The Postmodern Crisis and Its Self Adjustment: Miracle Becomes Reliever and Save the Life from Accident

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Abstract: Study on different stream of thinking, whatever they are, all played essential role in the development of human being. Moreover, they present such different meaning or changes, by the transfer of the narrative or the new techniques, however, postmodernism as a special period, seem to refuse those grand meaning. This paper focus on how miracle reconstruct in the case that destructed the meaning and consisted of accidents and how it save people in the chaos with the assist of the new narrative technique. This article cite a film named pulp fiction pulp fiction directed by Quentin Tarantino, performed by John Travolta and Samuel L. Jackson, Miramax Films 1994 and a book titled The postmodern condition A report on knowledge The post modern condition: a report knowledge Jehn Lyotard ed online, as primary source and by researching them to apply a theory to solve the problem as somebody thought postmodern aimed to deconstruct all the traditions and the leftover seemed like a shame, and about the relationship between the postmodernism and traditions especially like humanity or religion, and give some possible “Karma” toward them, also some reasonable secondary resources are involved, and all for the conclusion the miracle made by human themselves from the accident and stop the chaos in a crisis.

Keywords: miracle, accident, religion, nonlinear narrative, the pragmatic of scientific knowledge

1. Introduction

One stream of thinking developed for many different reasons. Scientific knowledge, with hypothesis and experiment, participated in the change of the economy, politics, also consciousness. After Allen Turing first invented computer, the world gradually went into computerized society. This wasn’t singly made a huge impact in some specific field like military or matrix, moreover, it also influenced intellectual society, especially in the linguistic area. “leading sciences and technologies have had to do with language phonology, and theories of linguistics, problems of communication and cybernetics, modern theories of algebra and informatics, computers and their languages, problems of translation”[1], the world at that time, involved in noise free, a fully communication society, some also agreed that the modern society has already collapsed, and that is time to announced: we now removed into a new epic: postmodernism. Some phenomenon changed or even twisted and been commented as one part of the postmodernism. There’s a famous term been used to describe it, redeployment. For other words, the social bond for people to connect with each other, like the
language just been treated as a language game. It wasn’t grandiose anymore, instead, it became full of accident.

Pulp fiction, one classic movie produced in 1994, directed by Quentin Tarantino tells several stories of crime happened in Los Angeles, not like a simple gangster movie, but its plot created a special phenomenon, which seemed in a artificial context, and its different narrative lead audience to dig out the “jewelry” hide in the film, this movie is suitable for the postmodern research, it broke the conventional line and leave the movie like a chaos, audience cannot follow the time line to detect what happened next why the character have some weird behavior. Nevertheless, if they can forgive the time, they would be able to find the clue, and the clue is full of the accident and choices based on many stream of postmodernism. Therefore, this essay will apply a hidden meaning theory to argue that even in the postmodern period, the traditional and classical meaning have never collapsed, they only become indirect named miracle.

The following main body will be structured into three parts, first the part will explain the main reason for what makes the old pattern transfer, second part will try to against one misunderstanding that postmodernism means to break everything, and the third part will carry the implement to the reality, hoping to clarify the miracle or the meaning that can adapt the reality.

2. Accident: a threaten toward the old narrator

With those pragmatic scientific knowledge involved, people realized those they thought was been determined naturally, like things happened because of the economical cases, the new policies, or the influences made by other regions, especially the mode of odd narrative, that followed timeline, or the traditional form, all of them were artificial. The old narrative became so dangerous for it lose the meaning. In the film pulp fiction, people thought to explain some terms in the film would destruct it, however, from the beginning of the movie, on the screen, the director twisted it, and explained what means the “pulp”, a soft moist, shapeless mass or matter, from the start of the movie [8] and this whole story was connected through many accident, those whoever are unable to predict, but indeed imposed the film to come to the end. Through pulp fiction, which describe four line of six different person, for some accidental reasons, they were linked, and also their destiny, one of the plot shows when two main character, killer Vincent and Jules, they took the informative to their vehicle, passengers might think then they would go back their boss’s home and the boss then reward the informative. Normally these criminal film will implement this, for customers, they were familiar with such plot, nevertheless, the director changed the conventional mode. When Vincent and Jules took Marvin, the informative to their vehicle, Vincent, unconsciously, below Marvin’s head when he inquired Marvin some questions as he hold his gun. Nobody ever predict this, Vincent, Jules, or their boss. This imposed them to turn their way to Jules’ friend’s home whom played by the director himself and wait for Mr. Wolf to deal with it, and also because of this accident, the couple went back late and Vincent leave a very bad impression to the boxer Butch, and make a tiny clue about his death. Meanwhile, Vincent went to his friend’s home late, and have to buy a dangerous drug, which then let him fall in to a big trouble. The other plot also shows the accident, in the first plot, when two robbers have their breakfast in the canteen, they suddenly aware they can rob this canteen, this make a deep influence for this film. These unpredictable event become pivot, and operate the film. It gives audiences a feeling, life is involved in the chaos, and nobody knows what going to happened next. It seems like those meaning can be destructed.
3. **Accident is not the Hint Given People that Indicate to Break Everything and to Live in the Chaos.**

From Lyotard’s book, he put forward a word called “occident”, which means to view everything throughout Western people’s eyesight, and for postmodern viewpoint, some of them thought because everything tends to be explained by accident, one goal for Eastern people to destruct the meaning, and to clarified all the knowledge are fake are tools created by Western to discriminate other people consciously, like some extreme Marxism they allowed people to burn every substances leave by capitalists. “Animal Farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals, but finally records as terrible when it first published, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target[2].” Also some mild people they arrogantly claimed they have fully detected the world, the only thing people need to do is to live in the chaos, and to say some meaningless sentences and to enjoy such life. From one of the main character Vincent Vega, most of his dialogues are to describe the normal life, like to complain his car was stolen after three years stayed in garage from pulp fiction chapter 3 titled “Vincent Vega and Marsellus Wallace’s wife” or to make a bargain with the peddler, or to kill people suddenly, he was so confused about his life, like a goat missed the road. This character, his life just like the pulp’s mean, shapeless. (in pulp fiction Vincent must irrevocably reposition the mirror in an effort to reflect his own needs) in the third chapter, when Vincent took some drug by needle, he drove to Media’s home, the director changed his viewpoint by using the first eyesight(Vincent’s eyesight) to expand the story, and for this, people found the road in front of Vincent is faint, hardly to see what will gonna happened next. It indicate people that from Vincent’s mind, because of the accident, none will predicted what will be their next step. This man also lived and enjoyed in the chaos. He doesn’t believe any meaning, played his jazz, commented the daily life like a black humour, also he finally died for an accident. The same thing also happened in the three character, the policeman, the shopkeeper and his assistant. Unfortunately, they found that because the life has nothing determined, universal value were created as a lie, so there’s no limitation in the lifetime. Thus they expand the devil and violence in their life to kill the boring and mediocre daily business. Some people owed that Marquis de Sade as the ancestor of the postmodernism. Sade, known for his erotic works, which combined with his own perspective about politics and philosophy. French novelist Pierre Guyatat even said "Sade is, in a way, our Shakespeare. He has the same sense of tragedy, the same sweeping grandeur"[9] and also some especially some lefts called him the first reasoned socialist[10]. However, exactly, Sade, in his deep mind never lose the position of the traditions, though he never admitted. So, director gave these two a ironic ending, they died suddenly as they enjoyed sexuality, this also for those who keep the view of miracle but against it purposely. People during that period thought it probably a suitable way living in the society where rules changed flexible and no time leaving for people to reflect themselves or to against this agonized development. Nevertheless, is the postmodernism’s aim to make a shield for people to enjoy the chaos, if not, why it brings the chaos? From the other legendary writer Allen Ginsberg’s poem Howl, those lines gives us a hint, they break every fake limitation, but looking for something real, the true meaning, the true love, or the true miracle. “looks out of the heart burning with purity- for the burden of life is love, no rest without love, no sleep without dreams...I always wanted to return to the body where I was born ”[4]

4. **With the Help of New Techniques, We Catch the Miracle to Recreate new Meaning**

Postmodernism usually been considered like full of the options, the same chance, need people to make choice. That is why some thought the most suitable city that can represent the postmodern is Las Vegas, where people have the same opportunity to win the money, and they are equal, no one will mind other’s hierarchies. With the evolution of postmodernism, people realized they need to catch the positive option like miracle and to brought some meaning deeply covered in their mind like
religion or universal value back to the language game. Miracle always be defined as some events are very surprising and unexpected, in the film pulp fiction, it was given a religious meaning: a wonderful and surprising event that is believed to be caused by God. During the whole film, the director try to highlight the miracle which belongs to the part of the accidents. One of the most famous plot is in the last second plot, when Vincent and Jules finished all the goals, one survivor suddenly came out of the room and shoot the couple, however, he failed, those bullets avoided the couple and hit the wall. This is absolutely an accident, but it also like the gift made by God. Jules, who have a hobby to read the bible when do his job, found he discovered the meaning from the unlimited lifestyle. So he give up his black work and then, in the canteen, he leave the robbers for free. In contrast, Vincent does not believe this, for his sentences, he still insist it just like any other accidents, normal but unpredictable. 

The Bonnie situation: Vincent: “Chill. This shit happens.” and “I watched it one time, and there was this cop on gunfight, but didn’t hit nothing. It’s freaky ,but it happens.[5]” To let people focus the essential of the miracle and the choice made by human, Quentin let another technique involved: a special way of telling the whole story, the nonlinear narrative. Lyotard in his chapter 5 said language is consisted by the signals, it is just like a game. Therefore, it doesn’t matter to follow the timeline or not. The goal for director to use this or that narrative is to clearly express his or her meaning. This new narrative collapsed the time, but not let the audiences fall into chaos. Instead, if they follow the normal timeline, it will be Vincent Vega and Marsellus Wallace’s wife first then the Bonnie’s situation then The Diner then The Gold Watch. Some critics thought if the film can just followed the timeline like such classic movie, it can also present a wonderful story. And maybe provided two distinctive characters. Whereas, if the film followed this line, it will reduce the meaning of accident, the choices people made and how these choices influence them, and highlight the importance of miracle. If the film followed the timeline, then and Jules’s change and he will follow the hint of the God will reduce its impact. And about Vincent, this nonlinear narrative make the main character dead as the middle of this movie, unpredictable. They let the audiences to know the one main character’s ending, and then, easily told people how important to catch the miracle during your life, and gives the film a saint ending, encouraged people, though human’s life cannot be predicted, made by lot of accident, the option still alive, the meaning hide in those accidents, to take which action, depends on the human themselves, people lived in a computerized society, in the chaos, been absorbed or simplified is not the only option leave to human being, and to break everything also have no desire to make nothing left or only deconstruct the traditions. Through Jules’s choice, the director made another branch, to doubt everything, but to recreate the new and real meaning meanwhile. Whatever religious or nonreligious, this all be suitable: doubt everything, justify everything, even the sentence was said by Buddha himself [6].

5. Conclusions

There’s one famous saying in Tibet, for people who depend on the welfare state, avoid practicing, thought hardworking is meaningless and life is artificial: if you did nothing because you thought nothing gonna changed, you can just sleep with a mosquito. Indeed, the meaning can alive like a “Karma”, it will always alive until human transfer to another dimension.

Throughout the classic film, the pulp fiction, indeed, the director never thought he would try for destructing every meaning in front of the improving of the society. Exactly, as many of artisans lived that period, follow the tradition seemed tedious and lost the corn of the postmodernism, to collapse and leave changes. Under a unbelievable circumstance(most people personally fear that technology mostly invasion our thoughts, our feelings, our inspirations, and our intellectual achievements. Also with the invention of the atomic bomb and chemical war and things forbidden by God at that time taken care by the great science, which give a chance for those billionaire and bureaucratic control
invasion their mind with some scientific improvement) led citizens feel there’s neither no reality nor trust, sympathy. Some even agreed that the community they stayed was fasten by the hierarchy. Thus some like Vincent in the movie make a chance to avoid the relationship to live like a hedonist. Hedonism claimed that human behavior is determined by desires to increase pleasure and to decrease pain[7]. People who make their life on this way would died suddenly like Vincent in the middle of the plot. And for those who thought all traditions are conventional, like the stream of radical feminism those view society as men dominate and oppress women, extreme Marxists and so on, they also shared a black humorous ending. Instead, this movie use a new technique to mix the line and give a creative narrative perspective for the audience to show how people can make their meaningful decision like Jules to lead their own life during the same accident others faced either.

During the pandemic, humans’ lifestyle been bothered heavily, the economy now worse than it used to be. Some people are affected by the postmodernism they reflected, and behaved extremely and aimed to destroyed the humanity as fake in their mind. When people discovered the universal value in the postmodern society, it will referred the large community, the old traditional meaning has never been lost, and different kind of people whatever their races, religions, nationalities, points, they can enlarge the field they cooperate with, and concern each other simultaneously, by same value.

References

[6] the 14th Dalai Lama, Youtube Dalai Lama channel, the video titled “ how to become a Buddhist in the 21th century”.