

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Major depression is one type of depressions. Major depression is a disease that causes its sufferers feels self-blame in a world, confusion, hopelessness, loss of life balance and also the sufferer will be in despair and loss of confidence. This is a mental illness that attacks the body and mind, can be suffered by anyone and anytime. Major depression is characterized by long periods of a low or sad mood. The sufferer of major depression seems disinterested in becoming involved in regular activities and seems convinced that he or she will always be in this hopeless state. There is a lack of interest in sexual activity and in appetite and a weight loss. Here, the writer will to analyze a major depression disorder that suffers from the major character in *The Beaver* movie.

The Beaver is a 2011 western drama film, the film was directed by Jodie Foster, produced by Steve Golin, Keith Redom, and Ann Ruark, written by Kyle Killen, music by Marcelo Zarvos, Chinematography by Hegen Bogdanski, editing by Lynzee Klingman, and distributed by Summit Entertainment, Walmark film, and release dates on May 6, 2011.

The characters in *The Beaver* Movie are Mel Gibson as Walter Black, Jodie foster as Meredith Black, Anton Yelchin as Porter Black, Jennifer Lawrence as Norah, Cherry Jones as Morgan Newell, Zachary Booth as Jared, and Riley Thomas Stewart as Henry Black. Filming took place in New York; Boston; Washington; Chicago; Dallas; Austria, Texas; Los Angeles; San Francisco;

Seattle; and Toronto. The film had a limited release in 22 theaters on May 9, 2011. The film is a dysfunctional- family melodrama about depression.

Walter Black is depressed for going on two years, he is doing a terrible job as CEO of a toy company, he has isolated himself from his family and he gets drunk on alcohol and attempts to take his own life. He talks out himself by speaking his mind with a beaver hand puppet. He is kicked out by his wife (Jodie foster), to the relief of their elder son Porter Black (Anton yelchin). After unsuccessful suicide attempts, Walter Black develops an alternate personality represented by a 'beaver' hand puppet which he finds in the trash, which always has with him, not only as a tool for him to communicate with other people, but also helping him to recover. He becomes successful again at his work by creating a line of Mr. Beaver building kits for kids.

The climax of this movie, the Part of Walter's personality wants to get rid of the beaver to get back with his family, but another part (the beaver) wants him to stay with the "puppet". Walter who suddenly realizes what he has put his family through starts fighting with the beaver, but he does not prevail. He finally takes the "puppet" out from his life by dramatically cutting off his left hand. Then Walter Black becomes himself again and returns to his normal life.

The Beaver is a film directed by Alicia Christian Foster (Jodie foster), she was born in Los Angeles 19 November 1962. Alicia's siblings nicknamed her "Jodie," a name she has used in her profession. When she was just three years old, Jodie began acting in commercials to support the family, most notably for

Coppertone sunblock. When she was five, Jodie landed her first acting role on the TV show "Mayberry R.F.D." (1968). She stayed very busy as a child actress, working on television programs such as "The Doris Day Show" (1968), "Adam-12" (1968), "Gunsmoke" (1955), and Disney movies like *One Little Indian* (1973), then with the film *Taxi Driver* (1976) in which she played a prostitute at the tender age of twelve. This performance earned her an Oscar nomination, and she went on to have a very successful career in her early teens with roles in more Disney films, most notably the classics *Freaky Friday* (1976) and *Candleshoe* (1977). The last film Jodie made during this era was the coming-of-age drama *Foxes* (1980), before enrolling at Yale University when she was 17. Tragedy struck Jodie during her freshman year when a crazed and obsessed fan name John Hinckley shot President Ronald Reagan to impress her.

Jodie graduated from Yale in 1985 with a degree in literature. Her main priority was now to become a successful adult actress. After a few forgettable B-movies, Jodie auditioned for *The Accused* (1988) and was cast Sarah Tobias, a party girl who testifies against the men who gang-raped her in a bar. For this role she won her first Academy Award and Golden Globe as Best Actress. But even though she had won an Oscar, Jodie had not yet established herself as a star. Her next film, *Catchfire* (1990), went straight to video, and she fought hard to get her next good role.

In 1991 Jodie Foster starred as Clarice Starling, an FBI trainee who is assigned to track down a serial killer in *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991). The film was a blockbuster hit, winning Jodie her second Academy Award for Best

Actress and establishing her as an international star at the age of 28. With the wealth and fame to do anything she wanted, Jodie turned to directing. She made her directorial debut with *Little Man Tate* (1991) followed by *Home for the Holidays* (1995). These movies were critically acclaimed but did not do well at the box office, and Jodie proved to be a far more successful actress than she was a director.

In 1994 proved to be a huge triumph for Jodie's acting career. She played a sexy con artist in the hugely successful western spoof *Maverick* (1994) with Mel Gibson. She also played title role in *Nell* (1994) alongside Liam Neeson and Natasha Richardson. For her compelling performance as a wild, backwoods hermit who speaks an invented language and must return to civilization, Jodie was nominated for her fourth Academy Award and won a Screen Actors Guild Award as Best Actress.

Her next big screen role was in the science fiction drama *Contact* (1997) opposite Matthew McConaughey. She played a scientist who receives signals from space aliens. The film was a huge hit and earned Jodie a Golden Globe nomination. She starred in the non-musical remake of *The King and I* (1956) entitled *Anna and the King* (1999), a film that was only modestly received in the U.S. but was very successful overseas. Three years after that she headlined the thriller *Panic Room* (2002), costarring Kristen Stewart, Forest Whitaker and Jared Leto. This film was a smash box-office hit and gave Jodie a \$30 million opening weekend, the biggest of her career yet. She then appeared in two low-profile projects: the independent film *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys* (2002) and the

foreign film *A Very Long Engagement* (2004). She returned to making Hollywood mainstream films, first with *Flightplan* (2005), in which she played a woman whose daughter disappears on an airplane that she designed.

Once again Jodie proved herself to be a box-office draw, and the film was a worldwide hit. The following year she starred in another hit, a thriller about a bank heist titled *Inside Man* (2006) with Denzel Washington and Clive Owen. Jodie seemed to be on a pattern of non-stop success. She was paid \$15 million for her next film, the revenge thriller *The Brave One* (2007), which once again opened #1 at the box office and earned her another Golden Globe nomination. After starring in a string of dark-themed films, she returned to comedy in *Nim's Island* (2008) with Gerard Butler and Abigail Breslin. Jodie will reunite with Mel Gibson in the upcoming movie *The Beaver* (2011), which was released in 2011.

The Beaver movie is one of interesting Jodie Foster work to view. There are some reasons that make the movie interesting, important, and challenge to view; First reason is the characters and characterization in Jodie Foster's *The Beaver* movie. Walter Black is a protagonist people in this movie. Walter Black is the depressed person or close of mental disorders. He has wife named Meredith Black, and two sons namely Porter Black and Henry Black. He born in a wealthy family and has a toy company. But after he inherited one Company from his father, the company almost bankrupt. And his wife stills love him and tries to help her husband to recover, but his eldest son hates his father, so Walter Black worsen and his wife expelled him to keep her son feelings, and then Walter Black finds a 'beaver' hand puppet in the trash and after that the 'beaver' hands puppet are

always being around with him and become his friend that he believe the 'beaver' hand puppet could talk, but it's just the other side of Walter Black self.

The second reasons are the problems that have in this movie. Such as major depression disorder, not only the major character using a beaver hand puppet as mediator for communication with the society, but also the problem which tells in this movie are family problems and struggle for life.

The third reason is the messages that will to convoy by the director Jodie Foster, when someone suffers a major depression he needs his family to stay beside him and helm him recover from the depression. In this film the director tries to tell a major depression which experienced by Walter Black. The researcher can investigate this film from the symptoms and causes of major depression shows by the patient are Walter Black.

Seeing the depression of Walter Black above, the lies interesting part of analyzing Jodie foster's *The Beaver* movie. The researcher interested to analyze Major Depression which suffers by major character 'Walter Black' in *The Beaver* movie reflected by Jodie foster, which elaborated in problem statement.

The writer will use a psychoanalytic approach theory as the approach to analyze this movie because the major character Walter Black that suffers major depressive disorder (major depression) in his personality, firstly Walter Black is a depressed person, someone who cannot solve the problem, someone who is desperate and collapsed, someone who tries to suicide, unable to make communication with others including his wife (Meredith Black) , but on the other hand thinks that a 'beaver' hand puppet which he considers can speak and give

spirit to himself to be strong and can overcome the problem, rising from the ground up, and can communicate with his wife Meredith Black. In this study, the writer has entitled: “*Major Depression Reflected in Jodie Foster’s the Beaver Movie (2011): A Psychoanalytic Approach*”.

B. Literature Review

There is no previous study on *The Beaver* movie, at least in university in central java. So that the writer cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of *The Beaver* movie. The writer uses a Psychoanalytic Approach to analyze the data and using of *The Beaver movie* as an object. The writer analyzes *MAJOR DEPRESSION REFLECTED IN JODIE FOSTER’S THE BEAVER MOVIE (2011): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH*

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this study as “How is Walter Black’s suffering of Major Depression reflected in Jodie Foster’s *The Beaver* movie (2011)?”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing major depression reflected in Jodie Foster’s *The Beaver* movie (2011) based on psychoanalytic approach theories by Sigmund Freud.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following:

1. To analyze Major Depression Reflected in Jodie Foster's *The Beaver* Movie (2011) based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze Major Depression Reflected in Jodie Foster's *The Beaver* Movie (2011) based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. The Benefit of the Study

The benefit expected from this study is as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit:

The study is projected to give movie contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge particularly in the literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit:

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other university interested in literary studies.

This study can develops the other researchers, readers, and writer's , knowledge, about *Jodie foster's The Beaver movie (2011)*. the movie particularly related to the psychoanalytic approach.

G. Research Method

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 the Data Collection, and finally 5). Determine Technique of the Data Analysis.

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using psychoanalytic approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Major Depression suffers in Walter Black's personality as major character in *The Beaver* movie reflected by Jodie Foster and was produced in 2011 by Hollywood studios.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data, as follows:

a. Primary Data Source:

The primary data source is the movie of *The Beaver* produced by Hollywood studios.

b. Secondary Data Source:

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from the books, internet or any information related to the practice of Major Depression that support the psychoanalytic analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly,
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

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

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of background of the study, literature review, research problem, research objective, research benefit, research methodology, and the last is research organization. Chapter II elaborates the underlying theory which consists of psychoanalysis theory, the system of personality (*id*, *ego*, and *superego*), and Major Depression theory. Chapter III presents structural analysis of the movie which contains the structural elements- narrative elements (character and characterization, setting, point of view, theme, plot), technical elements (mise-en-scene consists of setting, costume and make-up, lighting), Cinematography, and discussion. Chapter IV discusses psychoanalytic analysis with the problem of the film. The last is chapter V which draws of conclusion, educational implication, and suggestions.