

**JOHN CREASY'S STRUGGLE FOR LIFE
IN TONY SCOTT'S *MAN ON FIRE* MOVIE (2004):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Research Paper

Submitted as the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education

in English Departement

by

PRATIWI SUCI HARDIYANI

A 320 050 303

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Man on Fire is a literary work in a movie form, directed by Tony Scott. The story is based on A. J. Quinnell's novel 1980, first filmed in 1987 with Scott Glenn. Second film *Man on Fire* was published in April 23, 2004. The duration is 120: 20 minutes. The genre of the movie is action, crime, drama, thriller.

Man on Fire tells about in Criminal gangs in Mexico City that kidnap rich *people* and their families for the lucrative ransom money. On the advice of his lawyer, Mexican businessman Samuel Ramos, like other wealthy people, hires a bodyguard to protect his nine-year-old daughter Lupita "Pita" Ramos, and to be able to renew the family's ransom insurance. The head of an executive security firm, Paul Rayburn suggests that Ramos hire Rayburn's old CIA buddy John Creasy.

Ramos is impressed with Creasy's resume, which includes a variety of counterinsurgency and counter-terrorism activities. However, Creasy has since become uninterested in life. He is burned out from all the death and horror and has taken to alcoholism to ease the burden. Creasy is not interested in bodyguard work and even less with the youngster, but he needs a job. *Creasy's* initial impatience slowly fades as he finds himself opening up to the child. He replaces her parents in their absence, giving her advice and coaching her in her

swimming lessons and competitions. He helps her overcome her fear of starting guns, turning it into an eagerness to move at the sound of one. Pita gives Creasy an emblem of St. Jude, the patron saint of lost causes, saying she bought it for him with her own money.

Shortly after delivering her to a piano audition, Creasy notices a suspicious vehicle driving past and a pair of police cars blocking off the surrounding street. As Pita emerges from the building and freezes, Creasy pulls out his gun and fires a shot into the air, similar to a starting gun, startling her to running away. During the ensuing gun battle, four of the attackers are fatally shot, including two corrupt police officers. The battle leaves Creasy seriously wounded and unconscious, allowing the surviving kidnapers to grab the child.

Shortly after the kidnapping, gang leader Daniel Sanchez demands a dead drop ransom of several million dollars in exchange for Pita. The drop goes badly, the kidnapers are ambushed by a corrupt police gang called "La Hermandad", and the money is stolen. Sanchez notifies Pita's parents that the *child* will not be released, and everyone assumes she is dead. It is during this time that Creasy is made into public spectacle by the police chief while unconscious in his hospital bed, claiming he has murdered two judicial police officers.

Rayburn shows up at the hospital after hearing the news and aids in helping Creasy *escape* to a safe house to further recover from his injuries. After Creasy recovers from his wounds, he returns to Pita's home and

promises her mother that he will kill everyone who was involved in, or profited from, the kidnapping. Creasy kidnaps and tortures several "La Hermandad" members, forcing them to reveal the names of the people involved in the kidnapping ring. Also Ramos admits setting the whole kidnapping up in order to get insurance money as he was bankrupt. He then commits suicide with a gun provided by Creasy.

With Rayburn's help, Creasy buys a variety of guns, explosives, and a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. He uses the weaponry to kill a number of corrupt Mexican police officers and high-ranking law enforcement officials who were involved in the kidnapping. After Creasy learns where *Sanchez* lives, he fights his way into Sanchez's apartment. Although Creasy is wounded in the gunfire, he gains the upper hand, and captures and tortures Sanchez's brother and ex-wife.

To save his brother, Sanchez admits that Pita is alive, and offers to exchange her for his brother and Creasy. Creasy agrees, and travels with Pita's mother to a *remote* rural area to make the exchange. After Pita runs to her mother, Creasy is hustled into a car, which speeds off. As Creasy succumbs to his gunshot wounds, he drops the emblem of St. Jude that Pita gave him. Then Sanchez was killed during a police raid that same day, his location discovered by special operations police who were electronically following Creasy's movements and actions.

Tony Scott as director of *Man on Fire* movie, has displayed his *extraordinary* stylistic vision, in a genre that most directors handle with a very

ordinary treatment. Scott has the courage to take a chance and do something different here. He has taken what is a pretty standard action-suspense yarn as far as material and storyline and turned it into an intriguing visual piece. The plot of this film is interesting. But screenwriter Brian Helgeland, most famous for scripting *LA Confidential* and *Mystic River*, has done a nice job of creating a set of interesting and sympathetic characters and unfolding the events in such a manner that the viewer is never entirely sure of what will happen next. Another strong point of this film is the excellent cast. Denzel Washington was a perfect choice as the taciturn and troubled Creasy. Dakota Fanning is one of the better child actors to come along in some time and proves it in providing a key performance as Pita. Mickey Rourke is perfect as the sleazy family lawyer. Christopher Walken is great as usual as Creasy's close friend. Even Marc Anthony, better known for his music career, does well in his role as Pita's father. Despite its strong points the film is not without flaws. It runs about 15 minutes longer than it needed to, and some of the more sentimental moments are a bit cheesy. But the overall product is a good one. Scott, as always, handles action with a deft hand but beyond that he proves that he has made many strides forward as an artist with his bold approach to this film. This combined with the strong performances of the actors involved provides an end result that is an interesting, violent, and ultimately different film.

In 2005, *Man on Fire* got many prestige awards in the world. There are Best Film *Music* Award (BMI Film & TV Award), Best Young Actress

(Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards), Best Action – Best Drama (Golden Trailer Awards), Outstanding Actor in a motion Picture (Image Awards), Best Performance in a feature Film (Young Actress Awards). They give it because *Man on Fire* movie has different appeals and many points of interest. (Man_on_Fire_(film)#Box_Office).

The cinematography side is one of points of interest from the film. The process of making this film uses high technology. It shows in lighting, sound, properties, *dressing* and make up from the film. The sound and the lighting are so appropriate with the situation in the environment of the plot because, the director shows the central points of the film by using good lighting and good sound. Then the properties, dressing and make up are so interesting because the movie shows that the film looks like in modern movie.

Based on the illustration about the movie the researcher knows that a bodyguard can also save the client without joining with police because many police joining with the kidnapper. A bodyguard has high responsibility to protect the client. Creasy has different ways to kill or eliminate the kidnapping. Rayburn helps Creasy to buy a variety of guns and from a journalist in Reforma he gets information the existence of the kidnapper. Finally, no one can stop Creasy to kill all kidnappers and then the client successfully saved. In here researcher knows the struggle of Creasy to save Pita (the client) from kidnapper.

That is the reason why the writer is interested in analyzing the major character of John Creasy in *Man on Fire* movie. The title of the research paper is **JOHN CREASY'S STRUGGLE FOR LIFE IN TONY SCOTT'S MAN ON FIRE: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

Before the researcher wrote this research paper the researcher looked for the *research* in the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta library and so far there are some researches in relation with the topic which deals with "individual approach". One of the research paper is "*The Power of Mother's Love In Jodi Picoult Perfect Match An Individual Psychological Approach* by Sri Hartatik Hertin. She is the student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Further in this study the researcher studies *Man on Fire* based on the individual psychological approach and the researcher focuses on John Creasy as the major character. So far the researcher has not found other researcher that research *Man on Fire* directed by Tony Scott in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is "How is a struggle for life of John Creasy reflected in Tony Scott's *Man on Fire* movie?"

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer only focused on struggle for life that is found in Tony Scott's *Man on Fire* by using an Individual Psychological Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above. The objective of the studies is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and to analyze the movie based on the individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretically Benefit

To get additional contribution to literature researches dealing with Tony Scott's *Man on Fire* Movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding about the content of the movie especially from the individual psychological aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study the researcher applies qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

The researcher uses the Tony Scott's movie entitled *Man on Fire* as the object of the study.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two data sources namely primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source are taken from Tony Scott's *Man on Fire* movie.

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data are collected from other sources related to the research like the dictionary, website, and also the book related to the research in Individual Psychological Analysis.

4. Techniques of the Data Collection

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. These are the technique of data collecting:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly,
- b. Reading the script to get more understanding,
- c. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information,
- d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources.

- e. Browsing to the internet to get some information article that related to the topic (the director, producer, actors, script, scenario, etc).

5. Techniques of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data the researcher employs descriptive qualitative analysis in this case. The researcher attempts to understand the story in this film and content analysis to gain the needed data. The researcher uses those data to analyze the major character in *The Man on Fire* film by employing the individual psychological approach.

H. Research Organization

The writer organizes the paper into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and research method organization. The second chapter is dealing with underlying theory that consists of fictional finalism, striving for superiority, inferiority feeling and compensation, style of life, social interest, creative power and theoretical application. In third chapter, the researcher explains the structural element of the movie, which contain of plot, character, setting, point of view, style and theme. The forth chapter is dealing with the analysis of individual psychology toward the ambition of the major character. Finally, the researcher draws conclusion and suggestion in the fifth chapter.