

Chaotic Conceptions of Good and Evil Presented in *Game Of Thrones* (TV Series)

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Abstract

The objectives of this study as it is mentioned in the problem statements is to analyze (1) the chaotic conception of good and evil presented in Game of Thrones (TV series), and (2) the conception of good and evil constructed in Game of Thrones. The method used in this research is qualitative approach. The object of this study is several episodes of Game of Thrones from season one to season eight. In collecting data, the techniques applied by the researcher are listening, reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The data analysis method is done by displaying, explaining, and interpreting. As a primary theory for the analysis, the researcher uses study of ethics by Peter Singer and Yaneer Bar-yam's chaotic concepts. The results of the analysis shows that (1) the series presents chaotic conceptions of good and evil through the complex development of characters in Game of Thrones. (2) the series shows the construction of good and evil conception through four particular issues and cultural systems found in Game of Thrones, which are; how the culture enforce the law, the justice system, slavery, and trial by combat.

Keyword: *good, evil, chaotic conception, Game of Thrones*

Introduction

The modern world where civilized people lived has put in their mind the common conception of good and evil. It has been taught for many generations and finally accepted in society as a moral belief that one is related to another and put one against the other in representation of positive and negative elements. Good and evil alone have many definitions in the study of ethics. It came to society as a belief that good is certainly related to pleasure, love, and beauty while evil stands against those traits (Mackenzie, 1997:17). However, the study of this conception could be very complex than it seems. The development of human ideas related to

this conception has created some questions whether people should believe in just good and evil or if there is something beyond good and evil.

Those complexities of good and evil conception cause the difficulties in determining whether something is good or evil. According to Nietzsche (1997), the conception of good and evil is constructed by the moral laws and beliefs in particular culture. Therefore, different cultures have different conception depending on how each culture preserves its own moral laws.

Understanding how the conception of good and evil has become a complex conception, therefore this study select an object which is *Game of Thrones* (TV Series) episodes and focus on discussing the chaotic conception of good and evil. The writer choose this object because the issue has been mentioned before is very obvious can be seen in *Game of Thrones*. This film managed to make the audiences thinking out loud against the difference between good and evil. The forming of characters in this movie is very complex, and the result is that audiences found a difficult way in order to choose side, determining whether something is good or evil, whether something is acceptable or not according their moral beliefs. The fact is that good and evil is not as clear as it seems. There are several factors that influence those two items which have grown very complex. In this film, some events that at first glance seem do not make sense or even contrast to morality; the audiences unconsciously accept it or even considering as a truth. However, after the audiences realize what is happening and start to think, the complexity and chaos arises in their mind.

In this case, the researcher intended to conduct a research by observing several characters in *Game of Thrones* for the purpose of understanding the conception of good and evil used in this film, or even if those complexities and chaos experienced by the audiences in determining good and evil in this film could potentially affects their morals in real life.

Literary Review

Sociology of Literature

According to Johnson, sociology is the study of social life and behavior, especially in relation to social system, how they work, how they change, the

consequences they produce and their complex relation to society. It emphasizes that sociology is the study of human and their society, social actions and system of society, including the conception and the structure. In fact, the structure of society emerges through the firm examination of economic, political, cultural, religious, and other social aspects.

This research tends to discuss the cultural elements in a particular society such as the system and the conception they adhere to. From the social aspects, social interactions and how they behave become the main factors in how the culture develops, as well as how its elements such as norms, beliefs, systems, and conceptions are constructed. Therefore, in order to analyze the certain conception in a particular culture, which requires the understanding of social behavior, the researcher used sociology of literature as the basic reference.

Chaotic Concepts

Bar-Yam stated that the term “chaos” is popularly used to refer to disorder or confusion. It means the situation of being unclear on a matter that happens in somebody’s mind. In his work, Bar-Yam stated such definition more generally:

“In science, *chaos* is an important conceptual paradox that has a precise mathematical meaning: A *chaotic* is a deterministic system that is difficult to predict. A *deterministic* system is defined as one whose state at one time completely determines its state for all future times.”
(Bar-Yam, 2019:1)

When a person is confronted a complicated event and is required to take a decision, as long as any uncertainty remains in his or her perspective, the ability to decide is quite limited.

In this study, the term “chaos” is used to describe a state of lack understanding or uncertainty to decide whether an event in *Game of Thrones* (TV Series) can be judged as good or evil, or it is used to figure that the conception of good and evil used in the film is very complex which can even cause a chaos in audience’s mind. Therefore, the researcher uses the phrase “chaotic conception of good and evil” to say that the conception of good and evil adopted in *Game of Thrones* is extremely complicated.

Study of Ethics

Originally, study of ethics is a branch of philosophy and it became an interesting discussion among the Greek philosophers. More specifically, the study of ethics leads to the question about what is morally good and evil, right and wrong, virtue and vice, justice and crime (Singer, 1999:14). In other words, it is meant to regulate and guide how a person should behave, since they have their own role in a society and how they deal with it. In fact, the study of ethics is very complex because it addresses what is right or wrong in the act of a person in a particular situation and is closely related to morality. It provides the judgments or moral principles that include the nature of ultimate value and standards by whether human actions can be judged right or wrong.

The study seems quite simple at the first glance as people consider it as a simple rule such ‘Do not harm’, ‘Do not kill’, ‘Do not steal’, as it only provides what is ultimately good and evil from the surface. However, it could be even more complex because in particular culture, the value of ethics could be more than just good or evil. There is no clear line between good and evil or an absolute standards whether a human act can be judged as good or evil, although such determinants exist, it only applies to one particular culture. Again, one particular culture has one particular conception. The study of ethics cannot be applied generally. Singer pictured such explanation more clearly:

“The opposite view – that ethics is always relative to a particular society – has most implausible consequences. If our society disapproves of slavery, while another society approves of it, we have no basis to choose between these conflicting views. Indeed, on a relativist analysis there is really no conflict – when I say slavery is wrong I am really only saying that my society disapproves of slavery, and when the slave owners from the others society say that slavery is right, they are only saying that their society approves of it. Why argue? Obviously we could both be speaking the truth. — If ‘slavery is wrong’ means ‘my society disapproves of slavery’, then someone who lives in a society that does not disapprove of slavery is, in claiming that slavery is wrong, making a simple factual error.”
(Singer, 1999:6)

These difficulties are quite enough to prove that the study of ethics is extremely complicated because there is a relativity based on society views. Although such absolute determinants exist, it only occurs in one particular society

in one particular culture. As long as the society accept it as a truth, there is nothing to do with the other society which have their own standards and values of good and evil.

Understanding the aspects in the study of ethics, it is capable enough to relate it to sociology views. There are several theories in how good and evil can be defined, and one of them is the theory of good and evil according to socialism.

Concepts of Good and Evil

Good and evil have been a fundamental issue since the era of Greek philosopher. This issue also became the main discussion which leads to the study of ethics. The most common question according to this study is how people decide what is good and what is evil, or if there is an absolute determinant in how people decide or judge it.

The development of human ideas is quite dynamic, as well as the standard values of good and evil (Rashdall, 1907). It leads to how people define good and evil. There are several sources of determinant that influences differences in how the definition of good and evil are constructed. According to McCartney and Parent (2015:23), a number of philosophy views as the common understanding of ethical theories used to define good and evil such as hedonism, vitalism, utilitarianism, religionism, humanism, and socialism.

The researcher selected one stream which is socialism as the reference to analyze the concept of good and evil constructed in *Game of Thrones*. In *Ethics in Law Enforcement*, McCartney and Parent (2015:34) stated the socialism theory as moral relatives, which means that what is good and what is evil is decided by the society. Everything that accordance to the beliefs and tradition in a society would be considered as good, while it contests to the tradition, it would be considered as bad or evil, and a social punishment would be given to they who break the law. In his paper published by Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University, Velasquez (1992) explained that:

“Ethical relativism is the theory that holds that morality is relative to the norms of one’s culture. That is, whether an action is right or wrong depends on the moral norms of the society in which it is practiced. The same action may be morally right in one society but be morally wrong in another. For the ethical relativist, there are no universal moral standards — standards that can be universally applied to all people at all times. The

only moral standards against which a society's practices can be judged are its own. If ethical relativism is correct, there can be no common framework for resolving moral disputes or for reaching agreement on ethical matters among members of different societies.”

(<https://www.scu.edu/ethics/ethics-resources/ethical-decision-making/ethical-relativism/>)

The development of human civilization towards generations has built tradition which contains values and norms. Generally, tradition is an instrument used to measure the values of good and evil in a society. Moreover, the standard of normative good and evil in one society to another might be different depends on how the values they adhere to.

Friedrich Nietzsche

As a human being, directly or indirectly, people created culture as the process of survival. There is no society with no culture, as well as there is no culture without society. Culture and society is not the same thing, but they are connected to each other and it is continuously evolving as the products of human interactions. As the culture develops, it creates elements in it such norms, beliefs, and of course systems and conceptions. In *Beyond Good and Evil*, Nietzsche (1997) stated that the concepts of good and evil are culturally constructed rather than inherently. Different cultures develop different moral laws. It means that the conception of good and evil is constructed by the moral laws and beliefs in a particular culture. Therefore, different cultures have different conception depending on how each culture preserves its own moral laws. This conceptions of good and evil are more closely rooted in a large social order as a system that generally restrict free will within every human being by prioritizing the group over individual to avoid anarchy and chaos.

The development of a culture also become the important element in the study of ethics, in this case, the conception of good and evil. As it has been mentioned before that the conception of good and evil is constructed by particular culture, it can be said that different era in one group of society also gives a possibility that the conception might be different too and is depending on how the culture develops.

Theory of Good and Evil

The modern world where civilized people live have put in their mind to the common conception of good and evil. Mackenzie (1997) mentioned that pleasure, love, and beauty would be included in what is ultimately meant by good, and it is quite impossible to add anything by mentioning them separately. It has been taught for many generations and finally accepted in society as a moral belief that one is related to another and put one against the other in representation of positive and negative elements.

Good and evil alone have many definitions in the study of ethics. It came to society as a belief that good is certainly related to pleasure, love, and beauty while evil stands against those traits, and what is good is should be filled by those traits. However, the study of this conception could be very complex than it seems. The development of human ideas related to this conception has created some question whether people should believe in just good and evil or if there is something beyond good and evil.

Therefore, in order to understand how the conception of good evil constructed in *Game of Thrones* and to display carefully how the chaotic conceptions of good and evil found in *Game of Thrones*, this research provides the reference which is the study of ethics as the base as well as the supporting tools to draw the expected results.

Research Method

The researcher applied qualitative method to analyze the data in this research. Understanding the definition of qualitative approach, which is, the process of understanding the implicit meaning of a social phenomenon rely on acts, pictures, and texts in a form of interpreting them (Creswell, 2009:173), and for the reason that this research is based on producing descriptive explanation from data interpretation, the researcher decided to apply qualitative method as the main method in this research.

The objective of this research is to get descriptive explanation concerning the chaotic conception of good and evil portrayed in drama television series *Game*

of *Thrones*. The researcher used qualitative approach to interpret and get understanding how the concept of good and evil constructed in *Game of Thrones*.

The source of data as the object of the research is movie subtitle from several episodes of *Game of Thrones*. *Game of Thrones* is an American drama television serial created by Bavid Benioff and D.B. Weiss, and is an adaptation of George R.R. Martin's book series entitled *A Song of Ice and Fire*. The first episode in the first season was originally released on April 17, 2011, and concluded on May 19, 2019 on HBO with total 73 episodes aired over eight seasons. The movie is in the form of original Blu-ray Disc (BD) in HDTV 720p format published by HBO, and the duration of the episodes are between 50 and 82 minutes.

The researchers collected the data in several methods such as watching, reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The researcher uses several methods of analyzing data such as displaying, explaining, and interpreting.

Discussion and Findings

The objective of this research is to understand how the chaotic conception of good and evil reflected in *Game of Thrones* and how the conception alone is constructed. In order to fulfill the purpose of this research, the researcher chose several characters in *Game of Thrones* from several episodes to be analyzed. They would be analyzed according to their acts, their dialogues, what they have decided to do, and their developments through the story. How the characters develop is very important in order to determine whether their action is good or wrong. Every characters' actions and behaviors, including their dialogues, acts and decisions would be presented for data analysis in sequences of every characters. The analysis is based on the study of ethics mentioned in previous chapter, and is displayed in descriptive explanation.

Conceptions of Good and Evil Constructed in *Game of Thrones* (TV Series)

Although the series is fictional and visually presented in fantasy creatures such dragons, zombies, and witches, the story of *Game of thrones* focused on political issues and war. Seven kings from seven kingdoms fought for one rightful throne

called *The Iron Throne* as *The Lord of the Seven Kingdoms*, the highest title for the conqueror of the seven kingdoms.

How the conceptions of good and evil constructed in *Game of Thrones* can be found through four particular systems and issues that occurs in the series such:

A. The Law Enforcement

As a fictional work, *Game of Thrones* managed to build its own culture in a great way. The series managed to build the crucial aspects of culture such laws and the standards of morality which created a complex culture of good and evil. The following analysis shows the conception of good and evil presented in *Game of Thrones*.

CASSEL : “*Lord Stark! My Lady. A guardsmen just rode in from the hills. They’ve captured a deserter from the Night’s Watch.*”
NED : “*Get the lads to saddle their horses.*”
CATELYN : “*Do you have to?*”
NED : “*He swore an oath, Cat.*”
CASSEL : “*The law is law, My Lady.*”
NED : “*Tell Bran he’s coming too.*”
CATELYN : “*Ned. Ten is too young to see such things.*”
NED : “*He won’t be a boy forever. And winter is coming.*”
(Tim Van Patten, *Winter is Coming*, 00:11:09)

The subtitles above presented the dialogues of the *Master-at-Arms at Winterfell* (Rodrik Cassel) informed the capture of a deserter to Ned Stark (the *Lord of Winterfell*). In the series, a *Night Watch* who left his post without permission and abandoned his duty during the expedition outside the wall will be labeled as a deserter and is going to be sentenced to death. Ned intended to take all his children to attend and watch the punishment yet his wife (Catelyn) presumed that it was an inappropriate decision because one of their children (Bran) was just ten years old and was not ready to see such things. However, Ned confirmed that it was a necessary and all must always be ready when events turn against his realm.

From the dialogue above, the researcher found that the conceptions of good and evil in one culture can be seen from the way society enforce the law. The explanation above illustrated how Ned Stark as the law enforcer judges a criminal, in this case, the deserter who abandoned his duty as a *Night’s Watch*.

There are two important points found from the dialogue. First is how an act can be judged as a crime and what kind of act that can be accepted as a wrong act. It leads to the kind of the conceptions of good and evil adopted in *Game of Thrones*. In the deserter's case, he ran away and left his post in order to save his life from *White Walkers*, the humanoid creatures known as the ancient race of formerly-human ice who came from far north beyond the wall. He managed to escape after he saw the *White Walkers* murdered his comrades and ended up captured by the guards in *Winterfell*. Despite all the explanation he gave to the guards, he remained considered as a deserter who abandoned his duty and would be sentenced to death. It is clear that the law must be enforced no matter what. The one who breaks the law is a criminal and is considered as a wrong act. At the beginning, the series try to introduce this concept clearly. Good is the one who obeys the law and serves the kingdom, and no matter what the cause is, acceptable or not, the one who breaks the law and stands against the realm is considered as a bad one. As Ned said "*he swore an oath, Cat.*", it tells the audiences that the deserter has sworn an oath to serve the kingdom and whenever he breaks his oath, it means that he has done a crime. Although he did this to save his life, there is a law that everyone must obey just like Cassel said "*law is law, My Lady.*", and therefore, it must be enforced.

The second is how an act can be judged as a good act and how a person can be considered as a good one. The law is clear, those sworn servant of the realm who disobeys the order will be executed. Although it bothers Ned, who has to carry out the sentence, he must uphold it and it seems clear enough that Ned understands his duty as a king. He also wants his ten years old son to witness the execution. At first, his wife disagrees with this decision, presuming that Bran is too young to witness an execution. However, Ned believes that Bran is old enough to understand these matters, also he points out that someday one of them will become the *Lord of Winterfell* and it is important for them to learn the protocol for these situations that may present themselves in the future. As a king, Ned understands this as a consequence of what has happened when the laws of the kingdom are violated. In *Game of Thrones*, this is how the culture values an action as a good act. Thus, according to their beliefs, Ned Stark is a good man.

The following dialogue presents more detailed example.

DESERTER : *“I know I broke my oath, and I know I’m a deserter. I should have gone back to the Wall and warned them. But I saw what I saw. I saw the White Walkers. People need to know. If you can get word to my family, tell them I’m no coward. Tell them I’m sorry. Forgive me, lord.”*

NED : *“In the name of Robert of the House Baratheon, first of his name ...”*

JON (to BRAN) : *“Don’t look away.”*

NED : *“King of the Andals and the First Men ...”*

JON : *“Father will know if you do.”*

NED : *“Lord of the Seven Kingdoms and protector of the realm, I, Eddard of the House Stark, Lord of Winterfell and Warden of the North, sentence you die.”*

JON (to BRAN) : *“You did well.”*
(Tim Van Patten, *Winter is Coming*, 00:12:32)

The dialogues above presented the scene when the deserter being taken to the block for the sentence. Everyone was there to witness the sentence as well as Bran and his brothers. In this scene, the deserter seemed like that he realized his crime despite all the reasons of his act. A moment just before Ned cut the deserter’s head off, Jon told Bran not to look away even one bit, and Bran complied.

As a continuation of the previous analysis, the dialogues above provide more clues in order to draw a clear line to how the conceptions of good and evil in *Game of Thrones* are constructed. When the deserter said *“I know I broke my oath, and I know I’m a deserter. I should have gone back to the Wall and warned them...”*, even when he knew that he was going to die, he ignored the reason behind his act and considered this as the consequences of what he has done. It is obvious that the deserter is a strong believer to the conceptions of good and evil as previously explained. He believes that he is a criminal and for one reason that could make him believe that he is a good man as he firmly accepted the punishment without any defense made. The scene reveals how the culture value what is good and what is evil provided more clearly.

Another evidence can be found from what Ned has done it this scene. Unlike the most kings from other movies who have a royal executioner, Ned

believes that a real ruler who bears a power in his hand has to do the deed himself. He believes that the man who passes the sentences should swing the sword himself and it means that he is willing to bear this suffer of killing another person. This is the conceptions of a good king the series want to tell the audiences.

Jon's word in this scene also shows the *Game of Thrones*' cultural views of what is good. When he told Bran "don't look away", it means that he understands the reason Ned brings his sons, particularly Bran, his youngest sons. He understands that one of them will become the *Lord of Winterfell* one day and he also believes that it is important for them to understand what it means to be the number one person in the *North* as well as how to govern it in a proper way. Furthermore, Jon's final words to Bran in this scene "you did well.", means that he praises Bran for doing a good job. This explanation supports previous analysis of how an act can be judged as a good act and how a person can be considered as a good one in *Game of Thrones*' culture.

From the analysis above, it is obvious that the law in *Game of thrones* is absolute and is above everything as it is a firm wall separating right and wrong. it also becomes an urgent instrument to value what is good and what is bad in the series. According to previous analysis, what is meant by good is people who obey the law no matter what, as well as serve the realm and their king without any doubt. On the other hand, the one who violated the law and disobeyed king's order would be labeled as a traitor and is going to be punished. This conceptions are more concerned to how the law dictates everything and it seems like it is setting aside the reason behind a person's act. An act is just an act and still undetermined until the law decides it as right or wrong. For instance, if a king orders his servant to kill a woman, it does not make the servant a bad people for killing a woman. It makes him a good servant for obeying king's order to kill a woman.

B. Slavery

The next scene indicates how the conceptions of good and evil are constructed in *Game of Thrones* from different aspect. In the series, slavery becomes a common matter and even for certain people, it becomes a good business. It can be seen in the following dialogues when Daenerys walked along *The Walk of Punishment* in

the city of *Astopor* on *Slaver's Bay* with Ser Jorah Mormont and Ser Barristan Selmy to buy soldiers.

BARRISTAN : *"The Walk of Punishment is a warning, Your Grace."*
DAENERYS : *"To whom?"*
BARRISTAN : *"To any slaves who contemplates doing whatever these slaves did."*
DAENERYS : *"Give me your water."*
JORAH : *"Khaleesi, this man has been sentenced to death."*
DAENERYS : *"Here, drink."*
BARRISTAN : *"Leave this place, Your Grace. Leave tonight, I beg you."*

(David Benioff, *Walk of Punishment*, 00:28:34)

The dialogues above presented the scene when Daenerys and her advisors visited *Astopor* and walked down the *Walk of Punishment* by the harbor. Slaves who had committed crimes and disobeyed their masters were tortured and put on display alongside the *Walk of Punishment* as a warning for the others. They were tortured to nearly died and tied on board. Under this circumstance, only death could save them from the torment because they presumed that there are no masters in afterlife.

A certain issue like slavery also becomes the determinant of right and wrong in the series. The scene provides two major points which can be used to analyze the conceptions of good and evil. First, it is obvious that the culture in *Game of Thrones* plainly approves slavery as a common matter. The second is the impact of this enforcement from the point of view of both the slaves and the slave owners. When Jorah said *"The Walk of Punishment is a warning, Your Grace."* Then Daenerys asked to whom the warning is aimed and Jorah replied *"to any slaves who contemplates doing whatever these slaves did."* From the conversation, it reveals that the one who has a power means that he or she has the authority to decide what is right and what is wrong. The slaves are being displayed as a warning and people just walk like nothing has happened. This occurs only because the culture approves slavery. In this case, Jorah's words indicate that he assumes the slaves are wrong because they disobeyed their masters and considers this as the consequences they have to accept. He also believes that the slave owners do not do anything wrong because the culture that

shows how the slavery is clearly told. In socialism culture, right and wrong are decided by society. A person who cannot accept a concept the culture adhere to, means he or she deviates from the prevailing norms. Moreover, when Daenerys was trying to give water to one of the slave, Jorah said “*Khaleesi, this man has been sentenced to death.*”, it shows that Jorah is trying to understand this conception and accepts this as an existing validity in his culture.

To support the analysis above, the researcher presents following dialogue when Daenerys and Kraznys, an elite ruler in *Astapor* and a slave-trader, were talking about the price of the mercenary armies that Daenerys was going to buy. There were also Jorah and Barristan, and Missandei, the translator because in *Astapor* they speaks *Valyrian*.

- MISSANDEI : “*All? Did this one’s ears mishear, Your Grace?*”
DAENERYS : “*They did not. I want to buy them all.*”
MISSANDEI : *(speaking Valyrian)* “*She wants to buy them all.*”
KRAZNYS : *(speaking Valyrian)* “*She can’t afford them. The slut thinks that she can flash her tits, and make us give her whatever she wants.*”
MISSANDEI : “*There are eight thousand Unsullied in Astapor. Is this what you meant by all?*”
DAENERYS : “*Yes. Eight thousand. And the ones still in training as well.*”
GREIZHEN : *(speaking Valyrian)* “*If they fail on the battlefield, they will shame Astapor.*”
MISSANDEI : “*Master Greizhen says they cannot sell half-trained boys. If they fail on the battlefield, they will bring shame upon all of Astapor.*”
DAENERYS : “*I will have them all or take none. Many will fall in battle. I’ll need the boys to pick up the swords they drop.*”
(David Benioff, *Walk of Punishment*, 00:30:53)

The subtitles above presented the scene when Daenerys was in a bargain for the *Unsullied* she was going to buy. *The Unsullied* are slave-soldiers famed for their skill in battle and their obedience to their masters. Even they will die on their swords if their master commands them to do it. Daenerys was going to use the *Unsullied* as her soldiers to reclaim her throne in *Kingslanding*. She discussed the price of eight thousand *Unsullied* with Kraznys, an elite ruler and a slave-trader in *Astapor*.

In several *Free Cities* in *Game of Thrones*, slavery is a system or a state where people are treated as property to be bought and sold. The series practices

quite well how the conceptions of socialism culture works. In *Game of Thrones*, the territory is divided into two major continents, *Westeros*, the western continent where *Kingslanding* is located, and *Essos*, the eastern continent which contains several regions such *Valyrian Freehold and Ghiscari Empire, Slaver's Bay, Free Cities*, and *Dothraki*, are the two major continents separated by the sea called *Narrow Sea*. Although the sea is narrow enough to allow commercial shipping and cultural transmission to pass between the two continents, it is large enough to make a large scale of invasion and military incursions between the *Seven Kingdoms* and the *Free Cities* difficult. That is why Daenerys took quite a long time to prepare her invasion to *Kingslanding* including how she and her army cross the *Narrow Sea*. Due to geographical state, the cultures between two continents are slightly different. Slavery has officially been outlawed and is illegal in the continent of *Westeros* for thousands of years, however it is widespread throughout most of the eastern continent of *Essos*. The scene shows that slave-trading is a common system which allows people to sell and buy human like property. Moreover, for people from *Westeros* like Jorah and Barristan, who culturally disapproves slavery, they do not consider this is wrong since they are in a place where the culture approves the system. They cannot say that slavery in *Essos* is wrong only because it is illegal in *Westeros*, and the slave owners in *Essos* who says that slavery is not wrong is simply because their culture approves it. It occurs in such a way and society accepts the system as an existing truth. Seems that *Game of Thrones* managed to demonstrate the conceptions of socialism culture very well.

C. The Justice System

Another conception of good and evil in *Game of Thrones* also can be seen from how the justice system works in the series. It is quite bit different from previous analysis which shows how the conceptions can be seen through the law enforcement. The following dialogues when Tyrion Lannister went on trial provide the data to how such analysis can be applied.

LYSA : "You wish to confess your crimes?"
TYRION : "Yes, My Lady. I do, My Lady."
LYSA : "Skycells always break them. Speak, Imp. Meet your gods as an honest man."

TYRION : *“Where do I begin, my lords and ladies? I’m a vile man, I confess it. My crimes and sins are beyond counting. I have lied and cheated, gambled and whored. I’m not particularly good at violence, but I’m good at convincing others to do violence for me. You want specifics, I suppose. When I was seven...”*

...

LYSA : *“Silence! What do you think you’re doing?”*

TYRION : *“Confessing my crimes.”*

CATELYN : *“Lord Tyrion, you are accused of hiring a man to slay my son Bran in his bed, and of conspiring to murder my sister’s husband; Lord Jon Arryn, the Hand of the King.”*

TYRION : *“Oh, I’m very sorry. I don’t know anything about all that.”*

LYSA : *“You’ve had your little joke. I trust you enjoyed it. Mord, take him back to the dungeon. But this time find a smaller cell, with a steeper floor.”*

TYRION : *“Is this how justice is done in the Vale? you accuse me of crimes, I deny them, so you throw me in a cell to freeze and starve? Where is the King’s Justice? I’m accused and demand a trial.”*

LYSA : *“If you’re tried and found guilty, then by the king’s own laws you will pay with your life.”*

TYRION : *“I understand the law.”*

LYSA : *“We have no executioner in the Eyrie. Life is more elegant here. Open the Moon Door.”*

(Daniel Minahan, A Golden Crown, 00:23:58)

The dialogues above presented the scene when Tyrion Lannister was accused of murdering Lord John Arryn, the *Hand of the King* and Bran, Lord Eddard Stark’s son. He was brought before of the *Lady Regent of the Vale*, Lysa Arrin, who ruled on behalf of her younger son, Robin Arryn, to go through a trial. Catelyn Stark was also there since she was the one who informed the murder to Lysa Arrin, her sister.

From the conversation above, it seems that the series tries to introduce the system of justice quite clearly. It indicates that the law is ultimately determined by whoever the king is. When Tyrion said *“Is this how justice is done in the Vale? you accuse me of crimes, I deny them, so you throw me in a cell to freeze and starve? Where is the King’s Justice?...”*, it means that whoever sits in the throne during a trial, that person’s words becomes law. The king and queen have the authority to determine sentences at his or her policy and it is under this circumstance that right and wrong are determined.

D. Trial by Combat

Another scene also indicates how such justice system being enforced in the series. Again, the scene presented Tyrion's trial in *Kingslanding* when he was accused for killing King Joffrey. On the trial, the judge was Tywin Lannister, his own father.

TYWIN : *"Tyrion of House Lannister, you stand accused by the Queen Regent of regicide. Did you kill King Joffrey?"*
TYRION : *"No."*
TYWIN : *"Did your wife, the Lady Sansa?"*
TYRION : *"Not that I know of."*
TYWIN : *"How would you say he died, then?"*
TYRION : *"Choked on his pigeon pie."*
TYWIN : *"So you would blame the bakers?"*
TYRION : *"Or the pigeons. Just leave me out of it."*
...

The court continued with demonstrations by the witnesses from the crown and all the evidences indicated that Tyrion was guilty for a crime he did not commit.

...
TYRION : *"Father, I wish to confess. I wish... to confess."*
TYWIN : *"You wish to confess?"*
TYRION : *(turns to the crowd) "I saved you. I saved this city and all your worthless life. I should have let Stannis kill you all."*
TYWIN : *"Tyrion. Do you wish to confess?"*
TYRION : *"Yes, Father. I'm guilty. Guilty. Is that what you want to hear?"*
TYWIN : *"You admit you poisoned the king?"*
TYRION : *"No, of that I'm innocent. I'm guilty of a far more monstrous crime. I'm guilty of being a dwarf."*
...
TYWIN : *"Have you nothing to say in your defense?"*
TYRION : *"Nothing but this— I did not do it. I did not kill Joffrey, but I wish I had."*
...
TYWIN : *"I will not give my life for Joffrey's murder. And I know I'll get no justice here. So I will let the gods decide my fate. I demand a trial by combat."*
(Alik Sakharov, *The Laws of Gods and Men*, 00:33:08)

The dialogues above presented the scene when Tyrion Lannister went on a trial. He accused by Cersei Lannister (his sister) for killing King Joffrey (his

nephew). Apparently, the new king assigned his *Hand of The King*, Tywin Lannister, which was Tyrion's father, to preside over the trial. It turned out that Cersei had manipulated everything to blame Tyrion. He knew this and realized that no matter what he was going to say, he would lose his head. Thus, Tyrion decided to put his fate in god's hand and demanded a trial by combat.

The dialogues emphasize previous analysis of how the conceptions of good and evil can be seen from justice system in *Game of Thrones*. During Tyrion's trial in *Kingslanding*, the evidences must be brought forward and witnesses must testify. However, those evidences and witnesses would be useless when the accused chooses to use his or her right and demands a trial by combat. When Tyrion said "... *So I will let the gods decide my fate. I demand a trial by combat.*", it indicates how the culture believes a trial by combat as an ultimate justice decided by gods. Tyrion once used this in *Vale* and he survived. Of course the accused also has the right to choose his or her champion to fight for him or her in the combat. It seems that the justice system in *Game of Thrones* is clearly elaborated. The terms which state that the king is right and the accused is wrong have changed since the system has entirely different values to decide what is right and what is wrong. Also, no matter the result is, justice will prevail because whoever wins the combat, he or she becomes justice. Everyone believes gods have decided the justice and, whatever the result is, people accept this as a truth. Therefore, in *Game of Thrones*' culture, whoever wins and survives in a trial by combat will be considered right, and whoever loses the combat and dies will be considered wrong. It is accused because God has given his absolute judgment as well as the punishment through the combat.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis on Chapter IV, the researcher concludes that the conceptions of good and evil can be seen in *Game of Thrones* (TV Series). In this study, the researcher formulates two problem statements. The first is how the

conceptions of good and evil are constructed in the series, and the second is how the chaotic conceptions of good and evil are presented.

The first problem statement provides four points as the instruments to analyze the conceptions of good and evil the series adhere to. First is the law enforcement. How the society in one culture enforces the law can be used as the instrument to value good and evil in that culture. In *Game of Thrones*' culture, according to how the people enforce the law, what is meant by good is people who obey the law under any circumstances, as well as serve the realm and their king without any doubt. On the other hand, the one who violates the law and disobeys the king's order would be labeled as a traitor and is going to be punished.

The second is slavery. Slavery is a system which allows people to sell and buy human like property. A certain issue like slavery also becomes the determinant of right and wrong in *Game of Thrones*' culture. Slavery has officially been outlawed and is illegal in the continent of *Westeros* for thousands of years. However, it is widespread throughout most of the eastern continent of *Essos*. It cannot be said that slavery in *Essos* is wrong only because it is illegal in *Westeros*, and the slaveowners in *Essos* who say that slavery is not wrong is simply because their culture approves it. Thus, it is not wrong for owning a slave, but it becomes wrong when the slaves disobey their masters.

The third point is the justice system. Another conception of good and evil in *Game of Thrones* also can be seen from how the justice system works in the series. In the series, justice is ultimately determined by whoever the king is. Despite of whoever sits in the throne during a trial, that person's words become law. The king and queen have the authority to determine sentences at his or her policy and it is under this circumstance that right and wrong are determined.

The last point is trial by combat. The culture believes a trial by combat as an ultimate justice decided by gods. Through the combat, people believe that justice will prevail because whoever wins the combat would become the justice. Everyone believes gods have decided the justice and whatever the result is, people accepts this as a truth. Therefore, in *Game of Thrones*' culture, whoever wins and survives in a trial by combat will be considered right. On the contrary, whoever

loses the combat and dies will be considered wrong because God has given his absolute judgment as well as the punishment through the combat.

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