

Note for “Mad Max: Fury Road”

Mad Max; Fury Road conveys the theme of dystopian world, kind of Post-Apocalyptic and surrealism. There are many aspects revealed in this movie revolved around this theme such as the aspect of humanism (human value and beliefs), feminism, war and search of oil, water, and gas (resources), slavery, racism, and inequality.

There are many allusions used in this movie as well, as well as symbols. ‘Valhalla’ is one of allusions referring to the Valhalla in the Norse mythology, which is a majestic, enormous hall located in Asgard (a location associated with gods), ruled over by the god Odin. Warriors who died in combat traveled to Valhalla upon death, by the god Odin’s Will. Valhalla is the place where all War Boys want to enter afterlife, and they do everything to serve the Immortan Joe so that he can send them there. The imagery technique was also used clearly in the film from the selection of desert as the main location portraying the scarcity of natural resources or the Wasteland. The only ‘Green’ area can only be acquired at the Citadel, occupied by the Immortan Joe. The film picks engines as the image to set the industrial cult of the film; most elements have the background of automobile and engine fads, which symbolize so much to the film theme matter.

One of thrilling characters is Nux, one of the War Boys who works for the Immortan Joe. Nux, like other War Boys, has fanatically believed in the Cult of the V8, the automobile and engine-based Wasteland religion of the Immortan Joe’s War Boys, worshipped in Citadel society as symbols of divine power. What is interesting about Nux is that from the beginning to the end of the film we can see maturity development and somewhat humanism cultivated in him after allying with Max and Furiosa (the two protagonists in this film). From the character of desperately wanting to get as close as possible to all things mechanical and of becoming a machine himself to ‘die historic on the fury road’, to become ‘more human’ and ‘mature’ that we can feel throughout the ‘War Rig journey’. This was dramatized again by a mysterious, fictitious quote that reads “*Where must we go, we who wander this wasteland, in search of our better selves?*” (*The First History Man*). This is in fact the central theme of the film; ‘*a quest to be our best selves and regain our lost humanity- the core of the redemption journey*’. And not only Nux but both the protagonists in this film already told us of their pursuits. In fact, what they have quested for are not just resources but ‘selves’, as like a line in the film script that says ‘*We are not things*’.