

# THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MOVIE OF MULAN 1998 AND ITS REMAKE, MULAN 2020 (A COMPARATIVE LITERATURE STUDY)

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## Abstract

This paper title is The Comparison between The movie of Mulan 1998 and its remake, Mulan 2020. The objectives of this paper are to find out the similarities and the differences in intrinsic elements of both literary works. This research used comparative theory to analyze the reduction, addition, and modification. This research also used descriptive qualitative, data collected from the intrinsic elements of both movies. In collecting data, the researcher used description as the instrument to find out the reduction, addition, and modification of Mulan 1998 and Mulan 2020. In this research, the researcher found that there were several differences and similarities in intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Additionally, the researcher found that reduction, addition, and modification influenced the change of some intrinsic elements in both movie versions.

Keywords: mulan, comparative, intrinsic, and extrinsic elements

## INTRODUCTION

Literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin word literature means writing formed with letters. Literature most commonly refers to works of the creative imaginations, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some instances, journalism and song. But nowadays, literature is not only the written ones. A lot of people regarding that movies are also a kind of literature. In literature, there is a lot of works that look similar to each other. That is why there is comparative literature.

Comparative literature is a way for people who want to analyze and study the

comparison between literary works. Nowadays, comparative literature is not only compared two literary works on the same medium but also with another medium. It can also compare two literary works from a different country. The history of this comparative literature was firstly developed in France, this comparative literature divides into two schools, are French school and American school. In France, the comparative literature was spearheaded by Fernand Baldensperger, Jean-Marir Carre, Paul van Tieghem, and MariusFrancois Guyard. French school emphasizes the comparison of literary works from different countries. While in American School, comparative li-

terature focuses on the comparison of two different literary works and compare the literary works with certain fields of science and arts.

Comparative Literature can be said as a new study. At first, the comparative literary study was derived from a comparative study of science, and then a comparative study of religion, after that comparative literature. This study still not well known if compared with other research such as literary criticism and literary sociology because Damono (2005:14) said, essentially every study uses comparative steps because with this comparative steps we only can easier to understand about the problem". However, as a literature study this comparative literature challenging to use in the research of literary works. Wellek and Warren (1989: 40) states, that comparative literary term is used for the study of oral literature, folklore and its migration, how and when folklore enters into more artistic literary writing. Comparative literary terms in this regard include the study of relationships between two or more pieces of literature. Comparative literature has appeared from the realization that the literature is not single, but the literature is plural.

## METHOD

The object of this research is intrinsic elements in Mulan 1998 movie and it is remake, Mulan 2020 movie. In the remake version, there was something new because the movie was a live-action movie. This quite reason why do researchers are interested in this comparative study to find the similarities and differences in intrinsic elements or extrinsic of fiction in both literary works. Intrinsic elements consist of plot, theme, character and characterization, setting, point of view, style, and imagery.

## DISCUSSION

### The Similarities between Mulan 1998 Movie and Mulan 2020 Movie

#### Plot

The plot is a plot or series of events in the story structure is conceived as functional interrelation which also marks the order of whole passage in fiction, that generally consist of fiction storyline.

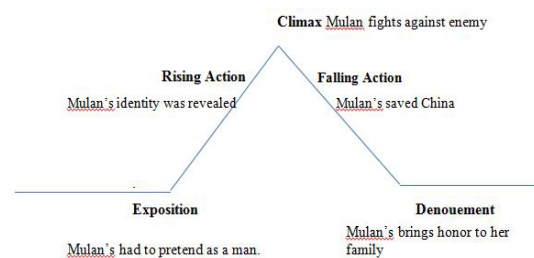


Figure 1. Freytag Pyramid

The first one is exposition. The story begins when Mulan had to pretend or disguise herself as a man to replace her father's position as an imperial warrior. The next one is rising action when Mulan's identity as a woman had revealed. In this scene, both movies have different ways of revealing Mulan's identity but still hit the same plot. In the 1998 version, Mulan's identity is revealed when Mulan got a scar on her stomach because of the enemy's sword. She must be treated and then the truth that she is a girl is revealed. In the 2020 version, Mulan revealed the truth by herself; it's not an inadvertence situation like what happened in the 1999 version. Mulan decides that she cannot longer pretend or disguise as a man. Next is the climax, Mulan had to fight face to face against the main villain. Then the falling action, when Mulan succeeds to beat her enemy along with she saved china. And the last one is the denouement when mulan back to her

home and bring honor to her family and she also succeeds in her love life.

### **Point of View (POV)**

Point of View is the angle or perspective from which the story is told. Both movie versions have a similar POV, which is *Omniscient POV*. This is when the story is told in the third person by a narrator who has unlimited knowledge of events and characters

### **Setting**

The setting of a story is its overall context, where, when, and in what circumstances the action occurs.

### **Setting as Place**

Both movies take place in China.

### **Setting as Time**

And both movies take time setting in Tang dynasty, around 7th to 9th century. There is a scene of Mulan 2020's scene that also come up in the Mulan 1998 movie. It showed Mulan in the house of Madame Matchmaker with traditional makeup on her face. It is a traditional female makeup. This female makes up highlights the strong colors of the Tang dynasty on their faces, especially with yellow foreheads, red cheeks, and emerald green eyebrows that will not be found in any other dynasty of the period, said Sun Ji, a researcher at the Museum of Chinese history.

### **Setting as Cultural Context**

The next similarities are the cultural context. Because it's a remake work so of course, it has the same cultural background, which is Chinese culture. Actually, it's pretty obvious because of the name of the characters is the characteristic of Chinese name, and the red color concept; which is the color of China, clothes; they wear the

traditional clothes of China.

### **Social Critique**

The next one is social critique. In Mulan movie, the 1998 version or 2020 version, elevated a social critique about feminism. Mulan shows that the function of feminism is only to the strong masculinity construction in the society, if we only take a glance, then it seems that man and woman already have an equal position and role. However, it turns out that the winning of feminist happened because of the masculinity construction. The researcher also not interprets Mulan as a gender-bending feminist, because her acceptance of her identity is core to her story arc.

### **The Differences of Mulan 1998 Movie and Mulan 2020 Movie**

Both movies have some differences that quit obvious. We can know it if we already watched both movie version of Mulan. And we are going to state some of the differences of both movies. And I already state some points, which are the years of production, genre, character / characterization, and symbol.

### **Years of Production**

Based on the title, we already know that Mulan 1998 was produced in 1998 by Disney, the production house of America. And Mulan 2020 was produced in 2020 also by Disney.

### **Genre**

Next is the genre different. Mulan 1998 was elevated animation and musical genre. We know that this movie is 2 Dimension animation movie or we can call it a cartoon. And this movie has some songs that sang by the characters, so we can know that it is a musical movie. For Mulan 2020, it was elevated the different genre from it is

original movie, which is action and adventures. This movie was focused on the fight scenes and the war, but still, this movie is produced by Disney, which is a channel for kids, so it doesn't show brutal acts.

### Character

#### a. Fa Mulan and Hua Mulan

The character differences, the first one is the protagonist, which is Mulan. It has a different surname. In the 1998 version, Mulan's character was depicted as a brave, smart, and skilled human being, but in the 2020 version, it was still depicted as a brave, smart and skilled character but, she's not like a human being but like a real warrior with supernatural power.

#### b. Li Shang and Hong Hui

The next one is Li Shang and hong hui. Li Shang was depicted as a captain of the group which is the son of the commander. But Hong Hui is an ordinary person that does not have any post. But still, both are skilled warriors.

#### c. Shan Yu and Bora Khan

This is the main villain, which are Shan Yu and Bori Khan. It's obvious that the name is different, both have the same characterization, but in the 2020 version, it tells a little bit of his past.

#### d. Mushu and Phoenix

The next one is the family guard, which are Mushu and Phoenix. Both are different. Mushu is a family guard in the form of a dragon that can talk. But Phoenix is a character that can not talk but just shows up to guide Mulan.

#### e. Grandma Fa and Hua Xiu

Next is the Mulan family's member. In the 1998 version, it's her Grandma but in the 2020 version, she has a little sister

called Hua Xiu.

#### f. New Characters

In Mulan 2020, there is a live-action version; it shows the new character that didn't exist in the original version, which is Xianning and Commander Tung. Xianning is one of the main villains that give impact to the whole story. She is a woman that has the same „chi as Mulan but she used it to hurt people. She is the one that helps Mulan finds her identity of powers. And Commander Tung also gives an impact on the story. He replaces Li Shang in the original version as a leader of the group.

### Symbol

The last difference is the symbols which are a dragon and a phoenix. Both have meant that related to Mulan's story and its value. In Mulan's 1998 movie version, Dragon in the Orient.it symbolizes supernatural power, wisdom, strength, and hidden knowledge. And in the Mulan 2020 movie version, Phoenix

This mythical bird is a symbol of hope, renewal, rebirth, immortality, resurrection, solitude, and grace.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, both movies are similar, because it's a remake movie and we know that the intrinsic elements are mostly similar. It has the same plot, point of view, theme but different character and characterization and it has a different detail story but still with the same storyline. It also has some different characters and new characters in the new movie but it doesn't change the plot.

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