

**LOVE AND SELFISHNESS REFLECTED IN GARY WINICK'S
LETTERS TO JULIET MOVIE (2010):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



PUBLICATION ARTICLE

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

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2013

APPROVAL

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ABSTRACT

AMELLIA ENDAH PRATIWI, A 320 090 173. LOVE AND SELFISHNESS REFLECTED IN GARY WINICK'S *LETTERS TO JULIET* MOVIE (2010): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2013.

The research is proposed to analyze how the love and selfishness reflected in *Letters to Juliet* movie 2010 by Psychoanalytic Approach. There are two objectives: the first is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and technical elements, and the second is to analyze the main character's personality using a psychoanalytic approach.

This study is a qualitative study, using Gary Winnick's *Letters to Juliet* movie 2010 as of structural elements, and the secondary data. The primary data source is *Letters to Juliet* movie which is directed by Gary Winnick, and the secondary data are some articles, book of literary and internet related to the subject. The method of collecting data in this research is library research by watching the movie, reading some related books and articles, accessing internet, taking notes of important part, arranging, and drawing conclusion the data. In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis.

The outcome of the study shows that the movie is illustrates how to love someone and selfishness attitude which is always gives bad effect for every relationship. One of the bad demeanors which is against love for two person is selfishness. The solution to solve the problem is try to change that behaviorism or tries to find someone else. This study is not only illustrates how *id*, *ego*, and *superego* uses by someone and built their character as a selfish person but also shows what effect that it can give.

Keywords: psychoanalytic, love and selfishness

A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

The definition of love is something that helps us to be better. Love is one of the primary characteristics of God. Likewise, God has endowed us with the capacity for love since we are created in His image. So love is gift of God that we should appreciate because the greatness of love can make our life more meaningful.

However, loving someone not only gives happiness but also sadness because loving someone usually makes us have a desire to take a control, to make someone we love listens just what we want. That's what we call selfishness. Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live. More often than not, the selfish person is insecure, fearful and filled with doubt.

Love and selfishness is one of the topics that are familiar to be discussed. It may be easy to reach with many ways. Not only from individual experience but also from our life. It will be one of the knowledges for us to have a sense about selfishness of love.

One of the best movies that expresses about selfishness of love is *Letters to Juliet* 2010 movie. It is fantasy film directed by Gary Winick that tells about an old woman named Clair who looking for her first love, Lorenzo Bartolini. This is a romantic drama film that was inspired by the 2006 nonfiction book "Letters to Juliet" by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman, which chronicles the phenomenon of letter writing to Shakespeare's most famous romantic heroin. It is the American romantic drama film inspired by William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and its scene was taken at one of the houses in Casa in Julietta, Italy, that is assumed to have been inhabited Juliet.

From the synopsis and the responses above, the writer has reasons why she chooses to study *Letters to Juliet* movie. The first, investigating the meaning of love and selfishness in this study is the key point to effort of empowering human sensitivity of love. There are too many people being

selfish because of their belonging love. So with this research the researcher hopes that people will get another real opinion about love and selfishness. So this research can be one of the references for people to speculate love and selfishness.

The second reason, the writer is interested in the character of Victor, who has different way to assume love. He loves someone but he cannot treat her well just because he is a workaholic so much. He always acts to be the one that always in the right way and thought. He feels the misery of love when his fiancée decide to break their engagement and it is all because of his selfishness.

And the last, the researcher will be a teacher later and this project is necessary to be carried out to enlarge and insert more knowledge to her professional competence as a teacher. It is also needed to supply theoretical framework in the research of literature in the English Department.

The most interesting aspect from this movie is the phenomena of the characteristic of Victor. Although Victor is not the major character of this film but the writer thinks that this character is suitable and interesting to be discussed. In *Letters to Juliet* movie, Victor has the thinking to fulfill his obsession. He is a workaholic so much and did not treat his fiancée well, until finally she leaves him. In this case, the researcher intends to conduct a study on the personality aspect of the character, Victor.

The explanation above attracts the researcher to analyze *Letters to Juliet* movie in to this research paper entitled: "LOVE AND SELFISHNESS REFLECTED IN GARY WINICK'S *LETTERS TO JULIET* MOVIE (2010): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH."

2. Previous Study

Love and selfishness reflected in *Letters to Juliet* movie as far as the writer knows that is no such kind of research analyzing this movie whether in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Surakarta Region. So it is the first research on this movie.

3. Problem Statements

How are the structural elements and technical elements of the movie?
And how is the personality of the characters of the movie?

4. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is limiting the broad problem areas in order to have distinctive focus. In this research, the writer wants to describe the minor's character personality on a movie using Psychoanalytic Approach. Hence the writer limits her research on love and selfishness reflected on *Letters to Juliet* movie using Psychoanalytic Approach.

5. Objectives of the Study

To analyze the movie based on its structural elements and technical elements of the movie, and to analyze the minor character's personality using a psychoanalytic approach.

6. Benefit of the Study

a. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give new contribution and new information to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Letters to Juliet* movie.

b. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to give understanding, knowledge, and experience of the writer, generally for student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

7. Underlying Theory

Psychoanalysis is the part of psychological study that focuses on the personality of human being. It is a method of therapy for personality disturbances and technique for investigating an individual's unconscious thoughts and feelings (Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 86).

There are three type of psychoanalytic personality structure: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. The *id*, like the savage, wants to satisfy these primitive drives in the most direct and immediate way. The *ego* is the person's view of physical and social reality. It tries to satisfy the *id* impulses by taking into

account the possibilities of reward and punishment that exist in a situation. The *superego* represents our conscience. It includes the moral values of right and wrong that are largely instilled in us by our parents.

B. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while the data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie using psychoanalytical perspective. The qualitative data based on the movie Letters to Juliet by Gary Winick.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is Letters to Juliet movie. This movie released theatrically in North America and other countries on May 14, 2010, directed by Gary Winick and inspired by the 2006 nonfiction book “Letters to Juliet” by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman. It will be analyzed through Psychoanalytic Perspective.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two types of the data that are needed to do this research as follows: Primary Data Source, is Letters to Juliet movie which is directed by Gary Winick and produced in 2010 by Summit Entertainment and secondary Data Source consist of the other data such as articles, books of literary, internet and reference which are relevant with this study to get other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collecting

The technique of collecting data is the library research. It can be obtained by some steps as follows: watching the film repeatedly, reading some related books and articles related to the object of study, accessing internet to get several information, taking notes of important parts in both the primary data and secondary data, arranging the data into several categories, drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher employs descriptive qualities analysis. The data will be collected, described and analyzed. The researcher concerns with the relationship between the movie and the psychoanalytic theory to analyze the major character reflected in *Letters to Juliet* movie.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

In this research finding, the writer analysis some points in order to analyze *Letters to Juliet* movie.

1. Analysis the Structural Element of *Letters To Juliet* Movie

a. Characteristic Element

There are two kinds of character in the movie, namely major and minor characters. The major character in this movie is Sophie. Physically, she is a young American with blonde hair and blue eyes. She has a proportional body and she is very beautiful with her sweet smile. Sophie Hall is a fact checker who wants to become a writer.

Sophie : This is Sophie Hall from The Ne Yorker. Hi, Mr. Beal. Thank you for calling me back. No, I'm not, I'm not a writer. I'm a fact checker, actually. Yes, it is a bit like being a detective....

(Letters to Juliet, 00:02:12, disc 1)

Sophie : I was thinking what if I'm in there I'd write.

Bobby : But you are a good fact checker...

(Letters to Juliet, 00:04:16, disc 1)

Morally, Sophie Hall is a tight girl. She insists to follow Claire and Charlie in order to find Lorenzo Bartolini, Claire's long lost love even though it was the first time they meet. She is not only enthusiastic but also supporting Claire that they will find him soon.

Sophie : He can't be the only Alfonso Bartolini in Tuscany.

Charlie : Well, he's the only one around here. Nana, what do you want to do? You want to start knocking on every door asking if Lorenzo is in?

Claire : Uhm I'm... (Look at Sophie)

Sophie : How many gonna be?
(Letters to Juliet, 00:38:33, disc 1)

Mentally, she is full of patience, care for another, and she is also faithful and loyal with her fiancé, Victor. She meets Charlie and fall in love with him. However she still remember her status and back to Victor.

One of the minor characters of this movie is Victor. He is Sophie's fiancé. Physically, Victor has dark little long-haired, brown sharp eyes, and pointed nose. He is thin but not so tall. He is Italian-American and he is a chef.

Sophie : Victor. Well, Victor is a chef. Amazing chef.
He is opening his own restaurant in New York...
(Letters to Juliet, 00:34:49, disc 2)

Mentally, Victor is a workaholic and selfish person. He is always busy with his work even he is on his vacation with his fiancée, Sophie. He loves Sophie actually however he never really listen to her.

Sophie : I have to show you the most...
Victor : You know what is the more amazing? I just got the phone from Signor Morini. And he is arranging the private tour for us with each every one of my suppliers. We are starting at the most beautiful beer yard of Veneto.
Sophie : Victor?
Victor : Sophie, come on. You are not getting it? I mean we gonna go to the oldest most beautiful beer yard around. This was romantic...
(Letters to Juliet, 00:07:05, disc 1)

b. Setting

1) Setting of Time

Letters to Juliet movie did not mention the setting of time of the drama. However, from the scene the writer conclude that this movie is set in around 2010, the same as the publication year.

2) Setting of Place

Letters to Juliet movie is happened in New York and it also uses many places in Italy such as Verona, Siena, Palermo, Tuscany, and Florence.

c. Plot

1) The Exposition of Beginning

The main point of exposition in introductory section of the movie is section that introduces the character, problem, and situation. It begins in the first scene when Sophie as major character was on the phone with someone in her job. Sophie had a fiancé named Victor. They made a tour in Italy. Much less having fun together, Victor always busy with his job and let Sophie alone. In her lonely vacation Sophie met the secretary of Juliet. She found an old 1951 letter and answered it. And then she met Claire and her grandson Charlie. In this section is introducing who they are, their role, and their characteristic.

2) The Middle

In this movie the complication begins when Sophie answered Claire's letter to Juliet and supported her to find her long lost love Lorenzo Bartolini. They traveled in Italy accompanied by Claire's barrister grandson Charlie. On this long searching Sophie was fall in love with Charlie who has the same feeling. After the long journey finding Lorenzo Bartolini, finally they found him. Claire and Charlie stay in his house and Sophie went back to her fiancé Victor. However Victor was never change. And Sophie started to feel tired about their chaotic relationship.

3) The Ending

The end of this movie is taken place in Claire and Lorenzo's wedding party. Sophie decided to finish her engagement with Victor and

planned to meet Charlie. In Claire and Lorenzo's wedding Charlie introduced her to Patricia. Sophie guessed that she is Charlie's girlfriend and left the party. And then Charlie catch her, explained what was really happened and proposed her. Finally Sophie said yes and they were kissing under the balcony.

2. Psychoanalytic Analysis

a. Analysis of Victor's Personality

In this session the writer will explain about Victor's personality and compare his *id*, *superego*, and *ego*.

The first *id* from Victor begins when he and his fiancée, Sophie, come to Italy in the first day. He knows that Sophie wants to have fun visiting some romantic place or watching opera, however as a chef Victor want to visit a beer yard in Veneto with his supplier. In this time, Victor is on his effort to build his own restaurant in New York. So he is very enthusiastic to hear everything about recipe. In this case, Victor's *ego* occurred when he thinks that he is in Italy already and he needs to visit that farm because he wants to meet his supplier. Therefore he decides to go with Sophie because his *id* presses his *ego* and his *superego* does not take part.

Victor : We starting up with the oldest the most beautiful beer yard of Veneto.

Sophie : (Smiling)

Victor : Yeah?

Sophie : Victor...

Victor : Sophie come on. No.. You're not getting it... I mean we will go to the oldest most beautiful beer yard around. That was romantic. Alright? We gonna go there, we gonna drink a little wine, we gonna have a little dizzy, we gonna come back, we gonna... (Wink and laugh).

(Letters to Juliet, 00:07:07,disc 1)

The second *id* from Victor appears when he wants to see truffle in his supplier's farm. It is about 120 km and he is on his vacation with his

fiancée. Truffle is like *tartufo*, it is something that puts in pasta and Victor plans to add it into his recipe list. In this moment Sophie refuses to go because she thinks that riding 120 km to see the mushroom is just wasting time. In this case, Victor's *superego* realizes that he has to listen about what Sophie wants because this vacation is not only about his self but both of them as a couple. However, finally Sophie has an idea to let Victor go by his self and she will meet her friends in Secretary of Juliet's office. Victor's *ego* appears, he thinks that it is a good idea and they will win-win if they do this agreement.

Victor : Hey, that was Signor Morini on the phone.
You know, he is inviting us to the incredible forest with only 120 km away. And hey biggest truffle...

Sophie : Wait. 120 km?

Victor : Yes, it's not like miles Sophie.

Sophie : No, I understand the different, but I just... I just don't understand why you wanna go for 120 km to see mushroom.

Victor : It's not a mushroom, okay. It's a truffle. It's a tartufo. It's something you put on pasta, you know? It something else, but different. Come on. You've been having a good day, right?

Sophie : It was fine. But now, I just... To be honest I just don't feel like going too see mushroom.

Victor : Okay I got it. It's fine. I got it. I mean... Just don't call it the mushroom, okay?

Sophie : You now what? Why you don't go to see the truffle place and I do what I want.

Victor : Really? Okay, win-win.

(Letters to Juliet, 00:09:18, disc 1)

Victor's third *id* shows when he wants to stay in Isabella's kitchen to learn how to cook *risotto all'Amarone* from Isabella's mother, Angelina. Victor was fall in love with the dessert that made by Angelina and he really wants to learn more because Angelina is very good at cooking. In that time, Sophie reminded him about their plan to see Lake Garda together. However, Victor's *ego* occurs that it is a special chance to learn recipe from the professional one. Moreover *risotto all'Amarone* is 300 years old recipe that

can cook by certain people. He thinks that he will not get this chance anymore. So he suggests Sophie to join Isabella in Juliet's Secretary Office.

Victor : Angelina told me to share some secret today.
Sophie : Okay (Laughing) Okay right now and all day?
Victor : Yes, right now and it's crazy. I mean amazing. She is making risotto al'Amarone, right? (look at Isabella)
Isabella : Really good risotto yeah.
Victor : You see? It's like 300 years old or something else recipe. This is fantastic.
Sophie : Okay, that's great. But... uhmmm so no Lake Garda today?
Victor : Oh, Lake Garda. I mean... Maybe Lake Garda is 500.000 years old, you know. But... right now... I mean, and now, Angelina is offering to help me. I'm here. We're here, you know? It's a good time....
(Letters to Juliet, 00:17:58, disc 1)

The next Victor's *id* that the writer can found is when he wants to leave Sophie alone again to participate in amazing wine auction which is held in Livorno. Livorno is far enough and he needs to leave her about two days. However his *superego* realizes that he already leaves Sophie for many times. Thus he would like to get another ticket for Sophie and they can go together. And then his *ego* appears. That exclusive ticket is impossible to get. He can come because the ticket from his friend and he is pessimist that he can get the same ticket for Sophie. Thus he goes without Sophie because he cannot let the exclusive ticket useless.

Victor : I just gonna be phone with Signor Morini and he is invited me to join to the amazing wine auction that happening in Livorno.
Sophie : Livorno?
Victor : Yeah, It's super exclusive. I mean, I don't know if I can get the ticket, you know? We'll off like a day, or two max. If you want, maybe I will try for two tickets, but I'm not sure I can get the ticket I means.
Sophie : To wine auction? In Livorno?
Victor : It's sounds terrible, I know... I know. I'm sorry. I feel terrible now.
(Letters to Juliet, 00:24:05, disc 1)

The last is when Sophie decided to break up and leave him. In this case, Victor's *id* makes him refuse to be apart because he still loves Sophie actually. Sophie hug him and he do not want to take it down. The *superego* occurs that if he wants to make Sophie stay so he has to change his personality, but his *id* presses his *ego* all over again. He just holds out with his mind and let Sophie go without saying anything.

Sophie : I really don't know what this is anymore. I don't know what we doing. I mean, we are on one vacation but we don't spending time together.

Victor : Yeah, because you're busy in writing. And I didn't mind.

Sophie : I know you didn't mind. And you're busy.

Victor : Oh, come on.

Sophie : You went to Livorno and I didn't mind.

Victor : No, Sophie no.

Sophie : This is what I am saying. Victor, we went on... like a honeymoon. And... we didn't mind being apart from each other. It's not use to be that, right? We have to be together each other all the time.

Victor : Well, I wish to tell you that everything gonna be different, and I'm wanna be different. And I... I'm... This is who I am.

Sophie : I know. But I love... I love who you are. But I have change. It's not working. (They are hugging). I've to go, Victor.

(Letters to Juliet, 00:32:44, disc 1)

According to the explanation above, Victor's personality is not balance among his *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. His *id* is always presses his *ego*, and his *superego* does not have enough power to warn the *ego*. In this case, we can say that Victor is really a selfish person because he always ambitious to reach only what they want to his happiness and his *superego* is takes a part rarely.

b. Psychoanalytic Issue

In this movie, psychoanalytic issues which are used by the researcher are love and selfishness. Actually, selfishness or egoistic is a normal personality, since it only purpose to reach something better for

ourselves without hurt anybody else. Because everybody living as a human being need to have selfish character sometimes. However in this case, the term of selfishness personality is one of the abnormal personalities because that attitude already offends another people around.

In this movie, Victor as one of the minor characters has a selfish personality. To reach what he wants, he will do anything without worrying about another people's feeling. He just does everything that he thinks he needs to do. Selfish personality is one of the bad characters which are hard to face. So do Sophie as Victor's fiancée. She tries to understand thoroughly. However she cannot hold on anymore and she decides to leave Victor in the end.

The example of Victor's selfishness is shown when his first *id* appears that Victor want to visit a beer yard in Veneto with his supplier. His *id* pursues his *ego* to follow what he decides and he does not care about what Sophie want. Even finally he is successful to carry Sophie with him. The second one is when Victor wants to ride 120 km to see truffle. In this time, Sophie insists that she does not want to go and Victor's *superego* realizes that he has to listens what Sophie want. However, finally Sophie let Victor go and she joined her friends in Secretary of Juliet's office.

The third example of Victor's selfishness is shown when his *id* presses his *ego* to learn how to cook *risotto all'Amarone* from Isabella's mother, Angelina. He already has a plan to see Lake Garda with Sophie but he canceled it because his *superego* does not have a power to warn his *ego*. The next is when he wants to leave Sophie alone over again to participate in amazing wine auction which is held in Livorno. Victor's *id* presses his *ego*, and his *superego* is just worthless.

The last case is when Sophie met Victor and decided to split up. Victor's *id* appears when he does not want to separated from Sophie, and his *superego* realizes that he has to change so Sophie will also change her mind. But his *ego* is more sustain to the *id*. He holds out on what he believes in and let Sophie go without saying anything.

Thus, after watching *Letters to Juliet* movie, the audience can find a selfishness personality which is done by Victor. Maybe loving someone is a good thing to do and it is special. But loving someone is not only about how to make her close to us, but also how to make her want to stay with us. And selfishness is one of the personality types that possible to change when we already find someone we really love, because loving someone will give us aspiration to be better, especially to waste our bad personality.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

1. Conclusion

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapter, the writer finally takes some conclusions. Everyone mostly have someone to love in their lives. Victor as a man, he also has Sophie to love in his life. He has Sophie as his fiancée, however he does not realize what he should do for someone he loves. He does love her, and he also does love himself even more. As the result, he treats his special one wrongly. He does everything to reach his goal as a professional chef and for his restaurant. However he does nothing to make his fiancée happy.

Based on the analysis the researcher draw if everyone has to treat someone they love well. Moreover, in Gary Winnick's *Letters to Juliet* movie the researcher finds that one of the minor characters' personality has the wrong way to treat someone he loves. It is able to be some paradigm for another people to try doing the best for their special one. Therefore, it includes the psychoanalytic phenomena.

2. Suggestion

The researcher has chosen Psychoanalytic Approach, structure of personality of Psychoanalytic to deal with this film. This study can still be improved. It is widely possible for other researcher to apply different approach such as Humanistic Psychological Approach to analyze belongingness and love needs of someone, especially Claire Smith. This approach toward the same film will bring new perspective in gaining more understanding about the film and ideas beyond it.

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