

# **HIPPIES CHARACTERISTICS IN *PEACE, LOVE & MISUNDERSTANDING* MOVIE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Budaya tandingan hippie telah hidup dan berkembang di Amerika lebih dari satu abad. Hippie, sebuah kelompok yang menentang kebudayaan mainstream atau utama, memiliki karakteristik-karakteristik unik untuk membedakan kelompoknya dengan kelompok mainstream. Ada beberapa karakteristik hippie yaitu, memiliki rambut panjang, mengenakan pakaian berwarna mencolok, hidup secara komunal, melakukan seks bebas, kecanduan obat-obatan terlarang, menganut paham anti materialisme dan anti komersialisme, serta meragukan kebudayaan dan institusi politik Amerika. Untuk membuktikan bahwa karakteristik-karakteristik tersebut benar dianut oleh pengikut hippies atau tidak, penulis menggunakan film *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* yang diproduksi oleh Bruce Beresford sebagai objek penelitian. Film ini menceritakan tentang perbedaan pandangan kelompok hippies dan non-hippies di Woodstock. Hasil dari skripsi ini adalah bahwa semua karakteristik hippies benar-benar dianut oleh pengikut-pengikut hippies di Woodstock.

Kata kunci: hippie, budaya tandingan, mencolok, materialisme, komersialisme

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Hippies is a social movement that initially emerged in California in the mid-1960s. The appearance was aimed to reject and change inappropriate cultural principles from the mainstream culture that supported war, racial segregation, and materialism. To achieve the aims, American youths created hippies as a counterculture. Counterculture can be described as a culture which is contrary to the mainstream culture. This is in line with the notion conveyed by Thorbjörg Daphne Hall in ‘Countercultural Space Does Not Persist: Christania and the Role of Music’ in *Countercultures and Popular Music* book “...the term ‘counterculture’ is used to describe the values and norms of behaviour of a social group that functions in opposition to the social mainstream of the day” (2014: 205). Through counterculture, the followers make a certain deal in various kinds of rules, norms, and ways of life based on their belief .

Hippies makes significant changes to the description of the 1960s youths. It is highly visible from the lifestyle and ways of life. It is pointed out by Rodney P. Carlisle, J and Geoffrey Golson in *Turning Points - Actual and Alternate Histories: America in Revolt during the 1960s and 1970s*,

It was a phenomenon that challenged the national imagination: the transformation of the promising middleclass youth with many material advantages into what was popularly known as “the hippie.” The movement members were typically characterized by long hair, brightly colored clothes, communal living, promiscuous sex, and heavy drug use. Members of the movement questioned America’s materialism and commercialism, as well as its cultural and political institutions (2007: 173)

The emergence of hippies as a counterculture was caused by the disappointment of American society on the country issues related to civil rights, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the nuclear disarmament movement. The issues proved that the commitment on peace, equality, and freedom as it was written on Bill of Rights was far from the reality. Hippies believed that their counterculture could resolve some issues related to peace, equality, and freedom through its norms, values and ways of life.

The development of hippies followers in the 1960s was quite significant. Gerhard Falk in his book *Youth Culture and Generation Gap* points out that between 1965 and 1967, the number of hippies followers in the Haight-Ashbury district which bordered the Golden Gate Park in the east increased from 15,000 to 100,000 (2005: 186). However, in the early of 1970s, the number of hippies followers began to decrease. Micah L. Issit in *Hippies: A Guide to an American Subculture* states that it was due to another interest of the followers like taking a job, completing their studies, and taking care of their children (2009: 62).

However, the rest still exists until today. This fact makes the writer curious on the characteristics that are visible on hippies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To answer the question, the writer analyzes *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* movie directed by Bruce Beresford on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 which captures the hippies phenomenon in the United States in 21<sup>st</sup> century. Hence, the writer decides to give the title of this thesis “Hippies Characteristics in *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* Movie”.

## **1.2 AIMS OF THE STUDY**

The writer could determine the purposes of the study. There are two purposes of the study. The purposes of the study are to describe the intrinsic aspects and to depict hippies characteristics in *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* movie.

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## **2. METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 METHOD OF THE STUDY**

Nyoman Kutha Ratna states that method is the standard stage in gathering some information and in studying the particular object (2004: 34). The existence of method in thesis writing process is really helpful. To get clear explanations on the topic, the writer uses two methods in collecting data, namely, method of research and approach.

#### **2.1.1 METHOD OF RESEARCH**

To look for some information related to the topic, the writer uses library research. Based on Semi, library research is the method of research focusing on the library as the place filled with the information and data related to the paper (1993: 17). It is often used for those who choose not to get the direct information through survey and interview. The information on library research can be found on the books, articles, and journals.

### **2.1.2 METHOD OF APPROACH**

Method of approach refers to the method in analyzing the object. To analyze the topic, the writer uses the objective and sociological approaches. The objective approach is reflected through close reading method which restricts the researcher to analyze only on the literary work. Thus, the writer does not need to look for any external influences in the process of creating the literary works. Abrams in his book *The Mirror and the Lamp* states that

There is also fourth procedure, the objective orientation, which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyze it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its part in their internal relations and sets out to judge it by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being (1971: 26).

Since the research object is a movie, the writer also uses cinematography elements in supporting the objective and sociological parts. David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson in their book *Film Art* states that “cinematography is a general term for all the manipulations of the filmstrip by the camera in the shooting phase and by the laboratory in the developing phase” (1986:384). The attractiveness of the movie also relies on cinematography elements. It includes the location of the camera (angle), camera distance, and camera position.

Furthermore, sociology of literature approach is used to analyze the extrinsic aspect in movie. This approach defines the relationship between literature and society. Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* state that,

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature “represents” “life”; and “life” is, in large measure, a

social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary “imitation” (1956: 94)

In this paper, the writer discusses about hippies phenomenon in the United States.

Hippies is a thriving counterculture which rooted from dissatisfaction and frustration felt by some people to the United States’ government.

## **2.2 DISCUSSION**

### **2.2.1 ANALYSIS OF INTRINSIC ASPECT**

This part provides the analysis of narrative elements from *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* movie. The function of narrative elements is to support the internal situation from the movie.

#### **2.2.1.1 Analysis of Major Characters**

##### **2.2.1.1.1 Diane**

Diane is the daughter of Grace, a hippies leader in Woodstock. She was born and raised in hippies neighborhood. However, during her adolescence, she decided to leave Woodstock and moved to New York. It is due to her rejection toward hippies custom conducted by Grace. As American modern people and also a lawyer who lives in New York City, Diane’s rejection toward hippies’s views and characteristics is getting worse. Hence, in this movie, she becomes a non-hippies character. As a non-hippies character, she fights against hippies activities in Woodstock, such as, doing demonstration and consuming marijuana.

##### **2.2.1.1.2 Grace**

Grace is an influential member of hippies in Woodstock. It is due to the mandate given by Bob Dylan, a hippies icon, for her. She actively involves in various hippies events, although she has entered old age. Although she is a hippies, she is a patient woman. Her patience is proven when she can accept the presence of Diane and her grandchildren in her house, although Diane had never visited her for twenty years.

### **2.2.1.1.3 Zoe**

Zoe is the first child of Diane and Mark. She is a smart and beautiful girl. She is very concerned with various matters relating to the preservation of the living things. It is shown by the rejection toward Cole's profession as a butcher and his smoking habit. She considers that a butcher kills animals for the sake of money.

### **2.2.1.1.4 Jake Hudson**

Jake is the second child of Diane and Mark. He is a shy and innocent boy. As time goes by, his shyness transforms into braveness. It is proven when he dares to utter taboos words and kiss Tara, a Woodstock's girl. He has a great interest in making a movie. During his holiday in Woodstock, he makes a documentary movie about what he has experienced. Then, he decides to take part in the documentary movie competition. Surprisingly, his documentary movie conducts him to be a winner in the competition.

## **2.2.1.2 Analysis of Minor Characters**

### **2.2.1.2.1 Jude Fisher**

Jude is one of hippies members in Woodstock who actively participates in various hippies events, both protest and music performances. Although Jude is highly vigorous on hippies demonstration, his real job is a carpenter. From the beginning of the movie, he falls in love with Diane. The sign that he falls in love with her is shown when he calls Diane as his special woman and invites her to sing together in the stage.

### **2.2.1.2.2 Cole**

Cole is also a hippies follower. He is a loyal, kind, and community minded man. He works as a butcher. His history in being a butcher is pathetic. It happens when the GMOs seeds from the next farm blew over in his father's farm. People who plant GMOs seeds next to his father farm believed that they also have the right over the farm of Cole's

father. The case was taken to court and it cost a lot of money. Finally, he decides to work as a butcher to fulfill his family needs.

#### **2.2.1.2.3 Mark**

Mark is Diane's husband. He is a busy businessman. However, he always has time for Zoe and Jake. It can be seen from his attendance in the announcement of the documentary movie winners joined by Jake.

#### **2.2.1.2.4 Tara**

Tara is an innocent hippies girl in Woodstock. Although she works as a waitress, she still actively involves in hippies events. When she knows that Jake is making a documentary movie, she is very happy to participate in. She prepares everything so that she can be interviewed by Jake.

#### **2.2.1.3 Analysis of Setting**

Mostly, the setting of place seen in *Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* movie is taken in Woodstock, an iconic place of hippies. This place is far from high buildings and sparkling city lights at night typical of modern city. However, in the beginning of the movie, New York City also becomes the setting of place. It symbolize the modern and sparkling city. It is a dream city for all migrant. However, their socialization is limited only to the co-workers.

The setting of time in this movie is in daylight. The social environment setting of this movie describes hippies group in Woodstock.

#### **2.2.1.4 Analysis of Conflict**

In this movie, the internal conflicts happen when Diane is confused with her plan to visit Woodstock. On the one hand, she wants to calm herself down in her childhood place after the divorce decision is made. However, her arrival in Woodstock will also take her to meet her mother that she hates. The external conflict of this movie happens between Diane and Mark, Diane and Grace, Diane and Jude, and Zoe and Cole.

## **2.2.2 ANALYSIS OF EXTRINSIC ASPECT**

### **2.2.2.1 Characteristics of Hippies**

#### **2.2.2.1.1 Physical Characteristics**

##### **2.2.2.1.1.1 Having Long Hair**

Hippies members prefer to lengthen their hair, both head hair and facial hair. Addingly, they are also free to choose whether their hair will be tied or flowed. They have fundamental rights to decide whether their hair is tied or not. It represents freedom possessed by every individual.

##### **2.2.2.1.1.2 Wearing Conspicuous Colored Clothes**

Hippies certainly has a wide variety of clothes. However, conspicuous colored clothes are more frequently worn. It can be divided into two types, that are, tie-dye shirts and ethnic motifs. The time when the story happens affects what the casts wore. In this movie, most of the clothes which are worn by Woodstock residents are also mixed by the current style. However, some people still use the tie-dye and ethnic motifs shirt.

#### **2.2.2.1.2 Sociological Characteristics of Hippies**

##### **2.2.2.1.2.1 Adhering Communal Living**

Communalism is a way of life carried out by a group that has the same ideology and philosophy of life. The members of the group live and share the happiness and sadness together. In this movie, hippies members live in Woodstock. They share fun through several events held there, such as, music concerts, hippies party, and peace demonstration.

##### **2.2.2.1.2.2 Having Free Sex**

Free sex is closeley related to freedom. Hence, hippies who are obsessed with freedom choose to do free sex as one of their characteristics. Addingly, they assume that free sex is the expression of love to others. Hence, they recommend to do free sex than war.

##### **2.2.2.1.2.3 Being Addicted to Drugs**



The use of hallucinogenic drugs by hippies has known widely. Hallucinogenic drugs are used by hippies members to give courage, to increase creativity, and to give euphoria effect. In this movie, there are many scenes showing marijuana consumption on hippies members.

#### **2.2.2.1.2.4 Being in Doubt with American Materialism and Commercialism**

Hippies is well-known as the agent of anti-materialism and anti-commercialism. The followers think that materialism and commercialism are included to the mainstream culture. As the initiator of anti mainstream culture, they fight both ideas. Hippies members do not like anything related to the possession. Moreover, they use barter to exchange their needs. Barter can be a tool indicating anti-consumerism. It is because people try to reduce their urge to buy something beyond their needs.

#### **2.2.2.1.2.5 Being in Doubt with American Cultural and Political Institution**

Hippies has different views on American cultural and political institution. They think that the mainstream culture and previous institutions cause many problems in America. They think that American people are far from freedom and their rights because of many incidents, such as, war and segregation that still exist

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### **3 CONCLUSION**

*Peace, Love & Misunderstanding* which tells about hippies in Woodstock in 21<sup>st</sup> century shows that all hippies's characteristics, having long hair, wearing conspicuous colored clothes, adhering communal living, having free sex, being addicted to drugs, being in doubt about American materialism, commercialism, cultural and political institutions. are still fully practiced, although some American people cannot truly accept their views in this modern era.

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