

**PERSONALITY OF ARON RALSTON  
IN DANNY BOYLE'S *127 HOURS* MOVIE (2010):  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE**



**PUBLICATION ARTICLE**

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**MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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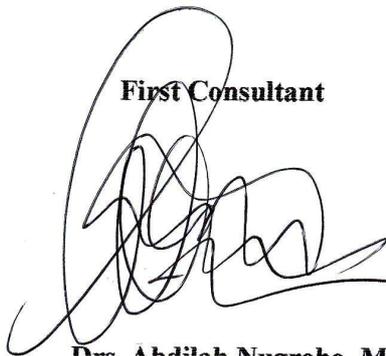
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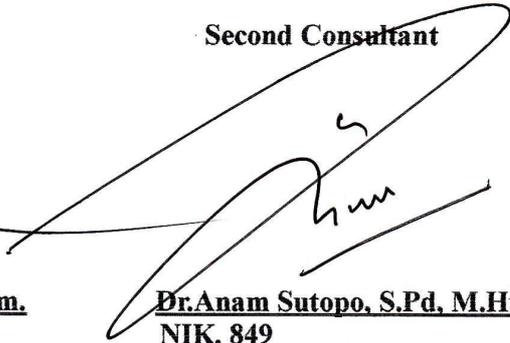
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**ABSTRACT**

This study attempts to explore the personality of the major character on his live. The objective of the research is to analyze the major character based on its structural elements and psychoanalytic perspective. In analyzing psychoanalytic aspect, the researcher applied the theory of psychoanalysis proposed by Sigmund Freud.

The object of the study is *127 Hours* movie that was directed by Danny Boyle. There are two types of data sources, first is the primary data source that is taken from *127 Hours* movie that was directed by Danny Boyle. Second is the secondary data sources that are taken from other sources such as the director's bibliography, information about the movie, and other relevant information that supports the analysis. In analyzing this study, the writer uses descriptive qualitative analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and psychoanalytic perspective.

The results of the research show that, first, Danny Boyler creates the characters in such a way that he can relate those characters with the idea he wants to imply through his work. Based on structural element analysis, all of the elements can relate to one another comprising solid unity. Second, Danny Boyler wants to show how Aron Ralston to control his ego, in one incredible situation to get somting biggest after that.

Key words: personality, *127 Hours*, psychoanalytic perspective.

## INTRODUCTION

We can see many kinds of personality in peoples, this personality arise from her or his self was child. Psychoanalysis was developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the Austrian physician S. Freud. As a specific theory and method of psychotherapy, it should be distinguished from Freudianism, which elevates the tenets of psychoanalysis to the level of philosophical and anthropological principles.

Every people has different character from the other. These characters exist when humans were child, then it's developed or not depends on himself or herself. We often meet people with the character of a rigid, hard, and old-fashioned it's probably because he always to maintains his character. Maybe we should be able to appreciate the characters. Anyone else had a great desire, and no one can prevent his wish. maybe if her demands were not met would appear less sense in him, the curiosity that has always haunted him. although the sense of desire that is a threat to himself.

The *127 Hours* movie tells about a man that has a hard Outdoor adventurer Aron Ralston believes he's invincible and can do it all alone while on his outdoor adventures. He considers the great outdoors his second home. On April 25, 2003, Aron Ralston (James Franco) prepares for a day of canyoneering in Utah's Canyon lands National Park as he drives to the trailhead at night. The next morning he rides through the park on his mountain bike, aiming to cut 45 minutes off the guide book's estimate for the time needed to reach his destination. He is on foot, running along a bare rock formation when he sees two hikers, Kristi (Kate Mara) and Megan (Amber Tamblyn), apparently lost. Ralston convinces the pair that he is a trail guide and offers to show them a much more interesting route than the one they had been trying to find. He leads them through narrow canyons, including a blind jump into an underground pool, where the three film themselves repeating the plunge using

Ralston's video camera. As they part company, Kristi and Megan invite Ralston to a party they're holding the next night, and he promises to attend. However, they doubt he will show.

On Saturday, April 26, 2003, Aron continuing for an adventure trek alone through the generally secluded Blue John Canyon, and like he has done on many of his other treks, he has not told anyone where he is going. But on this day, he and a small boulder fall down a crevice, he landed near the bottom of the crevice virtually unharmed, but with his right hand wedged between the boulder and the crevice wall. He has access to his gear and his small supply of rations as he tries to move the boulder or chip away at it so that he can get his wedged hand free. As either task seems impossible, he hopes for someone to rescue him. Those most likely candidates are Kristi and Megan, two women he met earlier that day who were the only two who know that he is in the canyon, or his boss Brion, who may list him as missing if he doesn't show up for his scheduled work time on Tuesday, three days away. As time goes on and he deals not only with the boulder and lack of rations but also with the extreme weather conditions, he begins to think about his mortality, his mind often going toward his loving but somewhat distant relationship with his family, or his last broken love with a woman named Rana. As he films himself, as a goodbye message to his family often with his mind wandering, he, during his more lucid moments, also thinks about the possibility of trying to sever his arm as he will lose it anyway if he survives this ordeal.

While it's a far cry from his star-crossed lovers film *Slum dog Millionaire*, director Danny Boyle still delivers a heart-pounding experience with *127 Hours*, a film that got of Oscar nominate. The movie chronicles the harrowing journey of Aron Ralston, a thrill-seeking adrenaline junkie who soon finds himself between a rock and a hard place intended. After a terrifying fall while exploring canyons in Utah, he becomes trapped when a fallen boulder pins his right arm to the canyon wall. James Franco portrays the real-life adventurer with stunning ease, as if he were born to play this role. From the first second of the film, Franco brings a certain likability to the character. He is a suave yet outdoorsy smooth talker with some wayward female

hikers. This quick characterization is crucial so the audience actually cares about him when he makes his untimely fall.

The truly amazing thing about this film is a semi-informed moviegoer knows how it will end, yet still goes, and is enthralled in it the entire time. He cuts off his own arm to free himself and get away. That really isn't a spoiler though, as the film is based off a real story. That scene in particular was gory, gruesome, horrifying and beautiful. The film really lets the viewers imagine themselves in that situation and asks what they would do if push came to shove. Still, the movie is given such great constraints. Boyle could possibly concoct an interesting movie from what should be no more than a segment on 60 Minutes, For the bulk of the film, as expected, the giant boulder immobilizes Franco. However, somehow Boyle manages to pull it off, keeping the audience captivated throughout. He uses an interesting split-screen technique at times to show viewers several different vantage points simultaneously. Franco's character also has a video camera he uses to document his horrible adventure, which serves as a running monologue to the audience. This emotional element Franco conveys is what really keeps the viewer enthralled.

Boyle also cleverly uses flashbacks and hallucinations, which sometimes intertwine, to help pass the time. He does this to reflect the thoughts going through Franco's mind. The film really does a great job of getting the viewer inside the character's head. You watch his thought process as he methodically works through all of the different scenarios in which he could escape. So this is one-man movie the new trend Earlier this year, Ryan Reynolds climbed into a coffin for the duration of *Buried*. This style of film is incredibly simple in terms of action and plot, and instead explores the intricacies of human thought and wit. It's much different than the typical Hollywood shoot them up action flick, and for that I'm glad. *127 Hours* is truly a breath of fresh air. Another recent Hollywood trend the movie rails against time. It

seems like most films these days like to push into the two or even two-and-a-half hour mark.

Many directors fail to realize quantity does not always equate to quality. Michael Bay, Fortunately, *127 Hours* is a fraction of its title, with a run time of just 94 minutes. The Oscar movie season is really just beginning. With likely frontrunners such as *The Fighter*, *Black Swan* and *The King's Speech* not out in wide release yet, there is no way to predict how the chips will fall. Still, *127 Hours*, is definitely worthy of this cinematic horserace. If nothing else, Franco deserves Best Actor for delivering a gut-wrenching performance that is raw, gritty and real. He brings Ralston's incredible story to life and easily propels the film forward single-handedly still intended.

This movie tells about Aron Ralston's personality that has big ambitious in improve his hobby; telling about the truly of Aron Ralston about his experience; this movie has a good story because it is original and it's the real story from Aron Ralston experience; there are so much moral value and norms also the feed back that we can take from this movie to used in our life. So, this study chooses the Personality of Aron Ralston as an issue and Psychoanalytic perspective as the approach of the study.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Based on the data, this study is categorized as descriptive qualitative method. The steps to conduct this research are determining the type of the study, determining the object of the study, determining data and data source, determining technique of data collection, and determining technique of data analysis.

The type of this study is qualitative research and the object of this study is *127 Hours* movie by Danny Boyle 2010.

There are two sources that are needed to do this research. The primary data source is the data taken from the *127 Hours* movie. It covers such thing as texts and

images in the movie. Secondary data source are from the book, website and another data related to this story and analysis.

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are. Reading the drama script, determining the character that will be analyzed, Taking note of important parts in both primary and secondary data, Classifying and determining the relevant data, and Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the drama. The technique of the data collection is library research, it consist five steps, and they are: watching the Danny Boyle's *127 Hours* movie; reading the books to find the theory, information and data; taking notes of important parts in both of primary and secondary data; browsing to the internet to some other information about topic; classifying and determining the relevant data.

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It focuses with the structural elements of the movie and Psychoanalytic perspective.

## **DISCUSSION**

Based on the issue this study is reflected in Psychoanalytic perspective. There are three basic principles of Psychoanalytic perspective, namely *id*, *ego* and *superego*. This study tries to discuss them and correlate all of them. Danny Boyle in *127 Hours* movie generally wants to express that the hard desire and the best ego management can changes the life, because we bring our own way of life.

### **1. *Id***

*Id* is the biological aspect and the original system in the personality. *Id* also called the irrational, instinctual, unknown, and unconscious. Here the *id* of Aron Ralston as the major character appears when, Aron is a young, adventurous spirit and a volunteer. He always tries new things in his life, and never told anyone where he will go.

He is kindest man, low profile and helper. The next morning he rides through the park on his mountain bike, aiming to cut 45 minutes off the guide book's

estimate for the time needed to reach his destination. He is on foot, running along a bare rock formation when he sees two hikers, Kristi and Megan apparently lost. Ralston convinces the pair that he is a trail guide and offers to show them a much more interesting route than the one they had been trying to find. He leads them through narrow canyons, including a blind jump into an underground pool, where the three film themselves repeating the plunge using Ralston's video camera.

After several days trapped in the cliff, he ran out of water and food supplies to the point that should be drinking their own urine that has been previously deposited. He remembered a bottle of orange juice left in his car, and given the current winter party with shutter and other friends. in his imagination he imagined being with family, friends, and people he loved. Also he remembers about Kristi and Megan that invite him to the party, and he imagine the party condition.

All of a sudden when it's going to heavy rain water into the cliff gap, it is very critical for him because he is getting hard to breathe. Ultimately because of the water that flooded the place, somehow pinning stone Aron very easily by the removal of easily and he can break away from the canyon. Then he ran away to the place of the shutter, a former lover until she finally realized.

## 2. *Ego*

*Ego* is the second part of personality system. Ego is the result of the creation of spiritual or inner system as “The result of reciprocal relationship between an individual and his or her outer world” (Freud in Hall, 1980:16).

The *egos* of Aron Ralston in this movie are, when a big rock stuck his arm, he was panic and try to remove it. He hates that rock so much. First, he can't yet realize what happen with him.

He was trying to break away from the gain of the clamp arm in various ways, such as eroding cliff wall, pushing stones and make a simple pulley device that

he was bring along in camel bag , but all was in vain because the stone can not move at all.

The hand too pale bluish because there is no blood circulation in his hand. He had thought to cut off his hand just to get away. The sidelines of his efforts to escape his own record if there are people who found him dead and he wanted to record it was given to his parents. Although in an emergency he was still recording with a few jokes.

### 3. *Superego*

*Superego* is the third part of the personality system. *Superego* represents the moral branch of our functioning; containing the ideals we strive for a punishment we expect when we have gone against our ethical code. *Superego* is the sociological of personality aspect; it consists of some values and evaluative norms. The *superego* tries to inhibit the id's impulse that considers will condemn by society and guard person's *ego* to pursuit the perfectionist goals rather than the realistic ones ( Hejelle and Ziegler, 1992:91).

Next, there is the *superego* of Aron told in this movie. As he realizes his efforts to chip away at the boulder are futile, he begins to attempt to cut into his arm, but finds his knife too dull to break his skin. He then stabs his arm, but realizes he will not be able to cut through the bone.

After a few days he felt hopeless but still want to get out of the cliff and then he really to cut his own arm with a potluck. He start to stab knife from his blunt, look for the presence bone and half dead with him trying to grab the bone and break it, he also carefully cut the veins and then he felt nerves and suddenly felt like an electric shock and almost died. With great difficulty he managed to break his arm and immediately wrapped in a cloth. Ralston now always leaves a note whenever he goes

anywhere alone in order to informing to his family and his friend if the accident be fall to him again.

## **CONCLUTION AND SUGGESTION**

The last chapter will present conclusion and suggestion. This chapter is divided into two parts; first conclusion is drawn in order to answer the problems of the study, and second is suggestion that is considered to be useful for other researchers and invite them to analyze *127 hours* movie.

### **A. Conclusion**

Based on the structural and psychoanalytic analysis on the previous chapters, the writer would like to draw two conclusions:

1. Based on the structural element analysis, *127 Hours* is a 2010 American biographical survival drama film co-written, produced and directed by Danny Boyle. The film stars James Franco as real-life canyoneer Aron Ralston, who became trapped by a boulder in an isolated slot canyon in Robbers Roost, southeastern Utah, in April 2003, and was eventually forced to amputate his own right arm in order to free himself. The elements of the movie contain two elements, narrative elements and technical elements. Besides that, the director creates the same decoration in order to make a same of conditions with the real even of Aron Ralston. Then the supporting of the elements such as sound, lighting, frame, music, is also well. The sound of this movie is very clear and gives dramatic effect to increase the sense of tension in the audience. Based on structural element analysis, all of the elements can relate to one another comprising solid unity.
2. Based on the psychoanalytic analysis, Danny Boyle represent the Aron Ralston experience in Canyon and showing the psychic of Aron especially showing how Aron save the bad situation within writing and get to know his ego and doing something right for himself. Danny Boyle in *127 Hours* movie he tray to show to us when we must use our ego or not and when there are a

big ambition for something and believe it, we will get something biggest after that. Like Aron, he is a people that never give up even though he lose more energy and starving to death because he run out of food but he still try so hard to escape from the rock that have boulder him from five days, because he want not fall into decay in that place.

### **B. Suggestion**

*127 Hours* movie is a great drama movie. The content of the movie focuses on the personality of Aron Ralston especially in psychoanalysis. The researcher suggests the other researchers to make deeper research about this movie, notably using a Psychoanalytic perspective in the same issue or the other issues. Such as in issue “A Defense Mechanism of Aron Ralston in Danny Boyle’s *127 Hours* Movie A Psychoanalytic Perspective”.

The researcher realizes that this study is far from being perfect. Finally, the researcher hopes that the readers can take the lesson from this research and it can be useful to the readers as comparison to the other research in widening the knowledge of literary studies.

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