

Fan Fiction in the Class

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Abstract

Writing story in online media is becoming a new trend. Fan fiction, a new genre of literary works gets a lot of fans. Teenagers share story, experience, identity, information, and doing new kind of experiment of writing narrative. Theoretical constructs within postmodernism and literacy are used to describe the characteristics of fan fiction, the aspects of fan fiction becomes popular among young generation, and fan fiction being use in the class. Findings suggest that the new form of literary works could be the variation of material discussion in the class since it is success in delivering the idea especially about new topics ever happen among teenagers. Interactive discussion, creative writing, and academic writing are also possible to have fan fiction as the source to develop the creativity of the students.

Introduction

Online media is not a kind of difficult facilities to be reached, especially where high technology has already become unexpansive facilities anymore. Many food corners, restaurants, café, hospitals, offices, and parks provide free Wi-Fi to all ranges of age and sex. These basic condition and situation are the primary reasons any information or ideas online have millions of readers. In the close future the number of them will be a lot more, following the raising number of technology progresses. Between the technology and readers, this study will find out the characteristics of fan fiction which is exist through technology enjoyed by the readers and furthermore explaining the reason of how fan fiction becomes popular among young generation. Qualitative research methodology will formulate the simple numeric data from a collection of analysis about fan fiction done by students of English Department who take class of Introduction to Literature. Complex calculation from the data taken is not the target of this study yet. Presenting qualitative statement will give a lot more meaningful understanding. Working out with qualitative data selection will direct the study explaining the characteristics of fan fiction and the reason of fan fiction become very popular. A brief explanation about what fan fiction, postmodernism, and literacy are, will clarify the focus of this study. Further activities of doing analysis towards fan fiction, the students are suggested to write fan fiction in order comprehending the topic discussion and developing the skills of the students.

Discussion

Jamison tries to define fan fiction as a form of literary works (writing) which produce continually, occasionally, or just a kind of fad of the enjoyer. The works are open for any stories which character is from other people who has inspired in canonical texts and has been enjoyed by

many people [1] [2]. Some of its literary works are the Harry Potter books and films or the television program Supernatural [3]. The authors of fan fiction usually create a new story which still have the kind of elements constructing the storyline. Furthermore they upload it into a certain online community [4]. Receiving in vary a response which can be positive or negative, the authors may build collaboration with the readers then this may be another stories [4] [5]. This kind activity, work together or joint collaborating in writing stories may give possibility developing a nuanced and contextualized understanding of the social, literate, and meaning-making practices which are bounded them into a community [5]. Even the author, reader, and publisher are strange one to another, but they are connected through the story. A story by an author was enjoyed and inspired the reader to write another story which elements of it borrow from the original story. Then the reader build a new story and upload it to a certain site. This new story may be as a response from the reader towards the original story.

The fan fiction that has been read by the students shows some characteristics of postmodernism fiction. Data taken from analyzing a fan fiction based on the intrinsic elements. In a fan fiction entitled *When I Meet You in summer* by Dartheart shows that the plot does not arrange well, based on the chronological order of the event. Moreover the reader gets confuse to the story because of the plot which seem incomplete. Another fan fiction, *Angels Don't Cry* by Baby Namja shows the same confusing idea in some parts of the story. The story is failed in describing some aspects of the story, such as the characters and settings that it makes the readers cannot easily get the points or the messages which are delivered by the author. The setting is being applied but it is not a good choices of time signals therefore the reader gets lost in getting the meaning of the moment. Some dictions are not suitable, and the author often uses improper vivid adjectives indicating that hyperbola often occurs in his writing, especially in his description of some things. These two points from the result of the story analysis shows that there is a weakness of fan fiction. However this weaknesses is part of the aspect that will emerge in creating a new story from other characters or stories.

The 'new' story has been wrote successfully by the fans. Giving a 'new' spirit to a story is part of the characteristics of postmodernism fiction since it is not the real story (original story). Postmodern calls it as sign or something borrowing and pastiche [6]. The unreal part of the story may be come the plots and situations which is from the reader's own creation, but the characters belong to somebody else and are being borrowed. Trends often appear over periods of time with fanfiction, for example, lots of short stories based on a particular episode after it airs; it is often the case when this happens that writers borrow basic ideas from those before them. As Lewis said that Science-fiction is another popular source for postmodernist pastiche. Some critics assert that it is the natural companion to postmodernist writing, because of their shared ontological occupations [7].

Presenting the new story from the same elements will give an opportunity to the disruption past experience and corruption to the present too [8]. Linda Hutcheon in Lewis emphasize that postmodernist writing gives its best representations of works which contain 'historiographic metafiction' that on it there is a self-consciously distort history. Coover in Lewis adds, 'history does not repeat... there are no precognitions- and out in that flow all such assertions may be true, false, inconsequential, or all at the same time' [9]. *Am I Wrong?* by Lisbeth14, *Housemate* by Teawithmochi, *Review May Alone* by Tabitha, and *Young Harry Potter - The DREAM* by Sophia Stewart are fan fiction which stories are presented combination between past and future experiences. Something happened in the past may be valued as history of events.

Fragmentation, looseness of association, paranoia, and vicious circles are the other characteristics of postmodern fiction which could not be detected clearly from 45 titles of fan fiction. The wide range of diversity of kinds, types, and titles of fan fiction may support the idea that identifying the detail characteristics of each story is difficult and complex task to be finished. However, the finding that some titles are part of postmodern fiction is undebatable anymore.

Studying postmodern fiction from some titles of stories is not the only way can be investigated. They are closely related to the intrinsic elements of the story. The extrinsic elements of the story are the other factors which influence and give color to the existence of fan fiction story. The birth of fan fiction story in the online technology will be interpret widely by readers as an economic movement which can directs to the establishment canon even most of the fan fictions are from US and UK. Meanwhile the external representation is not the absolute reality, but internal reality becomes accessible through representations other than the physical. Lyotard argues that any art experimentation brings the reader beyond that can be seen. All of this can be seen in fanfiction; for example, in a fanfiction text, it is possible to see deeper levels to a canon character, their inner thoughts or reactions, in such a way as is impossible with the visual image alone. Fanfiction can humanize the characters more than the original portrayals do, and take the story further than the original creators, bound only by the writer's imagination. However, if one writer's ideas about a certain character do not fit in with someone else's, the response is hostility [10].

Fan fiction as a 'dialogic' stories is built through a continuous assimilation of everyday events contain past experiences. In metafiction, dialogic means that there is more than one voice, therefore thoughts or ideas from characters are being welcomed and this is the same as the post modernism principal [11]. In fanfiction, there is hierarchy. Patriarchy is abandoned for individualism – anybody can make it if they try. In regards to fanfiction, this is true: where literature has a canon, fanfiction is a free-for-all. Anyone can be an author, just as anyone can read and respond to their work. There is something of a hierarchy present in fandom itself, but even this is exploded: the original creators lie at the top of the hierarchy, and the official novel-writers below

them, with fanfiction writers at the bottom; however, the latter two are often inverted. Other than this, though, there is no given hierarchy to fanfiction; there is no precedence, for example, given to prose over poetry, nor novel over short story [12]. It can be seen already that fanfiction is definitely a post-modern genre.

Fan fiction have been discussed and being popular among youth who needs place to transfer their ideas and creativity. Science fiction provides an arena for imagining and thinking about the possibilities of the future. Science fiction reflects flexible, diverse, and holistic future consciousness expressed in a narrative and mythic form. A key challenge to science fiction is to envision what future conscious minds will be like [13]. The openness of fan fictions that they are free form, flexible, pretending its consistency (continuing the spirit of original fiction and writing another new one), keep real on its unreal, and belief to hierarchy; present an idea to develop students' skills through fan fiction. Since this study is being released, the class could do some innovative activities whether inside or outside the room. Firstly, students are directed to write fan fiction creatively with a guided activities at once use fan fiction as the learning source in understanding the content and context through reading. Reading literary works may involve various kinds of activities, such as creative reading and literacy development [14] [15] [16] [17]. The next innovation is promoting students through their fan fiction commercializing it as what FanLib does [18]. This will be able giving a lot of benefit material and immaterial.

Conclusion

Freedom as one of the term that close to fanfiction is real. Fanfictions that have been enjoyed by students showing two clear characteristics as a postmodern fiction; temporal disorder and pastiche. However, another aspects such as economic perspective, hierarchy, being real and unreal; support the previous and enrich the color of postmodern fiction. Presenting a lot of possibilities in developing the students' skills, some activities need to be done together in or out of the class. Creative reading activities, writing fanfiction, publishing online to commercializing it worldwide will be interesting and challenging among students and teachers.

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