

**MOTIVATION AND EXPECTATION OF MONA GRAY IN *AN INVISIBLE SIGN*
MOVIE (2011) DIRECTED BY MARILYN AGRELO:
A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM**



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ABSTRACT

The major problem of this research is to explain Motivation and Expectation of Mona Gray reflected in Marilyn Agrelo in An Invisible Sign movie. Objectives of this research are: to analyze the movie based on its structural elements, and to analyze movie based on A Psychoanalytic. This study is qualitative study. The object of the study is An Invisible Sign movie directed by Marilyn Agrelo published in 2011 in New York Production of iDeal Partners/ Silverwood Films. The data sources are divided into two namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the film itself and the secondary data source is the other sources related to the analysis such as references, author's biography, criticisms relation to the problems and material related to the study whether picking up from books or internet. The methods of data collection are observation and library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis. This research comes to the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of the movie, it shows that the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related to each other and form the unity into good quality of a movie. Second, based on A Psychoanalysis theory, the analysis is started by analyzing Mona's Id, Ego, Superego, of her. For the last, the writer makes an analysis of Mona's Motivation and Expectation.

Key word: *Motivation, Expectation, A Psychoanalytic Criticism*

1. Introduction

An Invisible Sign movie (2011) is directed by Marilyn Agrelo. This film is produced by Jana Edelbaum, Michael Ellis, Pamela Falk, Lynette Howell in New York, USA. The genre of this film is drama comedy. The *An Invisible Sign* were published May, 6th 2011 in New York. This film is based on the book "*An Invisible Sign of my own*" by Aimee Bender.

This film has the biggest stars, they are Jessica Alba as Mona Gray, Chris Messina as Ben Smith, John Shea as Dad, Sonia Braga as Mom, Marylouise Burke as Ms.Gelband, Bailee Madison as Young Mona, Sophie Nyweide as Lisa Venus, Mackenzie Milone as Ann Diganno, Ia Colletti as Danny O'Mazzi, J.K. Simmons as Mr. Jones, Ashlee Atkinson as Lisa's aunt, Jake Siciliano as Elmer Gravlaki, Crystal Bock as Panida Saleswoman, Stephanie Debolt as Ellen, Joanna Adler as Lisa's Mom etc. Producers: Jana Edelbaum, Michael Ellis, Pamela Falk, Lynette Howell. Executive producers: Justin Berfield, Rachel Cohen, Daniel Crown, Jason Felts, Stephen hays, Michael Lesser. Director of photography: Lisa Rinzler. Production designers: Susan Block. Costume designer: Sarah Beers. Editor: Sabine Hoffman. Music: Andrew Hollander. The genre of this film is drama comedy with Production of iDeal Partners/ Silverwood Films. The duration of the movie is 96 minutes. (Mc Carthy, The Hollywood Reporter,).

Marilyn Agrelo was born in Cuba when Castro came to power. When she was two years old, her family moved to the United States where she was raised in New York City. Since the early 1990s, Agrelo had worked predominantly on industrial, promotional and fund-raising films before she co-produced "Smash the Kitty" (2003), a super low-budget indie film starring Jason Ritter. The touching story of how fifth-graders from Tribeca, NY used dance to express themselves and discover their potential was a surprise hit in theaters and helped contribute to the already growing interest, both in film and on television, with

old-school ballroom dancing. Then, in 2011 Agrelo was trusted as a director on *An Invisible sign* movie released May, 6 2011.

(<http://movies.yahoo.com/person/marilyn-agrelo/biography.html>)

In *An Invisible Sign* movie, the movie tells about a young girl Mona who likes running and math. She is an only child from her parents. When she is 10 years old her father gets sick, she is very sad and she is determined to get him back. When she is 20 years old, her mother asks Mona to go out from her house, because she doesn't have friends and job. Her mother wants she changes her life style and doesn't lie herself. One day she gets telephone from Ms. Gelband, she is Elementary school principle, she wants Mona to become a math teacher in her school, because the previous teacher, Ms. Swordstrum flew off to Paraguay.

She gets a job becomes teacher in the Elementary school and meets her student Lisa, Ann, Danny, Levan etc and meets Ben Smith he is a science teacher. Her students love her but one of them her name is Ann, she hates her. Mona teaches about number and materials. Her students are very attractive. One of the student, she is Lisa. She always uses cancer costume in her class because her mother gets eye cancer. Mona's father gets mind sickness and he always do something isn't natural, as makes circle in behind the home and uses magnet to his body.

While she comes in the class, she gets the students are very busy, then Lisa takes an axe and shows it to Ann, because Lisa hates Ann, then Lisa knocks her head to the door, until her head gets a flood, she is sad because her mother dies. The axe is taken Ann and shows it to Lisa but the axe hits Mona's foot. Both are brought to the hospital to get treatment and Mona has to use sticks to help her walks. One day, Ben comes to Mona's boardinghouse and says something to Mona until both of them can be together and make Mona becomes herself again. After Mona feels health she comes to Mr.Jones's home to get the reasons why the store is left and why he doesn't care with her father

and finally she gets the answer. Then, finally she knows about the life and next day she picks up Lisa to live together with her.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses *An Invisible Sign* movie. The first is this movie is very good and interesting. This movie tells about motivation and expectation of Mona to get the happiness. This movie can also be examples of the math teacher to make the students like math because using model and creativity in the teaching. The second, this movie is played by Jessica Alba as the main character. In this movie she played as Mona Gray where she is the only childrenr from her parents, who loves her dad and math. After she was 20 years old, she becomes math teacher in Elementary school and helps her student crisis about math. There she finds the truth and her love as her expectation which she wants.

The third is this movie gives a positive message to viewers. This movie is a movie of a motivation and expectation of a young woman in her life. From this view, it can be seen how great the sacrifice of a young woman to get happiness is. The last is *An Invisible Sign* movie is one of drama romance and comedy movies. This movie tells about motivation and expectation of young woman in her life to get the happiness, this movie also includes a romance movie. The movie tells about young woman who meets her love. Considering the above, the researcher turns to analyze the movie by using psychoanalytic criticism because of some considerations. In this study the researcher encourages herself to give a title: MOTIVATION AND EXPECTATION OF MONA GRAY DIRECTED BY MARILYN AGRELO IN *AN INVISIBLE SIGN MOVIE (2011)*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM.

Literary Review as long as the writer knows, *An Invisible Sign* movie has not been analyzed in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and all around of Surakarta or Yogyakarta region.

Problem Statement based on the research background above, the writer purposes the problem of the study “How is Motivation and Expectation reflected in film *An Invisible Sign* directed by Marilyn Agrelo?”

Limitation of the Study in this study, the writer only analyzes the Motivation and Expectation of the main characters which appears using Psychoanalytic criticism

Objective of the Study based on the problem statement above, the objectives of this study are as follow (1) To analyze the structural elements of film *An Invisible Sign*. (2). To analyze the Motivation and Expectation of the main characters using psychoanalytic criticism.

Benefit of the Study this research is expected to give some benefits as follows: the first theoretical benefit which is to give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of the psychoanalytic criticism in literary study. The second, practical benefit which is to get better understanding about the film, especially the main character in *An Invisible Sign* movie from the Psychoanalytic criticism.

Research Method in this research the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining the data and data source, (4) determining the technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

In this research the writer classifies the data source into two categories namely primary and second data sources. The primary data source of the study is film *An Invisible Sign* directed by Marilyn Agrelo and the writer takes the secondary data source from many sources as references, author’s biography, criticisms in relation to the problems and material related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

In collecting data, the researcher chooses observation and library research. The technique of data collection is done by following steps. Watching the film repeatedly to get the understanding about this film, finding out the important data and identifying the relevant elements, taking notes of the influence information, arranging data into several parts based on its classification. And the last developing data to get the last result.

2. Psychoanalytic Theory

a. Notion of Psychoanalytic

Psychoanalysis is the part of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being, it is a method of therapy for personality disturbances and technique for investigating an individual unconscious thoughts and feelings (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86).

Sigmund Freud proposes this personality organization, according to this model psyches, life can be represented by three levels: The conscious, the preconscious, and the unconscious each of them has different content of thought (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86). The conscious is “a small part of the mind contains those thought of which you are currently aware, this material changing constantly as new thought enter your mind and past out of awareness (Burger, 1986: 54). Freud (in Feist, 1985: 25) states that consciousness plays as relatively minor role in psychoanalytic theory.

b. Structure of Personality

Psychoanalysis is the part of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being. *id*, *ego* and *superego* “are not persons, places, or physical things, they are the names given to certain motivational forces who existence is inferred from the way people behave” (Feist, 1985: 24). In psychoanalytic theory of Freud, the personality is seen as structures, which consist of three elements: *id*, *ego*, and *superego* (Hall, 1985: 36).

c. Motivation

The word motivation is coined from the Latin word "movere", which means to move. Motivation is defined as an internal drive that activates behavior and gives it direction. The term motivation theory is concerned with the processes that describe why and how human behavior is activated and directed. It is regarded as one of the most important areas of study in the field of organizational behavior. (Romando, 2005).

There are two different categories of motivation theories such as content theories, and process theories. Even though there are different motivation theories, none of them are universally accepted. (Romando, 2005).

d. Expectation

Expectations are interesting. If we make them high, we can set ourselves up for disappointment. If we keep them low, then we run the risk living with an attitude of futility. (Norvell, 2008)

3. Research Finding

a. Analysis of Mona Gray's Personality

1) *Id*

Freud in (Burger, 1986: 56) *Id* is the biological aspect and the original system in personality. The *Id* represents the biological substation of humans, the source of all drive energy, Freud theory in (Pervin, 1984:77).

Mona Gray's *Id* occurs when her mother asks Mona to go out from her house and she can't leave her father.

Mona : You're kicking me out?
Mom : You don't have friends. You don't have a job
It's time for you to go
Mona : but I love it there.
Mom : You're lying. Mona. And what's worse is, you

don't even know it. I have to take care of him.
You don't. (AIS, 1st, 06:00)

2) *Ego*

Freud (in Burger, 1986: 58) states that though the *ego* lacks the strong vitality of the *Id*; it regulates the instinctual drives of the *Id* so that they may be released in non-destructive behavioral patterns. And though a large portion of *ego* is unconscious, the *ego* nagger the less comprises what we ordinarily think of as the conscious mind.

Mona's *Ego* is dominated by her *Id* when she ignores her *superego* that she wants to live together with them.

Mona's mom : He's gone. And I can't find my car keys.
Mona : Who's gone? Mr. Jones?
Mona's mom : No, Mona. Your Dad. Your dad's gone.
Mona : What? Where did he go?
Mona's mom : I don't know where.
I don't know where he is?
And I found these behind the washing machine. He's
been hiding them, and I don't know for how long
he's not taking them.
Mona : This never would have happened if I still lived here.
Mona's mom : Stop it! You can't help him! And I don't know
where he is. (AIS, 10th, 1:07:43).

3) *Superego*

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 (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992 : 91).

Mona's *Superego* occurs when her *Id* said that her mother asks Mona to go out from her house and she can't leave her father and his *superego* reminds that it is good.

“ By the third night, her math book and she called it quits”.
(AIS, 1st, 06:42)

b. Motivation

Motivation refers to the inner conditions that energize and direct us toward of purposive, goal-seeking behavior. A particular motive such as

hunger refers to the more specific goal-directed activity of obtaining food. (Atwater,1983).

Mona's motivation occurs when she comes in Elementary school as a math teacher, she decorates the classroom about math. She makes numbers which is sticked on the wall, hung and put on the floor, so the classroom is very funny. She does it in order to make students happy and don't feel bored when they learn math.

Mona	: Second graders, look at the numbers on the wall. Guys, please.
(Bell ringing)	
Third graders	: No way! Check it out! Pretty awesome numbers I like the two, I like the nine, I like the five
Mona	: Are you the third grade?
Children	: Yes. (AIS, 2 nd , 12:28)

c. Expectation

Expectations are interesting. If we make them high, we can set ourselves up for disappointment. If we keep them low, then we run the risk living with an attitude of futility. (Norvell, 2008).

Mona's first expectation occurs when she wants her father to recover from his illness, after she knew his illness. Not only Mona who has expectation, but also her father. She wants together with his father runs and studies mathematics together again. Although Mona have to sacrifice something what she likes.

“ They know how to fix a body, but would they be able to fix his mind. My dad looked gray and gone, but I knew he was in there somewhere and I was determined to get him back. So, I made a deal with the universe. I would give up everything that I cared about and the universe would give me back my father. I quit dessert, I quit going to movies, I quit my friends, I quit flipping through atlases. I even quit running. The more I like something the more I needed to ruin it. The only thing I didn't quit was numbers. If the number of falling leaves I counted equaled the number of letter in my

dad's name then maybe I would get him back. I never stopped counting, I never stopped hoping. "(AIS, 1st, 5:10)

d. Discussion

An Invisible Sign is the film that reflecting of the major character named Mona Gray. After analyzing the major character's personality elements such as *id*, *ego*, and *superego*, the writer considers that each element is important and interacts so closely with one another to build the motivation and expectation of major character.

In Marilyn Agrelo's *An Invisible Sign*, there are many conflicts faced by Mona Gray as the major character in this film such as internal and external conflict. The film director, Marilyn Agrelo describe Mona Gray as a young woman who misses their family as before her father gets illness, her behavior is changed. But after she meets Lisa and Ben she can more think about the truth in her life. In her life, she has many *Id* where her life is directed by her *ego* which is dominated by her *superego*, she is realized and do everything what her *superego* wants to. Since she meets Lisa and Ben her life more changes.

In *An Invisible Sign* movie, Mona's motivation , it occurs when she comes in Elementary school becomes a math teacher, then she decorates the classroom about math. She makes numbers which is sticked on the wall, hung and put on the floor, so the classroom is very funny. She does it in order to make students happy and don't feel bored when they learn math.

In other hand, Mona has Expectation in her life, it occurs when she wants her father recovers from his illness, after she knew her father's sickness. Not only Mona who has expectation, but also her father. She wants together with his father runs and studies mathematics together again. Although Mona has to sacrifice something what she likes. This story shows the conflict between them and how *Superego* obeys the *Id* and how the *Ego* becomes motivation and expectation of Mona's life.

Finally, in the last movie, Mona finally knows about the life, to get happiness she has not to sacrifice parts of herself. The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. She gets job as a math teacher, and studies in the night to get degree from university because she likes math as she likes her father. She gets boyfriend who loves her very much and lives together with her student named Lisa.

4. Conclusion

a. Conclusion

After analyzing this movie according to problem statements and previous chapters, the writer concludes there are two aspects; structural analysis of the movie and A Psychoanalytic Criticism.

Based on the structural, this movie is based on novel with the same title by *An Invisible Sign My Own*. This movie tells about Mona Gray who wants to get her father back from his sickness and to get her motivation about math. In this movie the director, Marilyn Agrelo wants to deliver the message that everyone has An Invisible Sign in their life. The director creates a character Mona Gray who acts a young girl who feels alone and then gets a job as a math teacher. Before it her mother asks her to go out from her house, because her mother wants her has a job and a lot of friends.

Based on the A Psychoanalytic Criticism, Mona Gray's personality, motivation and expectation, the writer concludes that *An Invisible Sign* is a film that reflects the author's idea and intention. It happens when the *Id* is stronger than *Superego*. The *Id* of Mona Gray occurs when she gets a job as a math teacher, in Elementary school, it's a recommendation from her mother. Therefore, the *Ego* is dominated by her *Id*. She accepts the job, because she likes math and needs money to pay rent. And then the *Superego*, she must think again about the decision to accept the job.

That's why her *Superego* does not operate properly because her *Ego* dominates her.

Mona's motivation comes after she meets with her math teacher, Mr. Jones. He is Mona's motivator, she likes math, until she has invisible sign in her life. So, she never quits counting and hoping. Mona's expectation, she wants her father gets well after she knew her father got sickness. Not only Mona who has expectation, but also her father. She wants together his father running and studying mathematics together again. Although Mona has to sacrifice something what she likes.

In life, people sometimes face the real situations that make them anxious. This condition is caused by the contradiction between *Id* and *Superego*. In this film, Marilyn Agrelo represents this conflict in the major character of Mona Gray. Those contradictions influence her to make a decision and to do something.

b. Educational Implication

Movie is one kind of suggestive narrative prose; it has culture, social, moral and education value. This movie has some implication such as: This movie can be used for material study especially English language on senior high school XI grade, this movie can be used to increase speaking skill for student in learning activity, for example to introduce, ask, request, and etc. This movie can be used for literary studies in the University especially literary subject. This movie can be used as material to study and to teach about literary theory because this movie gives knowledge about literature and it can be used as literary review. The writer elaborates educational implication for school or University. This research paper can be used as a literature review for other researcher in University and as a reference for other researcher.

c. Suggestion

An Invisible Sign is an interesting film that shows the other side of the Mona Gray's life in her motivation and her expectation. So, it is better to see this film because it serves a lesson how she gets the happiness in her life. The writer hopes that the readers have to get happiness in their life after they read this paper and watch this film. On the other hand, the writer hopes that this research can bring the positive inputs to the literary studies.

The writer suggests other writer to make deeper research about the story from other approaches as A Psychoanalytic Criticism because in this movie Mona Gray shows the Motivation and Expectation in her life. On the other hand, the writer suggests that the next writer works carefully to get the best analysis.

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