

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

300 is a 2007 film adaptation of the graphic novel of the same name by Frank Miller, and is a fictionalized retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae. The film was directed by Zack Snyder while Miller served as executive producer and consultant. The film was shot mostly with a super imposition chrome key technique, to help replicate the imagery of the original comic book.

And in this movie 300 Spartan, King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) and 300 Spartans fight to the last man against Persian "God-King" Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) and his army of more than one million soldiers. As the battle rages, Spartan Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey) attempts to rally support in Sparta for her husband. The story is framed by a voice-over narrative by the Spartan soldier Dilios (David Wenham). Through this narrative technique, various fantastical creatures are introduced, placing 300 within the genre of historical fantasy.

And 300 movie was released in both conventional and IMAX theaters in the United States on March 9, 2007, and on DVD, Blue-ray, and HD DVD on July 31, 2007. The film's opening was the 24th largest in box office history, although critics were divided over its look and style. Some acclaimed it as an original achievement, while others criticized it for favoring visuals over characterization and its controversial depiction of the ancient Persians

The writer of *300* Spartan is Zack Snyder and he was born March 1, 1966. He is an American filmmaker, screenwriter and producer. After making his feature film debut with the 2004 remake *Dawn of the Dead*, he gained wide recognition with the 2007 box office hit *300*, adapted from writer-artist Frank Miller's Dark Horse Comics miniseries of the same name, and later went on to co-write and direct the 2009 superhero film *Watchmen*.

Snyder was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and was raised in Greenwich, Connecticut. His father was an executive recruiter and his mother was a painter and a photography teacher at Day Croft School, which Snyder later attended. Zack attended Camp Owatonna in Harrison, Maine during the summer months as a child. Snyder's mother inspired him to study painting a year after high school at Heatherley School of Fine Art in England, although he had already begun filmmaking. Afterward, Snyder attended with the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California (where his classmates included Michael Bay and Tarsem Singh). Snyder still lives in Pasadena with his second wife, producer Deborah Snyder, and his six children. Snyder went on to shoot, as a director and cinematographer, television commercials for such clients as the automobile companies Audi, BMW, and Nissan, among others. Other commercial work has been for clients including Nike, Reebok, and Gatorade.

Snyder made his feature film debut with the remake *Dawn of the Dead* (2004), and scored a box office hit with *300* (2007), adapted from writer-artist Frank Miller's Dark Horse Comics miniseries of the same name. His Warner

Bros. film *Watchmen* was released on March 6, 2009; the film made \$25,153,000 on its first day. His follow-up project titled *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* is currently filming, due for release in 2010. In the fall of 2009, Zack Snyder was scheduled to start work on a film called *Sucker Punch*, which was scheduled for release in late 2010. The movie is based on an original script, written by Snyder and Steve Shibuya, about an insane young woman who fantasizes of escape with her fellow inmates. Snyder was also approached to make *X-Men: the Last Stand*, as well as the prequel *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. He turned down the latter because he was busy filming *Watchmen*.

Snyder often uses slow motion in fight scenes in his films, which Amy Nicholson of *Box office* magazine remarked separates the director from other filmmakers who make multiple cuts and close-ups during a fight. A minute-long shot from *300* shows King Leonidas walking down as he slaughters his enemies, and the camera only zooms in and out to emphasize each kill. He has recently faced some criticism for *Watchmen*, on the grounds of the studio's decision to market him as a "visionary director", in spite of his scarce filmography and less than auspicious reception of his previous works. Snyder's body of work has earned him a number of awards, including two Clio Awards and a Gold Lion Award for his Jeep "Frisbee" commercial. He also won an award for his humorous commercial "General's Party": *Dawn of the Dead* (2004), *300* (2007), *Watchmen* (2009), *Guardians of Ga'Hoole* (2010), *Sucker Punch* (2010)

Letter then this is synopsis of 300 Spartan. Through Dilios' narration, the life of young Leonidas is depicted, chronicling his journey from a boy to a man per Spartan doctrine. Years later, after Leonidas is crowned King, Persian messengers arrive at the gates of Sparta demanding its submission to King Xerxes. Offended by their threats and behavior, King Leonidas and his guards kick the messengers into a well. Knowing that these actions will precipitate a Persian attack, Leonidas visits the Ephors ancient priests whose blessing he needs to convince the Spartan council to authorize going to war. He proposes a strategy to repel the numerically superior Persians by using the terrain of Thermopylae (the Hot Gates) his plan involves funneling the Persians into a narrow pass between the rocks and the sea. The Ephors consult the Oracle, who decrees that Sparta must not go to war. After Leonidas departs a messenger from Xerxes appears, rewarding the Ephors for their covert support and revealing that they have been corrupted by Xerxes.

Denied by the Ephors, Leonidas follows his plan anyway. While he does not require the council's permission for this, taking such a small force turns what had been a bold strategy into a certain suicide mission. Leonidas hopes that the sacrifice of himself and his men will spur the council to defy the Ephors and all of Greece to unite against the threat to freedom and democracy (represented by Greece) posed by slavery and tyranny (represented by Persia).

Along the way to Thermopylae, the Spartans are joined by Arcadians and various other Greeks. They construct a wall at Thermopylae to contain the approaching Persian advance. Meanwhile, Leonidas encounters Ephialtes, a

hunchbacked Spartan whose parents fled Sparta to spare him certain infanticide. Ephialtes asks to redeem his father's name by joining Leonidas, warning him of a secret path the Persians could use to outflank and surround them. Leonidas is sympathetic to the eager warrior but rejects him, as Ephialtes cannot properly hold a shield, which would compromise the Spartans' phalanx formation.

Prior to the battle, the Persians demand that the Spartans lay down their weapons. Leonidas refuses, and with their tightly-knit phalanx formation the Spartans use the narrow terrain to repeatedly rebuff the advancing Persian army. Xerxes personally approaches Leonidas to persuade him to surrender, offering Leonidas wealth and power in exchange for his loyalty. Leonidas declines, promising instead to make the "God-King" bleed. Outraged, Xerxes sends in his elite guard, the Immortals, whom the Spartans dispatch. As the Spartans continue to defeat Xerxes' forces, Ephialtes defects to the Persian king and reveals the location of the secret path. When they realize Ephialtes treachery, the Arcadians retreat. Leonidas orders a reluctant Dilios to return to Sparta to tell the Council of their sacrifice.

In Sparta, Queen Gorgo reluctantly submits sexually to the influential Theron in exchange for help in persuading the Spartan council to send reinforcements to Leonidas. Following her address to the Council, Theron publicly betrays the Queen, prompting the councilmen to cry out in outrage and Gorgo to kill him out of rage, which spills open a bag of Xerxes' gold from his robe. The exposure of Theron's treachery, along with their Queen's

plea, prompts the Council to unite against Persia. Meanwhile, at Thermopylae, the Persians use the goat path to surround the Spartans. Xerxes' general demands their surrender, again offering Leonidas titles and prestige. Leonidas seemingly bows in submission, allowing one of his men to leap over him and kill the general. A furious Xerxes orders his troops to attack. As Persian archers shoot at the remaining Spartans, Leonidas rises and hurls his spear at Xerxes, cutting the King on the cheek, thus making good on his promise to make "the God-King bleed." Visibly disturbed by this reminder of his

own mortality, Xerxes watched as all of the Spartans are cut down by a massive barrage of arrows. Concluding his tale before an audience of attentive Spartans, Darius declares that the Persian army, depleted by desertions out of fear of the heavy casualties they suffered at the hands of a mere 300 Spartans, now faces 10,000 Spartans commanding 30,000 Greeks. Although still outnumbered, Darius declares that the Greeks shall have victory. Praising Leonidas' sacrifice, Darius leads the assembled Greek army in a charge against the Persian army, igniting the Battle of Plataea.

The writer is interested in the research in 300 Spartan movies the first this caused by war of colonization opponent. The dictionary describes grind, slavery as "an action wish to master and deceased". And the second caused any Grind very jell with the grind and slavery in this movies. And the third Leonidas wives who volunteer give any kind of for the shake of assisting its husband, and any problem that interested is important to research for this paper. And in this case, the grind Xerxes to nation Persian in Zack Snyder

300, who wants to this matter visible how Xerxes wish to master the Spartan to be made its slave and the mentioned make the writer check with the Marxism approach.

Considering the explanation and the fact above, the writer is interested in analyzing *300 Spartan* by using marxist Approach, entitled THE GRIND OF KING XERSES TO NATION SPARTAN IN 300 SPARTAN DIRECTED BY ZACK SNYDER (2007): A MARXIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

The researcher takes the research paper entitled “A class struggle reflected in 300 Sparta: a Marxist perspective” by Desi Wulandari (UNS, 2008). In this research, she found that the struggle Leonidas using theory perspective Marxist in *300 Sparta Movie*. And her researches by using a class struggle, a class struggle is very compatible used to check the *300 Sparta* movie because there are the struggles of Leonidas expressing its struggle in this *300 Sparta Movie*. So *300 Sparta Movie* is analyzed based on a class struggle by using A Marxist perspective.

The other previous study which takes entitled “*A struggle of Spartan maintain their independence in 300 Sparta: a Marxist perspective*” by Bayu ssongkoi (UMS, 2010). In this research, she found that there are many struggle which is there are in this movie including struggle of Leonidas and nation of Persia.

The previous study has similarity with this research, first previous study is research about a class struggle. Second previous study is research

about a Marxist theory. In the meantime, the previous study has differences from this research. The differences of this study and two previous studies are in the theme, theory and the perspective. The researcher identifies and limits the problems struggle nation Persian and grind Leonidas in *300 Spartan* Movie uses A Marxist Approach.

In this occasion, the researcher takes Marxist Approach to analyze grind of King Xerses to Persian, related one of the major characters in this movie who grind and fight for the Persian from king Xerses.

C. Problem Statement

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as “How is grind of king Xerses to the Nation reflected in *300 spartan movie* Persian”?

D. Objectives of the Study.

According to the problem statement above, the writer has some objective on this study as follows:

1. To analyze movie based on structural elements by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, and theme.
2. To analyze the movie based on grind king Xerses to nation Persian which he want glorious and get crown of Persia *The 300 Spartan* movie by Marxist Approach?

E. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. The writer will only focus on

how that slavery is conducted by king Xerxes to people Persia in *300 Spartan* movies by using Marxist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By so doing, the writer expects some benefits are produced from this research, those are:

1. Theoretical Benefit:

By doing this research, the writer wants to have contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing criticism as objective as possible.

2. Practical Benefit

This research has benefit to give deeper understanding about the content of the play especially from the Marxist approach in *300 Spartan* the movie.

G. Research Method

In doing a research, the writer should apply a method so that the research can be done systematically. The methods of the research are follows:

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative research. It is a library research while data source are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using marxist approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *300 Spartan* that is written in 2007, published by Zack, United States, on March 9, 2007, and on DVD, Blue-ray, and HD DVD on July 31, 2007. The film's opening was the 24th largest in box office.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the movie itself, *300 Spartan* by Zack Snyder.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual references.

4. Techniques of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study uses the library research by selecting both primary and secondary data. The writer will involve some required steps.

- a. Watching *300 Spartan* movies.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its classifications

- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data.

5. Technique of the Data Analyse

The steps of analyzing the data of this research are by analyzing the structural elements of the work and analyzing the Marxist perspectives of the work. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.

H. Research Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters; the first chapter is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, and limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology, and research paper organization. The second chapter is Underlying Theory which consists of Notion of Humanistic Psychological and the theory of Humanistic Psychological theory that consist of physiological needs, safety needs, needs for love, affection, and belongingness, needs for self – esteem, needs for actualization, Structural Elements of the Movie and Theoretical Application. The third chapter is Structural analysis of the movie, which involves the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, and theme. The fourth chapter is Humanistic Psychological Analysis. The last is fifth chapter out the conclusion and the suggestion of the analysis result.