

**CONSTRUCTION OF FEAR IN THE DOCUMENTARY FILM *THE SOCIAL  
DILEMMA* (2020)**

**A Research Paper**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Bachelor degree of English Language and Literature Study Program



By

Adinda Oryma Dwi Amalia

1909668

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITAS PENDIDIKAN INDONESIA  
2023**

## PAGE OF APPROVAL

### CONSTRUCTION OF FEAR IN THE DOCUMENTARY FILM *THE SOCIAL DILEMMA* (2020)

A Research Paper

By:

Adinda Oryma Dwi Amalia

1909668

Approved by

Supervisor



Dr. Nia Nafisah. S.S., M.Pd.  
NIP. 19710424200642001

Head of English Language and Literature Program  
Faculty Of Language and Literature Education  
Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia



Eri Kurniawan. M.A., Ph. D.  
NIP. 198111232005011002

## **STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION**

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled *Construction of Fear in the Documentary Film The Social Dilemma (2020)* is my own work. To the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no element of plagiarism. Therefore, I confirm that I will be ready to respond to any risks that can be imposed on me if later there will be any violation of educational research ethics in this work. This study is submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree.

Bandung, Juli 2023

Adinda Oryma Dwi Amalia

## PREFACE

I submit this present study entitled *Construction of Fear in the Documentary Film The Social Dilemma (2020)* as partial fulfillment of the requirement for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree. I hope this study can contribute to further research in the field of linguistics, especially in the move analysis studies. The writer realizes this study is still lacking in some aspects. Therefore, any criticism and recommendations will be much appreciated.

Adinda Oryma Dwi Amalia

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

First of all, I would like to show my gratitude to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala and Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam, who has guided me until now. This essay serves as evidence that I have successfully completed one stage of life and am now prepared to begin a new one. As a result, I would be unable to complete this assignment without the assistance of those close to me. My intention in writing this is to express my sincere appreciation.

Then, I would like to express my gratitude towards Dr. Nia Nafisah. S.S., M.Pd., my supervisor who always guides and gives me the best support and advice so that I can properly finish my thesis on time. I would also like to thank all the lecturers who have guided me up to this point that allowed me to hold a Bachelor's degree.

For my family that I love so much, thank you very much for always helping me and being by my side in ups and downs, especially for Bunda, Ayah, and my one and only older sister, Meira. You have been incredibly supportive and prayed for me as I worked on this thesis. Thank you for always understanding and not putting any pressure. Sorry if Adek continues to cause you problems and has not made you all proud. Also, thank you to my cousins who accompanied and helped me during my stay in Bandung.

Also, Nadia, Nisa, and Nanas who helped me in proofreading my thesis and patiently answered all of my endless questions. As well as my friends in Purple gang (Ariyj, Anggia, Galuh, Aisyah, Naresha) and B Badag, thank you because you guys want to be my friends and accompany me during four years in college. Thanks to my forever best friends, Ilma, Shei, and Anggi, I love you guys. Thank you for my biases who accompanied and entertained me with their works during the writing of my thesis, Ilysm.

## **ABSTRACT**

Among a lot of film genres or types, documentaries are one type of film that is well known in terms of inspiration and influence on the audience. *The Social Dilemma* (2020) is a documentary that raises an issue about how social media networks work to captivate their audience and use their attention as a product of social media. It also shows the impact of social media on people's privacy and their morale in society. This study intends to examine the construction of fear in the documentary film *The Social Dilemma* (2020). The construction of fear is analyzed based on the theory of fear by Starkstein (2019) and formal system of film theory by Bordwell and Thompson (2008). It is found that the construction of fear in this study is divided into three concepts of fear: distrust, suspicion, and taking heed. These concepts of fear are revealed through two dominant aspects of the film, namely expert speech and fictional scenes. Overall, through three emotions related to fear and two dominant aspects of film, this study proves that the documentary film is able to construct imagination -in this case, fear.

Keywords: construction, documentary film, fear, social media.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PAGE OF APPROVAL.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION.....</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>PREFACE.....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ABSTRACT.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study.....	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	3
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	3
1.4 Scope of the Study.....	4
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	4
1.6 Clarification of Key Terms.....	4
1.7 Organization of the Paper.....	5
<b>CHAPTER II.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK.....</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Concept of Fear.....	6
2.2 Film Theory.....	9
2.2.1 Documentary as Film Genre.....	9
2.2.1.1 Types of Documentaries.....	11
2.2.1.2 Rhetorical Form in Documentary.....	13
2.2.1.3 Film Narrative.....	14
2.2.1.4 Film Style.....	17
2.3 Previous Studies.....	20
<b>CHAPTER III.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1 Research Question.....	25
3.2 Research Design.....	25
3.3 Data Source.....	26
3.4 Data Collection and Analysis.....	28
3.5 Data Presentation.....	29
<b>CHAPTER IV.....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>35</b>
4.1 Findings.....	35
4.1.1 Distrust.....	35

4.1.1.1 Distrust towards Social Media.....	36
4.1.1.2 Distrust towards Family Member.....	39
4.1.1.3 Distrust towards Self Appearance.....	40
4.1.2 Suspicion.....	43
4.1.2.1 Suspicion towards Ben's Behavior.....	43
4.1.3 Taking-heed.....	45
4.1.3.1 Taking-heed to the Plans for the Users.....	45
4.1.3.2 Taking-heed of Opinions in Social Media.....	47
4.2 Discussion.....	51
<b>CHAPTER V.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.....</b>	<b>56</b>
5.1 Conclusion.....	56
5.2 Suggestions.....	57
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>APPENDIX.....</b>	<b>61</b>

## REFERENCES

- Amedie, J. (2015). The Impact of Social Media on Society. *Pop Culture Intersections*. 2. [https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/engl\\_176/2](https://scholarcommons.scu.edu/engl_176/2)
- Anderson, T. L., Scott, B. L., & Kavarnaugh, P. R. (2015). Race, inequality and the medicalization of drug addiction: an analysis of documentary films. *Journal of Substance Use*, 20(5), 319–332. <https://doi.org/10.3109/14659891.2014.920052>
- Atkinson, P., & Silverman, D. (1997). Kundera's Immortality: The Interview Society and the Invention of the Self. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 3(3), 304–325. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107780049700300304>
- Aufderheide, P. (2008). *Documentary film: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press.
- Arendt, F., & Matthes, J. (2016). Nature Documentaries, Connectedness to Nature, and Pro-environmental Behavior. *Environmental Communication*, 10(4), 453–472. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2014.993415>
- Bordwell, D., & Thompson, K. (2008). *Film art: An introduction* (8th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.
- Chua, T. H. H., & Chang, L. (2016). Follow me and like my beautiful selfies: Singapore teenage girls' engagement in self-presentation and peer comparison on social media. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 55, 190–197. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2015.09.011>
- Cambridge Dictionary Online*. (2023). Retrieved from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>
- Decker, C. (2007). Richard Leacock and the Origins of Direct Cinema: Reassessing the Idea of an Uncontrolled Cinema. In *Engelbrecht, Beate (ed.): Memories of the origins of ethnographic film* (Vol. 1, pp. 31–47). Peter Lang GmbH.
- Dennen, V. P., Choi, H., & Word, K. (2020). Social media, teenagers, and the school context: a scoping review of research in education and related fields. *Educational Technology Research and Development*, 68(4), 1635–1658. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11423-020-09796-z>

- Denzin, N. K. (2001). The reflexive interview and a performative social science. *Qualitative Research*, 1(1), 23–46. <https://doi.org/10.1177/146879410100100102>
- Deutsch, M. (1958). Trust and suspicion. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2(4), 265–279. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002200275800200401>
- Dillard, A. (1982). *Living By Fiction*. New York: Harper & Row.
- Dreyer, C. (2018). Crafting Fear: The Horror Film Trailer. *Honors Theses*. 2936. [https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors\\_theses/2936](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/honors_theses/2936)
- Hanich, J. (2014). Judge Dread: What we are afraid of when we are scared at the movies. *Projections*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.3167/proj.2014.080203>
- Johnson, A. H. (2016). Transnormativity: A new concept and its validation through documentary film about Transgender men. *Sociological Inquiry*, 86(4), 465–491. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12127>
- Krysanova, T. (2019). Multimodal Construction of Fear in Film. *Science and Education – a New Dimension*, VII(195)(59), 34–37. <https://doi.org/10.31174/SEND-Ph2019-195VII59-08>
- Kunze, A. E., Arntz, A., & Kindt, M. (2015). Fear conditioning with film clips: A complex associative learning paradigm. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*, 47, 42–50. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jbtep.2014.11.007>
- Mobbs, D., Adolphs, R., Fanselow, M. S., Barrett, L. F., LeDoux, J. E., Ressler, K., & Tye, K. M. (2019). Viewpoints: Approaches to defining and investigating fear. *Nature Neuroscience*, 22(8), 1205–1216. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-019-0456-6>
- Rhodes, L. (Producer), & Orlowski, J. (Director). (2020). *The Social Dilemma* [film]. United States: Exposure Labs.
- Noer, A. R. (2021). We Choose What to Fear in Indonesian Horror Cinema. *Communicare : Journal of Communication Studies*, 8(1), 62. <https://doi.org/10.37535/101008120215>
- Oakley, A. (1981). ‘Interviewing Women: A Contradiction in Terms’, in Helen Roberts (ed.) *Feminist Research*, (pp. 30–61). London: Routledge.

- Perdana, D. D. (2020). Reception Analysis of Related Audience by Watching “Sexy Killers” the Documentary Film. *Proceedings of the 2nd International Media Conference 2019 (IMC 2019)*. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.200325.009>
- Place, U. T. (1954). The concept of heed. *British Journal of Psychology. General Section*, 45(4), 243–255. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2044-8295.1954.tb01252.x>
- Porter, E. J. (2000). ‘*Setting Aside the Identity-Furor: Staying her Story-Course of Same-ness*’, Qualitative Inquiry 6(2): 238–50.
- Priest, S. (2007). *The British Empiricist*. Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.
- Reinharz, S. (1992). *Feminist Methods in Social Research*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Starkstein, S. (2018). *A Conceptual and Therapeutic Analysis of Fear*. Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-78349-9>
- Susskind, J. M., Lee, D. H., Cusi, A., Feiman, R., Grabski, W., & Anderson, A. K. (2008). Expressing fear enhances sensory acquisition. *Nature Neuroscience*, 11(7), 843–850. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nn.2138>
- Thompson, R., & Bowen, C. J. (2009). *Grammar of the shot* (2nd ed.). Focal Press.
- Van de Walle, S., & Six, F. (2014). Trust and Distrust as Distinct Concepts: Why Studying Distrust in Institutions is Important. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, 16(2), 158–174. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13876988.2013.785146>
- Wiseman, S. (2006). *Drama and politics in the English Civil War*. Cambridge University Press.