ABSTRACT

The film adaptation phenomena motivate many critics to compare the original text and the adapted version. Most of the critics talk about the unfaithfulness to the original texts without explaining what the grounds of the differences are. And what comes to the surface is the judgment that the film adaptation is a ruin to literature. Thus, this study intends to find out the reason of the different image between the novel and the film adaptation of The Scarlet Letter through the cultural contexts.

This study is a comparative study between a novel and a film adapted from it; however, it is not limited to the exploration of the different structure between the two of them. The method of this study is perfectly using the library research. As primary sources, this study uses Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Scarlet Letter first published in 1850 and the film adaptation of the 1995 version directed by Roland Jaffe.

From the data collected, this study has accomplished three main different aspects in the film. These three images are significant differences that do not exist in the novel, but live in the film as the main issue. They are the feminist aspect of the main character, Hester Prynne, the romantic and erotic aspect, and lastly the Native American aspect.

For the finale, this study concludes that both the novel and the film have its own special quality and above all, each of them lives in a different period with its own cultural influence.
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Dalia
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