

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

August Rush is box office 2007 USA movie directed by Kristen Sheridan and written by Paul Castro and Nick Castle. This movie was released on November, 21 2007 by Entertainment Film Distributors, Ltd with the duration 113 minutes. *August Rush* can be classified a drama movie production by Richard Barton Lewis. This movie is said to be remaking of *Oliver Twist* created by Charles Dickens. The location of making this film is United States of America. This movie has three major characters and nine minor characters, the major characters are Freddie Highmore as Evan Taylor (*August Rush*), Keri Russell as Lyla Novacek, and Jonathan Rhys Meyers as Louis Connelly.

Kristen Sheridan as director in this movie was born in Dublin, Ireland. Before becoming a director, Sheridan studied Film and Television Production at University College Dublin. She lives and works in Dublin, where she has her own film production company, *Blindside Films*. In 2000, she directed her first feature film, "*Disco Pigs*". Sheridan was selected as one of the three finalists in Europe for the Sundance/NHK International Filmmakers Award with "*Disco Pigs*". She was nominated for Best New Director at the British Independent Film Awards and the Irish Film &TV Academy Awards and won the United International Pictures Best Director Award.

August Rush tells about the important thing in the human life that is relationship of family. Beginning with Louis and Lyla, they are a musician. In the first meeting of Louis and Lyla, the meeting becomes the turning point of Lyla's life even though they haven't known yet each other. Louis is a vocalist of a band, while Lyla is a cellist. One night, they meet in one building. They spend the night together in the building till morning by talking about everything. Even, they become too close till they do what the married couples do. When Louis wakes up, he is shocked knowing that Lyla is not beside him anymore. Lyla has gone. When Lyla's father knows her pregnancy, he gets angry. He forbids her to meet with Louis. Even her father brings him to go far away. Lyla's baby is born, but her father tells that her baby dead. She is so shocked and she becomes a stolid woman.

One day, when Evan is eleven years old, he wakes up hearing the music that disturbs his sleep. He walks and follows the music. When Evan has arrived at one town, he is amazed listening many kinds of melodies that he never hears before in the orphanage. He meets a street musician child named Arthur. Evan is so excited having a new friend. He follows wherever Arthur goes. In Arthur's message, Evan meets Wizard. He is a man who employed some street children. Wizard teaches Evan to play a guitar. Evan is so amazing for Wizard since he does not need much time to learn playing a guitar. Even he can play a guitar so well. By having that great ability, Wizard does not want to let him go. He is employed by

Wizard to be a street musician child. Many people are interested in Evan's guitar playing so that he gets much money from them. Wizard teaches that Evan can be his main asset to get more money. He changes Evan's name into "August Rush" since he teaches that Evan is not too good to be a great musician. Thus, Wizard looks for some contracts in many clubs but none succeed. One day, there is a search warrant in Wizard's house that is reports by an employee of social foundation named Jeffries. Jeffries tells to the police that he ever sees a child that is being looked for by an orphanage and he is Evan.

August does not want to live in an orphanage anymore since he wants to meet his own parents. August escapes till he meets a little girl in a church. That girl teaches him playing piano and she is Hope. Through piano, August creates marvelous Mozart melody. A priest is so amazed when he knows August's piano playing. Thus, he enrolls August in a music school, Juilliard. There, August is taught by some professional teachers. Even, he can rearrange a rhapsody composition with his own rhapsody. The headmaster of Juilliard decides that August should join in an orchestra music concert that will be held in Garden Park (the New York philharmonic orchestra). August is so amazed knowing the headmaster's offer. He begins to train with the other orchestra musicians. However, when he is training, Wizard appears and forced August to follow him. August feels that he obliged to him because he is the first man who has taught him about music. Then, August becomes a street musician again.

When he is playing a guitar, Louis joins with him playing guitar together till they had conversation. August tells that he will join in a concert but he cannot go there since he has to follow Wizard. Louis advises him that “a musician would never stop playing music though whatever happened around him”. August realized that he should do what he has to do.

The story ends when August is in a station, he escapes from Wizard and goes to the concert that has been being begun. It is so unaware; August is playing with Lyla, his mother in the stage. Lyla enjoys what he is playing. Thus, Louis also enjoys the music in the garden park. They gather as a family since the melody that they are listening.

This movie also gets a great appreciation from International society. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Song awards from Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films, USA 2008 Won *Saturn Award Best Performance by a Younger Actor*, Freddie Highmore. This movie also gets young artist award 2008 Won Category/Recipients: Best Family Feature Film (Comedy or Drama), Best Performance in a Feature Film - Supporting Young Actor - Fantasy or Drama (Leon Thomas III). *August Rush* was released on Blitz Megaplex on January 2008 and was released on DVD on March 10, 2008.

August Rush received nominations in four Academy Awards. In the category of young actress in leading the role, it was reached by Freddie Highmore. Kerri Russell won Teen choice award in 2008. In the same year, Freddie Highmore also got Saturn and Critics Choice Awards.

The market also shows the successful of *August Rush* the movie of the year. The film was released in the United States and Blitz Megaplex. In international gets gross \$33,963,348 and \$65,627,510 in worldwide. In this movie, the market also produced \$22,060,321 in US DVD sales.

At least, there are some reasons why the researcher chooses *August Rush* movie. The first is the story itself, the story is so touching, instead causes expectation especially to Evan Taylor character. Not only love story, this movie provides other side of life, a struggle to meet a parents or family, struggle to found belief, struggle to reach a dream.

The plot is the second appeal of *August Rush* movie. The story can move so interesting because flash back plot is chosen. Telling about musicians, love, treachery, clannish and suffering, this movie gives messages about the importance of child in family, beside the theme of family and its problem, is the dominant issue.

The cinematography contributes the plus score to this movie and it is the third appeal of this movie. Sheridan perfectly creates every scene appropriate to the situation of the real period. Supported by high technology in lighting, sound, properties, dressing, and make up, these help Sheridan make this movie successfully. The lighting and sound shows the perfect imitation of every scene. It was added by the dressing and makes up which support the performances of the actors and actresses become more maximum. The movie has now grossed \$31,529,568 worldwide.

Setting of place in *August Rush* also the fourth appeals of this movie, there are three places occurs in this movie. There are New York, San Francisco and Chicago. Sheridan chooses setting of places to complete the story in the movie.

In fact people can solve their problems automatically through their daily life. Human being cannot be separated from the phenomenon and reality life. Some people may see problems as a challenge in their lives and drive them to solve the problems. Besides that, people also can find some persons who give different reaction: they may see those problems as a border and have no clues to solve the problems. The complexities consist of sadness, happiness, hesitation, and anxiety, which appear in life as evidences that every human has thought and feeling

The psychology aspect is very interesting for the researcher to create the literary works. They depict the psychic condition of human being through their literary works. Here, individual identity of the man as a part of psychological studies gets special attention from Kristen Sheridan, one of famous director. The ways that are done by one of major character to fulfill her desire are clearly portrayed in one of her movies, *August Rush*.

The search for individual identity becomes the issue chosen by the researcher in this movie. Evan Taylor as one of major characters implies its problems. Searching from his parents, Lyla and Louis bring out a power expectation to his. He is mature enough to know and understand

everything around about music. In spite of the fact that what he has done could not change anything, at least he tried the best he can.

Based on the reason above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the relationship of the major character that shows the power of life. Specifically, this study will be analyzed by using psychological approach entitled **THE SEARCH FOR INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY IN SHERIDAN'S *AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE: PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

This movie is exciting, inspirational, worthy and has a sense. As far as the researcher knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study the *August Rush* the movie, at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta region. She just found two sources that related to this study, they are an article and a journal. The first is a journal entitled *August Rush- A Feel Good* in a website that posted by Mark H. Leichliter, at 07:56 PM it cited the *August Rush* contains a bit over-sweet that make the movie truly feel about hope, such hope of characters to believe in the improbable.

The second source is an article entitled *Romance Movies Site* by M. Alanna Morgan, this article tell about *August Rush* movie itself. Additionally she said that this movie is very prettified and romantic, with a discreet fade to tinkling wind chimes.

This research has differences compared by the previous study. The previous studies concern on the movie version of *August Rush* while the researcher uses the movie script.

C. Problem Statement

The problem is this study can be composed as follow “How is individual identity reflected in this movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on one of major characters, Evan, in case of Evan’s decision in search for individual identity using psychological perspective, especially using Jean Piaget’s theory to exploring the psychology of Evan, the researcher use cognitive development . The using of this theory refers to the provided theory for the researcher’s need in exploring Evan’s psychology.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze *August Rush* the movie based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze *August Rush* the movie viewed from psychological perspective, especially Jean Piaget’s theory.

F. Benefits of the Study

The Benefits of this study can be drawn as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give a real contribution and inspiration to the literary study especially psychological criticism of *August Rush* the movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to help the writer and the reader to get deeper understanding about the movie in analyzing a literary work.

G. Research Method

1) Type of the Study

The writer uses descriptive qualitative research because there is no need a statistic calculation.

2) Object of the Study

The object of the study is divided into two; these are formal object and material object. The formal object is search for individual identity which appears in this movie while the material object is *August Rush* movie itself.

3) Types of the Data and the Data Source

The writer uses scenes and dialogues as the type of the data and added by the script to get more understanding. The script itself consists

of sentences, phrases and words. The data source is divided into two kinds, namely primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data

The primary data are taken from *August Rush* movie directed by Kristen Sheridan from Universal Pictures and the script movie written by Paul Castro and Nick Castle.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are taken from other sources related movie such as biography of the author and other relevant information.

4) Technique of Data Collection

In conducting this study, the writer uses the technique as follows:

a. Note taking

b. Scene capturing

The steps which are used by the writer are as follows:

a. Watching the movie

b. Reading the script movie

c. Classifying the data

d. Browsing in the internet to look for related information such as movie script, movie's identity, public response, etc

e. Reading relevant books

5) Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and Psychological Approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II will be underlying theory dealing with notion of psychology of literature, cognitive psychology, structural elements of the movie, and theoretical applications. Chapter III will be structural analysis, in this chapter the writer explains the structural elements of the movie. Chapter IV will be psychological analysis, and chapter V will be conclusion and suggestion.