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PERSISTENCE OF KING GEORGE VI TO OVERCOME HIS STUTTER IN _THE KING’S SPEECH_ MOVIE (2010) DIRECTED BY TOM HOOPER: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated how is persistence of King George VI to overcome his stutter reflected in The King’s Speech movie (2010) directed by Tom Hooper, especially viewed from psychoanalytic approach. The objectives of the research are to analyze the film based on its structural element and to analyze the film based on the psychoanalytic approach. The research paper belongs to the qualitative research. The object of the study is the persistence of King George VI to overcome his stutter reflected in The King’s Speech movie. The data source comes from primary data source that is The King’s Speech movie and secondary data sources are related to the movie. The method of data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. From the result of analysis, it can be drawn the following conclusions. Firstly, the structural elements of the movie present a good unity because it has related one to another. Tom Hooper extends the theme of this movie is about the persistence to reach goals and desires of life. Secondly, based on psychoanalytic analysis this movie reflects King George VI persistences to overcome his stutter.

Key words: Persistence, Stutter, and Psychoanalytic Approach

A. INTRODUCTION

Persistence is the ability to maintain action regardless of feelings. Persistence will ultimately provide its own motivation. If people simply keep taking action, they will eventually get results, and the results can be very motivating. When people have big goal in their life, they have to motivate their
self in order to reach their goals. But it is not only motivation that will produce results, but also persistence of action that will accumulate results.

People will be able to express their thought and feeling each other by using language. The correlation between language and life cannot be separated. Language is used for communication. It allows people to say things to each other and express their communicative needs. Communication is very important in human life. Sometimes communication does not run well, because there are any factors that make speech errors. One of speech errors is stutter. Stutter is a speech disorder in which the flow of speech is disrupted by involuntary repetitions and prolongations of sounds, syllables, words or phrases, in voluntary silent pauses or blocks in which the stutterer is unable to produce sounds.

In 2010, film production released a film that has different appeals and full of good message. The King’s Speech movie tells about the persistence of Albert, the second son of King George V to overcome his stutter. He always feels stutter every speech in front of many people, so he wants to overcome his stutter with his persistence.

The King’s Speech is one of the most popular historical drama movies of World War II ever produced. The King's Speech tells about King George VI, who, to overcome his stutter, is introduced to Lionel Logue, an unorthodox Australian speech therapist. 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. There are conflicts between Albert
This movie is written by David Seidler. He is a British American playwright and film and television writer. He was born on 1973. *The King’s Speech* movie is directed by Tom Hooper, British film and television director of English and Australian heritage who was born on 1972 in London. Hooper began making short films at the age of 13, and had his professional short, Painted Faces, broadcast on Channel 4 in 1992.

*The King’s Speech* is a movie that tells the story of the man who became King George VI, the father of Queen Elizabeth II. In the mid 1930s, King George V of England is concerned about the immediate future of the British monarchy. His eldest son David, first in line for the throne, is in a relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Marriage to a divorcée and being King of England (and thus head of the Church of England) is incompatible. And King George V's second son, Albert (or Bertie as he is called by family), second in line for the throne, speaks with a stutter, something he's had since he was a child. Although a bright and temperamental man, Bertie, because of his stutter, does not capture the confidence of the public, which is paramount if Britain does enter into war against Hitler's regime. As King George V states about living in a communications age, a king can no longer get by in life solely by looking good in a regal uniform and knowing how to battle riding a horse. Elizabeth, Bertie's loving wife, wants to help her husband gain confidence solely in his increasing need to speak at public functions, regardless of if he becomes king or not. She finds an unconventional
Australian raised speech therapist named Lionel Logue to help assist in curing Bertie's stutter, with no one, even Lionel's family, knowing he has this job with the royal highness. Lionel and Bertie's relationship is often an antagonistic one as Lionel feels the need for the two to be equals during their sessions, with Lionel even calling him Bertie instead of your royal highness, which doesn't sit well with him, as he is not used to such dealings with a commoner. An issue with Lionel, which he does not hide but also does not fully disclose, may threaten their relationship altogether, which may be especially problematic as a still stuttering Bertie ultimately becomes King George VI and as Britain enters into war with Germany.

_The King's Speech_ is an interesting movie: there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is _The King's Speech_ has the uncommon story; this is an historical film. This movie tells about the different situation in World War II; there are the internal conflicts in the British Monarchy. Tom Hooper is very success in building the character of King George VI. The second aspect is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Tom Hooper makes the audience feel enthusiastic with this historical drama movie, even when the movie shows the glamour of interiors of Buckingham Palace when the King walks to make his speech and for the official photograph afterwards. Colin Firth also plays Prince Albert very well. His acting is successfully representing the man who has a stutter. The third is the love feeling that appears in this movie. Even the King George VI is stutter man, but wife and Lionel as his doctor always give their loyalty every time to help him overcome his problem. Hooper as the director is
very smart to describe that and gives the audience a greater understanding of the power of love. The last is the persistence which is reflected in *The King's Speech*. Hooper, the director, wants the audience to underline that persistence is very important for people to overcome something, especially weaknesses.

Based on the previous background of study, the writers proposed the problem “How is persistence of King George VI to overcome his stutter reflected in *The King’s Speech* movie (2010) directed by Tom Hooper?”.

**B. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research method. It is library research while data source is using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using psychoanalytic perspective. Moleong provide the various steps of conducting qualitative study in his book. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the object of the study, (2) determining data and data source, (3) determining technique of data collection, and (4) determining technique of data analysis (Moleong, 1989:3).

The object of the study is *The King’s Speech* movie directed by Tom Hooper and publishing in 2010. It is analyzed by using psychoanalytic approach. There are two data sources that are needed to do this research. The primary data source of the study is *The King’s Speech* movie directed by Tom Hooper and the script movie written by David Seidler. The secondary data sources are books and other sources that support the analysis.

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are: 1) Watching the movie several times, 2) Reading the movie script, 3) Determining
the character that will be analyzed, 4) Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data, 5) Classifying and determining the relevant data, 6) Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie.

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and psychoanalytic approach by Freud.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Analysis of Prince Albert / King George VI’s Personality

a. King George VI’s \textit{Id}

In psychoanalytic theory, the \textit{id} is home base for the instincts. It constantly strives to satisfy the wish impulses of the instincts by reducing tensions. The \textit{id} serves the pleasure principle, since its sole function is to seek satisfaction of pleasurable drives. Since the \textit{id} has no direct contract with reality, it is not altered by the passage of time or by the experiences of the person (Freud, 1959: 74). The \textit{id} is a gratification selfish, primitive, childish, pleasure-oriented part of the personality with no ability to delay.

In \textit{The King’s Speech} movie (2010) directed by Tom Hooper, the \textit{id} is reflected in major character Prince Albert/ King George VI. The \text{Id} deals with individual inner self and his environment. The \textit{id} appears due to the heredity or anomaly development. It originates from one’s imperfection like physical defeat, lack of social life; or inability to overcome the life problems.
King George VI’s first *id* occurs when some of the pressures of childhood make him be loner people. His *id* wants to reveal about his life to Logue.

King George VI : (tunelessly)
Nanny pinch me so I’d cry, and be sent away at once, then she wouldn’t feed me, far far away.
(speaks)
Took three years formy parents to notice. As you can imagine, it caused some stomach problems. Still.
(TKS, 00: 53: 31)

His second *id* occurs when David, the Prince of Wales accedes to the throne as King Edward VIII, but he wants to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorced socialite, which would provoke a constitutional crisis. Edward cannot marry a divorced woman and retain the throne. His *id* wants his brother to cancel his marriage with Mrs. Simpson in order to keep David on the throne.

Lionel Logue : Where does that leave you?
King George VI : I know my place! I’ll do anything within my power to keep my brother on the throne.
(TKS, 01: 03:24)

The biggest King George VI’s *id* is when as usual, a King has to deliver a speech in important or particular events including declaration of war.

King George VI : I’m trying to familiarise myself with what a state paper looks like.
(TKS, 01: 14: 39)

His *id* wants to deliver speech about declaration of war with Germany clearly and fluently without stutter. He wants to overcome
his stutter and wants to deliver speech well in front of British Monarchy public because he wants to be a good King for his citizens.

b. King George VI’s Superego

In Freudian psychology, the superego is the moral or ethical province of personality. It is guided by the idealistic principle as oppose to the pleasure principle of the id and realistic of the ego. Superego is internalized societal and parental standards of “good” and “bad” and “right” and “wrong” behaviour.

Superego is the last of personality systems which consists of norm in a society and also the role to behave (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 90). It decides the right or wrong of the mind which does as the system based on the moral principle; its aim is to seek perfection which tells what humans should do.

King George VI’s first superego occurs when some of the pressures of childhood make him being a loner people. His id wants to reveal about his life to Logue. His superego said that Logue is ordinary people and he should not reveal about his life to him.

King George VI: Sometimes, when I ride through the streets and see, you know, the Common Man staring at me, I’m struck by how little I know of his life, and how little he knows of mine. (TKS, 00: 55: 40)

His second superego occurs when David, the Prince of Wales accedes to the throne as King Edward VIII, but he wants to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorcée socialite, which would provoke a constitutional crisis. Edward cannot marry a divorced woman and
retain the throne. His *id* wants his brother to cancel his marriage with Mrs. Simpson. His *superego* realizes that remain Edward cannot marry a divorced woman and retains the throne is vain.

David: This is not just some woman I am carrying on with. This is the woman I intend to marry. (TKS, 00: 59: 28)

His biggest *superego* occurs when as usual, a King has to deliver a speech in important or particular events including declaration of war.

Lionel Logue: Bertie, you can do this!
King George VI: If I am to be king...where is my power? May I form a Government, levy a tax or declare a war? No! Yet I am the seat of all authority. Why? Because the National believes when I speak, I speak for them. Yet I cannot speak! (TKS, 0: 36: 50)

His *id* wants to deliver speech about declaration of war with Germany clearly and fluently without stutter. His *superego* realizes that he cannot do that. His *superego* makes him depressed because he knows that he was stutter since he was child.

c. **King George VI's Ego**

The *ego* is the moderator between the *id* and *superego*, which seeks compromises to pacify both. The *ego* can be view as our “Sense of Self”. The *ego* is the region of the mind in contact with reality. It grows out of the *id* during infancy and, throughout a person’s lifetime; it remains the extension of the *id*, which has communication with the external world. The *ego* is governed by the reality principle, which tries to substitute for the pleasure principle of the *id*. Here the *ego* has
a function to express and satisfy the desire of the *id* in accordance with the reality (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 89).

King George VI’s first *ego* occurs when he decides to reveal about his life to Logue because as the treatment progresses, the two become friends and confidants.

King George VI : You know, Lionel, you’re the first ordinary Englishman... I’ve ever really spoken to.
Lionel Logue : Australian.

(TKS, 00: 55: 25)

His second *ego* rises when David, the Prince of Wales accedes to the throne as King Edward VIII, but he wants to marry Wallis Simpson, an American divorced socialite, which would provoke a constitutional crisis. His *ego* decides to cancel his brother’s marriage with Mrs. Simpson, because it is related to their monarchy but King Edward abdicates to marry her.

King George VI : David, the Church does not recognise divorce and you are the head of the Church.
David : Haven’t I any rights?
King George VI : Many privileges....
David : Not the same thing,your beloved Common Man may marry for love, why not me?
King George VI : If you were the Common Man, on what basis could you possibly claim to be King?!

(TKS, 00: 59: 47)

King George VI’s biggest *ego* is when he decides to deliver speech clearly and fluently without stutter. His biggest *ego* makes him be willing to work hard to overcome his stutter. The King delivers his speech as if to Logue, who coaches him through every moment.
Because of his *id* more dominant than his *superego*, he is willing to do anything to make his *id* come true. Finally he can deliver speech well in his first war time speech and got many congratulatory from his friends and family because of his hard work and his persistence with Logue.

### 2. The Persistence of Prince Albert/ King George VI

Persistence is the ability to maintain action regardless of feelings. Persistence will ultimately provide its own motivation. If people simply keep taking action, they will eventually get results, and the results can be very motivating. When people have big goal in their life, they have to motivate their self in order to reach their goals. But it is not only motivation that will produce results, but also persistence of action that will accumulate results.

Every decision always has particular consequent. It also happened to Prince Albert, Duke of York who became King George VI. When King Edward abdicates to marry, Albert becomes King George VI because his brother David, Prince of Wales / King Edward VIII is in a relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Marriage to a divorcée and being King of England are incompatible.

Albert (or Bertie as he is called by family), speaks with a stutter, something he had since he was a child. Although a bright and temperamental man, Bertie, because of his stutter, does not capture the confidence of the public, which is paramount if Britain does enter into war.
against Hitler's regime. Communication is very important for public figure in Britain including a King. Because of his stutter, he fears and feels that he can’t be a good King.

King George VI’s fears about Speech keep up his spirits to doing treatments to overcome his stutter. He tries to consults with Sir Blandine-Bentham.

King George VI tries several unsuccessful treatments and gives up, until his wife persuades him to see Lionel Logue, an Australian speech therapist in London. First meeting with Logue, King George VI was confused whether Logue can treat him well or not. Logue asks him to read Hamlet's 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 stuttered throughout, Bertie leaves in a huff. Logue offers him the recording as a keepsake.

Bertie plays Logue's recording and hears an unbroken recitation of Shakespeare in his own voice. He returns to Logue and begins to trust to Logue ability to treat him.

After that deal, King George VI does some exercises with Logue. There are many different sessions, many different days, all in the consultation room. King George VI and Logue both have their individual hands clasped and are shaking them, vibrating their chest and loosening their jaw. As their jaws wobble, they omit a vibrating sound. King George VI lies on the floor and inhales deeply. He is doing breathing exercises. He
also stands framed by the open window and releases vowel sounds loudly while Elizabeth timing with a stop watch.

King George VI’s exercise does not run well. Many problems happened during the sessions, such as misunderstanding both King George VI and Logue.

After his brother abdicates officially, King George VI feels that he really needs Logue and tries to apologize to him. Logue also apologizes to King George VI if he was on the wrong way.

King George VI : Waiting for a King to apologize, one can wait rather a long wait.
Lionel Logue : I went about it the wrong way. I’m sorry.
(TKS, 01:17:01)

They can solve all problems well and become friends for the rest of their life. King George VI makes Lionel Logue a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1944. Their biggest goal at that time is wartime speech. Logue accompanying the King in every wartime speech. Through his broadcasts, King George VI becomes a symbol of national resistance.

Wood : Congratulations, your majesty. A true broadcaster.
King George VI : Thank you, Mr Wood.
(TKS, 01:48:20)

Finally, King George VI’s hard work and persistence to overcome his stutter for many days with Logue is successful, he can overcome his stutter and can deliver speech clearly and fluently.

3. Discussion

The analysis of the major character’s personality elements and his persistence above shows that each classification gives an important part in
building the major characters mental condition. In describing the condition of each element, it is necessary to collect and relate these elements into discussion of the analysis.

Tom Hooper gives attention in the personality elements especially in King George VI as a major character in this movie. He faces King George VI’s conflict between his *id* to fulfil his desire to overcome his stutter. As usual, a King has to deliver a speech in important or particular events including declaration of war. His *id* wants to deliver speech about declaration of war with Germany clearly and fluently without stutter. His *superego* realizes that he cannot do that. His *ego* decides to deliver speech clearly and fluently without stutter. The King delivers his speech as if to Logue, who coaches him through every moment.

Every decision always has particular consequence. It also happened to Prince Albert, Duke of York who became King George VI. When King Edward abdicates to marry, Albert becomes King George VI because his brother David, Prince of Wales / King Edward VIII is in a relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Marriage to a divorcée and being King of England is incompatible.

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against Hitler's regime. Communication is very important for public figure in Britain including a King.

King George VI tries several unsuccessful treatments and gives up, until his wife persuades him to see Lionel Logue, an Australian speech therapist in London. First meeting with Logue, King George VI was confused whether Logue can treat him well or not. Logue and King George VI make a deal to work together to overcome the King’s stutter. There are many different sessions, many different days, all in the consultation room. King George VI and Logue both have their individual hands clasped and are shaking them, vibrating their chest and loosening their jaw. As their jaws wobble, they omit a vibrating sound. King George VI lies on the floor and inhales deeply. He is doing breathing exercises. He also stands framed by the open window and release vowel sounds loudly while Elizabeth is timing with a stop watch.

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They can solve all problems well and become friends for the rest of their life. King George VI makes Lionel Logue a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 1944. Their biggest goal at that time is wartime speech.
Logue always accompany the King for every wartime speech. Through his broadcasts, King George VI becomes a symbol of national resistance.

Finally, King George VI’s hard work and persistence to overcome his stutter for many days with Logue is successful, he can overcome his stutter and can deliver speech clearly and fluently.

Some important research findings can be stated as follows; King George VI’s characterizations are described as hard worker, persistent person, temperamental, warm on family and loyal person. The persistence toward the main character makes him achieve the biggest desire and goal of his life.

D. Conclusion

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapters of The King’s Speech movie (2010) directed by Tom Hooper using Psychoanalytic approach, finally the writer can conclude following conclusion.

The structural analysis of The King’s Speech movie such as narrative elements that consists of character and characterization, casting, setting, plot, point of view, theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing are related to each other and become unity that builds the story impressively. Therefore, the viewer can enjoy and understand the story while watching the movie. The King’s Speech movie is good movie that shows from the prestige award that has been winning by this movie.

Based on the Psychoanalytic analysis, The King’s Speech movie is Good movie. Tom Hooper can explain and describe the phenomenon of psychological well. He shows that persistence of action will accumulate results when people
have big goal in their life and want to reach their goals. Hooper employs the major character Prince Albert, Duke of York/ King George VI as describes his persistence to overcome his stutter toward his personality. After analyzing the personality of King George VI’s personality in Sigmund Freud’s Psychoanalytic theory, the writer concludes that to reach desires and goals is not easy, it needs persistence and hard work. Desires and goals of life can be reached if people have motivation and keep taking actions even when they don’t feel motivated to do so.

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