

SEARCH FOR EXISTENCE IN SHARI SPRINGER BERMAN'S *THE NANNY*

***DIARIES* MOVIE (2007): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements

For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education

in English Departement

by

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2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Human beings come to the world like a white clean sheet of paper, they are empty and pure. God gives them an opportunity to live and to exist in their society. And since that time, this newly born babies will learn to live among their community. As they grow up, they will search values to give human existence meaning, such as to be a doctor, teacher, nurse, etcetera. In this case a human is forming their own essence. The concern of human existence comes from an insistence that human life should be a full of life, a complete of life and a rich life.

The searching for existence is actually one of human efforts in building their meaning of life. People can find the meaning of life when they think that they manage to actualize their idealism. By actualizing their idealism, people can find their identity. In the scope of the society, their existence will be built. The search for existence also appears in the major character of *The Nanny Diaries* movie directed by Shari Springer Berman.

The Nanny Diaries is a [2007](#) American [comedy-drama film](#), based on the [novel of the same name](#) by [Emma McLaughlin](#) and [Nicola Kraus](#). [Written](#) and [directed](#) by [Shari Springer Berman](#) and [Robert Pulcini](#), it stars [Scarlett Johansson](#), [Alicia Keys](#), [Paul Giamatti](#), and [Laura Linney](#); and was produced by [Richard N. Gladstein](#). *The Nanny Diaries* movie was distributed by the Weinstein company metro-goldwine-mayer and this movie was released on August 24,2007. *The Nanny Diaries* has running time 106 minutes.

The Nanny Diaries tells the story of the emotional and often humorous journey of Annie Braddock (Johansson), a young woman from a working-class neighborhood in New Jersey, struggling to understand her place in the world. After graduating from Montclair State, New Jersey Girl Annie can't make up her mind about what to do with her life. Fresh out of college, she gets tremendous pressure from her nurse mother to find a respectable position in the business world although Annie would prefer to trade in her blackberry for an anthropologist's field diary.

Through a serendipitous meeting, Annie ends up in the elite and ritualistic culture of Manhattan's Upper East Side -- as remote from Annie's suburban New Jersey up bringing as life in an Amazon tribal village. Choosing to duck out of real life, Annie accepts the position as a nanny for a wealthy family, referred to as simply "the X's." She quickly learns that life is not very rosy on the other side of the tax bracket, as she must cater to the every whim of Mrs. X (Linney) and her precocious son Grayer, while attempting to avoid the formidable Mr. X (Giamatti). Mr X is occupied with his business and he is a cheated husband, Mrs. X loves shopping and none of them really likes to spend time with their little boy Grayer. Annie quickly learns that she has more than her hands full with taking care of him. Her busy schedule doesn't give her much spare time. Annie must work from morning until night. Mrs. X fired her last nanny because she was dating and that gives Annie problems when Harvard Hottie who lives in the same building asks her out on a date. Life becomes even more complicated when Annie falls for a gorgeous Park Avenue Hottie (Evans), and she's forced to explore her identity as never before. Mrs. X take a hidden spy camera in a teddy bear to

know what Annie always do if Mrs. X not in home. Annie is shown to be an introvert, but in the end she gathers the courage to blast the couple for their misdemeanor through a hidden spy camera in a teddy bear. This brings about a change in Alexandra and she later thanks her for bringing the nice change in her life. And Annie makes a book with herself as the object.

The Nanny Diaries invites controversy for society. It invites pro and contra about this movie. Many people interest with this movie because it was a very fun, romantic and educational movie. Jenny Wilber of the New Jersey times noted that “ the nanny diaries is interested movie *The Nanny Diaries* gets very good reviews. *The Nanny Diaries* is entertaining the entire time. It might not have you rolling in the aisles like "Superbad," but it is not that kind of movie. The main reason to see this film is because of Scarlett Johansson. She makes Annie the Nanny such a sympathetic character, that we stay interested in the film and we care about what happens to her. Scarlett Johansson made a name for herself doing a lot of independent film but this is probably her best performance in a mainstream film. Not only is her acting phenomenal, she is the world's most beautiful nanny. A lot of the professional reviews seem to have been disappointed by *The Nanny Diaries* because it was written and directed by the same people who did *American Splendor*. They were expecting something more like that film. *The Nanny Diaries* is not that kind of film. It is not particularly quirky and it will probably appeal to a wide audience. I thought it was better than *The Devil Wears Prada*, which it often gets compared to.

Review aggregator website Metacritic gave it average score of 46 out of 100 based on 33 reviews. On another website, rotten tomatoes, 30 percent of

critics gave the film positive reviews based on 93 reviews. The film opened at #6 at the U.S. box office and earned \$7.4 million in 2,629 theaters in its opening weekend. As of November 23, 2007, the film had grossed \$25,918,399 domestically and \$9,451,716 overseas for a total worldwide gross of \$35,370,115 against a \$20 million budget.

Movie industries welcome and give positive response to this movie, this is proved by the rating and the achievement which is got. During this movie released, this movie got nominations and awards.

The Nanny Diaries is the success film and interesting for many people. *The Nanny Diaries* movie has three appeals which make the researcher be interested in this movie. The first is character of Annie Braddock as the major character in this story, as the researcher has explained before that Annie Braddock is a young woman from a working-class neighborhood in New Jersey and was graduated from Montclair State, New Jersey. She is a very interesting woman and cares with children. She also has good spirit and always wants to make her mom proud.

Secondly, *The Nanny Diaries* is a great movie, it is proved with the budget spent for making this movie about \$ 20 million. The movie also has been released in some countries such as United States, Mexico, etc which are able to take gross profit more or less \$ 24 million. The movie is not only directed by one popular director movie, Shari Springer Berman, but also by a well known beautiful artist, Scarlet Johansson, Alicia Keys, and Chris Evans, who has got some awards either as winner or nominations.

Thirdly, *The Nanny Diaries* is an amazing movie. The movie has a good genre that relates to drama, romance, mystery, and thriller. It has emotional responses, sadness and happiness. The movie tells how Annie Braddock searches her existence in her life.

According to the previous reasons, the researcher would like to explore the search for existence in Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries* based on the existentialist perspective, and the title is **SEARCH FOR EXISTENCE IN SHARI SPRINGER BERMAN'S *THE NANNY DIARIES* MOVIE (2007): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.**

B. Literary Review

There are two researchers who have conducted the study of *The Nanny Diaries* movie as an object of the research. The first is Reni Isnaini (2007) entitled "Struggle life of Annie Braddock in Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries* movie: Individual Psychological Approach". The object of the research paper is the film entitled *The Nanny Diaries*. This study belongs to qualitative study. The result of the study shows that some aspects of individual psychological influence Annie Braddock to struggle for getting her existence in her life.

The second is Lilik Muryanto (2007) entitled "A comparison between novel and movie version of [Emma McLaughlin](#) *The Nanny Diaries* : A Structural Analysis". The result of this research paper is the comparison between novel and movie version of Emma McLaughlin. There are similarities and differences between two versions of *The Nanny Diaries*. By using structural analysis the researcher finds some similarities and differences in characters, theme, plot, setting, *miss en scene*, editing and point of view.

The differences of this study and two previous studies are in the theme and the perspective. The writer uses existentialist perspective to analyze the data and using *The Nanny Diaries* movie as an object and this research focuses on Search for Existence in Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries* movie (2005): An Existentialist Approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background above, the writer formulates the problem statement as follows: how is search for existence reflected in Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries* movie using Existentialist Approach?

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Annie Braddock's searching for existence as one of the major character in *The Nanny Diaries* movie directed by Shari Springer Berman based on an existentialist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the statement above, the objectives of the study are:

1. Analyzing the play based on its structural elements
2. Analyzing the play based on the existentialist approach

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries*.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from an existentialist aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of research

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Here the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory.

2. Objects of the Research

The major character, in this case is Shari Springer Berman's *The Nanny Diaries*. The writer is going to analyze it by using Existentialism Approach.

3. Data Source

There are two types of data sources, namely:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the text of *the nanny diaries* by Shari Springer Berman, particularly the dialogs, statement and action reflecting the search for existence of the story and the characters that supports the research.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is other sources related to the primary data such as information about the director's biography, websites about the film, and other source supporting the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

- a. Watching and comprehending the movie.
- b. Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Choosing the approach which is suitable with the movie.
- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on an existentialist approach.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of Data Analysis in this study is descriptive and hermeneutic. Description means that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to the psychological condition of the major character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

H. Research Paper Organization

Research paper organization is conducted to give a clear guidance in reading and understanding the content of the study. In order to have guidance to the reader in reading the whole content, this research paper is organized as follows:

Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research method. And then, Chapter II is underlying theory. It covers Notion of Existentialism, structural elements of the

movie, Sartre's major theory of Existentialism, and theoretical application. Next, Chapter III deals with the structural analysis of the work, which consists of character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, theme, and its discussion. And then, Chapter IV presents existentialism analysis and its discussion. In this chapter the writer presents the data and data analysis. The last, Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.