

THE INTRINSIC ELEMENTS ANALYSIS ON DEVELOPING THE CHARACTER AND THEME IN FILM “JOKER”

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Abstract

One of the essential components of film is the intrinsic elements. The purpose of the research is to analyse the intrinsic elements of *Joker* film and the influences of those intrinsic elements on developing the character and the theme of *Joker* film directed by Todd Phillips. This research used the qualitative method as its research design and the structuralism approach as the tool for analysing the data. The data of this research were taken from dialogues and narrations of *Joker's* (2019) film script directed by Todd Phillips. *Joker* is a thriller film that focuses its theme on critiques of society's indifference and the institutions that overlook vulnerable individuals, particularly those struggling with mental health challenges. As a result, this research showed the intrinsic elements of *Joker* film consisting of plot (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution), characters (Arthur Fleck/Joker, Murray Franklin, Penny Fleck, Sophie Dumond), setting (place: Gotham City, The Comedy Club), and point of view which was taken from Arthur's, theme (mental illness and society neglect, alienation and isolation, identity and transformation, the role of violence in society). *Joker* film reflects on the importance of empathy and community in addressing the needs of individuals who are suffering.

Keyword : intinsic elements, plot, point of view, theme, film *joker*

Abstrak

Salah satu komponen penting dari sebuah film adalah unsur-unsur intrinsiknya. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis unsur-unsur intrinsik film *Joker* dan pengaruh unsur-unsur intrinsik tersebut terhadap pengembangan karakter dan tema film *Joker* yang disutradarai oleh Todd Phillips. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif sebagai desain penelitiannya dan pendekatan strukturalisme sebagai alat untuk menganalisis data. Data penelitian ini diambil dari dialog dan narasi naskah film *Joker* (2019) yang disutradarai oleh Todd Phillips. *Joker* adalah film thriller yang memfokuskan temanya pada kritik terhadap ketidakpedulian masyarakat dan lembaga-lembaga yang mengabaikan individu-individu yang rentan, terutama mereka yang berjuang dengan tantangan kesehatan mental. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan unsur intrinsik film *Joker* yang terdiri dari alur (eksposisi, rising action, klimaks, dropping action, dan resolusi), karakter (Arthur Fleck/Joker, Murray Franklin, Penny Fleck, Sophie Dumond), latar (tempat: Gotham City, The Comedy Club), dan sudut pandang yang diambil dari tema Arthur (penyakit mental dan pengabaian masyarakat, alienasi dan isolasi, identitas dan transformasi, peran kekerasan dalam masyarakat). Dalam film *Joker* merefleksikan pentingnya empati dan komunitas dalam mengatasi kebutuhan individu yang sedang menderita.

Kata kunci: unsur intrinsik, deskriptif kualitatif, film, *joker*.

1. Introduction

In *Joker* film, Arthur's struggle with mental illness and social rejection makes him both a sympathetic and terrifying figure. His journey from ignored outsider to feared anti-hero reveals the consequences of a society that refuses to address its own failures. In this film showed the condition of society .

Film as a part of literary works, also serve as portraits of people's lives, allowing the community to engage with, understand, and utilize them. These works are created from the author's inner experiences, often inspired by significant events or problems, which give rise to ideas and concepts expressed through writing. Literary works reflect the images of life, and life itself is a representation of social reality. Authors create literary works to express their existence and convey specific ideas, concepts, and messages. These are often inspired by their imagination and shaped by their socio-cultural realities. Literature can be viewed as a socio-cultural phenomenon that showcases human creativity. It emerges from the deep expression of experiences that the author has internalized, processed through their imagination. (Guhuhuku, F., Karamoy, O. H., & Lumempouw, 2021).

According to Aruna (2017) literary works (such as novel, film, or poem) often mirrors the culture, customs, values, and aspirations of a specific community, rooted in the reality experienced by the writer. Literary analysis is typically performed to understand an author's techniques and the purpose of their work, based on societal conventions and the critic's perspective on the topics being discussed (Syofyan, 2016).

The film "Joker," featuring Joaquin Phoenix and directed by Todd Phillips, is a compelling entry in the psychological genre that delves deep into the complexities of mental health (Uysal, 2023). Originally released in 2019, this provocative film narrates the story of Arthur Fleck, a struggling comedian grappling with significant mental health challenges. As the plot unfolds, Arthur seeks the help of a psychologist in an effort to navigate his turbulent emotions and deteriorating mental state. The narrative intricately explores the life of Arthur, who, despite his aspirations to become a successful stand-up comedian, faces relentless struggles and societal alienation. His dream of bringing joy through humor is overshadowed by the harsh realities of his existence, which include persistent bullying, social isolation, and the overwhelming pressures of his chaotic environment. As Arthur adopts the persona of a clown to entertain children at parties, he gradually descends into a darker psychological state, illustrating how his attempts to make others laugh become increasingly futile and tragic (Skryabin, 2021).

The theme of transformation is central to the film, as Arthur's descent into madness accentuates the impact of environmental factors on mental health. The story poignantly illustrates how a once-decent individual can become a murderer when subjected to an unrelenting stream of societal rejection and personal trauma (Rosita & Prathisara, 2021). This portrayal raises significant questions about the factors contributing to violent behavior and the societal responsibilities toward individuals struggling with mental illness. Moreover, "Joker" ignited extensive discussions surrounding the portrayal of mental health in the media. The film underscores that individuals with mental health disorders are often vulnerable to rapid personality changes, particularly when they are faced with extreme stress or trauma. This theme resonated with many viewers, prompting them to consider the broader implications of neglecting mental health issues in society.

Although full recovery from serious mental illness can be challenging, the film suggests that personality changes resulting from mental stressors can be managed with appropriate care and support. Seeking assistance from mental health professionals, such as psychiatrists, can provide individuals with essential coping strategies and therapeutic interventions. Additionally, the film highlights that factors contributing to mental illness are often multifaceted, encompassing

environmental stressors, trauma, and, in some cases, genetic predispositions. Through its complex character study, "Joker" ultimately calls attention to the urgent need for compassion, understanding, and systemic change in how society addresses mental health issues. (Winarsih & Yulikato Sianturi, 2021)

2. Literature Review

2.1 Intrinsic element

The intrinsic elements of literature pertain to the interpretation and analysis of the literary works themselves. In contrast, extrinsic elements exist outside the literary works but do not directly impact the construction or system of literature. In the context of film, the intrinsic elements encompass theme, plot, characters and characterization, setting, and point of view. Each of these elements plays a crucial role in the overall understanding and appreciation of the film (Yusuf, Nasir, & Mahmud, 2022).

2.2 Theme

The theme of literature is its central concept, gradually introduced into the narrative rather than being explicitly stated by the author or narrator. In film, the overarching concept is known as its theme, serving as the message the producers wish to convey. Popular movie themes today include love, good versus evil, humanity versus technology, and more (Yusuf et al., 2022).

The primary subjects in literature are referred to as themes, each with unique value. Most films convey a positive message, such as virtue. Theme refers to how authors incorporate depictions of everyday life into their literary works (Umboro, 2021).

The theme is an abstract concept that serves as the overall framework for a literary work, functioning as a semantic structure. It is typically conveyed indirectly through motifs. This concept is profound. Several factors "bind" to the events of conflict, including the specific circumstances and additional inherent components that clarify the subject being communicated. The theme acts as the foundation for the development of the entire story, providing vitality to that part of the narrative. Themes can be broad, abstract, and general in nature (Annisa, 2021).

2.3 Plot

In the context of a film, the plot encompasses everything that is visually and aurally presented on screen, including all story events and potentially unrelated material. Plots typically comprise five main elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. The exposition serves as the beginning of the story, introducing the characters, setting, and background information crucial for audience comprehension. The rising action develops the story and introduces conflicts, including internal and external struggles faced by the main character. The climax represents the peak of the film, where the main character confronts the most significant conflict. It signifies the culmination of the character's struggles throughout the film. The falling action follows, easing the narrative tension, and the resolution brings closure to the conflicts presented in the film (Umboro, 2021).

The plot is the sequence of events in a story, and it has its own set of rules, much like other components of storytelling. A well-constructed plot should have a believable and rational beginning, middle, and end, designed to create tension and surprise (Stanton, 2007). According to Sudjiman (1986), the plot consists of events that are intricately woven together, propelling the

narrative toward a climax and subsequent resolution. Readers tend to appreciate engaging tales, which also inspire academics to study the story in greater depth. Therefore, a fictional story may not be effectively conveyed if the author fails to utilize the characters' roles to explain the events. To create connections within the narrative, authors can incorporate their characters' thoughts and perspectives through their writing style (Hidayati, 2024).

Kukkonen (in Kiosses 2021) outlines three primary approaches to conceptualizing a plot, each offering a distinct framework for understanding narrative structure:

1. **Plot as a Global, Fixed Structure:** This approach emphasizes the overall arrangement of events throughout the entirety of the story. It looks at how the sequence of events is organized from the beginning to the end, considering the overarching structure and trajectory of the plot. This perspective often involves analyzing how different events are interlinked and how they collectively contribute to the story's progression and ultimate resolution.
2. **Plot as a Progressive Framework:** This perspective focuses on the reader's experience and interpretation of the narrative. It takes into account how readers perceive the relationships between various story events, including the motivations behind characters' actions and the consequences that stem from those actions. This approach highlights the importance of reader engagement, suggesting that the meaning of the plot evolves as the reader unfolds the narrative and makes connections between different elements.
3. **The Author's Design of the Plot:** In this approach, the emphasis is placed on the author's intentional methods of organizing the story. It explores how the author strategically crafts the plot to elicit specific responses or achieve particular effects, such as building tension, creating suspense, or providing emotional impact. This perspective acknowledges the author's role as a creator who shapes the narrative structure to guide the reader's experience and interpretation.

By examining these three approaches, we gain a deeper understanding of how plots can be constructed, experienced, and analyzed, each offering valuable insights into the dynamics of storytelling (Kiosses, 2021).

2. 4 Character And Characterization

In literature, characters are people invented by the author to play a role in the plot. Characterization is a key component of storytelling and refers to the characteristics and actions exhibited by these characters (Gonibala & Mariana, 2022). Characters' speech, actions, and interactions with other characters in the story frequently show their personalities. Only the author can fully comprehend the intricacies and motivations of characters since they are the creation of the author's mind. Characters are regarded as the most important component in a film (Karmila, Roni, & Sari, 2021). They are in charge of keeping the audience interested and advancing the plot. As a result, authors devote a great deal of time and energy to creating complex characters that captivate readers and give the narrative life (Zainudin, 2020).

2.5 Setting

The setting of a story is a vital component that encompasses the physical environment, time period, and social context in which the events unfold. It serves as the backdrop that influences

and interacts with the unfolding narrative. A well-crafted setting provides a sense of place and time relationships, offering readers a more immersive experience. Moreover, the setting significantly contributes to the overall meaning and impact of the story. It includes the geographical landscape, historical backdrop, and cultural milieu, all of which play a pivotal role in shaping the narrative and providing context for the events within the story. Essentially, the setting acts as the foundation upon which the story is built, adding depth and richness to the storytelling (Hidayati, 2024).

According to Nengsih, Tang, & Juanda (2020), setting is the environment that encompasses events in stories, creating universes for interaction with current events. Settings can also be tangible at certain times. The period and location of a story are crucial components that define its setting and contribute to its overall atmosphere. When we talk about time, we not only refer to specific moments—such as day or night, a particular day, month, or year—but we also consider the overall duration of the narrative. This duration can significantly influence the pacing and development of the plot. In the context of film, the notion of place can encompass a wide range of settings, from expansive landscapes to intimate interiors. This can include a single room where a pivotal scene unfolds, a serene park that serves as a backdrop for important conversations, or a bustling city that reflects the characters' complexities. Additionally, it can extend to larger geographical areas, such as regions or nations, and even to the world as a whole, allowing filmmakers to explore different cultural dynamics and themes.

Similarly, the concept of time can be viewed through both narrow and broad lenses. Narrow time may refer to specific intervals like hours or days that create urgency or tension within the narrative. In contrast, broader time can encompass years, seasons, or entire historical periods, providing a larger context that shapes the characters and their experiences. It is essential to recognize that these elements time and place are interconnected and often cannot exist in isolation. Together, they create a rich tapestry that enhances the storytelling experience, influencing how audiences engage with the narrative (Zuhroni & Syamsurrijal, 2023).

2.6 Point of View

In storytelling, the order of perspectives is intricately linked to the point of view. This means that at times, the narrative may focus on the action sequences in a movie, while at other times, it may delve into the story from the vantage point of a specific character. However, unlike novels or other forms of written art, identifying a distinct point of view in a movie can be more challenging. This is because a film has the capability to dynamically shift the story's perspective, resulting in a more varied but also a more complex identification process. (Yusuf et al., 2022)

3. Method

The research method employed in this study is qualitative method. The qualitative descriptive research method to uncover study hypotheses or information at a specific point in time (Hulu, 2020). According to Emzir (2009), qualitative research as a process that generates descriptive information about people and observed behaviors in the form of written or spoken words. This approach was utilized in this study. The goal is to gather as much detailed information as possible for use in reports and descriptions.

Additionally, the descriptive research is a type of study aimed at explaining events and phenomena when the researcher wishes to understand the state of a particular subject. In qualitative descriptive techniques, the data collected whether in the form of words, images, or behaviors are analyzed without being converted into statistical numbers or statistics. Instead, a narrative is used to reveal or describe the situation or conditions under investigation. To minimize researcher bias in interpretations, the presentation of findings must be conducted objectively (Aziza, 2017).

The steps of collecting data are watching the film, identifying the dialogs and scene based on the intrinsic elements, analysing the data, and finally drawing the conclusion.

The research data for this study was exclusively derived from the 2019 film "Joker," directed by Todd Phillips. This cinematic piece spans a duration of two hours and two minutes and is presented in the English language. The narrative revolves around the poignant life of Arthur Fleck, a 40-year-old individual employed as a clown and stand-up comedian. Arthur's living situation is characterized by his sole parental figure, his mother, Penny Fleck. The central conflict arises from Arthur's struggle with a mental disorder that manifests as inappropriate laughter, leading to social discomfort. This ultimately propels Arthur towards criminal activities and a quest for retribution upon the revelation of concealed truths about his identity and his mother.

The film is set in the fictional city of Gotham City in 1981, offering a vivid portrayal of a densely populated urban area marked by poverty, crime, and high unemployment rates. Notable Hollywood actors such as Joaquin Phoenix, Frances Conroy, Robert De Niro, Brett Cullen, and Zazie Beetz contribute to the cast, adding depth and resonance to the storytelling. The selection of this film is grounded in its captivating and contentious narrative, which delves into the complexities of mental health issues. (Tue, Resen, & Winarta, 2023).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Plot

1. Exposition:

The Broken Man and the Broken City

Data 1

Context: The film opens with Arthur Bit, a profoundly disturbed man whose life reflects the rot of Gotham City around him. His world is one of separation, underestimation, and tenacious brutality. Society's disappointments are apparent everywhere from the cuts to mental wellbeing administrations to the city's disintegrating framework.

Supporting dialog:

Arthur: "Is it fair me, or is it getting crazier out there?"

This dialog sets a tone of thwarted expectation and fear. This line isn't as it were Arthur's individual perception but moreover a allegory for the collective sense of insecurity in Gotham, indicating at the systemic disregard and social shameful acts that breed hatred.

The composition presents Arthur as both a casualty and an outsider. His work as a clown a calling established in bringing joy ironically contrasts with his hopeless reality. It serves as a veil, a lean layer of constrained joy over significant torment, symbolizing how society anticipates him to "perform" commonality without recognizing or tending to his enduring. Through these early

scenes, the film sets up that Arthur is more than a person he could be a sign of a society that has misplaced its sympathy, caught in a world where individuals do not see him for who he genuinely is.



Figure 1. This scene occurs after Arthur has his first violent encounter on the subway, where he kills three men who attacked him.

2. Rising Action:

The Breaks Start to Appear

Data 2

Context: As Arthur's life spirals out of control, he begins unwinding in both self-evident and unobtrusive ways. The metro assault and ensuing work misfortune gotten to be critical triggers, pushing Arthur closer to a breakdown. These minutes highlight his sense of powerlessness and expanding estrangement. Arthur's disclosure of his appropriation and the plausibility of childhood mishandle heightening his personality emergency, clearing out him with a profound, existential void. (60.minutes in)

Supporting dialog:

Arthur: "For my entire life, I didn't know in the event that I indeed truly existed. But I do, and individuals are beginning to notice,"

This sentence signals a significant move. Arthur's personality, once formed by intangibility, is presently shaped through viciousness and chaos ways in which he at long last picks up affirmation, but in a dull frame. His rough activities gotten to be both a cry for acknowledgment and a striking back against the world that has overlooked him for so long.

This move from casualty to attacker underscores a noteworthy subject:

Arthur's plunge is fuelled by his crave for personality and approval. The more society overlooks him, the more he withdraws into an substitute self, reshaping his torment into a turned frame of control.



Figure 2. Beaten in the Alley In this scene, Arthur is dressed as a clown and gets beaten up by a group of young men in an alley.

3. Climax:

The Birth of the Joker

Data 3:

Context: Arthur's appearance on The Murray Franklin Show up, serves as the extraordinary collision between Arthur and the society that failed him. Murray, the pretentious discussion show up have, epitomizes the elites who disparage or neglect the persevering of people like Arthur.

Supporting dialog:

Arthur: "What do you get after you cross a normally debilitated hermit with a society that spurns him and treats him like garbage? I'll tell you what you get! You get what you f***in' deserve!"

In this dialog, it takes shape his alter. No longer Arthur, he gets to be the Joker an representation of revenge against a world he feels has wronged him.

This scene isn't reasonable a person experience; it's a open figuring. Arthur's brutality on live tv talks to his final rejection of social conventions and a step into full-blown turmoil. This act of resistance sets his portion as Gotham's anti-hero, beginning a improvement that mirrors his claim shock and dissatisfaction.

The climax reflects not because it were Arthur's person catharsis but besides society's darker side. Gotham's stewing shock discharges, changing Arthur's act into a begin that touches off a citywide revolt. The Joker has directly finished up a picture for all the thought little of, not reasonable one detached individual.

4. Falling Activity:

Grasping Chaos

Data 4

Context: After Murray's kill, Gotham City dives into chaos, with riots spreading like fierce blaze. Arthur, presently completely changed into the Joker, grasps his part as an symbol of political agitation.

Supporting dialog:

Arthur: "I utilized to think my life was a catastrophe, but presently I figure it out it's a f***ing comedy," uncovers his total mental move.

In this dialog, he does not look for acknowledgment or understanding; instep, he finds a dull fulfillment in society's pulverization, delighting within the chaos he has unleashed.

This stage of the story highlights Arthur's move from a man rejected by society to a figure celebrated by the baffled masses. He not stands as an person but as a image, exemplifying the collective outrage and lose hope of Gotham's dismissed underclass. His grasp of viciousness as comedy outlines his dismissal of societal values, proposing that, in his see, life's torment and enduring are as it were important when turned into a "joke."

Through this change, Arthur's catastrophe morphs into a individual triumph. Within the eyes of those who feel similarly deserted, he gets to be a saint, speaking to a discharge from their claim stifled seethe.

5. Resolution: Reality or Delusion?

Data 5

Context: In the film's final moments, Arthur is institutionalised, laughing to himself.

Supporting dialog:

Arthur: "You wouldn't get it," leaves the audience in a state of uncertainty, questioning what has been real and what was a delusion".

In this dialog, Arthur has been recounting events as they truly happened, or was everything we witnessed simply a product of his fractured mind?

This ambiguity aligns with Arthur's unreliable narrative. By ending on this note, the film forces viewers to confront the uncomfortable reality of mental illness and the blurred line between truth and perception. Arthur's complete detachment from shared reality symbolises his final break from humanity, underscoring how profoundly his experiences and inner turmoil have changed him.

The ending suggests that Arthur has found his "punchline" in the bleakest of forms: a life where traditional notions of morality and reality are irrelevant. It's as if he exists in his own version of the world, where chaos is the norm and anything outside his worldview is simply "the joke."



Figure 3. Staircase Dance

This iconic scene shows Arthur, now fully transformed into the Joker, dancing down a set of stairs in his red suit and complete makeup.

4.2 Character and Characterization

1. Arthur Fleck / Joker:

Arthur is a mentally ill man who is marginalized by society. His descent into madness is gradual, as he faces constant humiliation and neglect. The turning point for his character comes when he starts embracing violence as a means of asserting his existence.

Arthur's struggle with mental illness and social rejection makes him both a sympathetic and terrifying figure. His journey from ignored outsider to feared anti-hero reveals the consequences of a society that refuses to address its own failures.

Data 6:

Arthur: "The worst part of having a mental illness is people expect you to behave as if you don't," (minutes 00.14.00)

In this dialog, captures the crux of his internal conflict society's inability to understand or accommodate his pain pushes him toward a path of violence as a form of self-expression. This line perfectly encapsulates Arthur's internal struggle with his mental illness and how society pressures him to act "normal" without understanding his pain

2. Murray Franklin:

As a symbol of the dismissive elite, Murray represents a world that finds humour in others' misfortune. His mockery of Arthur epitomises the societal attitude that looks down on people struggling with mental health. By belittling Arthur, he unwittingly fuels Arthur's rage, transforming himself from antagonist to victim.

Data 7

Murray: "You're serious, aren't you? You're telling us you killed those three young men on the subway?"

Murray's disbelief in Arthur's confession and his subsequent mocking provoke Arthur to lash out violently. Murray's ridicule symbolizes the broader societal disregard for people like Arthur.

3.Sophie Dumond

Sophie, Arthur's neighbor, is a figment of his delusions. Arthur believes they have a relationship, but it is revealed that their interactions are all in his head. Sophie represents Arthur's desperate need for human connection, which he is unable to achieve in reality.

4. Penny Fleck

Arthur's relationship with his mother is central to his unraveling. Penny, who also suffers from mental illness, has kept many secrets from Arthur, including the fact that he was adopted. This discovery shatters Arthur's sense of identity.

Data 8

Penny Fleck: "Don't you have to be funny to be a comedian?"

This line reflects the constant undermining of Arthur's self-worth, even from his own mother, contributing to his descent into madness.

Both women serve as mirrors for Arthur's deep-seated need for connection. Penny's secrets rob him of his sense of self, while Sophie, a figment of his imagination, symbolises his desire for

a meaningful relationship. When these illusions break, they catalyse his descent, reinforcing the theme of isolation.

4.3 Themes

1. Mental Illness and Society's Neglect

The film offers a powerful critique of society's disregard for mental health, illustrating how this neglect can have devastating, far-reaching consequences. Arthur's breakdown is set in motion by a system that fails him at every turn from defunding essential health services to stigmatizing mental illness.

Data 9:

Arthur: "They cut our funding. They're cutting all funding. I'm supposed to have my medicine," is a poignant reminder of the crucial role that mental health care plays in individual stability.

This theme addresses the broader societal issue of resource scarcity for the vulnerable. Arthur's plight underscores the lack of empathy in a world that dismisses the needs of its most fragile members, framing mental illness not as an isolated problem but as a symptom of systemic failure. His descent becomes a tragic case study in what happens when society denies compassion and support, turning its back on those who need it most.

2. Alienation and Isolation

Arthur's journey is defined by isolation a profound loneliness that fuels his eventual transformation. His lack of connections and support leaves him emotionally adrift, unable to find a sense of belonging or acceptance.

Data 10:

Arthur: "I have no one. Nothing," convey a feeling of absolute isolation that chips away at his psyche, driving him toward desperate measures to be seen and acknowledged.

The film uses this theme to examine how alienation can distort an individual's sense of self and worth. Arthur's loneliness serves as a reflection of the broader alienation present in Gotham, a city where people pass each other without empathy or connection. This lack of social bonds pushes Arthur toward violence, which becomes a twisted attempt to assert his existence and leave a mark on a world that otherwise ignores him. His story suggests that isolation isn't just an individual experience; it's a collective issue that, left unchecked, can have disastrous consequences for society at large.

3. Identity and Transformation

Arthur's story is fundamentally about transformation the painful, often violent process of creating an identity when the world strips away one's sense of self. Throughout the film, Arthur struggles with questions of identity, feeling invisible and insignificant until he begins embracing his darker side. The Joker persona becomes his answer to a lifetime of rejection and cruelty, an identity he can claim as his own.

This theme explores how identity is both constructed and destructed by external forces. Arthur's metamorphosis is not a natural evolution; it is provoked by the harsh realities he faces. His transformation into the Joker serves as both an escape and a defiance against the identity society has forced upon him. Through this theme, the film suggests that identity is not solely a matter of choice but a response to one's circumstances and treatment. For Arthur, embracing

violence is not just an act of rebellion; it is an act of self-definition in a world that denied him the opportunity to be anything else.

4. The Role of Violence in Society

Violence in the film serves as a form of expression, both for Arthur and the larger societal unrest brewing in Gotham. Arthur's transformation into a symbol of rebellion highlights how violence can be a reaction to oppression and marginalisation. His actions resonate with the anger and frustration of Gotham's disenfranchised, sparking a movement that idolises the Joker as a figurehead of resistance.

This theme raises questions about the role of violence as both a symptom and a catalyst of social upheaval. Arthur's violent actions are depicted as a response to the systemic humiliation and neglect he endures. In his mind, violence becomes a way to reclaim power and agency, a means of transcending his role as an invisible, overlooked member of society. However, the film also presents this as a morally ambiguous solution, illustrating how violence can spiral out of control and perpetuate further chaos. By making the Joker a symbol of rebellion, the film critiques how easily a fractured society can turn to violence when it fails to address underlying issues of justice, equity, and compassion.

Through these themes, the film offers a layered exploration of how an individual's mental struggles and society's indifference can converge, creating a chain reaction that impacts not only the individual but also the entire community. Arthur's story acts as a mirror, reflecting the potential consequences of neglecting mental health, isolating individuals, and denying them a place in society. It raises questions about accountability not only on an individual level but as a collective responsibility of society to care for its most vulnerable members.

4.4 Setting

1. Gotham City

The setting of Joker is Gotham City, which is depicted as a grim, crime-ridden metropolis in decay, reflecting the societal collapse that mirrors Arthur's mental state.

The city itself is a major character, with its grimy streets, overcrowded apartments, and ineffective systems of care. The setting creates an atmosphere of hopelessness and neglect, which plays into Arthur's perception of being abandoned by society.

Data 11

Arthur: "They don't give a s**t about people like you, Mom."

This dialogue shows Arthur's realization that both he and his mother are products of a broken system that has left them behind.

Gotham City, with its dirty streets, crime-ridden neighbourhoods, and neglected infrastructure, serves as a metaphor for Arthur's mental state. The city's decay is symbolic of Arthur's own sense of abandonment, and its descent into chaos reflects his psychological breakdown. The comedy club, where he faces ridicule, acts as a microcosm of his failed attempts at social connection, highlighting his inability to bridge the gap between himself and others.

2. The Comedy Club

The comedy club is where Arthur attempts to find validation, but instead, he faces rejection and ridicule. The uncomfortable laughter that ensues when Arthur's jokes fall flat is a powerful metaphor for his inability to connect with others.

4. 5 Point of View

The film is presented entirely from Arthur's subjective point of view, often blurring the lines between reality and his delusions. The audience is left unsure of what is real, paralleling Arthur's unreliable grasp on reality. His fantasy relationship with Sophie, his mother's delusions about his parentage, and even his final scenes in the asylum all suggest that Arthur's mind is the true battleground of the story.

Data 12

Arthur: "I've been thinking of a punchline. Do you want to hear it?"

In this dialog, Arthur said that in his life, his eyes, is no longer tragic but a cruel joke. This subjective viewpoint allows the audience to experience his transition into the Joker firsthand, with all its chaotic and disturbing implications.

Arthur's subjective point of view is crucial to the story, showing his distorted perception of reality. His unreliable perspective places the audience within his fractured mind, creating a shared sense of disorientation and unease. As the boundaries between Arthur's real and imagined experiences blur, viewers are left questioning what is true a deliberate choice that underscores the mental instability at the heart of the narrative.

The film's themes delve deeply into the complexities of mental illness, isolation, identity, and the societal factors that push Arthur to the brink. Each theme interconnects to show how an uncaring society and individual psychological turmoil can converge, leading to explosive consequences. Here's a closer look at each theme and how it shapes Arthur's journey.

4.6 Theme

1. Mental Illness and Society's Neglect

Data 13

Arthur: "They cut our funding. They're cutting all funding. I'm supposed to have my medicine."

This dialogue reflects the systemic issues that contribute to Arthur's breakdown. The failure to provide proper mental health care is a central theme that drives the narrative.

In this film shows how society treats individuals with mental illness, showcasing the lack of support and compassion for those who need help. Arthur's downward spiral is largely due to a system that abandons him, highlighting the devastating consequences of neglect.

2. Alienation and Isolation

Arthur's isolation is emphasized through his lack of meaningful connections, further contributing to his eventual transformation. He is alienated from society, his coworkers, his neighbors, and even his own mother.

Data 14

Arthur: "I have no one. Nothing."

This statement encapsulates Arthur's feeling of total isolation, which pushes him toward violent actions in an attempt to reclaim power and significance.

3. Identity and Transformation

The film is fundamentally about Arthur's transformation into the Joker, exploring how identity is shaped by external forces and internal delusions. Arthur's metamorphosis is triggered

by the rejection and cruelty he experiences, ultimately leading him to embrace violence as his new identity.

4. The Role of Violence in Society

The Joker's rise as a symbol of rebellion highlights the film's exploration of violence as a form of expression for the oppressed. Arthur's violent actions are seen as a response to a system that continually marginalizes and humiliates him.

5. Conclusion

The film "Joker" serves as a profound critique of how society treats individuals with mental illness, highlighting the detrimental effects of neglect and the chilling consequences of alienation. Through its intricate plot, complex characters, and meticulously crafted setting, the film invites viewers into the troubled mind of Arthur Fleck, whose subjective point of view sheds light on the struggles faced by those marginalized in society. As Arthur undergoes a harrowing transformation into the iconic Joker, the film delves deep into the dark side of identity formation amid the chaos of a fractured society. This transformation is not merely a descent into madness but a reflection of how systemic failures can push an individual to the brink. Arthur's tragic journey is a poignant exploration of isolation and the toll it takes on one's psyche. His experiences reveal how a lack of understanding and support for mental health can lead to catastrophic outcomes, not just for the individual but for society at large.

The film's portrayal of Arthur's descent into violence serves as a grim indictment of a world that often turns a blind eye to the struggles of its most vulnerable members. It emphasizes that in a fragmented society, the feelings of marginalization and loneliness do not exist in a vacuum; instead, they spotlight larger societal indifference to mental health issues. Moreover, "Joker" challenges viewers to reflect on the importance of empathy and community in addressing the needs of individuals who are suffering. By illustrating the dire consequences that can arise from societal abandonment, the film advocates for a more compassionate approach to mental health, urging society to recognize the value of understanding and support in preventing tragic outcomes. Through its layered examination of mental illness, violence, and the complexities of identity, "Joker" ultimately serves as a powerful call for greater awareness and action in the face of societal neglect.

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