

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People have different destiny of their lives. Every human absolutely feel about those differences one by one. For example, sometimes a person feels that he or she is happy, but sometimes he or she feels so sad. To copes the bad conditions there must be self-confidence. Spirit of life can be great conviction to lead a life. That conviction makes dream become something tangible.

Based on that thinking, there is a movie that shows the conviction. The movie entitled *August Rush* movie is one of popular musical drama movie in 2007 that directed by Kirsten Sheridan. This movie shows the great conviction of a boy. Evan or August is a major character of *August Rush* movie. August is an orphaned musical prodigy who uses his extraordinary talents to reunite with his long-lost birth parents. He believes that his conviction can be real.

In the back stage, the most influencing the movie is Kirsten Sheridan as the director. She was born July 14, 1976. She is an Irish film director and screenwriter. The director of *August Rush* (2007) and *Disco Pigs* (2001), Sheridan was nominated for an Academy Award for co-writing the semi-autobiographical film *In America* with her father, director Jim Sheridan, and her sister, Naomi Sheridan. The first feature film Sheridan directed was

2001's *Disco Pigs*, Enda Walsh's screen adaptation of his own play, starring Cillian Murphy and Elaine Cassidy as teenagers in a lifelong, obsessive, antisocial friendship. *Disco Pigs* earned Sheridan nominations for best director at the British Independent Film Awards and the Irish Film & TV Academy Awards, as well as prizes at the Castellinaria Youth Film Festival, the Giffoni Film Festival, the Young European Cinema Film Festival and the Ourense Film Festival.

Next, Sheridan collaborated with her father Jim and sister Naomi on the script for *In America*, a film based on their memories of their family's years of poverty in New York, with the story of the death of Jim's younger brother woven in as an added element. Jim directed the film, which went on to success and earned several prestigious awards nominations, including an Oscar nomination for best screenplay. Sheridan's latest film is 2007's *August Rush*, which stars Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Keri Russell as star-crossed lovers and musicians, Freddie Highmore as their orphaned musical prodigy offspring, and Robin Williams as a Faginesque character. *The Irish Times* criticized the film as bouncing around between so many forms, moods and genres that it proves impossible to get a handle on, while *Variety* called it utterly predictable, but with moments of genuine charm.

August Rush is a story of a music prodigy. Lyla is a renowned and beautiful cellist and Louis is a bass player in club. Lyla and Louis fall in love once they meet each other following the music. Since they have different life, they have to separate without seeing each other once again. However, Lyla

has had their baby-Evan, a prodigy born to music. Lyla has an accident and bears the baby but Lyla's father gives the baby to an orphanage but does not tell her this in case of affecting her career. After that, both Louis and Lyla give up the music career. Eleven years later, the poor little Evan believes that his parents are waiting for him and goes to New York to find his parents. In New York, his music gift leads him to success but also gives him some trouble. A monger uses Evan to make money and prevents him from success. He escapes and runs into a church and people there are surprised by his gift and send him to the best music school, Juilliard. In the Juilliard School, he receives the normal education but his genius makes him brilliant and created his composition August Rhapsody in C major. At the same time, Lyla and Louis both begin to play music again and Louis has been in New York. Because of his perfect performance, Evan is granted an opportunity to play his music in the central park in front of thousands of people. There are totally three composers and he is feathered last, in fact, his mother is the second one. As Evan is directing the orchestra to play his rhapsody, Lyla and Louis come to the concert following the music again. The family get together finally.

August Rush is an interesting movie. There are three reasons why the researcher interested in analyzing this movie. First reason is *August Rush* has the extremely sparse story. The story of this movie is about the August's conviction. He has strong desirability to meet his parent. He grows up an outcast in a home for boys. But, he believes that his parent still alive. Cap it all, he stays out to find his parent. He can hear music in everything. He

believes that he can hear the music from his parent. He thinks to follow the music to find his parent. On the way, he meets a young singing beggar. He is amazed with the singing beggar. He meets Arthur, a boy who was playing the guitar on a street corner for money. He follows Arthur and is taken in by Maxwell Wallace, a.k.a. "Wizard", who houses various orphans and runaways, employing them to play music on the streets and taking a large cut of their tips. August immediately proves to be a musical child prodigy. Wizard enlists him and gives him the name "August Rush", convincing him he will be sent back to the orphanage if his real name is ever discovered.

Second, *August Rush* is the drama that comprises the musical elements. These musical elements make the plot more perceivable. So, it is different with the ordinary movie. The last reason is the compassion that is reflected in this movie. This story begins with the happy condition that Lyla comes across with Louis. Then they are falling in love until the baby-August is born. But, Lyla's father throwing the baby to the charitable institution because he doesn't want the baby to annoy Lyla's career. Briefly, August's conviction brings up to his parent.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher will observe *August Rush* movie by using individual psychological approach. So, the researcher constructs the title **TRUTH OF A CONVICTION IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN'S *AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE (2007): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

August Rush movie is a popular movie. As long as the researcher knows, there are other researchers who conducted a research on the same movie. In this research, the researcher takes two researches based on the same object. First, Shinta Dewi Revinawati (2010) discussed “*Anxiety to Find Self Identity of August Rush in August Rush Movie by Kirsten Sheridan*”. Her research’s result show a close relationship between August Rush movie and Psychoanalytic, particularly in conscious and unconscious or the id, ego and superego of August in finding his identity through music.

The second researcher is Jonathan Aditya (2007) Satya Wacana University of Salatiga, the title is “*Conflict of August Rush in Kristen Sheridan Movie*“he employed psychoanalytic approach. The problem statement is how the major character faces his inner conflict in making decision. The outcome of study shows that the problem faced by major character, Evan Taylor or August Rush causes the conflict of the major character’s mental condition. It brings him in anxiety which influences his decision making process. Finally, the decision is taken as the influence of his conscience. Therefore, it makes him more comfortable in life although he gains nothing in the end.

The third researcher is Aurelia Putri (2008) Shanata Dharma University of Yogyakarta, the title is “*Ambition of August Rush to Find his Parent with Music*”. She used individual psychological approach in analyzing

the film of August Rush. The problem statement of his research is how the ambitions influence the personality development of the major character. The research showed that the ambition of the character, the son who wants to find his parent, therefore make him comfortable in life of major character itself.

The fourth researcher is Siti Nurfadlillah (2012) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is “*Obsession to Finding Parent in Kirsten Sheridan’s August Rush Movie*”. She used individual psychological approach in analyzing the film of August Rush. The problem statement is how the obsession of finding parent is reflected in Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush*.

The fifth researcher is Meganmextha Ajeng Y. S. (2011) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is “*Music as Moral Drive to Find August Rush’s Parent in Kirsten Sheridan Movie August Rush*”. Her research focuses on the life of August Rush by using psychoanalytic approach. The problem statement of her research is how is the music as moral drive to find August Rush’s parent in Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush* movie.

Different from five previous researchers, this study focuses on the conviction of Evan Taylor or August Rush who is the major character in this movie by using individual psychological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the importance of the problem in the research, the researcher propose, “How is truth of conviction reflected in *August Rush* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the truth of conviction of the major character in Kirsten Sheridan's *August Rush* movie based on individual psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Kirsten Sheridan's *August Rush* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze Kirsten Sheridan's *August Rush* movie based on the individual psychological approach.

F. The Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The research is hoped to give a new contribution an information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *August Rush* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The research is hoped to increase the knowledge and experience of the researcher and other students of Muhammadiyah University of

Surakarta or another University who have interest to get deep understand about the concept of the movie especially from individual psychological aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research of the study is qualitative research, which takes the sources data from words and other written text.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *August Rush* movie.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

- a. Primary Data Source of the study is the movie itself: *August Rush* movie.
- b. Secondary Data Source is taken from other sources such as internet, books, and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collections

The data collecting technique used in the study are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie for the several times.
- b. Reading the script of the movie.
- c. Taking note of the important part in primary and secondary data.
- d. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- e. Classifying the data into several parts.
- f. Summarizing based on the analyzed data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

This research uses descriptive analysis technique to analyzing the data. It involves the structural elements of the movie and individual psychological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of **“TRUTH OF A CONVICTION IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN’S *AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE (2007): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”** is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consists of Notion of Individual Psychology, Basic Concept of Individual Psychology, Conviction, Structural Elements of the Movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Structural Analysis; (1) The Structural Elements of *August Rush* movie; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, and Theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological Analysis; (1) Individual Psychology; it consists of Fictional Finalism, Inferiority Feeling, Striving for Superiority, Style of Life, Social Interest, and Creative Power; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Conclusions, Educational Implication and Suggestions.