

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The researcher discusses the introduction of the study. This chapter consists of seven parts. They are research context, research focus, research objectives, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, previous study, and review related literature.

A. Research Context

Education is the most important thing in our life. It means that everyone has the freedom to be always growing in education. Education commonly means a process to improve self ability to survive in our life. Education gives us knowledge on how to have a certain attitude, to talk, and to learn science which is finally can be taught to others.

Education is the socially organized and regulated process of continuous transference of socially significant experience from the previous generations to the following. The main way to receive an education is to take a course of training in the system of educational institutions.¹

Based on the explanation above, education can be done everywhere and also can be taken from everything. One of the biggest things that had a great influence is mass media. In this globalization era, mass media is growing rapidly. Mass media is blooming like a fire burns woods in the dry season. Especially the big five mass media that are newspaper, magazine, radio, the Internet, and television. That all five are information

¹ Aslan Naziev, "What is an education?" *Ryazan State University*, (June, 1974),1

to take people's interest by giving the best service. Because of high technology, any information can be gotten easily. A communicator's mind also can easily reach in public. A variety of technological appearance gives openness and freedom to choose media to be used. It makes the media become an important necessity.

Not only information that attracts the public, but also a type of media and its presentation become important factors are determined. Finally, audiovisual media that has a good presentation becomes the prime and drives the public majority to automatically choose it. One of the audiovisual media is television. Television is the most influential than other mass media because almost everyone has it.

The movie is very effective to persuade people's minds because it is covered with an interesting plot, and it is easy to watch. Because of its persuasive, the consumption of movies is being a basic need, even a lifestyle. The movie can influence people easily. Movie itself is inspired by real-life but it was added some flavors to make it more beautiful for entertainment purposes. From the movie, the viewer will be easily persuaded by the actual content presentation that engages audiovisual sense so that messages in the movie will be easy to arrive in the viewer's mind.

There are three functions of movie. That is to inform, to educate, and to entertain. From the understanding of the three functions above, the public especially 3 educators have the right to use mass media for the importance of the education field. At the first, the educators have to be

given the understanding of using mass media for education because today their students also learn from the outside school area. As one of the most attractive programs on mass media, the movie should not only for entertainment but also should give education as its function. The messages carried in the movies should also contribute to build character and create educational people. Besides entertainment, the movie is also to educate, so that's why there is the word "edutainment" in the movie term. In this case, the movie cannot be detached from media education.

Moreover, recently, there are many movies released in the world movie industry. Most of them are adapted from a real-life story. Even some of them contain bad influences such as violence, sex, murder, horror, and so on, but there will be a good movie that contains many good values for educational purposes. Muhammad Rizal, a student of Maritim Raja Ali Haji University, had conducted research entitled "Analisis Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Dalam Film 3 Idiots Karya Rajkumar Hirani" that proofs there are many character educational values in "3 Idiots" movie directed by Rajkumar Hirani. In his journal, he analyzed 18 educational values stated by "KEMENDIKBUD".² From the 18 character educational values above, he got 15 character educational values in "3 Idiots" movie that is religious, honesty, tolerance, hard-working, creative, independent, democratic, curiosity, love the homeland, appreciating achievement, friendly, love peace, environmental care, sociality, and responsibility. While, only 3

²Hartono, "Character Education in Curriculum 2013" *Balai Pelestarian Nilai Budaya Bali, NTB, NTT*, (20 July 2014), 263

values could not find in “3 Idiots” movie that is discipline, national spirit, and like to read.³

The research conducted by Rizal above shows that education is not only gotten from formal class but also can be gotten everywhere, especially from the movie. Many educational values can influence the viewer to build a better character in the educational field from that movie.

Meanwhile, there is also a movie that has a good value and very suitable for educational purposes, example is *King Speech* movie. This movie tells about King George's journey to VI (Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George who is a Duke of York) to the highest throne in the British empire. The struggle he had to go through was not easy because he was stuttering in speaking. Queen Elizabeth was the only person trying to find the best solution to free King George VI from the stutter he had suffered from the age of 4 or 5. With great confidence that the stutter suffered by her husband could heal, Queen Elizabeth went to every competent doctor or therapist in the British empire, until one day she met Logue. Logue is a 50-year-old talk therapist from Australia, and also a theatre actor. The meeting between Logue and Prince Albert made a major difference to his second life.⁴

For the reason above, the researcher has a high interest to conduct a research study entitled *The Analysis of Educational Values on the Characters of King Speech Movie*.

³Muhammad Rizal, “Analisis Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Karakter Dalam Film 3 Idiot Karya Rajkumar Hirani”, *Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji* (2015).

⁴ <https://gc.ukm.ugm.ac.id/2016/10/review-film-the-kings-speech/>, accessed on 14 October 2020 0:30 AM

B. Research Focus

The research focus is a condition based on the relationship of two factors or more resulting in a confusing situation or enables a question, attentively, and situational based on the real phenomenon and it needs to solve or effort to answer.⁵ The reason why the researcher uses King Speech as the object of this research because this film is adapted from a true story from King George VI as the king of the United Kingdom. However, researchers also focus on the problems that will be presented in this study to make it easier for us. The focus of this research is:

1. How do the character perform educational values in the “King Speech” movie?
2. What kind of educational values are found in the “King Speech” movie?

C. Research Objectives

According to John W. Creswell, Educational Research Design stated that research objectives are a statement of intended use in quantitative research that specifies a goal that the investigator plans to achieve in a study.⁶ By determining the formulations of a problem, of course, we have the intent and purpose to be achieved as well. As has been explained above about the focus of research, researchers find the objectives to be achieved in this study, are as follows:

1. To analyze character educational value in “King Speech” movie

⁵*Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah Edisi Revisi*, (Pamekasan: STAIN Press, 2015), 18.

⁶ John W. Creswell, *Educational Research Design: Planning, Conducting and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (Boston: Pearson Education, 2012), 111.

2. To know-how is the character can give educational value in “King Speech” movie

D. Significance of The Study

The significance of the study is how the research helps the development of science, or how the research gives the contribution in solving the problem in the social aspect.⁷ The significance of this study is aimed at teachers, students, and other researchers.

1. For the public speaker, this study can be a new motivation for them to be bolder in oration in public and the character can be to inspire
2. for the student's university, this study can be a new motivation for them to be more courageous in speaking in public, whether it's during a presentation in front of a class or something else. remember how King George VI wanted to try to cover up his stuttering by treating this stuttering and continuing to practice.
3. For the next researchers, this study can be an inspiration and secondary data to the other researcher who interests to conduct a study about character educational values in other movies, so there will be many movies analyzed and many values gotten and applied.

E. ScopeAnd Limitation of Study

Scope and limitation explain the limitation of the variable that was observed, the population or subject of the study, and the location of the study.⁸The scope describes the areas covered in the research. Here, the scope of this research is only analyzing 18character educational values

⁷*PedomanPenulisan*, 19.

⁸*Ibid*,12.

which are stated by Kemendikbud in the “King Speech” movie. The limitation in this research just focus on character educational value can founded in this movie.

F. Previous Studies

Nowadays, researching movies or films for education is not something new. Many researchers research movie to observe the characters, values, even to use them for educational purposes. Here, the researcher finds some relevant researches with his research.

The first is the thesis of Wahyu Rahmawati, a student of the State Islamic University of Yogyakarta, entitled “Peran Guru Dalam Film Laskar Pelangi dan Relevansinya Dengan Pendidikan Agama Islam”. This research is based on less understanding of teacher character toward his duty as an educator. Many teachers are still disturbed about salary problems. The result of this research shows that the teacher character in the “Laskar Pelangi” movie can be divided into three types that are a teacher character toward his/her potential, a teacher character toward his/her students, and a teacher character toward society. Beside the title of the movie is different from the researcher’s study, the focus of this study is also different because this study is to observe the teacher character of the movie. While the researcher’s study focuses on the educational value of the movie.

Furthermore, the thesis of AnangIkhwanto, a student of the State Islamic University of Yogyakarta, entitled “Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Islam Dalam Film Ayat-Ayat Cinta Karya Hanung Bramantio”. This research is

based on Islamic terms used before married called “ta’aruf”. Ideally, “ta’aruf” (see: introduction) is done before married, and after. that, there is a time between the man and the woman to be closer to prevent quarrels later. But in this movie, there is no time after “ta’aruf” for the man and the woman to be closer. So that’s why this study is conducted. This study is focused on what are the Islamic educational values of the movie that can be used for the learning process, the concept of values, and its relevance for recent Islamic education. Moreover, the result of this study shows that: (1) “Ayat-Ayat Cinta” movie as an educational media, entertainment, and information. (2) There are many Islamic educational values “Ayat-Ayat Cinta” movie that is “iqtiqodiyah, syari’ah, and khuluqiyah”. (3) There is the relevance between the “Ayat-Ayat Cinta” movie and recently Islamic education

Thus, this study has a little similarity with the researcher’s study that is focused on the educational values of the movie. But, this study is focused on observing the Islamic educational value of the movie, while the researcher observes educational values in general. Besides, the movie that is used in this study and the researcher’s movie is different.

From the previous study above, there are many similar studies about the movie, but it has a different focus itself. The movie title used by one researcher and the others is also not the same. As far as the researcher knows, no study observes the educational values in “The King Speech’s” movie in general.

G. The Definition of Key Terms

The title of this research is “An Analysis Character Educational Value in King Speech Movie”. To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity of terms which will be used, the researcher defines key terms, as follows:

1. Education Values are educational values that include individual attitudes in personal and educational life.
2. Movie or Film emerged as one of the first mass-produced cultural forms of the twentieth. As they came to be known, were a modern, technologically mediated art.
3. The King's Speech is a 2010 British historical drama biographical film directed by Tom Hooper and produced by Iain Canning, Emile Sherman, and Gareth Unwin. The script for this film was written by David Seidler. This film stars Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, and Helena Bonham Carter.

H. Review of Related Literature

1. Value

a) Definition of Value

Value is important and lasting beliefs or ideals shared by the members of a culture about what is good or bad and desirable. Values have a major influence on a person's behavior and attitude and serve as broad guidelines in all situations.

According to J Halstead values are used to refer to principles, fundamental convictions, ideals, standards, or life stances that act as general guides to behavior or as points of reference in decision-making or the evaluation of beliefs or action and which are closely connected to personal integrity and

personal identity.⁹ In other words, Values shape the way people live their lives, how they interact with others, and how they feel about themselves. Values are learned, usually passed down from generation to generation.¹⁰

The true value and universally accepted is the value that produces behavior and behaviors that have a positive impact on people that to do this and for the other. The principle presented above can help to achieve peace and also prevent the loss or hardship either to themselves or other children because this is an effective way to establish a moral child a clear and strong. Values relate to the norms of a culture, but they are more global and abstract than norms. Norms provide rules for behavior in specific situations, while values identify what should be judged as good or evil. Whether values are part of the intrinsic nature of the thing or simply a matter of how humans respond to the thing is controversial. In sociology, values theory is concerned with personal values that are popularly held in a community and how those values might change under particular conditions. Different groups of people may hold or prioritize different kinds of values influencing social behavior.

b) Education Value

Education value is education is concerned with the development of the total personality of the individual intellectual, social, emotional, aesthetic, moral, and spiritual. It involves developing sensitivity to the good, the right, and the beautiful, ability to choose the right values following the thought and

⁹J. Mark Halstead and Monica J. Taylor, *Values In Education and Education in Values*, (Washington, D.C. : The Falmer Press, 1996), 13

¹⁰ZeenaTrinita Cornelio, "International Research Journal of Management Sociology & Humanity" *Shri Param Hans Education & Research Foundation Trust*, 10 (2010), 119

action. In a row educational value is to develop rational critical thinking, to educate the emotions, to cultivate the imagination.

Kohlberg explains that value education is engineering towards the following.

- 1) and developing structures and potentials/components of affective components and experiences or “identity” or the human conscience (the conscience of man) or the human conscience with a set of values-moral-norms.
- 2) Fostering the process of experiencing and/or transactions/interactions in a person's affective world so that there is a process of clarifying values-morals, proposing moral-values (moral judgment), or reasoning of moral-norms (moral reasoning) and/or controlling values-moral-norms (moral control).¹¹

According to Winecoff, value education is related to three dimensions, namely identification of a core of personal and social values, philosophy and rational inquiry into the core, and decision making related to the core based on inquiry and response. He also revealed that value education is education that considers objects from a moral point of view which includes ethics and norms including aesthetics, namely assessing objects from personal

¹¹Moh. Najib, *Pendidikan Nilai Kajian Teori dan Praktik di Sekolah*(Bandung: Pustaka Setia, 2014), 65

beauty and taste, as well as ethics, namely assessing right/wrong in interpersonal relationships.¹²

From some of these definitions, it can be concluded that education value is teaching or guidance to students to realize the value of truth, goodness, and beauty through a process of proper value consideration and consistent acting habits. The term education value here is intended to represent all educational concepts and actions that pay great attention to the development of humanistic or theistic values.

In Indonesia there is 18 educational character value stated by Indonesian Law,¹³ as follows:

- 1) Religious. Obedient attitude and behavior in performing the religion they believe, tolerance with other religions, and make a harmonious life with other religions.
- 2) Honest. Behavior-based on efforts to be trusted human
- 3) Tolerance. Appreciates different religions, ethnicities, opinions, attitudes, and different behavior.
- 4) Discipline. An action that always shows orderly and obedient in any regulations.

¹²Ibid

¹³*Act of The Republic of Indonesia Number 20, Year 2003 On National Education System*, 8

- 5) Hard-working. Behavior that shows an effort to solve any obstacles in a learning activity.
- 6) Creative. Thinking and doing to create something new or a new result from something that had been owned.
- 7) Independent. Be able to do his/her work by his/her self, not depend on the others
- 8) Democratic. Realize that people have the same right and obligations.
- 9) Curiosity. Always curious about what he/she learns and try to find something widely and deeply
- 10) National spirit. Take a place on national importance than self or group importance.
- 11) Love homeland. Behavior and attitude that shows up the loyalty, care, and respect to the language, environment, politic, social, and culture.
- 12) Appreciating achievement. Behavior and attitude that push up to create something useful for others, appreciate and respect other people's achievements.
- 13) Friendly. Like to communicate and corporate with others.
- 14) Love peace. Always make people happy, comfortable, and safe of his/her existence.
- 15) Like to read. Manage time for reading many books.

16) Environmental care. Behavior and attitude that always take care and prevent environmental damage and have an effort to repair environmental damage.

17) Sociality. Behavior and attitude that always want to help others.

18) Responsibility. Doing the duty and the obligation that should be done.

According to the explanation above, the researcher can conclude that many educational values can build a better student's character. While, educational values are not only gotten informal class but also can be found everywhere, for example, is from the movie.

2. Movie

a) Definition of Movie

The movie is a series of moving pictures, often telling a story, usually shown in a theater or on television. In other explanation, Movie is the most famous entertainment media around the world. The movie has many interesting sides we can see. Start from the action, audio, visual, location, situation, technology, and many more. A motion picture is a combination of movement, words, music, and colors.¹⁴

¹⁴Hamid Aoudah, *A Study of Social Values In The Legend Of Korra; A Film Directed By Michael Dante Dimartino And Bryan Konietzko, in English Department Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Mataram University*, 2016

By watching movies, people can get inspiration, ideas, knowledge, learn some new from the movies. That will be interested when somebody seriously understanding the movies by watching the setting, plot, dialogue, and characters of the movie.

b) Relation Between Movie and Education

Technology is transformative. It changes as it is used and it changes those who use it. Ideals to improve technology arise from its use and new technology leads further, spiraling in speed and complexity. Changes occur in other areas of life with the advances in such as solar energy, radio, TV. Inline information technology is very important for the community in terms of socializing and interacting. The movie is not a language but is like language, and since language, some of the methods that use to study language might profitably be applied to a study of the movie.

A movie is a powerful teaching tool because it connects ideas with emotions. Research shows that people learn and remember best when their feelings are activated. The visual images of the film are also a key element to their effectiveness as a learning tool.¹⁵ The drama of movie storytelling is another important feature that makes it a useful learning tool.

Furthermore, movies and education have a very close relationship, because now movie can be an effective medium that

¹⁵ Nicole Markotic, *Punching Up The Story: Disability and Film*, *Canadian Journal of Film Studies*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2008, p. 2

can be used by parents to instill the values of life to their children. A movie can be used as a medium of learning to inculcate good values to the children by watching the movie.

From the explanation above movies can be used as a medium of learning to inculcate good values when parents may be wise to accompany the child when watching the movie. But parents should still assist children when they see the movie.

3. The King Speech's Movie

a. Characterization

Characterization is a literary device that is used step-by-step in the literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. It is in the initial stage in which the researcher introduces the character with noticeable emergence.

According to Francis Bacon Characterization is a name for the methods a writer uses to reveal a character's values, feelings, goals, etc. to readers. When revealing a character's traits, a writer can do so using direct characterization or indirect characterization.¹⁶

Here the researcher will explain several figures which according to the researcher can be analyzed about their educational value, there are:

1) King George VI

¹⁶ Francis Bacon, "Literary Element Characterization"

King George VI in King's speech movie played by Collin Firth, King George VI was a king who led the British from 1936 to 1952. in the movie, it is depicted how Prince Albert's efforts, The Duke of York (nicknamed King George VI before becoming king) to cure his stuttering disease especially when he had to make a speech in front of his people. he has a stubborn and irritable nature, but there is a thing the researcher is very salutary with his character that he wants to try hard to be able to recover so as not to stutter again when speaking in front of his people

2) Queen Elizabeth

Queen Elizabeth in King Speech movie played by Helene Bonham Carter. Queen Elizabeth is the wife of King George VI, who in the movie depicts one of the people who support the healing of King George VI so that he doesn't stutter anymore, especially when giving a public speech. here the researcher thinks that queen Elizabeth has many positive sides, for example how she is looking for a therapist who can cure her husband's stutter and many more.

3) Lionel Logue

Lionel Logue in King Speech movie played by Geoffrey Rush. Lionel Logue is the character that the researcher most admires in this movie. Lionel Logue is an Australian native language and speech therapist and amateur

stage performer. The reason why the researchers admire him is that he is a person who has a firm stand whomever the interlocutors, there is a conversation that reflects the nature of "My castle my rule," said Lionel Louge, a speech therapist to King George VI who wanted to cure his stuttering. Even though the patient is a prince, Lionel does not hesitate to forbid smoking in his practice room.

b. Setting

According to the researcher, Gusti Agung GdeSosiowati said Setting is an environment or surroundings in which an event or story takes place. Setting as place and time influences the theme, character, and action of a story. In this type, the setting controls the characters and by controlling the setting, writers could control their characters. If they confine a certain character to a particular setting, it will define the character.¹⁷

So the researcher wants to explain the setting of time and setting of the place in the King speech movie.

1) Setting of Time

This movie is set from 1934 to 1939, starting from before Prince Albert was appointed King of Britain who later succeeded his father King George V who died in 1936. to King George's most memorable speech when he had to announce a British declaration of war with Nazi Germany in 1939.

¹⁷I Gusti Agung GdeSosiowati, Ni LuhNyoman Seri Malini, *English Prose Analysis From Theories to Practices I*, (Denpasar, Bali: Cakra Press, January 2017), 180

2) Setting of Place

This movie is set in the Great Britain region, more specifically in the palace, in Lionel Logue therapist rooms, and several public places.

c. Synopsis on King Speech's Movie

The Kings Speech is a beautifully woven, compassionately acted film about a man's journey into the depths of himself. The rise to power of England's King George VI is a classic hero's journey tale. The screenplay, written by David Seidler 2010. Duration in this movie 01:58:28. The King's Speech tells the story of a man compelled to speak to the world with a stammer. It must be painful enough for one who stammers to speak to another person. To face a radio microphone and know the British Empire is listening must be terrifying. At the time of the speech mentioned in this title, a quarter of the Earth's population was in the Empire, and of course, most of North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia be listening and in particular, Germany.

The king was George VI. The year was 1939. Britain was interring into war with Germany. His listeners required firmness, clarity, and resolve, not stammers punctuated with tortured silences. This is a man who never wanted to be king. After the death of his father, the throne was to pass to his brother Edward. But Edward renounced the throne "To marry

to women I love” and the duty fell to Prince Albert who had struggled with his speech from an early age.

At the 1925 speech, we see Bertie’s wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham), her face filled with sympathy. As it becomes clear that Edward’s obsession with Wallis Simpson (Eve Best) is incurable, her Bertie may face more public humiliation. He sees various speech therapists, one of whom tries the old marbles in the mouth routine first recommended by Demosthenes. Nothing works, and then she seeks out a failed Australian actor named Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), who has set up a speech therapy practice.

Logue doesn’t realize at first who is consulting him. And one of the subjects of the film is Logue’s attitude toward royalty, which I suspect is not untypical of Australians, he suggests to Albert that they get on a first-name basis. Albert has been raised within the bell jar of the monarchy and objects to such treatment, not because he has an elevated opinion of himself but because well it just isn’t done. But Logue realizes that if he is to become the king’s therapist, he must first become his friend.

d. Critics

Film Criticism is a peer-reviewed, online publication bringing together scholarship in the field of cinema and media

studies since 1975.¹⁸ So film criticism is a value given by film experts about films whether it includes the storyline, time and place settings, and also the cast. here the researcher found several criticisms about the King Speech movie, whether positive or negative.

David Elliot said The film is richly rooted, with splendid trappings, including pea-soup fogs. For all the pomp and protocol, it's an intimate story about a scarred man who must find his voice if he is to rise, in regal stature, above his epaulets. Writer David Seidler, up from an animated version of The King and I, and director Tom Hooper (best known for the hit mini-series on John Adams) deliver an impeccably British, deliciously human, and moving film. I thought Firth should have won the Oscar for A Single Man, and tongue-tied Bertie may bring the prize. Rush (winner for Shine, 1996) can coach him in a great acceptance speech.¹⁹

Another critic said a powerful back story does not necessarily improve a movie, but "The King's Speech" has a pretty irresistible one. It might even end with a dramatic night at the Oscars in February. First, the on-screen narrative: In pre-World War II England, Albert, Duke of York (Colin Firth), suffers from a debilitating stammer. Public events, toasts, even

¹⁸<https://www.filmcriticismjournal.org/>, accessed on 14 October 2020 0:30 AM

¹⁹<https://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2010/dec/08/movie-black-swan/>, accessed on 13 October 2020 10:30 PM

one-word replies turn into gut-wrenching nightmares. Worse, he's about to become King George VI. But when Albert visits an eccentric vocal coach, Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), he learns something new: The tongue is connected to the psyche. If you've seen "Shine" or "Good Will Hunting" or any other movie about a dedicated teacher and a difficult student, you'll recognize the pattern in "The King's Speech." But it also offers some interesting angles. Logue, who insists on breaking down Albert's aristocratic facade, is surely the only commoner who calls the king "Bertie." At the same time, Albert recalls one of Shakespeare's reluctant royals, struggling to grow into his crown. "The King's Speech" is briskly directed by Tom Hooper and often very funny. But Firth is the main attraction. Albert is hugely complex - victimized, defeated, confident, ambitious - and Firth makes it look effortless. He's also supported by a wonderfully engaging Rush and a satiny-smooth Helena Bonham Carter as the future Queen Mother. The story is grounded in history, of course, and it was George VI's wartime radio addresses that inspired the screenwriter, David Seidler, to control his childhood stutter. No pressure, but there could be an Oscar speech in his future. For Colin Firth, and for director Tom Hooper, the biggest challenge of "The King's Speech" was getting King George VI's stammer right. Firth studied some existing early recordings of the king's voice, pre-therapy, but

says that he was less interested in imitating the voice than in learning how it sounded. "I wanted to make it my own," he told *The Seattle Times*, noting that George VI was hampered both by his stammer and by "the tightness that so many members of his class and across the system suffered from, that terrible reserve." The recordings captured the king on formal occasions. Firth said it was a source of much discussion in rehearsals as to what "Bertie" sounded like at home with his wife and young daughters, Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) and Margaret. "There was an argument for saying that he barely stutters at all with his family," Firth told the *Times*, "and then Tom felt that lowered the stakes too much. If there's ever a time when he's free of it, it makes speech therapist Lionel] Logue's struggle a lot easier. I think you have to feel like there is no time he can escape, even a time when he's at his most secure."²⁰

Apart from positive criticism, there are several negative criticisms about this film, one of which is Brent McKnight, he said: Over the past few months I've said many times, in many places, that I'm sure "The King's Speech" is a wonderfully-acted, well-crafted motion picture, but one that I have no interest in. So now it's on DVD and Blu-ray, and I figured, what the hell, I'll watch anything once, and you know what? "The King's Speech" is exactly what you expect. It is a

²⁰ <https://www.newsday.com/entertainment/movies/the-king-s-speech-beautifully-delivered-1.2561600>, accessed on 13 October 2020 0:30 AM

wonderfully acted, well-crafted period piece. It practically screams, “Give me an Oscar, sweet baby Jesus I want an Oscar!” And oh my god is it fucking boring. You should take this with a grain of salt, after all my favorite movie of 2010 was “Piranha 3D”, but I imagine most of you who read this site regularly share similar proclivities. Maybe that assumption is incorrect, but I doubt it, and I don’t see what all the fuss is about. “The King’s Speech” starts with the Duke of York (Colin Firth), Bertie to his family and friends (except he has no friends), falling on his metaphorical face in front of an enormous audience, and before an even larger audience listening in on one of those newfangled radio machines. See, Bertie has a serious stammer, which is further exacerbated when he gets flustered, like when speaking to a giant throng of devoted followers. He’s tried everything, including smoking cigarettes to relax his esophagus and speaking with a mouth full of heated marbles. Bertie’s wife, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter), ever the dutiful spouse, locates Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), a failed Australian actor who has had some purported success curing speech ailments. This is not the kind of place royalty usually hangs. Logue’s office, where he demands they meet, is on a sketchy street in a seedy neighborhood. For crying out loud, the paint is peeling off the wall, the royals have no business being within miles of this

place. But Lionel's combative style, he insists on calling Bertie Bertie instead of Your Royal Highness, yields results, so Bertie keeps on keeping on with the illicit meetings. The scenes between Firth and Rush are the only things that make "The King's Speech" worth watching. These are two great actors at the top of their respective games, and their time together invariably turns into the acting equivalent of a cage fight, or at least a jousting match. Firth is especially powerful if you've ever tussled with a speech impediment, and at least in the performance realm, the acclaim is warranted. As their unlikely friendship grows and solidifies, it does feel a bit like a romantic comedy, especially when Lionel's wife discovers the true identity of her husband's mystery patient. Unfortunately, the entire movie is not just Firth and Rush having a sparring match, and every time the story moves away from those two, "The King's Speech" becomes bland, toothless, and predictable. It is what you expect it to be, and nothing more. It's the exact plot of an up-by-their-bootstraps underdog sports story, complete with a training montage. Only in this instance, the big game is a big speech.

The filmmakers take what should be an interesting story and mostly ignore it, or at least deal with it in the most truncated manner. Bertie is third in line to be king, his father dies, and

his brother (Guy Pearce) is in love with a married American woman and abdicates the throne, magically transforming Bertie into King George VI (I didn't know they got to pick their name) right before the start of World War II. For a second right before the climax, as Lionel rushes through the streets with Zeppelins hovering overhead and sandbag barricades all over the streets, "The King's Speech" gets incredibly tense, and you think shit is about to get awesome. Britain is on the brink of war, and WWII was some crazy shit, and then, just when you think things are looking up, bam, all they do is talk. I guess I deserve that. After all, the title does tell you right out of the gate that this movie is about talking, and I shouldn't expect anything to blow up. That's one of the biggest problems with "The King's Speech", for a movie about power struggles, the looming specter of war, and family intrigue, there isn't any real tension or conflict, and the stakes never feel high enough. After the fact, they try to pretend that the relationship between Bertie and his brother was taut and rigid, that there was some sort of power grab for the throne, but it is never portrayed like that. There's not even any strife between Bertie and Elizabeth, she is loyal and dutiful and they are very much in love. Like I said, any time the movie moves away from Firth and Rush it

gets so painfully dull you want to pop out your eyes with a teaspoon.²¹

²¹<https://www.thelastthingisee.com/2011/04/dvdblu-ray-review-kings-speech.html>, accessed on 13 October 2020 0:30 AM