

## THE CHANGES IN IDEOLOGY IN THE ADAPTATION OF RIORDANS' *THE LIGHTNING THIEF* Perubahan Ideologi dalam Adaptasi Novel *The Lightning Thief* Karya Riordan

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### Abstract

*This research aims to find some ideologies in the adaptation of a novel into a film with uses qualitative research methods and comparative methods. These ideologies lead us to find out the motive beyond the adaptation. So, this research discusses two objects. The first object is how the transformations of The Lightning Thief adaptation (from novel to film) are. The second object will be what motives beyond the adaptation from a novel into a film. This research uses Hutcheon's theory of adaptation as a basic of theory, Barthes' mythologies, and theory of mise-en-scene as the method to find out the ideology from both in the novel and film. The results show some transformations of the ideologies from the novel into a film. The novel brings the emergence of feminism, the motherhood role, collectivism, fantasy as the uniqueness of the story, and cultural universality. The film brings the emergence of patriarchal ideology, the fatherhood role, individualism, competitiveness, and freedom of American values. These results show three motives of adaptation, i.e. cultural capital, personal motives, and economic lures.*

**Keywords:** *adaptation; ideology; motives; Riordan, The Lightning Thief*

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan menemukan beberapa ideologi dalam adaptasi novel ke dalam film dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan metode komparatif. Ideologi akan memberikan petunjuk tentang motif dalam karya adaptasi. Penelitian ini membahas dua objek. Objek pertama adalah bagaimana transformasi adaptasi *The Lightning Thief* (dari novel ke film). Objek kedua adalah apa motif di balik adaptasi *The Lightning Thief* dari sebuah novel menjadi sebuah film. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori adaptasi Hutcheon sebagai dasar teori, mitologi Barthes, dan teori film *mise-en-scene* sebagai teknik untuk menemukan ideologi, baik dari novel maupun film. Hasilnya menunjukkan beberapa transformasi ideologi dari novel ke film. Novel membawa kemunculan feminisme, peran keibuan, kolektivisme, fantasi sebagai keunikan cerita, dan universalitas budaya. Sementara itu, film memunculkan ideologi patriarkis, peran kepapakan, individualisme, daya saing, dan kebebasan sebagai nilai-nilai Amerika. Hasil analisis menunjukkan tiga motif adaptasi, yaitu modal budaya, motif personal, dan iming-iming ekonomi.

**Kata kunci:** *adaptasi; ideologi; motif; Riordan; The Lightning Thief*

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## INTRODUCTION

Literature is an imaginative work that pictures human life in a society that can be enjoyed, understandable, and used by society. The author will write the result of this image in a form of literary works. The form of those literary works such as drama, poems, short stories, and also novels (Pickering & Hooper, 1981). The literary form is no longer only enjoyed through writing. It can be enjoyed in the form of an audio-visual.

The phenomenon from written text such as novels to audio-visual media such as film is prevalent in this decade (Hutcheon, 2006). Films are texts to be read and reading them requires our initiation into the specific conventions and ideological biases of cinematic discourse (Braudy & Cohen, 2009). So, films are the language that brings new knowledge and moral messages to society through the norms, values, and culture embedded in films (Braudy & Cohen, 2009). The success of film adaptation attracts many viewers through cultural usage in the scene of the film. Therefore, the author is interested to analyze a novel that is adapted into the film *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (Riordan, 2005).

There are three studies concerning Riordan's *The Lightning Thief*. The first is a study written by Rini (2019). This study shows that different ideologies are found in the novel and film. The novel's ideology is feminism and the emergence of Chinese culture, while the film's ideology is patriarchy and the emergence of American values. The second is a study by Yudistira (2017). This study shows that the hero character must fulfill several functions to be called the real hero and Percy Jackson is a real hero of the novel. Then, the next study is written by Hapsari (2020). The results indicate that Percy's personality is described as a selfless person, brave person, temperamental person, resentful man, and insecure man. This study also found two kinds of conflict in Percy's life. First, he has conflicts with various characters in the story. While the second is an internal conflict that affected his personality development.

Some studies are also used to know more about Hutcheon's adaptation. First, the study written by Hastiyantini (2018) investigated *The Painted Veil* novel written by W. Somerset Maugham. This study found four ideologies in the novel, i.e. liberal feminism, liberalism, primordialism, and humanism. While in the film, the ideologies are patriarchal, multiculturalism, and liberalism. Then, the motive behind the adaptation is cultural capital. Second, The study written by Alinezhadi and Anushirvani (2016) analyzed Luhrmann's interpretation of the novel entitled *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It focused on the similarities and differences between the two different media, and also the adaptation process from the novel into a film.

Then, the study written by Novianti and Noorman (2022) investigated the adaptation of *I am Number Four* novel into a film. This study found that the identified conflicts are portrayed differently in a novel in a film because of the dramatization in the film, the conflicts are more violent. The next is the study written by Ariesia (2020) that investigated *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* movie. This study shows the presence of Queenie to challenge the stereotype of white people and to bring a new point of view towards black, especially black women.

Another study of adaptation is written by Rahayu (2022) that investigated an adaptation of *My Lecturer My Husband* novel into a film. This study focused on finding the stigmatization of forced marriage in the adaptation. The result shows that there is a shift in the value of forced marriage contextually and commercially. In the film, the shift is portrayed through the role of parents, husband, and wife's expression. Then, the study written by Almenia (2021) discussed and examined the alterations seen in two adaptations of Shakespeare's play, *The Tempest: The Forbidden Planet* (1956) and *The Tempest* (2010). This study found the spotlight on the contemporary political issues that are represented in these two versions. Each of these film versions brings different cultural agendas.

The next is the study written by Rifqiyah et al. (2021). This study investigated

A *Little Princess* novel and the film to find the motives behind it. The results show the existence of feminist ideology and American values. These ideologies appear to bring the cultural and political motive of the film director. The last is the study written by Saputra, et al. (2022) that investigated the film *Mortal Kombat Reboot* 2021. The results of the investigation show that there are five different characters. But, the adapter does not completely change it from the original game, especially the plot of the story.

Adaptation is defined as a product and as a process. We can expand the traditional focus of adaptation studies to the medium and comparative case studies individually to determine the relationship between three modes of engagement: that is, to think about how adaptations allow people to tell, show, or interact with stories (Hutcheon, 2012). First, the transformation from telling mode (a novel) into the showing mode (plays and films). The move from a telling mode into a showing mode means a change of genre as well as medium dan also a shift in the expectations of the audiences. Second, the transformation from showing into showing. Third, interacting into telling or showing. This model is also known as the participatory mode (videogame) that immerses us physically and kinesthetically. Hutcheon explains that the adapter has some reasons why they are motivated to be an adapter, it is called a motive. There are four motives in the process of adaptation, i.e. economic lures, legality, cultural capital, personal, and political motives. Then, the motives of adaptation can be found in analyzing the ideologies in the novel and the film.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research in which the data sources of this research are not in the form of numbers, but the data taken from the textual form of literature (Mishra & Alok, 2017). The data sources are taken from the narrative events in the novel *The Lightning Thief* and the visualization of the scenes in the film. The researcher will analyze the transformations from the novel into the film

made by the adapter to find out the motive of the adapter.

The data of this research are divided into primary and secondary data (Mishra & Alok, 2017). The primary data are taken from the narrative text in a novel by Rick Riordan and also the collection of scene pictures in a film by Chris Columbus. Then, the secondary data are taken from online articles, journals, books, and websites to find more information related to the topic.

The next is categorization by classifying the data based on the intrinsic elements, which are characters and characterization, plot, setting, and other elements in the novel and the film (Pickering & Hoepfer, 1981). Then, the researcher compares the data collection to find the transformations in the novel and the film (Mishra & Alok, 2017). After getting the transformations, the researcher analyzes the data by using Barthes' Mythology as a method to get the meaning of signs from text and film. Then, secondary data are needed as the contextual background. It is used to draw a correlation to reveal the ideology constructed in the film adaptation. Then, the researcher use the theory of adaptation by Hutcheon to find the motives hidden in *The Lightning Thief*. Hutcheon explains that the adapter has some reasons why they are motivated to be an adapter, it is called a motive. The ideologies are used to reveal certain motives and interests behind the changes made by the film production in creating the adaptation work.

Barthes explains that myth is a type of speech. Speech can consist of writing or representations: written discourse, also photography, cinema, reporting, sport, shows, and publicity. It means that the message is no longer only about the written message, but we are dealing with the particular image, which is given this particular signification. Because, although a picture also understands it by reading (Barthes, 1957). In Barthes' book of *Mythologies*, semiology reveals the tri-dimensional pattern: the signifier, the signified, and the sign.

The signifier and signified which have been united can form a new sign to get the meaning. Signs in myth are called concepts. It is the concept that makes history, events, and

discourses in the meaning so that the literal markers (forms) appear face (Setiawan, 2019). There is always a motive behind the myth, but this is covered by mythical speech through representational modes.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

*The Lightning Thief* is an American fantasy-adventure novel based on Greek mythology written by Rick Riordan. This novel tells about the hero's journey of Percy as a demigod (half-blood) to bring back the master bolt. Some elements in the novel become different in the adaptation work. These are revealed in characters, plot, setting, etc. The transformation from telling into showing shows the contrast of narrative types from shifted media.

In the novel, the character depictions are explained through words and paragraphs by the author. However, in the film, the character's actions are shown by the adapter through the audiovisual image. Films use the camera as the external narrator, which portrays the viewpoint of the director, the cinematographer, and the editor too (Braudy & Cohen, 2009). There is a component of meaningful images that relates to the span of the frame, such as the middle of a close-up, medium shot, long shot, and so forth. The way of image producer exposes the subjects and object participants and shows the action of events for the audience. The decision for choosing the size of the frame relates to the audience (Braudy & Cohen, 2009).

The transformation of the adaptation work from the novel into a film is analyzed using the theory of film *mise-en-scene* and Barthes' mythology to find out the ideologies. After finding the ideologies, the motives behind the adaptation work will be found.

### Characterization and the Changes of Ideologies

Characterization breathes life into a story by making characters more dynamic and engaging. Good characterization is often realistic, meaning characters act in a way that's authentic to the human experience. These characters not only play stories but also

play a role in conveying ideas, themes, plots, and motives (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981). Character and characterization are intrinsic to authors of novels and film adapters to drive the plot forward, build narratives, and construct discourse. Character and characterization can be used to trace the ideology of the author and the adapter (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981). Four characters are used to find the ideology behind the novel and the film.

#### *Percy Jackson*

According to the novel, Percy has a tough life. He is a child who only has a mother who takes care of him and a stepfather who behaves like a jerk. Since he was a baby, he never meets his biological father. So, only his mother cares and raises him. Then, her mother decides to marry a useless man and becomes his stepfather. He is considered a troubled kid who suffers from dyslexia and ADHD. Therefore, he studies in a boarding school at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York.

Based on Percy's family background, he is a child who lives without a father figure, a fatherless. According to Kismet (2022), children's development without fathers is more likely to be aggressive and quick to anger. When one parent is not present, there is an imbalance in his psychological development. Personality, mental health, and emotional control will be difficult for children to handle if they do not get complete parental care. Fatherless children will be at risk of experiencing juvenile delinquency, especially boys and even dropping out of school (Kriesberg, 2017). Percy has often lost control of his emotions.

However, he is an obedient child to his mother and a selfless person. He loves his mother more than anything. For him, no matter how big his problem at school, he does not want to make worry his mother.

For her sake, I tried to sound upbeat about my last days at Yancy Academy. I told her I wasn't too down about the expulsion. I'd lasted almost the whole year this time... Even

Nancy Bobofit suddenly didn't seem so bad (p. 33).

From that page, the depiction of Percy's efforts to stay strong is described through his actions to keep secret his terrible experiences from his mother. Percy's character is obedient and not injudicious in doing something. He only gets the mother's role in his life. He becomes a rebellious child as a sign of the absence of a father's role in his life. But it is not mean, he can not be a useful and successful child. After going through many obstacles, he can show that even though only his mother cares for him, he can become a real hero.



Figure 1 Percy's role in the film (00:08:13–00:09:43)

Table 1 Visual element analysis in Percy's scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning		
Size of Frame	Medium Shot	Picture 2
	Medium Close up	Picture 1

Then, Percy argues his mother's words by asking demanding questions in picture 1. As a teenager, Percy feels dissatisfied if he does not get the answer that he wants. So, the question is a sign that he wants his mother can explain to him, so he can understand his condition. The picture shows the medium close-up when Percy feels angry after the abusive actions of his stepfather, Gabe. Here, he releases his emotions by asking his mother why is she still living with Gabe.

Percy's response becomes a meaning in the narrative structure. The sign of images that shows Percy's reaction to his mother's explanation that tries to argue her words become a signifier of Percy as an emotional creature. It causes him to feel disappointed but he can not do anything, so he avoids his mother by walking toward the balcony to calm himself. In this case, Percy is a depiction of

the character of young people as a result of a toxic family environment. He is brave to express his anger, but no one understood and no one tried to give him an explanation. So, he is confused and disobedient to his mother.

So, the ideology in Percy's character is different between the novel and the film. In the novel, he brings the ideology of the impact of the father's role absence through his character as a troubled kid who has emotional instability. But, his mother influences him to control his actions, it is a depiction in the ideology of the motherhood role. While in the film, he does not like being controlled or restrained by adults, his character is a depiction in the ideology of the impact of a toxic family environment.

### *Sally Jackson*

In the novel, Sally is an ordinary woman who is described as a hard worker and pays great attention to her education, although she is poor to reach that. As a mother, she struggles to take care of her son by working hard, so her son can go to school well. She breaks the boundaries as a woman in the patriarchal system by taking the education and also can carry her child without a partner. In a patriarchal system, women are always positioned as passive human beings and usually identical with domestic work such as cooking, washing, caring for children, and others. Sally proves that a woman as a single mother can work and take care of children at the same time without the help of men.

“Get over that hill and you'll see a big farmhouse down in the valley, Run and don't look back. Yell for help. Don't stop until you reach the door.” (pp. 48-49)

Sally is depicted as someone who always has a plan, it is shown through the car accident that she experienced with Percy and Grover. She is not panicking and has the initiative about how they can survive the stuck car. Moreover, she leads Percy and Grover to get to the entrance of the half-blood camp. According to Dashu (2020), women's power means that women openly display their

power, knowledge, and skills, and receive public recognition and honor. In this novel, Sally is depicted as a woman who is strong, independent, and full of plans.

So, it indicates that there is a feminist concept in the novel. In line with Freedman's (2001) statements about feminism as a belief that although women and men are inherent of equal worth, most societies privilege men as a group. Feminism is not only shown by women who can get higher education, but how they survive in facing many problems without the help of men. Sally's action with work and leads Percy and Grover to the half-blood camp is a movement in showing her power as a woman. Work is one of the women's efforts to getting changes in the social aspects of society to reach their existence with how to position themselves in the middle of society (Meiferawati, 2021).

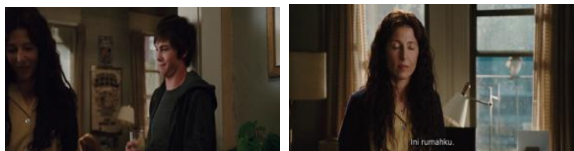


Figure 2 Sally's role in the film (00:07:54–00:09:05)

Table 2 Visual element analysis in Sally's scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning			
Size of Frame	Medium Close up	Pictures and 2	1

The picture shows a medium shot. It focuses more on Percy's expression and his smile. But, this shot also shows there is no rejection from Sally. She still obeyed Gabe's orders and there is no angry expression. When Gabe fights with Percy, she does not do anything. The gestures that she shows, such as sighing and closing her eyes briefly when she sees Gabe scolding Percy. These are her weakness as a woman who can not do anything to defend himself and his child.

Sally's response becomes a meaning in the narrative structure. The sign of images that shows Sally's gesture and her expression that does not show any rejection becomes the signifier of Sally as an emotional creature. Gabe's actions are arrogant and his

discrimination makes Sally weak and obeys all orders from Gabe.

Max Weber in Walby (2014) states that a power system in which men organize and control society through their position as head of the household is called patriarchy (Setiawan, 2016). This makes the concept of women's power has been lost and ignored. Besides that, patriarchal culture considers women that they have to conform to their traditional and gender roles. Tyson (Tyson, 2015) stated that the traditional gender roles assume that men are rational, strong, protective, and policymakers at various times. On the other hand, women are considered emotional beings, in other words, women are irrational, weak, submissive, and have a nurturing spirit (Hartanto, 2022). That is shown by Sally's action to do the orders from Gabe without refusing or feeling angry. This film was released in America and the feminist movement has developed there, but the patriarchal system is still there.

So, Sally's character in the novel shows the ideology of feminism through the depiction of the power of women to solve every problem without men. While in the film, her character shows the ideology of patriarchy through the subordination of women that Sally does not against Gabe's discrimination toward her.

### *Poseidon*

In the novel, Poseidon is the god of the sea and the father of Percy. However, he is never present in Percy's life. He leaves Percy's mother when she was pregnant. He does not have any memories of Percy yet. He can meet Percy when Percy completed his quest. Therefore, Poseidon does not have a contribution to Percy's life. The absence of a father in a child's life has several reasons, that are divorce, separation, and migration to another country for business purposes but the effect is the same on children (McLanahan et al., 2013). Men's participation as fathers can have a positive impact on the health and welfare of mothers and children in many ways.

“I had not met such a mortal woman in a thousand years. Still . . . I am sorry you were born, child. I have brought you a hero’s fate is never happy. It is never anything but tragic” (p. 36).

Poseidon never explains his role as a father in Percy's life. He feels regretful because of his actions, Percy was born into this world. Poseidon's actions show there is no feeling of attachment to Percy. Based on the traditional father concept, a father is a man who marries a woman and biologically gets children from that marriage (Supriyanto, 2015). From this, Poseidon is a description of the biological father who only has a biological role in childbirth in the world.

However in the film, Poseidon is portrayed as a father who cares about his son, he still maintains the bond between father and son even though he cannot be directly present in Percy's upbringing.



Figure 3 Poseidon’s role in the film (01:45:25–01:47:32)

Table 3 Visual element analysis in Poseidon’s scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning		
Size of Frame	Close up	Pictures 1 and 2

As shown in the picture with a close-up size of the frame, focuses on Poseidon's very gentle expression as a father who wants to explain that he loves his only child. Then, he also said that he would always be there when Percy needed help. This scene shows how Poseidon's efforts to touch Percy's heart to forgive him and accept him as a father.

The depiction of the father's role influences in the child's life as outlined in the previous explanation becomes meaning. It becomes a signifier of the fatherhood side of Poseidon as a father who cannot be present directly in child nurturing, but he is always connected with his child through a strong inner bond. This relates to the concept of

father involvement which plays a role in direct interaction with their children. The elaborative models of father involvement are engagement, accessibility, and responsibility (Buckley & Schoppe-Sullivan, 2010). Accessibility is a form of parenting that describes the father's presence or availability without direct interaction (Buckley & Schoppe-Sullivan, 2010).

So, the novel shows the ideology of the absence of a father through Poseidon is considered as a biological role in the child birth. While the film shows the ideology of the fatherhood role through his actions portraying the father’s role in a child's life.

### Persephone

In the novel, Persephone is Hades' wife and a daughter of a goddess of agriculture. But, she is only explained briefly. While in the film, Persephone is a woman who lives with Hades. She is portrayed as a woman who has a sexy body shape.

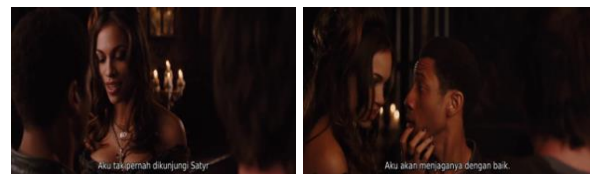


Figure 4 Persophone in the film (01:25:46)–(01:32:59)

Table 4 Visual element analysis in Poseidon’s scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning		
Size of Frame	Close up	Pictures 1 and 2

This shot is a medium close-up that shows Persephone's expression observed at Grover. This expression shows that she is interested in Grover. Here, Persephone shows a gesture where her hand holds Grover's shoulder and moves to open his jacket. Then, a close-up size of the frame shows how Persephone acts to flirt with the man she likes. Here, the depiction of sexual objects towards women is very clear. Persephone is portrayed as having a model appearance, she is tall, sexy has long hair, and has exotic skin. In addition, she has an aggressive character, so she does not hesitate to show her interest to the man.

Many films have used women as the main characters. However, this cannot be separated from the fact that women are seen as sexual objects because their appearance certainly has its charm (Szymanski et al., 2011). These women are characterized as women who have slim bodies and tall, have long hair, and white skin, and wear sexy clothes (Szymanski et al., 2011). Persephone's appearance above becomes meaning. The explanation above becomes a signifier of the depiction of women as sexual objects which is used by the adapter to complement the story of the action film.

So, the film describes Persephone as sexual objectification of women to bring the ideology of patriarchy. While the novel does not explain her character.

**Plot and the Changes of Ideologies**

The plot is the structure of events in a story arranged as a sequence of parts in a fictional story (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981). It is typically made up of a sequence of an individual but connected elements that compel the main characters to embark on a journey (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981). So, it is also to trace the ideology of the author and the adapter. There are some different plots between the novel and the film indicating some new ideologies.

*The Purpose of Percy's Quest to Find the Master Bolt*

Percy takes the quest of master bolt as an order from his teacher, Chiron. In the novel, Percy knows that he is accused of a thief by the master bolt when he is already in the half-blood camp. Chiron explains to Percy that bad events will happen to the world if the war of gods happens. He tells about the bad possibility, so Percy will understand the conditions (Riordan, 2005). This is not only about proving himself but also about saving the world. Here, he is given the big responsibility to save the world from being destroyed by the war of gods. It means there is pressure for an individual to prioritize group interests above personal interests.

The explanation above displays a concept that underlies the actions of Chiron and orders Percy to take the quest for preventing the war of gods from showing collectivism. Collectivism is a value characterized by an emphasis on cohesiveness between individuals and prioritizing the group over oneself. Individuals or groups that adhere to a collectivist worldview tend to find shared values and goals as salient and exhibit a greater orientation inward than outward (Brewer & Venaik, 2011). So, there is pressure for an individual to prioritize group interests above personal interests.



Figure 5 Percy runs away to take the quest (00:41:24)–(00:43:14)

Table 5 Visual element analysis in Percy's quest scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning		
Size of Frame	Medium Long Shot	Pictures 1 and 2

The novel focuses on saving the world by preventing the war of Gods. Meanwhile, the film is portrayed that the quest is to get back Percy's mother. The pictures are of a medium-long shot-size frame that focuses on Percy, Grover, and Annabeth. Percy decides to run away from camp to find his mother. Then, Grover and Annabeth suddenly come and join the quest. Percy explains that he will do everything to help his mother.

He has his purposes, it is not about his father or the war of Gods, but he just wants to take back his mother. Percy's actions show that personal interests are more important than group interests. The actions show a concept called individualism. Individualism is an understanding that prioritizes self-interest over other interests. People who adhere to individualism are also called individualists. They will do something according to their will (Brewer & Venaik, 2011).

Rosenbaum (2018) explains that America has the most individualistic culture in the world. The film is released in America.



As a place where the film is released for the first time, of course, American culture is very prominent. So, the film can be accepted in the American film market.

In this film, the concept of individualism produces a positive impact. Percy wants to help his mother. So, it places a woman as the purpose of the main character's journey. Here, there is a uniqueness of American patriarchy. It approves that American patriarchy respects women.

The novel describes the ideology of collectivism through the quest for prevent the war of Gods to save the world. While the film describes the ideology of individualism through the quest is for help Percy's mother as his interest. The film also describes the ideology of the uniqueness of American patriarchy that a woman is placed as a purpose of the main character's journey as approval to respect women.

### *The Fight of Percy and His Enemy*

In the novel, Percy fights Ares, the god of war and courage. After meeting Hades in the Underworld, he runs away with Grover and Annabeth to escape Hades' anger.

The expression on his face was beyond hatred. It was pain, shock, and complete disbelief that he'd been wounded.

He limped toward me, muttering ancient Greek curses. Something stopped him (p. 330).

Percy is a demigod, while Ares is a god of war. Of course, it is a nonsense fight. This is related to their strength, a demigod is half blood of gods and humans, so the power cannot possibly match the power of a god. However, the novel tells the winner of the fight between a demigod and the god Percy, a demigod. In the fight scene, Percy uses his powers to fight Ares. The two of them competed against each other until Percy can defeat Ares.

Riordan was motivated to create something to encourage his children to read (Mugijatna et al., 2014). So, he tries to blend Greek mythology and American culture. The

significance that shows the fight between Percy and Ares presents the concept of Greek myths and American culture that can blend through fantasy stories.

However, in the film, the plot becomes different from the novel. It describes that Percy fights with Luke, a demigod, and his friend in the half-blood camp.



Figure 6 Percy's fight with Luke (01:34:41–01:40:31)

Table 6 Visual element analysis in Percy's fight scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning		
Size of Frame	Medium Shot	Pictures 1 and 2

This scene shows the fight between two people as a competition to achieve a goal. This scene relates to the concept of competition in human life. In the previous explanation, Percy as a demigod fights with Ares, a god of war. Thus, the fight is illogical because it is impossible for a god can be defeated by someone who is half-human. While the film is made, the scene becomes more natural and makes sense.

According to Hartmann and Kjaer (2015), it is the nature of most living organisms that can encourage certain organisms to compete. This trait, which is referred to as "competitiveness", is seen as an innate biological trait that coexists with the desire to survive. Competitiveness becomes part of social interaction in society to survive and achieve their goals. Therefore, competition is natural for an individual to be with another individual.

Althen (Althen & Bannet, 2011), competitiveness is an American value. The adapter is an American, so he must also know how competitiveness exists in their culture. To be accepted by American society, the adapter transforms the change from highlighting the new fantasy of American culture and Greek myths blended in the novel

into showing something that makes sense with American ideology in the film.

So, the novel describes the ideology offantasy as the uniqueness of the story through the fight between Percy and a god is an unreasonable thing to attract the readers' interest. While the film describes the ideology of competition through Percy's fight with Luke as more reasonable as a competition to achieve their goals.

### *Percy and Annabeth's Relationship*

I admitted I'd feel bad about leaving her alone, though, with only Clarisse for company....(p. 375).

The ending story of the novel is different from the film. Percy is not sure whether he stays at the half-blood camp this year or not. He also wants to go home this year. But he can not leave Annabeth at the camp alone. Percy's actions are more concerned about the condition of his best friend, it shows Percy has an attitude of loyalty towards his friends.

Percy and Annabeth have the similarity of their bloodline as a half-blood. They are the descent of a god and a human that is called a demigod. They are gathered in one special place and receive a destiny to become a hero. This similarity rises a feeling of the same fate where they need each other. Therefore, they become a good friend and work together on a mission. Their relationship is included as one of the elements of cultural universality. The culture of every society consists of large and small elements and is part of a unified group. Their similarity shows as a social organization, which makes them have to take an action to become something that is expected by the people in their social organization (Rachman, 2021).

The novel emphasizes the friendship of the main characters as a cultural universal. The signification that shows Percy's loyalty to Annabeth is considered an individual determinant. For every individual who already leaves their childhood phase, most of their time is with friends. Every child who is in their teen phase will need a place other than their parents to tell anything that they can not tell their parents.

However, in the film, Percy and Annabeth are more than friends. It means they are a lover who is attracted to each other romantically.

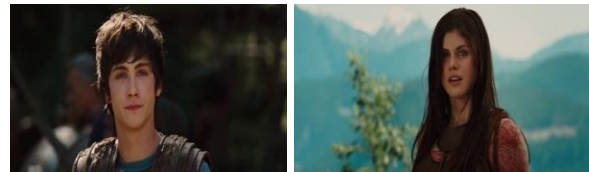


Figure 7 Relationship of Percy and Annabeth (01:48:42–01:51:59)

Table 7 Visual element analysis in Percy and Annabeth meeting scene in the film

Interpersonal Meaning			
Size	of	Medium	Pictures 1
Frame		Close Up	and 2

The show focuses on Percy's expression looking at Annabeth with a little smile. At first, Annabeth does not notice Percy, then her eyes stop when she sees Percy. This shot focuses on Annabeth's expression. The attention shows that Annabeth also likes Percy, she is happy he is back at the camp. Annabeth gives a gesture to kiss him. She makes several gestures as a sign that she takes the initiative to kiss him.

The scene about the intimate interaction between Percy and Annabeth becomes meaning. The explanation above shows that after a long journey to manage a quest, they finally can show their feeling. Different from the novel where they are just a friendship, the film illustrates the opposite. It becomes the signifier of the freedom of expression to confess the feeling toward the opposite sex. This freedom is common as an American value (Sassler, 2010). Every people has the right to get the freedom for expressing their feeling and opinion. America is a country that recognizes the right to freedom of expression and opinion. This freedom of expression is related to Western culture which views sexuality as normal. They are free to express their attraction sexually (Sassler, 2010).

So, the novel describes the ideology of cultural universality through the similarity fate creates a friendship between Percy and Annabeth. While the film describes the ideology American value as the freedom of

expression to confess the feeling toward the opposite sex.

### **Motive Beyond the Adaptation of *The Lightning Thief***

The transformations of *The Lightning Thief* novel into the film show some different ideologies. These ideologies reveal some motives behind the adaptation work made by the adapter of film.

The first, Hutcheon (2012) stated to increase cultural capital with give the new generation a cultural understanding of national identity and communal belonging. Based on the analysis, two events show a motive for cultural capital. First, the transformation of Sally's character emerges to bring feminism ideology in the original work, while the film transforms Sally's character to show patriarchal ideology. The film portrays Sally as a household mother and powerless against his discriminated husband. It proves that women are still considered weak creatures who are always obedient to men. The character of Percy in the novel can be said to contain the thoughts of Radical-liberalist feminism which combines feminist and masculine to realize his identity. The concept of radical-libertarian feminism offers the concept of androgyny, which is a combination of feminist and masculine (Arifia, 2003). Second, there is a character named Persephone in the film to portray patriarchal issues. The film portrays her as a seductive woman who has a body goal with a pretty face.

Radical-Libertarian Feminism is the concept of femininity concerning reproductive rights and the role of sexuality. The solution to these problems rests on the concept of androgyny which has the potential to develop a complete human being with feminine and masculine characteristics (Arifia, 2003). The adapter mentions patriarchal issues to let the audience knows that despite the modern world, women are still subordinated and sexually objectification. As explained in the previous sub-chapter, following the background of the adapter as an American. The adapter

considered that the American audience is extremely important. So, he adjusts the film according to market demand. Many films used women's appearances to attract audiences. It means that the commodification of women is used by the media as a special attraction which is considered to increase the high-selling value (Alam et al., 2019).

Then, Hutcheon (2012) stated that the adapters must have their motive for their adapted work. Based on the analysis, there are two transformations indicated as a personal motive. First, Percy's character is more influenced by the mother's role in the novel, while the film portrays a rebellious person as the impact of a toxic family environment. Second, Poseidon's character portrays the father's absence in the child's life, while the film shows Poseidon has the father's role in the child's life. The novel presents the parenting ideology. It is shown through the novel is dominated by the motherhood role, while the adaptation work shows the emergence of the fatherhood role.

The adapter may adapt the work to give his motive. The adapter and the author of the novel have different background stories about their parent. The author as a broken home child more concerned about his mother than his father. While the adapter does not experience it, he is concerned to show the father's role. He may want to give another perception of his father. Based on the data in America, men have taken over household chores and have an active role in caring for their children at home. Moreover, according to U.S. national census data, the number of fathers who stay home to care for their children increased by 60% to 159,000 (Muftiarini, 2012).

The last, the adapters desire to adapt because they want to have the economic benefits from their adapted work as their initiative form. There are three transformations from the plot in the novel and film. First, the novel explains the purpose of Percy's quest to find the master bolt is for preventing the war of gods and saving the world. The novel's ideology is collectivism. While the film portrays the purpose of the quest as to help Percy's mother as an

individualist ideology. Second, the novel portrays Percy's fight with a god as too illogical, it shows as the new fantasy of the story. However, the film portrays this plot as a competitiveness of American values through Percy's fights with a demigod. Last, the novel describes Percy and Annabeth's relationship as culturally universal, because their similarity in fate creates a friendship between them. Instead, the film describes their relationship as freedom of American values, through their expression to confess their feeling toward the opposite sex.

The three plots of the novel are changed into three transformations to show the emergence of American values in the film. The film was released in America. As the place where the film was released for the first time, of course, American culture is very prominent. Moreover, the adapter is American, so he understands the culture and habits of America. Thus, the inclusion of these values into the film is to attract the audience's interest in American society. To be accepted, the adapter transforms the change from highlighting the collectivist side of the hero story into showing the individualistic side of the film. Then, the adapter transforms the change from highlighting the illogical fantasy of Greek myths in the novel into showing something logical or real with American ideology in the film. Besides that, the adapter also tries to show American values through the freedom to express their feeling toward the opposite sex in their adaptation work.

## CONCLUSION

The adaptation of *The Lightning Thief* between a novel into a film shows that there are some changes of ideology in characterization and plot. From the transformation analysis, different ideologies are found. The ideologies found in the novel are the emergence of feminism, motherhood role, collectivism, the new fantasy, and culturally universal. While, the film's ideologies are the emergence of patriarchy, fatherhood role, and American culture. After finding the ideologies of the novel and film, a motive beyond the adaptation could also be found. The motive of this adaptation work is

cultural capital, personal motive, and economic lures. All these ideologies of the adapter are used as motives to get a financial interest and make a huge profit through a film adaptation.

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