LIVING WITH BRAIN CANCER IN DAVID NIXON’S
LETTERS TO GOD MOVIE (2010):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER
Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department

by
ANIENDIA INDAH PERMATAWATI SASMITA
A320080011

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2012
APPROVAL

LIVING WITH BRAIN CANCER IN DAVID NIXON'S

LETTERS TO GOD MOVIE (2010):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

By

ANIENDIA INDAH PERMATAWATI SASMITA
A320080011

Approved to be Examined
by the Consultant Team

Consultant I
(Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S)

Consultant II
(Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum)
ACCEPTANCE

LIVING WITH BRAIN CANCER IN DAVID NIXON'S

LETTERS TO GOD MOVIE (2010):

AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

By:

ANIENDIA INDAH PERMATAWATI SASMITA
A320080011

Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners
School of Teacher Training and Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Team of Examiners:

1. Drs. M. Thoyibi, M. S
   (Chair Person)

2. Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M, Hum
   (Member I)

3. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S. Pd., M. ED
   (Member II)

Dean

Drs. Sulhan Anif, M.Si.
NIK. 547
TESTIMONY

I hereby assert that there is no plagiarism in this research paper. There is no other work that has been submitted to obtain the bachelor degree and as far as I am concerned there is no opinion that has been written or published before, except the written references which are referred in this paper and mentioned in the bibliography. If any incorrectness is proved in the future dealing with my statement above, I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, 04 October 2012

The Writer

ANIENDIA INDAH PS
MOTTO

Verily! Allah will not change the good condition of a people as long as they do not change their state of goodness themselves
(Ar-Ra’ıd : 11)

You can have anything if you are willing to work hard to get it
(Benjamin Franklin)

Ukuran tubuhmu kurang penting,
ukuran otakmu agak penting,
ukuran hatimu adalah yang paling penting.
(B. C. Gorbes)

U can if U think U can
(no name)
DEDICATION

This research paper is dedicated to:

♥ Allah S.W.T,

♥ Her beloved parents,

♥ Her beloved grandparent in heaven,

♥ Her lovely sister and brother.

♥ Her love,

♥ Her wonderfully friends, and

♥ All who have helped her to finish writing the paper
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.

Alhamdulillahi robbil’alamiin, glory to Allah S.W.T, the majesty of universe, who has given the writer mercy opportunity to accomplish this research paper. With His blessing, the writer is capable of finishing the research paper entitled LIVING WITH BRAIN CANCER IN DAVID NIXON’S LETTERS TO GOD MOVIE (2010): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH. Without Him, it is impossible for the writer to finish it. The writer would like to express her sincerest gratitude to all parties that have helped, supported, guided, advised, and suggested her to write this research paper, they are:

1. Drs. Sofyan Anif, M.Si, as the Dean of School of Teacher Training and Education in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta,

2. Titis Setyabudi, S.S, M.Hum, the head of English Department of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, who has given permission to conduct this research paper,

3. Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S, as the first consultant, who gives the writer guidance, advice, correction, and discussion in completing this research paper and as the inspiring lecturer who makes the researcher interested in literature.
4. Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum, as the second consultant, who has given the researcher helps, advice and guidance to improved on writing this research paper,

5. Dr, Dra, Endang Fauziati, M.Hum, as the academic consultant,

6. All lecturers of English Department Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have given the writer knowledge and experience,

7. Her Beloved parents, Ibu Rachmawati Aliyah (she is the best mom ever) and Bapak Joko Sasmito, for their care, motivation, love, advices and everything.

8. Her beloved alm. Mbah Kakung H. Ali Machmud and almh. Mbah uti Hj. Dariyah, for their love, motivation and support, always love and miss them, hopefully they will be peaceful in heaven.

9. Her lovely sister Anitarachma Silvianikaффah Sasmita and Her little brother Rama Rendra Sasmita, for their love and joke that always make the researcher want to go home.

10. Her aunties and her uncles, Bule Yati + Om Sunardi, Bule Lin + Om Farikhin, Bule Eng + Om Machfud and Bule Puji, for their love, suggested, motivation and support.

11. Her someone special “Yakub Priyono”, for his support, accompanies; give spirit and advices.

12. Her beloved best friend, Mb Bebgoy “Aryuni Vidyasari”, for the nicest friendship, love and joke, she is Her true friend, Mb sissy “teha”, winarti, yuni gemiati, mb cilla, for their nice friendship, together and beautifully moment.
13. The “Nyeli_liet Gank”, Mb Bebgoy Arjun, Mb Teha, Winarti, Mb Nisa, bebebh Diah, “Mbahe” Lany, Tina, Yogi, Oka and Gunawan. for their laugh, sweet memories, support, care and togetherness.

14. Mb Rina Wahyu Asmara (her best translator 😊),

15. Her friends in class A, for giving her a lot of experience,

16. All of her friends of sharing in the same struggle in writing research paper at direction of Mr. Thoyibi and Mr. Abdillah, especially Nia “Anyak”, Jeng Phitri, Riska, Iffah and Risa.

17. All of her friends in English Department ’08.

18. Everyone who helped the writer to finish this research paper.

The writer realizes that this paper is far for being perfect. Therefore, the constructive suggestion and criticism will be accepted to improve this research paper. The writer expects that this research paper would help and beneficial the other researchers who are interested in studying imperative sentence in subtitling and other people who read it.

Wassalamu’alaikum Wr. Wb

Surakarta, 04 October 2012

The writer

ANIENDIA
SUMMARY


The major problem in this research paper is to explain how living with brain cancer is reflected in Letters to God movie. The purpose of this research paper is to analyze Tyler’s life in David Nixon’s Letters to God movie based on the structural element of the movie and based on an individual psychological approach. The object study is David Nixon’s Letters to God movie. It is using an individual psychological approach.

In analyzing this study, the researcher uses qualitative research and individual psychological approach. The primary data source of this research is Letters to God movie. The secondary date sources are material about individual psychology, theory of literature, theory of personality and the other source that support the analysis.

Having analyzed this research paper, the researcher present some conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis it is found that in this movie, David Nixon conveys a message that “one must be optimistic even at the worst condition”. Second, based on the psychological analysis, it is evident that in this movie David Nixon illustrated a psychological phenomenon in which an individual had a positive attitude in encountering the incurable disease.

Key word: Brain cancer, Letters to God, Individual Psychology
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**TITLE** ................................................................................................................................. i

**APPROVAL** ............................................................................................................................ ii

**ACCEPTANCE** ........................................................................................................................ iii

**TESTIMONY** ........................................................................................................................... iv

**MOTTO** ..................................................................................................................................... v

**DEDICATION** .......................................................................................................................... vi

**SUMMARY** ............................................................................................................................. vii

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** .............................................................................................................. viii

**TABLE OF CONTENTS** ............................................................................................................ xi

**LIST OF FIGURE** ...................................................................................................................... xiv

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION ..................................................................................................... 1

A. Background of the Study ................................................................. 1

B. Literature Review ........................................................................ 7

C. Problem Statement ...................................................................... 8

D. Limitation of the Study .............................................................. 8

E. Objective of the Study ............................................................... 8

F. Benefit of the Study .................................................................... 8

   1. Theoretical Benefit .............................................................. 8

   2. Practical Benefit ............................................................... 8

G. Research Method ....................................................................... 9

   1. Type of the Study ............................................................ 9
2. Object of the Study ................................................. 9
3. Type of Data and the Data Source .............................. 9
4. Technique of The Data Collection .............................. 9
5. Technique of the Data Analysis .............................. 10

H. Research Paper Organization .................................. 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER II UNDERLYING THEORY .................................. 11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Individual Psychology ........................................ 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Notion of Individual Psychological .......................... 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Basic Principle of Individual Psychology .................. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Structural Elements of the Movie ........................... 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER III STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS ................................ 27</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Narrative Elements .............................................. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Character and Characterization ................................ 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Setting ............................................................. 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Plot ................................................................. 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Point of View ...................................................... 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Theme ............................................................... 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Technical Elements ............................................... 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Facial Expression, Movement and Acting ..................... 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <em>Mise-en-Scene</em> .................................................. 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cinematography .................................................... 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Discussion .......................................................... 53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER IV AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS ...... 59

A. Individual Psychological Analysis ............................. 59

1. Inferiority Feeling ........................................ 59

2. Striving for Superiority ......................................... 61

3. Social Interest .............................................. 63

4. Fictional Finalism ............................................ 65

5. Style of Life ..................................................... 66

6. Creative Self (Power) ........................................ 68

B. Discussion ......................................................... 70

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION 73

A. Conclusion ......................................................... 73

B. Pedagogical Implication ......................................... 74

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX
### LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tyler Doherty</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Maddy Doherty</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Braddy McDaniel</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Benjamin Doherty</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Samantha Perryfield</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Cornelius Perryfield</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lester Steven</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Walter Finley</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pastor Andy</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Orlando, Florida, USA</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Give Kids the World Village</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arnold Palmer Hospital</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Toyota Sienna i01</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Shot 1</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Shot 2</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Tyler’s room</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Post Office</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 21 Doherty’s Kitchen ................................................................. 41
Figure 22 Arnold Palmer Hospital .................................................. 41
Figure 23 Tyler’s Classroom ............................................................ 41
Figure 24 Church ........................................................................ 41
Figure 25 Daily Costume ............................................................... 43
Figure 26 Postman Costume ........................................................... 43
Figure 27 Party Costume ............................................................... 43
Figure 28 Healthy Condition ......................................................... 43
Figure 29 Sick Condition ............................................................... 43
Figure 30 Hard Intensity .............................................................. 44
Figure 31 Soft Intensity ............................................................... 44
Figure 32 Sun Lighting ............................................................... 45
Figure 33 Lamp Lighting ............................................................. 45
Figure 34 Car Lighting ............................................................... 45
Figure 35 Blue Color ................................................................. 45
Figure 36 Natural Color ............................................................. 45
Figure 37 Side Lighting ............................................................ 46
Figure 38 Frontal Lighting ........................................................... 46
Figure 39 Backlighting ............................................................... 46
Figure 40 Under Lighting ........................................................... 46
Figure 41 Top Lighting ............................................................... 47
Figure 42 Straight on Angle ......................................................... 48
Figure 43 High Angle ............................................................... 48
Figure 44 Low Angle ................................................................. 49
Figure 45 Extreme Long Shot .................................................. 49
Figure 46 Long Shot .............................................................. 49
Figure 47 Medium Long Shot .................................................. 49
Figure 48 Medium Shot .......................................................... 49
Figure 49 Close Up .............................................................. 50
Figure 50 Medium Close Up .................................................... 50
Figure 51 Extreme Close Up .................................................... 50
Figure 52 Axis of Action .......................................................... 52
Figure 53 Shot 3 .................................................................. 52
Figure 54 Shot 4 .................................................................. 52
Figure 55 Shot 5 .................................................................. 52
Figure 56 Establishing Shot 1 ................................................... 53
Figure 57 Establishing Shot 2 ................................................... 53
Figure 58 Reverse Shot 1 ........................................................ 53
Figure 59 Reverse Shot 2 ........................................................ 53
Figure 60 Match on Action 1 .................................................... 54
Figure 61 Match on Action 2 .................................................... 54
Figure 62 Cross Cutting 1 ....................................................... 54
Figure 63 Cross Cutting 2 ....................................................... 54