

## Efferent Reader Response Study on Adrian Lyne's Lolita Movie

Yolanda Tesalonika Danta<sup>a</sup>, Agnes Widyaningrum<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Faculty of Law and Language, Universitas Stikubank, [yolandatesalonikadanta@mhs.unisbank.ac.id](mailto:yolandatesalonikadanta@mhs.unisbank.ac.id)

<sup>b</sup>Faculty of Law and Language, Universitas Stikubank, [agneswidyaningrum@edu.unisbank.ac.id](mailto:agneswidyaningrum@edu.unisbank.ac.id)

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### ABSTRACT

This study examines reader responses to a Lolita movie by Adriane Lyne based on the problem of how people interpret and retain pros and cons in the movie. How viewers' moral frameworks and ethical considerations influence their reader responses to the moral themes depicted in the movie "Lolita." How viewers' perceptions of the characters, themes, and events in "Lolita" influence their efferent responses to the movie. This study applies the efferent reader response theory by Louise Rosenblatt. The data of this research consists of several comments and opinions of the viewer of the Lolita movie directed by Adrian Lyne that discussed the contradiction between the theme of pedophilia and its cinematography. The primary data are collected from the sources around the reader's opinion of the movie. Meanwhile, secondary data are obtained from other resources, such as related previous studies, journals, and other sources. Data collection are accomplished through the use of document analysis. The audience's reaction to Lyne's "Lolita" was divided, with 113 out of 173 approving it as a significant adaptation for its novel authenticity and quality, while 60 criticized it for its explicit and provocative portrayal of relationships, deeming it too far from the original novel while Viewers' moral attitudes significantly impact their understanding of Lyne's "Lolita," which questions society conventions and ethical standards by addressing controversial topics like as knowledge, exploitation, and the complexity of human sexuality.

**Keywords:** *efferent reader response, themes, movie, moral*

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### 1. Introduction

Pedophilia frequently refers to the concepts of morality and humanity in human societies. Pedophilia is defined as the sexual interest in prepubescent children (Seto, 2009). This definition is crucial in understanding the complexities of pedophilia, as it highlights the distinction between pedophilia and other forms of sexual deviance.

The relationship between pedophilia and sexual offending against children is a significant as it has been empirically established that pedophiles are more likely to engage in sexual offending against children (Seto, 2009). This is because pedophilia is often characterized by a persistent and intense sexual interest in children, which can manifest in various ways, including the possession of child pornography, the solicitation of sexual activities with children, or the commission of sexual offenses against children.

The desire to engage in pedophilic activities can be detected through various indicators, including persistent sexual ideas, fantasies, cravings, or activities involving children. On the same occasion, some people who were deviant toward pedophilia never had any known sexual contact with

the children, which highlights the complexity of pedophilia and the need for a nuanced understanding of this phenomenon.

However, it is important to note that not all sex offenders against children meet the criteria for pedophilia. The condition occurred due to a psychological disorder known as pedophilia. It is characterized by having orientation disorder in which the person is persistent and intense for sexual interest with children. This distinction is crucial in understanding the complexities of pedophilia and the need for a nuanced approach to addressing this phenomenon.

In societal contexts, child sexual abuse is frequently associated with the communications revolution. According to Herlihy (1993), the communications revolution has resulted in improved visual realism and privacy in entertainment, which may facilitate pedophilic fantasies and stimulate a global market for child pornography. This is because the increased availability and accessibility of explicit content, particularly through the internet, have made it easier for individuals with pedophilic tendencies to access and engage with child pornography.

Herlihy (1993) also emphasizes the significance of rigorous rules, effective monitoring, and strong law enforcement in eliminating the spread of child pornography and protecting children from exploitation. This is because the proliferation of child pornography has created a culture of impunity, where individuals feel emboldened to engage in illegal activities without fear of consequences. Therefore, it is crucial that governments and law enforcement agencies implement robust measures to prevent the spread of child pornography and hold individuals accountable for their actions.

It also underlines the importance of resolving underlying psychological difficulties in people who have pedophilic tendencies through appropriate assistance and therapy. Addressing these issues is crucial for preventing harmful behaviors and ensuring the safety and well-being of potential victims. By providing targeted psychological support, such as counseling and cognitive-behavioral therapy, individuals with these tendencies can better understand and manage their impulses, reducing the risk of acting on harmful desires. This is because pedophilia is often a complex issue that is rooted in deep-seated psychological and emotional issues, such as trauma, abuse, and social isolation. Therefore, it is essential that individuals with pedophilic tendencies receive appropriate treatment and support to address these underlying issues and prevent them from engaging in illegal activities.

Research indicates that technological improvements have made child pornography more accessible and widely distributed. (Wolak et al., 2008) emphasize how the internet has emerged as a major avenue for the distribution of such materials, making it easier for persons with pedophilic tendencies to obtain them. The statement above about increased visual realism and privacy is consistent with research showing that the internet and digital technology facilitate the development, distribution, and consumption of child pornography, frequently in very realistic ways. In literary products, we may find kinds of genres and one of them is about child pornography. Literature is the place where people can create a world to interpret many meanings of it. It is a beautiful work both written or oral (Lestari, 2019). Literary works represents human experiences (Nurhandayani, 2014). For generations, humans have created numerous literary works spanning various historical eras. Psychology in literature is often a topic of discussion (Cahyaningrum, 2018).

Literature as a representation of people's acts and expression often uses psychology as its central idea (Robson, 2020). These literary works can be adapted into movie plots with psychological themes such as morality so it can attract more viewers (Lehman & Luhr, 2018). Morality often occurs in literary works and sometimes it raises a judgment or perspective assumption for several people. Morality refers to a specific code of conduct put forward by a society or group (such as a religion) and accepted by society (Gert & Gert, 2020). Eaton explains that moral judgment is a general characteristic in interpreting, appreciating, and reflecting literary works. For example, the reader or audience often give several characters and condemn and praise for their actions (Eaton, 2015). These moral judgments can

be influenced by the cultural context in which the work was written and the prevailing values in society. Additionally, moral themes in literary works can also be shaped by the personal experiences of the author and the historical period they are writing about. This is because literary work oftentimes functions as a reflection of the society in which it is written, and the moral themes that are explored can be seen as a commentary on the values and norms of that society.

“Lolita” movie which created based on the controversial novel by Vladimir Nabokov is a prime example of a movie that explores complex moral themes. Adrian Lyne’s version of “Lolita” movie follows the story of Humbert, a middle-aged professor who becomes infatuated with his landlady's teenage daughter, Lolita. Humbert’s obsession with Lolita is driven by a deep-seated psychological need, which he attempts to fulfill by marrying Lolita’s mother, Charlotte, in order to gain closer access to Lolita. Following Lolita’s mother sudden death, Humbert embarks on a journey with Lolita, indulging in a forbidden and exploitative relationship with her that raises numerous moral dilemmas.

This movie depicts many things related to morality including pedophilia, extreme obsessiveness, and the complexity of human relationships. The movie’s portrayal of these themes has led to significant moral criticism, with many respondents expressing concerns that the movie contains critics to society, particularly in moral terms. Pedophilia is a paraphilic disorder involving repetitive sexual fantasies, impulses, or behaviors involving one or more pre-pubertal children ( $\leq 13$  years old), the perpetrator is  $\geq 16$  years old and is driven by impulses, has trouble rejecting impulses, or are transformed by those impulses and fantasies (Perrotta, 2020). However, the issues raised in this movie are not limited to pedophilia, but also the process of response that the movie elicits from the audience against their own backgrounds (Putri, 2020).

Furthermore, the exploration of the movie of these moral themes has triggered a broader discussion about the nature of morality and how it is understood in different cultures. In addition, the use of psychological themes in this movie, such as Humbert’s psychological manipulation to Lolita, has also been subjected to moral analysis, it has been criticized for potentially perpetuating harmful behavior towards women and children.

In order to prevent pedophilia, it's important to define the primary factors that lead to sexual interaction and consider the impact of the child sex market as a whole. Herlihy (1993) explains that pedophilia should be viewed more broadly than strictly, as any interaction involving an adult's sexual or quasi-sexual interest in children, even if that interest is not later manifested as physical sexual contact. In general, the statement proposes for a broader definition of pedophilia that takes into account all types of sexual desire and actions aimed at minors in order to improve efforts for early detection, intervention, and prevention.

Relating to the subject of this study, in the story, Humbert, as the main character, has many reasons taken from his background as to why he became so attracted to Lolita. It can be seen how he experienced bitter endings in his relationship and other things in his previous life before he met Lolita. The background, as it was written above, might be a criterion for respondents or viewers in terms of how they react to the main problem of the story.

This study was aimed at finding out and studying readers' responses to the film Lolita by Adrian Lyne based on how readers interpret the pros and cons of the story. This research uses the efferent reader response theory by Rosenblatt in order to examine the reader's moral framework based on how reader interpret the pros and cons of the story through the lens of efferent reader response, which is potentially a new method for analyzing the theme of pedophilia. This study offered the efferent reading response theory, whose focus is to collect meanings and facts while maintaining context as a reference for the analysis. Efferent reading is a reading that aims to retain the concepts, meanings, and facts that are presented in the text after the reading has been finished (Schnell, 1990). The readers are not concerned in the rhythms of the language or the prose style but focused on gaining a piece of information. When

we read for information, we are engaging in efferent reading (Sadjadi, 2017). Rosenblatt suggests that the reader's attention focuses mainly on what will remain as a residue after reading: the information to be received, a logical solution to a problem, or an action to be taken. The reader's relationship with a literary work resembles a dynamic dialog in which the reader actively deciphers intricately woven meanings and values into the fabric of the narrative (Tamrin et al., 2023).

A movie might have different critiques from its viewers based on the viewers' perspectives. The different responses are influenced by several point including their cultural background, personal experiences, and individual values. This diversity of opinions is a natural consequence of the subjective nature of movie appreciation, where viewers bring their unique set of assumptions to the viewing experience. For instance, a viewer who has experienced a similar situation depicted in the movie might have a more intense emotional response compared to someone who has not had such an experience. Similarly, a viewer from a different cultural background might interpret the movie's themes and messages through the lens of their own cultural norms and values, leading to a distinct critique of the movie.

Moreover, the way a viewer perceives a movie can also be influenced by their familiarity with the genre, actors, or directors. For example, a fan of a particular director's work might be more likely to appreciate the film's artistic merit and thematic depth, while a viewer who is not familiar with the director's style might find the movie confusing or uninteresting. Similarly, a viewer who is familiar with the actors' previous work might have a different expectation of their performance in the movie, which could impact their overall assessment of the movie.

The diversity of opinions is a natural and valuable aspect of the movie watching experience, as it encourages viewers to engage critically with the movie and consider multiple perspectives on its themes and messages.

This study attempts to answer several questions which are (1) How do viewers of the movie "Lolita" interpret and retain the key information conveyed in the film? (2) How do viewers' moral frameworks and ethical considerations influence their reader responses to the moral themes depicted in the movie "Lolita"? (3) How do viewers' perceptions of the characters, themes, and events in "Lolita" influence their efferent responses to the movie?

To analyze the viewers' responses, qualitative content analysis is employed where the viewers' response is manually categorized to identify patterns and themes related to their understanding and retention of the movie's key information. By systematically examining these responses, researchers can gain insights into how different viewers interpret the film's controversial themes and how their moral and ethical frameworks influence their perceptions.

## 2. Methodology

This research adopts descriptive qualitative content method with data analysis approach. Descriptive qualitative research aims to reveal phenomena, events, or conditions as they exist (Pravitasari et al., 2021). This method used to examine how things look from various perspectives (Taylor et al., 2016), as it allows for a nuanced understanding of the complexities and intricacies of the subject matter. In this study, the data collected is in the form of the audience's comments rather than numbers, which enables the researcher to delve deeper into the nuances of the readers' responses and the themes that emerge from the comments on IMDB.

This study uses a reader response criticism which the reader's subjectivity plays an important part in creating the meaning derived from a literary work (Fish, 1980). This approach is particularly relevant in the context of this study, as it allows for an examination of how readers interpret and respond to the themes and messages presented in the text.

The focus of this study is primarily aims on what the reader takes away from the text in terms

of factual information, ideas, and themes. Additionally, the data will be gathered from reader’s interpretation in order seeking to understand and retain the content of the text. This approach is useful for examining the reader’s engagement with the text and how they make sense of the themes and messages presented.

The data were sorted into small pieces of comments, and all of the data should have correlation to some specific criteria of this study. The compiled data, which was filtered into some specific output, will be analyzed by considering several aspects, including pros and cons, moral framework, and the influence of characters, themes, and events related to pedophilia. This study will enable the researcher to identify the key themes and messages that emerge from the text and how they are interpreted by the reader.

Furthermore, the analysis will also consider the reader's perspective and how it influences their interpretation of the text. This will involve examining the reader's background knowledge, experiences, and biases that may impact their understanding of the text. Additionally, the analysis will also consider the cultural and social context in which the reader is reading the text, as this can also impact their interpretation of the themes and messages presented.

The study's findings will be presented in a comprehensive report that includes an overview of the methodology used, the results of the analysis, and the implications of the findings. The report will also include a discussion of the limitations of the study and potential avenues for future research.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. Result

The data obtained through responses on IMDb (Internet Movie Database), an online database that supply information about movies, television series, home videos, podcasts, video games, and streaming content (IMDb, 2024).

##### 3.1.1. Pros and Cons in the “Lolita” movie portrayed in IMDb’s reviewers

A movie might have different reviews and critiques from its viewers based on their own perspectives, which can be influenced by a multitude factors including their cultural background, personal experiences, and individual values. The “Lolita” movie, directed by Adrian Lyne, successfully managed to make many viewers. The viewers have unique criteria to judge the film based on several things, such as novel accuracy, movie quality, including the actors and actresses, cinematography, and storytelling. In order to separate viewers’ reviews, here are the pros and cons that portrayed the movie controversy.

**Table 1** Pros and Cons

Pros	Freq	Cons	Freq
113	Starring, comparison	60	Controversy, novel accuracy
Total = 173			

**Table 2** Reviews from IMDb

Pros	Review	Cons	Review
CLPyle, 13 August 1998	“ .... But after tedg, 12 August seeing Lyne's 2000		“HH's violence with his previous

Pros	Review	Cons	Review
	brilliant version of Lolita, I can see how he manages to breathe fresh controversy into this familiar story. Lyne's lascivious lens eroticizes Lolita's every movement and pose.”		wife should have been mentioned; her running away with the Russian cabbie is as much a setup for the Lolita fixation as the childhood dalliance, and better justifies the angst of loss. There should have been a few butterflies, and some explanation about the play: that it was written to allude to that first night at the hotel.”
TxMike, 19 August 2020	“Having read the book and watched the 1962 version some years back, now watching the 1997 version completes my own Lolita experience. This one also pretty well follows the novel but of course some things just are inappropriate to include.”	Rmax304823, 13 October 2003	“Maybe it's the fact that the novel itself is so packed with word play and games that it simply doesn't transfer that well to a different medium.”
EijnarAmadeus, 27 July 2010	“LOLITA by Adrian Lyne, was immediately and understandably compared to Stanley Kubrick's adaptation of the novel by Vladimir Nabokov, and although I think Kubrick made a wonderful film,	Marcosaguado, 24 April 2018	“Stanley Kubrick's Lolita dates back to 1962, 56 years ago and the film is as alive and pungent as it ever was. Adrian Lyne's Lolita is only 21 and it's already forgotten.”

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Pros	Review	Cons	Review
Verdie, 12 June 2007	what I do think director Lyne's version does better, is the way it captures the tragedy of it all, instead of the comedy.” “The first time I watched this, my mouth was hanging open. I've read <u>Lolita</u> dozens of times, and over and over again the movie captured it exactly the way it is in my mind.”	Chaos-rampant, 20 May 2013	“I'm as tremendously fond of the book as I'm exasperated with its two film adaptations. The problem seems to be the text itself is a huge burden, so ornately conceived and masterful in many ways it's hard to see right into it. Kubrick did not outright miss any of the elements, but reduced in a simple way to divine farce. This filmmaker, likely aware of Kubrick's failings, goes the opposite way—this <i>Lolita</i> is far too sombre and serious, too earnest about sentimental loss.”

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The researcher's analysis of the data revealed that the diverse perceptions of the movie among audience were influenced by a several factors. The movie's accuracy in comparison to the original novel, the movie's overall quality, which includes the acting and actress performances—the cinematography, and the narrative all had a major impact on their points of view. The audience's opinions were thus shaped by these various elements.

In pros comments section, the performances of the actors and actresses, as well as comparisons with Kubrick's adaptation, dominated the topics of discussion. The actors and actresses play a crucial role in how the characters of Humbert and Lolita are visualized in the original novel. This factor has a

significant impact on how Lyne fulfilled the viewer's visualization of the characters in real life, as the actors' portrayals influenced the audience's emotional connection to the story.

In contrast, the cons comment section focus on its controversy and novel accuracy, which led to the viewer's perspective. Most of the viewer argued that Adrian Lyne did not adequately depict Humbert's previous life, including his violent acts against his wife, which might have contributed to his development of pedophilia. This aspect of violence was seen as crucial in providing viewers with a deeper understanding of Humbert's psychological motivations and the context in which his pedophilic tendencies emerged.

### 3.1.2. Pros in the Movie "Lolita" directed by Adrian Lyne

Some reviews agreed that Lyne's "Lolita" is incredibly success to bring the written form of "Lolita" novel into movie. It is because the narration of this movie simplifies the idea of the novel. For some people, Lyne makes a good version of "Lolita" and made this controversial literary work very popular because of its courage in raising social issues that were considered taboo. This is because Lyne's adaptation of "Lolita" is able to effectively convey the complex themes and emotions of the novel, making it accessible to a wider audience.

Some people compare Lyne's "Lolita" to Stanley Kubricks' adaptation in 1962 and argue that Lyne's version is better because it fulfills audience expectations. Lyne was able to elevate tragedy over comedy and executed it very well. In addition, some reviewers explain that Lyne's version almost perfectly captures the tragedy based on Nabokov's writing, which is a testament to the director's material.

Furthermore, compared to Kubrick's "Lolita," this version is less comedic, which affects the tone of the movie itself. Many reviewers agreed that this tragic story is well depicted, overriding the controversial issues brought up by the original author. This is because Lyne's adaptation is able to effectively convey the emotional depth and complexity of the novel, making it a powerful and impactful movie.

Moreover, the success of Lyne's "Lolita" can be attributed to its ability to balance the complex themes and emotions of the novel with the demands of a movie. This is a difficult task, as the novel is known for its complex and nuanced exploration of themes such as morality, ethics, and the human condition. However, Lyne's adaptation is able to effectively convey these themes in a way that is both accessible and impactful.

### 3.1.3. Cons in the Movie "Lolita" directed by Adrian Lyne

Lyne's "Lolita" also received a lot of negative reviews. Many viewers felt the movie was inappropriate due to its explicit and provocative depiction of a relationship between an adult man and an underage girl. The movie explored complex themes that raised concerns about the representation of illegal relationships involving minors. Some reviewers argued that Lolita in this version was too far from what was written in the book. On occasion, several reviewers give bad ratings for this matter because Lolita's role in this story was crucial to the development of the story itself. On the other side, Kubrick's version describes Lolita as a very sensual and corrupt young girl, which surely brought controversy to the time this movie was released. In a comment section, a username called Invi mentioned that the movie is about the human sexuality and its inconsistencies. This can be seen when Humbert is always aware of their environment and stays alert for strangers who want to take Lolita from him. It obviously means that Humbert understands that his acts are illegally prohibited. Another argued that when compared to Kubricks' adaptation, Lyne's "Lolita" is far behind. Kubricks managed to make a livelier "Lolita" that even after more than 50 years is still remembered, whereas Lyne's "Lolita" is considered to have so many plot holes that after 20 years it's already forgotten. The two movies have distinct approaches to the material. Kubrick's version is known for its dark humor and irony, which can be seen from the cast of Peter Sellers and the comedic elements, such as the "Spartacus" joke which



make Kubrick's version is more playful.

#### 3.1.4. The influence of viewers' moral frameworks and ethical considerations to the exploration of the theme

The exploration of theme in "Lolita" movie is significantly influenced by the viewers' moral framework and ethical considerations because it deals with such a controversial and sensitive subject. This adaptation of Nabokov's novel challenges audiences by presenting a protagonist, Humbert, whose actions are morally reprehensible, leading to varied interpretations based on individual ethical perspectives. Ellen Pifer in Ratna (2020) observed that commentators were eager to ignore Humbert's sexual behavior and crimes against the children. This trend highlights a broader problem in literary and cinematic criticism, where the moral implications of a character's actions are sometimes overshadowed by the technical and artistic merits of a work, the controversy surrounding "Lolita" that highlighting the complicated relationship between art and morality, inviting an ongoing discussion on how sensitive themes should be approached and understood in both literature and movie. They opted to concentrate instead on solving the novel's linguistic problems or following the contours of its clever design.

Each viewer brings their own moral perspective to the interpretation of the story, resulting in a wide range of reactions to the character of Humbert. Some may see Humbert sympathetically as a tragic figure. For example, username (palindromicevilolive) argued that this version has been criticized for portraying Humbert as overly sympathetic and Lo as an overly seductive character. Moreover, username (jenguest) highlights Humbert's desperate fate about for those unfamiliar with the story, Humbert's loss of a youthful love scars him so deeply that he wants to reclaim it through relationships with young females. They may emphasize aspects of his character that evoke pity or understanding, such as his love for Lolita or his internal conflicts. These viewers might emphasize the psychological complexity and emotional depth of Humbert's character, sometimes interpreting his actions within the context of his troubled psyche.

On the other hand, others may feel disgust and even condemn him for his actions, viewing him unequivocally as a predator and criminal. For instance, username (fernandoschiavi) argued that Lyne's film, like Nabokov's and Kubrick's, condemns Humbert's actions but does not blame Lolita. Moreover, username (mligorio) later explained Humbert, a desperate pedophile, fulfills his sexual fantasies at the awful expense of destroying countless lives, including his own. This perspective underscores the ethical and legal violations of the story, highlighting the exploitation and abuse of Lolita.

The movie encourages viewers to question societal norms and moral boundaries as it revolves around an illegal relationship that challenges traditional ethical standards. As it stated by Walker (2016) Lolita portrays exotic male-oriented desires and is closely related to pornography. This portrayal has led to the terms Lolita being used to describe a hypersexualized young girl, a concept that has permeated cultural discussions and raised concerns about the objectification and sexualization of young girls.

Moreover, ethical considerations explore issues of consent and the potential exploitation of minors. Arguments often arise as to whether the exploration of such themes serves an artistic purpose or whether it crosses ethical boundaries. Ethical considerations are universal behavioral standards that serve as a practical foundation for determining the types of acts, intentions, and motives that are valued (Haddad & Geiger, 2023). Some argue that it is a critique of societal norms, while others find it inappropriate and even worse, inspiring others to do the same. For instance, username (CLPyle) argued that the film or work in question allows the viewer to experience the story via Humbert's eyes, immersing them in his fixation and love for Lolita. This method forces viewers to comprehend and possibly identify with Humbert's emotions, highlighting the subjective and potentially unsettling character of his viewpoint. Meanwhile, username (Tedg) assumes that When judging the film independently of the novel, the characterization of Lolita in this version seems questionable. The

character is perceived as being overly mature, attractive, and manipulative, which differs from the book's portrayal and influences the film's interpretation of the plot. One of the novel's social consequences is that it permits adult abusers to pose themselves as helpless victims of powerful "nymphets." However, this viewpoint is widely repeated and promoted, not only in the media and film, but also in novel-related research (Plevikova, 2016). Ultimately, the exploration of themes in "Lolita" engages viewers in a complex and challenging discussion about morality and ethics, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths and question deeply held beliefs. Different viewers may respond in varied ways, reflecting their individual values and ethical frameworks. This diversity of responses underscores the power of narrative to provoke thought and elicit strong emotional and intellectual reactions, making "Lolita" a work that continues to be relevant and controversial in both literary and cinematic contexts.

### 3.1.5. The influence of characters, themes, and events to the reader response

Reading is a transaction between the reader and the text (Rosenblatt, 1978). The reader's emotions and experiences shape their perception of characters, themes, and events. Each reading of a text is a unique experience influenced by the reader's background and current state of mind. In term of movie, many aspects like characters, themes, and events affect the viewer's viewpoint about the movie. Some of them mostly compared Lyne's version with Kubrick's that is largely based on the differing approaches each director took in adapting Vladimir Nabokov's novel, which has several differences in both movies.

#### 1) The movie intentionally shows the effect of manipulation in terms of pedophilia.

In IMDb's comments section, a username Keith-Moyes, argued that the author of Lolita tried to tell us that manipulative action can be the main reason why people with pedophilia deviation become worse if the subject that they are targeting responds to it and manipulates them. In this case, Lolita appeared to respond to this deviation by innocently manipulating Humbert in order to get money from him. On the other hand, both Nabokov and Lyne demonstrate how a person with pedophilia perceives the world without intending it to justify their deviation. Additionally, Lyne's version has a 16-year-old actress who stated that due to her age, she can barely differentiate between good and bad, which makes this movie adaptation less controversial than the previous version and its original novel.

##### a) Character

Keith-moyes: *The matter is located in Lyne's Lolita version, in which he uses an actress whose age is slightly different from the novel version. The novel version was 12; in the movie, she was 15.*

##### b) Themes

Keith-Moyes: *Nabokov uses the pedophile point of view without them endorsing his action. Empathy does not necessarily imply sympathy.*

##### c) Events

Keith-Moyes: *Humbert's nymphet fantasy soon starts to crumble before the reality of a troubled, willful, increasingly manipulative child.*

#### 2) Lyne's Lolita is more acceptable.

For some people, Lyne's Lolita shows its superiority mostly in its characterization. Lyne was praised as a good director for this movie adaptation because he chose the right star to take on the roles of Lolita characters. It can be seen how the chemistry between Dominique Swain (Lolita) and Jeremy Irons (Humbert) that was undeniable and executed every script of the movie with precision and finesse.

Dominique Swain's portrayal of Lolita is crucial, as she brings a level of vulnerability and innocence to the role that is both charming and heartbreaking. Her performance is praised for its smoothness and nuance, as she is able to convey the complexity and depth of Lolita's character without resorting to overacting or melodrama.

Jeremy Irons, on the other hand, brings a level of both sophistication and enchantment to the role of Humbert, making him an interesting and complex character to watch. His performance is praised for its subtleties as he is able to convey the complexity of Humbert's with his psychological problem which is pedophilia.

The chemistry between Swain and Irons is unarguable, and both of their performances are praised for their chemistry. The way they interact with each other on screen is both captivating and heartbreaking, as they bring a level of emotional depth and complexity to their characters.

a) Character

Pooh-8: *As Humbert says, Jeremy Irons is as good as his predecessor, James Mason. But it is Dominique Swain, outdoing Sue Lyon, who comes closer than ever before to embodying the essence of the doomed Dolly Haze.*

b) Themes

Pooh-8: *He did pinpoint one of the key components of the novel's genius: a capture of life on the newly paved highways of mid-century America.*

c) Events

Even though Pooh-8, the reviewer, did not mention which events in the story affected the image of this movie, his/her response described that Lyne's version was better than the previous version by Stanley Kubrick. According to his/her response, Lyne was correctly chosen to capture life on the newly paved highways of mid-century America. This is similar to the original novel, where Nabokov writes that the story follows the real condition in mid-century America, where pedophilia is taboo to talk about. But in Lyne's version, Dominique Swain's existence brings two opposite meanings to this character: in the story, she might be underage, but in real life, a young girl of 16 should logically be able to differentiate between what is a good thing to do and what isn't, making it the most accessible Lolita movie adaptation despite its controversy.

3) Lyne's Lolita brings theme about the synthesis of human sexuality and its inconsistencies.

Having complex and complicated matters, such as bringing taboo stories as the theme is hard to do. It is a challenge that many filmmakers and writers have faced, and one that can be particularly difficult to navigate due to the potential for controversy and backlash. In the case of the movie adaptation of "Lolita," the theme of pedophilia is a very sensitive and controversial topic, which requires great care and sensitivity to handle effectively. The disturbing plot can be difficult to watch, and it is a testament to the skill of the filmmakers that they were able to bring this story to life in such a powerful and evocative way. Lyne successfully brings this matter to the public, gaining more positive feedback than negative ones. Because people realize that Lyne wants to show the other perspective of pedophilia.

a) Character

Fernandoschiavi: *Lolita*

b) Themes

Fernandoschiavi: *Following a cadenced atmosphere to guide his work, Adrian Lyne brings here a daring film about the synthesis of human sexuality and its inconsistencies.*

c) Events

Fernandoschiavi: *In view of this opportunity, the man ends up putting out a more instinctual side, without caring about the consequences, developing a relationship with the figure of the innocent teenager.*

### 3.2. Discussion

According to the result of this study, the audience reception to Adrian Lyne's "Lolita" has been

sharply mixed, with 173 comments divided into 113 positive and 60 negative assessments. This disparity is largely attributed to the various perspectives on the movie's fidelity to the novel, overall quality, and the performances of its actors and actresses, cinematography, and narrative. Some viewers have expressed a preference for Lyne's adaption is preferable to previous "Lolita" renditions. They praising the film on its narrative style, which they say effectively reduces the complex concepts of Vladimir Nabokov's work while meeting audience expectations. The presentation is viewed as more direct and less comical, which appeals to people who value a serious approach to the contentious subject matter. Fans also praise the high-quality cinematography and outstanding performances from the ensemble, which they believe contribute to a captivating and visually pleasing film. Additionally, the movie's ability to balance between the artistic expression and moral responsibility has been praised by some, who appreciate the director's willingness to tackle the sensitive subject matter head-on.

On the other hand, some critics argue that the film is problematic because of its explicit and provocative representation of relationships between adult man and teenage girls. They argue that the film deviates too far from the novel's original aim and tone, failing to portray the subtleties and nuances of Nabokov's writing. These viewers believe that the adaptation's handling of delicate subjects is improper and exploitative, detracting from the source material's literary characteristics. The negative reaction is further exacerbated by a belief that the film's treatment of contentious issues lacks the essential compassion and depth, resulting in a distortion of the novel's fundamental messages. Furthermore, some critics argue that the movie's focus on the sensational aspects of the story, such as the taboo relationship between Humbert and Lolita, overshadows the deeper themes and messages that Nabokov intended to convey. In general, the opposing viewpoints reflect the difficulties involved in adapting a complex and challenging literary work such as "Lolita" for the screen. The film's reception emphasizes the subjective nature of interpretation and the diverse expectations people have of adaptations of beloved works.

A similar outcome also found in (Zabalbeascoa, 2016) in a study titled "Censoring Lolita's Sense of Humor: When Translation Affects the Audience's Perception" that Adrian Lyne's Lolita is more faithful rendering of the book than Kubrick's. Zabalbeascoa in his study mentioned that as a major feature of Lolita 1962, particularly when compared to Lolita 1997, it must be addressed in any dubbed or subtitled version, unless it is purposefully removed or diminished because it is expected to promoting pedophilia. In Lolita 1962 version, Stanley Kubrick uses humor to talking about wrong relationship with underage girl in a funny way.

In contrast, instead of focusing on what are factors inside the movie that influenced viewers about this adaptation, (Putri, 2020) in the study titled "Pedophilia in Adrian Lyne's Lolita Movie (1997): An Audience Response By Gender focuses on analyzing the view of a love affair between an adult man and an underage girl, and to analyze the view of audience's about underage marriage. The result of the audience view divide into two section regarding the early weddings between adult men and under age women, the audience's opinions were divided, with some in agree and others against. Taken from this study outcome, it is clearly to see that on how Lolita movie open a new insight for them to choose whether is good or bad relating on this underage relationship.

This study has the advantage of carefully selecting participants and objects that are closely related to one another, thereby enabling a more detailed examination of the relationships and interactions between them. The selection of appropriate subjects and objects is critical to ensuring that the study may investigate important and significant links and interactions, which can lead to more valid research findings that reveal deeper insights. Careful selection also aids in decreasing bias and boosting the accuracy of the findings, allowing the study to make a significant contribution to the subject of study under investigation.

On the other hand, this study is limited by the amount of data available to support its conclusions

and findings. The lack of complete data, perspectives, and facts on the efferent reading approach is a significant challenge, as it restricts the study's ability to provide a comprehensive understanding. The study's conclusions are based on a limited number of sources and fragmented information. Because of the small sample size and limited scope of data, it is necessary to exercise caution when interpreting the results, as the subtleties and nuances of the efferent reading technique may not be adequately captured. Furthermore, searching for and evaluating this limited data takes time, complicating the study process. Locating relevant research, analyzing their data, and synthesizing them into clear conclusions takes a significant amount of time and work. These constraints limit the depth of analysis required to provide a comprehensive knowledge of the efferent reading technique, implying that additional research with more broad and diverse data sources is required to validate and build on the initial findings presented in this study. Moreover, the study's reliance on a limited number of sources may also lead to a lack of diversity in perspectives and methods, which can further restrict the study's ability to provide a comprehensive understanding of the efferent reading approach.

Because there are still many weaknesses in this study, perhaps it could be used as material for future research. The study's limitation can serve as a starting point for further investigation, allowing future researchers to build upon the initial findings and address the gaps in the current understanding of the efferent reading technique. Additionally, the study's focus on specific aspect can provide a foundation for more in-depth analysis of the technique's applications and implications. By addressing the study's limitations and expanding the scope of the research, future studies can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the efferent reading approach and its role in reading comprehension.

#### **4. Conclusions**

This study obtained the data through responses on IMDb, an online database that supply information about movies, television series, etc. Audiences' response is divided into two groups, out of a total of 173 comments found, 113 were positive (pros), and 60 were negative (cons). The major point of the divergence that influenced viewers' opinions included the novel accuracy, movie quality, including actors and actresses, cinematography, and storytelling. Pros believe that Lyne's "Lolita" is a good version of other "Lolita", they believed that Lyne's "Lolita" was a commendable version compared to other adaptations of the novel. A narrative that simplifies the idea of the novel, fulfills audience expectations, and less comedic. Others were opposed argued that it was inappropriate due to its explicit and provocative portrayal of relationships between adults and underage girls, and was considered too far from the novel.

The exploration of themes is highly influenced by the viewers' moral framework and ethical considerations due to the controversial and sensitive subject. Each viewer brings their own moral perspective to the interpretation of the story. Some may see Humbert sympathetically as a tragic figure, while others may feel disgust and even condemn him for his actions. It encourages viewers to question societal norms and moral boundaries as it revolves around illegal relationship that challenges traditional ethical standards. It prompts a critical examination of how society defines and enforces these standards, particularly in relation to the protection of minors. Moreover, ethical considerations explore issues of consent and the potential exploitation of minors, raising critical questions about the nature of consent and the profound power imbalances that can exist in such relationships.

In Lolita's Adrian Lyne version, many aspects, like characters, themes, and events, generally affect the viewer's viewpoint about the movie. Lyne's "Lolita" is more acceptable because of its superiority in its characterization, and brings theme about the synthesis of human sexuality and its inconsistencies. Despite the taboo theme of the plot, Lyne proves that he can successfully address a controversial theme in a powerful and evocative way.

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