

**DIFFABILITY AND HOPE REFLECTED IN SEAN
MCNAMARA'S *SOUL SURFER* MOVIE (2011):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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by:

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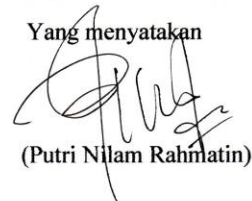
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AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

The major problem of this study is to reveal how Bethany's abnormality to keep her hope becomes true in *Soul Surfer* movie. The objective of this study is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and an individual psychological approach.

In analysis, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. The object of this study is *Soul Surfer* directed by Sean McNamara. The data sources are primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is *Soul Surfer* movie itself and the secondary data sources are the other sources related to the primary data such as information about director's biography, websites, and the other sources such a book related to the analysis. The technique of the data collection are watching the movie repeatedly, taking note the important part, arranging the data into several groups, selecting particular parts that is important and relevant for analysis, drawing conclusion, educational implication, and formulate it's suggestion. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.

The result of this study is presented in the following conclusions. First, Sean McNamara wants to describe that nothing is impossible in the world if human wants to believe, try hard, and do the best. He wants to show that lack or abnormality is not something that can limit people to achieve their hope. Love of God and lovely people is the most powerfulthing to raise the dream. Second, based on individual psychological analysis, Sean McNamara wants to deliver optimism of Bethany Hamilton in her striving to achieve her hope with abnormal condition.

Key words: Diffability, Hope, Soul Surfer, Individual Psychological

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Every one lives in the world exactly has hope. It does not matter whether people live with normal or abnormal condition, they still have hopes to motivate their life. In raising hope people find some problems, it is general thing in human's life. The problem is something that should be faced and solved. If people try to keep the problem in their life, it can be more complicated for them. People better to plant principle in their life to overcome that problem, such the word *nothing is impossible if human wants to believe, try hard, and do the best*. Therefore, human will believe that there is an ease behind the difficulty. Whatever people have disability or abnormal condition in their life, they must have a hope to continue the life, because life must go on. Here, the writer wants to analyze about the disability and hope on *Soul Surfer* movie by Sean McNamara.

Soul Surfer movie was released on April 8, 2011 in United States. The director is Sean McNamara and written by Michael Berk, Deborah Schwartz, and Douglas Schwartz, while the film is based on Hamilton's 2004 biographical book. The director, producers, and writers interviewed the family to learn about unpublished conflicts to include the movie. Filming took place in early 2010, Hawaii. It stars Anna Sophia Robb as the main character as Bethany Hamilton, Lorraine Nicholson as Alana, Dennis Quaid as Bethany's father, Kevin Sorbo as Alana's father, Helent Hunt as Bethany's mother, Ross Thomas as Noah.

The movie tells about the true story based on the real life of a teenager surfer girl's life comes from Kauai, Hawaii, her name is Bethany Hamilton. The story starts by little monologue of Bethany's life when she was child. She was born as a surfer because their families are surfer too. The passion of her life is about surfing.

The conflict appears when Bethany gets shark attack on her surfing in North beach of Kauai. She is surfing with Alana, Alana's father, and

Alana's brother. They don't know that there is a tiger shark there. The shark attacks Bethany's left arm. She should get amputation because of that. She feels down, she is afraid that she can not continue her life to be a surfer. It is her hope she really wants to be a good pro surfer. But because her family and friends who always accompany and give her understanding about her new condition, she can be a little strong.

In another side of Bethany's heart, she still feels so sad if she can not back to the water. One day she decides to join regional Hawaiian competition. She tries the best on that, but she can not be the winner, even her board is broken. It makes her so depressed. Then she joins in mission trip to help tsunami victims in Thailand. She gets many lessons because of this trip, she realizes that she still has family who always love her very much. She is luckier than victims there. Finally, after coming from the trip, she has desire that she will back to the water and join the National Rip Curl Competition. Her family was so excited to hear that, they help Bethany to prepare for the competition. She thinks that she must continue her life whatever the condition she has. She believes that God always beside her, and she needs to try hard and do the best for her hope.

There are at least four points that make writer be interested to analyze this movie. The first is *Soul Surfer* based on the true story of a teenager surfer lives in Hawaii, Bethany Hamilton. She gets hard life to be a pro surfer. The *second* is the visualization and the setting of this movie. Anna Sophia Robb as main character here, her arm is designed looks like really stump. The setting also makes audience enjoy the movie, filming take place in Kauai, Hawaii which is beautiful place because of beach views. The *third* is the story of this *Soul Surfer* movie is very inspirative, especially to all abnormal people in the world. They can get lesson by watching this movie that life must go on. The last is Bethany presents the optimism of someone in solving the life problem. This movie has many lessons that can be explored. It is very interesting to all people who watch

it, especially in family area. Love each other can be a power to overcome the life problem.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to observe the relation of hope from diffability people reflected in *Soul Surfer* movie by using an individual psychological approach for this research paper entitle:“**DIFFABILITY AND HOPE REFLECTED IN SEAN MCNAMARA’S SOUL SURFER MOVIE (2011): AND INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**”

2. Literature Review

There are two literature reviews of *Soul Surfer* Movie by Sean McNamara that are taken from internet by the researcher. First is by Huntley on April 20, (2011). He focuses on the content of the film. Because the story based on the real life, so it can give many lessons for other people.It is bursting with heart, inspiration and positivity, and it evokes a message about faith (not necessarily the religious kind) that anyone - child or adult - would be wise to heed (Huntley, 2011).Second is by Kidzworld on April 08, 2011. He also analyzed the film and focuses on the true story of it. But in here, he pays more attention on the psychological of the girl who got shark attack at 13 years old, Bethany Hamilton.

3. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the object by focusing more on Bethany Hamilton as the major character in *Soul Surfer* movie by Sean McNamara on 2011, and analyzes it using an Individual Psychological Approach.

4. Problem Statement

- a. “How is the structural element of the *Soul Surfer* movie?”
- b. “How does Bethany Hamilton as the main actor in *Soul Surfer* movie achieves her hope in surfing Olympiad with her diffability or abnormality?”

5. Objective of the Study

- a. To analyze *Soul Surfer* movie based on its structural elements.
- b. To analyze *Soul Surfer* movie especially for the main character of this film, Bethany Hamilton by using an individual psychological approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

a. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Sean McNamara's *Soul Surfer* movie.

b. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of writer and other students at UMS or other universities which are interested with literary studies.

7. Underlying Theory

a. Individual Psychology

According to Adler (1997:1) Individual Psychology is the science of living. It attempts to see individual lives as a whole, and regards each single reaction, each action, and impulse as an expression of individual's attitude towards life.

1) Inferiority Feeling

Hall and Lindzey(1985:123) stated that inferiority is such a feeling bad, weak, or even unable in facing the problem or task that should be completed.

2) Fictional Finalism

Adler emphasizes on fiction with his strong held teleological view of motivation. Teleology is an explanation of behavior in terms of its final purpose or aim (Feist, 1985:66).

3) Striving for Superiority

People do not feel very strong, so they always make detours around difficulties, always trying to escape them. Through this process of escape and evasion they maintain a feeling of being

much stronger and cleverer than they really are (Adler, 1997:33).

4) Social Interest

According to Adler (1997:128), social interest is the natural condition of the human species and the adhesive that binds society together.

5) Style of Life

Adler divided four general life style attitudes. They are *ruling type, getting type, avoiding type, and social useful type* (Feist, 1985:76).

6) Creative Power

Creative power is dynamic concept implying movement with a direction based on the goal of life. (Adler,1997).

b. Structural Elements of the Movie

The structural elements of the movie can be divided into two namely narrative elements and technical elements.

1) Narrative Elements of the Movie

a) Character and Characterization

Characters have close relationship with the traits. Traits are the significant things in the character (Douglass and Hardner, 1996:97-102).

b) Setting

There are two kinds of setting in literary work, setting of place and setting of time. Setting of place is work of fiction in which the place is classified as example of locale color region. Secondly is setting of time. In many works of fiction the time is very important especially in the historical fiction (Kennedy, 2009:20).

c) Casting

Casting is an important part in movie production. It is the process of selecting actors, dancers, singers, models,

and other talents that are needed in movie performance. By knowing the qualities at the centers of the characters is required in casting process. So the movie director can find the exact person for every character (Douglass and Harnden, 1996:99-102).

d) Plot

The plot includes, first all of the story events that directly describing film performance, secondly, the film's plot may contain material that is no relationship to the story world (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:57).

e) Point of View

Point of view is one of the most interesting and basic narrative devices available to the storyteller. For some storyteller device from whose point of view to tell the story is fundamental consideration in making a story (Douglass and Harnder, 1996:31).

f) Theme

Discovering theme is where the filmmaker certainly begins (Douglass and Harnder, 1996:3). The main point of film production is whether the movie can be accepted and enjoyed by the viewer or not, thus the filmmaker should find what the most appropriate theme for it.

b) Technical Elements of the Movie

a) *Mise-en-Scene*

Mise-en-Scene is "staging an action" and it was first applied to the practice of directing plays. It contains some aspect that complete the art of the theater, they are setting, lighting, costume, and the behavior of the figures (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:127).

b) Cinematography

Cinematography is manipulation of the film strip by the camera in the shooting phase and by the laboratory in developing phase (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:408).

c) Sound

Sound is the vital items in the process of making a movie. Viewers can understand the meaning of the action or dialogue by its sound. There are two advantages of sound in film production. First, it engages another sense mode; our visual attention can be accompanied by an aural attention. Second, sound can actively shape how we interpret the image (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:244).

d) Editing

Editing may be thought of as the coordination of one shot with the next. It is the task of selection and joining camera takes. To distinguish how editing in production is from how appears on the screen to viewers (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:207).

B. Research Method

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative study which takes data source from words and other written text. Qualitative study is focused with description of natural phenomena that occur in the world. The object of this study is *Soul Surfer* movie. This movie is directed by Sean McNamara and written by Michael Berk, Deborah Schwartz, and Douglas Schwartz, while the film is based on Hamilton's 2004 biographical book.

Type of data is the form of script movie entitled *Soul Surfer* directed by Sean McNamara. The data sources are divided in two types: primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data of the study is *Soul Surfer* movie directed by Sean McNamara. While for the secondary data sources are all of references and material that has relation with the study whether come from books or internet.

Technique of collecting data from this study is library research. The technique of collecting data are as follows: watching the movie repeatedly and determining character that will be analyzed, taking notes of important part both in primary or secondary data, arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category. Selecting particular parts which is considered as important and relevant data for analysis. Drawing conclusion and formulating its pedagogical suggestion.

C. Finding and Discussion

There are some points that should be analyzed from *Soul Surfer* movie:

1. Structural Elements of *Soul Surfer* movie.

a. Narrative Elements

1) Character and Characterization

a) Major Character

(1) Bethany Hamilton

Bethany is a female, acted by *Anna Sophia Robb* who lives in Kauai, Hawaii with her parents and her two brothers. All of this family is surfer. Physically, Bethany is a beautiful girl. She has long straight and brown hair, pointed nose, and white skin. Her body is slim like an athlete of surfing. She always uses blue dress code.



Profile of Bethany

Bethany: (*Monologue*) I was born in Hawaii to two die-hard surfers.. "Two brothers." That's my answer when anyone asks me why I'm so competitive.....

(*Soul Surfer* script, 1st VCD, 00:01:34)

Morally Bethany is a religious and very kind girl because she grows up around of religious place and family too. They love each other very much. There is a plain church near of the beach. People always pray together there. They thanks to God because have given chance to life in the one of beautiful place in the world, Hawaii.



Bethany and her family pray in church.

Father	:Ready for the contest?
Bethany	: Yeah...
Father	: Practice your snap of the lip?
Mother	: Sssh...
Noah	: No, but she's perfect on the wipeouts.
Mother	: Ssh, guys, we're in church.

(*Soul Surfer* script, 1st VCD, 00:04:18)

b) Minor Character

(1) Bethany's Father

Bethany's father is a male, acted by *Dennis Quaid*. His name in this movie is Tom. He is a good surfer too. He teaches Bethany to be a talented surfer. Physically, he is a handsome man with sharp nose and nice smile. He looks like middle aged man. He has a good body. His skin is white and has little long, wavy, brown hair.

Morally, Tom is a good and cares father. He always gives lesson and advice for Bethany in her surfing. He very supports Bethany to be a professional surfer. One day in the competition Bethany doesnot get a high score because

her wave is taken by Malina, she is her rival. There, Tom tries to give Bethany advice about the technique and he said that we should feel the movement of wave with our soul and always keep focus on it. By that advice, finally Bethany can be the champion on the competition.



Bethany's father gives advice to Bethany.

Bethany :Malina full on stole my wave, I had position.
Tom : It's okay, it's all right. Look, next time, I want you to really focus on just diving into the water as far as you can. Rip that paddle back. Okay?
Bethany : Okay.
Tom : All right, take a rest.....

(*Soul Surfer* script, 1st VCD, 00:09:46)

(2) Bethany's Mother

Bethany's mother is a female, acted by *Helen Hunt*. She called as Cheri in this movie. She loves her children very much. She is responsible mother and good in surfing too.

Physically, she is beautiful woman. She is middle aged woman, not too young and not too old. She has a tall and slim body. Her hair is long, wavy, and brown. Her skin is white.



Profile of Bethany's Mother

Morally, Bethany's mother is religious and kind woman. When in the church, she warns to all of her family to keep silent and continue to pray. She is little protective mother. She doesnot allow Bethany to have surfing in the night because it can be dangerous for her. She cares with Bethany's safety.



Bethany's mother forbids Bethany to surf in the night.

Bethany :...Would you have let me go?
Mother : No. I don't know. Hey, no, no, no, no.
Bethany : I promise I'll ask next time, okay?...

(*Soul Surfer* script, 1st VCD, 00:19:09)

2) Setting

a) Setting of Place

Almost all actions of *Soul Surfer* movie take place in Bethany's home and Kauai beach.



Bethany and family are in the home.



Bethany joins Olympiad at the beach.

b) Setting of Time

The setting of time in *Soul Surfer* movie is in 2004. Even though it doesn't show directly from the movie, but we can see from the story when Bethany goes to the Thailand for Tsunami's victims and the disaster happens on December in 2004 exactly. The setting of action happened in the day, afternoon, and night.

3) Point of View

The point of view in *Soul Surfer* movie is the third person who knows everything. It can be seen from Bethany's monologue at the first scene of this movie.

4) Theme

The theme of *Soul Surfer* movie (2011) is "nothing is impossible if human wants to believe, try hard, and do the best." The movie tells how hard the life of teenage surfer who wants to make her hope become true with her abnormal condition.

5) Plot

Soul Surfer movie has presented the basic dramatic structure; they are the beginning, the middle, and the end.

a) The Beginning

In *Soul Surfer* movie, the story begins with a few monologue from Bethany Hamilton (acted by Anna Sophia Robb) who tells her life when she was child. She also introduces her family such from her mother, father, two brothers, and her best friend. The view of beach has been seen at first of this movie. The beautiful Hawaii beach and its waves always company Bethany to spend her life in surfing. One day Bethany is enjoying surfing. She forgets all of her time. Noah (acted by Ross Thomas) calls her that she is late to pray together in church. They are happy family and religious too.

b) The Middle

The complication happened when Bethany going to surf in North Beach. But the beach is so quiet, it makes them be more concentration to practice. In the middle surfing, suddenly there is a tiger shark attacks Bethany and bits her left arm. It makes her shocked and screams to ask help to Alana. Alana's father and brother help her soon. They bring her to the seashore.

Alana's brother runs to the car. He calls 911, ambulance, and Bethany's parent. While in the beach, Alana and her father try to save Bethany with makes her still conscious. Alana's father rips her blouse and ropes it to the left arm in order to make the blood doesn't come out too much. After the ambulance comes, she is brought to the hospital. She get operation and her arm should be amputated.

c) The End

The end in *Soul Surfer* movie is when there is a National Surf Rip Curl Competition. Bethany with an abnormal physical condition still joins in this competition. She surfs without her left arm. There are a lot of participants there, such as Alana, Malina, etc. They all are a good and great surfer. So it is not easy for Bethany to win this competition.

b. Technical Elements

1) Cinematography

a) Photographic Qualities of the Shot

Soul Surfer movie has photographic style of the movie. It uses high key lighting, soft lighting, and more emphasizes on color. The high lighting when taking a shot in the day and in the out side room. When the situation at morning, evening, night, and in the room, the color be red and brown. Almost all lamps in the Bethany's house is brown, it is not white. It makes the situation be warm like Bethany's happy family that is always warm and fun.



Bethany's room has soft lighting because the lamp is brown.

b) Framing of the Shot

The camera angle and camera distance are very important thing in framing of shot. They determine the image position. There are three types of camera angle: straight angle, high angle, and low angle. And several types of camera distance, such as the Extreme Long Shot, The Long Shot, The Medium Long Shot, The Medium Shot, The Medium Close Up, The Close Up, and The Extreme Close Up.

Camera Angle:



Straight Angle

High Angle



Low Angle

Camera Distance:



Extreme Long Shot



Long Shot



Medium Long Shot



Medium Shot



Medium Close-Up



Close-Up



Extreme Close-Up

c) The duration of the Shot

Sean Mcnamara creates the duration of the movie. He considers about it in order to the viewers enjoy the movie. Soul Surfer movie has duration 1 hour 46 minutes or 116 minutes.

2. Individual Psychological Analysis of *Soul Surfer* movie.

a. Inferiority Feeling

Hall and Lindzey (1985:123) stated that inferiority is such a feeling bad, weak, or even unable in facing the problem or task that should be completed. It means that people sometime feels hat there is

something frightening in their life. It is a normal condition as a human.

Bethany as a major character in *Soul Surfer* movie also has inferiority feeling. It can be seen when she is afraid that she can not continue her life to be pro surfer because her arm is amputated after she gets shark attack.

b. Striving for Superiority

Adler (in Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992:143) said that the striving superiority is based on the human's ability to be aware of himself of his ability to remember past experiences and to imagine himself in the future. Striving for superiority is someone's condition to move ahead from the inferiority feeling. In this movie audience can see when Bethany decides to joins the National Rip curl Surfing Competition. Her decision arises after she comes back from mission trip in Thailand with Sarah.

c. Fiction Finalism

Fiction is an idea that has no real existence, but it influences people as if it is really exist (Feist, 1985:65-66). Every human has the final goal on her own lives, it is a hope or fiction that should be achieved. By this final goal many people keep striving to reach it.

Bethany has a dream to be a professional surfer athlete. Although her physical condition is abnormal because her arm is amputated, but she still has a willing to back to the sea and to take surfing again as usual. She does great struggle in keeping her hope.

d. Style of Life

Style of life is something that reflects the individual personality. Human has unique characteristics in the world. It can be seen from the style of life or from the way of someone solves the life

problems. And how can someone achieve or realize their fictional final goal (Hall and Lindzey, 1985:126).

There are four styles of life according to Adler, they are Ruling type, Getting type, Avoiding type, and Socially useful type. Bethany is categorized to *the socially useful type* person. She joins in the social activity with her best friend who is activist in the church. One day she cancels to go to Mexico with Sarah because she has training to face the next competition.

e. Social Interest

Social interest is the item that deals with the relation of individual with others and also with their environments. In this movie, Bethany is one of girl that is very interesting with her society especially the place where she lives, Kauai, Hawaii. She always thanks to God for being surfer and enjoying the beautiful beach in Hawaii.

Bethany also has close relationship with Alana, her best friend since she was child. Their family knows each other so they look like a big family.

f. Creative Power

Every human has her own creative power to survive in some conditions. They strive for their life goal. Sometimes it appears to overcome their feelings. As many people who have anxiety feeling, Bethany also strive to make her hope becomes true. She tries hard to be free from her traumatic syndrome after she gets shark attack that makes her arm is amputated. She really wants to surf again after that tragedy although her physical condition does not support her.

3. Diffability of Bethany Hamilton

Bethany is a stump girl. Her arm should be amputated because she gets a shark attack when she is surfing. She must learn something

new in her life, because her condition does not like a normal people. She is different in doing everything.

4. Hope of Bethany

Hope is something that motivates human life. Bethany as a human has a hope in her life. She really wants to be pro surfer. It is her hope since she was child. She has great struggle to raise her hope. Although her condition is abnormal because her arm is amputated, but she still believes that her hope becomes true. So she always tries hard and do the best in achieving that. She gets a power from her family and friends who always love her very much. It is the most influence thing for her self to continue the life.

D. Conclusion and Educational Implication

A difference is something that should be appreciated. We live with other people because we are social creatures. They have different character and condition each other. Being respectful for abnormal condition person is the great action in a life. We should support them and donot avoid them. We must learn that we can not life without helping of each other.

For college students in the university, this study aims to be application of the individual psychological theory in the analysis of *Soul Surfer* movie (2011). It can be used to be references by another researcher in conducting the same study. For lecturer and teacher, according to the story of *Soul Surfer* movie, this study gives contribution in lecturer or teacher experience about how to teach moral of an abnormal students, especially how to raise their optimist feeling. The researcher purpose, this study can be useful for readers or another researcher to comprehend the individual psychological approach in analyzing of *Soul Surfer* movie (2011).

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