and not a single man among them? And she thinks that Ludendorff is Ares, the God of war?
Charlie : And only by killing him will the war end? Don't be daft!
Sameer : **You saw what happened there. The way she charged the machine-gun nest? The way she took out the tower? Maybe it's true.**

(*Wonder Woman*, 1:30:25)

From the utterances above shows how they are talking about Diana's telekinesis. They are not even trust how she can do that but Sameer convincing them because he is the one who see how the telekinesis from Diana is work. The utterance **"You saw what happened out there. The way she charged the machine-gun nest? The way she took out the tower? Maybe it is true."** is the proof that Diana really has the telekinesis power. Just a person with telekinesis who can charge the machine-gun with nest and took out the tower, by her fist.

b. Sixth Sense

Sixth Sense is the acquisition of information about, or response to, an external object or influence not using any known sensory channel, Smith (2010: 245). Another supernatural power that Diana has is the sixth sense. From child, Diana speaks hundreds of language or omnilingualism. Diana is capable of speaking the language of whoever she encounters. This is a gift from Athena, the goddess of wisdom, who bestows Diana with intelligence in a variety of areas.

The utterances that shows Diana's sixth sense when she is in the swimming pool when Steve is there. Steve swims after the Queen of Temyscira interrogate his. He is tie by the Lasso of Hestia, the string that can compel people to reveal the truth. Steve introduces himself as a pilot of American Expeditionary Forces. He is a spy for the England military. They are talking each other and Steve asks her about her knowing of life. Diana tells

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him that she understands million languages. Every people who live in Temyscira understand millions of language, including English language. That is the one reason why they are understands what Steve is talking about.

To support the explanation above, it can be seen in the following utterances;

Steve : What is this place? Who are you people? Why does the water do that? How come you don't know what a watch is? How come you speak English so well?

Diana : We speak hundreds of language. We are the bridge to a greater understanding between all men.

(*Wonder Woman*, 00:31:18)

The utterances above show clearly Diana admits she understands million languages. The utterance **"We speak hundreds of language"** is the proof why Diana understands what Steve is talking about. This type of ability calls sixth sense because she is not only understands the Temyscira language but also the language in the world. This ability is not come from the learning process but the gift from god of Athena to them. The people from Temyscira trust the goddess of wisdom gift them the ability to understand all the languages to find Ares in easily.

c. Telepathy

Telepathy means the transference of precepts or concepts from one person to another without the intervention of our normally recognized senses. Includes messages transmitted intentionally or unintentionally by the subconscious mind, and use the expression "thought-transference" in the same sense (Tischner, 1994:4).

This film shows the main character Diana, who also has the other supernatural power call telepathy. She does not use the telepathy power to much. Telepathy is the paranormal acquisition of information concerning the thoughts, feeling, or activities of another conscious person. Every human who has the power also can communicate without saying the words. One such power that Diana has is the ability to communicate with others using her mind.

The utterance proves that Diana has telepathy when she is on the top of Ludendorff office and Sir Patrick Morgan comes. Sir Patrick Morgan speaks to her without introducing himself as Ares but Diana has already known. Diana gets the telepathy that Sir Patrick sends to her. By using her mind, Diana recognizes the man who is Ares.

Diana : Sir Patrick?

Sir Patrick : You were right, Diana. They don't deserve our help. They only deserve destruction.

Diana : You. You are him.

(*Wonder Woman*, 01:50:36)

Diana says that Sir Patrick Morgan is Ares without he tells her. The writer concludes that Diana has a supernatural power call telepathy that connects her with Ares. From the utterances above, when Diana says **"You. You are him"** is the proof when the telepathy of Diana is working. Ares sends her the clue by telepathy

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that he is Ares, the man who Diana is looking for and in secondly, Diana catches the code. She recognizes Sir Patrick Morgan as Ares, god of war.

2. Supernatural Power in *Captain Marvel* film

a. Telekinesis

Carol has the ability to convert her mind power into physical power. The power comes from her mind to her hand that she can move many objects using it. Carol's power is so strong that she can move an object even a big object. Carol gets this power after the aircrafts accident. She believes that the power is a given from Kree but the fact is Carol's power is from an antibody that creates by Mar-Vell, Dr. Wendy Lawson from Pegasus.

The first datum that the writer finds is when Carol gets up in some morning after a nightmare and she comes to Yon-Rogg's room, the leader of Kree, to ask him about training. Yon-Rogg agrees to train with Carol,

just to change Carol's mind from the nightmare. But, when Carol thinks she is going to lose, Carol uses her telekinesis power to against Yon-Rogg.

Yon-Rogg : Control it!
(*Captain Marvel,* 00:03:12)

The utterance above is when Carol goes to use her power to Yon-Rogg. Yon-Rogg knows that Carol's power is strong and he tries to control Carol again. The phrase **"Control it"** refers to Carol's telekinesis power when she tries to defeat Yon-Rogg by using it. Carol cannot control her power and she punches Yon-Rogg on his face and makes Yon-Rogg throw away.

b. Retrocognition

Retrocognition is a form of ESP in which the target is a past event that could not have been learned or inferred by normal means (Smith, 2010: 245). It means that this ability cannot be understands by human thoughts. Retrocognition is an ability of some people to see about the story happen on the past. In this movie, the main character, Carol, has a supernatural power called retrocognition. Carol's retrocognition finds in some utterances and actions.

Carol gets supernatural power retrocognition since she joins Kree and become a member of the elite Starforce Military of Hala, Capital of Kree. Carol always dream about her past experiences that she never knows she has the experiences. When she gets the dreaming, Carol thinks that is just a dream, not her memories. She sees flashes that the memories is so clear on her mind, but the person who owned the memories is nothing on her mind. Her mentor, Yon-Rogg, tells her that is just a dream and Carol trusts it. Carol never knows that her mind is under control by Yon-Rogg. After crashing an experimental aircrafts, Carol losing her memories. Yon-Rogg uses that change to makes Carol as his member because the antibody from Mar-Vell entrance into Carol's body.

In this film, that are some utterances and actions that prove Carol has an ability retrocognition. The action that shows Carol's retrocognition is when she is in the home of Maria Rambeau. They are talking each other about Carol experienced in the past. Maria Rambeau trusts that the person who sit before her is her best

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friend that crashes with Dr. Wendy Lawson five years ago. But, the fact that Carol has no memories about their togetherness makes her feel sad. Maria Rambeau also feels happy because her best friend who she lost six years ago comes again into her home that saved a lot of memories about them.

Maria : You don't remember anything?
Carol : **I see flashes. A little moments. But I can't tell what is real**.
(*Captain Marvel*, 1:00:56)

Her ability is working here. Because of her retrocognition, Carol can remember a piece of her memories one by one. She meets Maria just too sure that memories who flashes on her mind is herself. She asks Maria to explain what happen before and Maria tells her about her memories that she already forget. Carol is her friends who work together in Air force team with Dr. Wendy Lawson but she died in a crashing plane with Dr. Wendy Lawson six years ago, that is the fact Maria believe. Maria's child also shows Carol their photos which taken when they are together. From there, Carol believes that she is a person who lives in the planet of earth, not the Kree.

The similarities and the differences between Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel

From the analysis above, the writer finds the similarities based on elements of film, as follow;

1. Both films have a same plot which is linear plot because the films present action or occurrences chronologically.
2. Both films have a similarity based on the genre of the story. *Wonder Woman* and *Captain Marvel*'s film is an action and fantasy film genre.
3. Both films have the same kind that is history and literary criticism. Both films are based on the comics and the same writer.

Wonder Woman and Captain Marvel also have differences that supporting the analysis, as follow;

1. Based on movement and generation, both of films have differences. It is because *Captain Marvel* tells in a modern area, meanwhile *Wonder Woman* setting time in World War I, at 1918.
2. Both films have a different theme. In *Wonder Woman*, the theme is the clash of world views. Because Diana comes from an ancient warrior culture, full of myth and low in technology. While in *Captain Marvel*, the main theme is friendship and family. Carol and Maria Rambeau friendship is so tangibly real in a matter of moment, making each scene they have together an absolute gift.
3. Both films have the different kind that is myth. In both Greek myth and in the *Wonder Woman* movie, one of Zeus's greatest enemies is the war god Ares. His name literary means "destroyer", and comes from Greek word are, meaning bane, ruin, and curse. While the myth in Captain Marvel is there is an ancient alien with extraordinary powers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis in the discussion, there is conclusion that is summarized in this study related to the analysis. Each of the main characters, Diana from Wonder Woman and Carol from Captain

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Marvel has their own supernatural power. Diana has three kinds of supernatural power namely telekinesis, sixth sense, and telepathy while Carol has two kinds of supernatural power namely telekinesis and retro cognition. In both films there are similarities and differences based on elements of film. The similarities can be seen through plot that is linear plot, and the genre is fantasy action genre. The history and literary criticism is based on dc comics and marvel comics. The differences can be seen through movement and generation. In *Wonder Woman*, the movement and generation is happened in World War I while in *Captain Marvel* happened in Modern Era. The next is theme. The theme in *Wonder Woman* film is Clash of World Views while in *Captain Marvel* is Friendship and Family. The other element of film is myth. In *Wonder Woman*, the myth is there are the god named Zeus has the greatest enemies named Ares, god of war. In *Captain Marvel*, the myth is there are aliens with extraordinary power.

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