

CAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A Human being has to fight to get happiness in life. Struggle and sacrifice are needed to get what people want but struggle and sacrifice cannot be done if we don't have a will to do it. A desire to struggle and sacrifice is started with the will. The will itself is reflected on human's behavior, in this case, the will is reflected on *The Blind Side* movie.

The Blind Side is a 2009 American drama film that is directed and written by John Lee Hancock. It is an adaptation of the book that is written by Michael Lewis. This film takes place in Memphis, Mississippi, USA. This film has duration one hundred and twenty eight minutes, it uses English Language. After *The Blind Side* was warmly received and then the writer received offers to adapt it for stage and film. John Lee Hancock decided to write it for the stage because he wished to have more artistic control over the production. It opened to mixed reviews, positive press and the success of *The Blind Side* on Broadway.

John Lee Hancock was born in Texas, 1957. He is a USA director. He gets many nominations. He was nominee in 'Grey's Anatomy,' 'Precious' nab NAACP Image award nominations 2010, "Precious" Leads NAACP Image Awards Nominations 2010. Besides as a director, he is also as producer, writer, miscellaneous crew, such as; The American Can, The Goree Girls, The

Alamo, L.A Doctors, Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, A Perfect World, Hard Time Romance, Falcone, My Dog Skip, The Demon Lover, The Craft of Dirty Harry, The Long Shadow of Dirty Harry.

The film tells true story about a kid within trauma on his life because of what happens in his childhood. The Blind Side begins at the NCAA office. NCAA officer and Michael Oher are discussing about the real reasons of Touhy family. NCAA officer thinks that there was an indication of athlete manipulation. Then the story tells backward before that discussion happens. When he was a kid, he was separated from his father and his brother. Then he just lived with his mother. But his mother had illness, his mother rarely took care of him. Finally he lived with his relative family. Then his relatives wanted to put him on the great high school in that city. A rugby coach saw that he has a great talent in sport. Then, the coach discussed with other teacher to put him on the school. Finally, the entire teacher agreed to put him on the school. But Michael has something strange on his way to study. He couldn't follow the lesson if the media was reading a book. So, it made the teachers in that school become confused. But there was a teacher finally knew that Michael is not stupid, he could follow the lesson through a listening media. Then on his way to came home, he met with a child, named S.J (Sean Junior) and his mother Leigh Anne Tuohy. They had a little conversation. After that Touhy family met again with Michael when he ran away from home to the gym. He walked alone in the cold night. Touhy family decided to ask him to spend the night at their house. Finally Touhy family felt comfortable with the

Michael existence on their live that gave a change to Leigh Anne attitudes. Leigh Anne read a Michael C.V's, he didn't have something superior in psychology test. But there was one test that shows he had one special character that is protective instinct. Michael was the only Negro in the house. But he didn't discriminate by Touhy's Family. Precisely Touhy's Family really loves him. Especially the mother, Leigh Anne, she gave Michael a place to stay, new clothes, even a car for him. However, when he wanted to have a driving license so that he would have an identity to bring, his existence or birth certificate is not listed in national archives.

Then, Touhy family decided to adopt him as a child, but he is too old to adopt. Finally, Touhy family only listed as Michael's guardians. Many days after that, Michael and S.J went with a car, their car crashed with other car. But before the crash happened, Michael protected S.J's face with his hand so S.J survived. After Michael healed from that accident, Touhy Family took him to become rugby player. Almost all of Touhy Family had history in a sport. The Dad, Sean Touhy was a basket ball player. Collins, S.J's sister is a volley ball player. Meanwhile the Mother was a cheerleader. When Michael joined in the rugby team, he still didn't understand how to play rugby. Michael was playing as a left tackle that protect The Blind Side of the quarter back and running back. But he didn't like to hurt somebody else. Rugby is a sport that always has a body contact after all. Finally, Leigh Anne gave understanding to Michael to consider the team as his own family that has to protect. Then Michael could play very well. Game after game held and Michael's rugby

team kept win. S.J sent the tape of Michael's game that he had recorded to the great Universities in that country. They were interesting to put Michael in their university to play on their rugby team.

Coaches came to Touhy's house to offered Michael to go on their university. The conflict started to happens in here. Michael confused to choose which university that he wants to come in, Tennessee or Ole Miss. But before all of that, he also had an enough score of his study to pass the score grade level of the university that he chooses. Finally, he got a private teacher that also a democrat, named Miss Sue. He helped Michael in all of his lessons. Michael got a great progress on his lessons. She told something to Michael that makes Michael to choose Ole Miss. After that Michael graduated and passes the score grade level. When he was going to start his life in a collage, a woman from the NCAA organization called Touhy Family to interrogate Michael. That woman has assumption there is young athletes manipulation. She tells that Touhy Family is one of the highest investor in the university that Michael has chosen. Michael starts to get angry and leave Touhy Family. He comes to find his mother in her house. There he meets with a people that used to be his neighbors. They ask Michael to join while he waits for his mother to come home. Suddenly the have a conversations that makes Michael really angry and then hit them all. Michael run and then calls Leigh Anne. When Leigh Anne meets with Michael, she tells to Michael that he is free to choose which university to go in. She doesn't want to push her wants to Michael because she loves him too much. After heard what Leigh Anne said, Michael

realize that Touhy Family sincere to love him. Michael decides to back to live with Touhy Family and keep choosing Ole Miss University. Michael becomes success on rugby and chosen as All American Football Player at the end. The response of audience about *The Blind Side* movie is various. Many people say that this movie is great about the movie itself and the character and characterization. But the other says that this is a silly film.

This movie got award in 2009 Winning PFCS Award Best Performance by a Youth – Male, 2009 Nominated WAFCA Award Best Actress, Best Screenplay – Adapted, 2010 Nominated Black Reel Best Actor Best Breakthrough Performance Best Film Best Screenplay - Original or Adapted, 2010 Nominated Critic’s Choice Award Best Actress, Best Young Actor/Actress, 2010 Nominated Golden Globe Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama, 2010 Nominated Actor Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role. It stars Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher, Sandra Bullock as Leigh Anne Tuohy, Tim McGraw as Sean Tuohy, Jae Head as S.J. Tuohy, Lily Collins as Collins Tuohy, Ray McKinnon as Coach Cotton, Adriane Lenox as Denise Oher, Kathy Bates as Mrs. Sue. There are a lots of famous stars that are involved in this film such as; Sandra Bullock as Leigh Anne Touhy, Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher, Lily Collins as Collins Touhy and Tim McGraw as Sean Touhy. They have a great contribution in box office movie that ever made. That’s why the writer is interested with this movie. After the writer watched this movie, the writer could say that the character and the characterization are really great. Because

it is characterized by a lots of famous stars such as Sandra Bullock. She is very talented when she played as Leigh Anne Touhy, many people said that she was played as Leigh Anne to over. But that's the real character of Leigh Anne in the real life. Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher was also great actor. He was very natural at the movie. Plot of *The Blind Side* movie is really interesting. It moves forward at the beginning in the scene where the problem arises, then move backward and finally back to forward like in the beginning of the movie. It is more interesting from plot that just only move forward or backward, because the audiences could straight to understand about the problem of the story. This movie takes place in the USA, the setting really matches for the story. There is a slum area where Michael Oher lives, then a nice neighborhood where a new place for Michael to live with Touhy family. They are very selective to choose the location of every scene. That's why this movie becomes greater to watch.

John Lee Hancock is a brilliant director. He shot every scene of this movie in great angle. The visual and special effect on this movie also gives an extra point for *The Blind Side* movie. The cameras that are used to shot the scene are special camera for outdoor and studio. That makes this movie more details in graphic.

Movie is a kind of literature work. Nowadays, movie develops rapidly. It has equal position as the major textual studies, like plays, poetry and novel. People cannot separate it from their life because it becomes such kind part of people's daily life. A good movie is a movie, which is produced and directed

by good qualified producer and director, based on interesting story and excellent screenplay for each revealed character.

The researcher is interested to analyze *The Blind Side* Movie (2009) due to the following reasons; first, *The Blind Side* (2009) is realistic Movie. The second reason, *The Blind Side* (2009) is suitable to be analyzed with Existentialist Approach. The last reason, this film has attractive plot.

The first reason is because it is a realistic film and full of emotional. Everyone who watches this film would think that story become their favorite movie. The second reason is *The Blind Side* (2009) movie is suitable to analyze with Existentialist Approach. This movie tells about the will and action of Michael Oher in his life.

The last reason is the attractive plot. The conflict built from the early moment play the viewer's emotion. It makes the film become not boring to watch. This film has perfect plot structure. The writer uses existentialism Approach to analyze the movie.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in focusing on the analysis and observation of life of Michael Oher and entitles this paper; THE WILL OF MICHAEL OHER IN JOHN LEE HANCOCK'S *THE BLIND SIDE* MOVIE (2009): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

After looking for several literary reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer found the research about *The Blind Side* film that is done by the other writers.

The first is Angga Ardiyanto (2011), he conducted a research entitled “NEED FOR CONSIDERING DIFFERENT MODES OF LEARNING IN JOHN LEE HANCOCK’S *THE BLIND SIDE* MOVIE (2009): AN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE” he applied Educational Psychology approach to reveal the differences mode of learning of Michael Oher reflected in *The Blind Side* movie. The research question of this research is “How is need for considering differences of mode of learning of Michael Oher reflected in *The Blind Side* movie?”. The writer focuses on the analysis of the behavior and the way of study of Michael Oher as the main character of *The Blind Side* movie based on the educational psychology.

Nur Nazaruddin has conducted a research entitled “AMERICAN FOOTBALL AS A MEANS TO CONVEY ABOLISHMENT OF RACISM AS SEEN IN JHON LEE HANCHOCK'S BLIND SIDES”. This research is about the importance of American Football for American people and the correlation between racism and American football to the abolishment of racism in American society. The approaches that are used are historical approach, sociological approach, semiotic film approach and social psychological approach. Those approaches are used in the analysis phase to find out the answer of research question.

Different from previous researchers this study focuses on the will of Michael Oher reflected in *The Blind Side* Movie. One of the major issue in this movie is analyzed by an existentialism approach. In this study the researcher

gives the title “the will of michael oher in john lee hancock’s *the blind side* movie (2009): an existentiast approach.

C. Problem Statement

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as follows “How is the will of Michael Oher reflected in *The Blind Side* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on the analysis of the will of Michael Oher as the main character of *The Blind Side* movie based on existentialism approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the Problem Statement above, the writer can propose some objectives of the Study below:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.
2. To identify the will of Michael Oher in *The Blind Side* movie based on the existentialism approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

In studying the research, the writer expects that the result of this study will give the benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give information and contribution to the development of the knowledge, and particularly the literary study on *The Blind Side* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understanding about the movie and give input to other writers who intend to analyze *The Blind Side* movie.

G. Research Method

- 1. Type of Research**

In writing this research paper, the writer uses qualitative research or secondary research what sources are based on non-human data, especially the data taken from the movie *The Blind Side*.

- 2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *The Blind Side* film by John Lee Hancock.

- 3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources**

The type of data is text, word, dialogue, image, screen, script of the movie itself. The data source will be classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data.

- a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data source is the film itself, *The Blind Side* that is directed by John Lee Hancock.

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data source are some books of literary criticism & article from Internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The collecting data technique is done through literary research. The data are collected from the book and articles related to the topic. In order to make the data more complete the writer is doing some steps. The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Watching movie and reading the books that are connected to the research repeatedly.
- b. Making notes of information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several based on its classification.
- d. Developing data that are provided.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The step of analyzing the data of this research are by analyzing the structural elements of the work and analyzing the existentialist of the work. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some order for the paper organization. Chapter I is introduction, it deals with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research

method and paper organization. Chapter II contains underlying theory based on individual psychology. Chapter III present structural element and discussion of the movie. Chapter IV deals with analysis of existentialism toward the will of Michael Oher and discussion. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion of the research