

IRISH IMMIGRANTS' MIMICRY IN JOHN CROWLEY'S *BROOKLYN* MOVIE

Sari Fitria, Rianti
Universitas Pamulang
dosen01462@unpam.ac.id

Abstract

This study is aimed to uncover about the interpersonal act or behavior for imitating or mimicking the aspects in the society seen through the act of the Ireland immigrant who live in America in a film *Brooklyn*, directed by John Crowley. This story reveals much about the main character, Eilis, who try to act in order to fit in the society. The character of this film should fit herself in the society to make herself survive because toward the differences between her nationality, it also caused by the majority oppression where she should unconsciously camouflage herself to be accepted in the society. This study will expose about types of Mimicry that seen through the film, (1) Mimicry toward the society, (2) Mimicry seen toward herself/behaviorism, (3) Mimicry in the colleagues. To analyze this film, the writer uses theory according to Mimicry to support this study.

Keywords: Mimicry, Interpersonal act, Majority, Minority, Oppression, and Camouflage.

1. INTRODUCTION

In nowadays society, when people are divided into two parts which are the majority and the minority. The majority will spontaneously act and show themselves as a strong party with a strong power in their hand, they tend to use that power to suppress the minority by different acts. The minority as the one who gets the pressure try to find a way to survive against the majority so they will do Mimicry as a way to camouflage themselves among others who have a major power.

This study will uncover Mimicry between Irish people toward the Americans and Italian. There are various

theories about mimicry that connected to the actual process in the society. Mimicry serves as an important impersonal function. The notion that individuals mimic the behaviors of others has long been interest to psychologist (James, 1890). Means that this is the way of someone trying to imitate another by copying their behavior and adapt it to the psychological study. There are multiple concepts that may fall under the aegis of mimicry. Behavioral mimicry is also placed in its broader context as a form of interpersonal coordination which means that mimicry is do in conscious or unconscious by the people itself.

People can imitate other in the social, facial, gesture and other parts of human behavior in order to survive in the society like what have been stated. Human spontaneously imitate their interaction partners' verbal and nonverbal behavior (Chartrand & Bargh, 1999). The minority will not fully make themselves imitates themselves like the majority, but they just use the major differences between those parties to make them seen as one of the majorities to avoid the mocking, bullying or other difference type of social harm.

In mimicry, it can only be understood or seen only after determining how much of it caused by the actor which is the minority, the partner which are the majority, and how much by their specific relationship which is the connection or the oppression between those parties happen in the society, this have been stated by Kenny (1994). The majority and minority are the major cause of someone doing mimicry because those two show the differentiation and have been separated in their own zone. In this story, the character shows how mimicry takes part. It can be seen through the act of Eilis who is an immigrant comes from Ireland to not just doing her holiday but also to work and live there as a common

America. Eilis shows how she do the mimicking because the society told her to do so. She has been mocked by the Americans because of her fashion style which is different even it is not fully different like the Americans in common. She also got mocked by how she talks and trying to change the way she talks. Other examples are seen through her interaction with the society, she wants to mimic how Italian eat a spaghetti, how American wears when they go to beach and how they act toward each other.

The writer choses the film *Brooklyn* that premiered on 26 January 2015 at the Sundance Film Festival. *Brooklyn* has received so many praised from the criticus. It was later screened on 13 September 2015 at the Toronto International Film Festival during the Special Presentations section. The film received critical acclaim, with many praising the screenplay, direction. Ronan's performance was highlighted by many critics, earning her several nominations for Best Actress, including a BAFTA, Critics' Choice, Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award. The film was nominated for three Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Actress, and Best Adapted Screenplay, and won the BAFTA Award for Best British Film.

Brooklyn was also named one of the best films of 2015, featuring on more than 120 "Top 10" film critics' lists. The film was ranked 48th on BBC's 100 Greatest Films of the 21st Century.

The mimicry that will be discussed in this study are about the Social mimicry toward the society when Eilis try to fit with them, Mimicry seen toward herself when she changes her appearance, and Mimicry seen toward the colleagues in Ireland when she shows different styles of gesture, facial expression and dressing.

2. DISCUSSION

In this part, the writer will be proven the statement about mimicry that Eilis do when she is in America. It can be seen through her acts and gesture that differentiate between her while in Ireland and her in America.

The first act is the type of social mimicry where Eilis is outside, she shows herself like the common America:



This long shot of Eilis and her friend known as Tony Fiorello. In this long shot cinematography, we can see her socially blend in with the people in that scene. In this story, Tony is the Italian friend who she met while she lives in America, by that fact, it can be proven that Eilis is mimicking or imitating the guy. First act is shown by the way she walks confidently, it can show how strong and unbothered Eilis is toward the surrounding. The second act is proven by the way she wears those glasses like what her Italian friend do. Third is how she leads the way; she walks in front of the guy which resembles that she is trying to fit with the society.

Other proves that Eilis is different when she is in America can be seen in this picture:



This scene is where Eilis in the beach in Ireland with her Irish guy friend. The long shot that taken in the scene shows how different Eilis toward her

two different nationalities. When she is in America, Eilis tries to fit with the surrounding but comparing her when she is in Ireland give major different where she is not wearing glasses, where in this story, the glasses is the attribute that differentiate Eilis with the previous Eilis when she is not yet live in America. The second is the dress that she wears, she wears more casually with a bright colour and she tie her hair in a bun when the previous photos, Eilis show herself in a loose-tie hair and the last is shows by her gesture which gives more calm energy rather than arrogant energy, she also walks side by side with the guy comparing with the previous photos which it is gives more meaning like she wanted the society treat them as an Americans in common.



We can see by this full length shot where Eilis is with her friends in the beach in Ireland. We can see the differences between Eilis and her female friend by how they wear a swimsuit. We

can see that her friend is wearing something which different with what Eilis wears, Eilis wear something that shows her upper body when her friend wear more proper as seen with her clothes is more closed in the upper body especially in the breast part. There is no article that says about how Ireland usually wear when go to beach but here, the writer wanted to highlight how Eilis have been change throughout her ways of imitating American.

This will show about mimicry toward herself or behaviorism:



This long shot scene in the film shows how Eilis mimic other in the way of eating and table manner. This scene is a prove where the character tries to copy/mimic/imitate the Italian table manner where in her plan to visit her Italian guy friend there in America. She uses spaghetti as a resemblance to Italian where spaghetti or pasta I originally from Italia. This act is the

implemented mimicry which define as characteristics traits are notice in body positioning and postures. These traits would fit into dynamics noted between interacting individuals by which the character imitates the gesture of another culture. By this picture, we can see that the character tries to copy how do Italian eat spaghetti, the table manner and how to roll or twirl the spaghetti like what common Italiando.



The picture above shows mimicry toward her colleagues and society where, in this scene, it shows long shot in cinematography where the two of Eilis friends try to fix Eilis hair. Instead of showing herself as Eilis, she is changing herself into something. It shows that Eilis cannot appear as Eilis. Look at how their faces that shows the arrogant yet confident face while doing Eilis hair, it can be a way to change Eilis into someone else. Eilis is also does not look like she is uncomfortable when those two of her friends touch her hair, instead she also

showing confident face. This is a step where Eilis feel confident and comfortable with herself and her two friends.



While, in this full length shot taken in the scene, we can see a full body of Eilis. This is the climax of the story which showing how Eilis mimicking others. Eilis is trying a little by little copying Americans and Italians while she lives in their society. At first, she appears in the not-really confident one but in this scene, we can see first by her expression which shows how confident and arrogant she is, it can be seen by how his lips closed but it conveys the strong personal appearance that she builds little by little. Second is the way how she put her hand while holding her glasses. When someone hold their things in just by their two fingers convey the meaning of how confident they are, also we can see the way she holds the things in her left hand while moving forward, it

resembles of the confidence and independence the person is. The third is the way how she appears with her dress and glasses, she is a totally different person after living in the American society, we can say that she is completely succeed of copying the American culture.

3. CONCLUSION

To summarize this study, in this film, entitled *Brooklyn*, Crowley tries to portray how Ireland immigrant really do when they live in a totally different society. The writer of this study concludes that, Brooklyn is a good resemblance of people who is a minority who live in a majority country trying to be fit and blend in the society. Eilis do mimicry and camouflage herself into like one of the Americans with the prove when she wears glasses when it is not her behavior, she changes her facial expression, she changes her appearance and also, she changes how to do body

language in order to be survive and become one of the societies. The result is that, Eilis is succeeded to be one of Americans in the American society without being awkward as someone with a totally different social and cultural environment.

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