

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Psychological trauma makes a person would be a very severe stress. If the trauma is sustained, it will lead to disruption of one's soul. According to Bryant and Ehlers (2003:45), psychological trauma is “a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a traumatic event.”

Traumatic experience is “a sudden and acutely shocking experience that washes over the individual, rendering him or her powerless for a brief or a longer period of time. The event can lead to a post-traumatic stress reaction or even disorders” (Wolters, 1991).

There are several things that cause a person get a psychological trauma. It can be from the human error or natural disaster. The psychological trauma is caused by human error such; sexual abuse, bullying, domestic violence, indoctrination, and mechanized accidents (car, train, or plane crashes, etc.), while the psychological trauma is caused by natural disaster such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslide, flash floods and etc. This is reflected in the *Salt* movie.

The writer chooses one of Phillip Noyce’s movie entitled *Salt* in his study. Phillip Noyce is one of the famous directors. Phillip Noyce was Born in the Australian outback town of Griffith, New South Wales, Noyce moved to Sydney with his family at the age of 12. As a teenager, he was introduced to

underground films produced on shoestring budgets as well as mainstream American movies. He was 18 when he made his first film, the 15 minute "Better to Reign in Hell," utilizing a unique financing scheme selling roles in the movie to his friends. Returning to his native Australia after 12 years working within the Hollywood system, 2002 saw two Noyce films released worldwide at almost the same time. *The Quiet American* (2002) starred Michael Caine in an Academy nominated best actor performance and appeared on over 20 top ten lists for 2002, including the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute.

Salt is a 2010 American action thriller film directed by Phillip Noyce, written by Kurt Wimmer. The film had a panel at the San Diego Comic-Con on July 22 and was released in North America on July 23, 2010, and in the United Kingdom on August 18, 2010. *Salt* grossed \$294 million at the worldwide box office.

Salt was a story about Evelyn Salt Life. Evelyn Salt is a CIA agent and highly respected by all, including her boss, Ted Winter. Agent Evelyn Salt interrogates a Russian defector, Orlov, who tells her about "Day X", an operation organized by a powerful Russian spymaster since the Cold War, which will lead to the destruction of the United States; he claims that for this purpose an elite group of English speaking Russian agents were trained from birth during the 1970s, with an exceptionally rigorous conditioning that makes their loyalty "unbreakable". Orlov mentions that at the funeral of the late Vice President in New York City, the visiting Russian President will be killed by

Russian spy Evelyn Salt. Salt, shaken by the accusation, attempts to contact her husband Mike, a German arachnologist, fearing for his safety. Meanwhile, Orlov escapes, prompting Salt to escape causing the CIA to think she is a spy. She flees to her apartment and finds her husband missing. With the CIA in pursuit, Salt grabs essentials, as well as a venomous spider, from her apartment and resumes her escape.

After barely escaping a highway pursuit, Salt takes a bus to New York City. The next morning, she sneaks into the heavily guarded St. Bartholomew's Church where the Vice President's funeral is being held and shoots the Russian President. She then encounters Peabody where she surrenders but escapes the NYPD after a wild chase.

A series of flashbacks show Salt growing up in the Soviet Union where Orlov taught her and many other children to obey him and ingratiate themselves to the American government. Then, when it came to Day X, he would command them to strike from various positions in the US. Salt meets Orlov who congratulates her on her killing the Russian President, but he questions her unauthorized decision to marry a foreigner who can be a distraction from her mission. He brings her to a river barge, where he tests her allegiance by having another agent kill Mike in front of her. Salt appears to be unaffected by this, thus passing Orlov's test. He then tells her Part Two of Day X, which would involve seizing the United States' stock of nuclear weapons. The enraged Salt, who had gone to Orlov especially in an attempt to save her husband, kills Orlov and everyone else on the barge in revenge: because of

Mike, the most loyal Russian agent Salt turns against the system that brainwashed her. It is noted that thanks to the intervention of Mike, two years ago Salt was saved from a North Korean prison where she was tortured, when both the CIA and the KGB abandoned her as expendable. She then goes to the rendezvous set up by Orlov to meet a NATO mole.

The NATO mole and a disguised Salt go to the White House. Once inside, her NATO counterpart suddenly starts shooting at Secret Service agents and detonates a bomb. Because of this calculated provocation, the Secret Service, along with Winter, rush the President to the lower bunker of the White House. Meanwhile, the President, believing Russia is preparing a nuclear strike against the US, activates the launch codes from the nuclear football. Salt infiltrates the bunker and incapacitates the bodyguards. Winter picks up a gun and kills everyone except the president. After the president refuses to cooperate with the nuclear launch sequence, Winter knocks him out and takes over the launch computers using the president's biometrics.

Winter explains to an astonished Salt that he was part of Orlov's plan all along. Winter then uses the nuclear football to start the sequence for launching nuclear missiles at Tehran and Mecca, to turn the Islamic world against the US. Salt asks Winter to let her in but before he opens the door, a fortuitously-timed news program reveals that the Russian President is not dead, but was only placed in a near-death state from spider venom. Winter realizes that Salt is not on his side but she manages to break in, and after an intense struggle, she succeeds in knocking him down. Just after she manages to abort the

nuclear missile launch set up by Winter, agents break in and arrest her. Winter goes free, but later Salt uses her chains to strangle him. *Salt* is put on a helicopter with Peabody, and she explains everything to him. A skeptical Peabody eventually accepts she is telling the truth after he receives an SMS saying that Salt's fingerprints were found at the barge, confirming her betrayal of Orlov. Because there are other moles, Peabody allows her to escape so she can find and kill them. He uncuffs her and Salt jumps into the Potomac River, free once more.

Salt is interesting movie to be researched. There are some aspects that make this movie really interesting. 1) The movie is about realistic story. 2) There is education in social life. 3) There are some traumatic experiences in certain life.

The realistic story of *Salt* outlines the story of Evelyn Salt and her traumatic experiences when she was child. The story starts out when Salt grows up in the Soviet Union where Orlov teaches her and many other children to obey him and ingratiate themselves to the American government. Then, when it comes to Day X, he would command them to strike from various positions in the US. Salt meets Orlov who congratulates her on her killing the Russian President, but he questions her unauthorized decision to marry a foreigner who can be a distraction from her mission.

Education in social life can be found in this movie by analyzing the trauma caused by a wide variety of events, but there are a few common aspects. Frequently, there a violation of the person's familiar ideas about the

world and of their human rights, putting the person in a state of extreme confusion and insecurity. This is also seen when people or institutions, depended on for survival, violate or betray or disillusion the person in some unforeseen way.

Traumatic experiences can be analyzed from behaviors of certain character, especially the major character, Mrs. Evelyn, in *'Salt'*. The approach being implemented is psychoanalytic approach; it is concerned with motivations of human thought and actions. It is as a therapeutic method, originated by Sigmund Freud, for treating mental disorders by investigating the interactions of conscious and unconscious elements of one's mind and bringing repressed fears and conflicts into conscious mind, using technique such as dream interpretation and free association.

Based on the reason above, the writer analyzes the traumatic experience and the reaction of the major character, Mrs. Evelyn, in *'Salt'* by using the traumatic experience in psychoanalytic view. Furthermore, the writer entitles his study:

Traumatic Experiences in *Salt* Movie Directed by Phillip Noyce (2010): A Psychoanalytic Approach

B. Literature Review

There are several literature reviews dealing with this research. First is by Nona Herawati , a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2011), who writes a paper entitled “ **Social Construction of Powerful**

Women to Fight Against Criminal Acts in Phillip Noyce's *Salt* Movie (2010) ". She uses a Feminist approach to analyze the data. The paper elaborates conflict of interest in Philip Noyce Jane Salt, that analyzed through a feminist approach. The objective of this study is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and a feminist approach.

Second is by Joko Saputra (2009), also a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, who writes a paper entitled "**Traumatic Experience of The Major Character In Chekov's *The Brute***". He uses a Psychoanalytic perspective to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to find how material orientation is reflected in *The Brute* written by Chekov. The objective of the study is to find the solution of the problem formulated in the problem statement that is to analyze the traumatic experience of the major character and the reactions of the experience in Chekov's *The Brute* by implementing the theory of traumatic experience in psychoanalytic view.

Different from the previous writer, the writer has different perspective and object in analyzing the data. The writer uses psychoanalytic perspective to analyze the data and using *Salt* Movie as an object. The writer will analyze the *Salt* Movie by using psychoanalytic perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background above the problem of this research is formulated as follows:

1. How is the traumatic experience reflected on the major character in *Salt*?

2. What are the reactions of the major character toward the traumatic experience shown in the movie?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer formulates objectives of the study, those are:

1. To analyze the movie in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing the traumatic experiences which are reflected in *Salt* movie using a psychoanalytic approach.

F. Research Benefit

1. Theoretical Benefits

- a. It will be easier for the readers to understand the real means of psychoanalysis by reading this research.
- b. The reader can comprehend *Salt* especially about the traumatic experience of the major character, Evelyn, viewed from psychoanalytic approach.
- c. The readers, especially the students of English Department can be motivated to analyze this movie from various approaches.

2. Practical Benefits

The readers can understand the effect of 'trauma' so they can control and overcome their feeling.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The type of the study is descriptive qualitative research. “Qualitative research is a research which results in the descriptive data in the form of observed people or behaviors” (Bogdan and Taylor, 1975:5 in Moleong, 1989:3). This research is proposed to identify traumatic experiences of Evelyn in *Salt* movie directed by Phillip Noyce (2010).

Moleong provides the various steps of conducting qualitative study in his book. The steps of conducting this qualitative study are determining the object of the research, determining the source of data, determining the method of data collection and determining the technique of data analysis (Moleong, 1989:3).

2. Object of the Study

In the process of conducting research paper, the writer chooses traumatic experiences in *Salt* movie directed by Phillip Noyce as the object to be analyzed.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

Data of the study is literary taken from two data sources, namely, primary and secondary.

1. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is taken from the movie directed by Phillip Noyce entitled *Salt* (2010)

2. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are materials taken from books, movie script and internet related to the study.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

Collecting data is documentation or library research. There are several steps of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly.
- b. Reading the script of that film.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking a note of the necessary part in both the primary and secondary data sources.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources to the movie and the analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this study, the technique which is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. This technique describes the event better than the summary. It is begun with the author and his work, the structural analysis of the movie and finally psychoanalytic analysis of the movie.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is dealing with introduction, which explains background of the study, previous study, problem statement, problem limitation, research objective, research

benefit, and research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is dealing with review underlying theory, notion of psychoanalysis, structure of personality, review on traumatic experience, structural element of movie, and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis of *Salt*. The fourth chapter is psychoanalytic analysis including traumatic experience reflected by the major character, reactions of the major character toward the traumatic experience, discussion and the last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.