

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 51880

Date:28/05/25

Title:

Contagion of Memory- In Retrospection of David Morrell's First Blood and Hollywood's 11 Inception of Rambo

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		-		
Techn. Quality		-		
Clarity		-		
Significance		-		

Reviewer Name: Dr Ab Rahim

Detailed Reviewer's Report

This research paper explores the transformation of David Morrell's novel *First Blood* into the Hollywood Rambo franchise, focusing on the themes of memory, trauma, and revisionist historiography. It critically analyzes how the character of Rambo, originally portrayed as a complex, traumatized war veteran, is reshaped in film adaptations to suit nationalist, jingoistic, and ideological agendas. Drawing upon theoretical insights from memory studies (notably Viet Thanh Nguyen), cultural industry critiques, and cinematic representations, the paper juxtaposes the humanized literary Rambo against the mechanized cinematic hero. The research underscores the implications of cultural memory manipulation and the re-masculinization of American identity in the post-Vietnam era.

The paper presents a novel and insightful angle on a well-known cultural figure—John Rambo—by focusing not merely on textual or filmic analysis, but on the politics of memory and trauma. It offers an interdisciplinary approach, combining literature, film studies, history, and memory studies. The connection drawn between *First Blood* and broader geopolitical narratives is well-conceived and contributes to cultural and literary scholarship.

Strengths:

Strong Abstract and Thematic Coherence: The abstract clearly lays out the central arguments regarding the politicization of memory and the evolution of the Rambo figure.

Depth of Analysis: The author skillfully contrasts the character construction in the novel with its cinematic representation, supported by specific examples and citations.

International Journal of Advanced Research

Publisher's Name: Jana Publication and Research LLP

www.journalijar.com

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Use of Theoretical Frameworks: The inclusion of memory theorists like Viet Thanh Nguyen and film/culture critics enhances analytical depth.

Clarity of Argument: The argument regarding cultural sanitization and the transformation of trauma into patriotic spectacle is clearly articulated.

Areas for Improvement:

a. Structural Organization:

The paper could benefit from clearer section divisions (e.g., Introduction, Methodology, Analysis, Conclusion) to improve readability.

b. Citational Consistency and References:

Some citations are incomplete (e.g., "Morrell 15," "Nguyen 13"). A standardized referencing format (APA, MLA, Chicago) should be applied.

A complete bibliography or works cited page is missing and should be included.

c. Language and Grammar:

While the writing is largely strong, there are instances of awkward phrasing and verbosity. For example: "conflicting with the nation's defeat" – needs clarification.

"the growing demands of not just the then audience but also of the American public policy" – could be more concise.

d. Redundancy and Repetition:

Certain ideas, such as the contrast between novel and film versions of Rambo, are repeated without much new insight. These sections can be condensed.

e. Critical Balance:

The critique is heavily slanted against the Hollywood adaptation. A brief acknowledgment of why the filmic Rambo resonated with audiences could provide critical balance.