

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human in this world have different opinions about the way of life. It is inevitable that every person has problems and conflicts because life in the world will not always go smoothly and evenly. Every conflict can cause a sense of dismay, anxiety and even distress. Moreover, if the conflict that is faced is related to individual's moral. Every individual has moral level that is different, therefore, everyone has different views and different perception about personal behavior, about something that is right or something that is wrong. Moral conflict will arise when there is controversy if what is considered correct, is contrast with arguments of others.

My Sister's Keeper is a movie that tells about sacrifice, compassion, freedom, justice and also about moral conflicts. This film is an American drama that is able to touch the hearts of the audience, turn on the emotions and feelings of the audiences. The film is starred by Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin, Sofia Vassilieva, and Alec Baldwin and adapted from a novel by Jodi Picoult that has the same title. The film, directed by Nick Cassavetes is an American drama and released on 26 June

2009. This film lasted about 109 minutes. The film is adapted from the novel by Jodi Picoult with the same title, *My Sister's Keeper*.

Nick Cassavetes is a filmmaker and he is also an American film actor. He was born in Lebanon May 21, 1959. As a child, Cassavetes Nick has been playing the movie, because he was the son of a couple who are both career in the industry of film art. This can be seen from his presence in the film industry since childhood. When he was little, he played in his father's films, namely *Husbands* (1970) and *A Woman Under the Influence* (1974). Actually Cassavete ideal is not to work in the film industry, he was aspired to become an athlete of basketball and he was trying to live to play basketball. However playing basketball made him be injured and he changed his mind and forgot these ideal. Cassavete then tried to re-engage in the film industry. He decided to attend his Parents' alma mater, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He had appeared in some of films. *My Sister's Keeper* is one of America's movie with theme of love and sacrifice, and combined with the themes of justice and equal rights for every human.

The story begins when Kate, a daughter of the couple husband and wife, Brian and Sara Fitzgerald Fitzgerald convicts suffering of leukemia. Kate has been suffered from the deadly disease since she was still very early. Certainly, Brian and Sara are very panic to hear the verdict from doctor, stating that their daughter is still very young suffering leukemia, especially her mother, Sara is very sad to hear that. Then they find a way out and continue to strive so that their child can survive and recover from the disease, although they know that the possibility of a cure is very

small. Not long after that, the doctor who handles Kate, gives a suggestion which is very surprising. He suggests Brian and Sara to do the IVF process, in which genetic cells of IVF can be created and arranged as desired. From the IVF process, was born Ana Fitzgerald that her genetically 100% matches with Kate. Ana is a child who is accidentally born through IVF to sustain the survival of her sister, she is a sister's keeper. Here is a remarkable story begins. Since young, Ana is designed to donate her organs, such as her blood, then when she is five, she should donate her lymphocyte and at six years she donates her granulocytes. Even when she is very young, she is forced to donate her bone marrow, through the process of making the spinal cord is very scary, especially for children. To retrieve the spinal cord, Ana's hip must be injected with a very big injection. After donating her bone marrow, Ana must be hospitalized because there are some complications. Then the story continues when Kate's kidneys have started to not work anymore, Ana's mother forces her to give a kidney to Kate.

Ana's struggle begins, she knows that the kidney is a life and death for her. Ana realizes that someone who has to live with one kidney only, will not be as normal as other people who live fairly with complete kidneys. Anna who still wants to have fun with her childhood, should retain for not doing activities if she has only a kidney. Then Ana decided to hire a lawyer to sue her mother for not taken her kidney, Ana wants to have proper of her organs. In the course of her life as a child, Ana has a lot of donated organs and does blood transfusions many times. When she was teens,

Ana has find an opinion that she must fight for her life. Ana thinks that she has right to live and lead a normal like everyone else, especially not to support her sister alive. Ana is entitled to the organs of her body, although it is for reasons of humanity especially her sister, but her mother has no right to force her to continuously sacrificing for her sister. With all of these reasons, she hires a lawyer who will help her to face her case with her mother.

There are some responses from audience, society and industry film after this movie was released. Conflicts presented in this movie are about humanity, Human rights, freedom and affection. There are many unexpected surprises in this film, the audience will not think the incident that happened turned out to be like that. This film raises many responses from the audiences, find various confusion about the plot and ending of the movie have been spinning in mind of the audiences. The director makes this movie full of surprises events beyond measure. The director plays the audiences' mind and then turning on one event that may not be predictable by the audiences. This is what makes this film is not bored and always cultivates curiosity of the audience. Besides, this film can make the audiences cry because this drama really touches the heart and feelings. *My Sister's Keeper* novel that is written by Jodi Picoult gets a lot of reactions from various parties of society, variety of praise from critics. Besides Cameron Diaz, the film also stars Alec Baldwin and Abigail Breslin. In the previous, Kate and Anna's role is offered on *The Fanning Sisters*, Dakota Fanning and Elle Fanning. However, once she finds out that she is required to cut out

hair, Dakota and then decided to resign from this movie, and then Elle also resigns. New Line Cinema released the film in 2009.

There are many opinions from the audiences about this movie, positive and negative responses. There are some of the positive responses. The first response is from Daniel M. Kimmel who argues that *My Sister's Keeper* is an intelligent, moving and even occasionally funny, although might want to bring along a few tissues just in case. Then the second response is from Margaret Pomeranz, she said that in the movie there is a touch of contrivance to the set-up that is not totally convincing and the film avoids much of the ethical arguments in favor of family drama, but must admit to being affected. And the next response from Bruce Bennett who commented that *My Sister's Keeper* navigates a Minefield of emotional explosives intelligently and sensitively, balance between heartfelt and hand-wringing.

On the contrary, there are some negative responses from the audience. The first response is from Leigh Paatsch who argues that the Motives of *My Sister's Keeper* earnest seem dubious to some, there is no denying the performances on display that keep everything in the realm of the watchable. Then the second negative response is put forward by Rubin Safaya who argues that the film has its flaws and swims in meticulously crafted schmaltz, yet has a well-conceived also tender moments hiding in the fringes. The next negative response is from Brian Orndorf with the obnoxious comments that what smothers calculation should've been a pure articulation of melancholy and a potent debate of morality.

The film's production also gives response for this movie. It can be seen from awards that are given for this movie. Some of them are Teen Choice Award (2009), as the winner by categories of Choice Movie Drama Summer. For the players, Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin both receive the ALMA Awards, as winners in the category Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture for Cameron Diaz, best Performance in a Feature Film - Leading Young Actress for Abigail Breslin, in the award of the Young Artist Awards, as nomination in the category Best Performance in a Feature Film - Supporting Actor, obtained by Brennan Bailey, as well as awards from the Young Artist Awards, as winners in the category of Best Performance in a Feature Film - Supporting Actress which was won by Sofia Vassilieva.

There are five reasons why this movie is interesting. The first is the theme raised in this film blends of compassion, freedom, human rights and human sense. Themes that are attractively raised in the movie not monotonous, not only raced on one theme, but it also refers to other themes, for example love. In this movie, love coloring throughout the story is about how a mother should be fair in giving love with her children in whatever circumstances. Discriminating sense of love and compassion will be bad for the child's psychologically. When a mother really loves and protects her daughter too much, it will cause discomfort to the child herself. Too much love and protects someone will make a person feels afraid of losing those whom he or she loves. Moreover, he or she will do anything for someone that he loves. This film tells a story which is a mother sacrifices one of her children for the survival another child. The kind of love like this is really bad for every human. In addition, Nick Cassavetes

tries to touch the minds and heart. He makes confusion between love and fair, human sense, sacrifice and freedom. In this case, he makes a little spin, how to think realistically. On the one hand, the mother loves her child, willing to sacrifice for the survival of her daughter, but on the other hand she does not pay attention to her other life, ignoring the sense of humanity and freedom of her other daughter. A person is born with equal rights, the right to determine life and her life as long as it does not harm others. A child who is still young has right to determine her life, not depressed by the will of her parents. A child is entitled to an equal affection same with other sisters. And every child born to be loved and cared for, not just to save her or his brother or sister, which may cause dispute.

The second is the conflict that is complex and unpredictable storyline in this film. There are so many conflicts that are clash between reason and instinct. It seems that this story successfully combines a sense of humanity and a sense of pressure on the circumstances. In this case, Nick Cassavetes tries to make arguments of confusion about the conflict in the story line, meaning that make it difficult to digest the truth or mindset and a sense forced to sacrifice. The conflict in this film begins when a child who is suffering from leukemia has only little hope to live. Then her parents decides to do IVF, in which the child's DNA will be 100% suitable with their daughter who suffers from leukemia, with the purpose, that one day the tube baby would help the survival of her sister by donating her organs. From here, a variety of complicated conflicts emergence. Starting from a child's desire that retain ownership of her body

organs, a mother who fights for her child's survival, but ignoring the safety of other children. The other conflict is when a child who suffering from leukemia does not wants her mother continually apply pressure to her sister who has become donor for herself since childhood.

The third reason is the characters in the movie that are unique. The characters in this film make difficult to determine whether it is an antagonist or protagonist role. One of the character in this movie is a mother that loves her daughter, but she is willing to sacrifice the other daughter for the survival of her daughter. But on the other hand, the actions by her mother difficult to say right or wrong. She is a loving mother, who wants to save her daughter, but her way of ignoring the safety of her other children. This is uniqueness of the mother, she loves her child in a different way, she fights for the safety of her children and actually she still loves her other daughter, but that look so compelling is that she asks her other daughter to donate her organs for the other child's survival. Another interesting character is Ana, a child who is still very young in which she already has a mature thought. Although still very young, but she is able to keep the big secret and to take a risky action, which requires her own biological mother. However it is done for a good cause. Another interesting character is Kate, despite her weak mentally because of facing big problem suffering leukemia. She is a courageous girl, she is ready to face death, she prefers to die and to protect threatened the survival of her younger sister.

The fourth reason is the casting in this film. The character of Kate in this film is bald headed. Indeed, who will play this role must be willing to have her hair cut off due to the demands of the role. In the selection of actors. Actually make-up could make someone who is not bald head becomes visible as if bald. However, this cast made a bit challenging, because it requires deep comprehension of the character. Uniquely, the role of Kate and Sara initially offers at The Fanning Sisters, Dakota Fanning and Elle Fanning. However, once she finds out that they are required to cut out hair, Dakota then decided to resign and then is followed by Elle. This is then the film becomes unique and interesting because one of the cast is given as a challenge, it is to voluntarily cut down her hair and apparently not all artists willing to do that.

The last reason is about moral conflicts in this movie. Not a few moral messages convey in this story. There are some messages that can be taken by the audiences, both in terms of positive and negative sides. Moral conflicts in this film is also unique and different from the others, because of confusing and the dilemma between the excessive affection and a sense of humanity. The message that is conveyed is not only about the deep affection, but also about the struggle and sacrifice that led to widespread disapproval from others. It teaches the audiences, how to learn to understand the mindset and the will of a child, how to understand that every child is entitled to get equal affection, although one child is in a fragile state, but that does not mean ignoring the other children. In addition, when she loves

someone, it should not be exaggerated because excessive affection can cause excessive sense of loss too, so it will be torturing yourself.

Further, *My Sister's Keeper* is an American drama that tells about love, freedom and human rights. This is a film that has the complexity of the conflict that can arouse the curiosity of the audiences. Sequent events in this drama are also a little tricky because there are some of unexpected incidents and the audiences guessing and expectation about the continuation of the events in the film are able to be deflected. So the plot in this story often surprises the audience and to arouse curiosity. From the background explained above, the researcher is really interested in analyzing conflicts of organ donation and views of morality in terms of organ donation. This research will observe about conflicts of organ donation viewed in terms of moral and using an psychoanalysis perspective. The writer proposes a research entitled **Moral Conflicts of Organ Donation in Nick Cassavetes' *My Sister's Keeper* Movie (2009): A Psychoanalytic Approach.**

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers that had been conducted on Jodi Picoult *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The first researcher who analyzes the novel of *My Sister's Keeper* is namely Santa Miduk (2010), University of Sumatra Utara student, with the thesis entitled "Analysis of Meaning of Phrasal Verbs Found In Jodi Picoult's Novel

My Sister's Keeper". In her research, she finds there are 132 sentences that contains of phrasal verb in *My Sister's Keeper* novel.

The second researcher is Dini Herawaty (2010), The State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim of Malang student, with the thesis entitled "Psychological Dilemma Of The Major Characters In Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper*". In her research, she finds the id, ego and superego of both Anna and Sara take the place in every decision they have made.

This research will be completed and it can enrich the two previous researches above. This research different from them, it focuses on the moral conflicts of organ donation with using a psychoanalytic approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how the moral conflicts of organ donation is reflected in *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

Moral conflicts can occurs when there are some differences in perception between one person with another person about action, and the action is influenced by one's moral. According to Rachels (2003:1), "moral philosophy attempt to achieve a systematic understanding of the nature of morality and what it requires of us". Every action that we do based on our own mindset. About how the kit should take a decision and then apply it in the form of action. Every person has the mindset and different opinions and of course each person has different opinions about what the

other people do, about patterns of thought and manners. In the other words, that also affects a person's moral behavior and actions of a person. While the action itself can lead to conflicts because everyone has different opinions about right or wrong. Rachels (2003:33) states that “people have different opinions, but where morality is concerned, there are no "facts", and no one is "right ". People just feel differently, and that's the end of it”.

About right and wrong actions that lead to conflict, which is based on feeling and morals, it can be said as Ethical subjectivism. According to Rachels, “subjectivism is the idea that our moral opinion are based on our feelings and nothing more” (Rachels, 2003:33). The principal argument aligned with absolute moral rules has to do with the possibility of conflict cases. Assume it is held to be completely wrong to do A in any conditions and also wrong to do B in any situation. Then about the case in which a person is faced with the choice between doing A and doing B, when they must do something but there are no other choices to do. This kind of conflict case seems to show that it is logically unsustainable to hold that moral rules are absolute.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the writer focuses on the various moral conflicts about organ's donation that is reflected in *My Sister's Keeper* movie, by Nick Cassavetes based on a Psychoanalytic Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements of the movie
2. To analyze the movie based on a Psychoanalytic Perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *My Sister's Keeper* Movie By Nick Cassavetes.

2. Practical Benefit

Practically, this study is to give better understanding in literature and psychology especially in personality and moral to the writer herself and others. By bringing the lesson gotten from the study, the writer hopes it can give deeper understanding about the movie, to reflect to the real world and to give input to other writers who intend to analyze the movie.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This study uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is one of the two major approaches to research methodology in social sciences which involves an indepth and the reasons that govern human behavior in order to categorize data into patterns as the primary basis for organizing and reporting result.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Nick Cassavetes's *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

3. Type of Data and Data Source

a. Type of Data

Type of the data is the form of text (script) and image from *My Sister's Keeper* movie by Nick Cassavetes.

b. Data Source

There are two data sources in this study, the primary data source and secondary data source.

1) The Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie By Nick Cassavetes.

2) Secondary data source

The secondary data source is the other data which have relationship with the study, such as some biography of the author, the articles from internet, the books and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

There are two type of data, text and image from *My Sister's Keeper* movie. In writing this research paper, the writer uses certain prosedures as follows:

a. Text

- 1) Reading and learning the script of *My Sister's Keeper* movie
- 2) Taking notes of important parts in the data
- 3) Classifying and determining the relevant data
- 4) Developing and provided.

b. Image

- 1) Watching the movie repeatedly to understand the movie. The images are taken from the movie
- 2) Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary data source
- 3) Capturing images from the movie
- 4) Determining the character that will be analyzed
- 5) Arranging and developing the data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of the data analysis, the researcher uses descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and the psychoanalytic approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters, as follows: Chapter one is the Introduction, which contains Background of the Study, literature review, problem statement, limitation, object of the study, benefit, research method, and paper organization. Chapter Two deals with review of underlying theory that is psychoanalytic theory. In this chapter, the writer explains the notion of psychoanalytic, system of personality and anxiety. Chapter three is the structural analysis of the

movie. Chapter four is Psychoanalytic analysis and the last chapter is Conclusion and Suggestion.