

Dramatization through Mise-En-Scene in *Subuh Film* (Miracle at Dawn)

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Indie Films
Dramatic scenes
Mise En Scene

At this time, the term indie film is familiar. *Subuh* (Miracle at Dawn) is one of the indie films that has received many awards both at home and abroad. This research discusses the mise en scene in building dramatic scenes in the *Subuh* film (Miracle at Dawn) by Achmad Rezi Fahlevie. *Subuh* (Miracle at Dawn) is a film with minimalist dialogue that packs a conflict of religious tolerance in one family. Every scene in the film makes the audience emotionally affected and feel involved in the story. A film with a strong story becomes meaningless without adequate cinematic achievements. Therefore, this research focuses on research in terms of cinematics focuses on the aspects of the scene and cinematography that build dramatic scenes. The purpose of this study is to analyze the dramatic elements in the *Subuh* film (Miracle at Dawn) and find out the role of mise en scene in building dramatic scenes in the film. This research uses a qualitative type of research using descriptive methods. The approximation used is the dramatic elements of Elizabeth Lutters, mise en scene, and cinematography. In this study, 4 scenes were built a dramatic scene in the *Subuh* film (Miracle at Dawn). Aspects such as setting, costumes, makeup, lighting, and players and movements can build dramatic scenes in the *Subuh* film (Miracle at Dawn).

1. Introduction

By this time the term indie film was familiar (Baksin, n.d.). Freedom of speech in indie films can result in various forms of film. Indie films can be made with a short duration if the ideas conveyed have been communicated. In a sense, indie films are films that are produced outside major labels, and are not made for commercial purposes so they tend to be free from the supervision of censorship agencies and market demands (Permana et al., 2018) Indie films are progressing significantly in quantity.

Film festivals are now more popular, not only as a gathering place to watch movies but also as a market to raise the quality of indie filmmakers. There have been more indie films that have been awarded in film festivals than films made on a major label (Thompson & Bordwell, 2010). One of them is the film *Dawn* (Miracle at Dawn). The film received many accolades in various categories. One of them is that this film received the Best Story Idea nomination award at the Lampung Islamic Film Festival 2021 (Kurniadhani, 2022), the best story of the Sumedang Film Festival 2021 (Sulistyanto, 2021), became a winner at Family Sunday Movie 2022 (Assidiq, 2022). This is a sign of success that the *Subuh* film (Miracle at Dawn) meets the criteria of the film's building element.

The film is built by 2 elements, namely cinematic elements and narrative elements (Pratista, 2017). The narrative element refers to the story aspect, while the cinematic element is related to all aspects of the film related to the technical. These two elements play an important role in the film to be made and as a determining factor in whether or not a film is good. *Subuh Film* (Miracle at Dawn) is a 13 minutes 12 seconds short film that packs religious issues in the family into a short film with minimalist dialogue and even almost no dialogue. The absence of dialogue in this film further makes the audience's emotions rise and fall and makes them curious about the things that will happen next. The

theme raised in this film is a sensitive issue that can be encountered in everyday life, but Achmad Rezi Fahlevie as a director and writer can package and present issues and conflict through different ways of speaking, this is conveyed by Levie (Assidiq, 2022)

This shows that there is a dramatic element in every scene of this film. Dramatic elements according to (Lutters, 2004) there are 4 namely conflict, suspense, curiosity, and surprise. Lutters explained in (Aningtyas et al., 2019) that suspense is not always related to a scary thing like in a horror movie, but rather waiting for something that will happen so that the character guesses – guessing what will happen or feeling anxious about the events that will happen is included in the element of suspense.

The dramatic scene in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) begins when the child sees his father in the kitchen cooking for himself even though his son has prepared a meal for his father as a sign of attention from the child to the father. An element of conflict begins to be built in this scene due to a rejection of the behavior of the father's character toward his child. This triggers an element of curiosity because starting from this scene, the audience is curious about what will happen next. The development of emotions through cinematic elements is divided into four main elements, namely mise en scene, cinematography, editing, and sound (Aningtyas et al., 2019).

Looking at (Laurent Le Forestier, Timothy Barnard, 2021), *mise-en-scène* is everything that appears in a setting or set, is the acting set, props, costumes, props and all the details that appear in the frame. According to (Bordwell, 2020). Filmmakers can use *mise-en-scene* to achieve realism, providing an authentic setting for seeing or letting actors perform as naturally as possible. Throughout film history, however, audiences have also been interested in fantasy, and *mise-en-scenes* have often been used for this purpose.

In the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn), *mise en scenes* play an important role in creating impressions, providing dramatic effects, and explaining information related to the story or narrative. One of them is in the scene when the child character hangs his father's medicine on the doorknob of his father's room so that his father does not forget to take medicine, but when the child character comes out the medicine is already on the doorknob of his room, it indicates the refusal of the father character in accepting the medicine given by his son. That makes medicine a property and a driving force for the story.

Research conducted by (Firziandini et al., 2018), (Yasa, 2022), (Suastika et al., 2021), (I. K. T. E. Saputra et al., n.d.), (H. Saputra, 2017), states that the dramatic element in the film affects the emotions of the audience. Several things that affect dramatization in a film can be through the story, as well as the editing. However, in this study, the cinematic aspect was not the focus of the research subject. While this research focuses on cinematic aspects that build dramatic scenes in films. Pratista stated in (Aningtyas et al., 2019) that a film with a strong story is meaningless without adequate cinematic achievements. This achievement was obtained from the technical aspects of filmmaking. Therefore, this study focuses on examining from a cinematic point of view which focuses on aspects of *mise en scene* and cinematography that build dramatic scenes.

2. Method

This is qualitative research, using descriptive methods. Descriptive is research with a method to describe a research result to provide a description, explanation, and validation of the phenomenon under study (Ramdhan, 2021). The qualitative approach seeks to explain reality with a clear explanation in the form of sentences. The subjects in this study were *mise en scenes* and dramatizations in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn). The object of research used was the short Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) by Achmad Rezi Fahlevie. The object was chosen because the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) can explore the curiosity and emotional feelings of the audience through visual storytelling.

The source of this study comes from primary and secondary data. The primary data of the study came from the archives of the film documents of Subuh (Miracle at Dawn). Secondary data in this study are books, journals, and theses that are relevant to the research. Data collection in this study used observation techniques, documentation, and literature studies. Observation is carried out by watching the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) repeatedly in the dramatic scene. This is done so that the author can find out the parts that contain dramatic scenes. The documentation carried out by the

researcher is by using the screen capture technique. This technique is done by taking several pictures in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) contains dramatic elements. Furthermore, the image will be studied in terms of mise en scene and cinematography with a literature study. Literature Studies are derived from literature – literature such as books, journals, e-books, or articles whose content is related to films, dramatizations, mise en scenes, and cinematography.

The data analysis process consists of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. Data reduction in this study is an effort to select the information obtained so that the research does not go out of focus on the problem. The data are deciphered according to the dramatic elements expressed by Elizabeth Lutters and then analyzed in terms of mise en scene and cinematography. Data reduction is useful for sharpening observations of data collected at the data collection stage. Data presentation in the form of findings on scenes that have dramatic elements in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) which is seen from the aspect of mise en scene and cinematography. Then concluding is carried out by reading the data and theories obtained.

3. Result and Discussion

The dramatic elements according to (Lutters, 2004) there are 4, namely:

- Conflict. This element contains a problem created to produce opposition in a situation. Conflicts can be described in various forms, can explode – explosive, can be flat but sharp, and can arise conflicts within oneself or inner conflicts.
- Suspense. This element is not always related to scary things, but waiting for something that will happen is also included in the suspense element. The audience is led to feel anxious waiting for the risks that will be faced by the characters in dealing with their problems. The tension of the audience will be even more intense if the audience knows the obstacles faced by the characters are quite large and the success is small.
- Curiosity. The curiosity element is the curiosity or curiosity of the audience in a scene that is created. This is caused by displaying something strange that provokes the curiosity of the audience or trying to buy information about a problem so that the audience feels curious.
- Surprise. The feeling of surprise caused in a film arises because the answers they witness are unexpected. With a story that is not easy to guess, a surprise effect on the audience will arise. This element can also lead to problems that disturb the audience's mind to mislead the story. The effect of the surprise element can make the audience happy or disappointed.

Subuh (Miracle at Dawn) is a 13 minutes 12 seconds short film that tells the story of a father and son relationship that is not harmonious because his son decided to convert while his father is a Christian pastor, but his son always does various ways to improve their relationship. Based on the observation process of the film Subuh (Miracle at Dawn), there are 4 scenes contain dramatic elements in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn).



Fig. 1. The scene where the child character finds his father cooking in the kitchen even though he has already prepared food for his father

The first scene begins when the child finds his father cooking in the kitchen even though he has prepared food for his father, his father does not accept the food given by his son. This scene, explains to the audience that the relationship between the child and his father is not good. This scene can be said to be dramatic because it contains elements of conflict and curiosity. The element of conflict

according to ((Lutters, 2004) is a problem created to produce opposition in a situation, in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) begins to be built in this scene because of a rejection of the behavior of the father's character to his child. This triggers an element of curiosity because starting from this scene, the audience is curious about what will happen next. Curiosity in (Lutters, 2004) is the audience's curiosity or curiosity about a scene. The dramatization of the scene is also triggered by blocking the child character in front of the kitchen wall peeking out from the window into the kitchen making the effect dramatic as if there is a barrier between the child and the father. The dramatic scenes in this film make the audience feel the disharmony of the relationship between the child and his father in the film.



Fig. 2. The scene of giving medicine to the child's character is returned by his father to the doorknob of his son's room

Secondly, when the administration of medicine from the child figure is returned by the father to the doorknob of his son's room. In this scene, the child character gets a second rejection from the father character. It can be said to be dramatic because this scene contains elements of conflict and suspense. The element of conflict according to (Lutters, 2004) a problem created to produce opposition in a situation, this element is found in the rejection of his father which is shown through the drug given by his son. In this scene, it triggers anxiety to wait for the risks that will be faced by the child character in dealing with the problem, this enters into the element of suspense, because in (Lutters, 2004) this element sleighs the audience so that feeling anxious waiting for the risks that will be faced by the character in dealing with his problems. The remedy in this scene is not only as a prop but as a builder of dramatization in this scene.



Fig. 3. The scene of the father character staring at the laptop and seeing an incoming message in his son's email

Third, the scene of the father character staring at the PC and seeing the message coming in his son's email. This scene contains elements of suspense and surprise. The suspense element is built into the scene of the father character staring at his son's laptop with a surprised look on his face. The look on the father character's face makes the father character feel anxious about what the father character sees, giving rise to such a look on the face, as it is said in (Lutters, 2004) that this element cause anxiety in the audience. The next hot is seen in a message in his son's email containing a reply from his son refusing work in order to accompany his father, in this scene containing an element of surprise. The element of surprise arises because the answer they witness is unexpected (Lutters, 2004), in this scene the surprise is awakened because the email reply from the child character is the answer from the treatment of the child character to his father during this time. This scene became dramatic because

the shot used a frame-within-frame shooting technique that made the audience focused on the father character and used a medium size close-up shot to focus the expression of the father figure, and using an eye-level angle shot makes the audience get involved in the story.



Fig. 4. The scene of the father character waking up his son to perform the dawn prayer

Fourth, the scene of the father waking up his son to perform the subuh prayer. The dramatic elements contained in this scene are suspense and surprise. The element of suspense is not always related to the scary thing, but waiting for something that will happen is also included in the element of suspense (Lutters, 2004). This element is built when the scene of his father coming to his sleeping son, makes the audience anxious about what his father will do to his son. Then it turns out that the father character is trying to wake up his son by patting him on the shoulder. The scene became unexpected because of the indifference of the father's character to his son so far, this is included in the element of *surprise*. It is said (Lutters, 2004) the answers they witnessed were beyond expectations and stories that were not easy to guess. This scene becomes dramatic because there is a change in the behavior of the father character who is initially ignorant and does not care about his child, but eventually, the father character becomes caring for seeing his son's struggles done for his father.

4. Conclusion

The Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) has four dramatic scenes containing dramatic elements from Elizabeth Lutters. The setting in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) provides a dramatic effect by using the property of a plate containing eggs and rice, medicine as a driver of the story, and the emotional upheaval of the characters. Costumes and makeup build an identity and provide information related to the story of the film. Acting and movement can help give a dramatic effect, as seen in the annoyed expressions shown by the child character and the surprise shown by the father character. The use of light also shows realism in the story. Mise en scene is also supported by the cinematography in adding to the dramatic impression. The use of frame-within-frame shooting techniques to frame objects will not distract the viewer's focus. The use of eye level angle is often used to give the impression as if the audience feels that they are in the same place as the characters in the film. Medium close-up image sizes are often used to show and focus on the emotions and expressions of characters in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn). The aspects of mise en scene and cinematography are interconnected with each other to make a scene in the Subuh film (Miracle at Dawn) dramatic and bring the emotions of the audience.

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