

**THE ANXIETY OF WILLIAM THATCHER IN BRIAN  
HELGELEND'S MOVIE  
*A KNIGHT'S TALE:*  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Everybody is created with their own characteristic that defines their personality. Their characteristic also influences someone's way of thinking to develop himself to face the life and also develops the characteristics which differentiate him with others. 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. As the result there is no two people seem to be exactly alike. When people face the problem, they will try to solve that problem by using the method which they have learnt from their environment as the affection of social interaction.

Meanwhile, in the literary work the director always depicts the human life in the characters of the story. Literary work and life have the relationship because the literary work displaces the real daily life characters, situation and problem. The literary work is not merely a mirror of real life, but also an expression of the author's inner. Beside that, literature gives us knowledge to understand the essence of life and contributes to the understanding of the reality of life in order to be realistic.

Every person has ever felt anxious in his life even ones. This situation happens as people interacts with other people that sometimes, the stronger

power innervate her or him that finally pressure results un-good feeling or uncomfortable condition into the weaker one. That is why people will against that to get free no matter what he or she tries to effort as long as he or she can try to overcome.

The Phenomena obviously really happens in our daily life. for further, this phenomenon is transferred into film or cinema by director. The cinema always performs the situation that had happen in the certain time in order to reveal the reality in human life. Beside that, film gives us understanding about the essence of life and contributes to the understanding of the reality of life in order to be sensible. The problem which is usually in the film is the characterization which indicates anxious feeling, disappointment and his withdrawal from social interaction. That is why there are a lot of director displaces the realism of life into film through the screenplay.

According to the above explanatory, there is a relationship between literary work and psychology. The literary work it self displaces phenomena of psychology. The problem which is usually in the literary is the characterization which indicates frustration, excessive of inferiority feeling, his withdrawal from social interaction and his creativity in coping and solving the problems that are caused from situation around him. That is why there are a lot of directors displace the realism of life into the literary. One director who involves those situations of human life in his literary work is Brian Helgend in his movie "*A Knight's Tale*" in 2001.

Brian Helgeland was born in New York. His name became so popular when he became the actors in *boys don't cry* (1994) in New York. Beside that film that categorize as box office film he also directed *The Girl Next door* (2004) that tell about the situation surrounding relationship in the society of life. Beside the films are mentioned above, there are *We Were looser*, *Dracula Bat*, *Klik*, *Desperado* etc.

In The “*A Knight's Tale*” film itself, that take the setting time in medieval a sport arose. Embraced by noble and peasant fans alike though only noble knights could compete. The sport was jousting. For one of these knights, an over-the-hill former champion, it was the end. But for his peasant squire William Thatcher, it was merely the beginning.

Learning from the figure stated on that story above, the researcher finds the reason that is to study *A Knight's Tale* movie by using psychoanalytic approach. Here, anxiety occurs when the major character William Thatcher who fight to be the winner in the champion of knight sport and that full of experiences of fear, anger, and anxious. It is clear that *A Knight's Tale* movie has anxiety in main character; the psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud is suitable in analyzing this film through the major character William Thatcher.

## **B. Previous Study**

In this study, the researcher does not find the other research. So this the first time of research paper that conducts *A Knight's Tale* movie to be analyzed through psychoanalytic approach.

In the other hand, Dewi (2005) did research entitled: The Anxiety of William Wallace in Mel Gibson's *Brave Heart* Movie: Psychoanalytic approach. The writer would like to present previous research related to psychoanalytic approach with different object. Therefore this research will study about the different object in the anxiety of William Thatcher in Brian Helgeland's *A Knight's Tale* movie: a psychoanalytic approach.

## **C. Limitation of the Study**

This study will not cover the personality of all characters, but it will only focus on the one of the major character in *A Knight's Tale* movie, William Thatcher.

## **D. Problem Statement**

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The major problem is how the major character's anxiety is reflected in Brian Helgeland's *A Knight's Tale* movie.

### **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 by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot and theme.
2. To analyze the film especially the character of William Thatcher in *A Knight's Tale* movie using Psychoanalytic Approach developed by Sigmund Freud.

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

The study is expected to be able to provide the following benefit:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of the study is expected to broaden the writer's own comprehension about Brian Helgeland's *A Knight's Tale* movie. This study is also expected to contribute to the development of the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Brian Helgeland's *A Knight's Tale* movie.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is dedicated to the development of literary study in Surakarta University, especially in English Department and to give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other

researchers in analyzing the film that is analyzed in this research into different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *A Knight's Tale* movie to discuss the anxiety that is reflected in the main character's personality.

### **2. Type of the Study**

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.

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

The primary data are taken from the texts of *A Knight's Tale* movie, it consists of dialogue, plot, themes, conflicts, and the whole narration, etc, which are relevant to the object of the study. While the secondary data sources are taken from some books, web sites, other literary and also other matters which support this analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The writer uses library research in collecting data, which involves several steps:

- a) Searching the script of the film from internet.
- b) Reading the script repeatedly.
- c) Marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing it.

- d) Taking notes of important in both primary and secondary data.
- e) Classifying the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study.
- f) Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant sources, which doesn't have important information to support the topic of the study?

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

The writer uses psychoanalysis approach 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 correlation of 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. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, previous study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization. The second chapter deals with review of underlying theory involving the theory of psychoanalysis that will be used to analyze the data. Third chapter is a structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements of the film. Fourth chapter is psychological analysis. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.