

**GROWTH OF VERONICA MILLER'S PERSONALITY IN JULIE
ANNE ROBINSON'S *THE LAST SONG* MOVIE (2010):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



PUBLICATION ARTICLES

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting the Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

by:

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**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2013



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A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

This research investigated how is growth of Veronica Miller's Personality in Julie Anne Robinson's *The Last Song* movie (2010) especially viewed from psychoanalytic approach. The objectives of the research are to analyze the film based on its structural element and to analyze the film based on the psychoanalytic approach.

The research paper belongs to the qualitative research. The object of the study is the growth of Veronica Miller's personality reflected in *The Last Song* movie. The data source comes from primary data source that is *The Last Song* movie directed by Julie Anne Robinson realized in 2010. While the secondary data sources are other materials taken from books, encyclopedia, and internet related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis.

The study comes to the following conclusions. Firstly, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, point of view, theme, intent, mise-en scene, cinematography, editing, sound, cast are related to each other and form the unity into good quality movie, secondly, based on psychoanalytic analysis this movie, Julie Anne Robinson illustrated the power of love could change hatred, misunderstanding that causes hatred, and hatred that ends regret.

Keywords: *The Last Song Movie, Psychoanalytic Approach, growth of personality.*

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Individual personality development is influenced by various factors, including heredity and environmental factors. A heredity factor which is influencing the personality includes body shape, body liquid, and the character that is reduced from parents. Whereas environmental factors include family, school and the community. Family is seen as a major determinant of the child's personality formation. The reason are; family is the first social group that become the center of the identification of children, the children spend more time in the family, family members are a "significant people" for the formation of the child's personality (Yusuf and Nurihsan, 2007:19).

Changes in the family can cause huge influence o child's personality. The existence of both father and mother is very crucial as a child always looking at and imitate his parents. The lost of either father or mother can shake the balance of the family, thus a child's personality is also affected. One of the most common causes of in incomplete family members is divorce. The changes of child's personality become a form of rebellion for what their parents have done. Whether it is good or bad, child's personality based on the educating method conducted by the parent. Children will be changed to be good person again, when they find something or someone who makes them comfortable. *The Last Song* movie shows such phenomenon, the major character of this movie has a personality change after the parent decided to divorce. She hates her father who leaves her and her little brother, but after she found love she talks to her father again.

2. Previous Study

The study on *The Last Song* movie is the first being conducted in this research paper. The writer has researched through local and digital libraries and found none of it. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in UMS.

3. Problem Statement

Based on the title, the writer has main problem statement as follows: “How is change of the Veronica Miller’s personality reflected in *The Last Song*?”.

4. Limitation of the Study

In this research the writer focuses on Growth of Veronica Miller’s personality in *The Last Song* movie using a psychoanalytic approach.

5. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the writer determines the objective of the study as follow: to analyze the film based on its structural elements and to analyze Veronica Miller’s personality based on a psychoanalytic perspective.

6. Benefit of the Study

The writer hopes this research gives some benefits for the writer herself and the readers in general. The research is expected to give benefit as follows: Theoretical Benefits; this research can give additional information and knowledge to the other literary researcher and to reader, especially in the study of *The Last Song* movie. And practical Benefits; this research can enrich the writer’s and the reader’s knowledge and experience concerning with a psychoanalytic approach.

7. Underlying Theory

1. Notion of Psychoanalysis

In this research the writer connects the Psychoanalytic theory to analyze the phenomenon in the movie. The psychoanalytic approach

was developed from the theories by Sigmund Freud who proposed an account of human mental activity, which relied heavily on the notion of an unconscious mind. Psychoanalysis is a theory, which is proposed by Sigmund Freud for the first time in 1896 about human being. Psychoanalysis is the branch of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being. Freud employed a topographical model of personality organization. Based on this model psyche life can be represent by three levels of consciousness: The conscious, the preconscious, and the unconscious each of them have different content of thought (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86).

2. Growth of Personality

Hjelle and Ziegler (1992:3-4) personality is an abstract concept which integrates many aspects that characterize what the person is like. Such aspects include emotions, motivations, thoughts, experiences, perceptions, and actions. In instance, personality refers to the overall social impression that an individual conveys in interacting with others (i.e., the few salient characteristics that permeate most or all of the individual's actions in various social setting).

3. Structure of Personality

According to Freud, there are three factors in the growth of personality:

a. *Id*

According to Freud in Yusuf and Nurihsan (2007:36) *id* is the source of the life instinct or biological drives and instincts of death or aggressive instinct that drives behavior. Freud in Asimov (1983:414) states that "to satisfy the need that has been aroused, human being developed "wishes" that motivate and direct behavior". Hall and Lindzey (1970:33) states that the first reflect is reflex action. In this level a person will do some activities such

as rub his ear when he lies or takes a deep breath when feeling nervous, in order to free himself from uncomfortable feeling or situation. The second reflect is primary process. In this stage, the *id* will “form an image of an object that will remove the tension”.

b. *Superego*

Freud in Pervin (1984:76) states that, *Superego* is “the sociological aspect that represents the moral branch of our functioning, containing the ideals we strike for and the punishment (guilt, feelings of inferiority, accidents). Freud in Hall and Lindzey (1985:34) states “*Superego* is the internal representative of the traditional values and evaluative norms. *Superego* represents the ideal world rather than pleasure or the real world it tries to reach perfection rather than pleasure”.

c. *Ego*

Based on the Freud (in Hall and Lindzey, 1985:34) *ego* is the result of the creation of spiritual or inner systems as “the result of reciprocal relationship between an individual and his or her outer world.” Freud in Healy (1930:38) states some characteristics of *ego*, “it is a coherent organization of mental process, it just as instinct plays great role in the *id*. Freud in Hall (1980:16) the *ego*’s actions are base on the reality principal that is to satisfy the *id* impulse. It is the only one of the three system of the mind that has direct contact with reality.

4. Structural Element of the Movie

a. Narrative Elements

1) Characters and Characterization

A character in a movie is complex or well developed, it involves attitudes, skills, psychological drives, details of dress

and appearance, and any other specific qualities (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:58).

2) Plot

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990:57) the plot is important to build up the story in a film. “The term plot is used to describe everything visible and audibly present in the film before us”.

3) Point of View

Douglass and Harnden (1996:31) state that point of view is one of the most interesting aspects in the narrative elements.

4) Theme

According to Widagdo and Gora (2004:28), theme is defined as “an answer of the question about what is film will tell us about”.

5) Intent/message

In movie, sometimes the moviemakers intend to show a message through their movie to the audience.

a. Technical Elements

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990:126) Technical elements here deal with the film production medium. The elements cover mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing.

1) *Mise-en-Scene*

In the original French, *mise-en-scene* (pronounced meez-ahn-sen) means staging action, and it was first applied to the practice of directing plays (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:127). The element of *mise-en-scene* has some aspects:

setting, costume and make-up, lighting, and figure expression and movement.

2) Cinematography

Cinematography (Literarily, "writing in movement") depends to a large extent on photography (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:156). the moviemaker controls the cinematographic qualities of the shot, how the image is photographed and framed, how long the image lasts on the screen (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:199).

3) Editing

Editing is easy to notice, it is only because of the prevalent technique but also because disjunction of space, time and graphics made by editing step to eye attention (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990:209).

4) Sound

Sound is as simply as accompaniment to the real basis of cinema, the moving images. It gives the audiences the unuttered description about the thing happens in the movie.

5) Cast

Based on the Douglas and Harnden (1996:108) states "casting characters requires knowing the qualities as the centers of the character that are the most important, the ones that motivate them through the story, and then finding people who can understand and convey those qualities".

B. Research Method

In analyzing the growth of Veronica Miller's personality in Julie Anne Robinson's *The Last Song*, the writer uses *The Last Song* movie directed by Julie Anne Robinson as the object of the study. The primary data of the study

is *The Last Song* movie, directed by Julie Anne Robinson. The secondary data is psychoanalytic approach.

The writer uses note taking technique of collecting data in this research. It is watching and learning to the movie repeatedly, reading some book related to reference to observe the theory, data, and information, searching the data by internet and determining the major issue, taking notes of the important point both in primary and secondary data. In this research, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive qualitative method, structural elements, and psychoanalytic approach.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

1. Structural Elements of the Movie

a. Narrative Elements

1) Character and Characterization

There are some major characters in *The Last Song* movie, they are: Veronica Miller, Will Blakelee, and Steve Miller. While minor characters are Jonah Miller, Kim Miller, Blaze, Scott, Marcus, and Ashley.

2) Plot

An ideal traditional plot line encompasses the following four sequential levels;

a) Exposition

The Last Song begins when summer holidays arrived, Ronnie and Jonah are sent of by their mother to georgia for a holiday with her father Steve Miller. At first, Ronnie follows the plan reluctantly because she hates her father who left his family. She felt her father had abandoned her and her young brother.

Kim : What a shame, huh?! That's one of the oldest buildings in Georgia. Ronnie, promise me you will make an effort, okay?!

Jonah : Does dad know she was arrested?

Ronnie : Jonah! I didn't do it, okay?! Stay out of it!
 Kim : Just in time.
 (TLS, 00:01:28)

b) Complication

The second element is complication, the complication of *The Last Song* Movie that the first, Ronnie meets Blaze, an outcast who lives with her boyfriend Marcus. While at a beach campfire, Marcus hits on Ronnie and Blaze sees this as Ronnie flirting with him.

Marcus : Sorry are we boring you?
 Ronnie : I just don't drink
 Marcus : Just say 'no-thing?' "Did you just say 'yes'?"
 Ronnie : Stop it! Don't ever touch me ever again!
 Marcus : I'm sorry.
 (TLS : 00:11:16)

c) Climax

The climax of this movie when Ronnie was knew that her father sick. An incident started from Will invites her to his sister's wedding. Then, the turtle eggs hatch and her father collapse in that evening. Ronnie immediately has Steve rushed to a hospital and realizes that he has been diagnosed with cancer long before her summer visit.

A doctor : Ronnie, I wanna tell you something. When your father's realize how serious his condition was a couple of months ago, he asked that we cut back on his medication
 Ronnie : Why?
 A doctor : Because he wanna be here. Really be here with you and your brother. Those were what he said.
 (TKS, 01: 11:18)

d) Resolution

The resolution is begins when Ronnie is packing up her dad's stuff when she sees Will standing outside. She goes outside to see him and Will apologizes to her for everything that had happened and Ronnie forgives him.

Will : Ronnie, I'm so sorry about everything
 Ronnie : I'm sorry too. People make mistakes, Will. Even people
 that we love.
 (TLS, 01:36:58)

3) Point of View

The Last Song is created and viewed from the third person narrator. It means that the actions of characters and people on the screen are rendered from an observer's point of view, and this point of view is non-participant narrator.

4) Theme

The theme of *The Last Song* movie is *love* and *family*. This story is about the growth of main character Veronica Miller "Ronnie" personality after her father left her family and after she falls in love to someone. Finally, she talks with her father again. So it shows that love can change personality of someone to be a good.

5) Intent/Message

The Last Song, the writer finds a good moral message that every parent in the world wishes for and gives the best for their children, although sometime the children are not satisfied with their parent's decision. But children will be aware after they know that it is better for them.

b. Technical Elements

1) *Mise-en-Scene*

a) Setting

Setting is distinguished into two: Setting of place and setting of time. Setting of Place of this movie is Tybee Island, Georgia. The setting of places involves such places:



Steve's House (EXT)



Carnival Place (EXT)

While setting of time starts from May 2009, and ends on August 2009. Shoots of film is done during the summer time, and appropriated with carnival schedule that always done every year.

b) Costume and Make-Up

Setting of the movie in the beach, so most of the casts uses casual clothes such as t-shirt, boxer, short skirt, swimsuit, etc. costume and make-up often used by the major character of *The Last Song*, Veronica Miller (Ronnie), as an eighteen girl are casual t-shirt and short skirt, when the night uses short pants and t-shirt with sweater but sometime she uses t-shirt and jeans.



Ronnie's Daily Clothes

c) Lighting

In *The Last Song* movie, T. Ryan Dodson is as chief lighting technician. The lighting crew in this movie can arrange the suitable lighting with conditions of time and condition of place which are used in this movie. It can make the situations of this movie are nice

and the movie looks naturally. There are four major features of film lighting that are its quality, direction, source, and color.

d) Figure Expression and Movement

In *The Last Song*, Miley Cyrus (Ronnie) present as a rebellious teenager since the day her parents divorced.



Ronnie's Act as a rebellious teenager

2) Cinematography

The cinematography consists of three features; photographical qualities of shot, framing shot, and duration of shot.

a) Photographic Qualities of the Shot

The shot of camera and the lighting of this movie have coherence side. When scene is taken outdoor the light is from the sun, so it looks so natural. While scene that is taken indoor, the light is from the lamp. It makes the situation seem real.



Outdoor



Indoor

b) Framing of the Shot

In *The Last Song* movie, there are three types of camera angle: straight on angle, high angle, and low angle.



Straight Angle



Low Angle



High Angle

c) Duration of the Shot

The duration of shot of this movie is 01:43:20 hours and the picture of this movie is taken by two camera operators.

3) Editing

Editing of the movie is an important part a movie. There are six ways of editing; they are axis of action, establishing shot, a reverse shot, reestablishing shot, match on action, cross cutting. This section is last part of making the movie to be perfect before the movie already to play. In *The Last Song* movie, editing has succeeded to make this movie becomes perfect, editing by Nancy Richardson.



Axis of Action



Establishing Shot



Reverse Shot



Reestablishing Shot



Match on Action



Cross Cutting

4) Sound

The crews of sound in *The Last Song* movie are as follow; Randle Akerson, Julie Altus, James Ashwill, Steve Bartkowicz, Brian Calhoon, Timothy Cargioli, Brian Dinkins, Stephen Fitzmaurice, Jonathan Gaynor, Phil Hadaway, Susan Kurtz, Kimberly R. McCord-Wilson, Rob Nokes, Fred Paragano, James Peterson, Eliza Pollack Zebert, Eliza Pollack Zebert, Terry Porter,

Robert L. Sephton, Dean St. John, Greg Zimmerman, Dean A. Zupancic

5) Cast

The following is the cast of *The Last Song* movie: Miley Cyrus as Veronica Miller (Ronnie), Liam Hemsworth as Will Blakelee, Greg Kinnear as Steve Miller, Kelly Preston as Kim Miller, Bobby Coleman as Jonah Miller, Nick Lashaway as Marcus, Carly Chaikin as Blaze, Adam Barnett as Teddy, Nick Searcy as Tom Blakelee, Melissa Ordway as Ashley, Carrie Malabre as Cassie, Rhoda Griffis as a Doctor, Lance E. Nichols as Pastor Charlie Harris, Hallock Beals as Scott, Stephanie Leigh Schlund as Megan Blakelee.

2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

The analyzing of psychoanalytic approach is divided into three aspects, namely, *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*.

a. Veronica Miller's *Id*

In *The Last Song* movie, *Id* occurs when her mother sent her and her little brother to spend summer holidays in her father's house. Her *Id* does not stay with him because she hates her father.

Ronnie : well I don't to be here, dad!
(TLS, 00:15:16)

b. Veronica Miller's *Superego*

In *The Last Song*, Ronnie's *Superego* occurs when her *id* says that she does not want to stay with her father, because she hate him. However, after she knew that her father had been diagnosed with cancer long before her summer visit and the reason why her parent's marriage was fallen apart. Her *superego* says that she should start spending more time with her father.

Ronnie : I'm not going with you, mom..

Kim : I mean, I will stay with dad.
(TLS, 01:22:08)

c. Veronica Miller's *Ego*

In *The Last Song* movie, Ronnie's *Ego* is dominated by Superego. She decides to start spending more time with her father, because of her guilt on hating her father.

Ronnie : all I did, all summer was a fight with him. I'm so mean to him.
Kim : no...no...baby, I promise you, it meant the world to him to have you here.
Ronnie : look, mom. I'm going to stay.
(TLS, 01:22:25)

D. Conclusion

After analyzing *The Last Song* movie in order to understand how the growth of Veronica Miller's personality, the researcher concludes that *The Last Song* movie is a film that reflects the author's idea and intention. In this film, Julie Anna Robinson shows that the power of love could change hatred, misunderstanding that causes hatred, and hatred that ends in regret.

The researcher realizes that, her research paper is far from perfection because of the researcher's limited knowledge and understanding about literature. The researcher suggests the readers to analyze deeper of Veronica Miller as the major character, perhaps about the power of love used a Psychoanalytic approach, in *The Last Song* movie. The researcher hopes this paper will be useful to the readers.

Pedagogical implication of this study is that surely, every parent will give the best for their children, but with the different ways. Sometimes the children are not agreeing with it so that make them misunderstanding and they do something that wills them get to damage. This study can be taken as teaching material for students, because it contained of good values for the children.

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