AFFECTION OF FAMILY IN TERRENCE MALICK’S
THE TREE OF LIFE MOVIE (2011):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

PRESENTATION OF ARTICLES

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ABSTRACT

The Tree of Life movie directed by Terrence Malick published in 2011. The study is to clarify how the way and the shape of affection in the family are reflected in the movie. The writer proposes to analyze id, ego, superego, affection and family in a film with the title The Tree of Life with Psychoanalytic Approach. There are two objectives of the study. Firstly, it is to analyze film in term of structural elements and secondly is to analyze in term of psychoanalytic approach.

The object of this study is The Tree of Life movie directed by Terrence Malick. The writer employs the descriptive qualitative as a type of the research. The data source in this research is divided into two types that are primary data and secondary data. Primary data source is The Tree of Life movie and secondary data source are books or any information related to the practice of affection of family that support the psychoanalytic approach. The method of collecting data is documentation. The technique of analyzing data in this research paper is descriptive.

The result of the study comes to the three following conclusions. First, based on structural element in The Tree of Life, it shows that character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, and cinematography are related to each other and form of unity. Second, based on psychoanalysis analysis, the id, ego, superego, and affection are reflected in each of major character’s life. All of them involved in the process of major character searching the existence of God. Third, Mr. O’Brien’s family has different expression in showing their affection that can be considered as conceptualization of affection in family.

Keywords: Affection of Family, The Tree of Life, Psychoanalytic approach.
INTRODUCTION

Life is a process to socialize and adapt to the new situation or environment. Life is not always like a dream, sometime it looks happy and sometime it looks sad. Every person always needs a help from other people. Therefore, the human can not live alone in the world. Wherever the people live, there will appear a new situation and condition. The existence is determined by how the human capability to socialize with other is. Family is a group of human which consist of father, mother and children.

The tree of life film is a story about the problems that appear in the family especially the problem between children to father. Despite of it, the affection expression still appears in the family. Hopefully, from this study both of the audience and the reader get knowledge about the conflicts in the family, the role of housewife and husband.

The Tree of Life is an American film is written and directed by Terrence Malick. Terrence malick is an American film director, screenwriter, and producer. He was born in Ottawa, Illinois or Waco, Texas, November 30, 1943. Terrence Frederick Malick, in his career he has directed six feature films. Malick has received consistent regard for his work.

There are four reasons of the writer taking this movie to be analyzed, that are: First, The Tree of Life movie is a dramatic movie about a family. When the students study this movie, they will be more conceiving the existence of family. Secondly, it is important to study in order to help the audience and reader in comprehend the affection sense in the life. Thirdly, this movie can be a media to help student within express the affection sense to others. Finally, the last reason is the writer takes this study due to supply the theoretical framework in the research of literature in English Department as a fulfillment to graduate from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.
The objectives of the study are: to analyze affection of family in Terrence Malick’s *The Tree of Life* Movie (2011) based on its structural elements and based on psychoanalytic approach.

The benefits expected from this study those are theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretical benefit, the study is projected to give movie contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in the literary studies. Practical benefit, the study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

Psychoanalytic theory and practice originated in the late nineteenth century in the work of Sigmund Freud (1956-1939). Psychoanalysis has travelled widely from its central European origins, and has evolved into a complex, multi-facetted and internally fractured body of knowledge situated at the interface between the human and natural sciences, and between clinical practice and academic theory (Cameron, 2006; Kingsbury, 2003).

Based on Floyd (2006: 4) defines affection as “an emotional state of fondness and intense positive regard that is that directed at a living or once-living target”. The affection looks up in various relations male and female, among teacher and students, parents to children or a couple of love. Furthermore, each of gender has a characteristic to take it. According to Simpson (1997: 421) that touch measures are highly associated with gender.

Family is group of people which lives together to interact one another in the home. The existence of family is very important due to they are the biggest motivator in our life. According to Wilson (1985: 3) states that family is group of people related by blood or by law, living together or associating with one another to a common purpose, that purpose being the provision of food, shelter, and the rearing of children.

**RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study, the writer takes qualitative research. The data sources are library, internet and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using psychoanalytic approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows: 1). Determining the
type of the study, 2). Determining the object of the study, 3). Determining data and data source, 4). Determining technique of data collection, and finally 5). Determining technique of data analysis.

The object of the study is *The Tree of Life* Movie by Terrence Malick’s and was produced in 2011 by Hollywood studios.

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data those are primary and secondary data. Primary Data, the data source is the movie of *The Tree of Life* produced by Hollywood studios. Secondary Data, The data sources are books, internet or any information related to the practice of affection of family that support the psychoanalytic approach.

The techniques of data collection are as follows: The researcher watches the *Tree of Life movie* repeatedly, the researcher writes of important parts both primary and secondary data, after finish record of the data, the researcher starts to arrange the data into several groups according its theoretical category, the researcher begins to select the particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis, the last step is taking conclusion and formulated its pedagogical suggestion.

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The step taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on the structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the movie. The second steps are analyzing the data based on psychoanalytic perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of affection of family.

**RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

In this research finding, the writers takes some points to analyze *The Tree of Life* (2011).

**A.  Structural Analysis of The Tree of Life Movie (2011).**

1. **Narrative Elements**
   a. Character and Characterization

   There are three major characters in this movie that are Mr. O’Brien, Mrs. O’Brien and Jack. However, the characters of Jack will be separated from young jack and adult Jack.
a) Major Characters

1) Mr. O’Brien is played by Brad Pitt

Physically, Mr. O’Brien is an adult man, tall, handsome and brave. His hobby is playing a piano. He spends his free time to play piano. Mentally, Mr. O’Brien character is a stern father who wants to toughen up his boys to prepare them to face what he sees as an unforgiving world. Morally, he is a religious man and has a responsibility to the family. Mr. O’Brien is rebuke his children when they make a mistake. Socially, Mr. O’Brien is an autonomous man. He won’t let any body repute him as a poor person.

Mr. O’Brien: one night he punched him... himself in the face for no reason. He was sitting next to me at the piano. And I criticized the way he turned the pages.

Mr. O’Brien: Hey boys!
Come home!
You’re a “potleak” now!
You’re filthy!
Bless this food o our use and us to our use and us to your loving and faithful service...
And make us ever mindful of those who are in need.

Narrator : Amen

Young Jack : Can you pass the butter, please?
Mr.O’Brien: “Can you pass the buter, please, sir?"
Young jack: Sir

(The Tree of Life/ disc 1/ TL: 00: 09:55,728)

2) Mrs. O’Brien is Played by Jessica Chastain

Physically, Mrs. O’Brien is a beautiful woman but her face looks sad. She has a brown hair and white skin. Mentally, Mrs. O’Brien is a mother who is patient and prefers a more graceful approach, showering the children with love and compassion even when it is not returned. Morally Mrs. O’Brien is gentle, nurturing, and
authoritative, presenting the world to her children as a place of wonder. Socially, Mrs. O’Brien is a friendly people. She has close relation with her neighbor. It is seen when she gets a problem, her neighbor tries to give her support and motivation.

Mrs. O’Brien: Oh God!
My son. I just want to die . . . to be with him

Narrator : He’s in God’s hand now.
Mrs. O’Brien: He was in God’s hands the whole time. Wasn’t he?
My hope
My God
I shall fear no evil . . .

(The Tree of Life/ disc 1/ TL: 00:06:31,557)

3) Jack is Played by Sean Penn

Physically, jack is an adult man. His hair is bit brown and wave. His face looks confused and seldom to smile. Mentally, jack is a distracted man who tries to find the meaning of life and existence of God. The death of his brother always frightens him. Morally, jack is a gentle man and brave to admit his mistake. He tries to find his fight and always ask to the God about the meaning of life. Socially, he is a loner man. His relation with his wife is not too romantic.

Jack: When you're young, it's all about your career. You don't understand anything. I just feel like I'm bumping into walls.
Hey, Dad. I'm sorry I said what I said. L...
Yeah. Yeah, I think about him every day.
I just shouldn't have said what I did, and I'm sorry.

(The Tree of Life/ disc 1/ TL: 00:14:33,172)
b) Minor Characters

The minor characters in the movie that are young Jack and R.L. Each of the will clarify below:

1) Young Jack is Played by Hunter McCracken

Young Jack is the first children of Mr. And Mrs. O’Brien. When Jack gets adolenscence, he is faced with the conflict of accepting the way of grace or nature, as embodied by each of his parents.

2) R.L is Played by Laramie Applear

He is the second boy of Mr. and Mrs. O’Brien. He is an active boy. He spends time to play in the yard with both of his brothers. He loves his dog and urges it too. In this movie, R.L died at 19 years old.

b. Casting

Casting is an eminent point in the movie production. Its purposes is a selecting process an actor, actress, dancer and singer for the best characters in the movie. The stars of *The Tree of Life* movie (2011) that has been taking of Terrence Malick as the director and writer of the story are: Brad Pitt as Mr. O’Brien, Sean Penn as Jack, Jessica Chastain as Mrs. O’Brien, Hunter McCracken as Young Jack, Laramie Eppler as R.L., Tye Sheridan as Steve.

c. Setting

Setting of this movie is divided into two parts that are setting of time and setting of place.

a) Setting of Time

This movie tells a real story happened in 1950. The time of story is flash back remind a past moment. In addition, in the first scene it is drawed the process of the universe. So, the time in this movie starts at the beginning of universe until the death of a boy in 19 years old.
b) Setting of place

This movie uses several places as the setting. Some of scenes take in the church, house, river, school, etc.

d. Plot

The plot is divided into four parts that are Exposition, Conflict, Climax, and Resolution or Denouement.

a. Exposition

In this movie, the story begins with a mysterious condition, light, resembling a flame, and flickers in the darkness. Mrs. O’Brien is reminded about a lesson taught to her that people must choose to either follow the path of grace or nature.

b. Conflict

The conflict in this movie begins when Jack reaches adolescence. He is faced with the conflict of accepting the way of grace or nature, as embodied by each of his parents.

c. Climax

The climax in this movie begins when Old Jack gets confused of the shape of nature in the modern time.

d. Resolution

The resolution in this movie is when Jack takes a journey, and Jack tentatively walks through a wooden door frame.

e. Point of view

The point of view in The Tree of Life movie 2011 that was directed by Terrence Malick is the third person. It means that the author does not introduce or involve himself as the character of the story. The narrator tells “brother mother” it indicates that the narrator tells for the third person.
f. Theme

The theme in *The Tree of Life* movie is focus on “the existence of God still confusing and always takes a question for the existence in the universe”.

B. Technical Elements

1. Mis-en-scene
   a. Set Dressing and Properties
      
      The set dressing and properties are showing the characteristic of the movie’s taking place. There are some of set dressing and properties in this movie such as table, glass, plate, spoon and piano.
   
   b. Costume and make-up
      
      In *The Tree of Life* movie that was directed by Terrence Malick, costumes worn by the characters reflect 1950’s situation. The costumes worn in the movie are also like an old situation. The kinds of costumes are simple, long dress and western-style shirt combined with trouser.

      ![Old Costumes](image1)
      ![Modern Costumes](image2)

   c. Lighting
      
      The events of *The Tree of Life* movie are in the morning, afternoon and night. The source of lighting can be taken from the lamp, sun, candle, fire, etc. In this movie the lighting source is various.

      ![Dark Lighting](image3)
      ![Bright Lighting](image4)
2. Cinematography
   In this movie, the cinematography uses kinds of angle that is camera angle, lighting of the set and actors, choice of cameras, and integration of special effects.

3. Sound
   The music that was used in the *The Tree of Life* is a classical music crisscrosses epochs. Its resonance is slow and dramatic make the situation look religious.

4. Editing
   In this movie, editing process occurs in the scene of the process of universe. There is a volcano erupted in the 1950 and then dinosaurs in the jungle and other sea animals in there.

B. Psychoanalytic Analysis
   In this movie, each of major characters show their *id*, *ego*, and *superego* to maintain their personality. The *id* of Mr. O’Brien is desire his children be a success and brave man in the future time. the *ego* of Mr. O’Brien to create his children to be a good and success man in the future time, he drill his children to fight and teach them to be an autonomous people. The *superego* occurs when Mr. O’Brien admonishes his son to use a good language when speak with his father.

   The aspect of affection consists of conceptualization of affection, trait affection and fundamental personality, and variation in affection. In *The Tree of Life* movie, conceptualization of affection looked clearly in every scene. The conceptualization of affection expressed in various shapes like touch, speech, expression of face, etc.

   In the *Tree of Life* movie, the membership of family consists of father, mother, children, grandfather, and grandmother. The father’s
name is Mr. O’Brien. The mother’s name is Mrs. O’Brien. Their children’s name are Jack, R.L., and Steve. And there is a grandfather and grandmother that live together with them. The function of family is as the motivator to do the spectacular activity in the world.

C. Conclusion

From the explanation above, the researcher draws out the conclusion that *The Tree of Life* movie is the dramatical movie that has different characteristic and expression to show the affection in the family. Beside that, it has correlation between *The Tree of Life* movie (2011) with the psychoanalytic theory. The pretension of educational implication is this research gives a new solution for the reader or literature student that want to analyze this movie and for lecturers it helps them to add their knowledge about *The Tree of Life* movie (2011) using psychoanalytic approach.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**


