

# Engineering comedy in the Mekah I'm coming Film based on the structure of the Hero's Journey

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## ABSTRACT

Mekah I'm Coming is a comedy film. This film shows the drama of love and the conflict of hajj travel fraud. The comedy in this film seems exaggerated. The purpose of this study is to describe the journey of Heroism in the development of the main character. It is based on 12 structures of the hero's journey and analyzes the story's comedy techniques. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data collection scheme used in this study is to watch the movie "Mekah I'm Coming". Furthermore, it is studied based on the 12 structures of heroes' journeys. Then determine the humor in the film. The analysis uses Arthur Asa Berger's comedy technique with four basic categories: language, logic, identity, and action. The study results show that the hero's journey contains the story of the main character, Eddy, who directs his adventures in pursuing love. The storytelling of the Mekah I'm Coming film uses comedy techniques in the language category, followed by logic, identity, and action. The comedy technique in this film does not only serve as the packaging of humor. But also as an introduction to character characteristics, building conflicts, and messengers to display social life problems that occur in society.

## 1. Introduction

Films appear because of anxiety about the surrounding environment. The problem that wants to be raised and conveyed is what forms a story idea. A film combines many creative techniques in building the world of the story <sup>1</sup>. The structure of the story plays a role in determining whether the message to be communicated can be conveyed or not. The success of communicating a message is very dependent on the way the story is told. Structural theory helps construct stories that are dynamic, dramatic, and more focused on the message to be communicated. Story structure theory is a guide map for constructing stories. Structural theory resembles a framework. The framework is filled in depending on the creativity of each individual throughout the scenario. A scenario is a story that is told through pictures, dialogues, and descriptions placed in the context of a dramatic structure <sup>2</sup>. The design in this scenario is in the form of a plot. The plot is a the narrative structure that contains characters who experience or get into conflict (initiating action), increasing conflict (complicating action), reaching the climax or climax of the story (high point), solutions and problem solving from the conflict (resolution) until finally the moral value of the story, (coda) <sup>3</sup>. A plot has a

<sup>1</sup> Bordwell David, *Narration in the Fiction Film* (Great Britain, 1985).

<sup>2</sup> Field, *Screenplay, Paper Knowledge . Toward a Media History of Documents*, 2015, III.

<sup>3</sup> Colette Daiute, *Narrative Inquiry: A Dynamic Approach, Narrative Inquiry: A Dynamic Approach*, 2018 <<https://doi.org/10.4135/9781544365442>>.

moving structure. make a story go along or move narratively. Vogler gives the idea that all stories consist of some common structural elements found universally in myths, fairy tales, dreams, and movies. This is known as The Hero's Journey. Vogler stated that a good story is one in which the main characters develop. The hero travels from one path to another from despair to hope, weakness to strength, stupidity to wisdom, and love to hate<sup>4</sup>. It is this emotional journey that attracts audiences and makes the film worth watching, that journey is known as The Twelve Stages Of The Hero's Journey.

In its development, the film is not only interpreted as a work of art. The film is said to be better than the social practice of mass communication because it is a mass product that educates the recipients of the message. The achievement of visual language in film art does not just appear. Films go through a very long process. From time to time, the film is growing, which is also followed by the development of the genre. The term genre comes from French which means "form" or "type". In the film, genre can be defined as a type or classification and a group of films that have the same (typical) character or pattern, such as setting, content, story subject, theme, story structure, action or event, period, style, situation, icon, mood, as well as characters. The classification produces popular genres<sup>5</sup>.

Most films are a combination of several genres at once. The comedy element in a film is the element that is most often found in every film genre. So, among them, there were many crossovers of the comedy genre with other genres that filmmakers tried such as romantic-comedy, horror-comedy, action-comedy, and many more. Until now, comedy is still the prima donna in the film world and often graces the big screen. Comedy genre films are films that put humor as the main content. the most common term for humor is something funny, which causes amusement or laughter<sup>6</sup>. Comedies have a lighthearted plot and are deliberately designed to entertain and invite laughter by exaggerating situations, language, actions, relationships, and characters. The message of humor in comedy films is conveyed using humor techniques. Berger explained that there are 4 basic categories of humor techniques, namely language (humor created through words, ways of speaking, meaning of words, or the consequences of words), Logic (humor created through thoughts, for example, making someone the object of ridicule or ridicule), identity (humor created through the player's self-identity, such as the character played and his appearance), and action (humor created through physical actions or non-verbal communication)<sup>7</sup>.

Mekah I'm Coming is an Indonesian comedy-drama film. Produced by Hanung Bramantyo and directed by Jeihan Angga. This film presents a love drama wrapped in a hajj travel fraud conflict. The film Mekah I'm Coming cannot be separated from its plot structure and storyline which has a special message with a comedic-style approach. The storyline of this film shows the reality of the view of a person's Hajj title. How the title is very prestigious and so seen by the villagers and what attracts the most attention is the comedy that is delivered by this film is not half-hearted but fits the composition of the film. The comedy genre has its difficulties because getting the audience to laugh is the hardest thing and that's the challenge.

It can be concluded that this research will provide an overview of the creation of humor through the comedy technique used in the film Mekah I'm Coming with a storyline approach using the Hero's Journey structure by Eddy's character. The storytelling and comedy techniques in the film

<sup>4</sup> Christopher Vogler, *The Writers Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers (3rd Edition)* (california: michael wiese productions, 2007).

<sup>5</sup> Himawan Pratista, *Memahami Film*, ed. by Nugroho Agustinus, 2nd edn (Sleman DIY: montase press, 2017).

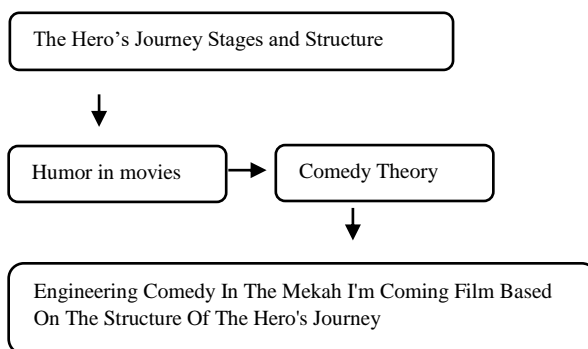
<sup>6</sup> Rahmanadji Didiek, 'Sejarah, Teori, Jenis, Dan Fungsi Humor', *Bahasa, Sastra, Seni Dan Pengajarannya. Univeristas Negeri Malang.*, Volume 35, (2007).

<sup>7</sup> Berger Arthur Asa, *An Anatomy of Humor* (london & newyork: routledge, 1993).

Mekah I'm Coming not only aim to make the audience laugh. The comedy technique becomes support as an introduction to character characteristics, builds conflict in the story, to messengers to display social life that occurs in society.

## 2. Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. The qualitative research method is a method that is also known as an artistic method because the research process is more artistic (less patterned) and is also called an interpretive method because the data and research results are more related to the interpretation of the data found in the field . In this study, researchers used the method of observation and documentation. This data collection technique was carried out on the comedy film Mekah I'm Coming with the following research scheme.



## 3. Teori

### 3.1 The Hero's Journey Theory

The story structure using Hero's Journey is often found in films, books, comics, and others. The easiest way to identify a story using Hero's Journey is to analyze the storyline and the division of character roles <sup>8</sup>. Christopher Vogler in his book entitled *The Writer's Journey* gives a simple idea that all stories consist of some common structural elements that are universally found in myths, fairy tales, dreams, and movies. This pattern is known as the Hero's Journey pattern. In this theory, the hero story is stated not to be limited to the greatest superhero, magic figure, or military general. Embedding the element of a hero in the figure of an 'ordinary' character is also natural, such as the figure of a father, mother, and ordinary people who can become heroes through the vision of the author of the story. The theory of the Hero's Journey proposed by Vogler has twelve stages. The twelve stages are briefly described as follows.

1. Ordinary World
2. Call to Adventure
3. Refusal of the Call
4. Meeting with the Mentor
5. Crossing the First Threshold
6. Tests, Allies, Enemies
7. Approach to the Inmost Cave
8. The Ordeal
9. Reward
10. The Road Back
11. The Resurrection

<sup>8</sup> Peteman Alexander, 'How to Analyze the Hero's Journey', 2019.

## 12. Return with the Elixir

### 3.2 Humor Theory

Theories of humor vary widely, but on the whole, they all tend to mean the same thing. Something funny is synonymous with humor, and, ultimately, stimulates someone to laugh or smile. Strange and eccentric things can make humor<sup>9</sup>. Cuteness also always has to do with things that are not natural or common. The experience of cuteness is personal<sup>10</sup>.

The message of humor in comedy films is conveyed using humor techniques. Arthur Asa Berger's humor theory issued 41 techniques based on 4 basic categories of humor technique classification, namely, Language, Logic, Identity, and Action. The further explanation according to Arthur Asa Berger in his book *An Anatomy of Humor* is as follows: 1. Language. The humor is verbal. In this category, humor is created or expressed through words, ways of speaking, the meaning of words, or the effects of words. 2. Logic. The humor is ideational. In this category, humor is created or raised through the results of thought. For example, making someone the object of humor by making fun of him, or changing the concept of the story. 3. Identity. The humor is existential. In this category, humor is created or raised through the player's identity. For example, the character played or the appearance used. 4. Actions. The humor is physical or nonverbal. In this category, humor is raised or evoked through physical actions/nonverbal communication such as hand or foot movements, actions, or expressions.

## 4. Findings and Discussion

The results of this study were conducted to obtain eddy's journey of heroism and comedy techniques found in the film *Mekah I'm Coming*. Based on the heroic journey of the first half, *The Ordinary World*. This chapter is the first place where the theme of the story is shown and becomes the character introduction round<sup>11</sup>. The film opens with the return of the pious Hajj from the holy land. His response was so lively because the title of Hajj is valued so highly in the community. The hero will also be shown his shortcomings. Eddy made a lot of messes with his carelessness. In this round, the most commonly found humor is the Logic technique. Shown by the scene of a car whose brakes are damaged makes passengers scared. produce some funny behavior like praying, jumping, and fainting. Besides that, the car exploded big. The smoke made a black face. Logic techniques are created through statements or attitudes that do not make sense<sup>12</sup>.

The second round is a call to adventure. Eddy is surprised to hear that Eni will be paired with Pietoyo. Eni asked Eddy to immediately propose to her. Mr. Soleh does not agree with their relationship. Eddy showed his seriousness by promising to pray for Eni and go for Hajj. Call To Adventure is also known as the conflict trigger section. The Hero will be tempted by the desire to fulfill the summons. The call for adventure is how Eddy can make Hajj this year. Eddy sells a garage and a car inherited from his father. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. This technique is the packaging of humor through dialogue. Shown by the mother's satirical dialogue while playing the carambola with Eddy. His flicks always miss the same as his life. Eddy was also advised that the Hajj travel employee for me is okay but don't fantasize too much. This comedy technique makes us laugh at the stupidity or behavior of the party who is the object of the comedy.

<sup>9</sup> Setiawan Arwah, 'Teori Humor', *Majalah Astaga No 3* (jakarta, 1990).

<sup>10</sup> Sumarthana, *Anekdote -Anekdote Dalam Kehidupan Sehari- Hari* (jakarta: Sinar Buana Press, 1983).

<sup>11</sup> Campbell Joseph, *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* (united states, 1949).

<sup>12</sup> Hartono Lisa, 'Teknik Humor Dalam Film Warkop DKI', *E---KOMUNIKASI UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN PETRA*, 3 (2015).

The third act is Refusal Of The Call. The part where the hero responds to his adventure call. Residents let Eddy go for Hajj. Eddy officially goes to the special world, he meets Fajrul who will go on a pilgrimage together. Here the hero will feel the fear of the consequences that hold back his adventure journey. Eddy had bad luck because he was cheated. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. This technique presents humor depending on the choice of sound/intonation and meaning<sup>13</sup>. Like the dialogue of a mother who laughs at Eddy because his uniform is the same as the napkin at his restaurant. Betawi's accent and mocking tone of voice make it a funny comedy.

The fourth round is Meeting With The Mentor. Mentor figures are heroes in their past. Has changed to be wiser and more experienced. Eddy meets Pak Rojak who has also been a victim before. The situation did not allow Eddy to go home. Pak Rojak offered him a place to live and a job. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. The comedy is presented in written or spoken language<sup>14</sup>. Like Pak Rojak's dialogue about Blacky's death. Eddy is sorry, but it turns out that Blacky is a toy. This technique makes the other person feel ambiguous and misunderstood. Pak Rojak uses an unexplained word in a joking tone in his pronunciation

The fifth round is Crossing The First Threshold. In this round, the hero's commitment to his adventure is tested. Hero is required to choose the fate and continuation of his adventure. Pak Soleh told Eni to ask Eddy to send his photo in the holy land. This makes Eddy worried about his plan. Eddy cannot return to the ordinary world until he completes the mission. Eddy's lie begins. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. like Fajrul's play on the number of 100k Instagram followers to 100kg. This technique is usually played by characters who have a joking nature.

The sixth round is Tests, Allies, and Enemies. The hero has completely entered a special world full of adventure and looks very different. Eddy has started to adapt. Eddy imagines welcoming him home soon and will soon marry Eni. However, in this round, the hero will face his greatest fear. Eddy fears that his lie will be exposed. In this round the most common humor found is the logic technique. Like the scene of Eni punching him in the face, kicking his buttocks, and slapping Eddy so he bounced off many times. Eni also lifted her bag and rotated it like a helicopter propeller, making Eddy unable to move and just watching Eni leave. The logic technique here makes the scene funny because at first, the audience didn't think it was humor. Initially using ordinary logic. Suddenly the logic of the story was twisted.

The seventh chapter was Approach to the Inmost Cave. In this round, the hero experienced his lowest point. Eddy regretted and disappointed many people. Eddy lost the courage to go home because he did not succeed in completing his mission. The essence of this round is to torture the hero with various questions about his worthiness. In this round the most common humor found is the logic technique. It is shown in the scene of Eddy's condolences, who is just silent when he is hit by an electric racket, being fed, falls boxes, and locks himself in the toilet even though Fajrul screams that he can't stand to pee. The logic technique here makes the scene funny because the humor is displayed with an unreasonable attitude that makes other characters confused.

The eighth round was an ordeal. The hero must face his greatest fear. Eddy said goodbye to return to his village. The ordeal has a dramatic function, it is a critical moment in the story as it

<sup>13</sup> Suhadi, *Humor Itu Serious: Pengantar Ilmu Humor* (Jakarta: Pustakakarya Grafikatama, 1989).

<sup>14</sup> Rustono, 'Implikatur Percakapan Sebagai Penunjang Pengungkapan Humor Di Dalam Wacana Humor Verbal Lisan Berbahasa Indonesia', *Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta*, 1998.

informs every decision the hero makes. On the way home, Eddy carried a burden of shame. Eddy is said to have been a hoax and failed to keep his promise. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. Like the scene of a cyclist who fell, when he saw the one who helped him, Eddy, he reasoned that he deliberately wanted to sleep in the rain.

The ninth round is the Reward. Even though Eddy failed to keep his promise. Eni still loves and sees Eddy's struggle for her. Eni invites Eddy to elope and insists. otherwise, he will kill himself. This stage is a big challenge that must be faced. Eddy's reward is marrying Eni. In this round, the most common humor found is the language technique. It is depicted with a conversation scene between Eni and Eddy who are bargaining for time to elope. Eni invites morning, but Eddy reasons that he hasn't slept for 2 days. This technique makes scenes that should be serious look joking.

The tenth round was The Road Back. The hero collects everything he has learned in the special world. Eddy realized that he often made a mess. Eddy didn't want to add to the chaos by running away with Eni. In the round, there was no humor technique found.

The eleventh round is Resurrection. Eddy's house was crowded with residents. Eddy is accused of hiding Eni. Eddy tried to defend himself but the residents no longer believed in Eddy. In this stage, the hero faces the biggest challenge in his entire adventure journey and is the last chance to make a big change in his character and behavior. Pak Soleh turned out to be the same victim as Eddy and lied to the residents. Eddy defended Mr. Soleh. Eddy explains that they are not criminals. Eddy applies the lessons he has learned along his journey. In this round the most common humor found is the logic technique. Shown by residents who came to Eddy's house with a spatula, screwdriver, dipper, shovel, and other random items. The scene of Eni's inner voice that can be heard from the index finger like a radio signal also adds to the absurdity of the logical comedy technique.

The twelfth act is Return With The Elixir. In this round, the hero receives a reward or even a final punishment as a consequence of his commitment to his adventure. Eni asked her father to see the form of Eddy's struggle. Mr. realized and married them directly at that time. This chapter is the last in the hero's journey and adventure. This stage is the epilogue of the story. It can be said that this round contains a moral message. In this round the most common humor found is the logic technique. Shown by a conversation scene that can't be heard because it's separated from a cliff then suddenly a car carrying a sound system passes by, then the mic is thrown. All these scenes look absurd and humorous.

## **5. Conclusion**

The film *Mekah I'm Coming* presents the phenomenon of the pilgrimage which is seen as excessive with a comedic approach. The application of Christopher Vogler's theory of the hero's journey in his book entitled *The Writer's Journey* is applied to the story of the main character named Eddy who goes on an adventure to pursue his love. The film *Mekah I'm Coming* has a lot of comedy that is shown, ranging from morals, criticism, or satire, as well to entertainment. Based on categories, the film *Mekah I'm Coming* mostly uses comedy techniques in the Language category, followed by logic, identity, and action.

The film *Mekah I'm Coming* has its way of telling the story. Comedy is presented so closely. Comedy technique here becomes a subject that invites attention and interest. The Language

technique creates humor by using language, meaning, and intonation to create a humorous atmosphere. In some serious scenes, technique language reduces tension. This technique also brings cultural phenomena that occur in society. Through *Mekah I'm Coming* the audience is shown the setting of the place, the situation, the naming of the characters, to the use of a distinctive language, these become the social and cultural reality of the Javanese and Betawi people. Logic techniques create humor through logic games. The logic is twisted so that it gives rise to an unreasonable attitude or shows an impossible situation. The logic technique invites laughter and humor to those involved in the situation. All forms of comedy techniques move stories that invite humor to appear. Make the audience feel funny, smile, and laugh.

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