

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

*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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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, Stepanie 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, ).

This film "*An Invisible Sign*" is the film that tells about a young girl Mona Gray ( Jessica Alba) who likes running and math. She was an only child from her mother and father. When she was 10 years old her father got sick, she was very sad and she was determined to get him back. So, she made a deal with the Universe she would give up everything that she cared and the Universe would give her back her father. She stopped to eat dessert, she stopped going to movies, she kept away from her friends, she stopped flipping through atlases and she even stopped running. The more she liked something, the more she needed to ruin it and the only thing she didn't stop was numbers. She thought that with number, she would get him back. So, she never stopped counting and she never stopped hopping. Numbers to her was safe, reliable and perfect.

When she was 20 years old, she was kicked out her mother from home, because she didn't have friends and job. Her mother wanted she changed her life style and didn't lie herself. One day she got telephone from Ms. Gelband, she was Elementary school principle, she wanted Mona to become math teacher in her school, because the previous teacher, Ms. Swordstrum flew off to Paraguay. At school she helped her students to overcome their crisis. Ben Smith (Chris Messina), he was a science teacher who loved Mona. He was attracted to Mona when she taught with math model. Mona had students such as Lisa (Sophie Nyweide), Ann

D'Ganno , Levan Beeze, Elmer Gravlaki, Rita Williams, Danny O'Mazzi etc. When she was in class she remembered with her teacher , he was Mr.Jones (J.K Simmon), he was Math teacher. She never saw him without a wax number around his neck. The numbers varied according to his mood. He'd go higher in a better mood, lower if he felt lower. Mr. Jones quit teaching and opened hardware store.

On the first day, She gave the task to her students to make numbers out of nature, one of them would bring a number every Friday. She called it " number and materials." That day Mona was very happy because it was first day she taught. When she came back home, her father was supine in circle on the backside of his house. He called " The shape of health".

On Friday, Lisa brought a duty number and material from nature that was circles on her head from LV. She behaved strangely, about cancer because her mother got eye cancer. On Saturday Morning, while Mona was sleeping her mother called her and said happy birthday to her. Mona's mother invited her to went to restaurant together to celebrated . In restaurant her father behaved oddly any more, her father showed her about magnet therapy. In restaurant, She met Ben Smith, then they sat down together, but after that, she ran and went to hardware store of Mr. Jones's and bought an ax.

On night, she got nightmare, she cut her foot used an ax. After she woke up she was shocked. When she was in the school, the axe was covered with the paper and put on the walls as number seven. While she

met again with Ben, she avoided him in the way she didn't go out by the door but through the window, but Ben knew and then she walked together. Ben invited her to went to the movies, then Ben left her and Mona followed him in the cinema. But when she was on the way she saw Mr. Jones used a number 42 left his hardware store with the door was open. Then mona followed Ben went to the cinema. Suddenly, she ran and Ben followed her until her house. Mona shocked when she knew that Ben followed her. There, two of them kissing each other, then sat down together in Mona's room.

The next day while in the classroom, Ann Diganno brought a pendant number 42 as Mr. Jones has, then Mona asked for Ann , but Ann didn't give and trowed it. After that Mona and Lisa went to Mr. Jones hardware store then visited Lisa's mother in the hospital. After she returned from the hospital, Mona went to the Mr. Jones's home and found the number all over town, then she called him in his house but no answered it. She was looking for her mom and asked where Mr. Jones was, but her mother was also confused because his father was gone. Mona met his father on the ground when they ran together, There his father dug the hole, then Mona invited him to back a home.

The next day, but not Friday in math class, Danny O'mazzy brought his father's counterfeit arm and it looked like number one. Suddenly, Lisa took an axe on the wall and directed to Ann, Mona asked for an axe and put it in the floor and ordered lisa to front the door. Lisa

punched her head on the door from glasses, her head bleded, then Mona helped her. Lisa said that her mother died, she was very sad. Lisa's friend Ann, she disliked Lisa, then she got an axe and directed to Lisa, but it was bindered by Mona, when she was back up she slipped and an axe touched Mona's foot. Then, Mona and Lisa were cared in the hospital. After she was health, Lisa lived together with her because she disliked with her aunt and her mother wanted Mona to took care Lisa from time to time.

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. She had also developed art shows and museum installations, as well as directed commercials for Hasbro toys and Off-Broadway plays. Agrelo made a splash with the highly acclaimed and feel-good "Mad Hot Ballroom" (2005). 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.

The idea of ordinary children learning ballroom dancing came to her through her friend and co-producer Amy Sewell. After writing a newspaper story about the Tribeca school system's fifth-grade dance

program, Sewell approached Agrelo and insisted they do a movie on the subject. Agrelo, usually drawn to darker subjects, was hesitant at first, but was quickly won over and agreed to helm the project called “Mad Hot Ballroom.” The women soon discovered that shooting a documentary was no walk in the park, as they dealt with unhappy parents, restless children and a shoestring budget. The film traced culturally diverse pre-teens as they learn various tango, salsa and foxtrot moves, taking their skills all the way to the grand finale competition in the Winter Gardens of the World Trade Center.

Upon completion, “Mad Hot Ballroom” was rejected by the Sundance Film Festival, but won entry into the neighboring Slamdance festival. After an initial screening, buyers quickly engaged in a bidding war for the distribution rights, with Paramount Classics winning out in the end. In its initial theatrical release, the film earned more than \$8 million, making it the seventh highest-grossing documentary film in history. To top things off, it also won a Celebrate New York Award at the Gotham Awards and an Audience Award at the Philadelphia Film Festival. It was nominated for best documentary by the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

Following on the heels of her first hit, Agrelo’s next documentary “Us and Them,” was a more personal project which focused on her own family and how they bridged the cultural divide of the old world (Cuba)

and the new (United States). Then, on 2011 Agrelo be trusted as a director on *An Invisible sign* movie released May, 6 2011.

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

Film has the same position as another literary work like novel and drama. Through the films we can find the interesting fact, such as plot of story, characters and characterization, theme setting, etc. Sometimes film gives the moral messages for us, it depends on the story of the film, a film usually has normal sense of real-life experience. Making a film is very different from making a novel or drama. Making a film needs along time and needs a team work which cooperates with others, a team work involves many people as a crew.

A crew has a different function and job in the process of making film. Film has many elements, such as director, costume designer, lighting, cameramen, scriptwriter, producers, artists, music composer, etc. Besides, it also needs some techniques and terminologies to understand it, including signs, editing, sound mise-en-scene, and cinematography.

Every human being cannot keep away from the changes that happen in their environs. That's a problem in the real world in daily life. So, to face the changes they must get or have great motivation and expectation in their life in the real world. Different people have different motivation and expectation suitable with the aims in their life.

Motivation is stimulus to progress and fulfill their need by hard working, spirit, resolve, pray in order to achieve their aims. Without

motivation life is empty. The concept of motivation, essentially, motivation refers to the inner state that moves or causes us to behave the way we do. In a sense, the entire field of psychology has to do with explaining behavior in terms of its underlying causes. Motivation refers to the inner conditions that energize and direct us toward purposive, goal-seeking behavior. (Atwater, 1983:23).

Expectation confirmation is a social psychology phenomenon where people tend to ignore attributes in others that are viewed as atypical. People instead tend to search for evidence that confirms expectations and previously existing beliefs. This tendency helps simplify social experiences, but it also distorts our worldview by causing us to accept inconsistent information. Expectation confirmation often contributes to stereotypes about social groups, since people only look for information that confirms their attitudes about these social groups. (Kendra Cherry, About.com Guide)

Expectation is like a magnet which pulls people to do something in their life, be comparable with formerly life or great desire from their dreams can be real. Meanwhile, people to do something suitable with the rules. Motivation and expectation come from the good ambition to change their life or to fulfill their need.

Meanwhile, motivation and expectation are in relationship with psychology. literature and psychology have close relationship. Both of them depict the motivation and their life expectation. The psychology

learns the motivation that is influenced by an expectation and the experience. In the following discussion the experience of life from the motivation and expectation can give inspiration for an author to produce a literary work. The film as part of literary work reflects some realities that happen in the motivation of human life and influence the expectation of the character in the film. Literary work is very delightful source for the world of movie. Film has the same position, as the major genres in textual studies, like poetry and novel. It is true that film becomes part of daily life, which always attracts the attention million people in this world.

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 daughter 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 students 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 IN AN INVISIBLE SIGN MOVIE (2011) DIRECTED BY MARILYN AGRELO : A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITICISM**

## **B. Previous Study**

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.

## **C. 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?”

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this study, the writer only analyzed the motivation and expectation of the main characters which appears using Psychoanalytic criticism.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

Dealing with 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.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

This research is expected to give some benefits as follows;

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of the psychoanalytic criticism in literary study

### **2. Practical Benefit**

To get better understanding about the film, especially the main character in *An Invisible Sign* movie from the Psychoanalytic criticism.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

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.

## **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is the film *An Invisible Sign*. This film is directed by Marilyn Agrelo in (2011).

## **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

In this research the writer classifies the data source into two categories namely primary and second data sources.

### a. Primary Data

The primary data source of the study is film *An Invisible Sign* directed by Marilyn Agrelo.

### b. Secondary Data

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.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

In this case, the writer uses two techniques of collecting data

### a. Observation

This step is used to make the analysis by watching the film repeatedly to get the understanding about this film.

### b. Library research

There are some procedures in library research, they are:

- 1) Watching the film repeatedly and understanding about this film.
- 2) Finding out the important data and identifying the relevant elements.

- 3) Taking notes.
- 4) Arranging data into several parts based on its classification.
- 5) Developing data to get the last result.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The data are analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis and analyzing the structural elements of the film.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. *Chapter I* is the introduction which contains background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study. *Chapter II* deals with underlying theory that is psychoanalytic theory, system personality, Anxiety, Motivation, Expectation theory, researches method and paper organization. *Chapter III* is structural analysis in this chapter the researcher explains the structural element, technical element of the study and discussion. *Chapter IV* is data analysis, which deals with the major character's problems based on psychoanalytic theory. *Chapter V* is conclusion of the analysis and some suggestions.