

**THE PLOT ANALYSIS OF MOVIE “THE LAKE HOUSE” DIRECTED BY
ALEJANDRO AGRESTI**

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to find out about the plot that exist in movie “The Lake House” where the writer used a qualitative method. The writer was interested in analyzing this movie because the movie contained some advantages especially for those who want to use the movie as a medium of learning. The first advantage was that the story in this movie was very unique with the forward and backward plot. The second, this movie contains the high value of literary arts. And the third, that the dialogue in this movie was not too fast, so that it was very useful to make the language learners easy to learn English. The results showed that the plot of this movie consisted of six parts. They were preliminary exposition, starting point, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending. Understanding the plot was very important for the audience to make the story easier to be understood.

Keywords: *Movie, Plot, Lake House.*

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui tentang plot yang ada dalam film "The Lake House" di mana penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penulis tertarik untuk menganalisis film ini karena film tersebut mengandung beberapa kelebihan terutama bagi mereka yang ingin menggunakan film sebagai media pembelajaran. Keuntungan pertama adalah cerita dalam film ini sangat unik dengan alur maju dan mundur. Yang kedua, film ini memiliki nilai seni sastra yang tinggi. Dan yang ketiga, bahwa dialog dalam film ini tidak terlalu cepat, sehingga sangat berguna untuk membuat pembelajar bahasa mudah untuk belajar bahasa Inggris. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa plot film ini terdiri dari enam bagian. Mereka adalah eksposisi awal, titik awal, aksi naik, klimaks, aksi jatuh, dan berakhir. Memahami plot itu sangat penting bagi audiens untuk membuat cerita lebih mudah dipahami.

Kata kunci: Film, Plot, Lake House.

I. INTRODUCTION

English is an international language that must be mastered by people around the world. To be able to master a foreign language sometimes it requires a media to facilitate the learning. One medium that is very effective in improving the ability of foreign languages, especially English is the using of film media. As one of communication media, a movie can be utilized for the purpose of entertainment, art, and learning.

In this study the author wants to analyze a movie that is very interesting to learn. The title of the movie is "The Lake House" directed by Alejandro Agresti. It was written by David Auburn. The author is interested to examine the plot of this movie because this movie is very interesting. In addition to its unique and touching storyline, this film also uses many words whose dialogue is made not too fast, so it is very useful for English Language learners to learn this language more easily and effectively. The other strength of the movie that it can be entertaining because it contains the high value of literary arts.

Statement of the Problems

There are two problems discussed in this study:

- a) What are the elements of plot based on the movie?
- b) Who are the main characters of this movie?
- c. What does the story tell about?
- d. What is the good message of this movie?

Scope of the Problems

The writer focuses his discussion on the problem of the plot in the movie "The Lake House". There are

Method and Procedures of the Analysis

In analyzing the data, the qualitative method was used. The writer takes the method and procedures of the analysis by doing some steps, such as:

1. Library Research

The writer collects and reads some data from books or internet and uses them as the theories to analyze the plot of the movie.

2. Watching the Movie

In the second step, the writer watches the movie that will be discussed

3. Analysis the Plot

In this step the writer finds out the things which is very important for the plot. It consists of preliminary exposition, starting point, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending.

4. Concluding Analysis

The final procedure is making the conclusion of his analysis.

2. The Plot Analysis of Movie

“The Lake House” Directed by

Plot is what happens in the play. A play is composed of series of incidents or episodes which follow after one another. Without plot, a drama, a novel or a movie are obscured or has no direction. So, first the reader must know the story from preliminary until the end. The plot of the movie “The Lake House” consists of six parts. They are preliminary exposition, starting point, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending.

2.1 Preliminary Exposition

According to Baldick (2001:90) he said that “Preliminary exposition is the setting for a systematic explanation of argument about any subject, the opening part of the story. In which we are introduced to the characters and their situation, often reference to preceding events.” Based on the explanation above, it is clear that preliminary exposition is a part of scene where the audience are given the background information.

Main characters in the movie are:

1. Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves), a very talented architect

2. Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock), a very dedicated doctor

3. Simon J. Wyler (Christopher Plummer), a famous architect and also Alex' father

4. Henry Wyler (Ebon Moss-Bachrach), Alex' brother

5. Dr. Anna Klyczynski (Shohreh Aghdashloo), Kate's friend

6. Morgan Price (Dylan Walsh), Kate's first boyfriend

7. Mrs. Forster (Willeke van Ammelrooy), Kate's mother

8. Mona (Lynn Collins), attractive young assistant (female suitor)

In this movie the main character are Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock) and Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves). Kate is moving out from her lake house which are all made of glass in Madison in 2006. She moves to Chicago and leaves a message in the mailbox for the next tenant.

2.2 Starting Point

Starting point is a part of plot which gives a little explanation about the condition of the character to the audience at the first glimpsed. According to Hornby (1995:164) he said “Starting point is a place or point from which

something begin”. And according to Sudjiman (1998:19) he said that “Starting Point is representing an even when is early incidence of conflict”.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that starting point is the catalyst that begins the major conflict where the story begun.

The following dialogue from the movie “The Lake House” can be described as the starting point of the story. It happens when Kate leaves her first letter in the rural mailbox, where she apologizes for the paw prints by the front door. Alex finds Kate’s letter in the mailbox which was placed there in 2006 by Kate.

Starting point is started in duration 02:06:19:

Kate: “Dear new tenant, welcome to your new home. As the previous tenant, let me say I hope you’ll like living here as much as I did. I filed the change of address with the post office but you know what a crapshoot that can be, so if anything slips. Though, would you do me a favour and forward my mail? I’d appreciate it in my new address is below. Thanks in advance. P.S: Sorry about the paw prints by the front door. They were when I moved in the same with the box in attic.”

Alex: “Dear Ms. Foster, I got your new note and I’m afraid there must be some kind of misunderstanding. As far as I know, the lake house has been empty for several years. Maybe your note was intended for the Sanburg house down the shore since no one has lived in this house for years. But I’m curious about the paw prints.”

(In 2006)

Kate calls Jack and she looks at a near mail box, and she opens it and finds a letter

From Alex. Alex is watching as the flag on the mailbox goes up. He reaches into the mailbox and gets Kate’s question “where are you?”

Alex: “Okay...where am I?”

Kate: “Very clever. The lake house. As you can see. I, too, am at the lake house but I’m getting tired of these games. So I’m leaving, okay? Bye, Thank you, bye...”

Based on the dialogue above Kate leaves a note for the lake house new tenant, Alex. Kate finds a letter addressed to her from Alex but the date is 2004. She doesn’t believe him. She explains that she is in 2006 living at 1620 North Racine, Chicago. And then Alex tries to go to the address in 2004. He just finds an unfinished construction site there. Finally they begin to understand that they are living two years apart. They try to continue to

communicate via the wonder mailbox. They couldn't meet each other because they are separated by the time. Alex lived in 2004 two years earlier than Kate's time. She lived in 2006. The wonder mailbox was just like a time machine for them.

2.3 Rising Action

In this part the development of conflict is begun. Pickering and Hooper (1962:17) stated that rising action can be called as complication is a section in which a conflict will be showed and it is then developed gradually and intensified. It is also introduces the characters of each figure.

The rising action of this movie happens when Alex and his female suitor, Mona, meet Kate's boyfriend Morgan. They both are invited to attend her surprising birthday party. Kate and Alex meet at Morgan's house in the birthday party.

At the party, Kate is frustrated and wandering outside. She meets Alex that sitting there and talk each other. When they're dancing and kissing, Morgan and Mona come.

The dialogue concerning this rising action starts in duration 12:58:41.

Morgan: "Kate.."

Kate : "Hey... Alex was.... Alex was just telling me about the lake house, yeah, it sounds.... Sounds really great."

Morgan : "Great..."

Mona : "Alex, it's late."

Alex : "Yeah, yeah, good night".

Kate : "Good night".

When Morgan and Mona interrupt them, Morgan looks angry. Kate tells Morgan that they just talked about the lake house but Morgan doesn't believe her. Meanwhile Mona and Alex go back.

2.4 Climax

Audience are usually very interested and excited in the climax moment. In this part a great intensity moment is happening. According to Cuddon (1998: 141), he said that climax is the part of the story or paly (for matter many forms of narrative) at which crisis is reached on resolution achieved.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that climax is an important moment which is very interesting where the crisis is reached as the greatest emotional intensity.

The climax in this movie happens when Alex makes a reservation in 2004 for a date in 2006 at IL Mare restaurant. At that time Kate appears but Alex doesn't. Kate tries to get the reason why he didn't come but he doesn't

understand. It really breaks her heart and she believes that it will never happen. And finally she asks Alex not to contact her again.

The dialogue (in duration 16:13:37):

Alex : “I don’t understand. Something must have happened. I’m sorry. I’ve got two years Kate. We can try again.”

Kate : “No Alex. It’s too late. It already happened. It didn’t work.”

Alex : “Don’t give up on me, Kate. What about persuasion? You told me, they wait. They meet again. They have another chance.”

Kate : “Life is not a book, Alex. And it can be over a second. Please don’t write anymore, don’t try to find me. Let me let you go.”

2.5 Falling Action

According to Sudjiman (1992: 18) he said that Falling action is a part of plot after climax, show the development of the story, the finishing of the problem who is faced by the performer.

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that falling action is a part of the story where the problem resolved but it is not the ending of the story because it is still developing.

The falling action of this movie happens when Kate and Morgan arrange to meet at an

housing consultant firm that owned by Alex’ brother, Henry. They plan to renovate an old house. At that time Kate notice a water-colored painting of the lake house on the wall. When she asks Henry who painted it, he said that it was made by Alex Wyler that died in an accident two years ago on this day. This part answers why Alex didn’t show up at the IL Mare Restaurant.

The dialogue (in duration 21:28:35):

Morgan : “Stunning, thank you so much.”
(Shake Vanessa’s hand)

Vanessa : “Our pleasure. Thank you, Henry will make sure you have everything.” (Shake Kate’s hand)

Kate : “Great, they were absolutely beautiful”

Henry : “Thank you” (Kate notice a picture on the wall)

Morgan : “What Kate, I gotta get back to work.”

Kate : “Who did this drawing?”

Henry : “My brother did, actually.”

Kate : “Who is your brother?”

Henry : “Alex Wyler. Did you know him?”

Kate : “Yeah, yeah I know him. Do you know, I can get in touch with him? Is he...? Is he anywhere that I can ...?”

Henry : “I’m sorry, he died... two years ago today, actually. There was an accident.”

Kate : “Where?”

After Henry answered Kate questions, she went out from there and run. She run to the lake house hurriedly to warn Alex via the mailbox not to see her at Daley Plaza where the crash happened. She doesn't know whether he would receive the letter in time or not. She told him not to cross the street and just wait. Wait for two years and go to the lake house where she is now.

The dialogue (in duration 20:13:35):

Kate : “Alex, I know why you didn't show up that night. It was you at Daley Plaza that day. It was you please, don't go. Just wait, please. Don't look for me. Don't try to find me. I love you. And it's taken me all this time to say it, but I love you. And if you still care for me, wait for me. Just wait, wait. Wait two years, Alex, come to the Lake House.

From the house, Alex went to Daley Plaza. He saw Kate, but he didn't cross the street because he received Kate's letter.

2.6 Ending

Ending is the last part of the plot that shows the conflict. So, it can bring the story to a closing. According to Sudjiman (1992: 36) he said that the Ending is a part of ending or closing of story. The finishing of the problem who is faced by the performer.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that ending is the last part of the story where it can be a sad or happy ending.

The writer analyzes that the story of this movie has a happy ending. Although Kate almost failed to warn Alex not to cross the street, but finally Alex followed Kate's instruction. After the mailbox flag turned down, she stood, turned around. And finally Alex appeared in his green pick up truck.

The dialogue (in duration 21:35:17)

Kate : “You waited.”

Kate and Alex shared a passionate kiss. And finally they walked into the lake house together. They are very happy because finally they could meet again in the real life forever.

III. SUMMARY

The Lake House movie directed by Alejandro Agresti is quite unique. Although this movie is complicated but still very interesting to see. The unique lake house in this film makes this movie more stunning to see. In this movie the audience will be brought in a series of time jumping but they must be able to guess the sequence of events which one is the current and past. This is because the film is not given information about the time. So if less conscientious the audience can be wrong in catching the idea of the story.

The main character of the movie “The Lake House” is Doctor Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock), a highly dedicated doctor who was devastated when he witnessed a man killed in an accident even though he had tried his best to help the poor man. Kate seems too hard to forget that so. Dr. Klyczynski (ShorehAghdashloo) advises her to go somewhere to release her pain. And finally she rented a very beautiful greenhouse by the lake. A place that is very suitable to calm the mind of someone who is depressed.

But when Kate moved into the apartment, it turned out to be an unimaginable house where she could connect with a foreign man living in different times. Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves) lived two years ago from the present time where Kate is living now. Alex is an architect whose father is also a famous architect, Simon Wyler (Christopher Plummer). But unfortunately the less harmonious relationship between Alex and his father made his life a little less happy.

This is the part of scene where a considerable change occurred in Alex which eventually Alex found his true love through correspondence with Kate. Finally she realized that Alex is a lake house maker who once occupied by Kate. And it is even more

surprising that they were apart at different times. Alex lived two years earlier (2004). Here, the story goes back to the moment when Kate decided to rent a lake house.

Although Kate initially kept in touch with Alex through correspondence, it was undeniable that this kind of relationship felt weird. Although they both are already very much in love with each other but they will not be able to meet. So finally Kate felt frustrated and decided to end the relationship that does not seem real (only through correspondence). And then she seeks to re-start his love for Morgan (Dylan Walsh) although she doesn't love him.

But in 2008 when Kate and Morgan were consulting with an Alex construction company called Visionary Vanguard Associates to plan to renovate her new house, Kate accidentally spotted a watercolor painting with a beautiful Lake House picture. Then Kate asks Harry "Who painted it?" Harry is Alex's brother who runs the company. Harry said that the painting was made by Alex Wyler, his brother who died just two years ago by being hit by a bus on a street near a park. Kate-was aware, that the man who died in his arms two years ago was Alex whom he loved very much. Then he rushed off to the Lake house to send a

message for Alex not to meet him in the park in 2006 where he died of an accident hit by a bus. He asked Alex to wait for two years, and meet him at the lake house.

However it seem too late, in 2006 Alex has gone to look and see Kate at Daley Plaza where the crash happened. A moving scene occurs where Kate drops to her knees very sadly for that. She is so scared that she has arrived too late to stop Alex.

The scene is quite stressful because there is the possibility of Alex did not have time to read or impatient so he did not follow Kate's words. But finally Alex read Kate's message and followed Kate's words because she loved him so much. So, after a long pause, the mailbox flag finally lowers that means Alex has picked up her note. And afterwards, a familiar green truck appeared. She walks forward smiling as the driver, Alex approaches. He kissed her and they walked toward the lake house. And this romantic story ended beautifully.

Based on the writer analysis, the movie which directed by Alejandro Agresti used a combination of forward and flashback plot in some scenes. As for the moral message that can be taken from this film is that holy love is the most beautiful gift from God for all human

beings. Therefore, the holy love requires unlimited sacrifice and patience. And if the mate is already determined by God, then as difficult as any problem that befall, will surely be passed well.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion in the previous chapters, the writer concludes that the plot of the movie "The Lake House" directed by Alejandro Agresti consists of six parts. They are preliminary exposition, starting point, rising action, climax, falling action, and ending. This movie used forward and flashback plot.

The preliminary exposition informs that the main character in this movie are Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock) and Alex Wyler (Keanu Reeves). Kate was moving out from her lake house which built all of it with glass in Madison in 2006. She moved to Chicago and left a message in the mailbox for the next tenant to reply it.

The starting point in this movie happens when Kate leaves her first letter in the rural mailbox, where she apologizes for the paw prints by the front door. Alex finds Kate's letter in the mailbox which was placed there in 2006 by Kate. Kate wrote : "Dear new tenant, welcome to your new home. As the previous tenant, let

me say I hope you'll like living here as much as I did. I filed the change of address with the post office but you know what a crapshoot that can be, so if anything slips. Though, would you do me a favour and forward my mail? I'd appreciate it in my new address is below. Thanks in advance. P.S: Sorry about the paw prints by the front door. They were when I moved in the same with the box in attic."

The rising action of this movie happens when Alex and his female suitor, Mona, meet Kate's boyfriend Morgan. They both are invited to attend her surprising birthday party. Kate and Alex meet at Morgan's house in the birthday party where finally Kate is frustrated. She was wandering outside and met Alex sitting there. And they were talking, dancing and kissing when Morgan and Mona suddenly came.

The climax in this movie happens when Alex makes a reservation in 2004 for a date in 2006 at IL Mare restaurant. At that time Kate appeared but Alex didn't. Kate tried to get the reason why he hadn't come but he didn't understand. It really broke her heart and she believed that it would never happen. And finally she asked Alex not to contact her again.

The falling action of this movie happens when Kate and Morgan arranged to meet at an housing consultant firm that owned by Alex' brother, Henry. They planned to renovate an old house. At that time Kate noticed a water-colored painting of the lake house on the wall. When she asked Henry who painted it, he said that it was made by Alex Wyler that died in an accident two years ago on this day. This part answered why Alex hadn't show up at the IL Mare Restaurant.

The ending of this movie happens when the mailbox flag turned down. Kate stood, turned around right away. And finally Alex appeared in his green pick up truck. Kate said to Alex: "You waited." Kate and Alex shared a passionate kiss and then walked into the lake house together. They were very happy because finally they could meet again in the real life forever.

This movie uses a combination of forward and backward plot. For people who learn a foreign language through a movie, it's very important to understand the plot of the story. By analyzing the plot, the English learners can understand the story more easily. By this way they are not only able to learn how to say words in English, but they can also enjoy its

beautiful story. So the learning process can be more exciting.

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