EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDWARD ZWICK’S  
BLOOD DIAMOND MOVIE:  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty, it is the written record of man’s spirit of his thought, emotion, aspirations and it is the history and only the history of the human soul having characteristic of its artistic quality, it is suggestiveness and its permanent qualities which will never fade (http://www.e-topic-com/articles/26/1/the__importance-and meaning-of-literature/page_1.htm). Based on the statement, the writer concludes that literature is creative process and has artistic value. The creation of character and the invention of story are made by the author who have ability use his or her psychology phenomena around them as inspiration. Psychology phenomena are concern with human behavior that can be actualized in literary work such as movie. The successful of literary work is supported by artist itself.

Artist must be able to perform the character of story as best they can which is demanded by author’s imagination.

According to Freud:

The artist is originally a man who turn in reality because he can’t come to term with the demands for the renunciations of instinctual satisfaction as it is first made and who then in phantasm life allow full play to his erotic and ambitious wishes, but he finds a way of return from this world of phantasm back to reality; with his special gifts,, he moulds is valuable reflection of
actual life thus by certain path he actually become hero, king, creator, favorite, he desired to be, without the circuitous path of creation real alteration in the outer world (Wellek, 1956: 92).

The story that is performed by artist should be played as real as possible, in order to influence the audience. Imagination is not only needed by the author but also the artist to create some action.

As we know that human is complex creature, they life with hopes, challenge and problem. In their life, some one may have desire to achieve their dream, they may do anything to get their dream come true even it endanger them self. Actually, they know the consequence of what they have done that would be resulting bad or good thing in their lives. In this situation, the feeling of anxiety comes to the surface. To reduce these negative feelings, the ego might use defense mechanism.

Ego defense mechanism is one of the concepts of psychoanalysis that concerns with individuals live. Ego defense mechanism proposed by Sigmund Freud, he defines an ego defense mechanism as a mental strategy use by the individual to defend against open expression of id impulses and opposing superego pressures. Freud suggested that the ego reacts to the threatened breakthrough of id impulse in ether of two ways: (1) by blocking the impulse from expression in conscious behavior, or (2) by distorting it to such a degree that the original intensity is markedly reduce or deflected (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992: 104). Shortly, in psychoanalytic theory, defense mechanism are unconscious resources used by the ego to reduce conflict between the id and
superego and thereby anxiety. For that reason they are more accurately referred to as ego defense mechanism.

(Hhttp; //www.answers.com/topic/defense-mechanism? cut=healthy)

One of the best literary works which describes ego defense mechanism is in the movie Blood Diamond by Edward Zwick. Edward Zwick first hit the Hollywood radar screen as the producer/writer/director of the award winning drama series family. Zwick landed the job after his short film competition at the 1976 Chicago film festival, catching the attention of the family producers. He began as a story editor, and then moved on to become a director and producer of the show, which ran from 1976 to 1984; he won an “Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Dramatic Specials”. He has also directed the major motion pictures likes Leaving Normal (1992), Legend of the Fall (1994), Courage Under Fire (1996), The Siege (1998), The Last Samurai (2003), then in 2006 directed Blood Diamond starred by Leonardo Dicaprio.

With the background of civil war and chaos in 1990’s Sierra Leone, Blood Diamond is the story of Danny Archer, a man with strong survival instinct; he has made himself a key player in the business of conflict diamond. Political unrest is rampant in Sierra Leone as people fight tooth for tooth. Upon meeting Solomon Vandy and Mandy Bowen, Archer’s life changes forever as he is given a chance to make peace with the war around him. Solomon has a dream that someday his young son Dia Vandy will become a doctor. His dreams are shattered when the rebels invade his village and kidnap
him to work in the diamond mines. Solomon finds a huge pink diamond and while hiding it, the commandant of the rebels sees, but the rebels are attacked and Solomon is arrested by the government army. While in jail, the wounded commandant tells the prisoners that Solomon found the stone, and the mercenary smuggler Danny Archer from Zimbabwe releases Solomon and proposes to exchange the diamond by his missing family. Using the idealistic American journalist Maddy Bowen, Danny locates the wife and daughters of Solomon in a refugee camp, but is informed that his son has been recruited by the rebels. Solomon and Danny consolidate a partnership, with Solomon looking for and finding his son, and Danny looking for the diamond and finding redemption. They were embarked on a track through rebel territory, in this movie the writer found that the main character Danny Archer felt anxious and threatened while he struggle to found huge pink diamond and Solomon’s family, then he was force to do the action whether he realize or not in order to reduce anxiety feeling.

*Blood Diamond* is interesting movie to be watched and makes the heart beat rapidly because this movie shows anxiety. Because of that the writer is interested in analyzing the main character using psychoanalytic approach which reflects defensive strategy to handle anxiety. The writer decides to take the title “**EGO DEFENSE MECHANISM IN EDWARD ZWICK’S BLOOD DIAMOND MOVIE: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**".
B. Literature Review

The writer didn’t found that this movie had been studied by other researcher in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem as follows “How is ego defense mechanism reflected in Edward Zwick’s *Blood Diamond* movie?”

D. Problem Limitation

The writer focuses on the analysis of Danny Archer’s ego defense as a major character in *Blood Diamond* based on psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

1. To describe structural element of the *Blood Diamond* movie.
2. To analyze the main character’s ego defense using psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

In doing this research, the researcher expects some beneficial points. There are covering both theoretical and practical benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit
   
   This research will be able to give additional contribution to the reader.
2. Practical Benefit
   
   To improve writer’s knowledge in analyzing ego defense mechanism in *Blood Diamond*
G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

In this research, the researcher applies qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the research is Edward Zwick’s *Blood Diamond* movie.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

In doing the study the researcher uses two sources of data. The primary data source is taken from Edward Zwick’s *Blood Diamond* movie and its manuscript that are downloaded from http:www.simplyscript.com/titanic. The secondary data is taken from other sources which are related to the primary data that supports the analysis. They are book and virtual references as documentation.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. There are six techniques of data collection. There are as follows:

a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly.

b. Reading a script to get more understanding.

c. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information.
d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources.

e. Classifying the data into some categories.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data the writer uses descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies ego defense of major character in Edward Zwick’s Blood Diamond using psychoanalytic perspective.

H. **Research Paper Organization**

The writer organizes the researcher into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and research paper organization. Chapter II is dealing with underlying theory that consist of notion of psychoanalysis, structure of personality, some of anxiety and defense mechanism in psychoanalysis theory, structural element of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III deals with structural analysis of the movie and discussion of the movie. Chapters IV consist of the structure of Acher’s psyche, Acher’s anxiety, Acher’s ego defense and discussion. Chapter V draws conclusion and suggestion.