

## The Eternals Become Eternals Parodying of Jack Kirby's The Eternals Comic in Chloe Zhao Eternals Movie

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### Abstract

Parody is one of the intertextual artistic statements with a certain character that has been recognized for a long time not only for witty satire, but also for criticism. The object of this research was the Eternals movie (2021) and the Eternals comic (1967-1977). Using a qualitative method, this research is intended to identify the parody. There are two main sources of data collection consisting of film and comic. Then, a series of collecting data consist of watching films and taking scenes, dialog, and film visuals and then juxtaposing the comic data taken using the reading method and recording the results of the data found. This study uses Linda Hutcheon's theory of political parody. The result shows that (1) That there are forms of parody in the Eternals film which are described from two perspectives, namely the existence of subversion and legitimacy in several elements such as character function, character gender, storytelling structure, and cultural dilution. (2) There are parodied representations of God in movies and comics. (3) Parody not only changes but also creates incongruity in the placement of women as superior, the portrayal of superheroes, and the portrayal of villains in movies.

**Keywords:** *comics, eternals, movie, parody*

### INTRODUCTION

One form of artistic expression that has attracted attention in recent decades is parody. Parody is a work of art that adopts a previously known character and then changes or plays it with the aim of producing a funny or satirical effect (Kostka, 2016). Many artists use various mediums to produce parody works, and this has been the subject of critical study by several writers such as Linda Hutcheon (1985), who states: contemporary parody is repetition with critical distinction (1985, p. 32). The whole act of its pronunciation includes two frameworks: structural and pragmatic. Parody as an art form is inseparable from the name of the media that builds parody itself, one of which is movie media. Like Manuel Puig's "Kiss of the Spider Woman", Molina describes the various "movies" as more verbal narratives, but also as parody plays of cinematic genres such as horror, war propaganda, and romantic melodrama. This parody has the aim of politicizing things that were previously considered apolitical, or politicizing propaganda itself,

especially in the context of gender, sexual preferences, and ideology. In this way, Puig's work exerted a strong political influence and message through the use of parody in literary works. In this study, superhero movies have become a parody media that has been found by researchers after the movie remake the original work which is also a superhero genre.

A movie or comic with a superhero theme is actually a phenomenal genre that is a combination of science-fiction, action, and fantasy genres. In the era of postmodernism movie and comics became part of the embodiment of postmodernism itself as its representation within the cultural sphere of Hutcheon (2002, p. 1). Superhero movies are a medium of work as well as a cultural medium that is often lifted from comics to the big screen in order to fulfil the pleasure and expectations of readers in the form of reality created in the movie. Superheroes are typically regarded as good and altruistic individuals who serve as role models for many children. Their origin stories frequently depict them as coming from impoverished and humble backgrounds, making them likeable and relatable characters. According to Rohani (2008) she formulated some elements that representing superhero itself, namely; (1) action motive in main character; create peace, and human order, solve the problem, personal Motive. (2) setting and situation generally show; actual image, the realities live, outside life such as future & another planet, violence. (3) Narrative structures; A fight between the protagonist in searching of wealth or power, the struggle between the protagonist opponent for revenge or power, the struggle between the protagonist and man-made disaster, the protagonist's struggle to survive without certain enemies; the main character struggles with community; or the protagonist as a villain, he then become a hero. (4) Superhero Stereotypes; Hero must be engaged, Hero must fight for humanity and only serve the principles of humanity in order to maintain this commitment, Hero must be an ordinary person who comes from the people, even if he comes from a noble or wealthy family, Hero must maintain a simple attitude in life, Hero must be honesty, Hero takes courageous in dangerous action. (5) Female protagonist roles; a friend who plays the male protagonist. In this case, her role can be wife, friend or boyfriend and should be protected by the male lead role, who plays a leading role in the struggle for fellow victims of violence and injustice, who acts as the hero's partner. As a partner, she does not rely on the heroic role of men, but rather has Equal status in the fight against crime.

Movies as part of literary works that often tell comic stories will definitely not run away from changes. This means that the new medium will bring new things without changing the big concepts of the previous literary works as in the approach Linda Hutcheon theory has a conclusion that the structure of literary works is "postmodern parodical". What is meant by "postmodern parody" is the use and deviation of earlier texts to build a literary work. In other words, literary works are formed on many previous texts that are deliberately used and misused to convey the author's ideas, not to retell nostalgia or past events (Supryadi, 2016). This means that literary works are influenced by previous literary works. Literary works are intertwined and provide a new narrative within the literary work itself and one of the new narratives appeared in the *Eternals* (2021) Film which has been adapted from the original Comics, namely *The Eternals* Comics 1967-1977. Film *Eternals* is a movie that will be released in 2021 by one of the largest American superhero movie companies, the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe). Film *Eternals* is Marvel's 3rd Phase movie based on the comic released in 1967. Broadly speaking, the movie *Eternals* gives the philosophical form of the earth's ancient mythology culture with a new outlook and with a different packaging. With the mixing of pieces of western mythology, history, and canonical literature, the existence of a global cast of nationalities and heritage as commentary on the postcolonial world is arranged in such a way that it can be admitted that this movie is able to provide a new mythology that is politicized (Beus, 2022).

The *Eternals* movie is actually based on *The Eternals* comic created by Jack Kirby and published by Marvel Comic or Marvel Inc in 1967-1977 with a total of 19 issues. In contrast to the movie, the comic as the centre of the initial view of the movie *Eternals* brings the story to the details of the conflict of human beliefs against the stigma that humans are not the only living beings in this universe capable of being explained fictionally but felt real by Jack Kirby. Jack Kirby ushers in the original story of *Eternals* set in the arrival of the Celestials for the fourth time to judge all the living things (humans, Eternals, and Deviants) they have created. This judgment focuses on the values of living beings whether they are still worthy of living on earth or not. And chaos began to occur after the appearance of the Celestials as the god who created humans, all beliefs collapsed as a result of which deviants used it as a platform to dismantle that humans were not the only ones living on this earth. Finally, the truth one by one began to be revealed starting from the appearance of Deviants who were known to humans as demonic creatures, and also

Eternals. As in Linda Hutcheon's theory there is a process of subverting and legitimating, the *Eternals* movie also has through those two processes. The process created a parody of the superhero character as well as the one related to the superheroes themselves in the movie *Eternals*. Through a subverted and legitimated view between *Eternals* movie and *The Eternals Comics*.

In this study, Linda Hutcheon's use of the theory of postmodernism is appropriate because it corresponds to Linda Hutcheon in the book *Politics of postmodernism* (2002, p.31), it is said that what we have is considered 'real' and questionable. He states that whatever we have always believed to be 'true' is built by ourselves, us, which gives meaning to 'it'. He stressed that there is nothing plausible about reality according to this theory researchers can question the 'Stigma Mismatch Against Superheroes' in the *Eternals* movie because some details state that what is believed about forging in the lead collapses. In the concept of Hutcheon (1988: 106), in the process of writing history some many probabilities and other possibilities can be made to represent the past, postmodern fiction suggests rewriting or representing the past and opening it to the present. This theory correlates with the *Eternals* Movie which is below by Cloe Zhao from the original comic version. And finally, Parody Politics can also be used to analyse *Eternals* movie because in some parts it is subverted and legitimating so that a parody occurs, related to the politics of Hutcheon parody. For Hutcheon, parodies are double-coded in political terms, both damaging and legitimizing using parodies (Grace, 2022).

This research was focused on the *Eternals* movie by Cloe Zhao (2021) related to the superhero narrative which grew up after the adaptation of the previous version using the theory by Linda Hutcheon which focuses on three main points, namely Denaturalizing the Natural, Narrative Representation, and the Politic of Parody.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, researchers used a type of literature research and used a qualitative method. Literature research is defined as research that focuses on books, scientific papers, encyclopaedias, and other sources (Sugiyono, 2014: 3). A method that pays attention to data that includes significance and describes and interprets the meaning of the data that has been collected. By using the descriptive approach, the researcher examines the information that will

be gathered in the form of numbers, images, and words. This study includes data citations to describe how the presentation is made (Moleong, 2011: 11).

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This stage presents the results of the study, which consist of three parts. First is past narrative representation in Eternals movie, second is denaturalizing the natural in Eternals movie, and the third is the politics of parody in Eternals movie. Eternals is a remake by Chloe Zhao in 2021. This movie is inspired by the original comic with a slightly different title, namely The Eternals by Jack Kirby in 1967-1977 and has produced up to 19# Issue. With the existence of comics as a narrative of the past that gives us two points of view in seeing Eternals as a remake work.

Specifically, The Eternals comic tells how the greatest truth has been revealed. The truth that pervades beings other than man exists and exists from the beginning among man. Those creatures are Eternals, Celestials, and Deviants. These creatures prove that humans are not the only beings that exist in the universe. In detail, Eternals was developed into the main object in the comics and had a major impact on future works. With such an epic, Jack Kirby incorporated cosmic elements and created the characters of the Eternals based on the collaboration of ancient mythologies with problems so scientific that comics are so contemporary even though they are in the past.

With a different cultivation from the original work. The adaptation of the comic has presented the Structure differently but still represents some elements in the original work such as changes in Title, Changes in Format, Changes in Story Concept, Plot, Changes in Characterization and Ideology, and Changes in Story Focus. However, some elements are also still represented such as cosmic warfare, the concept of alien beings other than humans and the existence of Eternals as the main object is still maintained.

### **Past Narrative Representation**

The Eternals comics as an original story put the Eternals characters in a different focus by interpreting the Eternals not only as superheroes who are tasked with saving humans from the attacks of the Deviants, but also, they are a nation that lives on earth and also as residents of an advanced civilization that has a purpose and life that continues to regenerate and also create a life form for their nation.

1. Ikaris: "The Eternals took to the highest mountain tops. They probed the universe with their minds and developed powers which surpassed those of all other earth-life. They were regarded with awe and fear." (**The Eternals Issue 1, p.12**)

The Comics place the Eternals characters with a broad and general introduction. This introduction means that the Eternals have similarities as a type of living thing. They are described as having a perfect body shape, living in the same place on the top of a mountain, and of course having the same power that they can fly and can use the power of their minds which we usually call telepathy. They are not described as a group but a large gathering. This shows that the characteristics of the Eternals in the comics are a race or nation that has the same characteristics and lives in the same place.

In the movie, the title Eternals focuses on ten main characters consisting of Ajak (Prime Eternals as a Healer and leader of Eternals), Ikaris (Eternals fighter, with super powers, flight abilities, and lasers in his eyes making him one of the strongest Eternals), Thena (Eternals fighter, known for the cosmic war weapons he can create), Makkari (Eternals with Super speed), Sersi (Eternals who can turn any object into a material element he wants), Phastos (Eternals with his intelligence and ability to create super advanced technology), Gilgamesh (Eternals fighter who can create gloves from cosmic energy so that he can overthrow his opponent with one hard punch), Kingo (Eternals fighter who can create shooting waves from his cosmic powers), Druig (Eternals with telepathic powers and mind control), Sprites (Eternals who are trapped with their child's body but can create extraordinary illusions). With the uniqueness of each Eternals created more specifically so that this movie does not involve too many characters like in the comics.

Eternals are complex both in the comics and in the movies. In 1967 in the original comics, Celestial at one time was attracted to a planet called Earth. They are interested in something that lives on the surface of the earth or commonly called the vast field. Something alive is known to us as the Ancient Ape. Celestials used the DNA of ancient apes to create Eternals, humans and Deviants with the belief that Eternals as perfect beings, humans who are balanced creatures because they have two sides, namely good and bad and Deviants as creatures who like war and other bad things. Their existence is the same, namely to fill the earth. However, especially for the Eternals themselves, they are assigned to protect humans from Deviants attacks because the Deviants themselves with their ugliness have always enslaved humans for hundreds of years. So, the core of the story revolves around the day of judgment for all of them, whether the duties and

responsibilities given by the Celestials can be carried out properly, so that it determines whether they deserve to live on earth or not.

The comic shows that the Eternals have existed on Earth since the beginning so that the plot takes the story to a time where whether the Eternals and living things on Earth are still worthy of live on earth or not and the plot in the comics starts from the primitive era to the modern era which explains that eternal civilization is told to be created and processed from the beginning of the primitive to become an advanced nation.

2. Ikaris:" It was then that the gods proceeded with their mission... They chose to change the destiny of life-form new to the evolutionary chain—the ape!a specimen was trapped and taken alive” (**The Eternals Issue 1, p.11**)
3. Ikaris:" only the instruments of the gods could do what was done in that momentous time! To the ape! Was given the cosmic chemistry that would father the races to come.”(**The Eternals Issue 1, p.11**)
4. Ikaris who saved humanity with a large ship Olympia(**The Eternals Issue 2, p.8 and Issue 5 p.5**).

For the first part we will look at a different creation principle, the Eternals were created from ancient apes by Celestials.It can be seen that with sophisticated experiments from the Celestials they are able to create alien new life, namely the Eternals.The monkeys are collected by the Celestials in a certain place and experiments are carried out on the monkeys with tools powered by power The cosmic of the Celestial itself. And as cosmic beings they can create Eternals with tremendous power and be part of prophetic and divine history that is part of mythology, ancient gods and goddesses. Ikaris is one of the members of the Eternals who saved humanity from the great flood using the great ark he made.This is similar to the famous story in the Bible, Christians and Muslims when the prophet Noah used the ark to save humans from Flood. In addition, the city where the Eternals lived called Olympus is one place in Greek mythology in the story of the gods and goddesses of Olympus. They became the forerunner of the birth of these mythologies because they were considered to have their power and existence like Gods and goddesses or even God due to benchmarks created by man, but this does not make them indifferent to man himself.They choose to be away from humans and decide to seclude themselves.This is different from the ideology of the Eternals in the movie because the Eternals love humans so much that they choose to turn to their creators.

5. Ikaris is visiting Sersi (**The Eternals Issue 3 p.16**)

Sersi is so indifferent to responding to Ikaris's help. The situation they face and also humanity is very dangerous because of the judgment of the Celestials on Earth. This suggests that Sersi in the

comics actually doesn't really care about human issues because for him humans do have a habit of putting themselves unworthy of care. So, this refers to indifference to humans. And from this exposure, the disappearance of the 'the' article is a thing that has a reason. That parody is created is not just an imitation or there is an element that is omitted but with complex reasons and adjustments to build the story creates this novelty.

Thus, the narrative of the past cannot be separated from the future. because in essence they are connected to each other. What has been consciously created in the present, is an invisible inspiration from the past that until now has been recorded in a different form as well as the Eternals movies and comics in Eternals that Hutcheon once said that Some of the movie scenes above is example from Narrative representation which is a series of illustration, narrative, and product of ideology which is made self-consciously (Hutcheon. 2002: 29) so we need to understand this awareness of the past to understand the future.

### **Denaturalizing the Natural**

Denaturalizing the natural is that everything is wrapped in stigma and decisions from the results of habits and traditions, making all these things normal and unquestionable even though these traditions actually need to be questioned. In the movie there is a tradition that is also created with normal packaging but there are details so that what is shaped in the movie also needs to be questioned. These things are found by researchers in the percentage of women as superior, image of super heroes and image of Super villains. It is necessary to explain how everything that looks natural in the film looks normalized. Even though the nature of these things needs to be questioned because this affects the originality and elements that have been added to form a comic parody in the film.

In the movie. Eternals is led by Ajak who is a woman. Basically, this is an extraordinary opportunity where women are entrusted as team leaders even for men. A great movement if it puts women as leaders. Usually, we find that female leaders are still few to meet, especially in superhero movies it is very difficult to encounter something like this.





Pict 1. Ajak Is Dead  
Duration 01:39:42-01:42:02

But if we look at it in more detail. That Ajak character as the leader of the Eternals must die at the beginning of the movie. Her strong character in leadership had to be grounded with his early death. And her death was caused by Ikaris who we know that the character of Ikaris is a male character. This explains that the life of women as leaders must be turned off by the character of a man. So that the existence of Ajak as a leader becomes a question when what is experienced by Ajak in the movie.

Next, we are shown how Thena is depicted as being able to destroy the Deviants with her own hands. This explains that Thena was created not as an ordinary fighter. She represents a woman with cosmic powers who help her on the battlefield. This makes her invincible, that fear of Ikaris simply does not exist for a Thena (Eternals 00:04:20-00:04:23). Despite the fact that Thena is a tough and strong fighter, this cannot make Thena always move freely. It is said that Thena has a disease called Mahd Wiery is a very deadly disease for an Eternals because its side effects can endanger living things around it and making them a threat is ultimately worth killing. In addition, this disease attacks Thena's memory and mind so if this disease must be cured temporarily, it needs the power to always erase, remind Thena. And because of this Then becomes very frustrated and always looks pitiful when the disease suddenly appears. That once again we see that this is a form of incongruity of women as superior in that they are made strong but given elements which should dim that power (Eternals 00:38:01-00:38:58).



Pict 2. Makkari could feel the vibration  
Duration 00:26:11-00:26:35

Then, in another scene there is a discrepancy which leads to a point of view that women's voices should be represented by men where women should be able to voice each other. At Scene Makkari is bargaining about the price of expensive artefacts, he communicates using sign language. But it seems that the one who has to voice what Makkari said is Druig who is a male figure. Then it also becomes a question why should men when women can also voice Makkari as Eternals who cannot use the Mouth with their hearing like other normal people.

The incompatibility of women as superheroes is also found in Sprite characters who must feel injustice as long as their characters have changed gender to female. She must be trapped with her child's body without feeling the maturity of a woman. He does not feel growth like ordinary people. Although the last Sprite where the last scene is given the power to feel the name of the collision, unfortunately during the storytelling he has to feel the suffering. So, in the end we have to question the representation of women as superior. That although women are given a strength to be equal to men, there is always a weakness that must also be felt by female characters so that Parody is also It has been created not just to arrange the story but the characters receive changes that need to be criticized

Then in the image of superheroes there is also Denaturalization because the superhero characters that have been portrayed so far cannot be properly realized in the Eternals characters in the movie. If we remember the conflict they faced, it made them very fragile and put them in weakness as a superhero. Their weakness is evident when we trace their purpose in coming to earth, which was to protect humanity from the attacks of Deviants. When the truth is revealed,

their real purpose is to make humans as Celestial food which must eventually be destroyed. This they do unconsciously and ignorantly, but in the end they do it anyway on another planet with other intelligent life with a mission attached to them. This creates them as exterminations which is the opposite of a hero's purpose as a protector.

And the end of Denaturalization goes to the Deviants who are the main villains in Eternals as well as in the comics. We also see that the antagonist in the movie has also changed. The antagonist in the comics and movies both refers to the figure of the Deviants but with a different formula.

### **The Politic of Parody**

The Parody of politics is defined as a presence of revision and rereading of the past into a new form that stands alone differently even though it does not leave the past and this is found through the presence of two elements in the parody, namely subverting (refining) and legitimating (maintaining) so parody is called double coding because there are two elements that occur simultaneously.

The first impersonation was seen when the Eternals movie adapted the original comic. The title has changed from *The Eternals* to *Eternals*. Basically, grammatically one of the main properties of the article 'the' is a reference to separate or group. The Eternals mean immortal but this is a group that is separate from the rest. This is the same if we discuss the rhetoric of Eternals storytelling in comics, because *The Eternals* are a separate race from other races, especially humans. By removing this element of 'the' it certainly removes the meaning of this separating element which becomes eternal. The immortal figures in the movie are the 10 characters in the movie. They are basically separate genes and creatures but their form is the same as humans and other intelligent creatures. Which means that the Eternals and *The Eternals* represent the meaning of the characters. That it is clearly seen in the movie *Eternals* is a figure that is inseparable from humans themselves even though they are aliens. Because it is in the form of a human being who has feelings.



Pict 3. Sersi's hair was braided by a human child  
Duration 00:28:30-00:28:36

In this scene we see how deep the Eternals' relationship with humans is. In fact, if you pay attention, the Eternals always use very advanced costumes which should make humans at that time panic because of the progress they have not been able to digest. This indicates that Eternal does not need to be another form to worry about because in the movie Eternal is designed to be a guardian and protector figure who is certainly not just an alien. Their mission that binds them to get used to humans makes them fragile creatures like humans so that Eternals are in awe of humans themselves. From this, the Eternals actually want to be more human and heartless so as to form a very unique creature to explore further. And this is in contrast to the Original in that the Eternals have absolutely no intention of being together with humans. They only stand when evils like the Deviants appear in the middle of the balance created.

On the other hand, character development is represented as something new and different. Of course, in this movie there has been subverting, meaning that the original character of the comics is modified differently in the movie. The movie has omitted some details of storytelling, thus forming a new pattern, especially in character development. In addition to the comics, Eternals is introduced as a nation and in the movie, Eternals is focused on ten superheroes, there are other things, namely characters in between with different ideologies and different mission goals, it raises new problems among the Eternals characters in the movie.



Pict 4. Sersi is being shown the reality of their mission  
Duration 01:00:08-01:02:05

Through this scene it can be explained that Eternals were created with the aim of replacing Deviants for defects in creation carried out by Celestials through Deviants. Their purpose is clearly indicated to protect man himself but with a specific purpose because humans are explained as intelligent beings who are food from the Celestial seeds in the core of the earth. For thousands of years the Eternals saved other civilizations on other planets with the same goal. Because intelligent beings are food and energy sources and this is part of their mission called awakening. Resurrection is the birth of a new Celestial which of course will destroy the Earth because of the size of the Celestial as a very large cosmic being.

### **Parody in Characters**

Furthermore, Eternals characters have various forms of bleaching that make them different from the characters in the original work. This reduction includes the number of characters, gender, ideology, and personality of each character. In the movie there are only ten of them that are taken for inclusion in the story of the movie. It can also be seen that in addition to the reduced number of characters, there are also changes in the function of characters seen in the leadership of the Eternals which Ikaris initially changed to Ajak in the movie. Furthermore, the Domo character itself was turned into an inanimate object in the movie but still maintained the same element in these two things, namely they both became elements of machines and technology both in comics and in movies. Then there was the character Phastos who in fact was not included in the original comics in 1967 and appeared in a new volume in 1977 as another race, namely race Ether is the strongest alien race in technology and later appeared in the movie as characters as the Eternals who master technology.

The first figure of Ajak, in the comics, invites to be introduced as TECUMOTZIN or the ancient hero of the Incas tribe, and he is responsible for the arrival of the Celestial. With such a great responsibility, he is depicted as a loyal figure like the Celestials who are considered gods, while in the movie the figure of Ajak is Oocyte depicted in the movie. Ajak is portrayed as a woman who leads Eternals or Akita Bus called Prime Eternals, in contrast to Ajak in the comics, she is described as having fallen in love with Earth and humans so in the end she decided to turn away from her mission and betray the Celestial. Then there is Ajak, As the leader of the Eternals. Ajak change does not only include gender, but the ideology is significantly changed. At first, he was a legend who was prepared for the arrival of the Celestial. He is entrusted with his loyalty to the end, but in the movie, he is shaped to be an obedient figure but also commits a violation of his mission. He believes that among the many planets they visit during the mission, Earth is a special planet. For Ajak, the mission that the Celestial Arishem had designed, was not comparable to what she saw on earth. She had traveled a long way and for some reason he felt something extraordinary that she did not feel with other intelligent beings. So, she chose to turn away with the orders and missions set by the Celestial Arishem. So, we see that a person who is consistent with loyalty becomes a person who prefers her emotions and feelings rather than his own beliefs.

Next up is Makkari, the comic clearly portrays Makkari as a man with incredible speed and has a perfect physique like how Eternals were created. This makes Makkari's character a dexterous figure and does not waste time. He swiftly helped the human Deviants when the Deviants attacked New York when the Eternals were in a difficult position, that their identities had been in the key must be neatly sacrificed with that purpose. Related to the movie, Makkari is portrayed as a black woman with hearing disability. It is a big question that the changes that occur position the character of Makkari so very different in terms of physique and this makes this character more bold in describing the world's capabilities with regard to the periphery. Makkari becomes one of the Eternals members whose ideology has also faded. Makkari's change is seen when the appearance of herself as a deaf black makes her different from Makkari in the comics. Makkari went from a serious, masculine, impetuous and time-wasting character to something different in the movie. Makkari is not afraid to do something even if it is bad. He is built into a very good person but there is also a jail and desire in doing something that nothing can prevent her from even stealing something.

Unlike the Sprite, the character parody is only shown to the gender that changes but the character is not changed, but all of this becomes different when she is female. Sprite is designed not to become an adult and he will be trapped in the body of his little boy. This means that the sprite has been bound and not free to its own body. She had to sacrifice herself as Eternals without feeling the love of her peers and could not feel her growth or nature as a woman such as childbirth or problems normal to maturity. This exposure can show that parody of gender in movies greatly affects characters and positions characters vulnerable to current issues.

Next is Gilgamesh, he is responsible, brave, strong, and teaches us sacrifices, in the movie it is seen that Gilgamesh is an example of the hero that has been depicted. Where he always defends and protects humanity from Deviants. However, if you look at the comics, Gilgamesh was originally an outcast figure. His heyday as a hero was not as smooth as expected. The change in Gilgamesh's character shows us that even those who look scary still have feelings. This changing ideology further reinforces that the Eternals are not only perfect and powerful but they are also fragile. The movie shows this fragility in Gilgamesh's armpit as one of the powerful Eternals to die at the hands of the Deviants.

Furthermore, Kingo is a character whose changes are quite obvious. In the comics he is a samurai but, in the movie, he becomes a Bollywood artist. Of course, the character will change greatly. When he was originally a mysterious person and became a famous, cheerful, and humorous figure, he was very different from the original figure. In the end, he must become a coward who abandons the other Eternals because he does not want to fight the pros and cons of the mission. He is too afraid to do right or wrong. With this we all see the fragility like a human being. Behind a great ability to weaknesses that are not shown.

Sersi is one of the most highlighted characters in the movie because she is the next leader of the Eternals. Even though she also bevels to the Celestials like Ajak. Even so, she is described as so emotional, patient, intelligent, and very loving after being invited. If we look at the originality of Sersi's figure we will see a coquettish figure, and hyperactive. A figure who is very passionate but also a figure who does not like to be bothered. Very inversely proportional to the Sersi in the movie. We are shown that in the movie Sersi is very much shaped with great feelings and empathy for what is around him. Making Sersi a figure who is very close to humans.

The last one is Drug, he is actually anat-like who wants to rule over all the Eternals and wants to destroy humans. This action was stopped by Ikaris in the last issue of the comic. But once again, what is portrayed in the comics has changed when drug characters are shown in movies. He is indeed a stubborn figure and the person who most often disobeys the mission and invites the leader of the Eternals. But behind all that he is the one who cares most about man because his desire is that man always lives peacefully without any neglect or foolishness that is often in man. We can see that Drug shows a great sense of care in his character even in people who cannot be forbidden.

After the embodiment of the changed ideology, we can see that the Eternals were formed with a high element of humanity. Although they are aliens, robots, even creatures that are completely non-living but they are wrapped in fragility and high emotions so that they do not look like aliens. They can feel love and affection without any hindrance so that the standard of perfection has been exceeded as immortal beings.

### **Cultural is Decimated**

American culture is quite thick in the comic because in some American storytelling is often a picture of Eternals such as the use of places that are mostly in America and South America, and additions such as Russia. And there was a cultural melting in the movie, namely American culture was replaced by the presence of Mesopotamia and colonial England.

In the movie, the variety of cultures used is diverse, making this movie rich in world elements. The eternal cast is also joined by different skins, racial diversity and is put together so epic in one team. This phenomenon creates a new culture in the form of Eternals themselves such as the elements of clothes, the ships they use, visual motifs in the movie that is formed so that the Eternals movie is richer will culture and diversity. And this is a very courageous act.

### **The Parody of God**

God is a manifestation of absolute Existence, because this is the main cause of the birth of the universe, which is both external and mental (Komaruddin, 2016). In both the movie and comics, researchers found that the representation of God as the creator and almighty being has been replaced by a cosmic being. This can be seen in the comics and movies that in essence this



creature works to replace a God in the real world. These beings are called Celestials who consist of more than one individual who has created the Eternals.

Celestials are basically cosmic beings of gigantic size that were created before the universe was formed. In movie and comic storytelling, Celestials are creatures that play a very important role in the formation of the universe. Those who have orchestrated the formation of the universe with their extraordinary power. Celestials are also the reason Eternals are formed and other beings besides Eternals. They are considered the Creators of the Eternals. And those who make up the Mission and the journey of the Eternals themselves. Here are the differences in the number of Celestials in the movie and in the comics.

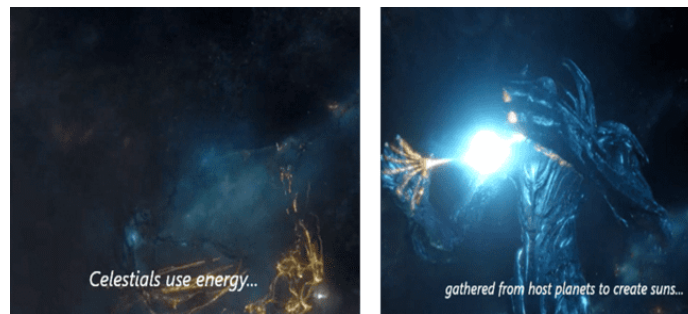
The number of Celestials in the comics is much higher and also describes the function of each of them while the movie does not. The movie shows Celestial fleets and only Celestial Arishem often appears in the movie. In the movie Arishem which plays an important role in the introduction of the Celestial itself.



Picture 5. Celestial as a Creator of Universe  
Duration 00.59.10

What distinguishes the two figures above is how they play a role in each story. In the movie Celestial (host): is a cosmic being who creates Eternals and Deviants in their mission to protect intelligent beings in each universe from Deviants who will later be used as a source of energy for the birth of new Celestials and as a forerunner to the creation of new life or what is called emerging while in the comics Celestial plays a role in literally as figures of gods because of their function as creators and as judges in a life form on earth. Therefore, the parody created does not happen to each Celestial but what they parody. Researchers see that Celestials are a form of parody in which God is an alien. All this time we believed that God is something that cannot be

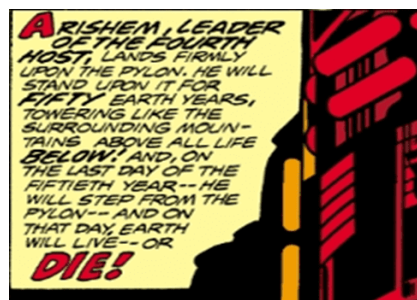
achieved but his existence is real. But in this modern life, just believing sometimes is not enough, therefore the Celestial figure becomes an icon created by humans in replacing the role of God. Here are the characteristics that the Celestials created to parody the figure of God Himself.



Picture 6. Celestials created the universe through the Resurrection  
Duration 00:58:39-00:58:53

In this scene we are shown one of the things that the Celestials parody is that they are the Creator. Without them the world would fall into darkness. This reminds us that God Himself is called the Creator. But in movies or comics that function is replaced by the Celestials by utilizing the pure energy of the universe and with experiments they are finally able to make the universe function.

Through Experiments using advanced Instruments and Special places Celestials are able to create living Beings. This is also one of the essences of God, which is to create creatures. But in Parody there is a discrepancy because the Celestials are able to create with the help of tools and require a large amount of Energy to be able to do this. So, there is still a discrepancy between the Celestials as a representation of God in movies and comics.



Picture 7. Celestial the Judge

The figure above clearly explains that Arishem's arrival was to determine whether the earth was still worth saving. This explained that the Celestials besides they created they could also

destroy. All decisions are in their hands, especially when it comes to their creation and the universe. From this we can see that the Representation of God as the only one who can judge and determine the destiny of living beings and the universe is also seen in the Celestials so that this parody includes the Celestial as God is Delivered. So, this becomes a new view that the word God wants to be below differently with a new view while following the storyline of comics and movies.

In the end we see that parody occurs gradually which includes the existence of abnormalities towards which we always consider normal in some things such as the position of women who are narrated as equal to men where there is a discrepancy in this, then villains whose representation needs to be questioned because of the responsibility of other parties and at the end this affects parody and exacerbates many elements that fade and also still exist which is maintained so as to create political parody specifically found in the structure of the story, the ideology of the story, the development of characters, the structure of the culture created, and the representation of God parodied in films and comics.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This research has concluded that the parody contained in the movie *Eternals* (2021) which is based on the original work, namely the comic *the Eternals* (1967-1977) has not only found that the movie *Eternals* does not only parody comics, but there are social realities that are included such as gender issues, women's repression, and changes in story structure that affect character parody, conflict, and storytelling structure.

This social reality is seen in the changing representation of the original form of comics. Originality still emphasizes technological aspects and cosmic warfare that are still mythical in the real world, while *Eternals* emphasizes the deepening of human elements that can be seen in the problems faced by the characters.

In the end, Parody criticized each of the incompatible elements in the movie after finding this parody. The criticism found provides an understanding that women still experience discrimination even when they are equated with men as superior, the view as portrayed by superheroes is not represented and coherent so that the representation of superheroes is not described in such a way,

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