

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Commonly, someone has obsession in this life. Everyone has story in his life. It is about how to be or search for something. Unconsciously, everyone makes his story. It is one of the senses that make someone's life to be colorful.

One of the new movies gives a description of someone who wants to be perfect person in her work *Black Swan*. In *Black Swan* the movie, the writer finds out several messages. *Black Swan* is a 2010 American psychological thriller film directed by Darren Aronofsky and starring Natalie Portman, Vincent Cassel, and Mila Kunis. Its plot revolves around a production of Tchaikovsky's *Black Swan* ballet by a prestigious New York City company. The production requires a ballerina to play both the innocent White Swan and the sensual *Black Swan*. One dancer, Nina (Portman), is a perfect fit for the White Swan, while Lily (Kunis) has a personality that mat matches the *Black Swan*. When the two compete for the parts, Nina finds a dark side to herself.

Darren Aronofsky was born February 12, 1969, in Brooklyn, New York. Growing up, Darren was always artistic: he loved classic movies and, as a teenager, he even spent time doing graffiti art. After high school, Darren went to Harvard University to study film (both live-action and animation). He won several film awards after completing his senior thesis film, "Supermarket Sweep", starring Sean Gullette, which went on the becoming a National

Student Academy Award finalist. Aronofsky didn't make a feature film until five years later, in February 1996, where he began creating the concept for *Pi* (1998). After Darren's script for *Pi* (1998) received great reactions from friends, he began production. The film re-teamed Aronofsky with Gullette, who played the lead. This went on to further successes, such as *Requiem for a Dream* (2000) and, most recently, the American remake of the Japanese film series "Kozure Okami" (1973) (Aka "Lone Wolf & Cub").

The film premiered as the opening film for the 67<sup>th</sup> Venice International Film Festival on September 1, 2010. It had a limited release in the United States starting December 3, 2010 and opened nationwide on December 17. *Black Swan* received critical praise upon its release, particularly for Portman's performance and Aronofsky's direction. Portman won the Academy Award for Best Actress for the film, as well as many other Best Actress awards in several guilds and festivals, while Aronofsky was nominated for Best Director. In addition, the film itself received a nomination for Best Picture.

The movie opens as Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), a young dancer, working with a prestigious ballet company in New York City. She lives with her overbearing mother, Erica (Barbara Hershey), a failed dancer turned amateur artist who tries to control much of Nina's life. The ballet company is preparing for a production of *Swan Lake*. The director, Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel), has to cast a new principal dancer. When he forces a kiss on her, she bites him. Thomas sees her potential and gives her the role. As the

company continues to practice, Thomas continues to express doubts about her ability to lose herself in the role of the sensual, Black Swan.

One evening Lily appears at Nina's door and invites her for a night out. Nina is hesitant at first but joins Lily after having an argument with her mother. During the night, Lily offers Nina MDMA, which lowers her inhibitions. Nina becomes sexually interested not only in men at the bar, but Lily as well. Late the night, Nina apparently returns to the apartment with Lily and another fight with her mother begins. She barricades herself in her room with Lily, and immediately Nina begins seducing Lily. The next morning, Nina wakes up alone, late for rehearsal, and rushes to make it on time. When she enters the studio, she finds Lily dancing as the Swan Queen in her absence. Nina confronts Lily and asks her why she did not wake her up in the morning. Lily informs Nina that they had not spent the night together.

The night before the ballet's opening, Nina continues to experience strong hallucinations or waking dreams. Perhaps her sanity is slipping. Nina awakes the night of the opening performance locked in her bedroom with her mother. Nina's mother tells her that she called the ballet company and informed them that Nina wasn't feeling well and will not be able to perform. After violently forcing her mother to let her leave, Nina arrives at the theatre to discover that Thomas has asked Lily to dance as the Swan Queen in Nina's place. Nina ignores this development, prepares for the performance and convinces Thomas that she is able to dance.

During the first dance, Nina is dropped by her male partner. She is scolded by Thomas and becomes distraught. Upon reaching her dressing room, she appears to find Lily in her chair applying the make up for the Black Swan role. Lily taunts her about the fall and the two begin fighting. As it escalates, Nina stabs Lily with a piece of broken glass, killing her. Nina does not think much of this, and she goes back out for her next dance. After returning to her dressing room, Lily congratulates her on her performances. Nina looks down to see she has stabbed herself. Regardless of this, she completes her performances flawlessly. As Thomas and the rest of the cast enthusiastically congratulate her on her performance, Lily gasps in horror to see that Nina is bleeding, and some of the cast run to get medical help. Though Nina lies wounded, perhaps fatally, she is content and satisfied with her performance. The film closes with Nina staring up at the stage lights while whispering “I felt it – Perfect – I was perfect,” as the screen fades to white and the audience chants her name.

The movie opens as Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), a young 20-something ballerina, is dancing the prologue to Swan Lake. Swan Lake is a ballet in which a princess is turned into the White Swan and can only be turned back if a man swears eternal fidelity to her. In the ballet, she is betrayed by the Black Swan, the evil magician's daughter whom the magician has transformed to look exactly like the princess in order to trick the prince who has fallen in love with her. In the end, the princess commits suicide because the Prince's infidelity has doomed her to remain a swan forever. As Nina dances in the role of the Princess, the magician appears and places the curse on the Princess. Nina

then wakes up in her apartment, the dance sequence having been a dream. She begins her daily ballet stretching; telling her mother about her dream as her mother unintentionally ignores her. Nina mentions that the director, Thomas Leroy (pronounced Tomahs; the name is French), of her ballet company has promised to feature her more this season and her mother agrees that she's been there long enough.

The writer chooses the movie because of several reasons. The first is the movie has inspirational story. It can be analyzed based on the experience of the character in the movie. Nina becomes the person who gives the lesson about how to be a perfect person. After watching the movie, the viewers are able to get moral message.

Secondly, it is a new movie. It gives description about the effort to get an achievement. Nowadays, the move of culture and tradition become the prominent thing. It influences the value, habit and the norm that have existing in the society. The issue that appears by the author in this movie is related to the real world. Achievement needs a sacrifice to get it.

The third, this movie is suitable with the theory that is used by the writer. The emotional or psychological of the major character in this movie is unique. Someone is able to change his paradigm about something. It also relates to the psychological side of the human.

The last one is that *Black Swan* movie is able to inspire us. It tells about how to manage the human's need and egoisms. Someone not only have right to meet their needs, but it is limited by the right of the other people. Everyone has options in this life. They are able to choose their way in this life freely.

However their right is influenced by the condition, situation, and environment, but they can choose to be independent or not.

Based on above reasons and phenomena, the writer concludes to observe and find out the knowledge about this movie and phenomena. The writer entitles this study with: NINA'S OBSESSION TO BE PROFESSIONAL IN DARREN ARONOFSKY'S *BLACK SWAN* (2010) MOVIE: A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.

## **B. Literature Review**

The movie is exciting, inspirational, worthy and has a sense. As far as the writer knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study *Leap Year* the movie, at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta region. It can be caused by this movie is new release.

The writer just found a journal in website. Most of the journal that is found by the writer is related to the structural term of the movie. The writer does not find a journal that uses a humanistic psychological approach. So, the writer is the first person who analyzes the movie based on the humanistic perspective. The first is a journal entitled *Film Review: Black Swan* that posted by David Wesley (2010) in [http://www .breakingnews.ie /entertainment/ portman- psychology- studies-elped-me-understand-black -swan-role-483817.html#ixzz1IBqdsLWP](http://www.breakingnews.ie/entertainment/portman-psychology-studies-elped-me-understand-black-swan-role-483817.html#ixzz1IBqdsLWP). He said that *Black Swan* has moments of terrifically black comedy and there were times when my heart was genuinely racing at the thought of what was going to happen next. As it progresses, you

could say that it becomes similar in tone to a horror movie. The psychological breakdown of this young girl is heartbreaking to see, and you definitely feel everything that she does.

The second is a journal entitled *An Anatomy of Darren Aronofsky's Black Swan* that posted by Brent Plate (2010) in, <http://www.breakingnews.ie/entertainment/portman-psychology-studies-helped-me-understand-black-swan-role483817.html>. He said that An Anatomy of Darren Aronofsky's Black Swan has similarity and differences with the other movie.

Different from two previous, the researcher identifies and limits the problem in the Nina's obsession to be professional dancer in *Black Swan* Movie uses a Humanistic Psychological Approach. In this study the researcher gives the title of his research "Nina's obsession to be professional reflected in Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan* (2010) movie: a Humanistic Psychological Approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and background of the study, the writer proposed the problem as follows: "How is the obsession to be professional dancer reflected in Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan* movie".

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer limits the study on Nina's obsession to be professional using humanistic perspective. The writer emphasizes to analyze on the major character viewed from human's side.

### **E. Objective of the study**

The objective of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. To analyze *Black Swan* movie based on its structural elements that help the writer identify the narrative aspect and technical element of the major character.
2. To analyze the obsession of the major character in *Black Swan* movie based on humanistic psychological perspective.

### **F. Benefits of the Study**

The writer expects that this study will be useful for:

#### **A. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to give a real contribution and inspiration to the reader in the real world and the literary theory especially humanistic perspective.

#### **B. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to help the writer and reader to get deeper understanding about message and aspects of the movie, how to use literary theory in analyzing a literary work and related to the real world.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

The writer uses descriptive qualitative research in this research because it is suitable to explain the analysis and there is no need a statistic evaluation.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of this study is obsession of the major character (Nina) in Darren Aronofsky's *Black Swan* movie.

### **3. Type of Data and Data Source**

#### **A. Primary Source**

The primary data are taken from *Black Swan* movie by Darren Aronofsky.

#### **B. Secondary Source**

The secondary data are taken from other sources related to this movie such as articles, movie review and other relevant information.

### **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:

1. Watching the movie.
2. Reading the script.

3. Classifying the data.
4. Browsing in the internet to look for related information such as movie script, movie's identity, public response, etc.
5. Reading the relevant books.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The steps used in analyzing the data of this study are clarifying the data by selecting the necessary ones. The next is analyzing the data based on humanistic psychological perspective. This step is where the writer applies the humanistic psychological perspective, which is related to the term, topic, issue, and aspects of the movie.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper will be served into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, Benefits of the Study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory which consists of notion of humanistic psychological approach, major principle of humanistic psychological, structural elements of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III will be structural analysis of the movie. Here, the writer explains the movie based on the structural elements. Chapter IV serves the analysis of the movie based on humanistic psychological perspective and chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.