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## CULTURAL STRUGGLE DURING TIME OF CRISIS REFLECTED IN RON HOWARD HILLBILLY ELEGY (2020): A FEMINIST APPROACH

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### ABSTRACT

This paper examines the Cultural struggle during the time of crisis movie "Hillbilly Elogy." The purpose of this paper is to identify what is the indicators of cultural struggle during the time of crisis reflected in "Hillbilly Elogy" and to describe the depiction of cultural struggle during the time of crisis reflected in "Hillbilly Elogy" The research uses qualitative as a method in this review.

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## INTRODUCTION

In this study, the researcher is interested in discussing Hillbilly Elogy for several reasons. There are characterization, theme, and moral values. The first reason is the characterization cast in the film "Hillbilly Elogy," who can play his role very rivetingly. Furthermore, J.D Vance, who plays Hillbilly Elogy, is a Yale student who considers achieving his goals while dealing with a family crisis that forces him to return home. Therefore, many people consider it a form of genetic inheritance. Culture is like a comprehensive pattern of life that is complex, abstract, and broad. Many aspects of culture that determine communicative behaviour tend to lead to human thinking.

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Culture is a character or knowledge with a developing way of life owned by a group (Spencer-oatey, 2012).

Thus, there are several reasons why someone is constrained when communicating with people from other cultures who have a complex set of values created by an image that contains a view of privilege (Whiten et al., 2011). This coercive cultural image guides its members on appropriate behaviour and decides on logical meanings and values. Thus, it is a culture that provides a related framework for organizing one's activities and the attitudes of others.

According to a journal by (Graf & Föllmer, 2012), this discussion about these operational flaws in the concept of crisis, we argue, stems necessarily from its inherent attachment to human perception on the one hand and its subsumption of complex linkages of historical processes within different subsystems on the other. The factors that can lead to differences in cultures, among others: are customs, religion, environment, customs, traditions, and tribe. Especially in this film is the background of the conflict that occurs due to environmental factors (place of residence), where a person's life can affect the culture they live in. The film "Hillbilly Elegy" begins with a three-generation family conflict and deep personal struggles from family dysfunction and poverty. It also makes implicit and explicit arguments about the cultural roots of social and economic marginalization. Perhaps the most symbolic of these is the "hamlet" trope in the film. Even though the film is set in an urban, post-industrial Midwest and a generation or more displaced from rural Kentucky and West Virginia, J.D. Vance (played in Hillbilly Elegy) plays the historical connection between Scottish-Irish Appalachian heritage and the cultural dysfunction to paint a portrait that is not withdrawn from the unworthy.

## **METHOD**

In conducting this research, the research uses descriptive qualitative research because the research wants to learn about social reality with a research approach that is often used to explore, describe and explain social phenomena. This study aims to explain several items: To identify the indicators of cultural struggle during the time of crisis reflected in Hillbilly Elegy and to describe the depiction of cultural struggle during the time of crisis reflected Hillbilly Elegy. Material Object in Hillbilly Elegy is a film directed by Ron Howard in 2020. The duration of Hillbilly Elegy is 116 minutes. The first publication dates are on November 11th, 2020, in the United States, then digitally on

Netflix on November 24th. The film was criticized, particularly for its screenplay and direction. Gabriel Basso portrays the movie as an adult and Owen Asztalos as a youngster and also stars Amy Adams, Glenn Close, Haley Bennet, Freida Pinto, and Bo Hopkins. Then Formal Object of this study focused on the indicators of cultural struggle during the time of crisis reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) and how the cultural struggle of crisis is reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020).

There were a variety of information and supply data. The primary and secondary data sources are two types of data sources needed to perform this study. The type of data in this study is representative of quality studies. This study's secondary data included references, supporting data from previous studies, and related dissertations and journal articles. The research uses a documentation method to collect the data based on the transcript and the video taken from the internet. This study used a qualitative method to conduct a good literary analysis. The qualitative technique included obtaining and interpreting non-numerical data to get at general notions.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Findings**

#### **Indicators of Culture Struggle during the time of Crisis**

Many parties are now paying attention to the struggle for culture in crisis. Many attempts can be made to achieve cultural struggle in crisis. Then if one can respect other cultures in one area, that environment is said to be beneficial. After watching the film, the researcher found indicators of cultural struggle during the crisis.

#### **Cultural Differences**

In actuality, every tribe has its own set of cultural traditions. It impacts cultural distinctions in this time of growth in a multiple and diverse society regarding ethnicity, nation, and religion. So one sees a woman from a different cultural generation feeling out of place. The indicators of cultural differences can be found in minutes 00.03.48-00.04.11 when the Beverley Vance family faced criticism for defending its traditions.

*JD muffled, laughing and screaming in the lake.*

*Boy 1 : "Yeah, get him!"*

*Boy 2 : "Hey! He is coming up!"*

*Dane : "Go back to Ohio, boy!!"*

*Boy 1 : "Keep him under!"*

*Dane : "Get out of here."*

*JD Vance : "Things could get tough down in Jackson in a heartbeat, but Mamaw and Papaw taught me that you never start a fight." And "But if someone starts one with you,*

*make damn sure you end it.*

### **Addiction**

Women who experience strain in their lives impact their own lives and Beverley Vance's, as seen by his heroin addiction. The indicators of addiction can be found in the minutes 00.44.38-00.45.07 when Beverley Vance develops a heroin addiction when he starts injecting patients and taking drugs for him to take.

*Janice : "Is this going to hurt?"*

*Beverley : "I already did it. I give you the special treatment, Janice" "You know that"*

*Janice : "That other one sure doesn't."*

*Beverley : "laughs" kit? She is new. She will learn " " Can I get you anything else?"*

*Janice : "No, I am good."*

*Beverley : "All right. Here"*

*Janice : "Thank You"*

### **Economy Crisis**

The Beverley Vance family frequently struggled with money issues. Families Beverly Vance works to fulfil their needs with the resources available. The indicators of financial deprivation can be found in minutes 01.34.00-01.34.45 when Beverley Vance attempts to secure funding for his son's happiness.

*[knocking on door]*

*Man : "Got meals on wheels for Bonnie"*

*Mamaw : "Thank you" and "Well, this is not enough. I told'em I got my grandson now."*

*Man : "Sorry, ma'am. They only gave me the one."*

*Mamaw : "Well, I called"*

*Man : "I'm sorry. That's all I've got"*

*Mamaw : "Look, uh....." "I'm spread a little thin right now."*

*And "I couldn't buy my pills this month" "can you maybe."*

*Man : [man sighs] ummmmm... "Let me see here."*

*"Well, I got some fruit," and "That's the best I can do. Will that help?"*

*Mamaw : "Well, I'd take anything else you got," and "I really do appreciate that."*

### **Family Conflict**

Beverley Vance portrays a traumatic childhood character who frequently had problems and arguments with her family. At 00.47.00-00.47.37 minutes, family conflict indicators can be found.

*Mamaw : "You can't have a goddamn hissy every time you have an off day," and "You gotta think about these kids."*

*Beverley : "What do you think I've been thinking about since I was 18 years old, huh!?"  
"Never had a life where I wasn't thinking about the kids."*

*Lindsay : "It's all about us."*

Mamaw : "So what are you  
Beverley : "It isn't easy, all right? Just wait till you get pregnant!"  
Lindsay : "I'm not having a kid."  
Beverley : "You think you're special?" and "That's what happens to girls."  
Lindsay : "Only girls that are stupid."

[Beverley slaps a Lindsay]  
Mamaw : "Beverly!!!!"  
Beverly : "You wanna call me stupid, little bitch"

## **Depiction of Culture Struggle During a Time of Crisis Reflected in Hillbilly Elegy (2020)**

In times of crisis, people will fight for their rights, the ethnic beliefs ingrained in their generations, and the preservation of their culture, regardless of gender. The goal of the cultural conflict in this movie is to achieve equality for all people, regardless of the culture that prevailed in the family's earlier generations. Similarly, a cultural struggle in crisis is replaced by the characters in the 2020 film *Hillbilly Elegy* fighting to attain their goals. The plot, characters, settings, and style of the movie *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) all reflect the culture of struggle in times of crisis.

### **Through Plot/Event**

Five plots describe the struggle for the cultural crisis in the film *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020), there are:

### **Get Cultural Comparison**

The depiction of a struggle for cultural crisis reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) first started when the family setting deviated from the previous culture. Then the family protects in a variety of ways. This case can be found in minutes 00.20.37-00.21.15.

Phillip : "So your family, were they, uhh, coal miners?"  
JD Vance : "No, actually, my grandfather went north to work at a steel plant like a lot of folks from Appalachia did," and "They were actually sort of Hillbilly royalty because my grandfather was related to the gut who started the Hatfield-McCoy feud"  
Pamela : "Really?"  
JD Vance : "Yes, ma'am."  
Phillip : "No kidding."  
Pamela : "I just saw that miniseries."

[Rich chuckling]  
Philip : "what's it like when you go back?"

*JD Vance : "I don't really get a lot of chances to go back."*

*Phillip : "it must feel like you're from another planet."*

*JD Vance : "yeah, uh, you know, I guess."*

*Phillip : "Like, you know, 'who are all these rednecks?'"*

*[laughs]*

*JD Vance : "We don't really use that term."*

*Phillip : "Oh no. Yeah, that's not at all what, it's just, you know, I mean, you're at a top educational institution in the world..."*

*JD Vance : "My mother was salutatorian of her high school. The smartest person I've met, probably smarter than anyone in this room."*

*Phillip : "Maybe so, well I didn't mean any disrespect."*

### **Beverly Vance Lost his father.**

The depiction of the struggle for cultural crisis reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) continued when Beverley lost her father. Beverley mourns the loss of her father but shows her family that despite being a princess, she is dependable.

Beverley also struggles to show that females can uphold families' honour. This case can be found in minutes 00.41.30-00.43.35.

*Beverley : "Dadd.... Daddd. Oh my God. Call an ambulance!"*

*Mamaw : "Call!!"*

*Beverley : "It's too late."*

*Mamaw : "How do you know?"*

*Beverley : "Cause I'm a nurse, Mom. I know. He's dead." [shobbing]*

*[Heading to the grave]*

*JD Vance : "Why do they do that, Mamaw?"*

*Mamaw : "Cause we're hill people, honey. We respect our dead."*

*JD Vance : "I didn't know till after he was gone" and "how papaw had protected my mom from the world."*

### **Beverly Vance Lost her mother.**

The depiction of the struggle for cultural crisis reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) continued when Beverley lost her mother. When Mamaw's disease recurs, this case can be found in minute 01.12.52, and in minute 01.41.38, Mamaw dies.

*JD Vance : "Are you gonna die?"*

*Mamaw : "What the hell are you asking me that for?"*

*JD Vance : "They said you have pneumonia" and "people can die from pneumonia."*

*Mamaw : "Are you trying to kill me off?"*

*JD Vance : "I Know you know, and people know," and "people do. Like... Native Americans"*

*Mamaw : "they're called 'Indians.' Like the Cleveland Indians, and they don't know more than other people."*

*[when Mamaw dies]*

*JD Vance : "For now, we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know, in part,  
then shall I know even as also I am known"*

### **Beverley gets traumatic**

The depiction of a struggle for cultural crisis is reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020). Beverley's fear of experiencing childhood trauma began when she refused treatment because she thought it would be burdensome for her children. This case can be found in minutes 01.02.11-01.02.30.

*Lindsay : "Mom and Aunt Lori had it worse than us. It was a war in that house."*

*[at the house in a child]*

*Mamaw : "Beverly, hide your sister in the closet! Go On!"*

*Papaw : "Shut up!"*

*Mamaw : "What kinda man are you?" "You come home drunk one more time. I'm gonna light your ass on fire!"*

*Papaw : "I'll come home whenever I goddamn please!"*

*Mamaw : "Get out, you drunk asshole!"*

*[groans]*

*Papaw : "Shut your mouth! See what happens!"*

*Mamaw : "Stop!"*

### **Addiction and Recovery**

The depiction of a struggle for cultural crisis reflected in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) continued when JD Vance intervened to stop Beverley from developing a heroin addiction. Once Beverley completed recovery and rehab, Lindsay took care of his mother. This case can be found in minutes 01.38.30-01.39.40.

*[knocks] [water running]*

*JD Vance : "Mom!"*

*Beverley : "No!"*

*JD Vance : "Give me the....!"*

*Beverley : "No...noo noo!"*

*JD Vance : "Mom! Stop it!" "Just.... Mom! Stop it," and "What are you doing?"*

*[Beverley screaming No and wailing No]*

*JD Vance : "What's wrong with you, Mom? Come on!"*

### **Through Characters**

The depiction of the struggle for cultural crisis is also presented in the characters. The characters in the film *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) describe the struggle of a crisis. Some characters support the struggle against cultural crisis, and some are against the struggle

a cultural crisis. The portrayal of these folks can provide the stories with the theme of the fight against a cultural crisis in the movie *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) with a more realistic appearance.

### **Supporting Characters**

The first supporting character is Beverly Vance, the main character in this film is described as a brave and unyielding female character. She always tries to safeguard his family, despite any pressures in her life. Beverley Vance experiences numerous challenges for herself and her family throughout the movie. The second character is JD Vance. He is described as having a love of character and constant selflessness. He is Beverley Vance's son, who constantly assists and makes sacrifices for his mother's justice. His constant goal is to make his family happy. The next character who supports JD Vance indirectly is Lindsay. Lindsay is the older sister of JD Vance. When JD Vance is unavailable, she always assists and looks after her mother. Furthermore, the net character is Usha. In the movie, she is described as the educated, professional girlfriend of JD Vance.

### **Opposing Characters**

The character who opposes the struggle for cultural crisis is someone who met JD Vance at a company firm event. Phillip claimed that JD's family has a different skin tone than the culture they are a part of now and that Beverley Vance's education is underrated. Pamela, one of the participants, then made fun of JD Vance's culture. On the other hand, JD Vance's childhood pals in Ohio constantly made fun of and compared JD Vance's family's culture.

### **Through Settings**

In addition to the plot and characters, the depiction of the struggle for a cultural crisis in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) is also found in the setting.

The setting in the film *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) is divided into two parts: the setting of the place and the setting of time. The setting of the place for the film *Hillbilly Elegy* is Jackson, Kentucky, and Middletown. Having come from a family with a variety of ethnic backgrounds, concerning his Kentucky family's Appalachian ideals as well as the social and economic issues in Middletown, Ohio, his mother's hometown, before moving there as a young child with one dream of a country free from oppression and public contempt.

The setting time in *Hillbilly Elegy's* (2020) movie takes in Jackson, Kentucky, and hosts

the movie's premiere in 1997. While spending time with his family, including his grandparents and mother, Beverley, in their current house in Ohio, adult J. D. Vance reflects on this period in his youth. In the end, it was recorded under the title "Memorials of family and culture in crisis," are 2016 bestseller and will be shown in movies in 2020.

### **Through Style**

The style in the film *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020) also influences the depiction of the struggle for a crisis.

### **Tone**

The tone conveys the author's perspective on or emotions toward the topic and viewer through word choice, dialogue, description, and point of view by writers to convey the feeling. In *Hillbilly Elegy*, Ron Howard's uses are divided into four parts. The first tone is the past is represented by the colour white, which also stands for comfort, truth, and energy. Orange, the second tone colour, represents loneliness, comfort, energy, and impatience. The grey tone colour also conveys doubt, anxiety, severity, and bewilderment. And finally, the red tone represents power, courage, and optimism.

### **Sound effects**

The sound effects are essential to a movie. When the storyline changes in the movie *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020), the sound effect utilized is the sound of a guitar being strung or a piano playing. Another sound is the strains of a violin, which represents Beverley when he is down, and the atmosphere is tense. When Beverley was anxious or confused, the sound of nature and flowing water was employed. The last employs the trumpet and bass strums after the story.

### **Discussion**

After watching *Hillbilly Elegy's* (2020) movie, the researcher used a feminist approach. There were four majors of feminism in this type, liberal feminism, radical feminism, Marxist feminism, and social feminism. The first one is liberal feminism. The struggle of liberal feminism is depicted When JD Vance brings up his mother (Beverley). She compares her mother's education to unequal because of different cultures when discussing philosophical and moral views at a law firm meeting. The next incident involving radical feminism is when a lawyer from a different firm underlines how white

people's dominance of cultural change at the time was due to patriarchal underpinnings of inequality between men and women. Then the Marxist feminism in *Hillbilly Elogy* comes into play when Beverly is perceived as weak due to her physical condition, leading men who emphasize the physical conditions held by culture, education, and customs to believe that the condition of women is inferior. The Beverley family represents social feminism, which aims to unite the fight for women's emancipation against other repressive systems related to race and economic position.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the outcomes of the data analysis in this chapter, two inferences about the study may be made the struggle during the time of crisis in *Hillbilly Elogy* (2020) movie is an indicator found in the movie, which are cultural differences, addiction, economic crisis, and family conflict. In actuality, every tribe has its own set of cultural traditions. It impacts cultural distinctions in this time of growth in a multiple and diverse society regarding ethnicity, nation, and religion.

Furthermore, there are depictions of struggle during times of crisis in *Hillbilly Elogy* (2020) depicted through the plot, characters, settings, and styles. The depiction through the plot is Get cultural comparison, Beverley Vance lost his father, Beverley Vance lost her mother, Beverley gets trauma, and Beverley's addiction and Recovery. The depiction through characters is divided into two. There are supporting characters and opposing characters. The supporting characters are JD Vance, Lindsay, Mamaw, and Usha. The opposing characters are Rich and Pamela. The depiction through setting is divided into two: a set of places and a set of times. The setting of this movie mainly takes place in Jackson, Kentucky, and Middletown. The setting of time in *Hillbilly Elogy's* (2020) movie takes place in 2018. The last depiction through style is also divided into two; there are tone and sound effects of the movie. In *Hillbilly Elogy*, the tone consists of white, orange, grey, and red which have their meaning. Furthermore, *Hillbilly Elogy's* (2020) movie uses many sound effects, such as the sound of a guitar being strung or piano, the strains of a violin, sound effects of nature such as flowing water, and the trumpet and bass strums.

This movie is very interesting to watch and analyze. This movie contains a moral value that can be the readers, and the movie also can be a reference to other researchers, especially in literary work. In this study, the researcher explained the depiction of the cultural struggle in crisis that can be found in the movie. The author suggests that other

researchers can uncover further problems for people interested in studying this movie using various methods and theories.

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