

Harmonizing Existence: A Screenplay on Maintaining Inner Principles Through Habitus in Different Social Circles

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ABSTRACT

This thesis presents "Harmonizing Existence," a creative drama screenplay exploring socioeconomic inequality, determination, and personal growth through Bourdieu's habitus theory. It follows Joko Damar's journey from poverty to success, highlighting his trials and transformation. Using a slice-of-life approach, the screenplay conveys that success is achievable through adaptation, hard work, and transcending societal limitations. It challenges biases, inspires self-belief, and prompts reflection on individual potential. The narrative examines the interplay between social structures and personal agency, showcasing Joko's navigation of his initial habitus. By depicting his evolving mindset and skills, the story celebrates resilience while critiquing systemic barriers to social mobility, encouraging viewers to consider their growth potential and broader societal implications.

Keywords: adaptation, determination, drama screenplay, habitus theory, personal growth, socioeconomic inequality

INTRODUCTION

Many aspire to become wealthy in life's journey, especially young individuals starting their careers. However, only some achieve prosperity, with success often linked to perseverance and a strong work ethic. Social inequalities create a divide between the affluent and the impoverished. DesRoches (2019) notes that intelligent but impoverished students are less likely to become wealthy by age 25 compared to their wealthy but less intelligent peers. Additionally, graduation rates are lower among impoverished students than their affluent counterparts. This highlights a troubling disparity in socioeconomic status and academic performance outcomes.

Access to quality education often requires scholarships for those without financial advantages. According to Dihni (2022), students from rural areas receive scholarships at a higher rate (23.34%) compared to urban areas (17.90%). This is due to economic limitations and limited development resources in rural areas, which affect the quality of education. UNICEF (2020) reports that globally, 72% of students lacking access to education come from the poorest households. In middle to high-income countries, 86% of children from the least affluent households are unable to participate in remote learning. These statistics underscore the challenges faced by those without early privileges in attaining success.

My topic explores how an individual's decision to leave an unfortunate environment can determine career success. This creative work aims to highlight the importance of understanding how factors like low economic conditions, unsupportive social environments, and limited educational opportunities can hinder career development. Leaving an unsupportive environment can lead to better education access, deeper career training, and more promising job opportunities, influenced by personal factors such as motivation and social support. This underscores the need for policies that support social mobility and reduce inequalities.

Significant disparities exist in Australia's education system, affecting disadvantaged students. Cappellari (2020) emphasizes the necessity of resources to mitigate these gaps and prevent long-term repercussions like unemployment and missed opportunities among youth. Even with scholarships or free college access, individuals from low economic backgrounds struggle with living costs, illustrating that intelligence alone does not guarantee access to quality education due to these inequalities. Colleges' consideration of students' socio-economic backgrounds and adaptation to societal norms further shape their academic and career trajectories, creating pressure and limiting opportunities for students from less privileged backgrounds. Understanding societal expectations and regulations is crucial in influencing young individuals' decision-making and career development.

My creative work delves into topics like decisions and forming new habits, relevant to young people today. I chose this topic to challenge the structural concept in society that success is attainable only by those with privilege. Financial limitations should not hinder one's pursuit of education. Underprivileged individuals should be encouraged to achieve success. By stepping out of their comfort zones, they gain new insights that shape their thinking and decision-making, influencing their views on opportunities in life. This topic is crucial to broadening the views of young people exposed to discouraging environments, helping them realize that social perspectives do not define their life standards. I want young people to challenge the belief that privilege is the sole determinant of success, striving to create a more equitable and inclusive society.

Screenplays are essential for film production, serving as a guide for producers, directors, actors, and crew. Jefferson (2014) notes that the screenplay directs the entire film production process. I chose to create a screenplay script because it can convey a strong message through film, leaving a lasting impression on the audience and enabling them to understand the significance and messages within the story.

Bondebjerg (2015) explains that genre in film studies refers to commonalities within collections of films, based on aesthetic, social, institutional, cultural, and psychological elements. The genre I chose is the drama slice of life, focusing on situations and issues relevant to everyday lives, allowing audiences to feel emotionally connected. Buffam (2011) emphasizes that the emotional and interpersonal growth of believable characters is essential to the drama genre. My story, grounded in real-life narratives with a specific time and place setting, explores deep feelings and emotions, making it suitable for the drama genre.

"Harmonizing Existence" follows Joko Damar's inspiring journey from poverty to success as he enters a prestigious Jakarta university at 18. Determined to overcome challenges, Joko excels academically, participates in competitions, and shows resilience in adversity. He graduates with distinction, becomes a successful entrepreneur, and inspires others. Joko's story epitomizes the transformative power of education, adaptation, hard work, and determination, showcasing how one individual's journey can ignite hope and drive positive change for a brighter future.

This creative work explores why a poor individual chooses to leave their comfort zone and start a career in a new environment, and how they survive and thrive in their new circumstances. Specifically, it examines why Joko, a poor person, decides to leave his difficult structural conditions to start a new life for his career, and how Joko forms a new habitus in his new environment to achieve success.

The purpose of this work is to demonstrate how a person can succeed by challenging themselves to leave their comfort zone and adapt to a new environment. It aims to show Joko's journey in leaving his past life to seek more opportunities for success, and his process of forming a new habitus by being open to new insights and changing his mindset.

**Rumalutur: Harmonizing Existence: A Screenplay on Maintaining Inner Principles Through
Habitus in Different Social Circles**

This creative work underscores that success is attainable for anyone who desires it and is willing to put in the effort, regardless of their background. Joko's story illustrates that adaptability and determination can help individuals overcome challenges and seize opportunities, challenging societal norms and stereotypes about success and privilege. This work aims to inspire young people, especially those from less privileged backgrounds, to focus on their intrinsic drive and make proactive choices to shape their destinies. For young Indonesians, this story serves as a beacon of hope and motivation, showing that they can rise above economic constraints and societal expectations to achieve their dreams. It provides an enriched storyline that resonates deeply with young audiences, moving beyond typical romantic or simple conflicts to address more significant challenges and triumphs. By doing so, it aims to foster a sense of resilience and determination among Indonesian youth, encouraging them to pursue their goals despite obstacles.

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

The theory applied in this creative work is Pierre Bourdieu's habitus theory. Bourdieu's concepts of field, capital, and habitus are central to understanding how social and structural conditions shape individual behavior and opportunities. Habitus refers to the learned set of preferences or dispositions by which a person orients themselves to the social world, influenced by cultural, social, and economic capital. This theory highlights how societal norms, values, and power dynamics impact individual agency and decision-making, shaping life chances and futures (Bourdieu, 2002, p. 27). In this context, Joko's journey reflects the influence of habitus as he navigates and adapts to new social structures, leveraging his social and cultural capital to achieve success. This theory provides a nuanced understanding of the interplay between individual actions and broader social contexts, emphasizing the importance of adaptability and resilience in overcoming social hierarchies and inequalities (Ignatow & Robinson, 2017; Edgerton & Roberts, 2014, p. 5).

The methodology involves secondary research, including reviewing films, journals, and theories related to habitus. The process follows a structured approach: choosing a topic that is relevant, interesting, and impactful; determining the genre that best complements the chosen topic; opting for a screenplay format to effectively convey the story; planning the storyline, character development, conflicts, and climax; and developing the screenplay based on the planned elements. This systematic approach ensures that the creative work is well-researched, structured, and resonates with the intended audience, providing both entertainment and meaningful insights.

CONCEPT OF CREATIVE WORK

Modes of Expression

Drama is the genre of this screenplay. Drama in screenplay often portrays aspects of a person's life, whether it is a story about someone's journey or the challenges they face in their social and family lives. Dramas frequently follow characters we would see as our friends, neighbors, and family dealing with the struggles of everyday life (Hellerman, 2019). Many films also incorporate drama into social aspects, like the movie **Merry Riana**, which depicts her struggle to achieve success. Just like the previously mentioned critically acclaimed drama film, I will transform this work into a dramatic portrayal

of Joko's career journey, one punctuated by societal pressures and fluctuations. However, he keeps moving forward with a strong determination to change his family's future. On this journey, we can witness the drama in which, in his new life, Joko endeavors to compete and adapt within the norms of a new society while relying on his old principles in his environment and social circles. Through his journey, I will illustrate various dramatic elements, including Joko's mental challenges and eventual resurgence as he contemplates his decisions. Ultimately, the screenplay will demonstrate that success is attainable even for those without a wealthy background, portraying the struggles, pains, and moments of resilience along the way.

In writing this screenplay, I have chosen to employ a narrative and dialogue-driven style to delve deeper into the story. In the screenplay, Cummins (2021) says that a narrative is a story that presents a series of events, characters, and themes. It conveys experiences, ideas, and perspectives, aiming to engage and inspire the audience. The narrative concludes the story of sequential events that involve characters. Writing a narrative text often involves writing about events that happened in the past. Within the screenplay, narrative writing will elucidate various actions and situations in which Joko will take steps towards achieving his success. All forms of action, scenes, and conversations will be explained in a narrative format to provide an insight into what will transpire on the screen. After the narrative, there is also a dialog-driven style, which is added to complement the creative work that I make. Kelvin (2024) mentioned that dialogue is the conversation between characters in movies, TV shows, or plays. Dialogue-driven style is crucial for character development in a film, as it allows characters to reveal themselves through conversation. Through dialogue, characters can express their thoughts, feelings, and backgrounds, providing deeper insight into their personalities. For instance, in this screenplay, dialogue will be utilized to showcase Joko's internal struggles and emotions as he navigates through life's challenges. Each conversation will serve to unravel Joko's character, enabling the audience to empathize with his journey and connect with his experiences on a personal level. From what is mentioned above about dialog-driven, we can confirm that dialogues are an activity where a character speaks to each other and also allows characters to express their emotions powerfully. This can take the form of a dialogue filled with anger, sadness, happiness, or other feelings that will emotionally impact the audience. I chose a narrative and dialog-driven style because this helps the audience better understand the characters and feel connected to them. In this screenplay, the use of narrative and dialog-driven storytelling is employed to explain various situations in the story. The utilization of dialog-driven involves a character speaking to each other about their feelings and what they want to convey within the story. This will appear in the script in every scene where Joko talks to his parents and friends, expressing his reactions to the events that unfold in his life one after another.

The creative work is inspired by the film *Merry Riana: Mimpi Sejuta Dollar*. As a biographical film depicting the life journey of an extraordinary young entrepreneur, Merry Riana, I was intrigued to explore the layers of emotions, challenges, and victories faced by the main character in my work. Through the lens of my creativity, I strive to take the audience on an inspirational journey where the perseverance and determination of Merry Riana become the main resources in achieving success. I aim to delve into critical moments in Merry Riana's life that shaped her character and propelled her to surpass seemingly impossible limits. This story is not just about financial success but also about personal growth, the spirit of never giving up, and positive values that can encourage others to pursue their dreams. I endeavor to weave a narrative rich in emotions, conflicts, and achievements, creating a work that not only entertains but also provides inspiration and motivation to its audience. As a creator, Merry Riana's spirit and determination motivate me to immerse myself in this creative medium. Here, I will employ the techniques of flashbacks and voice-over to delve into the characters and story within the creative work I am creating, and both of these techniques will unfold in the writing in a narrative and dialog-driven style.

My story has one major key difference and uniqueness compared to *Merry Riana: Mimpi Sejuta Dolar*. The work I created has the ambiance of a true yet fictional story, allowing the audience to

**Rumalutur: Harmonizing Existence: A Screenplay on Maintaining Inner Principles Through
Habitus in Different Social Circles**

experience deep emotions while watching. Unlike Merry Riana's straightforward biographical and inspirational tale based on true events, my story blends the feel of a true story with fictional elements, creating a deeply emotional experience. The narrative technique in my story includes numerous voiceovers by present-day Joko explaining his life navigation and plans for success, adding depth to the storytelling. In contrast, Merry Riana's story focuses more on direct storytelling without extensive use of voice overs. Additionally, Joko serves as an inspiration at a motivational event, actively engaging with the audience in the present, which is a focus point of the narrative. While Merry Riana's story is inspirational, it does not center around a live motivational event. My story uses a non-linear structure with extensive flashbacks, framed by the present-day Joko narrating his past struggles and successes, whereas Merry Riana's story follows a more linear path from struggle to success. Furthermore, my story emphasizes the mindset and detailed strategies young college students can use to achieve their desires, catering specifically to young individuals in the early stages of their careers. Merry Riana's story, on the other hand, provides a more general inspiration for overcoming adversity. I hope that through this, young individuals in the early stages of their careers, whether watching or reading my creative work, will be motivated to remain determined to pursue their dreams.

Genre Codes and Conventions

In this section, I am going to talk about the genre codes and conventions of drama screenplays. I have gathered the characteristics of a drama screenplay from the book *Mastering English Literature* by the writer Richard Gill (1995).

Creating engaging and compelling stories in drama screenplays depends on developing characters with depth and authenticity. This requires an understanding of how societal influences shape characters and why it's crucial to represent them genuinely. Characters in plays are not just roles; they are individuals who express themselves through their actions and dialogue, revealing their unique personalities. Mastering these elements not only enriches storytelling but also creates a deep resonance with the audience. In this drama screenplay, the main character is Joko, and he will be described in a narrative form. There will be various components, such as Joko's background story, his aspirations, and the actions he takes to achieve success. As supporting characters, there will be his parents and his college friends, who also attend one of the best colleges in their city. The story of Joko's journey and struggles will be primarily conveyed through narrative text.

The setting of place in a drama screenplay refers to the physical locations where the events of the story take place. The choice of setting can include real locations like buildings and cities, interior versus exterior settings, historical or period settings, and cultural environments such as seasons. The selection of the setting is a crucial aspect of storytelling because it helps create the world in which characters interact and events unfold. The setting will be the capital city of Jakarta, with his university in Jakarta. Most of the events will take place in the university and also at home. Joko himself struggles to achieve success in various places, such as university, home, the part-time workplace, and others. The balance between indoor and outdoor locations.

In a screenplay, the setting of time can be introduced through establishing shots, dialogue, or even costume design. It is important to be clear and specific about the time period in which the story takes place, as this can impact the overall tone and mood of the screenplay. The story can occur in the past, present or future. Because this is the journey of Joko's success in challenging the existing social structure and making himself successful from a family with no financial background, the time setting will jump

from his college days in 2015-2019 to becoming a pioneer in the business world in 2023. In this story, there will be some social changes and also changing seasons that alternate due to the advancing times.

In a screenplay, the sequence of events is crucial as it drives the plot, creates conflict, and develops characters. These events form the backbone of the narrative structure, keeping the audience engaged throughout. Events include various elements like the setting, historical period, and cultural context, all of which contribute to the emotional depth and impact of the story. They play a vital role in connecting the audience with the character's journey, making the storytelling experience meaningful and impactful. The main character, Joko, faces numerous challenges while adapting to his new environment. Most notably, he encounters situations where he must participate in competitions, only to experience failure. Through these experiences, he learns to cultivate a new mindset, especially when facing significant pressure from friends and college. Additionally, Joko navigates the complexities of starting his first business and strives to maximize his career alongside his work team in the future. These challenges serve as opportunities for Joko to develop his adaptability and understanding of new career paths in a more demanding environment.

Outline of the Creative Work

Theme

Joko's journey embodies the themes of perseverance and adaptability. Coming from a humble background, he faces numerous challenges, from social rejection due to his arrogance to the struggles of establishing a business. His story highlights the importance of humility, hard work, and the willingness to learn from mistakes. Through these experiences, Joko demonstrates that success is achievable for anyone, regardless of their background, as long as they are determined and adaptable. The narrative underscores that personal growth and success are not defined by one's origins but by one's actions and mindset.

Plot

The premise of my creative work is that Joko is a successful businessman who learns that listening to someone with a new mindset in a new environment is needed in order to achieve his goal. The design principle of my creative work is that I am going to show that every individual deserves to succeed, and as human beings, we should not judge people based on their backgrounds, whether they were born to rich or poor parents. The logline of my creative work is Joko, an ordinary child with no background in wealth, enters a prestigious college with a full scholarship and aims to prove that he deserves to compete in that college and be the most successful man in his town.

For the story, I will put the pitch paragraph below.

- a. Joko, a new student from a poor background, attends Jakarta Business University with full scholarships.
- b. In college, Joko has a problem where all his friends do not trust him again because he is being arrogant and ignorant and he also faces problems when he tries to open his own takoyaki business, which is not going so well.
- c. Through adaptation and hard work, Joko finally succeeded in building his own brand of food and beverage. Joko faced many challenges, but he never gave up. He worked hard and created a successful food and beverage brand. This proved that he belonged to the university, showing his adaptability and success.

Synopsis

**Rumalutur: Harmonizing Existence: A Screenplay on Maintaining Inner Principles Through
Habitus in Different Social Circles**

Joko, a successful businessman, shares his journey to get to the point where he is now. Joko, who in the past was still naive and arrogant, faces many obstacles that make him realize that he still has many things to fix. Joko is coming from a different background than his friends, making him face more challenges. One day, he will face two major mistakes, the first is when he is still in college, and the second is when he opens his own business. Through those obstacles, Joko learns how to be a better person for his own future.

Character

In the cast of characters for the screenplay "Joko Damar," the main protagonist is Joko Damar, a 27-year-old from a humble background in a village, determined to succeed despite financial and social challenges. He is portrayed as intelligent, resourceful, and courageous, with a passion for music and learning. Supporting characters include Sarah Wilona, a popular YouTube podcaster; Rian Garcia, a supportive and intelligent friend; Rafael Morgan, an affluent and arrogant student; Rachel Venya, a kind-hearted and diligent student; Sisca, a mentor at Jakarta Business University; Billy, Joko's organizational friend skilled in social media; and Shella, a creative and dedicated employee in Joko's business venture. Each character contributes uniquely to Joko's journey, adding depth and complexity to the narrative.

Conflict

Three types of conflict happen in my creative work, which are man vs. society, man vs. man, and man vs. himself. Man vs. society is when the main character or characters of a story are in direct conflict with society (Craiker, 2022). This conflict will confront Joko with numerous challenges in his new college's social environment. Because Joko comes from a less privileged financial background, despite his intelligent mind, he still faces many difficulties in pursuing his career in a new social sphere. Then there's man vs. man when Joko had to face his college colleagues who did not like his presence on campus. According to Craiker (2022), man vs. man is a type of conflict where two characters are in direct opposition to each other. As in the story, Rafael's character is the one who doesn't like Joko and puts a lot of pressure on Joko during his studies, and Joko's mission is to survive and also live his career well. And the last one is man vs. self. According to Yang (2022), man vs. self is a conflict where a character battles with their internal struggles. In the story, Joko experiences several difficulties as he faces pressure, either when he is studying or taking part in competitions or when he is having difficulty running his business. That is where he has to overcome his pessimistic thoughts to move forward and learn to adapt well.

CONCLUSION

This thesis uses Pierre Bourdieu's habitus theory to explore how individual actions interact with societal structures, emphasizing challenges faced by less privileged individuals. The screenplay "Harmonizing the Existence" illustrates Joko's journey from a stubborn student to a successful entrepreneur, highlighting themes of resilience, mindset shifts, and the importance of supportive relationships in achieving success. Through Joko's story, I learned that success is achievable regardless of socio-economic background. Joko's journey emphasizes adaptability, resilience, and the transformative power of education, challenging societal stereotypes about success and encouraging young people to pursue their dreams.

My plan is to apply the lessons learned in their career, focusing on adaptability, continuous learning, and leveraging strengths to make a positive impact in the creative industry. They aim to succeed by applying the skills acquired at Petra Christian University and staying open to new opportunities. Based

on their experience, I recommend that aspiring creatives immerse themselves in various literary and creative works to enhance their skills and understanding of storytelling across different mediums.

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