

# Analysis of Movies Portraying the Lives of Seafarers

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**Abstract** - This study is on the analysis of movies depicting seafarers. Movies are instruments of social evaluation and a tool for propaganda. Movies are also a means of not just assessing the mindset of the generality of the public but also of influencing the mindsets of the society. Movies are therefore a vital component of social engineering and change. The three movies that portray the lives of seafarers are “Captain Phillips”, “Poseidon”, and “The Perfect Storm”. The three movies depicted the lives of seafarers from the perspective of character, family, risks and society. From the analysis of the movies, the researchers found out the seafarers suffer a lot of isolation, risks, and emotional stress. They are usually people of integrity and selfless actions and deserve commendation in the eyes of the public.

**Keywords:** Seafarer, Movie portrayal, Captain Phillips, Poseidon, Perfect Storm

## INTRODUCTION

A sailor, seaman, mariner, or seafarer is a person who navigates water-borne vessels or assists as a crewmember in their operation and maintenance. The term bluejacket may be used for British or US Navy sailors, the latter especially when deployed ashore as infantry (Roth, 2012). The 700,000 of the world's mariners come from the Philippines, being the world's largest origin of seafarers (“Pinoy seafarers' concerns”, 2013).

The movie is a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television. International movies are usually made to portray latest global issues and oftentimes mold public perceptions. Movies are thus a source of propaganda, education, and a vehicle for societal development and growth.

Movies and seafarers play a pivotal role as a tool for social engineering and societal development. Movies play a vital role in structuring and conditioning societal perceptions, mindset, norms, and often as means of expressing societal mindset on given issues. Seafarers serve as an important component of a nation's economy instead of trading, an object of cultural interaction and world

globalization as unofficial ambassadors of nations, and a bridge of world awareness.

The interaction between this two important tools of society becomes inevitable as seen in movies which depict the lives of a seafarer from the point of view of the society, and also exposes the life of a seafarer on sea not just as an unknown mass but as an individual entity with a concrete identity to the mass of people who have no knowledge of the of what it entails to be a seafarer.

The researchers decided to analyze movies that depict the lives of seafarers to have an exact perception of society on the seafaring profession and to see the seafaring profession from the mindset of seafarers themselves. This serves as a source of mutual enlightenment for the seafarers and the public. The public thus gets to appreciate the importance of seafarers and the risks inherent in the profession and the toll on the families of seafarers. The seafarers also get a first-hand awareness of how the public perceives their profession and works harder to be worthy of the responsibility that the profession demands.

## OBJECTIVES

The study aimed to identify the movies that portray seamen from 2005 to 2015; specifically to

determine how seamen are depicted in the movies in terms of character/personality, family relationships, risks and society; and to propose suggestions on how to improve the perception of society to seafarers.

### RELATED LITERATURE

The eastern area bordering the Mediterranean Sea has been called the "cradle of civilization", and civilized societies grew up in the field of the "Fertile Crescent," which corresponds to today's The Middle East. A recent television series postulated that until the Great Flood, caused by the meltdown of the last Ice Age, the present Black Sea was a large fertile valley, which became flooded when the Mediterranean broke through the current Dardanelles and flooded the valley civilization. The people who survived moved to the higher ground around the shores of the Black Sea, and from thence they spread out into Europe, Asia Minor and Palestine, and that this coincided with the rise of civilizations in present day Iraq and Iran (Martlew, 2002).

The seafaring profession means viewed from different points of view depending on perspective.

According to the article Seafaring as a Career that:

*"to the romantic, it is adventurous, lucrative and one of the most envied professions. Practically, a few years of service can give a seaman the economic liberty and peace of mind which might not be possible in most of the other professions. Having thousands of pictures of great locations in one's album ranging from Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower to the significant fall of Niagara, it is simply impossible to turn such dreams into reality, even though a person can afford it. A seafarer is among the selected few who would get the opportunity to globetrot while getting paid handsomely to do so."*

As interesting as this all sounds, which is not all that the life of a seafarer entails. The seafaring profession demands a high level of discipline, commitment, and sacrifices that any other average profession will not demand.

The various challenges faced by a seaman include but are not limited to: Utilitarian conditions of living while at sea, social isolation, loss of family life, natural hazards, the effects of natural hazards like storms, heavy waves and winds on seamen Piracy, They face cramped, stark, noisy, and dangerous conditions at sea, and loss of job security due to the increased use of machines. This is because the

economic reality demands maximization of space. This makes it necessary to limit living quarters of a ship's to bare necessities. There is no room for luxury as may be enjoyed on shore jobs. Seafarers spend a major part of their lives at sea away from family, friends, and society and only get to relate to members of the ship's crew who may be total strangers. This tells on the psyche of the seafarers, and most suffer an emotional breakdown over time. The seafaring profession prevents seafarers from enjoying and making memories with family. Most times they miss vital moments of their family life and only get to share such via the aid of pictures. Risks are usually tragic and colossal in terms of loss of lives and damage to property. These are natural hazards usually unpredictable, and it is often said that while at sea, a seafarer is 50-50 between life and death. The uprising of piracy has seen so many seamen kidnaped, tortured and sometimes lose their lives and in cases where they are ransomed, loss of money to ship owners. This is often traumatic and tasking to the seafarer.

The above are just a little of the major problems that a seafarer faces during their seafaring lives. As difficult as the seafarers lives seem, it is a job that must be done because seafaring is a very important job for the following reasons: economic, aids and charity, social engineers, security, unofficial ambassadors, transportation, exploration, and entertainment. Seafaring is the bridge between nations. Every nation depends on seafaring to send their products to other countries, or to receive important products from other countries. Thus, nations in today's global world depend on seafaring as a means of survival. Seafaring contributes a major part of some country's gross domestic products. Some nations also derive revenue from providing the manpower for the seafaring profession, for example, The Philippines, which is the largest supplier of seafarers the world over. Most relief efforts and food aids are transported from one country to the other through shipping. Thus, the seafarer is a means of transporting aids and assistance. Seafaring is not limited to a merchant marine. It encompasses the Navy and all others who ply the sea. They are also a means of safeguarding the sovereignty of a nation via the means of water. The ship serves as a means of transporting people and goods from one place to the other both locally and internationally. Some goods are too large, bulky. And volatile to be carried via any other means than shipping. Some ships serves as a source of entertainment this includes the cruise ships that are created to cater to people's love of leisure and fun. They are also a medium of exploring the world

scientifically. Seafarers man the ships that are used to explore the water life and organisms within. This helps to increase man's knowledge of his environment.

Movies like seafaring is a people related entity. It is thus inevitable that the movie industry which is an important tool for social engineering and chronicler of history would create movies that portray the importance of seafaring in the life of humanity and the risk they face in the course of their duties. Numerous movies have been produced both locally within individual countries and on the international scene. The movies have tried to convey to viewers, the details of what comprises a seafarer's life. While the limitations of movie production may have made it next to impossible to capture the essence of what obtains in the life of a seafarer, they have done their best.

Some of the movies are so traumatic even to view and brings the audience face to face with the challenges seafarers face. The researchers have done their best to select movies that will as much as possible cover a major aspect of the lives of seafarers. It is hoped that the result of this study will aid in better understanding of the movies, and an even better understanding of their central theme that is the lives of seafarers.

The first of the movies analyzed by the researchers was the perfect storm. It was about a fishing boat the Andrea Gail and its crew. Having had a string of bad catches, amidst pressures from the boat owner, the crew set out under the guidance of its captain to see if they could change their bad catches. They went and were lucky to get a very good catch, but the ice machine got spoilt, so they decided to make a dash for shore to protect their catch from spoilage. Their course would take them past a very serious storm. When they found that they couldn't make it, they decided to reverse course. Unfortunately, they ran into a rogue wave. The boat upturned and the whole crew was lost.

The second film in the review was the Poseidon. It was a movie of a cruise liner called the SS Poseidon. They were making a voyage on the eve of New Year. Just immediately after the New Year, the ship collided with a rogue wave and was upturned. A group of passengers decided to make a dash for the top as a means of survival. Despite the instruction of the captain otherwise, they left the ballroom where a majority of the passengers including the captain were and successfully made it to the top despite the hassles on the way and they were only six survivors at the end of the movie.

The third movie in the review was Captain Phillips. It is a story of the kidnapping of a vessel by Somalia pirates. The film started with the captain being driven to the airport by his wife on his way to take command of his vessel. They discussed various things chief of which was their children and the competitive nature of jobs these days. He boarded his ship and made security preparations to avoid the pirates at the horn of Africa. The film then showed the pirates preparing to go and hijack a ship from their village. The pirates and the ship met and despite the evasive measures undertaken by the ship, they were boarded and after a series of scenes and subterfuge, the captain was taken out of the ship with the pirates and the rescue efforts began to rescue the captain. The captain was finally released, and the film ended with him boarding a US ship.

The researchers analyzed the three movies to have an opinion on the depiction of seafarers from different facets of their lives. The movies portrayed the seafarer from every aspect including their personal lives, their character, the risks involved in the profession, and public perception of the seafarers.

## **METHODS**

### **Research Design**

The research utilized both descriptive, exploratory, and analysis methods in the conduct of the study. Descriptive method is a method used to obtain information relating to the current status of an issue or phenomenon to describe "what exists" within the variables or conditions of the situation. The three most common types of descriptive research tools are through survey, observation, and analysis. The researchers made use of their observations from their viewing of the three movies to come up with an analysis of the research problem. Exploratory research is often utilized to yield information to explain problems that are not yet clearly defined, or the real scope is still unclear. Analytic research, on the other hand, is used in explaining a phenomenon that has already been presented in a clear pattern. The researchers utilized the analytic research method to analyze the notions of seamen from the perception of the movie viewer as a generalized opinion of the public.

### **Instruments**

The researchers obtained three movies of international renown depicting the lives of seamen. They also considered some articles to come up with the study by browsing different sites on the internet,

magazines or journals, and books. The ideas and information gathered were paraphrased, interpreted and summarized to make a substantial part of the study.

The researchers also made use of opinions, observation and analysis of each member of the research team as the main tool for making conclusions on the three movies.

The names of the movies are Captain Phillips, Poseidon, and the Perfect Storm

## **PROCEDURES**

The proponents started by gathering in-depth information on the movies that depict a seafarer's life. They obtained three movies that adequately dwelt on the topic of the research. The movies are The Perfect Storm, Poseidon, and Captain Phillips. The researchers watched the movies, discussed and analyzed the movies as part of the research program.

## **DISCUSSION**

The three movies that portray seamen are:

**Captain Phillips-** Captain Phillips is a movie on October 10, 2013, in Australia based on the hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama in 2009. The movie director was Paul Greengrass and had a running time of 134 minutes. The Story was as narrated by Richard Phillips and Stephan Talty. It won the following Awards- BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role, Writers Guild of America Award for Best Adapted Screenplay. The captain Richard Phillips was acted by Tom Hanks and the leader of the Pirates Barkhad Abdi acted Muse. It began with a portrayal of the life of a seaman away from the sea. The wife drove him to the airport to board a flight that would take him to board his vessel. While on the way, they discussed their children, the growing competition in the job market, and the hopes they had of things turning out right after all. The effort here was to show that every seaman on board has a family or loved one that they have left behind on board. It also made it clear that no matter the pressures of life at sea, the seaman also has worries about happenings in the lives of their loved ones on the shore.

The movie progressed with the captain boarding his vessel, the crew observing departure plans and maneuvers and the vessel moving into the sea en-route to their destination. The movie here tried to show that the seamen are usually cognizant of the dangers inherent in their journey as can be seen in their

discussion of their passage through the horn of Africa which is inundated with different pirates of Somali extraction. The movie went on to show the pirates and their preparation to leave the shore and go to the sea for the sole aim of hijacking a vessel. At this point, there was the illusion to the presence of an unseen master who controlled their activities and provided the necessary logistics for their nefarious acts. This tried to show that there are people who have capitalized on the isolation and uncertainty of life at sea to make money by violence. The pirates finally met with the crew and despite the crew following the deterrence prescribed by the books, the pirates finally boarded the vessel. The captain made sure the crew were hidden save for a few and tried every mean of negotiating with the terrorists even as far as offering them thirty thousand US dollars. The pirates declined because they were obviously in the business for much bigger sums in the realm of millions of dollars. The film at this point portrayed the courage of the officers and crew on board ships and the self-sacrificing nature of authority on board. Due to the bravery of the captain and the crew, the pirates left the ship but rather, unfortunately, they went with the captain. This led to an even more harrowing and nerve-racking period whereby there was the clash of wits from the captain to the pirates, down to the would-be navy rescuers. This part of the film is replete with claustrophobic lifeboat cases, night vision Navy Seal deployments and cross-hair tension on an epic scale. A most harrowing moment was when the captain had finally given up all hopes of making it out alive and tried to write final words of love to his family. This moment captured what every seafarer who has had a tragic experience at sea passes through at that moment when you believe that your life was over, and one would never see one's loved ones again.

The captain was finally freed, the all the crew but one killed, and the captain was taken aboard a US vessel albeit intense shock. The film truly portrayed the human factor in the insecurity of seamen at sea. The helplessness of commercial vessels in the face of people determined to cause harm and have the wherewithal of sophisticated weaponry to make good their wishes. It also shows the loss that often occurs when families lose their loved ones at sea. It also shows the big financial loss that insecurity at sea poses to the ship-owners in the event of a successful kidnapping, and the windfall to the pirates also.

**Poseidon-** Poseidon is a 2006 disaster film directed by Wolfgang Petersen. It is the third film adaptation of. It stars Josh Lucas, Kurt Russell, and Richard Dreyfuss.

It was produced and distributed by Warner Bros. in association with Virtual Studios. It was released on May 12, 2006 and nominated for the 79th Academy Awards for Best Visual Effects.

The group finds themselves in the galley and sees the bow section is flooded. While finding a new exit, an explosion in the stern causes the bow to rise out of the water. Robert, Christian, Jen and Nelson go first, leaving Dylan, Maggie, and Connor behind. Maggie and Dylan find Connor trapped. He is eventually saved by Dylan and the three reunite with the group. In the engine room, Nelson opens a cover in the propeller tube and the force of the air causes his face to bleed. Knowing that the control room for the propellers is now below water, Robert swims to turn them off. He discovers that the off switch is broken, before running out of the air, but he hits the reverse button instead just before he drowns. The group notices that the propellers are turning in the other direction. Dylan finds a nitrogen tank and throws it into the propellers, creating an explosion and therefore stopping them. After climbing through the propeller tube, they jump overboard and into an inflatable raft. They are flung away from the ship, which rolls right side up, and sinks. After firing a flare, helicopters arrive and save the six survivors. What is immediately obvious at the end of the film is that there was no crew member among the survivors. This shows that even when passengers who can be termed the civilians of the sea are involved, the major loss at sea is usually from the crew. The movie portrayed the vastness of a vessel and showed that the vessel has a life of its own. It also showed the unpredictability of natural forces at sea. In the face of natural forces like typhoon, rogue waves, and storms, the best of preparation is never adequate. The movie also showed that no matter how big a vessel is at sea, it is but a mere speck and subject to the whims of natural forces

**The perfect storm-** The perfect storm is the oldest of the films produced under analysis. It is based on the true-life tragedy that occurred in October 1991. It is based on the best-selling book by Sebastian Junger. A dying tropical hurricane from Bermuda collided with a cold front from the Great Lakes, resulting in a "perfect storm" of previously unknown destructive impact that resulted in 100-foot waves; tragically, the crew of a fishing boat was lost in the midst of the fearsome storm. In October 1991, the commercial fishing boat *Andrea Gail* returned to port in Gloucester, Massachusetts, with a poor catch. Their waiting family warmly welcomed them, but the ship-owner hassled them over the meager catch that made them go

back when they heard that there was an upsurge of fishes. Desperate for money, Captain Billy Tyne (Clooney), convinces the *Andrea Gail* crew to join him for one more late season fishing expedition. The crew heads out past their usual fishing grounds in the Grand Banks, leaving a developing thunderstorm behind them. Initially unsuccessful, they head to the Flemish Cap, where their luck improves. At the height of their fishing the ice machine breaks; the only way to sell their catch before it spoils is to hurry back to shore. After debating whether to sail through the building storm or to wait it out, the crew decides to risk the storm. However, between the *Andrea Gail* and Gloucester is a confluence of two powerful weather fronts and a hurricane, which the *Andrea Gail* crew underestimates.

After repeated warnings from other ships, the *Andrea Gail* loses her antenna, forcing Captain Linda Greenlaw (Mastrantonio) of sister ship *Hannah Boden* to call in a Mayday. An Air National Guard rescue helicopter responds, but after failing to perform a midair refuel, the helicopter crew ditch the aircraft before it crashes, and all but one of the crew members are rescued by a Coast Guard vessel, the *Tamaroa*. The *Andrea Gail* endures various problems. With 40-foot (12 m) waves crashing on top of the deck, a broken stabilizer ramming the side of the ship, and two men thrown overboard, the crew decide to turn around to avoid further damage by the storm. After doing so, the vessel encounters an enormous rogue wave. Billy tells Bobby (Wahlberg) to apply full power to ride over the wave; it seems that they may make it over, but the wave starts to break, and the boat capsizes. Billy elects to go down with his ship, the rest of the crew are trapped and only Bobby manages to surface as he watches the boat go under; however, without a life jacket, he has no chance of surviving. He is last seen all alone among the waves. There are no survivors and the film ends with Linda reading the eulogy at the memorial service, followed by Christina and Bobby's mother, Ethel, consoling each other on the dock and Billy's voice soliloquizing about what it means to be a sword boat captain.

Depiction of the seafarers in the movies in terms of:

**RISK-** the life of a seafarer was depicted as very risky. The seafaring profession is one fraught with serious risks. This was one aspect of seafarer's lives that was generally depicted all through the three movies. There is various risk attendants to the seafaring profession, and these were clearly shown in the three movies.

In the *Poseidon*, this was depicted immediately the rogue wave hit the ship. The first casualties were the seafarers, and a clear loss was shown at the point when the ballroom was finally compromised and water flew in. At this point, the captain was shown as if posing for the inevitable death. None of the engine crew survived it, and officers of the watch died on impact with the rogue wave. Remarkably, at the end of the film *Poseidon*, no member of the crew was saved.

In the perfect storm, the risk was shown virtually all through the movie from the moment they took off from the port for the second time. They were warned of an impending storm but believing they could circumvent it, they forged on. After their catch that they believed would have set a new record, they wanted to sit out the impending storm but the breakdown of their ice machine prompted them to attempt passing midway between both storms to attempt saving their catch. The overturned and righted itself again. There was man overboard, and the anchor became loose and was threatening by its movement to shatter the integrity of the ship. At great risk to himself in that fierce storm, the captain had to use a gas welding equipment to attempt cutting off the anchor. After much nerve racking moments he succeeded. That did not abate the onslaught of attack on the vessel and its crew. They were hit on every side by the storm, and when they saw there was no headway, they decided to cut their losses and head back only to meet a rogue wave. They tried climbing it and for a while, it looked possible until the boat overturned, and all was lost.

They rescued him at a very great risk, and the researchers believe that the height of all risks is the one that ends in death, and they all died in the perfect storm.

The risks here were numerous. There was a risk to the captain of loss of face and job due to bad catch and the pressure of the ship owner. There was a risk of the consequences of the captain's decision-making. Any mistake in decision making could be very fatal, and it was as in the case of the perfect storm. There was an unpredictable risk of the vagaries of nature. Nature at best is unpredictable and the best-laid plans come to naught in the face of violent natural disasters like storms, rogue wave, tornadoes, typhoons, etc. as careful as a ship and its crew could be, there is no avoiding the results of an unpredictable natural disaster.

In the movie *Captain Phillips*, the risk was depicted in a different way. This is the human related risk. They stood the risk of being kidnaped by pirates

as a means of ransoming them for a huge sum of money. The course of their journey had to take them past the horn of Africa which is known as a hub of pirate activity. Being cognizant of that fact did not deter them from discharging their duties instead of their journey. They did the best under the circumstance by taking necessary precautions, but it was not enough to prevent being boarded by pirates. Ships in international waters faced by determined pirates are at best "sitting ducks". While, in the case of Captain Phillips, he was successfully rescued despite the trauma he passed through, there are many more ships and their crew who are not always so lucky. Every moment of the time the pirates were on board the ship, there was the risk of fatality from the guns of the pirates and they were subject to the whims and caprices of the pirates who were totally stoned from the drugs they were ingesting at an exponential ratio. When the captain finally managed to make them leave his vessel with him following the pirates, he faced risk of death from the volatility of the pirates, the risk of death from friendly fire of the navy seals who were attempting to rescue him. He also faced the risk of even drowning because the raft they were using was small and not meant for the protracted journey on the sea. He stood the risk of being killed by dehydration when the pirates decided that he was not entitled to drinking water that would balance the ionic content of his body. All these risks mentioned are an offshoot of the risk of the human factor as a result of the pirates. They would have been non-existent if they were not hijacked in the first place.

The major idea there is that they were cognizant of the risk of undertaking their journey but they always forget on not necessarily because they loved the risks but because they were brave and courageous men trying their best to reduce the risk of their chosen profession in discharge of their duties.

**FAMILY**- the conception of an average member of the public that has an awareness of the seafaring profession is usually to see the seafarer as a separate entity. They see the seafarer as an individual devoid of the family just married to the sea. The films showed us that the case is not so. The seafarer is an individual that has the family, loved ones, hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

In the *Poseidon*, this was not clearly shown except when the stowaway was shown to have been brought on board the ship by a member of the galley. This shows that the seafarers have dependents and people who love them. But one of the survivors could be seen prior to the collision calling his love that has

obviously broken up with him. What this depicts is that every time there is a loss at sea, there is a corresponding profound loss on the shore by family members, loved ones, and friends.

In the movie *Captain Phillips*, the movie started with the scene of the captain being driven to the airport by his wife. They discussed the state of the economy, the general everyday problems parents face in their training of their children. They discussed their son; they discussed the job employments and a whole lot of other family matters that shows an expectation of coming back. Their discussions ended with hopefulness on the future turning out right. This part shows that the seafarers have families that love them and look to the future with them in their lives. The presence of family was also shown when he sent his wife a mail informing her of their smooth sailing so far and how he intended to call her at the next port this was even while the pirates were hard on the heels of the ship. Another part of the movie that depicts the presence of family was while he was ensconced in the safety boat with the pirates after they have left his boat. When the navy seals and his would-be, rescuers were in the bid to rescue him. At the climax of the hijacking when he thought he was not going to make it, he took a paper and pen and was trying to write final words of love to his family. After he was released, the first thing he said was "tell my wife I am okay." That tries to bring consciousness to the viewing audience of the ever-present reality of family for a seafarer onboard.

The movie "perfect storm" was even more detailed in the effect of the seafaring profession in the mind of the family and family oriented nature of the seafarer. So many scenes showed the presence of the family in the life of a seafarer. The first scene was when the movie just started and the boat *Andrea Gail* was just returning from a voyage at sea, even while the boat owner was not so warm in his reception of them due to their miserly catch, the family were onshore to welcome them with so much warmth and love. There were scenes of hugs, love, and tenderness.

When the boat was distressed at sea, the families were also depicted when they all crowded at the bar waiting for any news of the ship at sea. And the fierceness with which Billy's wife attacked the boat owner when he came to the bar to update them on news of the search. The family was also depicted when the wife of Billy was shown to have moved to a new house and was planning it as a surprise for her husband at sea.

The last and final scene in this movie that shows the lot of the family of a seafarer was in the memorial

service that was held in their honor. The church was packed full, and the emotions were very high and finally a plaque was erected in their honor.

The summary of this is that every seafarer has someone somewhere that is either family, love hopes dreams and aspirations and that for every time their fatalities, they leave behind a world of miseries.

**CHARACTER-** each of the films depicted the character of seamen. Seafarers were depicted as easy-going, charismatic, risk-takers, men of integrity and selfless leaders who are calm in the face of dangers. *Poseidon* was not so explicit in describing the character of a seaman but the few times the captain was seen, it depicted the seaman as brave and authoritative. This was shown when he warned the passengers to remain calm after the collision with the rogue wave and when he decided to go down with the ship. The captain was instantly seen as charismatic both in the carriage and in his speaking. When he appeared in the movie, he had a commanding presence, and you must reckon with his presence whenever he is within sight.

The movie *Captain Phillips* show the courageous nature of seafarers. They knew their route would take them past the horn of Africa, the hub of piracy, but they braced up to it. This was shown when the captain first boarded his ship, and they were planning the route of their voyage. In the face of the pirates during the voyage, they faced them down, and when the pirates finally boarded, they did not lose their cool.

Captain Phillips also showed that seamen were selfless when he volunteered himself to follow the pirates out of his ship. He also showed that seafarers are fast thinking and innovative. He devised so many ways to foil the efforts of the pirates by first orchestrating the movement of the pirates to the engine room which culminated in one of the pirates being held hostage by the seamen and the consequent exit of the pirates away from the ship.

The hierarchy of self-sacrifice was seen as progressive down the line of the crew. In the absence of the captain, the chief mate, and chief engineer were willing to sacrifice their lives for their subordinates and the communication between the crew was almost clairvoyant. This unspoken communication may be attributed to their long time of staying at sea together.

The perfect storm also showed that the captains are charismatic figures which other seafarers look up to. This was shown when the captain led them by example when he took it upon himself to weld with cutting the flailing mass. The perfect storm also showed that seafarers are easy going people who have

integrity and always try to do the right thing no matter personal limitations. This was shown when one of the crew members was thrown overboard it so happens that the first man in the water to rescue him was the person who has been having a running feud with him. Also, as seen in the movie, despite being in competition with the other shipping vessel, they kept in touch and the crew of the other vessel was seriously worried when they were unable to reach the crew of Andrea Gail.

**SOCIETY:** Seafarers are people who live in a dispersed milieu. They are painfully separated from family and friends. They live for months among people of different cultures continuously adjusting to strange lands. They are always on the move. Most often, they feel like strangers when they return home because, in a fast changing world, many changes occur in the span of few months in places and in the persons left behind. They are different from the persons who left months before, so they remain, strangers, at home and away from home.

The need for belongingness, for a deep relationship, is hardly fulfilled in the seafarer's lives. Aware of the temporary nature of the work and the relationship that incidentally come with it, the seldom exert efforts establishing the close relationship with their companions. These people who are always on the move need the anchoring provided by deep and lasting relationship. Away from visible land masses, the vast ocean before them heightens nostalgia for home. Living among quasi-strangers, they long for the love, concern and understanding that persons back home used to lavish on them. Distanced from them, they can see in a better light what they mean to them. Lonely in this way, their work and relationships are affected adversely.

This conception of the seafarer about society was depicted in the way they left just after arriving ashore in the perfect storm. It was also shown when the wife of Billy moved to a new house and was renovating it as a surprise to Billy. In the Poseidon, this was not shown as much but there was a clear distinction in the way and manner the captain and crew carried themselves when juxtaposed with that of the rest of society. In Captain Phillips, this was reflected in the captain's discussion with his wife on his way to the airport. It was also shown in the way and manner they were seen not as individuals in distress but as part of the ship. They, therefore, lose their identity and only have specific identities as related to their ship.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

The three movies have shown the way seafarers are depicted. These movies; Captain Phillips, Poseidon, and the Perfect storm, helped the researcher have an idea of the perception of seafarers as people with families, loved ones, hopes, dreams, aspirations and a life away from the sea. It also showed that character-wise the seafarers are men of integrity, courage, the authority who do not let personal sentiments affect the discharge of their duty. The films also depicted the risk involved in the seafaring profession that may either be natural or man-made. Natural risks include storms, rogue waves, typhoons, Icebergs to mention but a few. The chief man-made risk is piracy. The effects of all these risk are enormous both on the seafarers, their families, ship-owners and all others who depend on the successful voyage on seafarers.

The three movies that portray the lives of seafarers are "Captain Phillips", "Poseidon", and "The Perfect Storm". The three movies depicted the lives of seafarers from the perspective of character, family, risks and society.

From the analysis of the movies, the researchers found out the seafarers suffer a lot of isolation, risks, and emotional stress. They are usually people of integrity and selfless actions and deserve commendation in the eyes of the public

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Employers of seafarers should not overburden them with tasks that would make them take risks. Laws should be enacted to protect seafarers from the risk of piracy. These laws should allow vessels to be armed and ready to defend themselves instead of resulting to flooding. Punitive measures should be put in place for apprehended pirates that would deter them from such illicit businesses. Better meteorological apparatuses should be created especially in regards to rogue waves and unpredictable weather to helping prevent loss of lives of seafarers. Movie producers should make more films to enlighten the public of the importance of seafaring to their existence and inculcate in the masses a healthy appreciation of the sacrifices of seafarers.

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