

**COMPARISONS BETWEEN TOBEY MAGUIRE'S, TOM HOLLAND'S, AND MILES
MORALES' SPIDERMAN MOVIE**



Ahmad Farid Ananta	122111233020
Shafna Adinda Rahmadhani	122111233044
Muhammad Galih Maharaya	122111233057

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA

2024

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the different approaches used by each film and director as it looks at the cinematic interpretations of Spider-Man by Miles Morales, Tom Holland, and Tobey Maguire. The study illustrates how each portrayal reflects distinct story structures, thematic focuses, and character develops through a qualitative comparison examination. Under Sam Raimi's direction, Tobey Maguire's Spider-Man highlights identity and responsibility themes within a traditional hero's journey framework. The Marvel Cinematic Universe incorporates Tom Holland's version, which delves into themes of legacy, mentorship, and contemporary heroics. It is characterized by notable character development and self-discovery. The animated portrayal of Miles Morales in "Into the Spider-Verse" sets the stage for an inventive and richly conceptual investigation of identity, diversity, and the multiverse. This study highlights Spider-Man's ongoing appeal and versatility by showing how

INTRODUCTION



Spider-Man is a popular series that was started off as comic books by Marvel Comics before it was adapted into a film by Sony Pictures with Sam Raimi as the director in 2002. Since then, many follow up films were produced in response to the popularity of the series, and some films were handled by different people from the directors to the actors, which creates differences as well as similarities between each film. This is because of how each director has their own method in directing the production of a film, ranging from how they manage the performance of the actors, scripts, and shots (Lowery, 2016). With this in mind, we would like to examine the differences and the similarities depicted within the films with the Spider-Man portrayed by Tobey Maguire, Tom Holland, and Miles Morales.

Comparative literature is a field of study that analyzes and compares one literature to another literature which involves the study of multiple fields such as literature, cultural production, and also the relationship between aesthetics and political thought across various cultural and national boundaries. Using the cultural approaches on comparing literary studies can contribute to many fields such as literary studies, literary history, literary theory and criticism, translation, and global studies due to the interaction between literatures from different time and place (Sahin, 2016). By using the approaches of comparative literature and comparative cultural studies, we aim to figure out the key differences and similarities between Tobey Maguire's, Tom Holland's, and Miles Morales' Spider-Man movies and also the factors that affect the differences between the aforementioned movies.

METHODS

The method that we have taken in this research is using a qualitative approach. Which means we collect data systematically, sorting it according to certain categories, describing and interpreting data obtained from interviews or casual conversations, observation and documentation.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study explores how Spider-Man has been portrayed on screen in three different movies: Miles Morales (an animated film), Tom Holland (MCU, 2017–present), and Tobey Maguire (2002–2007). Using a qualitative methodology, we will apply two frameworks to examine the ways in which the creative vision of each director and the narrative structure selected impact the audience's comprehension of the character. This type of research is especially well-suited for a qualitative method since it goes beyond a technical analysis or plot synopsis to investigate the subjective meanings and feelings that are ingrained in these movies. This method explores the deeper levels of the cinematic experience by looking at how narrative structures and directing decisions affect how the audience interprets the character and feels about the film. According to Todorov, a tale has three levels. A cruel power disturbs a balanced condition at the beginning, and the attempt to halt eleven disturbances in order to restore balance occurs at the conclusion. The planned product for sale must intervene in this way. The story definitely still causes issues. The path is indicated by the climax or culmination of dramatic events in a

fast-moving story. According to Todorov, a story is what is spoken; as such, it has a cause-and-effect relationship of an event, a motif, and a plot (Eriyanto, 2015).

Spider-Man Application:

Character Development: Examine the differences in each delivery of Peter Parker/Spider-Man's storyline. Examine how they change during the course of each film, taking into account things like ethical issues, relationships, and personal development.

Story Structure: Analyze the storylines of the films starring Tom Holland, Miles Morales, and Tobey Maguire. Compare aspects like the pacing, the development of the plot, and the ratio of action to character-driven scenes.

RESULTS

Movie Explanation on Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire)



As previously mentioned beforehand, Spider-Man, before it was created into a movie, was a comic book series created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko that was first featured in the anthology called *Amazing Fantasy #15* in 1962. The book was a massive success until a series was created to include Spider-Man as the main protagonist (Martin & Sanderson, 2024). In 2002, after buying the rights to Spider-Man for 7 billion dollars, Sony created the first Spider-Man film featuring Sam Raimi as the director and Tobey Maguire as the actor for Spider-Man (Pallotta, 2014). The other two films; *Spider-Man 2* (2004) and *Spider-Man 3* (2007) were also quite successful. Although there was a plan for the 4th installment, Raimi decided to drop the project due to some disagreements, which eventually abandoned the release of *Spider-Man 4* (Fink, 2024).

When comparing the stories within the first trilogy of Spider-Man movies, the story for each movie has the same plot structure where it involves the protagonist, Spider-Man, fighting the antagonist characters. In *Spider-Man 1* (2002), it acts as the beginning and the starting point of Peter Parker possessing spider-like abilities after being bitten by a genetically-modified spider, which starts off his journey as Spider-Man. The movie also depicts intense rivalry between Spider-Man and Green Goblin or Norman Osborn, which emphasizes the binary opposition of good vs evil in the movie. The same thing can be found on *Spider-Man 2* (2004) and *Spider-Man 3* (2007) where Spider-Man will be facing against new enemies. In *Spider-Man 2*, Spider-Man faces Doctor Octopus that terrorizes New York City, whereas in *Spider-Man 3*, Spider-Man faces the Sandman or Flint Marco, who turns out to be responsible for the death of Ben Parker. Of course, since it's a continuous trilogy, there are some story developments amongst the characters within the three movies such as Peter's struggling with balancing his life after gaining superhero abilities, Peter's relationship with Mary Jane, and also some revelations for the events that happened in the previous films.

In terms of themes depicted in the trilogy, we noticed different themes that the movies try to convey for each movie. For instance, in the first movie, since it has something to do with the origin as to how Peter Parker gets his abilities, explores the theme of identity because of his newfound spider-like abilities as well as responsibility. These themes are reflected through some scenes of Peter Parker trying to get used to his new powers, and it can also be found in the infamous quote from Ben Parker "With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility" (2002). In the

second movie, it portrays Peter's struggle in balancing his personal life and being a superhero while facing some challenges throughout the movie. The third movie explores the theme of redemption with the revenge based plot as the main motivation that drives each character to fulfill their goals. This is because of the aforementioned revelation from Flint Marko that makes Peter want to have revenge, which ended up in him forgiving Flint at the end of the movie, hence the third movie explores the binary opposition of revenge vs forgiveness.

Movie Explanation on Spider-Man (Tom Holland)



Tom Holland first appeared in Captain America: Civil War. Tom Holland himself was cast as Peter Parker a.k.a Spider-Man in the Avenger timeline. In the Civil War, Peter Parker was on the Iron Man side. That is where the story began. Tom Holland played in a total of 3 movies of Spider-Man in Marvel. The first is Homecoming (2017), the second is Far From Home (2019), and the last one is No Way Home (2021).

So after the civil war, he kept on being the friendly neighborhood spiderman as everyone knows, and because of this, Tony Stark offered help. Thus lending him the suits he wears when fighting captain america in civil war. Peter Parker uses this opportunity as much as he can, resulting in him doing too much useless work. The main villain in this first movie is Vulture, The father of the girl he likes. One day, vulture emerges, and does some damage to some cruise ship. Of course our peter parker is doing his best to save everyone, but being the rookie he is, he still cannot do his job properly. Knowing about this, iron man decided to take matters into his own hand and save the day. Seeing that Peter still cannot take his responsibility, Tony decided to take the spiderman suit back, Leaving Peter Parker sulking and feeling bad and guilty. And then there's a homecoming party at his school. When Peter comes to pick his crush, it turns out that the father is his main villain, Which results in him fighting a vulture without his modern spiderman suit. And of course Peter still lost his fight because of how insecure he is without his suit. But eventually Peter finds his own sparks and manages to defeat Vulture with his original suit because he knows deep inside he is spiderman. In the end of this movie, Knowing that Peter managed to defeat Vulture successfully, Tony gave his suit back (2017).

While far from home, after the fight with Thanos and after the blip, Peter had a summer vacation with all of his classmates to france. In this movie, Peter Parker started to approach MJ (Zendaya), his recent crush. In this movie Nick Fury, the cold and stern founder of the Avengers, has other plans in store for the sixteen-year-old superhero. The all-powerful, inter-dimensional beings known as the Elementals begin to manifest on Earth and wreak devastation throughout the planet. Unexpectedly, Mysterio, a fearless new hero is the only guy who has successfully fended off this novel's peril. Spider-Man teams up with Mysterio to assist in the struggle as the latest enemy of humanity threatens to eradicate Venice from the face of the planet, only to make a disastrous error. Turns out mysterio only uses Ironman tools, to make him a fake hero himself. Knowing about his betrayal towards Tony, Peter that once looked forward to mysterio as his role model felt betrayed. Eventually Peter manages again to defeat mysterio and discover his secret and kill Mysterio. But in the end of the movie, mysterio uses his one last trick under his sleeves, which is spilling Peter's identity to the world (2019).

After his identity had already been revealed by Mysterio, Peter Parker was desperate for help. A help that can return his life just like before. So he decided to ask Dr. Strange for help.

Turns out Dr. Strange does have a solution for his matter, But Dr. Strange already warns Peter about the consequences. But Peter did not budge and remained stubborn. He forced the spell himself and made an error in it, Making a few multiverses collide. And this Time, Marvel really gave us some shocking plot twist. With the multiverse collide, another 2 spiderman from the spiderman (Tobey maguire), And The amazing Spiderman (Andrew Garfield) Crashed into Tom holland's Peter Parker world. Not only that, all of the villains as well, Making this a serious and huge problem. In order to catch them all, all of them teamed up as one. In the end, With the help of Dr. Strange, Peter Parker (Tom Holland) Decided to finally accept Dr. Strange suggestion. To turn everything into normal but with a side effect. The other two Peter Parker and the other villain, manage to return back to their original world with Dr. Strange help. But the side effect is that the spell will restart every memory of the people that know the identity of Peter Parker. Everything finally went back to normal, there is no crack in the Multiverse no more. At the end of the movie, we can see Peter Visit his dearest friend, MJ and Ned and reintroduce himself as the normal Peter Parker. But of course they did not remember, But he decided to accept it anyway and learn the true meaning in being a Spiderman and continue to live on.

Movie Explanation and Summary Spider-Man (Miles Morales)

Into the Spideverse (2018)



New York City teenager Miles Morales struggles to live up to the expectations of his father, police officer Jefferson Davis, who sees Spider-Man as a menace. Miles' uncle Aaron Davis takes him to an abandoned subway station to paint graffiti to cheer him up. There, Miles is bitten by a radioactive spider and gains abilities similar to Spider-Man. Returning to the station, he discovers a collider built by Kingpin, who hopes to access parallel universes to abduct alternate versions of his late wife and son. Spider-Man attempts to disable the collider while fighting Kingpin's enforcers, the Green Goblin and Prowler.

Green Goblin shoves Spider-Man into the collider, causing an explosion that kills the former and wounds the latter, who then gives Miles a USB flash drive designed to disable the collider, warning that the machine could destroy the city if reactivated. After watching in horror as Kingpin murders Spider-Man, Miles flees. As the city mourns Spider-Man's death, Miles tries to honor his legacy and become the new Spider-Man but inadvertently damages the drive. At

Spider-Man's grave, he meets Peter B. Parker, an older and worn-down version of Spider-Man from another dimension.

The duo infiltrate Kingpin's research facility to steal data for a new flash drive. They are confronted by head scientist Olivia Octavius, who discovers that Peter will die from cellular decay if he remains in their dimension. Miles and Peter are then saved by Gwen Stacy, a Spider-Woman from another dimension. They visit Spider-Man's aunt, May Parker; she is sheltering more Spider-People who slipped into Miles' universe from other dimensions due to the collider's influence—Spider-Man Noir, Peni Parker, and Spider-Ham—who are also deteriorating. Miles offers to help the others return home but they tell him he lacks experience.

Distraught, Miles retreats to Aaron's home, where he discovers his uncle is the Prowler. He flees to May's house, where the new drive is completed by Peni; he is followed by Kingpin, Aaron, Jefferson arrives outside Miles' door and apologizes for his mistakes and expresses his faith in Miles, inspiring him. Miles manages to control his powers, escapes his restraints, and creates his own Spider-Man suit. He joins the other Spider-People in defeating Kingpin's enforcers, and uses the new drive to send them home. Kingpin fights Miles, attracting the attention of Jefferson. Realizing that Spider-Man is not the menace he saw him as, he encourages Miles, who throws Kingpin at the collider's kill switch, destroying it. The city is saved, Kingpin and his henchmen are arrested and Jefferson receives evidence of Kingpin's murders of Spider-Man and Aaron.

Miles embraces the responsibilities of his new life. Later, Gwen finds a way to contact Miles from her own dimension. Elsewhere, Miguel O'Hara, also known as Spider-Man 2099, travels to Earth-67 and argues with its Spider-Man

Across the Spider Verse (2023)

As the head of the police on Earth-65, Captain George Stacy is unaware that his daughter Gwen Stacy is Spider-Woman, a person the authorities believe to be a murderer. One night, in an alternate reality with an Italian Renaissance theme, Gwen meets the Vulture. Miguel O'Hara and Jess Drew arrive using watches that open portals, helping Gwen vanquish the Vulture. Gwen informs George who she is when he approaches her, and he gets agitated and tries to arrest her. Miguel reluctantly grants Gwen membership in the Spider-Society so she can escape with Jess

and him. Miles Morales encounters the Spot in Brooklyn, Earth-1610, sixteen months after the Alchemax collider detonates.

Gwen travels to Earth-1610 and reconnects with Miles while tracking the Spot. Miles secretly follows her through a portal to Earth-50101, and they team up with local Spider-Man Pavitr Prabhakar, and later Hobie Brown, against the Spot, who absorbs the power of that world's collider. The Spot and Miles share a vision of the Spot's future attacks, which include the deaths of Police Inspector Singh (the father of Pavitr's girlfriend Gayatri) and Miles' father Jeff. The Spot departs and the collider collapses; Miles saves Singh from the ensuing destruction

Miles realizes that he is on Earth-42 rather than his own dimension. In this world, his uncle Aaron Davis is alive while his father is dead; because Spider-Man does not exist, New York City is riddled with unchecked crime. Aaron restrains Miles and is soon joined by Earth-42's Miles, who has become the Prowler. As the Society searches for Miles in Earth-1610, Gwen travels there and speaks with his parents, promising to find him and bring him home. The Spot begins his multiversal attack, Miles prepares to escape, and Gwen assembles a team to find Miles, consisting of Peter B., Mayday, Pavitr, Hobie, Margo Kess, Spider-Man Noir, Peni Parker, and Spider-Ham.

DISCUSSION

Characters

The characters between these 3 movies are the most visible difference. Both Peter Parker, played by Tom Holland and Tobey Maguire are both light skinned. Meanwhile the Spider-man in “Into the Spider-Verse” and “Across the Spider-Verse” Are not Peter Parker. The main character is Miles Morales, A black skinned 14 years old boy.

Story

Spider-Man (Tobey Maguire)

From the story as well, it is also different. First Tobey Maguire Spider-Man's. If we compare him to Tom Holland and Miles Morales, Peter Parker in his verse is a lot older. Miles And Tom Holland are still students, While Tobey Maguire in this movie is already an adult

Which explains why he works as a Photographer for the Daily Bugle Newspaper. In this Version of the movie, Spiderman works alone and there is no Avenger in his world. His enemies are Sandman, Dr. Octopus, The Green Goblin, And Eddie Brock, his own close friend as venom. In this version as well, Peter Parker was once contaminated by Venom itself. Peter Parker Lover's in this movie version was named Mary Jane, or more known as MJ. In this version of the movie, The important character for Peter Parker that died is his Uncle Ben.

Spider-Man (Tom Holland)

In the Tom Holland Version, the most visible difference is that in his world there is Avenger. In this movie also, Peter Parker fights one of the strongest characters in the MCU Universe, which is Thanos. In this movie as well, Peter Parker almost destroyed the multiverse by forcing Dr. Strange spells to reverse his life problem as we can see in "Spider-Man: No way Home". Because of this, two multiverses collide making Tobey Maguire, and Andrew Garfield finally meet Tom Holland. There are a lot of enemies in this movie version. Vulture, Thanos, Mysterio, Sandman, Dr. Octopus, and The Green goblin. Peter Parker Lovers in this movie was also MJ, but it doesn't stand for Mary Jane. It stands for Michelle Jones. MJ in this version is black skinned. In this version of the movie, The important character for Peter Parker that died was Tony Stark.

Spider-Man (Miles Morales)

This Spider-Man is not Live action, But it's the cartoon version. And the main character in this movie is Miles Morales, A black skinned teenager. In this movie, Miles is actually not the real Spiderman, because the spiderman in his world is dead. And when one day Miles was bitten by Radioactive spider, Thus he became the spiderman in his world. Unlike the two previous movies, His family is still whole and no one dies, yet. In this movie as well, there was an error. Or more likely a crack between the other Spiderman Multiverse that caused A few Spider People appeared, Like Gwen Stacy, Penny Parker, Spider-Ham, Spiderman Noir, And Spiderman. The first enemy of Miles Morales is Kingpin. He is the main cause of the crack In the Multiverse. And the second enemy of Miles Morales is The Spot. In the second movie, "Across the Spider-Verse" Miles Morales meets a thousand even millionth of Spider People and he also meet, Miguel O'hara. And in the end of the movie, we can see that Miles teleported in the wrong

universe. He accidentally enters a universe where he himself is the Villain. The main character's love interest in this movie is Gwen Stacy.

The Similarities

To make it simple, Tobey Maguire and Tom Holland are both named Peter Parker, they're both Light Skinned. And their love interest is MJ, even though it is a different MJ. They have one of their loved ones being killed or deceased. But they're both approximately different ages. On the other hand, Miles Morales and Tom Holland's Peter Parker are still in school, And they're both geniuses. And also they have some similarity from the Story Perspective. Both of them crack the multiverse which causes few or and until an Infinite amount of Spider People and villains meet in one specific world.

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the various ways that Spider-Man has been portrayed in various films, including as the three films starring Tobey Maguire, the MCU films starring Tom Holland, and the animated "Spider-Verse" films starring Miles Morales. The varying storylines, antagonists, and character development of each Spider-Man version give rise to different interpretations of the well-known superhero, each of which reflects the particular style of its director and the changing superhero movie genre. Though there are variances between the numerous cinematic portrayals of the iconic superhero, there are similar elements that link them all, such as discovering the universe and meeting multiple forms of Spider-Man.

Under Sam Raimi's direction, Tobey Maguire's portrayal emphasizes themes of identity and responsibility while concentrating on the beginnings of Spider-Man. With Maguire's Peter Parker traversing moral quandaries and personal challenges, this trilogy builds a solid basis for the character and culminates in a narrative arc that emphasizes the conflict between forgiveness and

vengeance. When Spider-Man is included into the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Tom Holland's portrayal of the character gives it a new, youthful vitality. Holland's portrayal of Peter Parker is distinguished by his relationships with other superheroes, especially Tony Stark, and his journey is replete with moments of profound personal development. His plot revolves on the themes of legacy, mentoring, and the intricacies of contemporary heroes, and it ends with a moving examination of sacrifice and the fallout from power. The animated "Into the Spider-Verse," which stars Miles Morales as Spider-Man, offers a visually spectacular and inventive storyline for the character. This movie offers a more comprehensive view of what it means to be Spider-Man by examining issues of diversity, identity, and the universe. Miles' narrative is both relevant and inspirational because of his journey of self-acceptance and acceptance of his special talents.

In conclusion, every version of Spider-Man adds unique qualities and viewpoints to the rich history of the character. The enduring appeal and adaptability of Spider-Man are highlighted by Maguire's traditional hero's journey, Holland's incorporation into a broader superhero universe, and Morales' ground-breaking animated tale, guaranteeing that the character will be adored and relevant for many years to come.

REFERENCES

- Eriyanto. (2015). *Analisis Naratif: Dasar-dasar dan Penerapannya dalam Analisis Teks Berita Media*. Prenada Media.
- Persichetti, B., Ramsey, P., & Rothman, R. (Directors). (2018). *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Entertainment.
- Santos, J. D., Powers, K., & Thompson, J. K. (Directors). (2023). *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Entertainment, Sony Pictures Animation.

Watts, J. (Director). (2019). *Spider-Man: Far From Home* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, & Pascal Pictures.

Watts, J. (Director). (2021). *Spider-Man: No Way Home* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, & Pascal Pictures.

Sahin, E. (2016). On Comparative Literature. *International Journal of Literature and Arts*, 4(1-1), 5-12. doi: 10.11648/j.ijla.s.2016040101.12

Santos, J. D., Powers, K., & Thompson, J. K. (Directors). (2023). *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Entertainment, Sony Pictures Animation.

Watts, J. (Director). (2017). *Spider-Man: Homecoming* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, & Pascal Pictures.

Watts, J. (Director). (2019). *Spider-Man: Far From Home* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, & Pascal Pictures.

Watts, J. (Director). (2021). *Spider-Man: No Way Home* [Film]. Columbia Pictures, Marvel Studios, & Pascal Pictures.