THE STRUGGLE TO GET FREEDOM IN FRANK DARABONT
“THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION” MOVIE:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

ARIF SETIAWAN, A.320 040 062, “THE STRUGGLE TO GET FREEDOM IN
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The main aim’s of study is to reveal how the struggle to get freedom from
shawshank prison of the major character influences his personality. The objective of this
study is to analyze the movie based on the structural analysis and the individual
psychological analysis.

This study is a qualitative study. The data sources are divided into two, namely
primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data is the movie itself, and
the secondary data source are the other literatures and virtual references which are
relevant to the film. The method of data collection is watching the movie repeatedly,
understanding the movie, and uses library research by collecting and selecting the
appropriate data from many sources. The technique of data analysis is descriptive
analysis by applying the individual psychological approach.

Based on the analysis, Andy Defrusne is the reflection of the human trying to get
his desire. Frank Darabont wants to describe how human beings have many ways making
his dream come true. He also wants to show that human are full of imagination and
desire. Andy who always tries to fulfill his wish by struggling and striving to make all
dreams become true.

Keyword : Struggle, Freedom, individual, Shawshank Prison.
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

Literature is strongly influenced by human life because it appears from an author who lives as human being. Literature represents some of many directions taken to understand the complexity of human behavior and of human nature (Hjelle, 1992:1). Literary work reflects a description of this human life with its various problems, expressing of the author’s problem and give more knowledge to understand the value of life. Humanities, social science, and natural science are incorporated by psychology.

There is a relationship between literature and psychology. In most cases, literature referred to as entirely written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the most exact sense of the world (Klarer, 1999:1). Meanwhile, psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the mind (Passer and Smith, 2004:3). Therefore, human being is the one of the research object of literature and psychology, and this mixture is found in the Individual Psychological theory.

The Individual Psychology is a science or theory of personality proposed by Alfred Adler, which emphasizes on the uniqueness of each individual and the processes which people overcome their limitations and struggle to reach their life goals. From the definition above, it means that Individual Psychology seeks to understand how human solve their limitation by doing some efforts to become superior, perfect or complete in order to achieve their destinations.

2. Previous Study

The Shawshank Redemption is the interesting film, and as far as the writer knows, there no student that has analyze this film, especially in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. So it is the first research of this film. But the researcher takes an essay to be literary review. The writer is Interested in analyzing this movie by using Psychoanalytic approach.

3. Problem Statement

The problem of statement of this study is: “How is Andy Dufresne’s struggle to get freedom reflected in “The Shawshank Redemption” movie?”
4. **Limitation of the Study**

The study only analyzes how Andy Dufresne’s struggle to get freedom in “*The Shawshank Redemption*” is viewed from the Individual Psychological perspective.

5. **Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the main character’s (Andy Dufresne) struggle based on the Individual Psychological perspective.

6. **Underlying Theory**

In this study, the writer tries to employ individual psychological approach consisting of notion of individual psychology, basic concept of individual psychology and theoretical application.

   a. **Notion of Individual Psychology**

   Alfred Adler is the founder of individual psychology theory. He was born on February 7, 1870 in Rudolfshein, a suburb of Vienna; he was the son of middle class Jewish merchant.

   Individual psychology is “a science that attempts to understand the human personality as an organized entity” (Adler in Ryckman, 1985: 95). Individual as entire unit includes physical and psychological, that is all action are guided by a person’s fundamental attitudes toward life, in which by means of all psychological phenomena are unified within individual in a self-consistence manner (Adler in Ryckman; 1985: 95). Adler (in Feist, 1985: 64) states as follow:

   Individual psychology insists on the fundamental unity of personality. All apparent dichotomies and multiplicities of life are organized in one self-consistent totally. No definite division can be made between mind and body, between conscious and unconscious or between reason and emotion. All behavior is seen relation to the final goal of superiority of success. This goal gives directory and unity to the individual.
b. **Structural Element of the Movie**

.1. **Narrative Elements**

   a. **Character and Characterization**

      Kennedy (1983:450) states that character is an imagined person who inhabits a story. There are two kinds of character, namely major character and minor character. Major character is the most important, it cannot stand-alone. Therefore, it needs minor characters that support and make the major character more vivid.

      Generally, characterization is development of the character within a particular work. It is the presentation of the qualities of the characters physically, mentally, and socially.

   b. **Plot**

      Plot is the arrangement of tied together chronological events that have causal and thematic connection (Koesnosobroto, 1988: 29).

   c. **Setting**

      Setting refers to the point in the time and place, which the events of the plot occur (Kennedy, 1983: 38). The setting of the movie can be known through the day, the year, and the place mentioned in the movie.

   d. **Point of View**

      Point of view is to identify the narrator at the story, describing any limits placed upon his knowledge (Kennedy, 1983: 19). There are three kinds of point of view: third person point of view, first person point of view, and combining point of view.

   e. **Theme**

      Perrine (1959: 15) states that theme is the controlling ideas of central insight he further states that it is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the author.
c. Basic assumption of Individual Psychology

a) Fiction Finalism

Vaihinger (in Feist, 1985: 65-66) fiction is ideas that have no real existence, yet they have influence people as if they really exist. Final goal may be a fiction that is an ideal, which is impossible to realize, but which is nonetheless of their conduct. Adler said that the normal person could free himself from the influence of the fictions and see reality when necessity demanded; something that emotional sick of person is fiction, finalism is the human behavior is directed toward a future goal of superiority or success. The greatest importance of fiction finalism is the goal of superiority or success. The fiction final goal has great significance (Adler in Feist, 1985: 65).

b) Inferiority Feeling

Inferiority feeling is “one of the important factors in forming and developing an individual’s personality towards his behavior in live” (Adler in Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 147). It can be said that he will do an action in solving the problem of his live by seeing the superiority within other personality to overcome his inferiority by creating interaction with them. (Adler in Fest, 1985: 67).

The feeling of inferiority is not the defective organ motivation. Inferiority by itself, however, can never produce greatness. It must be combined with talent, courage, and social interest (Feist, 1985: 67). Adler (in Hjelle and Zigler, 1992: 142) suggest, “process of compensate also occurs in the psychological social disabilities. Adler believes that inferiority feelings are the source of all human striving.

c) Striving for Superiority

According to Adler, the striving for superiority is “a continuous process” (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123). A man will always find a new problem from one stage of development to the higher stage (hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123). So, striving for superiority means a condition that forces a man to gain a better life to make him exist in the society (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123). A man is
motivated to reach the superiority according to Adler is “innate of a man and constitutes his continuous efforts in gaining life which is better than others, that is a man is motivated to reach his superiority with his own way either it is right or wrong” (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123).

Basically, an individual prefers “the good way in his efforts to compensate his bad or less characteristics because he wants to reach superiority” (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123) Therefore, he always makes an effort in order to reach the goal, because he believes that this is the best way to make him condition desires (hall and Lindzey, 1970: 123).

d) Style of Life

The life style is originally called “the life plan or guiding image refers to the unique ways in which people pursue their goal” (Adler in Ryckman, 1985: 98). That is to say the life style is “the principle that explains about the uniqueness of an individual” (Adler in Ryckman, 1985: 98). He will develop his own way in achieving his goal of life (Adler in Ryckman, 1985: 98). Man has different style of life although he has the same goal (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 150). It shows that he lives in his environment with the feature as a member of society that the others have no (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 150).

Adler as quoted by Feist (1985:171) there are four general style of life attitudes, such as the ruling type, the getting type, the avoiding type, and socially useful type.

a. The ruling type

People of this attitude have titled social interest, but high degree of activity. They possess a dominating attitude toward the outside world, approaching the three major problem of life (friendship, sex, and occupation). In an actively aggressive, but socially in useless manner. They are the murderer, rapist, tyrant, sadist, and suicides.

b. The getting type

Individual with this attitude relate of the outside world in a parasitic manner, depending on other to satisfy most of their needs. Their main concern is getting as much as possible from others.
They possess a low degree of activity, not especially dangerous, but they contribute little to society.

c. The avoiding type

Adler characterized people with this predisposition as having little social interest and low activity. Under traumatic condition, the avoiding type persons are likely to become neurotic, or psychotic. They are not directly dangerous to society as long as their degree of activities remains low.

d. The socially useful type

Individual with this attitude according to Adler, struggles to solve life problem in a manner beneficial to society. These people rightly identify three major social problems (neighborly love, sexual love, and occupation).

B. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

   The Object of the study is Frank Darabont’s “The Shawshank Redemption” movie.

2. Type of the Study

   The writer will use descriptive qualitative research in this literary work. Crabtree and Miller (1999: 5) says that a qualitative is an interpretive research focusing on a natural, often human, field of activity, with the goal of generating holistic and realistic descriptions and/or explanations.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

   These studies consist of two data sources:

   e) Primary Data Source

      The primary data source is the movie itself, “The Shawshank Redemption” by Frank Darabont.

   f) Secondary Data Source

      The secondary data sources are the other literatures and virtual references which are relevant to the film.
4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   In collecting data, the writer uses observation by technique of watching the movie repeatedly, understanding the movie, focusing Andy Dufresne’s struggle to get freedom, listing the event and using library research for collecting and selecting the appropriate data from many sources.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

   In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive technique. It is used to describe the elements of the play make some understanding to ward the play.

C. **Research Finding and Discussion**

1. **Analysis of the Structural Element**

   a. **Narrative Elements**

      1) **Character and Characterization**

         Major Character Andy dufresnea banker who spends nearly two decades in Shawshank State Prison for the murder of his wife and her lover despite his claims of innocence. He struggle to get freedom from the Shawshank prison.

      2) **Minor Character**

         He is afro–American people and Andy’s best friend “RED” Redding is very intelligent and good man. More have wisdom then every one. Beside that he has influence to guard of prison and to other prisoner.

   b. **Plot**

      1) **Exposition**

         In 1947, banker Andrew "Andy" Dufresne is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover. He is sent to Shawshank State Penitentiary in Maine. Andy is making a friend with Ellis Boyd "Red" Redding. Red is known for obtaining contraband and is able to procure a rock hammer for Andy, allowing him to create small stone chess pieces. Red jokes that Andy might use it to break out until he sees how small the hammer is.
2) Complication

The rise of complication in *The Shawshank Redemption* is during the first two years of his incarceration, Andy works in the prison laundry. He attracts attention from "the Sisters", a group of prisoners who sexually assault other prisoners, and their leader Bogs. Though he persistently resists, Andy is beaten and raped on a regular basis. Later, he overhears Hadley complain about having to pay taxes on a forthcoming inheritance. After explaining a legal loophole to Hadley, Andy is reassigned to assist the prison librarian, elderly inmate Brooks Hatlen, a pretext to allow Andy to work on financial requests full time. Andy's financial advice is soon sought by other guards at Shawshank and by visiting guards from nearby prisons. Hadley delivers a crippling beating to Bogs, after his gang's brutal assault puts Andy in the infirmary. Andy is left alone by the gang from then on.

3) Climax

Climax in *The Shawshank Redemption* Andy meets Tommy williams. He joins Andy and Red's circle of friends, and Andy assists him in getting his General Educational Development. When he hears the details of Andy's case, Tommy reveals that an inmate at another prison, Elmo Blatch, claimed to have committed a nearly identical murder, suggesting Andy's innocence. Norton, fearing Andy might tell of his corruption if released, refuses to cooperate. After they argue, he throws Andy into solitary confinement for two months. Norton has Hadley kill Tommy, making it look like a failed escape attempt.

The next day at rollcall, Andy's cell is empty. The night before, Andy switches Norton's ledger with his prison-issue Bible. Taking the ledger, his chess set, and one of the warden's suits, he escapes through the tunnel and a narrow sewage drain during a thunderstorm.
4) Resolution

In *The Shawshank Redemption*, the resolution is after escaping; Andy poses as Randall Stevens to withdraw most of the corruption money from several banks, and then sends evidence of Norton’s corruption and murder of Tommy to a local newspaper. The police arrive at the prison, and Hadley is arrested, but Norton commits suicide to evade arrest.

5) Setting

a) Setting of Place

*The Shawshank Redemption* movie has setting place almost in the prison of Shawshan prison.

b) Setting of Time

*The Shawshank Redemption* movie has setting time in 1947-1966. This is the time of Andy going to prison at 1947 and he can escape from prison at 1966.

2. Individual Psychological Analysis

Individual Psychological can be categorized into six basic concepts: (1) fiction finalism, (2) inferiority feeling, (3) striving for superiority, (4) style of life, (5) social interest, (6) creative self.

a. Fiction Finalism

In *The Shawshank Redemption*, the fiction finalism of Andy’s Dufresne is to get freedom from the prison. He believes that he didn’t kill her wife. With the small hammer he made a hole in the wall. To escape by access of the tunnel exhaust. While patient he crawl to freedom through five hundred yards of shit-smelling. Just imagine Andy’s crawl in tunnel with hands and knees five hundred yards, the length of five football fields. Andy never gives up and has a very strong faith. With patient, hope and hard work, he believes he can escape from the shawshank prison.
b. Inferiority Feeling

In *The Shawshank Redemption*, Andy has just two inferiority feelings. Andy fell guilty about her wife’s death. He told to RED, her best friend he blame him self because he didn’t can a good husband. Andy actually very loves her wife but he didn’t enough to show them. Although Andy didn’t pull the trigger but he feels drop away her wife’s. Andy’s think that’s way her wife’s death, because that Andy feels guilty. In otherwise Red ridding not blame what Andy’s did, maybe is just make Andy a bad husband. So he supports Andy to stand up and do what him like.

c. Striving for Superiority

The striving of superiority in *The Shawshank Redemption* appears when Andy decides he will become the accounting to help the captain Hadley to solve their finance problem. But he has one request to captain Hadley to prepare several cold beers for his friend. Actually he give some help to the captain not for get anything but for some feel like human in outside of prison.

d. Style of Life

In the beginning of prison Andy’s is quite person. Is more than one month he doesn’t talk to other prisoner? And is the smart man is proven before he became a prisoner. He works as a vice president of national bank of Maine. He had a quite way, a walk and a talk that just wasn’t normal around here. Like a man in a park without care or worry. Like his had an invisible coat that would shield him from this prison. Andy’s include an the socially useful type.

e. Social Interest

In *The Shawshank Redemption*, Andy is a man with very strong faith. He makes relationship with other people that can help him to escape from the prison. He has good relationship with other persons who encourage his goal. The first is “Red” Redding; he’s the best friend in
prison. “Red” Redding can supply anything that Andy needs such as a small hammer to make a hole in the wall. Red gives Andy the poster to cover the hole. Red introduces him to another prison in one group with him. There he meets the second person, Brooks Hatlen, who sends Andy a bible with inside small hammer inside them. Brooks spent his life time in prison as a librarian employee.

f. Creative Power

The major character used his creative power to strive for his dream. At the prison, he is disturbed by “the Sisters”, a group of prisoners who sexually assault other prisoners, and their leader Bogs. Andy never gives up. He always fights back. Although sometimes he loses fighting and gets badly injured, he never gives up and always fights back. Andy fights with patience and struggle his never disturbed any more by Bogs and their friends.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

After analyzing the structural elements of the movie The Shawshank Redemption by Frank Darabont using an Individual psychological analytic theory, the researcher draws conclusion as follows:

Firstly, based on the structural analysis, In The Shawshank Redemption, Frank Darabont reflects the major character’s effort on struggling to get freedom from prison. The story is essentially about Andy Dufresne, a banker who spends nearly two decades in Shawshank State Prison for the murder of his wife and her lover despite his claims of innocence. In prison he struggles to get freedom because he never murders his wife.

Secondly, based on psychoanalytic analysis, it is apparent that in this movie, the author wants to describe how human beings have many ways making his dream come true. He also wants to show that human are full of imagination and desire. It is shown when Andy's has a desire and works hard in fulfilling it. In this movie, Frank Darabont describes Andy's as a person who always tries to fulfill his wish by struggling and striving to make all dreams become true.
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