

Ecranisation of Setting in Always and Forever, Lara Jean Novel into the Movie

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explain the changes in setting that occur in the ecranisation process of 'Always and Forever', Lara Jean novel into 'To All the Boys: Always and Forever movie'. Moreover, this study was conducted by using a qualitative method. Document analysis and note-taking techniques were used in collecting data and then applied the ecranisation theory proposed by Eneste (1991) to analyze the data. The study results showed that the setting has undergone 37 reductions, eight additions, and seven variations. The changes that occurred during the adaptation are most likely because of the technical and time limitations of the movie production, the insignificance of the particular parts of the novel, and the importance of the particular part to be displayed in the movie.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Prose, drama, and poetry are examples of literary works, and each has unique traits that set it apart from the others. Prose is a written composition that expresses human thinking but lacks the rhyme and meter of poetry. A prose narrative can be anything from a story about an animal's life to teach children moral values to a story about humans battling alien invaders from space. Furthermore, prose fiction includes short tales, folklore, parables, fables, and novels.

Nowadays, the types of fictional prose that people read the most is novel. A novel, according to Eagleton (2005:1), is a fictional prose literary work that may be regarded a melting pot since it blends numerous literary styles and blends bits and pieces of those other literary forms. This is because a single novel might include poetry, theatrical dialogue, and other literary genres. Furthermore, the novel's tale might be about a single person's life, a reconstruction of global history, or a more abstract journey of vegetables.

Aside from novel, there is another creation that is similar to them, which is movie. According to Manovich as cited in Suwanto, et al. (2021), a movie or film is a kind of linear narrative that aims to mimic or recreate a cinematic depiction of the human's real-world situation. Moreover, novels and movies are similar because they share the same narrative basis and primary goal, which is entertaining.

Because of the similarities between a novel and a film, the process of converting a novel into a movie is becoming more popular among filmmakers these days. The director will produce film adaptation based on famous novels because most of people already familiar with that novel. Furthermore, when a novel is made into a film, people will be interested in watching the film, especially if they have previously read the novel. It is because the readers tend to check or compare

what they have in mind about the novel to what the filmmaker serves in the form of a film (Ardianto, 2014:2019).

According to Eneste (1991:60), the process of transforming or adapting a novel into a film is known as ecranisation. The term ecranisation is derived from the French word "ecran," which means screen in English. Moreover, ecranisation refers to transforming a text into a film that normally seen on a cinema screen. It includes transferring a novel's written form into a moving picture that people can watch, converting the unlimited amounts of time required to finish one novel into a limited amount of time to watch a movie, and transforming one person's labor into a huge group production. Furthermore, three adjustments may occur throughout the ecranisation process, namely reduction, addition, and variation.

Ecranisation is an intriguing topic to investigate because it is a widespread occurrence in everyday life. It is supported by the presence of earlier studies on ecranisation. Firstly, a previous study entitled *Ecranisation of Laskar Pelangi Novel and Its Function as Educative Media (Study of Literature Reception)* conducted by Nugrahani *et al.* (2019). Second, *Ecranization from Novel to Movie Friends but Married by Ayudia Bing Slamet and Dittopercussion* conducted by Chamalah and Arsani (2019). Third, *Comparison Between Novel and Film 'Divergent' (Ecranisation Theory)* by BA (2018). Fourth, *The Analysis of Plot Story between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Novel "Sherlock Holmes: Study in Scarlet" and Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat's Film "Sherlock: Study in Pink"* by Chasbullah (2018).

However, this study is interesting to be conducted because inevitable modifications occur when converting a novel into a film. People who watch the film adaptation may be disappointed, especially if they already have their own vision of the novel in their heads. Based on the description above, this study analysed the changes in setting that occur during the process of transforming the novel entitled '*Always and Forever Lara Jean*' into the film adaptation entitled '*To All the Boys: Always and Forever*' by applying Eneste's ecranisation theory (1991).

2. METHODS

This study applied the qualitative method. According to Creswell and Creswell (2018:41), the qualitative method was applied in this study since the data was acquired from novels and movies. The data sources of this study were *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* novel and the movie adaptation, *To All the Boys: Always and Forever*. Moreover, the novel and film's words, sentences, dialogues, and explanations essential to the plot and setting served as data of this study. The *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* novel is the closure of the *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* trilogy by Jenny Han. The novel, which has 41 chapters and 336 pages, was published on May 2nd, 2017. In addition, because the novel has become an enormous hit, the book was adapted into a film named *To All the Boys: Always and Forever*, released on Netflix, an online movie streaming platform, on February 12th, 2021. Michael Fimognari directed this film, which runs for 115 minutes.

Since the data source of this study is the novel *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* and the film *To All the Boys: Always and Forever*, the data collecting method used in were document analysis and note-taking technique. To obtain data from the novel, several processes were conducted. In the beginning, the *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* book was thoroughly read to understand the story's elements, notably the setting. Second, data in form of phrases, sentences, discussions, and explanations that described the story's setting were annotated. Finally, the data that showed the novel's setting was categorized and allocated numbers.

Similarly, to collect data from the film, the first step was to attentively watch *To All the Boys: Always and Forever* movie to understand the story's substance, notably the setting. Second, to support data collection, the movie transcription was downloaded. Finally, data in the form of phrases, sentences, conversations, and explanations that reflect the setting of the story were noted. Finally, the data was classified and allocated a number.

After collecting the data, the following step was to analyse it using the qualitative approach. The ecranisation theory by Eneste (1991) was applied to compare the changes in setting that occur throughout the transformation of a novel into a film. Furthermore, the conclusion was presented after



the data had been thoroughly examined. For presenting the analysis, the informal method is used. According to Sudaryanto, as cited in Yulia (2016), the informal method is used to present the results of the analysis by using words and sentences to explain and make the reader understand the results better.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ecranisation is the process of adapting novel that is originally in form of words into the movie that uses audio-visual media (Eneste, 1991: 60). The transformation of a novel causes several inevitable changes, namely reduction, addition, and variation. As the result of this study, 37 reductions, 8 additions, and 7 variations occurred during the ecranisation process of the setting of *Always and Forever*, Lara Jean novel into *To All the Boys: Always and Forever* movie.

a. Reduction

Reduction is the procedure through which the director and screenwriter trim several parts of the novel that they believe are unnecessary to include in the film adaptation (Eneste, 1991:61). On the ecranisation of *Always and Forever*, *Lara Jean* novel into *To All the Boys: Always and Forever* movie, there are 37 settings of the novel that underwent a reduction process during the ecranisation. One of the novel's settings that the director and screenwriter reduced can be seen in the following excerpt.

Data 1

"It's Friday night at **Gabe Rivera's house** after the lacrosse game. Our school won, so everyone is in very fine spirits, Peter most of all, because he scored the winning shot. He's across the room playing poker with some of the guys from his team; he is sitting with his chair tipped back, his back against the wall." (Han, 2017:1)

It can be seen from the data above that the novel starts with Lara Jean and her schoolmates having a celebration party at Gabe Rivera's house. In the movie version, no scene shows a party in Gabe Rivera's house. The director omitted this novel's setting because it was not that necessary to the plot and also to maintain the movie's duration not becoming too long. Another example of the reduction can be seen as follow.

Data 2

"The next morning, I put on the poppy-colored lipstick Stormy likes me in, gather up my Easter eggs in a white wicker basket, and drive over to **Bellevue**. I stop at the reception desk to drop off the eggs and chat with Shanice for a bit." (Han, 2017:18)

The other setting that has been reduced during the adaptation process is the place called Bellevue. Bellevue is a senior residence where Lara Jean was a volunteer there. The novel showed that Lara Jean visited Bellevue to drop off a basket full of easter eggs. However, Bellevue only existed in the novel, and the director decided to exclude it from the movie. It was because Bellevue was not an essential place that affected the plot. Also, the reduction must be conducted to maintain the movie's duration still around 90 to 120 minutes long.

b. Addition

According to Eneste (1991:64), addition refers to adding or inserting several elements that initially did not exist in the novel when it is transformed into a film. The addition is usually because the director thinks those parts are essential for the movie. In the ecranisation of *Always and Forever*, *Lara Jean* novel into *To All the Boys: Always and Forever* movie, there are eight settings of the book that underwent an addition process during the ecranisation. One of the novel's settings that the director and screenwriter added can be seen in the following excerpt.

Data 3

Peter: Agent Covey.

Lara Jean: What's happening?

Peter: Don't look at me. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to meet me back here in **the lobby** at 2100 hours. We're going out. (00:33:47)

The data above show that there was a time when Lara Jean and her school companions arrived at the hotel lobby in New York after a long journey from Virginia. While waiting for their room key, Peter approached Lara Jean and asked her to accompany him later that night. That action in the hotel lobby only existed in the film because the director thought that particular setting was crucial to the film's overall plot. Another example of the addition can be seen as follow.

Data 4

Lara Jean: "Hello from **Seoul**. By the time you get this, I'll probably already be home. But I couldn't leave without writing you. You always tease me for being such a homebody. ..."
(00:00:45-00:08:03)

The next setting that the director added during the ecranisation process was Seoul. It was told that in the movie, Lara Jean and her family went to Korea during spring break. Comparing to the novel, there is only a part where Lara Jean's father gifted her a trip to Korea for her graduation. However, the novel did not have the part where Lara Jean went to Korea, which meant that the part in Korea only existed in the movie adaptation.

c. Variation

According to Eneste (1991:65), the director can also add some variations to the movie besides applying reduction and addition. The part or element that are undergone a variation process means that part exists in both the novel and the film but with some modification added during the adaptation process. There are seven variations that occur in the ecranisation process of setting from *Always and Forever, Lara Jean* novel into *To All the Boys: Always and Forever* movie, which one of them will be discussed as follow.

Data 5

"I'm sitting in **French class**, my last class of the day, when someone shrieks, "UVA just tweeted! Decisions are out!" (Han, 2017:65)

Data 6

Lara Jean: Okay, you got this. No matter what happens, it's gonna be fine. It's already fine. You know, everything is completely and totally...ruined. (00:18:26)



Both data above showed the part when Lara Jean received the news that she did not make it into the university she wanted to go to the most. In the novel, it was told that Lara Jean got that bad news



while in the classroom. In the meantime, the movie adaptation portrayed the part when Lara Jean got an email that showed she did not make it into Stanford University has occurred at Lara Jean's bedroom. That variation between the novel and the movie could happen because the director has to simplify the film since not all parts of the novel could be included in the movie. Moreover, there is another example of the variation that occur in the ecranisation process, which can be seen in the following example.

Data 7

“When we get to the **Empire State Building**, I make Peter take a selfie with me at the elevators. At the top, I feel lightheaded, we're so high up. Ms. Davenport tells me to sit with my head between my knees for a minute, which helps. When the nausea passes, I get up and go looking for Peter, who has disappeared during my time of need.” (Han, 2017:53)

Data 8

Peter: So, I couldn't think of a better place to ask you this question that I want to ask you. If you haven't figured it out already. Lara Jean Song Covey, will you go to prom with me?
Lara Jean: Yes, of course.

The following setting that has undergone a variation process is the place where Peter asked Lara Jean to go to prom with him. It can be seen from the data above that in the novel, Peter asked Lara Jean to go to prom when they were at the Empire State Building. In the meantime, the movie portrayed that action occurred at the diner where they both commonly visited. The director must modify that setting since the movie has technical and time limitations.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, there are 37 settings of the novel were reduced during the transformation of the novel into the movie. Moreover, the director and the screenwriter decided to add eight settings that initially did not exist in the novel into the movie adaptation. The director also altered seven novel's settings when the novel was adapted into the movie. The reduction of the settings might occur due to the limitations during the movie production. The addition commonly happens because the director and the scriptwriter think that part is vital to be included in the movie. Furthermore, the variation is applied because a movie is like a paraphrased version of the novel, which means the director might change several parts of the novel when it is transformed into a film.

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