

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The value of a person can be seen among others from his or her personality. According to Horby (1995: 863) that: “personality means the characteristic and qualities of a person seen as a whole”. This suggests that every person can be distinguished, in term of human values, from others through the characteristics and qualities she or he expresses in social interaction within society. People view personality as a struggle between good and bad. Ambitious as one of the manifestations of good personality provides, people turning point to achieve a certain goal in life. Optimism it self is defined as the tendency to expect the best in all thinks; confidence in the success of a course of action (Drever, 1958: 814). This definition implies two persons who have this kind of belief and faith as reflected by Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg, the main characters in Bryan Singer’s movie entitled *Valkyrie*, is turning strong despite of his physical weaknesses to survive and triumph in hard times and conditions.

Valkyrie is a 2008 historical thriller film set in Nazi Germany during World War II. The film depicts the 20 July plot by German army officers to assassinate Adolf Hitler and to use the Operation Valkyrie national emergency plan to take control of the country. *Valkyrie* is directed by Bryan Singer under the American studio United Artists, and the film starred by Tom Cruise as

Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, one of the key plotters. Kenneth Branagh, Bill Nighy, Eddie Izzard, Terence Stamp and Tom Wilkinson also feature.

Cruise's casting caused controversy among German politicians and members of the von Stauffenberg family because of the actor's practice of Scientology, which is viewed with suspicion in the country. Because of this, the filmmakers initially had difficulty setting up filming locations in Germany, but they were later given leeway to film in locations pertaining to the film's story, such as Berlin's historic Bendlerblock. German newspapers and filmmakers supported the film and its attempt to spread global awareness of von Stauffenberg's plot. Kenneth Chisholm (kchishol@rogers.com)

The film changed release dates several times, from as early as June 27, 2008 to as late as February 14, 2009. The changing calendar and poor response to United Artists' initial marketing campaign drew criticism about the studio's viability. After a positive test screening, *Valkyrie's* release in North America was ultimately changed to December 25, 2008. United Artists renewed its marketing campaign to reduce its focus on Cruise and to highlight Singer's credentials. The film has received mixed reviews in the United States. It opened commercially in Germany on January 22, 2009, where reports were mixed about the German reception of the film. To date, *Valkyrie* has grossed a total of over \$200 million worldwide.

Valkyrie was nominated by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films for several Saturn Awards: Best Action/Adventure/Thriller Film, Best Actor (Tom Cruise), Best Supporting Actor (Bill Nighy), Best

Supporting Actress (Carice van Houten), Best Director (Bryan Singer), Best Music (John Ottman), and Best Costume (Joanna Johnston).

Singer attended the 2000 Comic Con in San Diego in a surprise appearance promoting his new movie, *X-Men* (2000). Graduated from USC cinema school. His production company, Bad Hat Harry Productions, is named after a line in *Jaws* (1975), one of his favorite movies. Graduate of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School in New Jersey. Childhood friends with actor Ethan Hawke. Met composer/editor/director John Ottman at USC School of Cinema-Television. Attended The School of Visual Arts in New York City for a brief period of time but did not graduate from there. Visited the school in October 2000 to talk to the film students about his experiences in the film industry. His favorite movie is *Jaws* (1975). His production company is named 'Bad Hat Harry', after a line said by Chief Brody in the film. Received a copy of the mockumentary *Forgotten Silver* (1995) (TV) as a gift from director Peter Jackson, to thank him for finishing Ian McKellen's scenes in *X-Men* (2000) in time for him to fly to New Zealand and begin work on *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001). Is a big Star Trek fan and had a cameo appearance in *Star Trek: Nemesis* (2002) as a crewman on the bridge of the U.S.S. Enterprise. Ranked #46 on Premiere's 2006 "Power 50" list. It is his first appearance on the list.

DC Comics offered Singer access to the 20-plus years of development information that *Superman* has had since 1986, but Singer vehemently refused to use this information, instead insisting that he use only the continuity of the

Richard Donner films. Best friends with director Gary Goddard. Turned down the chance to direct *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* (2009), as he was too busy with other projects.

The problem mentioned above is the description of a story in Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie*. In this case, Bryan Singer tries to illustrate, the major character cope with his Ambitious personality in his struggle for life. In the Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie*, Singer wants to excel at finding out how the major character's optimistic personality in his struggle is.

This Ambitious personality is strongly actualized in the movie, making it an exciting and fascinating object to study. The theory of psychoanalytic is used as a parameter to verify the personality of Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg. The result of the verification is then followed up by concept of optimism as to see how his ambitious personality shaped and formed by his inner states. The writer wants to use a Psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud to analyze the movie.

B. Previous Study

As far as the writer concerns, there is no researcher who analyzes *Valkyrie* by Bryan Singer at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. That is why the writer encourages himself to analyze this movie in A Psychoanalytic Approach. This study tries to know how the ambition of the major character is reflected in the movie.

C. Limitation of the Study

This study is not cover the coping behavior of all characters, but it is only focus on the one major character in this movie named Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg.

D. Problem Statement

The major problem is how the major character, Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg copes with his ambitious personality in his struggle for life.

E. Objective of the Study

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

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements and technical elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the movie based on psychoanalytic perspective, in order to know how the ambition of the major character is reflected in the movie.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are two benefits of studying *Valkyrie* movie, which expected by researcher:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly studies on Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie especially in Psychoanalysis Approach.

G. Research Method

The research method of this paper is broken down into five aspects:

1. Type of the Study

The type of this study is qualitative research. The writer uses a library research, which employs qualitative method. The writer also applies psychoanalysis of the main characters as a means of further research.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the research is the ambition of Colonel Claus Von Stauffenberg in Bryan Singer's *Valkyrie* movie by using Psychoanalytic Approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data of this study is text and image. The text consists of words, phrases, or sentences that comprise the dialogue or and narration in the movie. The primary data source is the movie itself, while the

secondary data source is documents related to the study, either in terms of theoretical or methodological resources.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of collecting data include note-taking and image-capturing. Note-taking is the techniques of collecting the textual data, while image-capturing is used for collecting the visual. The writer uses library research in collecting data, which involves several steps; searching the script of the film from internet, reading the script repeatedly, marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing it, taking image of capturing to classify the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study, and selecting the picture which the relevant of sources to support the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses sociological perspective and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the researcher is looking for a selecting the relevant of the data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consist background of the study, previous study,

limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study research method and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory involving the theory of psychoanalytic approach that used to analyze the data. Chapter III is a structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements of the movie. Chapter IV is psychoanalytic analysis. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.