### Matt Buckner's Identity Seeking in Green StreetHooligans Movie (2005): A Semiotic Analysis

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#### **Article History**

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#### Highlights

This research was aimedat finding out how Matt Buckner's identity transformed was based on the semiotic sign in the Green Street Hooligans movie was based on the semiotic signs

ABSTRACT: This research was conducted to analyze how the identity seeking of the main character, Matt Buckner, in Green Street Hooligans (2005) movie was portrayed semiotically. The term identity can be defined as an expression of the inner self, and the role of ourselves in the world to find the meaning of life and as a guide in life to find happiness. The subject of this research was the Green Street Hooligans (2005) movie directed by Lexi Alexander and the object was the representation of the main character's identity seeking through images of the scene and dialogues found in the movie. The data were collected through watching and analyzing the movie, reading several related articles, taking notes on the important elements, and classifying the data. In analyzing the data, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative approach and adopted the semiotic analysis technique by Charles Sander Peirce (Hoed, 2007). As A Result, the researchers discovered that Matt Buckner's life before being a Hooligan was just like a normal student's. Second, Matt Buckner's identity started to transform when he met Pete and join the GSE firm. The last, and the reason why Matt Buckner joined the Hooligan was that he felt more appreciated and well-known when he became Hooligan, also he was proud to be a Yankee surrounded by the GSE members. Every sign represented in the movie has its meaning, and to comprehend those all signs used a semiotic approach. Based on the result of this research, the researchers were able to understand the meaning represented in the Green Street Hooligans movie.

Keywords: Green Street Movie, Identity Seeking, Semiotic Analysis.

#### Introduction

Adolescence is a transition from childhood to adulthood. Therefore, feelings orawareness of his identity will shape his personality in behaving in the community. According to Santrock (2011) adolescence as a period of self-discovery is a period of development characterized by major changes including biological cognitive and socio-emotional changes. An acceleration of growth, hormonalchanges, and sexual maturity is characterized by puberty in biological changes. Cognitive changes include improved abstract, idealistic, and logical thinking, as well as socio-emotional changes in adolescents seeking freedom, conflict with parents, and a desire to spend a lot of time with peers, school achievement becoming more serious, and increased academic challenges.

Adolescents have different developmental experiences that are influenced by their

environment, such as family and peers, as well as their adult fiction. These developments occur concurrently at different rates for each adolescent within each gender and are frequently influenced by structural and environmental factors(Fajarani, 2013). Moreover, this process is related to identity development. Identity development is a fundamental responsibility of adolescent and emerging adulthood (as well as other stages of development), and it must be linked to other major aspects of development such as family, personality, and biological changes (Syed & McLean, 2018).

Identity is now a manifestation of one's life ideology. This occurs because, as a human being grows, the more information he receives will impact and change his mindset, until the individual reaches the point where he must take action on the future direction of his life based on all of the information he has directly experienced and felt, or from information surrounding the environment. The function of identity is more observed when a person experiences self-confusion or crisis (the process of questioning themselves), they tend to perform self-defense mechanisms as well as the environment (Ghassan, 2017).

Santrock (2011) revealed that in social transitions, teenagers experience changes in individual relationships with other human beings namely emotions, personalities, and social roles in their development. Disputing parents, aggressive attacks on peers, the development of assertive attitudes, and adolescent happiness in certain events, as well as gender roles in society, reflect the role of social- emotional processes in adolescent development. By knowing who one is, one can determine what happiness to create, also humans will become more aware of themselves so that they can make better decisions. By knowing oneself, one will become more tolerant and have a broader point of view. Luckily, the inner conflict that often causes stress and overthinking will also be reduced.

In this case, the researchers discussed Matt Buckner's identity seeking in the film Green Street Hooligans. In the film Green Street Hooligans, Lexi Alexander as the film's director takes scenes between football supporters in England or better known as Hooligans. Dunning (2000) mentions that hooliganism is attached to the behavior of football supporters from England who are famous for their violent acts. The film is very thick with the nuances of the fanaticism of football supporters. The film's director describes how football supporters, particularly Matt Buckner, are able to make friends and or even defend their beloved team even with life as a bet.

The portrayal of the characters in this film is quite interesting and representative, thus giving an image that hooligans are their way of life and not just acting cool. Matt Buckner, played by Elijah Wood, acts best here, perhaps because his experience is far more than other actors. Besides, the supporting cast also provides the totality of acting roles. The audience will feel something experienced by some of the characters contained in this film. During the screening film, the audience will be presented with a not-boring plot, this film is worth watching for other British hooligans. Although there are many scenes of violence in this film, the whole story is tucked into a very positive moral value. Problems are things that must be faced, not to be regretted and avoided.

The message was very thick in this film, a spectacle depicting the life of British hooligans. Every element or sign represented in this movie have its meaning, and to

comprehend those all signs use a semiotic approach. Semiotics can be defined as a discipline for a cognitive interpretation of meaning, which emerges from an essential "semiotic function" that produces meanings (Hoxha, 2022). Signs in a context such as text, scenarios, images, and scenes in the film become something that can be interpreted by semiotic studies one of the appropriate semiotic models for analyzing the meaning of the signs in a film is the model introduced by Roland Barthes. Semiotics is a scientific study or method of analysis to examine signs in the context of screenplays, images, text, and scenes in a movie into something that can be interpreted. Semiotics has their roots in classical and scholastic studies of the art of logic, rhetoric, and ethics (Kurniawan, 2001). Because the film itself is one of the areas of semiotics that is built with many signs that cooperate well in order to achieve the expected effect or meaning. The idea of Roland Barthes is known as two orders of signification which includes denotation which is the actual meaning, next is the connotation of double meaning born from cultural and personal experience. Connotation is also the term Roland Barthes uses to denote the signification of the second stage. This describes the interaction that occurs when the sign meets the feelings or emotions of the reader. In other words, the denomination is what a mark uses against an object while connotation is how to describe it (Wahyuningsih, 2014).

#### Method

The researchers used a descriptive qualitative approach namely the semiotic analysis technique. Semiotics was based on logic since logic analyzes how people make reason, whereas that reasoning was related to signs. This sign allows us to think, relate to others, and gives meaning to what the universe displays (Indiwan, 2013). The subject of this research was Matt Buckner that the main character of the Green Street movie. The objective of this research was to find out the process of Matt Buckner's seeking for his identity throughout the movie. The types of data the researchers used were text and images, also there were two types of data sources. The primary data was the results of scene pieces from the Green Street Hooligans movie. The secondary data was obtained from reading, literature, media, libraries and archives, journals, encyclopedias, articles, bulletins, books, and electronic media.

This is a qualitative study based on a review of the literature. The stages of research are carried out by gathering primary and secondary library sources. The data in this study were categorized using the research formula. At a later step, data processing and/or reference citations are performed in order for research findings to be presented, abstracted to gain entire information, and evaluated to provide knowledge for drawing conclusions (Darmalaksana, 2020). The data analysis used in the study, using semiotic analysis, looked at media texts as an overall structure that looks for latent or connotative meanings.

Every element or sign represented in the movie have its meaning, and to comprehend those all signs use a semiotic approach. Semiotics can be defined as a discipline for a cognitive interpretation of meaning, which emerges from an essential "semiotic function" that produces meanings (Hoxha, 2022). The science of signs constituted a methodology, scientific methodology, capable of resolving issues to this extent. When mathematics represents itself in numbers, it becomes precise.

### **Findings and Discussions**

# How Matt Buckner's Life before Being a Hooligan was Represented in Green Street Movie

At the beginning of the movie, it was described how Matt Buckner's had anordinary life as a student in general who focused on learning. In addition, Matt Buckner was also timid and unable to fight before meeting and joining the Hooligans.

Table 1.

No	Representamen	Object	Interpretant
	Scene 1. Minutes 09:15	Visualization: the icon, in this scene in the form of a picture of Matt talking to her sister that he is not the same person as her sister was accused of. In thisscene, Matt said what his brother said was wrong. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning, whenhe tells her sister, his expression can show that he is disappointed With hersister who accused him.	The meaning of the symbol that wants to be conveyed is to show Matt's personality. In this scene, Matt is a normal student in general.
2	Scene 2. Minutes 09:30	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is in the form of a picture of Matt talking to his brother about the reason he was expelled from campus. Matt is an unconfident character and chooses to relent becausehe realizes he can't fight back. Matt is an unconfident character and chooses to relent becausehe realizes he can't fight backase to relent	The symbol that wants to be conveyed at this moment is to represent Matt's character at the beginning of the film. Matt discusses his reasons for coming out and not fightingJeremy when he gets vilified.
3	Scene 3. Minutes 15:28	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of a picture of Pete kicking Matt's leg. A person's weakattitude is also influencedby the environment, Matt isa person who tends not to like quarrels. So that the reflex movements avoid him are not fluent. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning, that Matt is a person who is far from violent.	The symbol meantto be portrayed at this moment is that Matt's personalityis weak and he is not competent at martial arts.

The Representation of Matt Buckner's life before becoming A Hooligan

Identity can be considered as the aspect that has been brought about since man was born. Identity is a gift and is the original form that is the identity of a human being (Tosin,

2002). The identity of Matt Buckner before being a hooligan can be discovered at the beginning of the movie. Matt Buckner was dismissed from Harvard when a stockpile of cocaine was discovered in his hands. The cocaine, however, belongs to Matt's roommate, Jeremy Van Holden, but Matt is scared to speak out since the Van Holdens are a prominent family. Jeremy offers Matt \$10,000 in exchange for taking the fall. Matt spends the money on a trip to see his sister Shannon, who lives in London with her husband Steve Dunham and their little kid Ben. Matt is swiftly introduced to Steve's younger brother Pete, the leader of a firm football hooligan in Green Street Elite (GSE).

Matt Buckner is shown in this scene as trying to find his identity through his new buddy or known hooligan strong friend. Matt was initially a pessimist and a weakling. In scene one, Matt Buckner explains to his brother why he was dismissed from Harvard. There is a situation in which Matt is not evasive in response to the claims made by his campus. Matt gets accused of using a restricted item even though he knew it belonged to his roommate, and he gives up since he lacks Jeremy's authority. In scene 3, it is shown to Pete that Matt is a weak person who cannot fight and has never been involved in any form of violence.

According to Tajfel et al., (1979), Individuals go through three mental processes in order to form their social identity. The three mental processes are social categorization, social identification, and social comparison. At this stage, Matt Buckner is in a social categorization position. This is the mental process he uses to categorize persons into social groups in order to comprehend their social environment. This technique allows him to categorize individuals, including himself, based on the groups to which he belongs. More often than not, he defines people based on their social categories rather than their unique features.

### How Matt Buckner's Identity Transformed Get Changed In Green Street Movie

Some of the scenes in the movie show a significant change that happened to Matt. He wants to know more about football, fight in self-defense, be a leader in a group, to dare to fight someone who accuses him on campus. Nevertheless, Matt became a drunk and was also approached by many women.

No	Representamen	Object	Interpretant
1	Scene 4. Minutes 23:52	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is in the form of a picture of Pete persuading Matt to keep watchingfootball games. Fear is an uncomfortable feeling triggered by the perception of danger, real or imagined.	The message intendedto be given at this moment is to demonstrate that Matt is truly interested in watching football.

The Trans	formation	of Matt	Ruckner's	identity
The Trans	joimanon	0 man	Duckner s	

Table 2

		From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there isa symbolic meaning, which Matt was afraid of the bovver so he decided not to go to thematch. However, Petestill insists on it.	Because Bovver dislikes it, he is afraid and uncomfortable participating.
2	Scene 5. Minutes 20:02	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is in the form of a picture of Matt joining Pete's friend. Socialization is the process of an individual studying the habits and cultures ofsociety that include the way of life, values, and social norms contained in society so that and actively participate in it. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that Matt is trying to adapt to Pete'ssurroundings. By doing their activities.	The message meant to be portrayed at this moment is that Matt is attempting to socialize with Pete's pals.
3	Scene 6. Minutes 31:32	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of a picture of Matt first fighting and Matt, ventured into a fight with another firm. The attitude of courage is to have a steady heart and a great sense of confidence in the face of danger and difficulties. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that Matt has dared to fight	The symbol's purpose in this scenario is to symbolize that Matt's courage comes from Pete's encouragement and his terrible history, thus he organizes his emotions and fights opponents.
4	Non-State   Peter alw purya ter   Scene 7.   Minutes 53:50	Visualization: the icon, in this scene in theform of a picture of Matt and the GSE firm, is on its way. In thisscene, Matt has dared to express an opinion despite being refutedby bower. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that the loyal attitude of friends and daring to think is shown in this scene.	The symbol that wants to be delivered in this scene is to show thatMatt is a loyal friend as well; initially, Pete did not allow him to participate, but he insisted on joining because he thought the GSE Firm was lacking members; additionally, Matt dared to expresshis

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			opinion and fight Bovver's argument.
5	Scene 8. Minutes 57:22	Visualization: icon, inthis scene in the form of a picture of Matt flirting with women. Self- confidence is anattitude or belief in one's own abilities. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that indicates that Matt feels more confident.	The purpose of the symbol that wants to be conveyed in this scenario is to indicate how Matt's attitude changes dramatically after and before he became friends with the members of the GSE firm.
6	Aga MP -Aga MP -On MP Scene 9. Minutes 01:39:09	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is a picture of Matt and Jeremy arguing about their problems on campus. Pete wants to take his revenge on Jeremy for what he did before. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that shows that Matt has been brave and smart in conquering his opponents.	The symbol intended to be conveyed in this scene is to demonstrate that Matt is no longer someone who quicklyrelents.
7	Scene 10. Minutes 24:53	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is in the form of a picture of Matt joining Pete's friend. Football hooliganism refers to what is widely regarded as mischievous and destructive behavior by overzealous football fans. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning, that Matt is getting interested and having fun being a football supporter along with Pete's firm.	The message that wishes to be given in this scene is that there is an interest in football evidenced by Matt's attitude, even though Matt did not like football at first.

The search for a sense of identity through the process of identification according to Erikson (1994) can begin from the beginning of each individual's life. Developments that follow the flow of life result in an "ego" identified as a social reality. Here Erikson emphasizes that identity is a process that occurs gradually at the core of the individual

The second finding in the research was Matt Buckner's identity transition, which occurs often due to a variety of causes. According to the author's study of the shift in Matt Buckner based on environmental circumstances, Matt Buckner is friends with Pete, who is a Hooligan, which gets Matt interested in the world of football. Pete's arrival in Scene 3 reveals Matt's identity as a weakling. Based on the situation, he couldn't have avoided Pete's

sudden attack. However, Matt's character shift is shown in Scene 6, indicating Matt is a fearless character. Pete is the main force behind the role change in this scenario. Furthermore, the preceding scene demonstrates Matt's cowardice. In scene 4, Matt changes his mind about following the GSE members while they watch a football game after being threatened by Bovver in the washroom. However, Matt joined GSE after that.

The second phase in matt's seeking identity is social identification, which is the process of identifying as a member of a group. Individuals who socially identify with a group behave in ways that they feel members of that group should behave (Tajfel et al., 1979). For example, if a person considers herself to be an environmentalist, she may endeavor to save water, recycle wherever feasible, and march in demonstrations to raise awareness of climate change. People get emotionally committed to their group memberships as a result of this process. As a result, the standing of their groupings has an influence on their self-esteem.

In this case, the sign of change from Matt Buckner arises as a result of the environment. In general, his environment has shaped him into the man he is now, with the help of Pete and his friends. Not only did Matt's way of thinking and identity alter, but so did the way he dressed. This is seen in the early scene sign when Matt frequently wears a shirt when traveling, but as he began to join the members of GSE, Matt preferred to wear t-shirts and light jackets.

#### The Reasons Why Matt Buckner Chose to Be a Hooligan

Some of the scenes show the reason Matt Buckner became a Hooligan. Matt is amazed by the enthusiasm of football supporters, his admiration for thefigure of Pete who is the leader of the Hooligan, Good social relations, solidarity, fighting, and friendship. It is reinforced by the tattoo on Matt's chestand the scene at the end of the film that shows Matt doing a fan chant that is usually done by a Hooligan.

Table 3.

The reason Matt Buckner become a hooligan

No	Representamen	Object	Interpretant
1	Gene 11. Minutes 36:45	Visualization: the icon, in this scene, is a picture of Matt and Pete talking on the train. A friend's loyal attitude is an attitude that shows mutual help, and mutual support when friends are in any position. From theicons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning, that Matt felt a genuine friendship when he was rescued by the	The symbol's meaning in this moment is to signify that Matt feels more respected by making friends with the GSE firm, and he is proud that he has dared to fight.
		members of the GSE.	

2	<b>Exerce 12.</b> Minutes 42:03	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of a picture of Matt learning to play football along with Pete and his children. Matt issomeone who doesn'tlike football, but hewants to learn football after a few days of joining the GSE firm. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that indicates that there is a change in Matt's personality.	The significance of the symbol that needs to be given in this scene is to indicate how the change in attitude and personality. Matt is gradually displaying changes- and Matt is now happy when itcomes to football.
3	Une to a kin mendengan a dagan tean te te tata, "Indi kau Yankee II" Scene 13. Minutes 56:35	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of snippets of scenes Matt with his friend while fighting and drinking with the back sound of his voice. A friendship that he went through in a few days made him enjoy life more, whereas all this time his previous life was just monotonous. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning thatindicates that by meetinga sincere friend, then we can feel the true meaning of the agreement.	The symbol's interpretation that wants to be conveyed at this moment is to represent how Matt has discovered himself either as a hooligan or as himself when he is with his pals.
4	Scene 14. Minutes 57:13	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of an image of Matt making tattoos. A tattoo is painting the skin by inserting ink into the skin layer using a needle.From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that indicates that Matt has dedicated himself as a hooligan inthe GSE firm.	The purpose of the symbol that aims to be given in this scene is to show that Matt has decided to become a true hooligan, as shownin the tattoo image that is the GSE firm's symbol.

5	Lutrourpatau Scene 15. Minutes 57:25	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of acut of the scene Matt and Pete fight. A fight is an activity between one or more people that is done because of a cause or effect. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that indicatesthat Matt has become a bolder figure and found himself as a hooligan.	The symbol's meaning in this moment is to symbolize that Matt experiences achange in himself when he fights.
6	Tapi aku bisa hidup dengan cara yang bisa menghormatinya. Scene 16. Minutes 01:39:20	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of a picture of Matt on the road after the fight. The guilt and sadness Matt feels over Pete's loss are devastating. From the icons and verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning thatindicates that Matt feels the loss of Pete as his friend.	The symbol's meaning in this scene is to symbolize Matt's sadness that Pete was unable to endure the fight in order to save Pete's sibling. He feels obligated to Pete.
7	Keberuntungan selalu sembunyi. Scene 18. Min 01:42:06	Visualization: icon, in this scene in the form of a piece of matt's image more singing. A sense of pride in singing the national anthem of the GSE firm, which shows loyalty. From the iconsand verbal signs that exist, there is a symbolic meaning that indicates that Matt has found himself a hooligan.	The symbol's value in this scene is to symbolize that Matt has become a new person as a result of the events of the day before, and he now feels more alive.

Dunning (2000) in his paper Entitled Towards Sociological Understanding of Football Hooliganism as A Word (Phenomenon, 2000) mentions that hooliganism is a phenomenon of violent behavior that has little to do with the realm of football. This can include physical conflict between groups of supporters, attacking opposing players, vandalism against opposing clubs, and the like.

The reason Matt Buckner became a Hooligan is that Matt was amazed by the enthusiasm of football fans, his admiration for the figure of Pete who is the leader of Hooligans, good social relations, solidarity, fighting, and friendship. This is emphasized by the tattoo on Matt's chest and the scene at the end of the film which shows Matt doing a Fan chant which is usually done by a Hooligan. Matt opted to be a Hooligan because he felt more loved and acknowledged as one. Matt stated that he was pleased to be a Yankee surrounded by GSE members. Besides, he admires Pete. Pete, who has struggled to protect his brother, teaches him how to fight and protects him to the point that he wants to shorten himself and

become a hooligan.

Social comparison is the final stage of the mental process. Once we have classified ourselves as a member of a group and associated with that group, we tend to compare that group to other groups. To retain our self-esteem, our group must do well in comparison to other groups. (Tajfel et al., 1979). Matt's social identity is thus viewed as the result of those three processes (social categorization, social comparison, and social identification). Social identity may be described as an individual's knowledge of belonging to GSE, as well as the emotional and monetary value of that group membership. Thus, one's personal identity relates to self-awareness connected with distinct individual characteristics.

Matt's social identity reflects who he is in terms of the organizations to which he belongs. In order to maintain self-esteem, one must perceive his or her in-group as having a higher social standing than an out-group. It's important to remember that an in-group member won't compare themselves with just any out-group the comparison must be pertinent to the situation.

#### Conclusion

After analyzing and investigating the research questions, the researcher concluded that the transformation of Matt Buckner's identity throughout the movie, is as follows:

Firstly, based on the analysis of the film above it can be concluded that Matt Buckner was just a normal student in general before he met and joined GSE. He's not a delinquent he's accused of, timid at being unable to fight the friend who accused him, and unable to fight when he first meets Pete. Matt is a weak man but begins his search for identity when he meets Pete.

Secondly, based on the analysis of the film above it can be concluded that the representation of Matt Buckner's identity is shown in some of the scenes above, Matt Buckner began to find himself when he met with Pete and the GSE Firm. He began to feel who he was when he fought alongside his friend to defend her pride and members of the GSE Firm. In addition, the indicator of change from Matt Buckner occurs due to the environment. Broadly speaking, it's his surroundings that have made him who he is now and with encouragement by Pete and his friends.

Lastly, Matt also chose to be a Hooligan because he felt more appreciated and known when he became a hooligan, Matt said he was proud to be a Yankee surrounded by GSE members. Besides, he respects Pete. Pete, who has fought to protect his brother, teaches him how to fight and defends him until he wants to dedicate himself to being a hooligan.

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