

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, many people are suffering from mental illness. This mental illness is caused by denial person who cannot reach out what they want. There are often obstacles, difficulty and hesitation, that make stresses. According to American Psychiatric Association, mental illness is considered a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome experienced by a person and marked by distress, disability, or the risk of suffering disability or loss of freedom (Townsend, 2005:5). One kind of mental illness that often found is schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia is a form of psychoanalysis that often found since long ago. Nevertheless, our knowledge about various reason and pathologic of schizophrenia is less. According to Atkinson (1983:470) schizophrenia is the label applied to a group of disorders characterized by severe personality disorganization, distortion of reality and an inability to function in daily life. Schizophrenia occurs in all cultures, even those that are remote from the stresses of modern civilization, and appears to have plagued humanity throughout history.

In the daily life, a person who is suffering from schizophrenia can be found. It might be easy to know the schizoid person in a story or film. Those media helps to know about this problem that never knows in a real situation.

Film is a kind of media that represents individual problems which can be occurred through the characters, one of them is schizoid.

Film has the same position as another literary work like novel, drama and poetry. Nowadays, film has become part of daily life of the people around the world, even film becomes popular at this time. Interesting fact can be found through the films, such as plot of story, characters and characterization, theme, setting, etc. Sometimes film gives the moral messages for viewers, it depends on the story of the film, and a film usually has normal sense of real-life experience.

Making a film is different from making a novel or drama. Making a film needs a long time and needs a team work which cooperates with others, a team work involves many people as a crew. A crew has own duty and function in the process of making film. Film has many elements, such as director, script writer, producers, artists, music composer, costume designer, lighting, cameramen, etc. Besides, it also needs some techniques and terminologies to understand it, including signs, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, editing and sound.

One of the films, *The Soloist* gives positives responses to those things. It is directed by Joe Wright and starring Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. The Screenplay of this film is based on the book, *The Soloist is* written by Steve Lopez. The film was made in January 2008 with some scenes shot in Cleveland. It was released on April 24, 2009 in the U.S. and 11 September 2009 in England. The film runtime is 117 minutes with production cost at \$

60 million and gross revenues of \$ 31,720,158 worldwide. *The Soloist* is distributed by Paramount Pictures Corporation.

Joe Wright is not only known as a director of *The Soloist*, but also as a great film director in America. He was born on 1972 in London, England, UK. Wright has direct some movies they are *Pride & Prejudice* (2005), *Atonement* (2007), *The Soloist* (2009) and *Hanna* (2011). *The Soloist* is nominated for Black Reel Awards and Prism Awards. In Black Reel Awards (2010), it nominated Jamie Foxx for Best Actor. In Prism Awards (2010), *The Soloist* is nominated for Feature Film-Mental Health, Performance in a Feature Film for Jamie Foxx, and Performance in a Feature Film for Robert Downey Jr.

The Soloist movie tells of the unlikely meeting and the even more unlikely friendship between Steve Lopez and Nathaniel Anthony Ayers. Before it was a film, *The Soloist* was a series of articles written by Steve Lopez for the *Los Angeles Times*, and between the two it is also a bestselling book. Nathaniel Anthony Ayers is a former cello prodigy whose bouts with schizophrenia landed him on the streets after two years of schooling at Juilliard. Steve Lopez is a disenchanted journalist stuck in a dead-end job. Their initial meeting was when Lopez was in a city park, he heard the faint sound beautiful violin. After searching the sound was two-string violin is played by a homeless persons race African-American (Negro) named Nathaniel Anthony Ayers.

Initially, the aim of Lopez writes about Nathaniel was simply as another story idea for the paper. Impressed with his violin playing and his status as a homeless, he wanted to raise a very interesting story. From that meeting, he also knew if Nathaniel studied at Juilliard. Because of curiosity why a former student of a prestigious school ended in the street, then he called Juilliard School to seek information about Nathaniel. But the Juilliard did not have any records about him. At that time he felt no more stories to be written because he was out of ideas.

Fortunately, he soon knew that Nathaniel had attended Juilliard, but he was quit after two years. After knowing it then he immediately looked for information through Nathaniel's sister. She told him that Nathaniel had been a child prodigy, who was very talented child until schizophrenia lodged in his head. He often heard voices that was not be heard by anyone else. He believed that others were reading his minds, controlling his thoughts or planned to hurt him so that disrupted his concentration in playing the cello. One reader was so touched after reading an article written by Lopez, and then she sends him a cello for Nathaniel.

Lopez's article about Nathaniel gained much fame, and then he received an award for an article he wrote. Nathaniel was given the chance to perform a recital, but he was failed because the voices continue to be heard and disrupt his concentration. At the end of the story all of them are watching the orchestra at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Nathaniel still hears the sound, but at least he no longer lived on the streets. It was revealed in the epilogue

that Nathaniel was a member of the Community of LAMP and Lopez learned how to play guitar.

The Soloist has received somewhat mixed reviews. Rotten Tomatoes reported that 55% of critics gave the film positive reviews, based on 120 reviews. *Metacritic* reported the film had an average score of 61 out of 100, based on 33 reviews, based on 32 reviews. Reviewers generally praise the performances by Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx, but comment on the film's lack of narrative focus in attempting to tell a convincing or engaging story due to the somewhat uneven direction by director Joe Wright.

The Soloist movie is a best movie. Many people have seen this movie and they give a good comment to this movie because of the story or the character. There are five points of interest for choosing *The Soloist* with schizophrenia for the topic.

First of all is character of the movie. The character in this movie is good and can involve the audience so they can feel like the story. Joe Wright perfectly shows main character of the movie, Jamie Foxx as Nathaniel Anthony Ayers who is suffering from schizophrenia. He can describe a man who is suffering with schizophrenia but has amazing talent of playing cello as well as normal people.

Second is the setting of the movie. This film has several settings including society environment in Cleveland, at the sidewalk, at the Walt Disney concert hall and at the LAMP, a shelter for homeless people. The director makes audiences enjoy and be mesmerized. As example, when

Nathaniel plays the cello beautifully. The director also presents classical music of the orchestra at the Walt Disney concert hall.

The third is the plot. The film presents attractive images and the story by giving some flashbacks so that it is necessary to watch the film many times to understand the plot of the film because the plot is complex.

The next point of interest for this film is casting. *The Soloist* was played by well-known artist, such as Robert Downey Jr. and Jamie Foxx. All of scenes are wonderful and all of actors can act well.

The last, schizophrenia disease makes the writer be interested because she never knows about this. The movie explains about the disease, from the symptom and the way to recover it. This film also gives the writer deep understanding about schizophrenia disorders.

Stimulated by all of fact clarified above, the writer will observe *The Soloist* movie by using Psychoanalytic Perspective that build this movie entitled: **SCHIZOPHRENIC OBSTRUCTION TO SUCCESS IN JOE WRIGHT'S *THE SOLOIST* MOVIE (2009): A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature Review

The Soloist is a new movie. As long as the writer knows there is no other research that has been conducted to study the movie. There has been other researcher who is conducted same topic of research but on the different movie. In her study, Kusumaningtyas, a Muhammadiyah University of

Surakarta student (2009) discusses *Living with Schizophrenia in Ron Howard's a Beautiful Mind Movie*, using psychoanalytic approach. She analyzes schizophrenia disease of John Nash. She states that John Nash who lives with schizophrenia can stay with his disease though this disease has been changed his life.

In this opportunity the researcher decides to conduct a research on the major character's way on schizophrenic obstruction to success. Here the researcher also uses a psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how Schizophrenic obstruction to success is reflected in *The Soloist* movie by Joe Wright.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is the analysis of schizophrenic obstruction of the main character namely Nathaniel Anthony Ayers on *The Soloist* movie, based on the Psychoanalytic study.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *The Soloist* movie.
2. To analyze the schizophrenic obstruction of the main characters using the Psychoanalytic approach.

F. The Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To give some contributions on understanding of the film *The Soloist* especially by the Psychoanalytic perspective.
- b. The result of the research can be used as the reference for those who want to conduct a research in the Psychoanalytic perspective of literature analysis.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. To get better understanding about the film, especially the main character in *The Soloist* from the Psychoanalytic perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method, because the writer analyzes the data coming from script of *The Soloist* movie by using methodology of literature as the references.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Soloist* movie. This film is directed by Joe Wright and the writer by Susannah Grant, this film published by Paramount Pictures Corporation.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data namely, text and image.

a. Text

Text are word, sentence, utterances, and dialogues of *The Soloist* movie.

b. Image

Image and pictures are taken from *The Soloist*.

Meanwhile, the data source classifies into two categories namely primary and secondary data.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources of the study are *The Soloist* movie directed by Joe Wright from Paramount Pictures Corporation and the script movie written by Susannah Grant.

b. Secondary Data Source

The other sources that the writer uses in the form of books, journals, and articles to support the main data are some from the library and some information got from the internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

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

a. Note taking

b. Scene capturing

While the steps which are used by the writer are as follow:

a. Watching the movie.

b. Reading the script.

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 of data analysis in this study is descriptive analysis, in order to get an interpretation of the text and content analysis dealing with the psychoanalytic perspective analysis of *The Soloist* movie.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper organization of “Schizophrenic Obstruction to Success in Joe Wright’s *The Soloist* Movie (2009): A Psychoanalytic Perspective” is as follows: Chapter I is the introduction which contains background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II deals with the underlying theory, including the notion of psychoanalysis and theory of psychoanalysis; schizophrenia, structural elements of the film, and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis, in this chapter the researcher explains the structural element of the study and discussion. Chapter IV is data analysis, which deals with the major character’s problems based on psychoanalytic theory. Finally, Chapter V is conclusion of the analysis and suggestions.