

## HISTORIOPHOTY IN *THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE*

Vincent Woolyanto, Singgih Daru Kuncara, Chris Asanti

English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences  
Mulawarman University  
Pos-el: [azukakun@gmail.com](mailto:azukakun@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

The object of this research was to find the historiophoty in *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and the purpose of this research was to find how historiophoty interpreted in the historical events of *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This research used qualitative method as research design and library research as the method of data collection. This research showed that historiophoty could be used to interpret World War II as a setting and Christianity concept related to the author personal experienced. The researcher showed that there were ten historical events on *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

**Keywords:** historiophoty, World War II, Christianity, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film

### ABSTRAK

Objek dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan historiophoty di *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* dan tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan bagaimana historiophoty diinterpretasikan didalam sejarah *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan penelitian perpustakaan sebagai metode pengumpulan data. Penelitian ini menunjukkan kalau historiophoty dapat digunakan untuk menginterpretasikan Perang Dunia kedua sebagai latar dan konsep Kristiani terkait dengan kehidupan pribadi sang penulis. Peneliti menunjukkan bahwa ada sepuluh kejadian sejarah di *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

**Kata kunci:** historiophoty, Perang Dunia II, Kristiani, film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Literature is a form of human expression which has many structures like novels, poetry, cartoon, music, fable, myth and film. Literature means not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed and what is invented, in whatever form (Krystal, "Harper's Magazine"). Film is an audiovisual repository which can be sensed with our feelings, seen with our sight, heard with our ears, and thought with our brain. *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is one of the classic works, but since it was adapted into films, people are more interested to enjoy the story through moving image.

This research used the second work of C. S. Lewis which was adapted into a film and will be analyzed by using Hayden White's historiography. The story focused on the siblings who have to separate from their parents during wartime, walk through an armoire to enter the magical world of Narnia, a land resplendent with mythical creatures and talking animals. Different parts of the series represented a variety of Biblical themes; one prominent character is Aslan, a lion and the ruler of Narnia, who has also been interpreted as a Jesus Christ figure ("C.S. Lewis Biography" (1).

The researcher felt interested to choose *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* because this story has three unique characteristics. Firstly, there was an animal who represent as Jesus Christ, it is Aslan the lion as he sacrifices himself to protect Edmund Pevensie. The second unique characteristic was the existence of several Greek Mythology creatures inside the story such as faun, centaur and minotaur. The third is based from C.S. Lewis background as a second Lieutenant on World War I and Christian apologist, considering his background there might be some Christianity element and some history during World War I and II in his works. Therefore, the purpose of this research were to show the historiophoty on *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and to find out the historical events on *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

## **B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **1. Christianity Concept**

Christianity "focuses" on Jesus Christ is to say that somehow it brings together its beliefs and practices and other traditions in reference to a historic figure (Stefon 1). They divided into three groups: Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Orthodox. Most Christians believe that Jesus Christ, the Son, was a human manifestation of God who came to earth (Grolier 287). Jesus Christ began to teach in Galilee and choose twelve disciples to help in his work, they are Peter, Andrew, James the Elder, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Thadeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot.

#### **a. History of Bible**

The Bible takes its name from the Latin *Biblia* (book or books) which comes from the Greek *Ta Biblia* (the books) traced to the Phoenician port city of Gebal, known as Byblos to the Greeks (Mark 1). It was divided into Old Testament and New Testament. The first book of the Old Testament, tells the story of the creation of the universe, the world, and humanity, the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, and the great flood which God sent on the world because of the evil of mankind. New Testament is a books which made up by dealing with the early 11 history of Christianity. It is also known as Gospels which means good news. It consists four books which Matthew, Luke, Mark, these known as Synoptic Gospels. The last is John's Gospel, it is quite different from the others, and the author may not have known the other three text (Grolier 214).

#### **b. Film as Literary Work**

Adaptation is the translation of a novel so that it fits a new destination, a new target or a new audience (Alqadi 1). Literature has become the scope for film, because it is already a lot to teach things either good or bad. According to Marciniak, film could be said as a literary works depends on how the producer made the emotion which can be said natural, whether it is a film adaptation from a novel or purely artificial work of the producer itself.

### c. Visual Methodology

Literature from various visual representations and there is not just one or two ways to know literature from visual, but multiple ways. Visual methodology is the one of methods that people used to interpret their visual imagery (Rose 87). There were two experts that the researcher chose for this research, they were Dr. Gillian Rose and Dr. Richie Nimmo.

Rose claimed that visual images have been the object of the research for a variety of disciplines for as long as those disciplines have existed. They included art history in the humanities, social sciences, the sub-disciplines of visual anthropology and visual sociology. Geography has long understood maps and photographs as central to his project (Harley 1992; Cosgrove 1998; Matless 1996), and clearly many natural science use images as evidence for their claims. Anthropological approaches to documentary photography are deployed by those on the border between science and science studies (Latour 1999), while some art historians are studying scientific illustrations (Stafford 1984). This cross-border traffic in images and analytics is beginning to congeal into a new field of study called visual culture (Rose 67).

Nimmo stated that visual data essentially meant photographs, and visual methods meant the use of photographs in social research. Visual data could include photos, maps, signs, bodies, clothing, cartoons, newspapers, etc (19). There are four types of visual data: (1) 2-dimensional visual data; (2) 3-dimensional visual data; (3) lived visual data; and (4) living visual data.

### d. Historiography

Historiography is the representation of history in verbal images and written discourse. Therefore, it meant we could see the history representation with spoken and written. We could see the picture of some history and we interpret it with our perspective because of that verbal images. Written discourse made us see the history from the text, so we need more explanation from that text itself and every body actually has their own perspective to see and listen about that history itself. Based on *New World Encyclopedia* website, historiography divided into some various styles.

### e. Historiophoty

The researcher focused on using historiophoty style for the research. Historiophoty was the representation of history and our thought about it in visual images and filmic discourse. Warrington in her book, *History Goes to Movie*, said "In a 1988 paper for *The American Historical Review*, Hayden White coined the term 'historiophoty'. He did so in the first instance to recognize that the evidence historians work with now is as much visual as written or oral. But he also did so to support his claim that visual evidence needs to be read with 'a lexicon, grammar, and syntax' that is 'quite different' from that used for written evidence" (Warrington 187). It meant we could not just see the history from written or oral. Historiophoty made it different with a film. Rosenstone also emphasized it in *Vision of the Past*, "Film is out of the control of historians. Film created a historical world with which books could not compete, at least for popularity. Film was a disturbing symbol of an increasingly post literate world" (17).

Moreover, Rosenstone stated that film could open our mind about history. It made history more interesting rather than we read it in their books or heard of it from our grandmother, grandfather, mother, or the other people. For example Pearl Harbor film, when Jerry Bruckheimer adapted that story on 2001, that film was more interesting rather than we just read the story or heard about that history. It also happened in *The Chronicles of*

*Narnia, with The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, when Walt Disney adapted that book in 1950 into a film in 2005, it is more interesting and Andrew Adamson mixed that fantasy film with the history because not all the people like pure fiction, they also like the real happened and Sayles also explain "...producers make historical films, rather than limiting themselves to pure fiction, because " the audience appreciates that something really happened."

## C. RESEARCH METHOD

### 1. Research Design

According to Mack et al. (2005) qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations. The main subject of this research was from film and script. In this research, the researcher found the historiography from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film by C.S. Lewis and how it interpreted in that film. Likewise, historiophoty analyzed by understanding the text from the script and the illustration from that film. To support this discussion, the researcher also included the theory from Rosenstone about visual aspects.

### 2. Data Source

The data source of this research was from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film. This research used film to be analyzed the historiography. The data source took from books and journals related to discussion historiography, historiophoty, and *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* film. *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* book first published in 1950 and adapted by Walt Disney into film in 2005. The researcher used some previous research studies in chapter two and they are related with this research. Those studies have similar theory such as historiography, historiophoty, visual, and descriptive method, thus, the researcher got vivid and imense description of the supporting theories in conducting the research.

### 3. Research Instrument

According to Hoepfl (1997), the instrument for data collection and analysis were the researcher. Because, the researcher does all of the observation, collection and analysis. The researcher did the analysis the historiography to find history in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

### 4. Data Collection

Data collection was the important part in a research, because if it was inaccurate it affected the research. Bogdan and Biklen stated, the term data refers to the rough materials that researchers collect from the world they are studying; they are the particulars that form the basis analysis. Data also included what others have created and the researcher found, such as diaries, photographs, official documents, and newspaper articles. Data were both evidence and the clues. Data involve the particulars researcher that need to think soundly and deeply about the aspects of life that the researcher explored (106). In this research, the researcher collected the data in some steps. The first step was watch *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film. The second step was separated the picture and the dialogues. The third step collected history in the film using Hayden White's historiography and historiophoty. There were two histories that analyzed, they were world war II and

Christianity concept in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film.

## 5. Data Analysis

Data analysis can be defined as three concurrent flows of action: data reduction, data display, and conclusions and verification. The data reduction did not necessarily, it referred to quantifying nominal data. Data display was intended to convey the idea that data were presented as an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion to be analytically drawn. Conclusions and Verification, after the data has been collected, reduced, and displayed, analytic conclusions may begin to emerge and define themselves more clearly and definitively (Huberman and Miles 1994).

From explanation above, the first step to analyze the data was quantified the data pictures and dialogues which used in the research and removed the unnecessary data. The second step was gave explanation on each data pictures and dialogues. The third step, after gave explanation on the data, the researcher gave clearly explanation and conclude about the data explanation.

## D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Historiophoty Interpret World War II as a Setting

The researcher explained about World War II which was taken as the setting of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and saw the history from the film itself. The setting took in World War II.



Figure 1. Pevensie sibling were being evacuated because of the war

Generation X stated that “when war with Germany became imminent, Great Britain began a huge effort to evacuate its children to rural areas of the country. Some were sent to the United States, Australia and Canada, etc. The goal was to move them away from potential bombing targets such as London. Although these evacuations were not mandatory, many parents put their children on trains to save them from the ravages of war. In doing so, they

saved their lives. Sadly, many of the parents perished in the German bomb attacks and many British children were orphaned” (Chronicles, “The Evacuated Generation of World War II”). This situation is the same on Narnia, can be seen on Fig 4. 3, Pevensie’s mother evacuated her children to professor Kirke’s home while she stayed at home in order to wait her husband came home safely. Her children were evacuating because World War II still was going on and their father was still fighting on the war.

## 2. Historical Event on *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

After found about World War II as a setting on the film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* for the first research question, the researcher discussed the second answer for the research questions, which was the Christianity concepts. Aslan sacrificed himself as an exchange for Edmund’s life. Because Jadis admit that Edmund is the traitor, and according to the Deep Magic in Narnia that every traitor belongs to the Queen. This could be seen on the bible:

“16) Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. 17) So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic called Golgotha). 18) Here they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, and Jesus in the middle” (John 19: 16-18).

When Aslan saved Edmund and sacrificed himself had the same situation when Jesus crucified. Jesus did it to save the human from their sins. And when Jadis killed Aslan on Stone Table, this place seems like place of a skull, Hebrew Golgotha. In this scene, Aslan did not fight back when Jadis asked everyone in there shaved Aslan’s hair. He really sacrificed himself for Edmund.

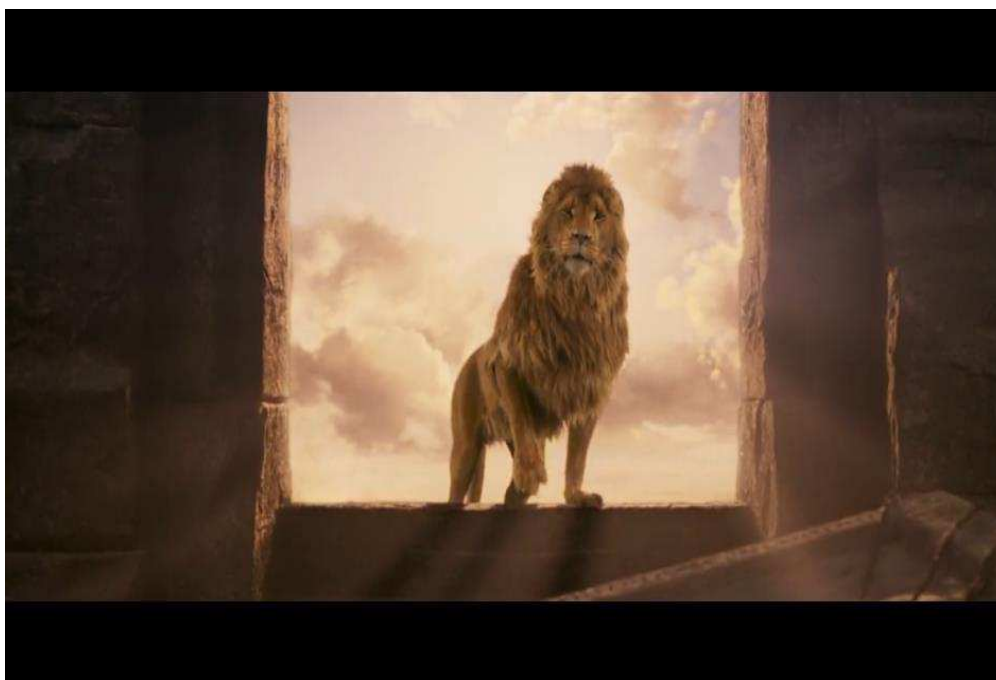


Figure 2. Aslan came back from the death

The day after Aslan died, Susan and Lucy surprised because they saw his resurrection from the death. This can be seen on the bible, John 20: 8-10: “8) Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. 9) (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10) Then the disciples went back to their homes.”

Susan and Lucy portrayed as Jesus disciples who saw Jesus crucified and resurrected. They could not believe that Aslan came back from the death, it was because they saw Jadis killed Aslan with the knife at Table Stone. It could be seen in the dialogue above.

Susan and Lucy : Aslan!  
Susan : But we saw the knife. The Witch.  
Aslan : If the Witch knew the true meaning of **sacrifice**, she might have interpreted the Deep Magic differently. That when a willing victim who has committed no treachery is killed in a traitor's stead, the Stone Table will crack and **even death itself will turn backwards**. (01:54:06 - 01:54:38)

In that scene, Aslan came back from the death. He told Lucy and Susan which did not believe that he had resurrected from the death. It was because he is the victim who has committed no treachery is killed in a traitor's stead. After that, the Stone Table will crack and even death itself will turn backwards. These situations same with Jesus when rose from the death and witnessed by his disciples.

## E. CONCLUSION

The researcher discussed about historiophoty in Narnia. After analyzed *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film, the researcher found that historiophoty theory could be used to interpret Narnia story, because it focuses on how interpreted the visual images and the researcher can found that World War II as a setting and Christianity concept inside of *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film. The researcher discussed about the historical events in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* film.

After using visual methodologies and combine with historiophoty, the researcher found ten historical events. The ten historical events are: German Air force dropping bomb, Pevensie's mother hide her children in the basement, 42 children were evacuated on World War II, Lion appeared from the fire as represent Aslan to make Mr. Tumnus realized his fault by kidnaping Lucy, Queen Jadis asked Edmund to trade his siblings with Turkish Delight, Aslan sacrifice himself to death in order to save Edmund's life and he resurrected from his death as represent Jesus Christ rose from the death after the crucification, Aslan recover his army which turned into stone in the Queen's castle, The white witch came to Aslan camp and acted like she was powerful than Aslan, the last event is Peter Pevensie got Aslan trust as represent Saint Peter on the bible who known as one from twelve Jesus disciples.

## WORK CITED

- Beau, Bryan F. Le. *Historiography Meets Historiophoty : The Perils and Promise of Rendering the Past on Film*.n. p. n.d. Pdf.
- Bisson, Vincent J. *Historical Film Reception: An Ethnographic Focus Beyond Entertainment*.n. p. n.d. Pdf.
- Bogdan, R. C., and Biklen, S. K. *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods (Second Edition)*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1982. Print.
- "C.S. Lewis." *Bio*. A&E Television Networks, 2015. Web. 09 Aug. 2015.
- Crabtree, Vexen. *Religion in the United Kingdom Diversity, Trends and Decline*. 2012. Web. 12 June 2017.
- Dawson, Michael R. W. *A Case Study in Gantt Charts as Historiophoty: A Century of Psychology at the University of Alberta*.History of Psychology.American Psychological Association, 2013. Pdf.
- Deem, Rich. "What is Christianity?"Evidence For God. Evidence For God, 10 Aug. 2011. Web. 16 Dec. 2014.
- Griffin, Gabriele. *Research Methods for English Studies*.Edinsburgh: University Press, n. d. Print.
- Grolier. *The Book Knowledge*.Scholastic Library Publishing Inc. 2006.
- "Historiography". n.d. Pdf.
- "Historiography." *New World Encyclopedia*, 25 Feb. 2014. Web. 1 Jan. 2015.
- Hoepfl, Marie C. "Choosing Qualitative Research: A Primer for Technology Education Researchers". *scholar.lib.vt.edu*. Journal of Technology EducationVers. 9, 1997. Web. 29 Dec. 2014.
- Huard, Paul. "War Made C.S.Lewis." warisboring.com. 10 Oct. 2014. Web. 1 Feb. 2017
- Krystal, Arthur. "What is Literature?." *Harper's Magazine*. *Harper's Magazine Online*. Mar. 2014. Web. 20 Dec. 2014.
- Lanzendorfer, Joy. "16 Facts About *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*". Mentalfloss.com. Web. 10 June 2017.
- Mack, et al. *Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide*. United States: U. S. Agency for International Development, 2005. Pdf.
- Magnusson, Sigurdur Gylfi. "What is Microhistory?" historynewsnetwork.org. 5 July 2006. Web. 15 August. 2015 .
- Mark, Joshua J. "Bible" ancient.eu. 2 September 2009. Web. 15 July 2017
- McKeown, Luke Daniel. *(Re)presenting the Past: Historiographical and Theoretical Implications of the Historical Docudrama*.University of Waikato, 2008. Pdf.
- Moyer, Judith. "Step-by-Step Guide to Oral History." Dohistory.com. 1999. Web. 15 Aug. 2015.
- Rose, Gillian. "*Staff Profile*." Open University. 26 Nov. 2013. Web. 10 May 2015.
- Rosenstone, Robert A. *Historiography and Historiophoty*.n. p. n.d. Pdf.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Historical Film as Real History*.n. p. n. d. Pdf.



- Salmi, Hannu. *Film as Historical Narrative*. n. p. n. d. Pdf.
- Stefon, et al. "Christianity" Britannica.com. 14 July 2017. Web. 15 July 2017.
- "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" *imdb.com*. IMDb 2005. Web. 20 Dec. 2014.
- The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Dir. Andrew Adamson. Walt Disney. 2005. Dvd
- The Holy Bible*, New International Version. 1984. Pdf.
- Tillotson, Dianne. "What is Paleography?" *medievalwriting.50megs.com*. 12 Feb 2011. Web. 15 Aug. 2015.
- Underwood, Robert Milton. *Defining History*. n. p. 2008. Pdf.
- Voas, David. *Hard Evidence: is Christianity dying in Britain?*. 27 Nov. 2013. Web. 11 June 2017
- Warrington, Marnie Hughes. *History Goes to the Movies*. Studying history on film, 2007. Pdf.
- "World War II". *Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc. 2015. Web. 11 Jul. 2015.

