

THE PERSONALITY OF NINA SAYER IN DARREN ARONOFSKY'S

***BLACK SWAN* MOVIE (2010):**

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

Naskah Publikasi

GARNIS OKTAVIANI

A 320 060 278



Penguji :

Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum

Titis Setyabudi, S.S.M.Hum

Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2012

APPROVAL

THE PERSONALITY OF NINA SAYER IN DARREN ARONOFSKY'S

BLACK SWAN MOVIE (2010):

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

by

GARNIS OKTAVIANI

A 320 060 278

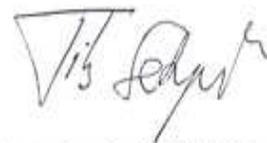
Approved to be Examined by the Consultant Team

Consultant I



(Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum.)

Consultant II



(Titis Setyabudi, S.S, M.Hum.)

ABSTRACT

GARNIS OKTAVIANI. A320060278 . THE PERSONALITY OF NINA SAYER IN DARREN ARONOFSKY'S *BLACK SWAN* MOVIE (2010): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2011.

The study attempts to explore the personality of the major Character. The objective of the study is to analyze the major character based on the structural elements of the movie and psychoanalytic perspective. The researcher applies the theory of psychoanalytic proposed by Sigmund Freud.

The writer conducts the research by using qualitative method that uses the library research, while the data sources are literary data that are divided into two categories, primary and secondary data. The primary data are the movie entitled *Black Swan* and the secondary data include several references books of Psychoanalysis. The object of the research is the movie entitled *Black Swan* directed by Darren Aronofsky.

The results of the study are as follows. Firstly, the structural elements present a unity. It appears in the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story. Secondly, the psychoanalytic analysis shows that ambition leads the affect of life such as the feeling of *Id*, *Ego* and *Superego* to achieve a dream.

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Black Swan is directed by Darren Aronofsky. He was born on February 12, 1969 in Brooklyn, New York. Darren is an artistic, he loved classic movie. As a teenager, he spent time doing graffiti art. After high school, he went to Harvard University to study film (both live- action and animation). Darren has three movies in the IMDb Top 250 movies, they are, *Requiem for a Dream* (2000), *The Wrestler* (2008), and *Black Swan* (2010). He also directed 4 actors in Oscar nominated performances: Ellen Burstyn, Mickey Rourke, Marisa Tomei, and Natalie Portman. Portman won for her performance in *Black Swan* (2010).

The following is the synopsis of the movie. *Black swan* tells about Nina Sayers is a young ballerina in mid twenties from the house production of New York City Ballet. She lives with her mother, Erica, in a small apartment. Nina has a dream to get top player in audition of Swan Lake directed by Thomas Leroy. Tomas Leroy conducts the audition to choose a new face to be able to role white swan and black swan in Swan Lake and also to replace Beth, the lead principal dancer, because her age of being over 40.

In the principal studio, auditions gather and Nina gets the first turn to dance as the White Swan and then the director asks her to dance as black Swan. In the middle of her dance, Lily comes. Lily is a young dancer who can make Tomas Leroy impressed in her dance. Lily makes Nina

loses focus in dance. Tomas is not impressed by Nina's performance and Nina fails in this audition.

On the other day, Nina visits Thomas in his office and tells him she finished the Black Swan dance at home and wants the role. Suddenly, Tomas grabs her face and kisses her passionately. Nina bites him on the lip and runs out of his office. This event makes Tomas impress. Nina finally is selected to take a role as white swan in Swan Lake. The conflict between Nina and Beth happens after Tomas announced to the public about retirement of Beth. Beth is angry because she feels that Nina has made a love with Tomas to get that role as Queen Swan. After that, Beth gets accident and she has to be cared of in the hospital.

In the rehearsal, Tomas gets angry and disappointed after hearing that Nina has cried and regretted after getting that role. Tomas wants to realize Nina if she has talent and not to be coward to play that role. Nina feels shocked. Feeling that Nina is her rival, Lily uses this situation to invite her go out. Lily offers Nina a pill to relax and do sex with her. Nina and Lily become friendship which is the friendship between White Swan, Nina's role, and Black Swan, Lily's role. And this friendship which changes Nina gets more in touch with her dark side - a recklessness that threatens to destroy her, she becomes stubborn, anger, and often hallucination.

The shows begin; Nina is afraid and hesitant to go to the stage. On the stage, she sees Lily flirting with one of the male dancers off stage and

loses her concentration which causes the lead male to drop her center stage. Tomas feels angry and makes Nina shocked. When she enters her dressing room, Lily is sitting at her dressing table putting on makeup. She taunts Nina and they begin to fight. Nina stabs Lily by using a piece of mirror. She cleans it and takes the black swan make up. She takes the stage and begins to dance with passionate abandon. As she dances with everything Thomas has been asking for, she begins to physically transform into a large Black Swan on stage. She dances the part better than before and the crowd is amazed, giving her a standing ovation as the piece ends.

Nina comes back to the make-up room, she sees the room cleaned. When Lily apologizes and congratulates Nina on amazing her performance as Black Swan, she was shocked. She feels that she has killed Lily. After that, Nina looks at her stomach, she is bleeding, and she reaches into the wound and pulls out a broken shard of glass. She apparently has hallucinated, Nina had stabbed herself before the Black Swan dance, imagining it was Lily. Despite she gets wound, she stay to perform the last act as white swan. Nina dances beautifully although she gets wound. In the last scene of her performance, she gets standing applause from the audience and dies.

The film has many reviews. As of December 3, 2010, the review aggregator *Rotten Tomatoes* reported that 32% of critics gave the movie positive reviews, based on 19 reviews. Metacritic reported the film had an average score of 49 out of 100, based on 7 reviews.

2. Literature Review

The *Black Swan movie* is an interesting movie. In this research, the researcher is going to analyze Nina Sayers' personality. The research discusses about the personality of Nina Sayers in *Black Swan* movie.

3. Problem Statment

In this research, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The problem of the research is "How is the personality of Nina Sayers reflected in *Black Swan* movie?"

4. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of the Nina Sayers personality in *Black Swan* movie based on Psychoanalytic approach.

5. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the statement above, the objectives of the study are:

- a. Analyzing the movie based on its structural elements
- b. Analyzing the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach

6. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study are as follows :

- a. **Theoretical Benefit**

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with Darren Aronofsky' *Black Swan*.

b. Partical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the movie, especially from the psychological aspect.

7. Reaserch Method

a. Type of the Study

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Here the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory.

b. Object of the Study

The object of this study is tries to analyze the personality of Nina Sayers in Black Swan movie.

c. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data sources, namely:

1) Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the text of *Black Swan* directed by Darren Aronofsky, particularly the dialogs, statement and action reflecting the personality of the story and the characters that supports the research.

2) Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is other sources related to the primary data such as information about the director's biography, websites about the film, and other source supporting the analysis.

d. Technique of the collection Data

The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

- 1) Watching and comprehending the movie.
- 2) Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data.
- 3) Choosing the approach which is suitable with the movie.
- 4) Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory.

e. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of Data Analysis in this study is descriptive and hermeneutic. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text and content relating to the psychological condition of the major character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

B. Structure of Nina Sayers Personality

1) Id

Nina's first *id* begins to occur when on a day she does her daily routine with her friends in a production house training ballet dance. There will be an opening dance that is Swan Lake for the new season and the head of the production watch the training and picks some person for scheduled training to cast the swan queen whereas the dancer has to dance two characters as white swan and black swan. Luckily, Nina is one of them. On the training, when she turn comes she does the dance well, but, not good enough for the black swan. It makes Thomas force her to get better till she almost drops herself and suddenly she asks Thomas that she can do it again.

Thomas : Not so controlled. Seduce us. Not just the Prince, but the court, the audience, the entire world. Come on, like a spider spinning a web. Attack it, attack it! Come on!

(BS, 00:13:24).

Her *id* comes to increase again after the party that is celebrated for fund grinder, she goes to Thomas' house and discusses about the role of the swan queen. Thomas asks her a lot of question and she answers it nicely. The entire question that Thomas gives to her is the steps for her to cast the black swan very well. Even, Thomas asks her to touch herself when at home. It is important for her to how getting lose so that she can master the black swan dance very well.

Thomas : Please. I thought it'd be good to talk about the role. Drown this a little. I don't want there to be any boundaries between us.

Nina : No, me neither.
 Thomas : Good. So... You got a boyfriend?
 Nina : No.
 Thomas : Have you had many in the past?
 A few. But no one serious.
 Thomas : You're not a virgin are you?
 Nina : No.
 Thomas : So there's nothing to be embarrassed about.
 And you enjoy making love?
 Nina : Excuse me?
 Thomas : Come on, sex. Do you enjoy it? We need to be
 able to talk about this. I've got a little
 homework assignment for you. Go home and
 touch yourself. Live a little.
 (BS, 00:35:29)

2) Ego

Nina's *superego* gives a lot of influence to the *ego*. It causes the *ego* is too often followed by his *superego's* warning. It begins when his *id* supports the *ego* to get the position of the white swan and black swan dancer. In her house, she practices till one of her nail is bleeding. She thinks that there is no time to relax so she must practice harder. When she knows that there is a woman that suddenly occurs and can take the position of the dancer, Nina decides to talk to Thomas in the following day. The *superego* reaches the power because his *id* fails to pressure the *ego*.

Erica : You're working yourself too hard.
 Nina : We all have off days. That girl, um, barged in.
 Erica : I'm sure she didn't mean to. For a starter, if I
 hadn't taken you to each of your classes, you'd
 have been completely lost.
 Nina : I'm going to talk to him tomorrow. I'm going to
 tell him I finished it.
 Erica : You don't need to lie. You won't convince him
 one way or the other.
 (BS, 00:17:02)

3) Superego

Nina's decision is always influenced by his *Id's* pressure. It is because the *ego* is full of his *id's* impulse. But, it does not make the *ego* often abandon his *superego's* warning. Knowing that there is a girl who barged in, she gets angry and scared if the woman takes the position of the dancer. Her *ego* moves her to get the Thomas' office and tells him that she has finished the Coda dance and she can act the dancer well.

Thomas : Yes, Nina?

Nina : Do you have a minute? Now's not a good time.
I get it.

Thomas : Now is perfect.

Nina : So... I just wanted to tell you that I practiced the coda last night and I finished. I thought you should know.

(BS, 00:18:44)

When Thomas tells her that he gets veronica for the dancer, Nina cannot accept his decision. Her *id* pressures the *ego* to ensure Thomas that she has already mastered the both white and black swan dance. The *ego* decides to hear the voice of his *id*. The *ego* decides to ask the role of the dancer because she wants to be perfect.

C. The Source of Influence in Nina Sayer's Personality

In this movie, there are two factors that affect Nina Sayer's individual. Those factors are ambition and pressure. Ambition and perfection has great influence on Nina Sayer's personality. Being competes with the others in

catching the swan queen role and being to be perfect individual dancer are able to influence her personality.

1) **Ambition**

From the movie, the writer finds that Nina Sayer is a woman who desires the swan queen role badly. It is shown by Nina through his dialog and it is quite clear to conclude that she really want the role of swan queen better than anybody else.

2) **Pressure**

From the movie, the writer finds that Nina Sayer is a woman who desires the swan queen role badly. It is shown by Nina through his dialog and it is quite clear to conclude that she really want the role of swan queen better than anybody elseher that Nina take over her role by doing something embarrass with Thomas.

Nina : I'm so sorry to hear you're leaving the company.

Beth : What did you do to get this role? He always said you were such a frigid little girl. What did you do to make him change his mind? Did you suck his cock?

Nina : Not all of us have to.

Beth : You fucking whore! You're a fucking little whore!

(BS, 00:34:26)

Pressure from Beth Macintyre becomes more and more goes deep in herself especially when she knows that Beth is got accident hit by a car at the moment when Beth is getting angry to her after the party. She feels so guilt and feels sorry to her. She can not hide her guilty and she decides to look over Beth in the hospital. After getting the hospital, Nina sees Beth is laying in the

bed unconsciousness. There Nina sees Beth's wound is really serious till makes her run away of the hospital. Pressures from Beth continuous at her home, she sometimes sees Beth's shadow always haunting her. It makes her stress and perhaps she hurt herself insensibly.

D. Conclusion

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in previous chapters on *Black Swan* movie by Darren Aronofsky using psychoanalytic approach, finally the writer can take two following conclusions:

First, the result of the analysis shows that the whole elements of the movie present a solid unity. The elements of the movie such as the characters, plot, point of view, and the visualization from *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, editing and other technical elements has the unity of structure that build the stories. And as the main character, Nina Sayers has important role throughout the story. As human being, she tends to have a problem in her life. It motivates her to solve the problem eventhough by difficult and complicated ways. As a woman who has a profession of a ballet dancer, she desires the main role of the opening season performance entitled *The Swan Lake* as the swan queen. The role makes her ambitious and she has to get it. She meets the head and the trainer of the production, Thomas Leroy to ask the role personally.

Secondly, based on psychoanalytic analysis, the *ego* of Nina Sayers can choose the decision and it causes the egoism.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barnet, Berman and Barto. 1961. *An Introduction to Literature*. Boston: Little Brown and Company.
- Baron, Robert A. 1995. *Psychology (Third Edition)*. Boston; Allyn & Bacon.
- Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. 1990. *Film Art and Introduction*. New York: McGraw. Hill.
- Douglass, John S, & Harnden, P, Glenn. (1996). *The Art of Technique*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc.
- Feist, J. 1985. *Theoriest of Personality*. Japan: CBS College Publishing Gilmer, B. Van Heller. 1984. *Applied Psychology: Adjustment to the Theory of Personality*. Canada: John Wiley and Sons Inc.
- Hall, Calvin S & Gardner Lindzey. 1970. *Introduction to the Theory of Personality*. Canada: John Wiley and Sons Inc.
- Hall, Calvin S. and Gardner Lindzey. 1985. *Introduction to Theories of Personality*. USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Hall, Calvins S and Linzey, Gardner. 1981. *Theory of Personality (Second Edition)*. New York: Jhon Willey and Sons Inc.
- Hjelle, Larry A, Ziegler Daniel. 1992. *Personality Theories: Basic Assumption Research and Application*. Third Edition. New York: Mc Graw Hill, Inc.
- Kennedy, X J. 1991. *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*. Toronto: Haper Collins Publisher.
- Kennedy, X J. 1983. *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*. Toronto: Little Brown and Collins Publisher.
- Hilgard, R. Ernest. 1962. *Introduction to Psychology*. Stanford University Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

- Kennedy X. J. 1983. *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*. New York: Little Brown and Co.
- Klarer, Mario. 1995. *An Introduction to Literature Studies*. London: Routledge.
- Lukens, Rebecca J. 1995. *Critical Handbook of Children's Literature*.
Harper Collins Publisher.
- Mischel, Walter. 1968. *Personality Answer*. United States of America. Hiley International Edition
- Nurdiyantoro, Burhan (1995). *Teori Pengkaji Fiksi*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press).
- Ommaney, A, Katharine, & Schanker, H, Harry. (1972). *The Stage and The School*. McGraw-Hill, Inc.
- Pervin, Lawrence A. 1984. *Personality*. New York, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Pervin, Lawrence A and Oliver P. John. 1996. *Personality*. USA: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- Pervin, Lawrence A. 1984. *Personality Theory and Theory Research. Fourth Edition*. New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Ryckman, Richard M, 1985. *Theories of Personality*. United States of America. Brooks Cole Publishing Company.
- Pervin, Lawrence A. 1984. *Personality*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Inc.
- Phillips, William H. 2005. *Film: An Introduction*. Third Edition. Boston: Bdicard/St.Martin.