

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A speech disability is characterized by difficulty in articulation of words, for example stuttering or problems producing particular sounds (e.g. "th"). Speech disabilities vary in type and degree. Some may include difficulty with voice strength, fluency, aphasia which may alter the articulation of certain words, or voicelessness. Occurrence of speech impairments may be congenital, or due to an injury or illness.

A language disability is a specific impairment in understanding and sharing thoughts and ideas, i.e. a disorder that involves the processing of linguistic information. Problems that may be experienced can involve grammar (syntax and/or morphology), semantics (meaning), or other aspects of language.

Speech and language disabilities can be one of the earliest types of disabilities to identify. This is because some of the symptoms are noted because of a lack of social integration, failure to reach developmental hallmarks and the palpable lack of expression in young children. However, if an educator is not trained or informed of the characteristics, the disability can be unnoticed for years. This can cause regression in essential verbal expression skills and lead to low academic achievement. Like all types of disabilities, there is no cure for a speech and language impairment, but there

are effective therapies. Students identified with a speech and language disability often qualify for an Individualized Education Plan as well as particular services. These include one-on-one services with a speech and language pathologist.

The King's Speech movie is a 2010 British historical drama film directed by Tom Hooper and written by David Seidler. Colin Firth plays King George VI, who, to overcome his stutter, is introduced to Lionel Logue, an unorthodox Australian speech therapist played by Geoffrey Rush. The two men become friends as they work together, and after his brother abdicates, the new king relies on Logue to help him make a radio broadcast at the beginning of World War II.

The director of *The King's Speech* is Tom Hooper. He was born in London, England in 1972 to Meredith and Richard Hooper. Hooper was educated at Highgate School and Westminster School. At the age of 12, he read a book entitled *How to Make Film and Television* and decided he wanted to become a filmmaker. Aged 13, he made his first film, entitled *Runaway Dog*, using clockwork 16mm Bolex camera his uncle had given to him. He is a film director and producer of some movies. He had made a lot of great movies, such as *Painted Faces* (1992), *Quayside* (1997), *Byker Grove* (1997), *EastEnders* (1998–2000), *Cold Feet* (1999), *Love in a Cold Climate* (2001), *Daniel Deronda* (2002), *Prime Suspect 6: The Last Witness* (2003), *Red Dust* (2004), *Elizabeth I* (2005), *Longford* (2006), *John Adams* (2008), *The Damned United* (2009), *The King's Speech* (2010).

The film opens with Prince Albert, Duke of York, known to his wife and family as "Bertie" (played by Colin Firth), the second son of King George V, speaking at the close of the 1925 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley Stadium, with his wife Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) by his side. His stammering speech visibly unsettles the thousands of listeners in the audience. The prince tries several unsuccessful treatments and gives up, until the Duchess persuades him to see Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), an Australian speech therapist in London. In their first session, Logue requests that they address each other by their Christian names, a breach of royal etiquette. He convinces Bertie to read Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" soliloquy, while listening to the overture from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* on headphones. Logue records Bertie's reading on a gramophone record, but convinced that he has stammered throughout, Bertie leaves in a huff. Logue offers him the recording as a keepsake.

Film *the king's speech* was started by actor Colin Firth (King George VI), a beautiful artist Helena Bonham Carter (Queen Elizabeth) and actor Geoffrey Rush (Lionel Logue). This film is produced by the See Saw Films and Productions Bedlam see *the king's speech* movie trailer Prince Albert (Colin Firth) does not ever expect to be king of England. He knows he has limitations. He could not lead a country the size of England while speaking in public just finished her weight struggle. Unfortunately fate of other said and Albert should immediately ascend to the throne.

After the death of King George V (Michael Gambon), Prince Edward (Guy Pearce) who should have ascended the throne, but because Edward prefers off the throne and married Wallis Simpson (Eve Best), there is no other choice except for Albert took over the reins of power. Albert knew that this was not easy affair; especially World War II was in the front door. He should be able to overcome the shortcomings.

Fortunately, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) never gives up. After trying a few doctors to cure stuttering suffered by Albert, Elizabeth and then tries a more unusual method. He asked Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), a therapist with a strange method, to heal her husband. With strong determination and guidance from Lionel, Albert finally managed to recover. From a guy stutters, Albert became a king who was capable of speech and the burning spirit of all British citizens to face the World War II. (KPL / rock) This film was released in December 2010 and became a Hollywood movie box office 2010.

There are many responses to the performance of *The King's Speech* movie, one of them such as: from *Uginia Urwick*. The film is creating awareness regarding some of the challenges experience not only by persons living with speech impairments but with other forms of special needs. That we could develop special need at any stage in our lives. There was the aspect too that special needs conditions are irrespective of persons, personalities, ethnic group and background. That the best doctors might not necessary have the solution to every problem. It equally illustrated what families of children or

adults with special needs go through socially and emotional. With appropriate therapy technique speech problems could be overcome or minimized. (<http://specialchildren.about.com/b/2011/02/28/the-kings-speech-wins-oscar-for-best-picture.htm>).

From those comments the writer could take a note that actually *The King's Speech* movies have a good filming production and education value. It is determined in the plot line, theme and of course in the character of the actors and actresses.

As the audience, the writer also gives his comment onto this movie. The first, the struggle of King George VI to overcome the thing that seems impossible becoming the dream does come true. It is very good character he has ever seen, because it is unique. In one side he was a hard man, but in other side he was a smooth king.

The second, the parents should know that "*The King's Speech*" is totally harmless for an all-ages audience. Quite remarkably, the film contains no sex, nudity or violence. Because it is set inside the royal world of Britain, the language is kept very clean and proper.

The third, this film is able to describe the life is very varied with all the problems and intrigue, the kingdom of life are like the lives of people without a crown.

The last, the presentation of "*The King's Speech*" can be implemented on the lives of anyone, not necessarily the royal family. But once again this film will not only talk about how a candidate for the King of

England "to combat" shortcomings in matters of speech, especially in public, but above all the story and the events that appear colored 118 minute duration of "*The King's Speech*", the story of friendship special between King and the therapist.

In this case the writer concludes that the most appropriate theory used to analyze the data is existentialist approach. From the background explanation above the researcher is interested to analyze the character of Prince Albert, Duke of York / King George VI as the major character to prove the diffable's independence in that movie entitled "OVERCOMING SPEECH DISABILITY IN TOM HOOPER *THE KING'S SPEECH* MOVIE (2010): AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH".

B. Problem Statement

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as "How is overcoming speech disability for making dream into Reality of King George VI reflected in *The king's Speech* movie?"

C. Literature Review

After looking for several literary reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the writer has not found the research about *The king's Speech* film done by the other writers. The writer is quite interested in this movie and wants to observe it by using existentialist theory and approach to broaden and understand the movie deeply. The writer applies existentialist approach to overcoming speech disability of King George VI in *The King's speech* movie.

D. Objective of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. The study aims at analyzing the movie based on its structural elements.
2. The study also aims at analyzing the overcoming speech disability of the major character based on the Existentialist Approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

This study only analyzes how King George VI overcoming speech disability in “*The King’s Speech movie*” viewed from the Existentialist Approach. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that King George VI psychological development is influenced by the struggle for survival in her live.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

Hopefully, the result of this research gives some benefits to the world of literature, beside development; particularly the literature study on Tom Hooper “*The King’s Speech*”, and give deeper understanding about the movie especially from the aspect of Existentialist, and

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give input to other researchers who are interested in analyzing Tom Hooper “*The King’s Speech*”.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing the Overcoming speech disability in *The King's Speech* movie the writer uses the qualitative method in the form of literary work, because it does not need statistic to explore the fact and not necessary in seaming and exploring qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The King's Speech* movie directed by Tom Hooper that released in Unite States, 28 November 2010. It is analyzed by using existentialist approach.

3. Data and Data Source

There are two sources of data namely primary data source and secondary data source:

a. The Primary Data Source

That is the play of the movie *The King's Speech* directed by Tom Hooper.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is the other data related to the research, such as books of existentialist approach theory, movie script, commentaries, internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The data in this study are collected and submitted from any library source then they are classified into:

- a. Primary Data: Expressions, action, thought, and respond from the subjects. The primary data source is a movie in title *The King's Speech* by Tom Hooper
- b. Secondary Data: any article, theories, and respond about *The King's Speech* movie that is relevant toward the aims or purposes of research.

By those data, the researcher takes some steps as follows:

- (1) Watching the movie several time.
- (2) Taking notes of important part in both primary and secondary data.
- (3) Determining the major character.
- (4) Arranging the data into several part based on it classification
- (5) Analyzing the data based on behaviorist perspective theory.
- (6) Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and also analyzes it by using existentialist approach.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “*Overcoming Speech Disability in Tom Hooper The King’s Speech Movie (2010): An Existentialist Approach*” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Limitation of Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, and Benefit of Study. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It consists of Notion of Existentialist, Sartre’s Major Theory of Existentialism, The terms are existence before essence, Being, Consciousness (cogito), Freedom (to choose), and Anguish (anxiety), Transcendence of Ego, and Nothingness. Chapter III is Structural analysis of The King’s Speech Movie; (1) the structural element of the movie; it is consist of character and characterization, casting, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme; (2) discussion. Chapter IV is Existentialist approach analysis. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.