



THE HYPERMASCULINITY AS SEEN IN THE MAIN CHARACTER IN RAMBO: LAST BLOOD MOVIE

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Abstract

This paper revealed the practice of hypermasculinity through the main character which is Rambo. Therefore, the aims of the writer is to make the reader can see and know the part of themselves in a good way, be a useful person for others, and respects the live of others. In conducting this research, the writer uses a qualitative method since the writer wanted to have an in-depth analysis of the data and Rambo: Last Blood Movie as the source of the data to do the analysis. This research was library research in which the writer acquire the informations by finding relevant journals, books, and visiting reliable websites. The writer uses the theory by Ankita Siddhanta about hypermasculinity in analyzing the data. The finding of this current study shows that there are some characteristics and actions which can be categorized as the practice of hypermasculinity based on the dialogues, scenes, actions of Rambo's character in the movie.

Keywords: Hypermasculinity, *rambo*, *rambo: Last Blood Movie*, the writer.

INTRODUCTION

Hypermasculinity is a psychological term for exaggerating stereotypes of male behavior such as physical strength, aggression and sexuality, demonstrating resilience through emotional self-control, and showing that they can be calm and patient in dealing with problems and severe stress (Ankita Siddhanta and Singh SK, 2015). Basically, men's behavior can be shaped according to what value they receive from their environment. When a man lives in an area that threatens himself and his family, his enthusiasm will burn to train his physical strength to look strong and tough. Looking calm and patient does not mean he is okay, but they try to look tough with his attitude. Problems always come without stopping, but men have a thousand ways to solve these problems. We can see many people who think that men are strong, brave, and protective, but not all men are like that. Men have been indoctrinated as the most powerful creatures than women (Aryangga & Nurmaily, 2017), but when they are born into the world, all these doctrines will not necessarily survive and in the end men's behavior will be formed according to the culture and environment in which they live (Diane M. Turner Bowker, 2004). The theory of hypermasculinity is highly relevant in contemporary times with the redefinition of sexuality and gender, spearheaded by LGBT and feminist movements, constantly questioning and critiquing certain hypermasculine traits that were championed in the whitemale dominated media and society.

The hypermasculinity can be seen when someone has the attitude to protect the people around him. A man can not control his emotions when he feels that all these problems can still be with a cold heart (Dzregah & Augustina, 2012). However, emotions can come out at any time if indeed this problem cannot be resolved by discussion and it has to be violent. This was done in order to free his family from bad people. The significance of hypermasculinity is can make men realize that they have a big responsibility towards their family, relatives and the environment. Because of the hypermasculinity stereotype, it can make men realize that they have the nature of being the strongest person than women (Munroe, 2001). If even a small problem cannot be resolved, it will become a talk in the community and be seen as cowardice. No matter how big the problem, they must solve it immediately. However, this gender role can also have a negative mental impact on men. If men don't have masculine criteria, it can lead to feelings of insecurity, embarrassment to speak in public, inferiority complex, and other psychological distress (Amelia & Dintasi, 2017). As a result, there is a belief that the inability to fulfill gender roles can make them think twice about appearing in social communities.

The writer found that hypermasculinity as the same as **Machismo** that means exaggerated pride in masculinity, perceived as power, often coupled with a minimal sense of responsibility and disregard of consequences. In

machismo there is supreme valuation of characteristics culturally associated with the masculine and a denigration of characteristics associated with the feminine (Yunara & Kardiansyah, 2017). It is also very important that machismo can be positive in the or of taking care of the family, showing valor amongst peers, working hard for money to support the family, and taking pride in the raising of children (Villereal, 2005).

When people find a man they think that generally man is strong, brave, aggressive, resilient, and toughness that is all what's people think about man even not all man enter into those criteria that is a real man (Saptandari, 2015). There are two important variables that influence one's perception of others, namely the 'bias' of perception, or the type of judgment that people often make, and stereotypes, or people's tendency to categorize others based on the groups from which other people are originated (Setri & Setiawan, 2020). Therefore, people are quickly to decide on something wrong with someone.

The writer took *Rambo: Last Blood* as the main material of the research. *Rambo: Last Blood* released on September 18th, 2019. This movie was directed by Adrian Grunberg and the writer was David Morrell. The writer choose this movie because it is presenting a good illustration and description about the existence of hypermasculinity and how the character faces the problem with their identity in society. The movie showing many conflicts than the other series before, where the main character Rambo struggle to faces the problem with his identity and he always win. The movie attract many people to watch because people will get a pounding feeling when seeing all the dramatic and sadistic scenes. This research is as a tool for building knowledge, give informations that hired researchers missed, and for facilitating learning. So, this research wants to analyze the practice of hypermasculinity in *Rambo: Last Blood Movie*.

METHOD

In conducting this research, the writer applies qualitative research methods as the research methodology. Qualitative research is the data collected in the form of words, pictures rather than numbers (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019). Qualitative research method also become a type of scientific research that collects data or works with non-numerical data to interpret the meaning of the data (Amelia, 2016; Lina & Setiawan, 2017; Istiani & Puspita, 2020). (Creswell, 2003) describes how these methods meet different needs. Moreover, the method provides various points of view on the analysis (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). The particular methods use language as the communication process (Afrianto, 2017). The writer believes that the using of this method is suitable with the purpose of this research, which is the existence of Hypermasculinity issue in *Rambo: Last Blood Movie*. Qualitative research has four characteristics such as work in a natural setting where it is devoted to acquire some deep understanding of the social, cultural, and historical setting (Pranoto & Yuwono, 2018). Research may be designed and redesigned it means all of the methods of qualitative research are flexible (Connole, Smith & Wiseman, 2013). Descriptive qualitative research is taken the data from the data source (Amelia & Mertania, 2020). This research takes the data from *Rambo: Last Blood Movie*. In this research, the writer is fascinated to analyze the issue of hypermasculinity used in the movie. The qualitative research data is in the form of statement, dialogue, and images in the scenes which taken from the movie (Heaverly & Woro Kasih, 2020). The data can be synthesized with theory to define patterns and important points (Samanik & Lianasari, 2016).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer shows the analysis of the hypermasculinity that can be seen in *Rambo: Last Blood Movie* that depicted in character inside of the movie. There are images of the scenes, statement, and dialogue which taken from the movie based on Butler's theory about hypermasculinity and Bogg's theory about movie analysis. The writer analyzes the practices of hypermasculinity in every scenes in the movie and focus on the characteristics that the main character have, by looking at the movement and the action that exist inside the movie and the writer relates it to the theory that the writer used.

The practices of hypermasculinity as seen in Rambo: Last Blood movie

After watching the fifth series of *Rambo: Last Blood movie*, the writer found that there are practices of hypermasculinity inside of the movie. It can be seen from one of the characters among male characters as the main character or major character inside of this movie and the character which have the characteristics of

hypermasculinity named Rambo. Rambo is a former vietnamese soldier and also the uncle of Gabrielle, he have a great characteristic of hypermasculinity. He is smart and strong, it can be seen clearly in the movie. For looking the practices of hypermasculinity the writer reveals the characteristics of the main character that seems like have the characteristics of hypermasculinity and the writer relate it with theory of hypermasculinity by Butler. Here are the practices of hypermasculinity. The writer analyzes by looking at the action and characteristic that main character Rambo have. These are the characteristics founded by the writer based on theory of hypermasculinity such as toughness as emotional self control, violence as manly, danger as exciting, and etc. Those personality can be proved and can be seen clearly by looking the analysis of every scenes:

Care, Goodness and Responsibility

Besides Rambo likes to commit violence against bad people, he also turns out to be a person who cares and loves his family. He is ready to sacrifice himself for the one he loves. In this section, the writer will give specific analyzes dealing with the personality of Rambo. It gives more of the basic characteristics and leading to the positive side of Rambo.

In Rambo: Last Blood movie, Rambo already considers Gabrielle as his own daughter. Since the age of seven, Gabrielle has been entrusted by her mother to Rambo. The message from her mother is a big responsibility that Rambo must carry out. There is no doubt that Rambo really loves Gabrielle because Rambo has been caring for and looking after him for ten years. Even though he had been trained to live hard from his job as a war soldier, his gentleness still remained. He guided Gabrielle well and was never angry with her. It was seen when Gabrielle wanted to ask permission from Rambo to meet her father, but Rambo didn't allow her for fear that something bad would happen to Gabrielle. Men claim to care for and love femininity if it is a woman's trait, but dislike it as a male trait. Following the statement, men see women as gentle and loving creatures (Kardiansyah, 2018).

Dialogue and Action

Gabrielle : *Uncle John, I need you to trust me. I need you to know that I'm gonna make good decision.*

Rambo : *I can't control what's out there.*

Gabrielle : *You can't just protect me forever.*

Rambo : *As long as I'm around. He's never gonna hurt you again. No one is.*

This scene happens when Gabrielle's friends leave Rambo's basement. After their event was over Rambo went there to check the basement house but it turned out that he saw Gabrielle who was tidying the place. There, Rambo asked about his friends' reactions after seeing the underground tunnel and Gabrielle said that her friends were very happy and interested in seeing the tunnel. However, Gabrielle immediately changed their discussion. He said that Gizelle had found his father and promised to help Gabrielle and Gabrielle also said that he was going to meet his father in Mexico. Hearing that, Rambo did not agree with Gabrielle's decision because her father was not a good person and did not love her. Rambo tried to slowly give an understanding of how bad his father's personality was from the time his mother was sick to death, his father never visited his mother in the hospital. Gabrielle thought that everyone would change in time, but not for her father. Rambo had promised Gabrielle's mother to be willing to take care of her and look after her wholeheartedly, therefore, he tried hard to refuse Gabrielle's request. It can be seen in the dialogue "*I can't control what's out there*" it indicates that there is some concern Rambo if Gabrielle goes far and isn't beside him. Moreover, Gabrielle is a girl and still a teenager, Rambo is afraid that something will happen to Gabrielle. The scene also proves that Rambo is someone who really cares and loves the teenage girl. The responsibility given by Gabrielle's mother will always be maintained and carried out. He behaved like that to Gabrielle because he knew danger was everywhere and especially that her father was a bad person, Rambo was afraid that Gabrielle would be hurt again by her father. And it also can be seen from the dialogue "*As long as I have been around. He will never hurt you again. No one.*" This scene shows that there is a great sense of responsibility towards Gabrielle. As long as Rambo lives in the world, he will make sure that his father or anyone else will not dare to hurt Gabrielle. This is the positive side that Rambo has, he will become a devil to bad people but he will become a hero and an angel to everyone close to him.

Toughness as emotional self control

In this part, the writer give detailed analyses dealing with the personalities, self control, or the characteristic of Rambo. In this section, the writer provides specific information about the nature of Rambo that is shown through the scene in the film. It gives more information of Rambo's characteristics that he need to show his anger in order to save people around him.

In the fifth series Rambo: Last Blood movie, there was a character named Rambo. Rambo's character in this film has a great character. He ever became a former vietnamese soldier who likes war. Where Rambo had his hypermasculinity characters, this was seen in one of the scenes where Rambo is angry to Jezza and stick the knife into the table because Gizelle try to cover up her lies. Rambo have already know that Gabrielle is in the bad situation so that is why Rambo can not control his emotion. According to Parrot, Peterson and Bakeman (2011), hypermasculinity is connect with negative outcomes such as violence againts sexual minorities, sexual violence, violence against women. Following the statement, the characteristic of Rambo is come out where he did something bad to Gizelle with holding her hand firmly and Gizelle was in pain.

Dialogue and Action

Rambo : *Where did you get this!*

Gizelle : *She gave it to me, man.*

Rambo : *It was her mother's. She is never give it to you. You sold her out. She was your friend!*

Gizelle : *Fuck you! Get out of my place!*

Rambo : ***Look at me!***

This scene happens when Rambo heard a news from Maria that Gabrielle went to meet Gizelle to help her to find her father in Mexico. Actually before that, Rambo and Gabrielle have discussed that problem and Gabrielle has agreed with it. But, on that night, Gizelle as Gabrielle's friend calls Gabrielle and intends to take her to Mexico because she has found Gabrielle's father and Gabrielle is agree with Gizelle. However, her arrival in Mexico got her into big trouble. Knowing that, Rambo immediately went to Mexico to meet Gizelle. When he meet Gizelle, he ask so many questions about where Gabrielle was. But Gizelle always try to cover up her lies. In this scene, Rambo looks very angry to Gizelle where he hold Gizelle hand strongly. Rambo saw that Gizelle was wearing Gabrielle's bracelet which was a gift from Gabrielle's mother. Knowing that, Rambo got more annoyed and angry. In this part, the characteristic of toughness as emotional self control can be seen from this statement "*Look at me!*" it was seen when Rambo sticks the knife into the table with bulging eyes. It indicates that Rambo was furious and Gizelle was scared and speechless. The characteristic of hypermasculinity is exist where rambo can not control his emotion and he expressed his anger by sticking the knife. Actually, rambo will not do such kind of this bad things without some reasons because actually rambo is loving to everyone and he can not be nice to people who hurt those around him.

Violence as manly

In this section, the writer provides detailed information related to the way the main character in the movie showing his aggression through violence. Doing violence is something very damaging, but for mens it is very challenging. The main character did violence because he want to make sure that the bad guy give him an information about Gabrielle.

In Rambo: Last Blood movie, the main character named rambo who has an enormous power and has a soul of violence. But immediately, he knew that Gabrielle was in danger and desperately needed his protection. At that time Rambo immediately went to the night club and beat up the bad guy who found out that the man had brought and hid Gabrielle. Rambo beat him until he was battered and until the man asked his mercy. According to Mosher and Sirkin (1984), violent aggression is an acceptable expression of masculine power and dominance. Following this statement, acts of violence against men are commonplace for men where it can show their power. Rambo's acts of violence can support his desire to encourage the man to speak the truth. He did this for a good cause.

Dialogue and Action

Rambo : ***Where is she?!***

Bad guy : *I do not know where she is*

This scene and quotation shows that rambo trying hard to find Gabrielle. Rambo and Gizelle went to the night club with the hope of finding someone who was with Gabrielle at that time. Rambo and Jezza finally met the bad guy, but Rambo was still watching him. Rambo saw that the man was engrossed in drinking and spoiling with several women. When he found the man, Rambo told Gizelle to leave the night club. The time came for the man to go out with the woman, and Rambo followed him. It appears that the man is willing to commit immoral acts. But Rambo managed to thwart his lecherous act by pulling the man's hand and immediately beating him. The women and people around were immediately scared and ran. It indicates that there is recognition from the environment that Rambo is manly. With a burning anger, Rambo immediately gave a blow until the man was battered. Rambo could not hold back his emotions so he even tore the naughty man's chest. There, Rambo felt that

the man should be punished accordingly by feeling great pain. In this part, the characteristic of violence as manly can be seen from this statement "Where is she?!" it was seen when Rambo tore the naughty guy's chest asking where is Gabrielle but the man said he didn't know. But finally Rambo still forced him to take Rambo to the place where Gabrielle was. From this scene, it proves that there was an act of violence committed by Rambo against the bad guy. It can be seen here that the hypermasculinity characteristic of almost all men believes in acts of violence as dominance and absolute power to get recognition from society.

Danger as exciting

In this section, the writer will give the other example of action in the movie which tells about the action of Rambo to save his family. Rambo never felt sincerity and deep love. Gabrielle is considered like a child himself, even though he is only a child who was left behind when his mother died. The effort made to find Gabrielle was enormous, he always tried his best to protect his nephew. Even though the danger threatened him, he was never afraid to face it. In this section, the writer tries to show a part of the struggle of Rambo after he decided to go to the place of human trafficking.

This statement is also closely related to power. People who believe in themselves are strong and have the power they will be able to protect everyone around them. Likewise with Rambo, his strength and experience while on the battlefield can be a provision to face an increasingly evil world. This was seen when Rambo tries to pick Gabrielle up to the human trafficking site to return home. But it turns out that in the human trafficking building he found many obstacles, where Rambo was surrounded by many people. This situation did not make Rambo afraid and feel threatened but made him more confident in the strength he had to face the mafia. According to George W. Coats (2012), when the failure occurs, the hero goes back to the drawing boards and creates a new plan. Following the statement, Rambo has not succeeded in pinning Gabrielle but Rambo is a person who has a thousand ways. Rambo never gave up.

Dialogue and Action

Rambo : *Let her go*

Martinez : *What ?*

Rambo : *Let her go. Let her go. Let her go...*

Hugo Martinez : *Wanna know something juanita? These girls mean nothing to me or my customers. In my world, they're nothing, they're not people. They're just things. They have no worth to men live us. So I would have not paid attention to this (showing Gabrielle's photo). But now I will, because you coming here has made it very bad for her, Cabron. We would've just trained her, used her and sold her. But now we're gonna make an example of her.*

This scene happens when Rambo come to the place of human trafficking. He went to that place with the bad guy who had taken Gabrielle away from the night club. His arrival to that place was based on the aim of looking for Gabrielle. Rambo looked around and he saw that there were many people on top of the building. Then he walked casually, but apparently someone had seen Rambo and that person immediately called his friends because that person was suspicious of Rambo's movements. When Rambo went up to the second floor, he was immediately intercepted by dozens of people. Because they were suspicious, they immediately searched his belongings and it turned out that Rambo was carrying a knife, ID card, and Gabrielle's photo. And what was most surprised was that Rambo brought Gabrielle's photo which they knew that Gabrielle had just entered the human trafficking place. Martinez as a human trafficking mafia immediately blurted out "Isn't this one of our whores?" said to his brother. When he heard that, Rambo immediately refused to accept it and wanted to attack, but they immediately pointed a gun. The human trafficking mafia immediately beat Rambo until he was battered and Rambo was still able to hold back his emotions. In this part the characteristic of danger as exciting can be seen from this statement "Let her go ... Let her go ... Let her go" said Rambo, this scene can be seen when Rambo is sitting and already battered, but he is still dare to beg the mafia to free Gabrielle. Rambo knows that he is very strong and will not die, therefore, he is increasingly confident to survive in that terrible place.

Smart and Cunning

In this section, the writer will shows detailed analyses based on the actions of the main character. In this part, the data is only image and there is no dialogue because this is the last scene of the movie. The image become one of the data because it shows the characteristics of hypermasculinity such as physical strength, aggression, intelligence, and emotional self-control shown by Rambo in an effort to eradicate all his problems with revenge.

In this part, the writer provides specific information about how the main character is able to solve problems through the skills he has.

In the fifth series of the movie, Rambo devises a revenge plan against Martinez brother. Gabrielle's death was the main reason and the most painful thing for her. Not surprisingly, Rambo's hypermasculinity character drives him to do things that have never been done by other people. In this scene, Rambo was very angry and he thought of how he could invite the attention of Martinez Brother to come to his house. This is where Rambo's clever and cunning mind runs. According to Brown (2012), people with personality types characterized by higher levels of anger, are more likely to take revenge. Following the statement, Rambo's character is grumpy but he gets angry at bad people. Gabrielle's death in such a sad condition is the reason why Rambo wants revenge.

This scene shows that Rambo is smart, he can face the problem calmly, so that he can come up with an amazing idea in order to succeed his revenge. The characteristics of hypermasculinity can be seen from the expression on Rambo's face, which is full of fiery anger and vengeance when making trap equipment. He made all the plans neatly arranged.

This scene happens after Rambo finds Gabrielle in a terrible circumstances with a psychotropic anesthetic injection and there are several x-shaped blades on her body and she died. He began to plan his revenge by attracting the attention of Martinez Brother through the beheading of his younger brother, Victor Martinez and Rambo leaving a trail by placing a photo of Gabrielle near Victor. And it succeeded in attracting the attention of Hugo Martinez and other human trafficking mafia to come to Arizona. At his house, Rambo has prepared all the traps. It indicates that Rambo is cunning and smart. And the characteristics of smart can be seen from the picture where Rambo is making bombs, sharpening knives, preparing bows and arrows, pistols, boobytrap on every wall in the underground house. Rambo makes sure traps are on all sides of his basement house. Rambo Success to makes all of the human trafficking mafia died. Thus, his revenge action can be maximally achieved.

CONCLUSION

Finally, based on the evidence obtained from scene and dialogue in the movie, the writer concludes that the movie *Rambo: Last Blood* by Adrian Grunberg depicts hypermasculinity practices that could be seen from the characteristics of the main character which is Rambo. Based on the theory, toughness as emotional self control, men believe that the only legitimate emotion is anger, violence as manly, committing violence can get recognition that he is strong, danger as exciting, enduring danger because he is confident in his strength, care, goodness and responsibility shows that men are not always wicked, and smart and cunning where a man who has a hypermasculinity character is an expert in everything. Therefore, men always try to balance male stereotypes from society that men are strong and they do not cry easily.

In conclusion, categorizing someone with the identity of hypermasculinity can be seen from their behavior and their actions in solving problems or even achieving their goals. The important thing is someone with hypermasculinity characteristics will do something unexpected if something threatens the people around him, violence is the last option. Perhaps, for the future researcher who want to conduct the same research about the practices of hypermasculinity can more focus on the actions, the traits, and the expressions which support them to do same actions.

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