SYMBOLISM IN WOLFGANG PETERSEN'S *TROY*:
STRUCTURAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education

in English Department

by:

LASRI CAHYANI

A 320 040 250

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2008

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Troy is a film released on 14 May 2004 by the director Wolfgang Petersen and a screenplay by David Benioff, running time in 163 minutes. This film was release in Indonesia on 2 June 2004. An adaptation of Homer's great epic, the film follows the assault on *Troy* by the United Greek forces and chronicles the fates of the men involved. Talking about historical romance and action drama, this film succeeds in receiving many awards, nominated for Oscar, 3 wins and 14 nominations. This film also gets high rating. The result of vote taken from www.enwikipedia.com is about 6.9 of 10 (74, 868 votes). Starring by many good Hollywood actors and actresses, such as: Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Orlando Bloom, Diane Kruger, Brian Cox, Brendan Gleeson, Sean Bean, Rose Byrne, Saffron Burrows, Nigel Terry, Garrett Hedlund, Julie Christie, and Peter O'Toole, This film spent the most expensive fee (more than US$175 million) for category an epic film. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy_%28film%29).

This film tells about the most beautiful woman that makes many people suffer in Greece, especially the Troy and Sparta. The story ends by the destruction of Troy. This story leads to the myth of forming the city, Rome. Two emerging palaces begins to clash after Paris, the Trojan Price, convinces Helen, Queen of Sparta, to leave her husband Menelaus, and sail with him

back to Troy. After Menelaus finds out that his wife is taken by the Trojans, he asks his brother Agamemnon to help him get her back. Agamemnon sees this as an opportunity for power. So they set off with 1,000 ships holding 50,000 Greeks to Troy. With the help of Achilles, the Greeks are able to fight the never before defeated Trojans. But they come to a stop by Hector, Prince of Troy. The whole movie shows their battle struggles, and the foreshadowing of fate in this remake by Wolfgang Petersen of Homer's "The Iliad."

Troy is a masterpiece, a grand, exciting epic film. There are five points of interest in *Troy* film. It can be seen from the casting, costume and properties, the plot, the messages of the film, and the Symbolism.

Wolfgang Petersen is a brilliant director. He used many best actors and actress Hollywood on his film *Troy*. This film has the following cast of actors prominent at the time of its release: Brad Pitt as Achilles, Eric Bana as Hector, Orlando Bloom as Paris, Diane Kruger as Helen, Brian Cox as Agamemnon, Sean Bean as Odysseus, Garrett Hedlund as Patroclus, and Peter O'Toole as Priam. *Troy* is a film adaptation of Homer's classic tale of the Trojan War. The cast and crew of Wolfgang Petersen, David Benioff, Brad Pitt, and Brian Cox deserved to praise. Some of the cast members are the product of very talented and specialized members of the crew who are responsible for computer generated images (CGI). So-called "sword-and-sandal" epic filmmaking was a staple of the movie industry in the 1950s when spectacle was deemed essential to lure potential filmgoers away from their televisions. http://www.enwikipedia.com/wiki/troy/wolfgang_petersen_biography. The

film's star is Brad Pitt. He is probably in the best shape that he has ever been or will be in his life, and the camera lovingly shows as much of him. He plays Achilles, the fiercest and most skilled of the Greek warriors. Achilles is a handful, not only for his enemies but for his allies as well.

In the costume design and properties, Petersen entrusts it to Bob Ringwood as the costume design. He can mix the original Greek costume and make an adaptation with the modern mode. So the costume seems better, more interesting, and simple without ignoring the glamour and authority value. It receives an Oscar nomination for its costume design. Besides the costume design which supports the success of this film, there are also many other properties. Such as the equipments used in the scene of the war.

The Plot of *Troy* is significantly differs from Homer "The illiad". Brad Pitt might be Achilles but David Benioff is not Homer. It is one of the points of interest of *Troy*. David Benioff's screenplay is "inspired" by Homer's "Iliad," which at least is an honest way to characterize what he did in this script. Benioff eliminates the gods, lifeless ghosts of an ancestral religion, who already in Homer appeared to be only vain, even ridiculous puppets. He can bring the story from the paper to the screen and makes the story more alive. The underlying themes revealed in much of the dialogue are very heartfelt and strong.

Wolfgang Petersen *Troy* is full of message values. One of the messages is that *Troy* is a reflection that the bad aspects of human like greed, arrogance and egoism will encourage people to do wickedness and

wrongdoing which make suffering to many others. The audiences hanging in Greek mythology as the past wrongdoing, the sin, and the human nature or myths are used as the major influence of the nature and human experience of life that will make the story up.

This film brings the moral teaching, life picture and human nature which are expressed through its symbolism of the structural elements. Such as: the character and characterization, the setting, point of view, plot, style, and theme. For the example is the character Achilles. This character himself is full of symbolism. Achilles is the symbol of power, a Greek warrior who has never been defeated before. But of course there is no prefect in this world, nothing last forever. He is killed by Paris in his only one weakness, his feet tendon (Achilles' tendon).

Hence, the researcher is interested in this film. In this paper the researcher would analyze symbolism of its structural elements. There are many structural elements of this film. Such as: character, characterization, and casting, setting, plot, point of view, theme, mise-en scene, cinematography, editing and sound. Sometimes, the audiences are confused in understanding the core or the messages which the director employed. Thus, here the writer tries to analyze the symbolism in its structural elements in order to make the story easily understand. In this study the writer intends to conduct a study entitled: **"SYMBOLISM IN WOLFGANG PETERSEN'S *TROY*: STRUCTURAL APPROACH"**.

B. Literature Review

Troy is a film that is interesting to be analyzed. The research of Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* is not a new thing. There are some researchers who have analyzed this film, but the other researchers analyze this film using another approach and tend to use Symbolism analysis to analyze poem or short stories. There is Jumadi Susilo in his research entitled Defense Mechanisms of Achilles Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*: Psychoanalytic Approach, Khotimah entitled Symbolism in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Another research is conducted by Ari Widayanti in her research entitled *A Structural Analysis on the Mystery of Life a poem by John Gambold.*

From the literature review above, the present researcher assumes that there is no researcher who has analyzed Symbolism in Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* using Structural Approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the problem statement of this study is how Symbolism is employed by Wolfgang Petersen in his film entitled *Troy*.

D. Objectives of the Study

In this research paper, the objectives of the study of symbolism in Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* are as follows:

1) To analyze the film in terms of its structure (Structural analysis).

2) To identify and travel the meaning of Symbolism used by Wolfgang Petersen in his film *Troy*.

E. Benefit of the Study

Sometimes, many people face the symbolism in the song lyrics, poems, short stories, novels, and films, but they do not realize the variety. The variety is strange for them. In conducting the research paper, the researcher hopes that the study will have benefits as follow:

1) Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study can be taken as an input for the students, particularly in literary studies on Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy* and people who are interested in Symbolism to enhance their knowledge and their insight about Symbolism using Structural Approach.

2) Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding in literary field, just as the reference to other researcher in analyzing this film in different perspective or spectacles. This study helps the readers to comprehend the meaning of symbol used in the film TROY. The writer hopes that readers are able to catch the content and the meaning of this film easily.

F. Research Method

1. The Type of the Research

The type of the research conducted by the writer is the descriptive qualitative. This research is called descriptive qualitative because firstly, the data found are parts of the dialogues. They must be described before they are analyzed. This step fits in with the method of descriptive research. Secondly, the meaning of an utterance can not be separated from its context. Thus, the qualitative method is employed in this research.

2. The Object of the Research

The object of the research is the symbols in Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*.

3. The Data and Data Source

In conducting the research the writer employs the Video Compact Disk of *Troy*, *Troy* film scripts, the director's biography, essay, comment, homepage and many other pieces of relevant information as the data sources to the analysis of this research.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

The method of data collection is documentation. In this research, the document is the *Troy* film script and the director's biography.

The steps of data collection are:

a. Collecting the Video Compact Disk of *Troy* and the *Troy* film script by browsing the internet.

b. Watching the film carefully and repeatedly in order to get the best understanding of all messages, ideas and other significance points as well as its structural elements.

c. Reading some relevant books to get the theory being used to analyze the film, data and information to support her study.

d. Taking the significant data, then writing some notes of the important part of the sources.

e. Writing the data on the papers.

f. Classifying the data into groups according to the category of the elements of literary study.

5. Technique of Analyzing Data

The technique of data analysis in this research paper is descriptive analysis. It means that the writer interprets the film and analyzes the content by using deductive or inductive methods. This research paper analyses the structural elements of the film, and mostly the particular aspect used as symbols employed on Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*.

G. Research Paper Organization

The study will be arranged in five Chapters. *First* is Introduction, which covers the Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statements, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method involves the Type of the Research, the Object of the Research, Data and Data Source, Technique of Collecting Data and Technique of Analyzing Data and Research Paper Organization. *Second* is Underlying Theory, which covers the Notion of Symbol and Symbolism, Symbol and Symbolism in Literature, The Major Principles, and Theoretical Application. *Third* is Structural Analysis, which covers the Structural Elements, involves: character, characterization, and casting, setting, plot, point of view, theme, *mise-en scene*, cinematography, editing and sound; and Discussion. *Fourth* is the Symbolism Analysis of Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*, which covers the Symbolism Analysis, involves: Character Symbolism, Setting Symbolism, Plot Symbolism, Style Symbolism, Natural Objects Symbolism; and Discussion. *Fifth* is the Conclusion and Suggestion.