

## The Analysis of Religious Elements in *The Unholy* Movie Directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos: Sociological Approach

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**Abstract.** *The objective of this research was to describe what were the religious elements in The Unholy movie directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos. The method applied in this research was designed in qualitative descriptive. This research used human instrument by himself. The data was analyzed by describing the elements of religion in a movie. In collecting the data, the researcher watched The Unholy movie and in analyzing the data the researcher identifying four religion elements according to Rees theory. Based on the result of data analysis, the researcher found out data that: The first element of religion was God (s) and forces in the public square were Jesus Christ as God and Mary as mother of God with 7 scenes found. The second element was sacred symbols (re) defining what was real were eight symbols; Jesus Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace, Holy fire and touched of forehead, then both of shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists with 8 scenes found. The third element was sacred stories connecting past, present and future were 3 traditions or sacred stories from this movie, Mass, story of baby doll Kern and the feast of immaculate conception with 3 scenes found. The last element was a community worshiping and acting together was Catholic with 2 scenes found. Therefore, the researcher found 20 scenes in The Unholy movie that related to the religious elements based on Rees's theory (2017). In conclusion, the religion elements in The Unholy movie included belief, attitude and action in everyday life.*

**Keywords:** *Cristiany, Movie, Religion Element*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

English studies may comprise of English Linguistics, English Teaching and English Literature. These three studies are the logical next step of efforts to acquire skills in understanding and using English, particularly for those who aspire to broaden and deepen their knowledge and mastery of English (Maharsi, 2012). The study of English literature is more than just English. It is about nearly all facets of society lives from which the English literary works spring up. That is English-speaking people of certain country, academic, working, religious, and cultural backgrounds and political leanings and of certain times express various aspects of their lives.

According to Semi (2012), literature is one of the branches of art are always in human civilization thousands years ago. Literature was born due to the basic human urge to express himself, showed an interest in the problems of mankind and humanity, and showed an interest in the world of reality that lasts all day and all ages. In addition, Priyatni (2010), the main purpose of literature is so that the readers can be enjoy, appreciate, and respect simultaneously the beautiful elements aspect in the literary text. There are some types of literature, such as drama, poetry, and prose.

One of the literature will be discussed in this research is drama such as movie. One way to learn about language used for social communication is to watch a movie. A film, usually referred to as a movie, is a kind of visual communication that tells stories for pleasure with moving images and sounds (Maraden, 2016). Movie is a communication medium to convey a message that is transferred from visual elements and audio elements, namely: lies in the power of living images and sounds. The two elements are combined into a medium to convey information in the form of entertainment, social, education and commerce. Therefore, movie has a creative ability that is capable of depicting reality with an imaginary image to be able to provide entertainment, contemplation, and reflection for the people who witness it (Asri, 2020).

Watching movies is one of the activities that many people like and become their daily activities. Their goals for watching movies also different such as increasing knowledge, as refreshing, as a hobby, to learn foreign languages, to find moral values, and many more. At this time, the number of movie viewers is extraordinary, because there are many movies that are exciting and attract the interest of many people. According to Yousuf and Dadabhoy in Simatupang and Almi (2022), movie is able to show the audience an image therefore can present themselves to the viewers lucidly. Most of people engage the messages clearly from the movie, but some people difficult to engage it.

One of the messages that people catch in movie is about religion. According to Webster (1990), religion is a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices. Religion is the bond that must be held and adhered to humans. The bond is from a higher power than human as the supernatural powers which can not be captured by the senses, but it has a great influence for humans life everyday. Religion as system of social coherence based on a common group of beliefs or attitude concerning an object, person, unseen being, or system of thought considered to be supernatural, sacred, divine or highest truth, and the moral codes, practices, values, institutions, traditions, and rituals associated with such belief or system of thought (Setiadi, et. al 2012).

*The Unholy* movie is a movie that tells the story of belief and religion. A movie that debates people's belief in a divine figure. Whether the divine figure is God or devils. The reasons why the researcher uses the movie as the subject, *The Unholy* has a religious plot that actually works for it. It stars an unheralded actress named Cricket brown who plays a deaf-mute young woman named Alice, who has visions of what she thinks is the Virgin Mary. Absorbing Mary's spirit, Alice can suddenly hear and speak, and she can heal the sick, which attracts crowds of people to her rural town of Banfield, Mass. *The Unholy* is adapted from a

1983 James Herbert novel, and as written and directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos it could almost be a faith-based horror film. People know that the movie can not be all sweetness and light, but what matters is how solidly it believes in those things. That's what gives its dark side a power. Good and evil face off in every horror movie, but this one is truly a holy war.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This research was designed in qualitative qualitative as a method. Qualitative is a nature of science, and the descriptive approach can be used to identify its foundations (Rahi, 2017). According to Isaac and Michael (2017), descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situations and events. It is the accumulation of a data base that is solely descriptive. It did not necessarily seek or explain relationships, test hypotheses, make predictions, or get meanings and implications, although research aim at these more powerful purposes may incorporate descriptive methods.

The data were in the form of linguistic features such as words, phrases, clauses and sentences by the all characters in *The Unholy* movie. The researcher analyzed this characters' speeches and culture which contains elements of religion taken from their conversations and also movie's narration. The data collected from *The Unholy* Movie. The researcher used some procedures: The researcher watched the movie comprehensively in order to find out the valid and relevant information based on the perception, knowledge, theories and frame of elements of religious in the movie, took notes of the all characters' conversations and narrations which consist of religion elements, the researcher selected and classified the valid and relevant data based on the forms of religion elements, and transfered the data into the table.

In analyzing the movie, firstly the researcher watched *The Unholy* Movie directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos that help the researcher to understand this movie then, analyzed the elements of religious (Rees, 2017).

- **Identification**

In this steps, the researcher identified the religious elements in *The Unholy* movie. Then, the researcher identified the data transcription and check the data.

- **Classification**

In this steps, the researcher classified the result of the identification into four categories of religious elements.

**Table 1. The Classification Religious Elements by Rees theory 2017**

No	Religion Elements	Context
1.	God (s) and forces in the public square	These beings are sometimes understood as a knowable God or gods, sometimes as mythical and symbolic figures from our ancient past and sometimes as impersonal forces beyond the physical realm.
2.	Sacred symbols (re) defining what is real	Rituals that re-order the world according to religious principle. Although the word 'faith' can be associated with belief in unseen realities, humans through out time have needed to see, touch and smell the sacred. Our senses are portals to the spirit. Therefore, rituals function as tangible symbols of the in tangible realm.
3.	Sacred stories connecting past, present and future	These elements – interpreting the past, projecting the future, living now – are basic to the development of political ideology also. Therefore, sometimes religious and political group can appeal to the same stories or ideas even though the interpretation or intent may differ significantly.
4.	A community worshiping and acting together	most religions is the need for believers to belong to a faith community in order to practice sacred rituals and reinforce the truth of sacred stories. Some religious traditions could be described as high demand, requiring strict adherence to rules and standards in order to maintain membership of the faith community. Other traditions are low demand, adopting a more flexible approach to the requirements for belonging faith fully to the community. Both forms of faith commitment are expressions of religion as 'identity politics' connected to who we are (that is, who we understand ourselves to be) and how we live.

- **Description**

In this research, the researcher described the data in the form of table which consist of analysis religious elements from *The Unholy* movie.

- **Conclusion**

Finally, the researcher concluded the result of research after analyze the data. The researcher summarized the religious elements in *The Unholy* movie.

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The researcher found out the religion elements according to Rees (2017) in *The Unholy* movie directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos. The data were described as follow:

**Table 2. The Elements of Religion in *The Unholy* Movie**



No	The Elements of Religion	Result
1.	God (s) and forces in the public square.	Jesus Christus Lord and Mary as queen of heaven.
2.	Sacred Symbols (Re) Defining What is Real	Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace, holy fire and touched of forehead, then both of shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists.
3.	Sacred Stories Connecting Past, Present and Future	Mass, Story of baby doll Kern and the feast of immaculate conception,
4.	A Community Worshiping and Acting Together	Chistian Congregation Catholic





From the table above, it can be concluded that the reseacher found all the elements of religion according to Rees (2017). In *The Unholy* movie directed by Evan Spiliotopoulos had fourth elements of religion. The data were described in following:

### 1. God (s) and Forces in the Public Square.

The first element of religion in this research was God (s) and forces in the public square. It was beliefs in God that divine being sand/or force shold relevane to the meaning and practice of politics today and through out history. Beliefs that people have from their ancestor and follow to this day which they worship. The data were described as bellow:

**Table 3. God (s) and Forces in the Public Square Element in *The Unholy* Movie**

No	Picture of Sources	Utterences
1.		<b>A pastor in the past:</b> <i>"In the name of <u>Christ</u>, our lord and <u>Mary</u>, queen of heaven. Trap this corrupt soul" "Contain her!"</i> (01:36)
2.		<b>Christian Chatolic congregation:</b> <i>"<u>Lord</u>, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed"</i> (13:47)
3.		<b>Alice Pagget :</b> <i>"She is the blassed virgin, <u>the mother of God</u>"</i> (01:00:21)


		
4.		<b>Mr. Fenn :</b> <i>“Jesus, father Hagan must have found this book” (01:05:57)</i>
5.		<b>Bishop Gyles :</b> <i>“<u>My queen and my mother.</u> I give my self entirely to you. And show my devotion to you. I consecrate to you this day... (01:15:58)</i>
6.		<b>Bishop Gyles and congregation :</b> <i>“<u>God,</u> the father of heaven, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. God the son of redeemer, have mercy on us. <u>Christ have mercy.</u> God the holy spirit, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy. Amen” (01:18:50).</i>








From information of the table above, it could be concluded that in *The Unholy movie* the people belief in God and also belief in Mary as mother of heaven. The God as first religion element ini this movie was Jesus Christ.

## 2. Sacred Symbols (Re) Defining What is Real

The second element of religion in this research was sacred symbols (re) defining what is real. In this element, the symbol was as ritual for people based on religious principle. The result of this element were described in following table:

**Table 4. Sacred Symbols (Re) Defining What is Real Element in *The Unholy Movie***

No.	Symbol	Description
1.	 Jesus Statue	The people pray and worship in front of Christ statue as their God (13:59).
2.		The people also pray and worship in front of statue (12:50).

	 Mary Statue	
3.	 Church	Church was used for a meeting of community worshipping for Christian (15:19).
4.	 Bible	The Bible was a book that guides Christian to pray (01:12:31).
5.	 Holy fire	This flame signified the presence of living God (01:17:42).
6.	 Banfield	Banfield was a holy place with the symbol an old tree without leaves (01:20:24).
7.	 Cross necklace	The cross necklace was used to ward off evil spirit (01:12:31).
8.	 Praying	Touched of forehead, then both of shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists (01:05:33).

Based on the information from the table above, it could be seen there were eight symbol as the second element in *The Unholy* movie such as, Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace, Holy fire and Touched of forehead, then both of




shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists. The people used these symbols in religious setting as what people worship and believe based on Chistian beliefs.

### 3. Sacred Stories Connecting Past, Present and Future

The third element of religion in this research was sacred stories connecting past, present and future. For some religions, however,time itself is anillusion and the main focus is living in the now according to sacred ideas rather than the connection of past present future.

These elements interpreting the past, projecting the future, living now are basic to the development of political ideologie salso. In this research, the researcher found some result from analyzed in *The Unholy* movie. The data of the result were described in the following table:

**Table 5. Sacred Stories Connecting Past, Present and Future Element in *The Unholy* movie**

No.	Sacred Stories	Description
1.	 <p>Mass</p>	Mass is a form of religious worship that has deep meaning in Christian religious tradition, especially the Catholic Church. The mass is often referred to as the Eucharist or Holy mass and it is a secred moment where people come together to commemorate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (13:48).
2.	 <p>Story of baby doll Kern</p>	Farmers used to plant them in the field for good luck (05:33).
3.	 <p>The feast of immaculate conception</p>	The feast of immaculate conception was belief that Mary was conceived free from original sin. It was one of the most important feasts celebrated by the Catholic Church (01:20:53).

Based on the information from the table above, it could be seen there were some secred story that in the past and also connecting to present and future in *The Unholy* movie. The people celebrate and believe that secred stories from the past also can be celebrated until now. It was worship and believe based on Chistian beliefs.



#### 4. A Community Worshiping and Acting Together

The fourth element the researcher found in this research was a community worshipping and acting together. It was common to most religions is the need for believers to belong to a faith community in order to practice sacred rituals and reinforce the truth of sacred stories. The data of the result were described in the following table:

**Table 6. A Community Worshiping and Acting Together Element in *The Unholy* movie**

No.	Picture of Sources	Description
1.		This picture was about Mass. It is a form of religious worship that has deep meaning in Christian religious tradition, especially the Catholic Church (13:48).
2.		The feast of immaculate conception was one of the most important feasts celebrated by the Catholic. (01:20:24).

In this research, the researcher found a community Christian Congregation Catholic. The Catholic pray together in a Church. The Catholic congregation celebrate for the holy days in the Cristian religion together.

Religion is the belief in a god or in a group of gods. According to Mashuri et al., (2022), religion was perceived as a human spiritual tendency toward the universe, a value that encompasses everything, including everything with a fundamental meaning and purpose. There were so many religions in the world, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Confucianism. In religions had their congregation as following them. In this research, the researcher analyzed a Christian movie it was Catholic Christianity with duration (01:39:24). The movie talk about a deaf girl was visited by the Virgin Mary and suddenly could hear, speak and heal the sick. As people flock to witness the miracle, a terrible event unfolds. It was the result of the Virgin Maria or something far more sinister.

According to Rees (2017), there were four elements of religion. There were God (s) and forces in the public square, sacred symbols (re) defining what is real, sacred stories connecting past, present and future and a community worshipping and acting together. From *The Unholy* movie that was analyzed by the researcher, there were found fourth religion elements. There were discussed in following:

First element of religion was God (s) and forces in the public square. Based on the result, the researcher found that the first element was Jesus Christ as God and Mary was a queen of heaven or the mother of God.

As the example from this movie the people had spoken that Jesus Christ as a God in their religion.

**A pastor in the past:** *"In the name of Christ, our lord and Mary, queen of heaven. Trap this corrupt soul" "Contain her!"* (01:36)

**Bishop Gyles and congregation :** *"God, the father of heaven, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. God the son of redeemer, have mercy on us. Christ have mercy. God the holy spirit, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy. Amen"* (01:18:50).

**Mr. Fenn :** *"Jesus, father Hagan must have found this book"* (01:05:57)

From the utterances by some people above, the result of the first element was Jesus Christ as the God. Christian believe Christ was the holy spirit for mercy on them. Beside that, the researcher also found other beliefs from this movie. That was Mary as queen of heaven or mother of God. The example by utterances as follow:

**Alice Pagget :** *"She is the blessed virgin, the mother of God"* (01:00:21)

**Bishop Gyles :** *My queen and my mother. I give my self entirely to you. And show my devotion to you. I consecrate to you this day...* (01:15:58)

From the utterances by Alice and Bishop Gyles, the Mary was a sacred symbol that need to be believed by people. In Christianity, Mary was a mother of God. Mary was a holy and Christian also made a Mary statue for them to worship and ask for everything they want and ask for forgiveness of sins.

According to Rees (2017), The first element of religion was the belief that divine being and/or force should be relevant to the meaning and practice of politics today and throughout history. These beings are sometimes understood as a knowable God or gods, sometimes as mythical and symbolic figures from our ancient past and sometimes as impersonal forces beyond the physical realm. It related by the result, The *Unholy movie* people belief to God to take care of them and gives help.

The second element of religion was sacred symbols (re) defining what is real. The researcher found eight symbols as the second element in *The Unholy* movie such as, Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace, Holy fire and Touched of forehead, then both of shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists. According to Rees (2017), Although the word 'faith' can be associated with belief in unseen realities, humans through out time have needed to see, touch and smell the sacred. Our senses are portals to the

spirit. Therefore, rituals function as tangible symbols of the in tangible realm. It was related from the result of the reseach, the people belief that these symbol had holy spirits in their religion. The symbols used to worship and people believed to symbol of faith for them.

The third element of religion was sacred stories connecting past, present and future. The people celebrate and believe that secred stories from the past also can be celebrated until now. It was worship and believe based on Chistian beliefs.

There were three traditions or sacred stories from this movie, Mass, story of baby doll Kern and the feast of immaculate conception. Mass was form of religious worship that has deep meaning in Christian religious tradition, especially the Catholic Church.

The Mass was often referred to as the Eucharist or Holy mass and it was a secred moment where people come together and sing praises to commemorate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The farmers in the past, used baby doll Kern to plant them in the field for good luck. The feast of immaculate conception was belief that Mary was conceived free from original sin. It was one of the most important feasts celebrated by the Catholic Church. The stories in the past still connecting in present also in the future. Christians believed in ancient ancestral rituals and also believe in them today.

The last element was a community worshiping and acting together. Based on the result the researcher found the last element of religion was Chistian Congregation Catholic. Rees (2017) said that most religions is the need for believers to belong to a faith community in order to practice sacred rituals and reinforce the truth of sacred stories. Some religioust raditions could be described as high demand, requirings trict adherencet on rules and standards in order to maintain member ship of the faith community. Other traditions are low demand, adopting a more flexible approach to the requirements forbelonging faith fully to the community. As the example from this movie the people had spoken that they were a Catholic:

**Bishop Gyles** : *“are you Catholic?”* (28:09).

**Mr. Fenn** : *“I was raised Catholic lapsed”*

**Mr. Fenn** : *“every major Catholic demographic on this planet is eating this up”*(43:48).

From the utterances by Mr. Fenn and Bioshop Gyles, the Catholic a community worshiping and acting together. In Catholic, people worship together and led by father or bishop from their church. Catholic did ceremonies and commermorate in church or holy places that people believe based on their religions.

The researcher found a thesis which related to the reasearch. The research from Sari, Triyogo and Syaprizal (2022) entitled “Analysis of the Religion Element in Nathaniel Hawthornes’s Young Goodman Brown Short Story”. The basic difference was the subject used

in this research. The previous research used short story as the subject while this research used movie. The research had similarities and differences based on the research found from his research. The similarity was that both of the research analyzed used same theory of religious elements by Rees (2017). The first element from previous research was God without name. while from this research the first element were Jesus Christus Lord and Mary as queen of heaven. The symbols from previous research as second elements were 5 symbols: Staff, meditation, holy psalm, pulpit and Bible. While this research were 8 symbols Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace, holy fire and touched of forehead, then both of shoulders with fingers and clench both of hands into fists. It had similarity symbol was Bible. The third element sacred stories Connecting past, present and future from previous were Good Cristians and honestmen. But in this research, the researcher founds Mass, Story of baby doll Kern and the feast of immaculate conception. The last elements a community worshipping and acting together from previous research was just Christian congregation without name of types of christian community. In this research the last elements was Catholic

With the previous research on the analysis of religious values, the researcher would like to thank profusely because it could be a reference/guideline for this research, complement and support each other for further research on religious values.

#### **4.CONCLUSSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The first element of religion was God (s) and forces in the public square. Based on the result, the researcher found that the first element was Jesus Christ as God and Mary as mother of God. Christians believe in God to take care of them and gives help. The second element of religion was sacred symbols (re) defining what was real. Based on the result, the researcher found that the seven symbol. They were Jesus Bible, Banfield Shrine, Jesus Statue, Mary Statue, Church, Cross necklace and Holy fire.

The symbols used to worship and people believed to symbol of faith for them. The third element of religion was sacred stories connecting past, present and future. Based on the result, the researcher found that the third element were three traditions or sacred stories from this movie, Mass, story of baby doll Kern and the feast of immaculate conception. The stories in the past still connecting in present also in the future. Christians believed in ancient ancestral rituals and also believe in them today. The last element was a community worshipping and acting together. Based on the result the researcher found the last element of religion was Chistian Congregation Catholic.

Based on the conclusion above, some suggestion can be presented for some people as follow:

- **For the Teachers or Lecturers**

*The Unholy* movie was one of the educated films that researcher suggested for lecturers to use in the teaching-learning process, especially in linguistics. In the future, the researcher hopes the teachers or lecturers convey the material religion elements only through the film but with other engaging media. So, students could be inspired and motivated to learn.

- **For the Students**

In studying linguistics especially in religion elements, the researcher hopes that the students could understand the material. Furthermore, the researcher suggests students enrich their knowledge about religion elements from other references.

- **For the Next Researcher**

The researcher hopes that this research could be useful as a reference to the next researchers who want to research about religion elements. Then, this research was expected to give information about the types of religion elements. So, the next researcher could get supporting materials about religion elements from this research.

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