

**DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JOHN OTTWAY  
IN CARNAHAN'S *THE GREY* MOVIE (2011):  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



**ARTICLE**

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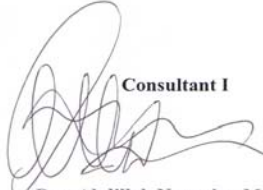
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Abstract

*The film is one of literary works as a development of drama and novel. The major issue of this study is how the self defense of John Ottway reflected in Carnahan's The Grey movie. The objective of this study is to analyze the film based on the structural elements and to analyze the film based on psychoanalytic approach. The research is qualitative study. The researcher uses two data sources: primary data source and secondary data source. The results of the study show; first the structural elements of the movie are a unity and cannot be separated with each other.*

*Key words: Defense Mechanism, The Grey, Psychoanalytic Approach*

Introduction

Literary study is a way for human to understand and to clear the history of literature. The way to understand and clearing the history of literature is reading and learning, because they open mind to everything related to social life. There are close relation between literature and social life, because each literary work is created by human and it is usually connected with their own life. To know deeper about literary, there is also literary appreciation in expressing the contents within literary works. Literary appreciation, in a wide context, has several meanings, Gove (in Aminudin, 2009: 34): the first, how to know through feels or the inner sensitiveness and the second the understanding and confession through the beautiful value which is expresses by the author.

On this study the researcher wants to analyze one of literary works named the film. The film is one of literary works as a development of

drama and novel. But the difference is there are technical elements in film structural element. Technical element is the development in a form of visual action. To analyze literary work, especially films there are several steps such as description, interpretation, analysis, and evaluation (Suroso&Santosa, 2008: 61). Description means telling the story based on the real situation and condition of the literary work (the film), interpret means the explanation of the literary work, analysis means finding and comparing with all the source and data, and evaluation is the final steps. Using the steps above, the researcher wants to analyze the film related with psychoanalytic approach.

The psychoanalytic approach began with Freud, who wrote literary criticism as well as psychoanalytic theory, because of Freud's characterization of the artist's mind as "one urged on by instincts that are too clamorous," psychoanalytic was devised in Vienna in the 1890s by Sigmund Freud, a neurologist who is interested in finding an effective treatment for patients with neurotic or hysterical symptoms and written before 1950 tended to psychoanalyze the individual author. Literary works were read sometimes unconvincingly as fantasies that allowed authors to indulge repressed wishes, to protect themselves from deep-seated anxieties, or both, means that there are great relations between struggles to defeat the anxieties. Beside anxiety, Freud's psychoanalytic focuses on defense mechanism, the defense appears when the *ego* has a difficult time

to make both the *id* and the *superego* happy and it is called *Ego* Defense Mechanisms or Defenses.

People need to understand what drives the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. According to Freud, we only have two drives; sex and aggression. In other words, everything we do is motivated by one of these two drives. Sex, also called Eros or the Life force, represents our drive to live, prosper, and produce offspring. Now the *ego* has a difficult time satisfying both the *id* and the *superego*, but it doesn't have to do so without help. The *ego* has some tools it can use in its job as the mediator, tools that help defend the *ego*. These are called *Ego* Defense Mechanisms or Defenses. When the *ego* has a difficult time making both the *id* and the *superego* happy. Defense mechanisms are most often learned behaviors, most of which we learned during childhood. That's a good thing, because it means that, as an adult, people can choose to learn some new behaviors and new defense mechanisms that may be more beneficial to them in your life.

When people have their own anxiety, the defense mechanism becomes the way to solve the problem. Because of anxiety provoking demands created by the *id*, *superego* and reality, the *ego* has developed a number of defense mechanisms to cope with anxiety. Although we may knowingly use these mechanisms, in many cases these defenses work unconsciously to distort reality. While all defense mechanisms can be unhealthy, they can also be adaptive and allow us to function normally. The greatest problems arise when defense mechanisms are overused in

order to avoid dealing with problems. In psychoanalytic therapy, the goal may be to help the client uncover these unconscious defense mechanisms and find better, healthier ways of coping with anxiety and distress.

The film that wants to be analyzed is the grey directing by Joe Carnahan, the writer of the story by Joe Carnahan and Ian Jeffers in Open Road Films. The film is action, adventure, drama where it tells about an unruly group of oil-rig roughneck's plane crashes into the remote Alaskan wilderness. Battling mortal injuries and merciless weather, the survivors have only a few days to escape the icy elements - and a vicious pack of rogue wolves on the hunt-before their time runs out.

In this research, the technique used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique that is the method when analyzed the status of human's group, object, and one set of condition in one think or one event at the present (Nasir, 1983: 63). The researcher describes the structural elements of the movie with psychoanalysis defense mechanism of literature. The collected data were interpreted and analyzed in detail through psychoanalysis of literature in this case by showing the Defense Mechanism of Ottway and the influence if it in *The Grey* movie:Psychoanalysis Perspective.

After finishing the data collection, the researcher does the process to analyze the data to increase the understanding about the topic. The following steps are the process to analyze the data:

- 1.Consulting all of the data collection of The Grey movie with psychoanalytic approach
2. Analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic approach.

3. Classifying the kinds of structural element used in each line that contain the structural element of defense mechanism
4. The researcher analyzes the data
5. Giving detailed explanation about the structural element of defense mechanism in psychoanalytic approach which are directly followed by their meanings
6. Drawing the defense mechanism of *The Grey* movie based on psychoanalytic approach

#### Research Method

In analyzing the study, the writer applies qualitative method:

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the major character Ottway in the *The Grey* movie.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The data in this study can be divided into two kinds of data, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data are the main data consisting of dialogue, action and description about the character especially major character of the film "*The Grey*". Secondary data are supporting data consisting of theoretical approach related with psychoanalytic of Freud in a book of theory personality, the qualitative research method, and the other literary review.

a. Primary Data Source

Primary data are the *The Grey* movie. The data were taken from the dialogues, character's description, plot and all of the statement related to the problems.

b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data were collected from other sources related to the research like the dictionary, website, and also the book related to the research.

The primary data are taken from movie itself such as the movie and the script, while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the underlying theory and other materials concern such as the hand book, and the internet.

3. Type of the Study

This study belongs to qualitative research, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the *The Grey* movie directed by Joe Carnahan and starring Liam Neeson.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

a. Watching the movie several times, until the writer gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed then read the script to adjust it with the movie.

b. Reading some other resources related to the movie.



- c. Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources in data book or note book or by using computer, save the data on the disc.
  - d. Classifying the data into categories and develop them into a good unit.
5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this research, the technique used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique that is the method when analyzed the status of human's group, object, and one set of condition in one think or one event at the present (Nasir, 1983: 63). The researcher describes the structural elements of the movie with psychoanalysis defense mechanism of literature. The collected data were interpreted and analyzed in detail through psychoanalysis of literature in this case by showing the Defense Mechanism of Ottway and the influence if it in *The Grey* movie:Psychoanalysis Perspective.

## Discussion

*The Grey* is a 2011 American Psychological thriller film directed by Joe Carnahan and starring Liam Neeson, Frank Grillo, and Dermot Mulroney. It is based on the short story *Ghost Walker* by Ian MacKenzie Jeffers, who also co-wrote the screenplay with Carnahan. The story follows a number of oil-men stranded in Alaska after a plane crash, who are forced to survive using little more than their wits, as a pack of gray wolves stalk them.

The film sets in Arctic Wilderness where In *The Grey*, Ottway leads an unruly group of oil-rig roughnecks when their plane crashes into the remote Alaskan wilderness. Battling mortal injuries and merciless weather, the survivors have only a few days to escape the icy elements - and a vicious pack of rogue wolves on the hunt - before their time runs out. The sets in a cold Arctic so the dress they are use is warm dress especially warm with fur.

*The Grey* is the dramatic adventure movie that tells about the way to survives in the middle of Arctic. The director wants to show the story on his point of view, where people will have their good final ends if they work hard. On the way to survives sometime people need a lot of sacrifices and it can coming from other people or their selves. While the theme of the film is that 'The struggle to survives in the middle of Arctic'.

The film only sets in a certain place and situation, costume and make-up was suitable with the situation on that time. In this movie, costume designer used casual and formal costume. It follows the event that occurs in the movie. This movie also used standard costume and make-up. It means that the make-up of the character likes the people commonly. The film sets in arctic where there are a lot of snow and white. So the make up sets only to show a cold situation.

Because the film is a dramatic thriller adventure movie, the cinematography of the movie uses the effect of scary with dark and blue and bloody. The light is not strong enough because the director wants to show the natural situation of the movie, because the movie sets in a Cold Arctic. The

sound emphasize on the power of situation music on every event on each action of the character, this is to show the scary situation of the movie. *The Grey* holds the audience in its grip by staying close to the heart of darkness inside each of its characters. For example is the major character, where Ottway's sense of command bonds the group, despite protest from ex-con Diaz. The men, including Dermot Mulroney, James Badge Dale, Dallas Roberts, NonsoAnozie and Joe Anderson, snipe at one another as the elements drain their humanity.

#### Conclusion and suggestion

##### a. Conclusion

Based on the analysis the writer has done, it can be drawn some conclusions as follow:

Firstly, there is a relationship between *The Grey* movie and an psychoanalytic approach, first on the element of the movie that is *The Grey* as the dramatic adventure movie that tells about the way to survive in the middle of Arctic. The director wants to show the story on his point of view, where people will have their good final ends if they work hard. On the way to survive sometime people need a lot of sacrifices and it can come from other people or their selves. While the theme of the film is that 'The struggle to survive in the middle of Arctic'. Because the film is a dramatic thriller adventure movie, the cinematography of the movie uses the scary effect with dark and blue and bloody. The light is not strong

enough because the director wants to show the natural situation of the movie, because *The Grey* movie sets in a Cold Arctic.

While the defense of Ottway on the film is that the film there are only found 4 elements of defense mechanism such as reaction formation, intellectualization, regression and denial. The defense of Ottway is that denial, where Ottway has a lot of experience connected with the wolves, so he knows everything. On every argumentation related with the situation of the wolves and their action, Ottway knows it better. The regression of Ottway appears based on situation and condition. The intellectualization of Ottway appears because he has a lot of experience of dark life so he gets used to it and smart by trying to create the defense. The reaction formation of Ottway in the debatagainz Diaz. Ottway does not want to give an over reaction for Diaz. He just mocks him smoothly.

There are only found several elements of Defense mechanism because the film is adventure film and the major character is a calm person where he is better to be quite rather than talk. He makes decision only with action that is why the defense of him is rare.

b. Suggestion

After doing a research on *The Grey* movie using a defense mechanism approach, it is interesting for the other researcher to analyze this movie by using other approach. They may use the other psychoanalytic approach focusing on anxiety of Freud because the major character has a lot of things that makes him anxious. To get survives,

Ottway must think a lot of things especially the flash back of his wife vision that always appears in a certain time. Beside Psychoanalytic approach, Individual psychological approach is also suitable as the approach to analyze *The Grey* movie. The reason is that because the major character has his own fictional finalism and he also has inferiority feeling that he has to strive.

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