

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Death Race is a 2008 science fiction action film produced, written and directed by Paul W.S Anderson. The remake had been in development since 2002, though production was delayed by disapproval of early screenplays then placed in turnaround following a dispute between Paramount Pictures and the producer duo Tom Cruise and Paula Wagner. *Death Race* was acquired by Universal Studios, and Anderson he joined the project to write and direct. It was begun in Montreal in August 2007, and the completed project was released on August 22, 2008. This movie has five major characters and eight minor characters. The major characters are Jason Statham as Jensen Ames, Joan Allen as Hanessey, Tyrese Gibson as “Machine Gun Joe”, Ian Mc Shane as Coach, And than Natalie Martines as case.

Paul W.S Anderson was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, England, UK, 4 March 1965. He firstly graduated from Warwick University in the UK. He gained a fair bit of notoriety in his native England when he directed the ultra violent *Shopping* (1994), starring Jude Law and Sean Pertwee in a story about thieves who steal by ramming a car into storefronts. The film was banned in some cinemas in England, and became a direct to video slightly edited release in the United States. And than he

directed such as *Mortal Kombat*, *Soldier*, *Event Horizon*, *Solyaris*, *The Sight*, *Resident Evil*. He next was given the helm for the long awaited film adaptation of the popular Dark Horse comic book, *AVP: Alien vs. Predator* (2004).

Death Race, this movie sets in 2012, when the United States economy collapses. Unemployment and crime rates shoot through the roof. The imprisoned population becomes so fast that private corporations buy the prisons and run them for profit, in a federal prison called the Terminal Island Penitentiary.

Once a NASCAR champion Jensen Ames, life was improving and changing for the better after meeting and marrying Suzy and having a baby girl. Then the steel mill closes, and he loses his job. But that was not the worst thing to happen to Jensen that day. Suzy is brutally murdered, and he is framed for her murder. Ames is sent to prison where he is coerced by the sadistic prison warden, Hennessey to become the new driver of Frankenstein's Ford Mustang. She tells Ames that she knows of his baby that was left in foster care, and that prisoners are freed upon winning five Death Races, but since he will take on the mask of the legendary Frankenstein, who had 4 wins at the time of his death, he will only need to win one race. The races are broken apart into three stages: Stage 1 and 2 are races in which the driver must survive, and stage 3 he must win the race in order for it to add to the count towards freedom.

Just before the Stage 1 Race, Ames is introduced to his navigator during the race, Ames sees another driver Pachenko. He confronts Hennessey about the driver, but instead she shows him pictures of his baby living with foster parents, asking him if he thinks he could provide for his baby better than the foster parents. Angered, he takes one of the pictures and leaves. The night before Stage 2 he makes a trip to the garage of Pachenko's team to confront him. He is beaten down by a few members of the team but is helped by a member of his garage allowing Ames to retaliate and nearly kill Pachenko.

Ames goes into the Stage 2 race and immediately questions Case on her intentions. She tells him she was ordered to sabotage Frankenstein's defense weapons so he would not win his freedom, Ames realizes he is not meant to survive the Death Race at all, but is meant to die so another "Frankenstein" can be brought into the prison to keep viewers paying to see the races. He seeks revenge during Stage 2 by crippling and rolling Pachenko's car allowing him to turn around drive back and to get revenge up close and personal by snapping Pachenko's neck as he crawls away from the car wreck. Ames and Machine Gun Joe are able to destroy The Dreadnought and finish Stage 2.

The Stage 3 Race begins with only two drivers remaining: "Frankenstein" and Machine Gun Joe. The race begins, and Ames soon takes the lead. However, the odds are against Ames as Hennessey rigs the track to benefit Joe. Throughout the entire lap, Joe keeps hot on Ames' tail,

and as they near the beginning of the second lap, Joe preps newly added missiles and fires an RPG in Ames' direction. However, they seem to miss the car and instead hit the billboard at the first turn of the track. It is shown that the image Ames saw was a pathway to the bridge leading off the island to the mainland behind the destroyed billboard.

Ames and Joe escape into the bridge, pursued by police cruisers and helicopters. As the cruisers close in on the two cars, Ames releases his exposed fuel tank, causing it to explode and stop the pursuing cars. Turning to her back up plan, Hennessey then orders that the explosive under Ames' car be set off, but nothing happens because Coach had found, removed, and deactivated the bomb prior to the start of the race. Escaping past the bridge, Joe and Ames separate, and Hennessey orders the helicopters to focus on Ames, but he switches seats with Case when she tells him that Hennessey had already signed her release papers for her work, and that she owed one to the old Frankenstein.

Later, Hennessey believes she still won after all, as a guard notifies her about presents sent to her for the record number of viewers subscribing to the Death Race. However, the explosive that was put on the Frankenstein car is inside, and Coach blows them up.

Six months later, Ames and Joe are shown working in a junkyard in Mexico, when Case unexpectedly arrives. The two men are happy to see her, and Case meets Ames' baby, Piper. The movie closes with Ames

explaining that even though he knows he's far from being the best parent in the world, no one could love his baby more than he could.

This movie also created the pro and contra from the public response, first came from Nathan Lee published on August 22, 2008 said that there something to be said for a movie that knows exactly what it is and then whacks that knowledge home like a rusty pipe in the face. Case in point: "Death Race" a delectable bit of B movie savagery that actually does feature pipe melees, among much other kinky ultra violence.

The other media is *salon.com* from Stephanie Zachare, he argued Statham moves with such easy grace that people don't have to work hard to believe him. And if he can stand up to Joan Allen, melting her predatory stare with his own molten gaze, then it's clear he's not just the prettiest guy on the prison block, but also the toughest.

And then in The New York Times from Nathan Lee, said that the movie is legitimately greasy, authentically nasty, with a good old fashioned sense of laying waste to everything in sight including the shallow philosophizing and computer generated fakery that have overrun the summer blockbuster.

Total Box Office of this movie is \$36,064,910 in U.S. and Canada, and then Death Race received award from Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, and USA. Saturn Award to Joan Allen as a Best Supporting Actress. And then from Directors Guild of Canada, DGC Craft Award and also Taurus Award category the best world stunt awards.

The psychological study in this movie of motivation attempts to understand why people do what they do, for example, people understanding of psychological motivations, such as the need to get a freedom and need to survive in the world. *Death race* shows that freedom is very important, difficult to get and must be survived.

From the perspective of industrial and organizational psychology, motivation is the force that moves people to perform their jobs. Workers with high levels of motivation want to achieve and perform to the best of their abilities, whereas low levels of motivation lead to poor performance, apathy, and turnover.

There are some reasons why this film is called interesting to be watched, the first reason this movie has a good emotional drama and great fight scenes, Everything related to the story is straight out of the action movie.

The second reason is story of the film when Jensen Ames has to survive to get a freedom from Hennessey, this shows that freedom is very important in life.

The third reason is easy to be understood, The message is simply to convey to others. The watcher of this film will enjoy and relax in understanding the message delivering by the director.

Finally, the main goal is motivation of someone to survive and get the freedom that carries out into the research. In The Death Race film shows the motivation to survive and get the freedom was portrayed by the

main character, namely Jensen Ames. That is why, the writer uses **THE MOTIVATION OF “JENSEN AMES” TO SURVIVE AND GET THE FREEDOM IN PAUL W.S ANDERSON *DEATH RACE* MOVIE (2008) : HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH** as the title of this research.

B. Literature Review

In this research, the writer did not find the research regarding the Humanistic Psychological approach in the Death Race film. In the contrary, the writer found third sources that are article in the contrary.

The first is an article written by Sean D. Malone entitled "Escape from New York" on August 23rd 2008. She wrote certain conversations and statements in the movie caused a chuckle regarding the characters' clever comments. However, unanticipated surprises crept into the ending of the film which was refreshing in this otherwise conventional plot. But the special effects were outstanding. The writer suggests this movie gore embrace the pure thrilling entertainment value only.

The second is an article written by Roger Ebert on April 27. This article entitled "Zero stars". Viewed as despite the fact that the movie had a "restricted rating," the vast majorities of the kids (and by kids mean less than 10 years old) were without parents or guardians. That wasn't a surprise. This observation in several Chicago theaters recently that little or

no attempt is made to enforce the R rating. The ratings were intended in the first place to protect kids from violence.

The third is an article by Craig Catena on August 25, 2008. He wrote the problem, aside from the whole premise being unreasonable, is the action becomes monotonous. There are three days of racing, which basically equates to three days of the exact same things. Day one nine racers smash through the course trying to kill each other. Day two six racers smash through the course trying to kill each other. Day three two racers smash through the course trying to kill each other. The only thing that didn't wear on the writer in *Death Race* was the ladies that were trucked in from a nearby woman's penitentiary.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is "what the motivation of Jensen Ames to survive and get the freedom in Paul W.S. Anderson *Death Race* (2008)".

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the study on the motivation to survive and get the freedom portrayed in Jensen Ames as the major character. By adopting the humanistic psychological approach by Abraham Maslow theory, the writer tries to explore the portrayed by Jensen Ames.

E. Objective of the study

The objective of the study can be formulated as below:

1. To analyze *DeathRace* the movie based on its structural elements of movie.
2. To analyze *Death Race* the movie viewed from humanistic psychological perspective.

F. Benefit of the study

The writer expects that this study will be useful for:

1. 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.

2. 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 manifest it in the real world.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The writer uses descriptive qualitative research in for 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 what the Motivation of Jensen Ames to survive and get the freedom in *Death Race* movie.

3. Type of Data and Data Source

The writer uses the dialogue and scene as the types of data source supporting by the script of the film to catch a comprehension understanding. However, there are two sources of gaining the data. They primary and secondary data source:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is the Film of *Death Race* written directed by Paul W.S. Anderson.

b. Secondary Data Source

Supporting the data such as author biography, an essay, comment, historical information, and other relevant information.

4. Method of Collecting Data

The technique used in collecting data, is the research utilizes the library research and it can be obtained by some steps as follows:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly
- b. Reading the script of that film
- c. Taking a note of the necessary part in both the primary and secondary data sources
- d. Classifying the data into some categories

5. Technique for Analyzing Data

The writer uses Humanistic psychological and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. The researcher identifies the motivation of Jensen Ames as a major character to survive and get the freedom by using Humanistic Psychological Approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper will be served into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective 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, theory application, structure element of the movie. Chapter III will be structural analysis of the movie. Here, the researcher explains the movie based on the structural element. Chapter IV serves the analysis of the movie based on humanistic psychological perspective and chapter V will be conclusion and suggestion.