

THE ANXIETY OF ROSE DA SILVA IN CHRISTOPHE GANS' *SILENT HILL* MOVIE (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

One of the real problems in human's daily life is anxiety. Anxiety can include many aspects of life such as social, economic, religious and cultural aspect. Everyone has anxiety in his life. Commonly people do not like problem because they tend to get pleasure in their life.

When human gets problem in his life and cannot solve it, he tries as far as he can to avoid it. But human cannot escape from this problem. By avoiding it, human will get anxiety in his life. Problem cannot be avoided. Human must overcome it and handle his problem because it can reduce the anxiety.

As one of the psychoanalytic principles, anxiety is part of psychology studies. The foremost investigator of the psychoanalytic is Vienna neurologist and psychologist Sigmund Freud. Freud (in Feist, 1985: 25) theorizes that the root of human problems is psychological, not physical. He divides the psyche into three parts: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

In literature, human problem sometimes becomes the interesting things to explore. The problem is sometimes pictured by an author. The problem is then developed by an author to create a story of his own. An author blends it in a story that becomes one of work of arts. One of the authors that is created

and pictures one of human problems is Christophe Gans. He creates a movie that is capturing and reflecting one of human problems in a form of movie.

Born in 1960 in Antibes (in the South of France), Christophe Gans was crazy about movies at an early stage. As a teenager, he made a lot of samurai and kung fu super-8 films with his friends. At the end of the seventies, he founded the fanzine "Rhesus Zero" about B-movies. In 1980, he studied at the French cinema school *Idhec* and directed a short movie called "*Silver Slime*", a tribute to Mario Bava. In 1982, he founded the magazine "*Starfix*" and defended directors like David Cronenberg, Dario Argento, Russel Mulcahy, David Lynch, John Carpenter or Sergio Leone. He decided to make movies and directed one of the three parts of *Necronomicon* (1994) called "*The Drowned*", then "*Crying Freeman*" from the famous Japanese manga. Gans created the video collection "HK" devoted to Hong Kong movies. He worked for two years on a free adaptation of Jules Verne's "20,000 Leagues under the Sea" but the project failed. In 1999, he was asked to make *Pacte des loups, Le* (2001) ("Brotherhood of the Wolf") about the Beast of *Gévaudan*, an unknown animal who killed more than one hundred people in France at the end of 18th century. The movie was released in January 2001 and was a great success (more than five million people saw it).

The last movie is the "*Silent Hill*", a movie that is adapted from a Japanese game with the same title. The film was released to theaters on April 21, 2006 in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, and Ireland. France, Belgium, Hungary, and Greece also saw April releases. The film was later

released in 19 other countries in 2006 which include Russia, Germany, Spain, Italy, Japan, and Mexico. Advanced screenings of *Silent Hill* were not given to critics by the distributor, and so no reviews could be printed until after the movie's release. *Metacritic's* average critic's score is 30 out of 100. *Rotten Tomatoes* reports a 29% rating on the review aggregator, based on 89 reviews. *Silent Hill* is in the top 10 video game film adaptations listing on Box Office Mojo (from 1980 to present). *Silent Hill* is at #9, behind *Resident Evil: Extinction*, which grossed domestically \$50 million.

Silent Hill movie tells about Rose and her husband, Christopher Da Silva who are concerned about their adopted daughter, Sharon, who has been experiencing extreme nightmares and sleepwalking while screaming the name of a town, "Silent Hill". Desperate for answers, Rose takes Sharon to Silent Hill. As they enter the town, she is chased by a police motorcycle driven by police officer Cybil Bennett. A mysterious child appears in the middle of the road, causing Rose to swerve and crash the car, knocking herself unconscious. When she awakens, Sharon is nowhere to be seen, and mist and falling ash blanket the town.

Rose wanders the empty streets of Silent Hill looking for her daughter. Instead, she encounters a series of monstrous creatures that appear after loud sirens wail. Rose also comes across a woman named Dahlia Gillespie who speaks of terrible things done to her own daughter, Alessa, by the towns people. She claims that Sharon is Alessa. Rose then returns to the car and runs

into Cybil, who arrests her. Together they discover that the road leading out of town has disappeared. They pair up to battle the monsters in the town.

Scenes of their search are interspersed with scenes of Christopher's seemingly simultaneous search of the town (which is shown to be abandoned but otherwise normal; no mist, no falling ash), with the reluctant assistance of Officer Thomas Gucci , who admits to having grown up in Silent Hill. Christopher discovers documents showing the town was abandoned after a coal seam fire 30 years ago, along with a photo of Dahlia's daughter who bears a remarkable resemblance to Sharon. He is told to stop investigating Silent Hill under threat of incarceration. Faced with this, Christopher reluctantly gives up the search and heads home.

Rose and Cybil meet a woman named Anna, who leads them to the town church for refuge. The siren blares as they approach the building, and Anna is killed by Pyramid Head ripping off her skin. In the church, Rose and Cybil discover a cult, headed by Christabella. Christabella tells Rose about "the demon" and that it knows where Sharon is. After convincing Christabella that she wants to find "the demon" so feared by the townspeople, Rose (along with Cybil) is taken to a hospital in the town. Here, Christabella learns of the likeness between Sharon and Alessa and condemns Rose and Cybil as witches. Cybil lets herself become captured and beaten with pipes by the townspeople in order for Rose to escape and descend into the basement of the hospital. There, Rose encounters a badly burned figure – Alessa – in a hospital bed and a mysterious little girl who strongly resembles the missing Sharon.

In a flashback, Rose discovers that Silent Hill has a long history of ritual witch burnings, stemming from the Puritan-like beliefs of the cult. Thirty years prior to the movie, Alessa was heavily stigmatized as an incarnation of sin for having been born out of wedlock by an unknown father (who is suggested to be of supernatural origin, a classic Lovecraftian device): her schoolmates bully and humiliate her, with adults making no effort to protect her. Dahlia, Alessa's mother, agrees to Christabella's suggestions that she allow the cult to 'restore the innocence' in Alessa. When not allowed to follow her daughter into the ritual, Dahlia realizes her intentions and runs for the police. Alessa is subjected to a hideous ritual burning: the conditions of her birth are seen as marks of sin, for which they must burn her. However, in the midst of the ritual, the cage by which she is suspended directly above the red hot coals swings, dumping the coal and causing a fire. When Dahlia returns with the police, Alessa is horribly burnt but still alive. Rose learns that the manifestation of Alessa's remaining innocence and goodness took Sharon's likeness and led Rose through her journey. After the flashback, Rose is told that she must aid Alessa in her revenge by granting her entry to the church; she is also told that Christabella will soon find the real Sharon and attempt to burn her as well.

Rose enters the church soon after Cybil has already been burned to death by the townspeople, and Sharon is about to suffer a similar fate. She confronts the townspeople and Christabella with her new knowledge of the truth, attempting to convince the cult that they are in denial of their own fate.

Christabella stabs Rose, causing her blood to drip onto the church floor. The blood serves as a portal, and Alessa rises out of a pit and proceeds to kill Christabella and the townspeople with long tendrils of barbed wire, leaving Dahlia, Rose, and Sharon the only survivors. Rose and Sharon leave Silent Hill and return home. Although Rose and Sharon are in the same room as Christopher (who has also returned home), they cannot see each other.

Silent Hill, Movie by Christophe Gans is an interesting movie. The writer discovers four reasons why choosing this movie. The first reason is this movie is simple. The writer finds that this movie is simple because this movie uses traditional plot in which the story has relation each other to make cause effect relation from the beginning until the end of story, so it helps the viewers and the writer in understanding the story.

The second reason is attractive plot. The conflict from the early moment plays the audience emotion. It makes the movie become not boring to watch.

The third reason is challenging. This movie is challenging because the writer finds there are several aspects and there are still many interesting characters in this movie that challenge to be explored.

The Last reason is theme in the movie. The movie has close relationship with psychoanalytic and literary work which has involved in anxiety. Here the anxiety occurs when Rose Da Silva goes to Silent Hill and loses her daughter. In Search, she is startled by the strange things. It is clear that *Silent Hill* has anxiety in the main character; the psychoanalytic approach

by Sigmud Freud is suitable to analyze this movie through the major character Rose Da Silva.

The writer is interested in observing the personality of the main character (Rose Da Silva) in *Silent Hill* focusing in anxiety. This research will observe the anxiety of Rose Da Silva by employing Psychoanalytic Perspective. The writer proposes a research entitled “THE ANXIETY OF ROSE DA SILVA IN CHRISTOPHE GANS’ *SILENT HILL* MOVIE (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.”

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

The writer is not the first person who analyzes this movie. To prove the originality of the research the writer found several previous research. As far as the writer knows, the researches on the movie *Silent Hill* have been conducted by two students.

The first research is Diah Kristanti, (2007, Satya Wacana Christian University) conducted a researcher entitled “*A descriptive study on the use of American-English address terms in the movie entitled Silent Hill, a psychoanalytic approach*”. This research is a kind of research that takes account on the discussion of address term by taking the data from the movie manuscript. The data are all of the dialogues which contain address terms used by characters of the movie. The analysis is limited to the main character, Rose Da Silva and the other supporting characters. This research paper elaborates about script conversation and studying about mistake in script conversation in

Silent Hill Movie. The present writer wants to focus on analyzing the anxiety reflected in the movie using psychoanalytic approach. She finds the structural elements of Rose Da Silva's in *Silent Hill* and also he finds the anxiety reflected in *Silent Hill* movie is the personality reaction.

Furthermore, Siska Amalia (2009, Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta) is in her research entitled "*Anxiety In Silent Hill Movie directed by Christophe Gans and written by Roger Avary, a Psychoanalytic Approach*". The data of this study are taken from the expression in drama movies. The movie is *Silent Hill*. This movie tells about a mother who takes her troubled daughter to Silent Hill, the town that the girl cries out for while she is sleepwalking. In collecting the data, the writer uses two techniques of collecting data, they are observation and library research. She analyzes the anxiety of the main characters using psychoanalytic approach. She finds the structural elements of Christophe Gans in *Silent Hill Movie* and also she finds the anxiety reflected in *Silent Hill* movie is the personality reaction.

Based on the previous research above, the positioning of this research is to try extending previous studies on psychoanalysis. This study focuses on Anxiety of Rose Da Silva, one of the major characters in the movie by psychoanalytic approach. In the study the researcher gives title "*Anxiety of Rose Da Silva in Christophe Gans' Silent Hill Movie (2006): A Psychoanalytic Approach*".

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the writer formulates a single problem statement. The major problem of this study is “How is the anxiety of Rose Da Silva reflected in Christophe Gans’ *Silent Hill* Movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

This study limits the idea focusing on the major character namely Rose Da Silva. The researcher is going to analyze Rose Da Silva’s character viewed from the psychoanalytic approach

E. Objective of the Study

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

- a. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot and theme.
- b. To analyze the movie especially the character of Rose Da Silva using Psychoanalytic Perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the study is expected to give contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of psychoanalytic analysis in literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing the movie that is analyzed in this research into different perspective.

G. Research Method

To analyze the data found in this movie, the writer uses the qualitative method in this study.

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Silent Hill* the movie.

2. Type of the Data Source

In this chance, the author uses two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources these are:

a. Primary data source

The primary data source of this paper is *Silent Hill* the movie produced by Christophe Gans.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data sources are taken from others, which are related to the primary data, such as the biography of the author in *Silent Hill*, and the other resources that support the analysis of the movie.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The Technique used for collecting data is library research. The steps are as follows:

a. Watching the movie repeatedly

b. Finding the important data

- c. Arranging data into several parts based on its classification
- d. Developing data provided.
- e. Making notes of the parts relevant to the analysis

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used to analyze the data is, clarifying the obtained data, selecting the necessary data and excluding the unnecessary one. And then the researcher analyzes the data based on theory of psychoanalytic.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, covering the Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, and Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method and Paper Organization. The second chapter deals with theoretical approach used in analyzing *Silent Hill* the movie. It describes the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud and some proponents of this theory, which consists of the *id*, the *ego*, *superego*, the *anxiety* and the application of it. The third chapter deals with the structural analysis of the literary work, which includes the character and the characterization, setting, plot, and other elements, which construct the literary work. The fourth chapter analyzes the movie dealing with the problem of the major character by using psychoanalytic perspective. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.