Reflection Paper – Zombies

The notion of zombies is very prevalent in today’s culture. It is currently seen through many media outlets like movies, books, video games, and many more. “They are the cultural monsters of the moment, having replaced vampires, werewolves, aliens, and other monsters as the nightmare du jour.”¹ The zombie phenomenon is one of many great examples that exhibit myth-making, social formation, and social interest.

Myths are meta-codes that help decipher the experience of a person and determines what gets to count.² According to Baker, “[Zombies] shamble and moan in every nook and cranny of American pop culture, antagonizing, maiming and killing humans.”³ The myths or myth making concepts in the perception of zombies is that they are reanimated mindless flesh eating corpses that slow walk in hordes.⁴ Another concept of myth making in the topic of zombies is the apocalypse. I think that the idea of a possible apocalypse to occur is what draws people into taking interest in zombies; it is initially what got me interested too. In my opinion, the idea of the world coming to an end gives me great curiosity and excitement. It allows me to imagine how the world will function without a running government or power, but with the determination to survive.

Social formation is a system of structures which function together in accordance to the society and are created through persuasions and force.⁵ When dealing with zombies, the concept

⁵ Ibid., September 18, 2014.
of social formation is what zombie lovers do together or have interest in that is relevant to zombies. For instance, the annual Zombie Walks help bring people together who enjoy zombies, to act and dress up like zombies. Another example would be the Zombie Response Team (ZRT), which is an organization that helps individuals prepare for a possible zombie apocalypse and emergency preparedness. The ZRT has a website that contains advice on how to survive a zombie apocalypse and also varieties of merchandise that will help during an apocalypse.

Social interest is the function of the social formation. Emergency preparedness is one of the social interests in the notion of zombies. For example, the ZRT mentioned that they are not only preparing people for surviving a zombie apocalypse but also creating awareness to other possible natural disasters. I think that also including zombie attacks will get more people interested into emergency preparedness even more due to their recent popularity. In my opinion, entertainment is another form of social interest in the notion of zombies; it is, “fun, fun, fun.”

In popular culture, zombies are seen everywhere, like in books, movies, and video games. In class, Baker mentioned that zombies was a form of escapism. In accordance to zombies, I think that escapism is a term that helps describes anything such as zombies that helps an individual to remove themselves from reality and experience an entire different imaginative world. Initially, this is what got me interested in zombies; experiencing a different world that is completely different to reality. Also the possibility zombies could exist one day is what keeps me interested.

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7 Ibid., 107-108.
10 Ibid., 174.
Bibliography


MacKendrick, Kenneth “Supernatural in The Popular Culture, Lecture Notes” University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba), September 18, 2014.