

Semiotics and Forms Of Ecranization in the “Red Sparrow” Novel by Jason Matthews to the “Red Sparrow” Movie by Francis Lawrence

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Abstract

This research discusses the study of semiotics in the film Red Sparrow and the form of the novel's ecranization of the film Red Sparrow. In this study, every film has semiotics and every ecranization or change of literary work such as a novel that turns into a film includes reduction, variation changes and additions which are like words in novel literature, that writing becomes a moving image in a film consisting of of the plot, characters and setting. The purpose of this study is to analyze the semiotics contained in the film and to compare the forms of ecranization in the film and the novel Red Sparrow. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. The approach used is the library research approach. Data was collected by reading, watching, taking notes and analyzing documents from novels to films. The results of this study indicate that in the Red Sparrow film there are three semiotics used and in the study of ecranization from the novel to the Red Sparrow film there are changes, additions and subtractions in the film.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Ecranization is the process of adapting, transferring or translating literary works in the form of writing (novels) into videos or moving images. According to the book *Early Ecranization: Bringing Novels to the Silver Screen in the Dutch East Indies* by Christopher Allen Woodrich (2018: p. 3) Ecranization or ecranization in Indonesian or adaptation of novels into films. The dictionary definition of adapt: to make (something) fit for a new use or purpose; to change (adjust). Adaptation of a novel to film as a modification of a fictional prose narrative, released as a personal book, credited to the author or author's name, usually representing characters and actions as fictional stories or events as a set of moving pictures and shown in a theater by a camera. Before the process of transcribing a novel into film form, of course, it requires several considerations both in terms of duration, script and so on. In the process of whitewashing, not everything in the novel is poured into film form. There may be additions, subtractions or changes to vary so that the plot and story are connected and appropriate.

Based on the definitions of several experts above, it can be concluded that semiotics or in other words semiology is the study of the meaning or significance of a sign or symbol. In a film there is a meaning, a sign or symbol that has its own meaning, either in the form of hand movements, body movements and so on.

The researcher did this research because the researcher wanted to compare the ecranization of the novel Red Sparrow by Jason Matthews to the form of the film Red Sparrow by Francis Lawrence. The form of ecranization can be in the form of adding characters, reducing plots, or even varying the story for the sake of the appropriate storyline. Then what kind of semiotics is used in the main character in the film Red Sparrow by Francis Lawrence.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Fundamental theory

In this section, the researcher seeks to explain the basis of the research theory. Previously there were several main topics that had to be explained. Among them are about semiotics in films, ecranization (including subtraction, additions, changes in plot, characters, characterizations, dialogues, etc.), understanding of movies, and understanding of novels.

1. Movie

a. Definition of Movie

Film, in the Big Indonesian dictionary, refers to a thin celluloid film used as a setting for negatives (made into portraits) and positives (played in cinemas). In addition, film is also defined as a play (story) of living images (KBBI, 1990). (Book Introduction to Film Theory by Muhammad Ali Mursid Alfathoni and Dani Manesah, 2020: p. 2).

2. Novel

a. Definition of Novel

Novels are included in process narrative fiction which tell various kinds of stories such as love, gosh, politics and action. The aim is to provide an experience for readers, indeed because of the way they tell stories, capacity for expression and ability to operate, even because of the point of view that has been chosen. Novel is a type of literary work written by one's imagination in prose and contains a series of events about one's life.

3. Semiotic

Semiotics comes from the Greek "semeion" which means sign. The word semiotics comes from the English language, namely semiotics. Another name for semiotics is semiology. Both have the same meaning, namely as the science of signs.

Semiotics is a branch of linguistics which means 'language science'. In the Handbook of Semiotics, it is stated that semiotics is a direct result of formalism and structuralism.

4. Ecranization

Ecranization is the process of adapting or transferring a novel into a film in the form of images and audio. What is meant by ecranization according to (Eneste, 1991) is the whitewashing or transfer or appointment of a literary work in the form of a novel into a film.

In the process of adapting or transferring a novel into a film, various changes will occur, including subtraction, addition, changes with a number of other variations such as changes in plot, dialogue, characters, characterizations and others. Eneste, 1991 in Elbetri: 2021) shows variations during cultivation. This is because the process of transforming the world of words from fiction to the world of images that move continuously in the form of films is influenced by the harmony of the work units in it: producers, screenwriters, directors, photographers, art directors, tape recorders, players, etc. In other words, ecranization refers to the process of moving from something that is produced separately to something that is produced together (gotong royong). The changes that occur in ecranization according to (Eneste, (1991 in Elbetri: 2021) are as follows.

1. Additional

Addition is something that might happen in the process of adapting a novel into a film. These additions can appear in the realm of film stories, characters, characterizations, plots, settings, and atmosphere. There must be an important reason for the addition in the mechanization process. There are reasons for directors to add films for their point of view (Eneste, 1991 in Elbetri: 2021).

2. Reduction/collapse

Miniaturization is a mechanization process that often occurs when a novel is adapted or turned into a film. Elements such as stories, plots, characters, scenes, and atmosphere in literary works can experience a reduction/shrinkage of alienation. According to Eneste (1991: 61), elements of a literary work can be restored, such as story, plot,

characters, setting, and atmosphere. Not everything in the novel can be found in the film because it shrinks. In this case, there is an entry point in the process of turning a literary work into a film.

3. Change varies

The third thing that can happen to a literary work in the process of adaptation or transformation into a film form is the variable. Eneste (1991: 65) explains in the journal *Elbetri 2021* that digitization allows certain differences between novels and films, such as differences in story philosophy, storytelling styles, etc. Changes in the transformation of literary works are influenced by various factors, including the media. usage, audience questions, playtime.

In the process of ecranization, changes in literary works in the form of films can also have an impact on changes in audio-visual and the words used in the film. This is based on Eneste's (1991: 67) statement which states that ecranization variations are needed in films so that films adapted from novels do not seem original as in novels.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

A. Research Design

In this study, the researcher uses qualitative research belonging to library research to analyze the semiotic type of the main character and the process of ecranization in Francis Lawrence's film "Red Sparrow" and Jason Matthews' novel "Red Sparrow". Qualitative research is a research procedure that produces, in written or oral form, descriptive data about observable personal characteristics, conditions, or symptoms of a particular group of people (Huberman, 1994: 01).

B. Data Sources

1. Primary Data

Primary data is the main data obtained from the pictures and the moviescripts of the movie. Primary data for the study comes from Jason Matthews' novel *Red Sparrow*, published in 2013.

2. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticisms, articles and journals related to the movie.

C. Technique of Data Collection

1. Watching

The activity of watching the film *Red Sparrow* by Francis Lawrence 3-5 times to understand the content and semiotics of the film.

2. Reading

The activity of reading the novel *Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews 3-5 times to understand the contents of the novel and find its original form.

3. Note Taking

The activity of researcher to rewrite data semiotic and ecranization obtained in the novel or movie.

4. Identifying

To identify the data, belong to semiotic and ecranization by underlaying each sentence or statement

5. Classifying

To classify the data which belong to semiotic and which belong to ecranization obtained in novel or movie.

D. The Procedure of Data Analysis

Based on Miles and Huberman (1994: 10-11) which states that the analysis of the analyzed data is described below.

1. Data reduction

At this reduction stage, the researcher focus on sorting and removing unnecessary data such as conversational dialogues that do not support the story.

2. Display data

At this stage of the data, the researcher focus on presenting data in the form of patterns, whether it's making tables or charts related to semiotics and comparing their ecranization forms from the results of data reduction.

3. Conclusion Drawing and purifications

The last step is drawing conclusions from all the data that has been done which refers to semiotics and a comparison of its ecranization in the novel *Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews and the film *Red Sparrow* by Francis Lawrence.

4. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Research Finding

1. Semiotics

Semiotics is the study of signs. Based on semiotics books, theories and methods and their application in literary research by Jafar Lantowa et al, 2017 are divided into nine. However, based on the findings in the film "Red Sparrow" there are three semiotics used namely;

a. Analytic semiotics

It is semiotics that analyzes systems and symbolic objects into ideas, objects and meanings. For example, someone who has an idea in mind, then uses a writing tool to draw the idea into a symbolic object and there is a meaning behind the object or symbol.

b. Normative semiotics

Normative semiotics is semiotics related to social norms created by humans. For example, a red traffic sign indicates a stop.

c. Social semiotics

Social semiotics is semiotics that studies social life or private life. For example, raising your hand and then swinging your hand at passers-by indicates that you want to say hello and so on.

2. Ecranization

Ecranization is the transfer or whitewashing of novel literary works into film form. At the time of transfer or whitewashing of novel literary works, of course not everything will be poured into the film for several reasons.

4.2. Discussion

1. Semiotics

In this study, semiotics is divided into three and explanations of various semiotics are explained in detail based on semiotics books: theory, methods and their application in literary research by Jafar Lantowa.

a. Analytic semiotics

It is semiotics that analyzes systems and symbolic objects into ideas, objects and meanings. For example, someone who has an idea in mind, then uses a writing tool to draw the idea into a symbolic object and there is a meaning behind the object or symbol.

There are several examples of social semiotics contained in the film "Red Sparrow" by Francis Lawrence, which occurred at minute 01: 35 seconds where Nash received a telephone call containing codes about his mission's movements via radio channel. Then nate nash immediately took paper and pen to write the codes and knew the purpose of the code, namely a secret meeting with other spies.

b. Normative semiotics

Normative semiotics is semiotics related to social norms created by humans. For example, a red traffic sign indicates a stop.

There are seventeen examples of social semiotics contained in the film "Red Sparrow" by Francis Lawrence along with the explanations presented below,

- 1) Lighting lamp for subway
As explained above, normative semiotics is related to norms that occur at 02:50 seconds. So the picture above is an example of normative semiotics in which the lighting for subways is made as lighting in subway tunnels to prevent accidents and other things that are not desirable.
- 2) Traffic lighting for highways
In addition to the two examples described above, then the normative semiotics that occurs at minute 03:30 seconds in the form of a street lamp is used as lighting when it's dark or with the aim of lighting when there is heavy rain.
- 3) Oxygen hose for health purposes
The next example of normative semiotics is the use of oxygen tubes for patients with medical purposes which is played at 08:09 seconds where Dominika is lying on a hospital bed and looks still in shock because of the accident she experienced on stage.
- 4) Surgical tools for medical purposes
At minute 09:02 where dominika is shown fainting in the operating room with a doctor who is operating on dominika using surgical tools in the form of a drill and so on is another example of normative semiotics whose purpose is for medical health needs.
- 5) Dash footage of police patrol car
Shows other normative semiotics in the form of a recording from the dashboard of a police patrol car that occurred at minute 09:46 seconds where the results of the dashboard were then discussed by the Russian government named Korchoi who is the Russian ambassador. Then the recording is used as material for investigations to obtain information about Nate Nash, who is a member of the American CIA.
- 6) Iron pen for leg fractures
Next is an iron pen that is drilled into the Dominican leg bone with the aim of repairing the position of the broken leg bone or in other words for medical health purposes. The figure shows the occurrence of normative semiotics which occurred at 10:52 seconds.
- 7) Roadblock
Then it was shown where Dominica looked sad and depressed at 11:22 minutes and made a road divider that was visible on the side with the aim that people would not pass through it and an unwanted tragedy occurred.
- 8) Sticks to support postoperative therapy for leg fractures
The scene showing dominika using a cane at 11:52 seconds is another normative semiotic example where the cane is used as a postoperative therapy tool for leg fractures to repair the bone structure of the leg that was previously broken. This scene also shows Dominica being visited by her uncle Vanya Egorov in his apartment.
- 9) Hotel card to open hotel room
In this scene, at 21:16 seconds, Dominica uses a card to open the hotel door and is followed by Dimitri Ustinov and several of his bodyguards. The use of a card to open a hotel room is a way for the hotel to protect the privacy of the hotel room owner and provide security and comfort to the room owner to avoid crime.
- 10) CCTV monitors This scene shows Dominika who is in a room and looks shocked because she was involved in the murder of Dimitri Ustinov which is shown on a CCTV monitor in another room at 26:35 seconds. In this scene, CCTV monitors are used to assist in investigating guilty members and spies for the purpose of further investigation and for the smooth running of the mission.

c. Social semiotics

Social semiotics is semiotics that studies social life or private life. For example, raising your hand and then swinging your hand at passers-by indicates that you want to say hello and so on. There are several examples of social semiotics contained in the film "Red Sparrow" by Francis Lawrence including,

- 1) Dominika opens the curtain in her mother's room
At the beginning of this scene, Dominica enters her mother's room to open the curtains. The sun's light shone indicating that it was morning where Dominica wanted to greet her mother, shown at 01:46 seconds.
- 2) Dominika accompanies her mother for a health check-up
Furthermore, Dominika accompanies her mother to have her health checked by a doctor. Dominika watched carefully and with a face that looked tense indicating curiosity and worry. This scene occurs at minute 02:42 seconds.
- 3) Dominika watches who enters her apartment
At minute 03:10 it shows someone opening the door of Dominica's apartment to visit Dominica where Dominica immediately looked at the door to greet him immediately and handed over temporary responsibility to him to look after his mother while he was away.
- 4) Dominika bowed to greet Ustinov Dimitri
This scene tells of Dominika who bows to welcome and greet Dimitri Ustinov, who was introduced to her by her uncle. This scene is shown at 04:05 seconds. 5) Dominika kisses Konstantin, her ballet partner, before appearing on stage
This scene tells of Dominika who bows to welcome and greet Dimitri Ustinov, who was introduced to her by her uncle. This scene is shown at 04:05 seconds.
- 5) Dominika kisses Konstantin, her ballet partner, before appearing on stage
The scene where Dominika welcomes a kiss from Konstantin to get ready to appear on stage at 04:46 seconds. They kiss each other on the cheek to support each other.
- 6) Dominika glanced at Konstantin to quickly join him and entered the stage
The 06:15 minute where Dominika glanced towards the side of the stage where there was Konstantin who was waiting for Dominica to give a signal so that Konstantin would immediately join on stage to dance ballet with him. Dominica signaled Konstantin by glancing at Konstantin for a few moments.
- 7) Dominika fell on the stage and stared at her duet partner with a shocked face
Seconds where Konstantin deliberately stepped on Dominica's ankle which was shown at 07:58 seconds, causing Dominica to lose balance and fall. Dominika looks shocked while looking at Konstantin as if to indicate that her leg hurts and she looks worried. The picture above is a clip where Dominic is lying on the floor and looks in pain
- 8) Dominika hugs her mother who is lying in the bathroom
The picture above is a scene where Dominica tries to calm her mother who looks shocked and scared. Where Dominica just came home and found her mother lying and crying on the bathroom floor. This scene is shown at 16:45 seconds.
- 9) Dominika is standing in front of the building waiting for her uncle to come out of the building
The footage is shown at 17:09 seconds where Dominica comes to a building where her uncle works and waits for his uncle to come out of the building to talk about his uncle's offer to him. Where his uncle offers to guarantee Dominica's life both housing and daily living expenses on the condition that Dominica helps his uncle to approach Dimitri Ustinov and seduce him, get information from him and become a spy for his uncle and the Russian government.
- 10) Dominika looks up at Dimitri Ustinov in the bar. Then sit in front of the barista bar table to order wine

Dominika accepts her uncle's request to help her carry out her mission which is to get close to Dimitri Ustinov. Dominika was assigned to visit a hotel where Dimitri Ustinov often spent time, then caught his attention by wearing flashy clothes and makeup for Dimitri to see. Dominika arrived at a bar then looked up where Dimitri was talking to someone who was shown at 19:23 seconds. Then Dominika ordered wine while waiting for Dimitri Ustinov to approach her and then took her to the hotel room that her uncle had ordered.

- 11) Dominika entered the hotel room and looked around her

Dominika entered the room that her uncle had prepared with Dimitri Ustinov and his bodyguards at 21:25 seconds. Then Dominika was assigned to exchange Dimitri's cellphone with a fake cellphone that had been prepared by her uncle.

- 12) Dominika looked at Matorin who picked her up wearing all black clothes with a black helmet.

Here, Dominica can be seen at 25:07 minutes after carrying out her mission, still in shock and looking scared because she witnessed Dimitri being killed by Matorin. Here, Dominika is seen staring at the matorin with a feeling of fear because the matorin is wearing all black with a black helmet. Dominika seemed to be asking for help to save him and took him away from the hotel.

- 13) Dominika looked at the matron beside her

Here you can see where the matron is explaining the learning material for spies where those who are seen standing in front of the class are asked to practice an order. However, it was seen that Dominica was staring with sharp eyes at the matron as if indicating to the matron that she didn't want to do it. This was shown at 32:17 seconds.

- 14) Dominika raised her hand when the class decoded

At minute 33:59 the next second where Dominica is shown in the classroom with a board containing numbers or codes to open the padlock. In this scene, Dominika is seen raising her hand indicating that Dominika has successfully completed it and opened the lock where her friends around her are still busy trying to open the code.

- 15) Dominika stretched out her hand to take the document that Volontov was going to give her

In this scene, Dominika tries to stretch out her hand while waiting for Volontov to hand over the document in his hand which contains confidential information about his next mission. The picture above is a screenshot at 51:58 seconds when the social semiotics occurs.

- 16) Dominika got on the bus and watched Nate's movements

Dominica boarded a bus at 53:05 seconds. Dominika is seen looking at Nate who is sitting while watching his movements and looking for more detailed information about Nate's daily life. Then pretend to look the other way to distract Nate who looks around so that Nate doesn't get suspicious of him.

- 17) Dominika filled out the registration form as a new member for the swimming pool

Dominika visits a public swimming pool to get close to her target, Nate. But when entering the swimming pool he was asked to fill out a registration form. Dominika initially entered the name Katherina because Dominica came to the area disguised as Katherina. However, she changed her name using her real name, Dominika Egrova, to lure Nate because Dominika knew that Nate would do a background check with her so that her plan could go smoothly. This happened at 54:24 seconds.

- 18) Dominika immediately left Nate to hurry home so that Nate would become even more curious about her.

Dominika, who was done with her business in the swimming pool, immediately left after Nate came out first. Nate waits for Dominica outside the swimming pool building then greets Dominica. But dominika immediately ended the conversation as soon as the bus headed towards her. Dominika did this on purpose

because she knew that she had succeeded in getting close to Nate. Then the scene above is a snippet of the image which is shown at 56:03 seconds.

- 19) Dominika stared intently at Volontov and didn't blink and averted her eyes

Then the scene changes where Dominika is at the station where Volontov is. Volontov said a few words to Dominika but with a slightly condescending tone and sentence which caused Dominika to stare intently at him. You can clearly see the look of anger in his eyes at 59:17 seconds.

- 20) Dominika looked around her for someone

Where Dominika attends an event at a government building to find someone. He disguised himself as a translator working at the embassy under the name Katherina. It was shown that Dominika looked around at 59:45 seconds indicating that she was looking for someone

- 21) Dominika opened Martha's bedroom door using an iron plate.

Then the scene changes where Dominica returns home at 01 hours: 02 minutes: 30 seconds that she rented. Then forcefully opened the door to Martha's room with an iron plate. Then enter the room.

- 22) Dominika is looking for important documents containing confidential information for the benefit and continuity of her mission.

At 01 hours: 02 minutes: 42 seconds where Dominica was shown who was already in Martha's room then searched drawers, cupboards and even under her bed to find documents containing important information from Martha to use as a report.

- 23) Dominica comes out of her room which is across from Martha's room

In scene 01 hour: 04 minutes: 29 seconds it is shown that Dominika is already in his room which is across from Martha's room. Then Dominica opened her bedroom door and walked casually towards Martha with the aim of greeting her and acting as if she had never forced her way into Martha's room before.

- 24) Dominika follows Volontov silently from behind

It shows at 01 hours : 05 minutes : 06 seconds that Dominika immediately followed Volontov as soon as he saw her coming out of his office. He even followed her into a bar.

- 25) Dominika heads towards Volontov who is sitting in front of the bar counter

Dominika came over to Volontov to his seat and then teased him with the technique he was taught at Sparrow School. Dominika does this to trick him into getting Volontov to write a report on the success of his mission on Nate and send it directly to the Russian government. This is indicated at 01 hours : 05 minutes : 34 seconds.

3. Ecranization

a. Reduction

Based on eneste (1990: 61) the reduction or omission of some parts of the story in the novel is not important to display and the length of time that results in some parts of the novel not being shown.

In the first part of the first 59 seconds where dominica is shown sitting on his bed while listening to music through his earphones by closing his eyes. Then he awoke moments later and walked into his mother's room to open the window curtains and hug her and greet her. Meanwhile, the novel in chapter 1 begins with different story like in the first paragraph tells about "Twelve hours into his SDR Nathaniel Nash was numb from the waist down. His feet and legs were wooden on the cobblestones of the Moscow side street. It had long since gotten dark as Nate ran the surveillance detection route designed to tickle the belly hairs of surveillance, to stretch them, to get them excited enough to show themselves. There was nothing, not a hint of units swirling, leapfrogging, banging around corners on the streets behind him, no reaction to his moves. Was he black? Or was he being had by a massive team? In the nature of The Game, not seeing coverage felt worse than

confirming you were covered in ticks.

Early September, but it had snowed between the first and third hours of his SDR, which had helped cover his car escape. Late that morning, Nate bailed out of a moving Lada Combi driven by Leavitt from the Station, who, as he calculated the gap, wordlessly held up three fingers as they turned a corner onto an industrial side street, then tapped Nate's arm. FSB trailing surveillance, the Federal Security Service, didn't catch the escape in the three-second interval and blew past Nate hiding behind a snowbank, Leavitt leading them away. Nate left his active cover cell phone from the Embassy economic section with Leavitt in the car—the FSB were welcome to track the phone between Moscow's cell towers for the next three hours. Nate had banged his knee on the pavement when he rolled, and it had stiffened up in the first hours, but now it was as numb as the rest of him. As night fell, he had walked, slid, climbed, and scrambled over half of Moscow without detecting surveillance. It felt like he was in the clear".

b. Additions

Additions can be in the form of adding characters, plots or storylines during the process of explaining from the novel into the form of a film. An example of an addition in the film in the first minute where it is told that Dominica is sitting on his bed while listening to music through his earphones by closing his eyes. Then he awoke a few moments later and walked into his mother's room to open the window curtains and hug her and greet her while in the novel there are no additions because the novel has a more detailed story.

c. Changes varies

Varied changes often occur as the explanatory process progresses. These varied changes can increase the audience's interest and interest in the film both with the addition of the plot and so on. An example of a varied change is seen in the first minute of the film where the opening story is added as described above.

5. CONCLUSION

After the researcher conducted the research, the conclusions obtained were in the form of semiotics and forms of ecranization that were clearly visible in stories from novels to the film *Red Sparrow* and it was clear that there were additions, contractions or variations of stories in film form. With the form of semiotic studies and ecranization will have a different explanation. In the *Red Sparrow* film there are three semiotics that are used including analytic semiotics, normative semiotics and social semiotics. From the novel to the *Red Sparrow* film, there are subtractions, additions, and variations.

However, readers of the *Red Sparrow* novel when watching the *Red Sparrow* film will judge that the novel or film is not good. This is based on the concept that between the novel and the film are two different things, so that the assessment of whether it is good or not is not based on the degree of similarity between the novel and the film. In fact, the *Red Sparrow* film was considered good because it was able to cover up the shortcomings in the novel. The public or audience must be familiar with semiotics and ecranization so that they are not assumptive, subjective and a priori in judging works of art (novels and films).

6. SUGGESTION

After analyzing and providing conclusions from the film "*Red Sparrow*" by Francis Lawrence and the novel "*Red Sparrow*" by Jason Matthews. Researchers have suggestions for teachers as well as students and subsequent researchers.

The results of this study are expected to help English teachers and students to investigate and analyze literary works by applying semiotics and ecranization to find out the hidden meaning of film and novel literary works.

1. For teachers, the results of this research are expected to help in the teaching and learning process to understand the meaning of semiotics and ecranization in literary works in the form of films and novels.
2. For students, the results of this research are expected to provide students with an understanding of semiotics and extranization used in novel and film literary works.
3. For next researchers, this research is expected to be a reference to help explore and innovate in analyzing novel and film literary works.

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