

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In this life humans have an obsession to get what they want. The obsession is one of the dreams of future life. Every human never stops making efforts to get their dream in any way. The kind of obsession that usually face in life can variety such as the obsession of finding job, the obsession of finding marriage couples, the obsession of finding parent etc.

One of the examples of the obsession in life is the obsession of finding parent. According to Campbell (1990-918) obsession means:

- (1) The supposed action of an evil spirit in besetting a person.
- (2) The supposed state or fact of being affected by an evil spirit from outside.
- (3) (the action) an idea or image which continually or persistently fills the mind.
- (4) an idea or image the rapidly intrudes on the mind of a person against his or her will and is usually distressing, the states of being affected in this way.

Finding parent is the dream of every orphan child, but to realize that dream is not easy. There are some children, who have a parent after their born, but there are also some children that have not parent yet and they live in the orphanage. Because of the problem, they become anxious and afraid if some day they have a new parent who is does not love them.

The obsession of finding parent can influence human personality. The questions and ridicules that come from other people also may insult them and their psyche becomes stressed. There are some people who never stop making

efforts and never give up, although the people has said that is impossible for them having parenthood, they still believe in the miracle of the God.

The complexities of the experience can give inspiration for an author to produce a literary work. Appreciating a literary work has the same significance in meaning as understanding human's existence with his entire mental and inner self problem. Since literature is the exposition of human's mental life, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology. Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being.

One of the directed that represents her inspiration in the movie is Kirsten Sheridan with the movie entitled *August Rush* that talks about the hoping of the child that has not had the parent yet.

Kirsten Sheridan was born in Dublin, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1976. The first feature film Sheridan directed was in 2001 *Disco Pigs*, Enda Walsh's screen adaptation of his own play, starring Cillian Murphy and Elaine Cassidy as teenagers in a lifelong, obsessive, antisocial friendship. *Disco Pigs* earned Sheridan nominations for best director at the British Independent Film Awards and the Irish Film and TV Academy Awards. Sheridan has won many awards for her short films, such as Film Institute of Ireland/Guinness Outstanding Young Irish Talent Awards in 1998, Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards, best writer in 2004, *In America*.

Kirsten Sheridan is one of the greatest directors in the world, who wrote many kinds of films, one of them is *August Rush*, published in 2007.

Kirsten is a director, writer, editor, and also producer in many films such as *The Bench*, *Gentleman Caller*, *Walking Into Mirror*, *Patterns*, *Between Two World*, *WardZone*, *The Case of Majella McGinty*, *Disco pigs*, and *August Rush*, most of which are great and valuable to be learnt.

The film start from a boy named Evan Taylor who lives in an orphanage, all the while believing that his parents are alive. He believes the music that he hears all around him is his parents communicating with him. He meets a counselor, Richard Jeffries, of the New York Child Services Department. Evan tells him he does not want to be adopted, because he believes his parents are still alive and will come to collect him eventually.

His parents are revealed to be named Lyla Novacek, a famous concert cellist, and Louis Connelly, an Irish guitarist and lead singer of a rock band, who spent one romantic night together and never saw each other again. Lyla became pregnant, which her father did not approve of instead wanting Lyla to have a successful career without the obstacle of a child. After an argument with her father, Lyla ran out of a restaurant and was hit by a car. While in hospital, she gave birth to a son. Afterwards, she was told by her father that her child had died, unaware that he had actually been delivered successfully and then been sent to an orphanage by her father.

Evan has a strong faith that as long as he follows the music he hears and reacts to it, he will have a chance to be found by his parents. He makes his way to New York City, where he is taken in by a man known as "Wizard" who houses various orphans and runaways, employing them to play music on the

streets and taking a large cut of their tips. Evan immediately proves to be a musical child prodigy. Wizard enlists him and gives him the name "August Rush", convincing him he will be sent back to the orphanage if his real name is ever discovered.

After a raid by the police, Evan takes refuge in a church, where he again impresses with his natural musical talent and is enrolled at the Juilliard School as "August Rush". A work he composes is chosen to be performed by the New York Philharmonic in Central Park, but Wizard barges into a rehearsal, and Evan reluctantly follows him back to his life of performing music on the streets. These problems make Evan feeling become worse and sad, and it's influenced his psyche.

The night of the concert, Evan finally chooses to run from Wizard in favor of performing at his concert. In the meantime, Louis races to the park when he sees Evan's pseudonym along with Lyla's name on a sign billing the concert. Evan conducts his piece, and at its conclusion, when he turns around to see Lyla and Louis standing hand in hand, they see their son, he knows that his mother and father within hearing his music. And he feels so happy with a nice smile.

From the illustration above the researcher is interested in analyzing the character of Evan as major Character in Kirsten Sheridan's August Rush by using Individual Psychological analysis related to his obsession to finding parents and its influence on his personality.

The first reason, August Rush is an interesting film because this story is like a reality life and the character of August Rush is real. Kirsten tries to put a melodrama elements within August Rush film, but the music makes the view changes, the film more emphasizes of drama musical because of the music.

The second reason is the author can find the characteristic of August Rush easily, because in this film Evan Taylor looks like a genius son, so the author can find easily. The movie is about how fate contrives to bring three people together "contrives" being a key word.

The third reason, this film is reality and based from true story so the writer thinks it is good to analyze compared with another film. August Rush would like the audience to believe that some mystical Force (as the characters describe it, it sounds a lot like the one in Star Wars) binds everyone together it is not coincidence that Lyla and Louis meet and their single coupling results in August.

The last reason the writer thinks the audience can get an inspiration from August Rush after the writer see this film and people can study of August Rush real life. August Rush has one good idea, but it is not effectively exploited. There are several scenes in which Sheridan attempts to get the audience into the mind of a musical prodigy and show how he sees the world. The writer looks through Augusts' eyes and hears through his ears, where every sound, no matter how mundane, becomes a note in the symphony of life in the city. It does not get enough of this, perhaps because Sheridan is afraid of

overusing the technique. The movie focuses more on Augusts' peculiar kind of brilliant madness and less on the dreary soap opera of his possible reunion with his mother and father.

As of the explanation above, the writer is very interested in analyzing the obsession of the major character of the movie. The approach which is going to be applied is an individual psychological approach. The writer makes this research with the title **OBSSESSION OF FINDING PARENTS IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN'S *AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE (2007): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

The film of *August Rush* by Kristen Sheridan is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the film *August Rush* has been conducted by two students in the different faculty.

The first researcher is Jonathan Aditya (2007) from Satya Wacana University of Salatiga, the title is "Conflict of *August Rush* in Kristen Sheridan Movie". He employs the movie in a psychoanalytic approach. The problem statement is how the major character faces his inner conflict in making decision. The outcome of study shows that the problem faced by major character, Evan Taylor or *August Rush* causes the conflict of the major character's mental condition. It brings him in anxiety which influences his decision making process. Finally, the decision is taken as the influence of his

conscience. Therefore, it makes him more comfortable in life although he gains nothing in the end.

The next researcher is Shinta Dewi Revinawati (2010) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is “*Anxiety to Find Self Identity of August Rush in August Rush Movie*”. She used psychoanalytic approach in analyzing the film of *August Rush*. The problem statement of her researcher is how the anxiety of August Rush in finding his identity reflected in Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush* movie.

Different from two previous researchers, this study focuses on the obsession of *August Rush*, one of the major character in this film by an individual psychological approach. In this study the writer gives the title OBSESSION OF FINDING PARENTS IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN’S *AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE (2007): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is how the obsession of finding parents is reflected in Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush*.

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

To carry out the study, the writer will limit the study; the writer tries to focus on the obsession of Evan Taylor.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the film based on an individual psychological perspective.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from this research are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give some contribution to the body of knowledge in the literary study particularly on one of Kirsten Sheridan's works *August Rush*.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

To give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher and enriches the literary study of *August Rush* from an individual psychological perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

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

In analyzing the data in the movie, the researcher uses the qualitative method as the type of the research. This study uses qualitative method because it does not need a statistic analysis to explore the fact. It is only focuses on the analysis of technical data.

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

The object of the study is August Rush movie by Kirsten Sheridan.

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

The data will be classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data.

#### **a. The Primary Data Source**

The primary data source of the study will be taken from plat itself.

#### **b. The Secondary Data source**

In this research, are taken from the other data which have relation with the research, the underlying theory and the other materials concern to the analysis.

### **4. Method of Collecting Data**

The method of the collection in this study is the library research. It involves both primary and secondary data The ways of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly.
- b. Searching the movie scripts from internet.
- c. Reading the movie script repeatedly to get more understanding.
- d. Marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing.
- e. Taking notes of important in both primary and secondary data.
- f. Classifying the data into groups according categories of element of literary study.
- g. Selecting them by rejecting their relevant sources, this does not have important information to support the topic of the study.

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

In analyzing the data the researcher will employ descriptive analysis. It will be begun to the author and her work then the structural analysis of the work and finally an individual psychological analysis of the movie.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

To make it easy to understand, the researcher arranges the research proposal into five chapters. The first chapter introduction that consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, and the object of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter presents with underlying theory explaining An Individual Psychological to analyze the movie. The researcher presents the underlying theory, which consists of the notion of An Individual Psychology, Basic Concept of Individual Psychology and theoretical application. The third chapter presents structural element and discussion of the *August Rush* movie by Kirsten Sheridan. The fourth chapter presents with the analysis the individual psychology toward the major character of the movie. The fifth chapter presents conclusion and suggestion of the research.