

Bushido Values in The Movie : *Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning* (2021) and *The Last Samurai* (2003)

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Abstract

This study is aimed to analyze : (1) The bushido values of samurai presented in the movie "Ruroini Kenshin : The Beginning (2021) and The Last Samurai (2003)",(2) The transitions of bushido values reflected in the movie "Ruroini Kenshin : The Beginning (2021) and The Last Samurai (2003)". The study uses descriptive qualitative method to analyzed the film entitled "Ruroini Kenshin : The Beginning (2021) and The Last Samurai (2003)" as the objective research. The collecting data of the research method includes watching and reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. The analyzing data of the research method by used displaying, explaining, and interpreting. The result of the study : (1) The bushido values of samurai presented in the film "Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning" (2021) include courage, loyalty, politeness, and honor. While the bushido values presented in the film "The Last Samurai (2003) include honor, loyalty, courage, discipline, honesty, and politeness. (2)The transitions of Bushido values reflected in the films "Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning" (2021) and "The Last Samurai" (2003) were found in the differences between armor, military weapons, battle mentality, differences in government policies, and the war tactics.

Keywords: *Bushido Values, Samurai, Comparative Study of Litelature*

Introduction

In one of the scenes in the film, *Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning* (2021) shows kenshin's courage where he always kills his enemies in an instant and he always does it alone. In *The Last Samurai* (2003), it shows the incident when Nathan Algren defected to Katsumoto who was a samurai and fought the Japanese government which was trying to expel samurai from his country, his courage shows one of the elements of bushido values). It is natural for a samurai to uphold bushido values, because a samurai must have bushido values and stick to bushido. According to Nitobe (1996:33), the meaning of bushido itself is the path of chivalry and the soul of bushido itself, according to Nitobe (1996:33), has several concepts, including Gi (儀 Truth/fairness), Yuuki (勇氣 Courage), Jin (仁

Generosity), Reigi (礼儀Courage) , Shinjitsu and Seijitsu (真実 Honesty and 誠実 Sincerity), Meiyo (名誉Honor), and Chugi (忠義 Loyalty).

The importance of this research on bushido is that there are many lessons that can be drawn from bushido values, especially regarding various related matters with the identity of a samurai. A samurai who has an honest nature then can be said brave. The definition of brave here does not only refer to courage in fighting against the enemy in a war, but also dare to face the trials of life. Therefore the samurai who have brave nature, it will show honest nature in behaving. Attitude being honest among samurai is a bushido code of ethics adopted from Confucianism as a form of self-control in a person.

Literary Review

Comparative Study of Literature

Comparative literature is the science of analysis that seeks to compare literary works with others in terms of both genre, period, author, history, and influence. Comparative literature is often regarded as the study that analyzes literature as a whole. In its application, comparative literature seeks to examine the evolution of literature from genre to genre, from epoch to epoch, from author to author, to the impact of one work on another. The purpose of comparison is to recognize differences, similarities, relationships, and influences between two literary works. According to Nada (1999:9) comparative literature is a study of literature people with historical ties with the literature of other nations, how intertwined processes mutually influence each other with another, what has taken a literature, and what else has he donated.

Remak (1971:1) and Damono (2009:1) limits comparative literature as literary studies outside the boundaries of a country and other beliefs, such as art (for example, painting, sculpture, building/architecture, and music), philosophy, history, social sciences, natural sciences, religion, and others. In short, comparative literature compare the literature of a country with the literature of other countries and compare literature with other fields as a whole expression of life.

Bushido Concept

Bushido (武士道) consists of the word bushi (武士) which means knight or warrior and do (道) which means way. Bushido or 'the way of the knight' is a concept of an ethical system or moral rules that prevailed among samurai, especially during the Edo period (1603-1868). The concept of bushido was influenced by Zen and Confucianism, two different schools of thought at that time. The concept of bushido adopts Zen which is one of the teachings of Buddhism which is a meditation method that teaches a person to focus on reaching a level of thought that cannot be explained in words. Zen teaches people to "know themselves", not limit themselves. It was used by the samurai as a weapon against fear, doubt, indecision, and making mistakes. Shintoism also contributed to the formation of the concept of bushido, Shinto (神道) which means 'the way of God' teaches loyalty and patriotism. Shintoism teaches that the Emperor is like a god. The samurai used Shinto teachings to better understand and understand loyalty and patriotism, and with their loyalty the samurai swore to serve the Emperor and daimyo who were at the highest level in the samurai. Bushidō or the "Way of the Warrior" is the exalted samurai code of conduct loyalty, honor, fearlessness, honesty, and self-sacrifice (Hubbard, 2014: 7).

The bushido concept has values that control every aspect of the life of the samurai, which are called bushido values. The main instructions of the samurai in the law were to develop skills with swords and various other weapons, dress and behave in a special way, and prepare for death that could occur at any time while serving their master. Samurai held that loyalty as the high moral standard for all actions in life. The bushido values that emerged during the Edo period were still reflected in the samurai or rounin in the Meiji era where at that time there were massive changes with changes in the government system and so many young generations of Japan were sent to America and Europe, because bushido values had been become part of Japanese society and have been strongly internalized in society through a process for hundreds of years. Nitobe (1996:57) argues, a samurai has a code of ethics called bushido values which consist of seven values, namely Gi (Truth), Yuuki (Courage), Jin (Mercy), Reigi (Courtesy), Shinjitsu and Seijitsu (Honesty and Sincerity), Meiyo (Honor), Chugi (Loyalty).

Samurai

Samurai (侍) or in Japanese called bushi (武士) which means knight is a medieval military hero who appeared during the Edo period (1603-1868) to the Meiji era (1868-1912). Wilson (2006:34) said that in China, the character (侍) is a word which means to wait or accompany someone in the ranks of society, and this is also actually from the original term in Japanese, namely Subaru. The two countries interpret the term Subaru as someone who accompanies, serves, attends, is close to the nobility, which then changes to samurai. During the Edo period, Varley (2008:19) explained that samurai were almost entirely synonymous with bushi (武士) which literally means "one who is armed" where the term was used by elite warriors from among the nobility who loyally served the nobles or daimyo (大名) who meaning landlords and samurai from among these were not ashigaru (足軽), which meant foot soldiers or rounin (浪人) which meant samurai who were not bound by a clan or worked for the daimyo (大名). At the end of the Edo period, namely in 1867 there was a civil war which ended with the collapse of the Tokugawa shogunate government, and as a sign of the end of the Edo period and as a peak in 1868 there was the Meiji Restoration event (Meiji Ishin), which was an event where the return of government power from the clan the Tokugawa shogunate to the Japanese Emperor, where the Japanese Emperor in the Edo period was only a symbol of government, while those who determined the political system of government policies in the Edo period were the Tokugawa shogun clan. Varley (2008:50) The Meiji Restoration event was marked by many social upheavals, both civil and military, and even involved Western countries.

Research Methodology

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research method, because qualitative research, only collect and classify the data and then make conclusion without making generalization. Cresswell (2009:342) state that Qualitative methods represent a different approach to scientific investigation than quantitative research methods. Although the process is similar, qualitative techniques are

based on text and image data, have unique procedures for data analysis, and utilize on the diverse designs. The object in this research is film under the title “*Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning (2021)*” directed by Keishi Ohtomo and “*The Last Samurai (2003)*” directed by Edward Zwick. The film published by Netflix with a duration as long as 137 minutes and 157 minutes. The researcher focuses on words and sentences of subtitle, also focuses on pictures in the film.

Finding and Discussion

1. Bushido Values of Samurai Presented in the Movie “*Rurouni Kenshin : The Beginning (2021)* and *The Last Samurai (2003)*”

a. Honor

Data 1 (01.04.06)



Picture 1

In data 1 this shows the honor of a samurai. In that scene Kenshin was very tired and he was sleeping and Tomoe wanted to cover him but Kenshin was unexpectedly surprised and he thought that it was an enemy so he threw his sword at Tomoe and Kenshin almost killed Tomoe at that moment. Tomoe was shocked when he was almost killed by Kenshin. In the end Kenshin apologized to Tomoe for his accident. Kenshin seemed traumatized by last night's incident which was the massacre of the police who killed many of his friends who fought to bring a new era and destroy the Syogun era. In this scene, Kenshin has the value of honor as a samurai, where he will not kill someone who does not carry a weapon. This attitude is an honor for Kenshin, which is one of the Bushido values that must be possessed by Japanese samurai.

Data 2 (00.00.23)

Bushido is matter main must owned and respected for a samurai, even principle another value in Bushido is always return and is based on honor. This principle in The Last Samurai, presents in Katsumoto's monologue at the start of this film , when he meditates in a hill , it shows visualization form sea and island island in Japan.

Katsumoto : " According from the legend, Japan born from syllabus sword. The gods dipsword them into the Ocean and at sword that pulled, four the drop back to sea and be Japan Island "

(The Last Samurai, 2003, 00.00.23)

2. Transitions of Bushido Values Reflected in the Movie “Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning (2021) and The Last Samurai (2003)”

a. The War Clothes Distinction



Picture 3 (00.55.55) Rurouni Kenshin : The Beginning (2021)

During the Edo period (1603-1868), the Tokugawa warrior clan ruled Japan. The country was divided into feudal regions ruled by nobles. Samurai from each fiefdom were identified by the color and pattern of their 'uniform' which consisted of three parts: a kimono, a sleeveless garment (kamishimo) worn over the kimono, and the hakama which was a trouser-like skirt. Kimono is a traditional Japanese dress that is worn by both women and men. The shape of the kimono resembles a long robe that is open at the front. In use, the left side is always at the base and tied with a belt of cloth called an obi. Kimono in the Edo era were used by all groups, both nobles and ordinary people, even the Japanese military also used kimono in carrying out their duties. During the Edo era, they still applied bushido values in their daily lives. Their loyalty to their own culture

is still very strong, can be seen that from the nobility to the common people, they still apply their bushido values, their loyalty to their own culture.



Picture 2 (01.58.44) The Last Samurai (2003)

Early in the Meiji Restoration period many men in Japan at the time were required to start wearing Western-style uniforms to work, starting with government officials. Western-style clothing came to represent elitism or class in the Meiji period, alongside the use of dyes, particularly purple and red, the first two synthetic dyes ever created, which had previously been associated with high-class status; this dye was seen as the color of "progress" and as a symbol of one's support for the Empire. Although the poorest still couldn't afford to wear these flashy colors and high status, those at the bottom of society also started wearing Western uniforms. The benchmark for the development of western clothing in Japan was the Meiji government, which issued a decree allowing ordinary men to wear western-style clothing. Apart from the form of uniforms used by military workers, post offices, civil servants. Western-style clothing is also adopted in the form of trousers, shirts, jackets, long coats, coats, hats and shoes and sandals. The rapid development of western-style clothing has made Japanese traditional clothing disappear little by little. This also shows the fading of the bushido value of the loyalty of the Japanese population to their traditional dress culture that occurred in the Meiji era. During the Meiji Restoration period, Japan was heavily influenced by foreign cultures. The bushido value, their loyalty to their own culture, has been lost with the enactment of government regulations, government officials and military personnel are required by law to wear Western clothing for official purposes. This is of course troubling the people themselves, they think that traditional Japanese clothing must be preserved. Kimonos are considered to look troublesome if they have to be used for war and western clothing is

considered more suitable for the battlefield. This modernization has diminished the value of bushido in Japanese society by losing their loyalty to traditional Japanese clothing.

Conclusion

The researcher concludes that the films *Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning* (2021) and *The Last Samurai* (2003) contain problems stated in the problem statement. The first problem is about bushido values which are reflected in the films *Rurouni Kenshin: The Beginning* (2021) and *The Last Samurai* (2003). The bushido values contained in these two films reflect the character of a samurai who must have bushido values in order to become a true samurai. Bushido values include courage, truth, honesty, decency, honor and loyalty. In the bushido values, there are similarities in the bushido values shared by the two films. As one example is reflected in the character Kenshin who always faces his enemies alone and also when Nobutada helps Ujio and Algren to free his father (Katsumoto) from the detention center that was dismantled by the government.

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