



**Ricky John's Dilemma in Jon Garcia's *The Falls***

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**PAGE OF APPROVAL**

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Advisor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical line on the left, a loop in the middle, and a vertical line on the right.

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## **Ricky John's Dilemma in Jon Garcia's *The Falls***

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### **ABSTRACT**

The thesis entitled, "Ricky John's Dilemma in Jon Garcia's *The Falls*" has an objective to analyze Ricky's dilemma as the main character in the film. The methods used in this thesis are descriptive qualitative method and library research method. The structural approach used to analyze the general description of main character, conflicts, and setting. The psychological approach was used to analyze the dilemma experienced by the main character in the film. Ricky John is described as religious, temperamental, confused and feeling guilty to God. Ricky John also experienced both internal and external conflicts against his father, Chris, and the man. The setting in this film is divided into setting of time, place, and social. The setting of place on the film happened in the apartments of their Church. The setting of social is middle high. The dilemma experienced by the main character is between his love and his faith. This problem leads him to his internal and external conflict. Ricky's dilemma resolves because finally Ricky John chooses his love.

**Keywords:** *Dilemma, Ricky John, Garcia, Film.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Literature represents a language or a people, culture and tradition. Literary means not only what is written, what is expressed, what is voiced, what is discovered, in whatever form. Kenneth stated that literature may be classified according to a variety of systems, including language, national origin, historical period, genre, and subject matter. In which case novels, dramas, stories, plays, and films are part of literature itself. In literature, culture, people and historical period relate to the tragedies of stories, the plays and the film. Klaler (2004:57) stated that films, and particularly video tapes, are like novels, which in theory can be repeatedly read, or viewed.

Although film has its own specific characteristics and terminology, it is possible to analyze film by drawing on methods of literary criticism, as film criticism is closely related to the traditional approaches of textual studies. Methodologies which are informed by reception aesthetics focus on the effect on the spectator, and approaches such as psychoanalytical theory or feminist film theory regard film within a larger contextual framework. The major developments of literary theory have therefore also been borrowed or adapted by film studies. (Klarer, 2004, p.56).

*The Falls* is a drama romance movie released in 2012 and directed by Jon Garcia and the actors are Nick Ferrucci, Benjamin Farmer. The screenplay tells about a member of the Church of Latter Day Saints, going on his mission. Ricky John is relocated from Salt Lake City to Oregon, Portland. Ricky John meets his

mission companion name Chris as a mission companion they Living together and sharing their experienced that help each other discover their strengths. One day RJ said that he in falling love with Chris, first Chris cannot accept him, because he knows the risk for their love, but Ricky John makes Chris believe that their love nothing wrong. In the next day Elder Harris came in room's Ricky John and Chris, he shocked to see Ricky John and Chris because they are having sex. Then Elder Harris report that incident to the President Pierce (person that sent them in this mission), President Pierce provides two options to them that if they want to continue to serve the church they have to resolve their relationship or they are not allowed to become a missionary again, but Ricky John refused to remove his feelings for Chris and he picked out as a missionary.

According to <http://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/e/dilemma> moral dilemma is a situation in which a person is torn between right and wrong. A moral dilemma involves a conflict with the very core of a person's principles and values. The choice the person makes may leave them feeling burdened, guilty, relieved, or questioning their values. A moral dilemma often forces the individual to decide which option he or she can live with, but any outcomes are extremely unpleasant no matter what. Moral dilemmas are often used to help people think through the reasoning for their beliefs and actions, and are common in psychology and philosophy classes.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher decided to discuss how Elder Smith confused and the researcher use psychological approach and structural approach as a supporting theory to help answering the research questions. Finally the researcher decides "Ricky John's Dilemma in Jon Garcia *the falls*" as the tittle of the thesis.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

### **Data and Subject**

The data of this study were The Falls that is pulisdhed in 2012 that is directed and written by Jon Garcia.

### **Unit of Analysis**

The researcher divided the analysis of data into two type intrinsic and extrinsic element. Intrinsic element is used to analyze general description, conflicts experienced, and setting described by the main character in the film. Extrinsic element in this film analyzed dilemma experienced by the main character

### **Technique of Data Collection and Analysis**

The first step is watching film The Falls carefully and repeatedly. By using psychological approach, the researcher watches the film for a several times. The second step is collecting secondary data, such as printed books, electronic sources in term of articles, journals that relate to the book and it can be found on the internet.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **Finding**

#### **General Description of Ricky John as the Main Character**

##### **Religious**

Ricky John as the main character in *The Falls* is described as a religious person. Ricky John is someone who is religious and faithful to his religion. He always starts his activity with prayer.

##### **Temperamental**

Ricky John is a temperamental person. Ricky John fights with a man that teases him when Ricky is eating in the restaurant.

##### **Confuse**

Ricky John is confused about his feelings for Chris because he knows that his feelings will be causes a terrible sin. After several days Ricky John is aware of his confusion of his feelings towards Chris and his life, because he realizes that if he chooses to violate the rules he knows he is wrong.

##### **Guilty to God**

Ricky John and Chris are kissing. This is happened because Chris had kissed by Ricky John when Chris was sleeping and Chris realized that. Actually Chris also loves Ricky John as well, so Chris and Ricky John kissed back in the grove. After that incident they feel betraying their own God, even though no one knows about what they have been done before in the grove but their God knows everything and they feel very guilty to God. They pray for forgiveness to God about what they have done before.

#### **Conflicts Experienced by Ricky John as the Main Character**

##### **Internal Conflict**

As the main character, Ricky experiences some internal conflicts in the film. He experiences internal conflicts as he confuse about two different thing between his love and his faith. Ricky against himself that he feels very sinful, but on the other hand he likes to do it. Ricky feels that he had broken his promise as an elder. He prayed that God will forgive his sins and he hope god gives a good woman for him to be made as his wife someday.

##### **External Conflict**

##### **Ricky against a man**

Ricky john and Chris are eating at the restaurant. Ricky tells about his feelings as a Mormon missionary, but suddenly Ricky John touches Chris's hand. It makes Chris startled and makes people in restaurant look at it and makes them suspicious. After that, they followed by a man (the person who met Ricky John and Chris while they were eating at the restaurant) who was at the restaurant earlier and he saw when Ricky John touching Chris's hand. The man starts tease them and says that they are faggot. It makes Ricky John become angry and starts quarrel with the man.

##### **Ricky against Chris**

Ricky John was caught by Elder Harris about what he has been done before with Chris. Ricky John and Chris are engaged in intimate intercourse. Ricky was very angry

with Chris because he has not closed the door of their apartment. This incident made Ricky deported by President Pierce (the person who sent Ricky as mormon).

### **Ricky against His Father**

Ricky John is the son of a missionary Mormon who is always obedient to the rules of the religion and also always obey his father's words. Ricky John and his father are arguing about what Ricky John has done in the mission. His father said that Ricky John just has sexual confusion, but Ricky John denies his father. Finally Ricky John tells everything about his secret that Ricky John is different from the other men and finally he tells his father that he is gay.

## **Settings Described in *The Notebook* novel and film**

### **Setting of Time**

#### **In the Daylight**

Setting of time develops the actions that happened in the story. This time when Ricky John and Chris kissing each other, but after that they are praying about their sin that they have done before.

#### **At Night**

The night after that incident, Ricky and Chris became more closer than before. They know that what they are doing is sinful and in the curse by God but they cannot resist their feelings for each other.

### **Setting of Place**

#### **Ricky's house**

This is Ricky's house, Ricky John comes from a family that has a strong religion, therefore Ricky was taught to become a Mormon missionary and his story begins when Ricky John received the assignment to serve God in the Oregon Portland Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

#### **In the Apartment**

The first time Ricky John meets Chris, they lives in the same apartment and also in the same room. This is the reason why Ricky John becomes closed with Chris.

#### **In the Restaurant**

Ricky john and Chris are eating at the restaurant and Ricky tells about his feelings as a Mormon missionary. Ricky John and Chris became closer than usual and Ricky John tells about his feelings while being a Mormon missionary with Chris. Ricky John suddenly touches Chris's hand. It makes Chris startled and makes people in restaurant look at them and people in the restaurant became suspicious. .

#### **In the Grove**

When Ricky John and Chris were walking, they stopped to rest in the grove. Then Chris asked a question that made Ricky John was shocked, because Chris find out that on the previous night he had kissed, when Ricky John tries not to confess about what he has been done to Chris suddenly Chris kiss Ricky John. Finally they were kissing each other in the grove.

## Setting of Social

### High Class Society

In the film, *The Falls*, Ricky John as the main character has middle high class social. It can be seen from the house of Ricky John. He has a big house and the furniture of his house is pretty luxury.

### Discussion

#### General Description of Main Character

According <http://www.storyboardthat.com/articles/e/dilemma> moral dilemma is a situation in which a person is torn between right and wrong. A moral dilemma involves a conflict with the very core of a person's principles and values. The choice the person makes may leave them feeling burdened, guilty, relieved, or questioning their values. A moral dilemma often forces the individual to decide which option he or she can live with, but any outcomes are extremely unpleasant no matter what. Moral dilemmas are often used to help people think through the reasoning for their beliefs and actions, and are common in psychology and philosophy classes.

Moral dilemma of Ricky John can be found in the general description of Ricky John as the main character from film *The Falls*. He is confused. Ricky John is confused about all that is happened on him. He is confused with his different feelings. Ricky John is a Mormon missionary who is always obedient to the prohibition of god, but Ricky John is more interested with people in the same gender. This makes Ricky John become very confuse about himself because he cannot commit a terrible sin by following that feeling but on the other hand Ricky John cannot refuse that feeling.

### Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, the differences between the novel and the film can bring up different theme from both novel and film. The novel's theme is about finding miracle because the plot and conflict in it tells more about Noah, as the main character, has gone through all the difficulties to make his wife recall the memory again by reading a notebook. Meanwhile the film adaptation's theme is about love story between Noah and Allie in general because its plot and conflict shows more about Noah's youth with Allie, how Noah and Allie fight for their love despite of the different social class between them, and how strong Noah's love to Allie which remains until the end of their life.

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