

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Psychological trauma makes a person will be a very severe stress. If the trauma is sustained, it will lead to disruption of one's soul. According to Bryant and Ehlers (2003:45), psychological trauma is “a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a traumatic event.”

Traumatic experience is “a sudden and acutely shocking experience that washes over the individual, rendering him or her powerless for a brief or a longer period of time. The event can lead to a post-traumatic stress reaction or even disorders” (Wolters, 1991).

There are several things that cause a person get a psychological trauma. It can be from the human error or natural disaster. The psychological traumas caused by human error are; sexual abuse, bullying, domestic violence, indoctrination, and mechanized accidents (car, train, or plane crashes, etc.), while the psychological traumas that are caused by natural disaster are as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslide, and flash floods. This is reflected in the *Columbus Circle* movie.

The writer chooses one of George Gallo's movie entitled *Columbus Circle* in his study. George Gallo is one of the famous directors. George Gallo was Born in Port Chester, New York, U.S, Gallo moved to Mamaroneck, New York and relocated in Los Angeles in 1982.

Growing up in New York, writer, director and producer George Gallo had originally intended to take on a career in graphic arts. A student of a Roumanian artist, Gallo developed his art to painting landscapes in the style of the Pennsylvania Impressionists. He has even had three one-man exhibitions in New York City and won the coveted Arts for the Parks Award in 1990 for his landscape painting of the Delaware River.

Informed by the school that he would have to do his first year of studies over if he switched to a film major, Gallo dropped out instead and wrote his first screenplay. With no experience in writing screenplays, he submitted the script *Wise Guys* to the only producer based in New York, and was quickly paid \$27,000 for a rewrite. Although he thought he had it made, for the next five years he found no work.

He took odd jobs to make ends meet, and continued to write screenplays until his first script was sold. *Wise Guys* was finally made in 1986 and starred Danny DeVito and Joe Piscopo. His next filmed script was the hit film *Midnight Run* which starred Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin. The film was so popular that three television series were made based on the film, all of which he executive produced.

Gallo made his directorial debut on *29th Street* for which he also wrote the screenplay. He went on to write and direct films like *Trapped in Paradise* (1994) starring Nicolas Cage, Jon Lovitz and Dana Carvey. This film also featured his father in a role. Starting off the new millennium, Gallo continues to write and direct for films like *Double Take* (2001) and *Uncoupled* (2001).

*Columbus Circle* is a 2012 American thriller film directed by George Gallo, written by Kevin Pollak. The film had a panel at the Lightning Entertaining on July 22 and was released in United States on August 6, 2012. *Columbus Circle* used budget \$10 million at the Hollywood.

*Columbus Circle* was a story about Abigail Columbus Circle Life. Abigail Clayton is a wealthy lady who lives in exclusive apartments very alone, in fact she is attractive heiress on Columbus Circle apartment. In the past, Abigail disappeared almost two decades from the public, media, and only via messages posted under the door with Klandermann building's concierge who helped. Organise much of her administration, and she just communicated with her the neighbor, Mrs. Lonnigan the old woman as a confidante.

One day, when the death of her elderly neighbor, Frank Guardiallo as NYPD detective investigated the homicide case in Columbus Circle apartment, and he asks for question about the chronology for a minutes, and also who asks for question about the Agoraphobic of her disease. When the elderly woman in the opposite apartment passes on, Abigail is anxious of newcomers to her floor and tries to buy the apartment ex Mrs. Lonnigan. But the her neighbors Mrs. Lilian and Mr. Charlie keepstay in new apartment. Since the couple moves into deceased woman's apartment, Abigail finds herself is exposed and not quiet, because she becomes the witness when Charlie beats and tortures Lilian.

Abigail's distressed and scare, because of her past. She has bad traumatics on her family, she was also physically abused when her father

drunk. On the fact, a violent episode between Lilian and Charlie just pretend of them, because they have secret mission to unload the real identity of Abigail Clayton. They cooperate with Dr. Raymond Fontaine as Abigail's sole confidant at lastly betrayal. Based on the story above, Abigail Clayton as Justine Waters, a mysterious lady who has disappeared since seventeen years ago. One night, Abigail invites Lilian to dinner in her room, and Lilian persuades to take Abigail outside, it is the moment when Abigail is careless, and soon Charlie searches information by checking Abigail's room. Charlie tries to install computers hacker to get information about her, social security code, and the signature. Finally, they know that Abigail Clayton was the heiress of water's family.

*Columbus Circle* is interesting movie to be researched. There are some aspects that make this movie really interesting. 1) The movie is about realistic story. 2) There is education in social life. 3) There are some traumatic experiences in certain life.

The realistic story of *Columbus Circle* outlines the story of Abigail Columbus Circle and her traumatic experiences when she was child. The story starts out when Abigail grew up in the American where she disappears from the American government and public. Then, when she comes to Columbus Circle Apartment, she just communicates with Klanderman as the apartment building's concierge and Mrs. Lonigan her neighbor or soles confidant, and the last they are dead, caused by the betrayal of Dr. Raymond Fontaine and

new neighbor. They hope can unload the real identity and dominate Abigail's wealth, so they kill her confidant.

Education in social life can be found when the people get a severe traumatic event. But there are a few common aspects. Frequently, there is a violation of the person's familiar ideas and of their human rights, putting the person in a state of extreme confusion and insecurity. This is also seen when people or institutions, depended on for survival, violate or betray or disillusion the person in some unforeseen way.

Traumatic experiences can be analyzed from behaviors of certain character, especially the major character, Mrs. Abigail, in *Columbus Circle*. The approach being implemented is psychoanalytic approach; it is concerned with motivations of human thought and actions. It is as a therapeutic method, originated by Sigmund Freud, for treating mental disorders by investigating the interactions of conscious and unconscious elements of one's mind and bringing repressed fears and conflicts into conscious mind, using technique such as dream interpretation and free association.

Based on the reason above, the writer analyzes the traumatic experience and the reaction of the major character, Mrs. Abigail, in '*Columbus Circle*' by using the traumatic experience in psychoanalytic view. Furthermore, the writer entitles his study:

**Traumatic Experiences of Abigail in *Columbus Circle* Movie  
Directed by George Gallo (2012): A Psychoanalytic Approach**

## **B. Literature Review**

In this research paper, there is no literature review in Columbus Circle Movie, at least in universities across Central Java. Especially in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background above the problem of this research is formulated as follows:

1. How is the traumatic experience reflected on the major character in *Columbus Circle*?
2. What are the reactions of the major character toward the traumatic experience shown in the movie?

## **D. Objective of the study**

Based on the problem statement above, the writer formulates objectives of the study, those are:

1. To analyze the movie in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach.

## **E. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses on analyzing the traumatic experiences which are reflected in *Columbus Circle* movie using a psychoanalytic approach.

## **F. Research Benefit**

### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

- a. It will be easier for the readers to understand the notion of psychoanalysis by reading this research.

- b. The reader can comprehend *Columbus Circle* especially about the traumatic experience of the major character, Abigail, viewed from psychoanalytic approach.
- c. The readers, especially the students of English Department can be motivated to analyze this drama from various approaches.

## **2. Practical Benefits**

The readers can understand the effect of 'trauma' so they can control and overcome their feeling.

## **G. Research Method**

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

The type of the study is descriptive qualitative research. "Qualitative research is a research which results in the descriptive data in the form of observed people or behaviors" (Bogdan and Taylor, 1975: 5 in Moleong, 1989: 3). This research is proposed to identify traumatic experiences of Abigail in *Columbus Circle* movie directed by George Gallo (2012).

Moleong provides the various steps of conducting qualitative study in his book. The steps of conducting this qualitative study are determining the object of the research, determining the source of data, determining the method of data collection and determining the technique of data analysis (Moleong, 1989: 3).

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

In the process of conducting research paper, the writer chooses traumatic experiences in *Columbus Circle* movie directed by George Gallo as the object to be analyzed.

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

Data of the study is are taken from two data sources, namely, primary and secondary.

### **1. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is taken from the movie directed by George Gallo entitled *Columbus Circle* (2012)

### **2. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data sources are materials taken from books, movie script and internet related to the study.

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

Collecting data is documentation or library research. There are several steps of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly.
- b. Reading the script of that film.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking a note of the necessary part in both the primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources to the movie and the analysis.



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

In this study, the technique which is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. This technique describes the event better than the summary. It is begun with the author and his work, the structural analysis of the movie and finally psychoanalytic analysis of the movie.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is dealing with introduction, which explains background of the study, previous study, problem statement, problem limitation, research objective, research benefit, and research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is dealing with review underlying theory, notion of psychoanalysis, structure of personality, review on traumatic experience, structural element of movie, and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis of *Columbus Circle*. The fourth chapter is psychoanalytic analysis includes traumatic experience reflected by the major character, reactions of the major character toward the traumatic experience, discussion and the last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.