

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human is social being that is motivated primarily by social urges. During their interaction, toward the society, they will face various kinds of life problems, including drive of satisfaction. Problem always becomes a human's part and always appears in human being's life. No one can avoid it. Some problems can be a whip, spirit and motivation to do something. For persons who can face it, they will try to solve their problem with their own ways. Usually they will do something as the defense from their problem or anxiety of something. These give contribution and influence to build the human's personality at least.

Defense mechanism is a way that people use to protect the individual self-esteem and defend him or her against excessive anxiety when faced with continuing frustration (Hilgard, 1962: 511). The ego defense mechanism can make people feel satisfied, although it cannot help them much. This way just gives another way on giving the perfect reason on doing something, rejects about something and makes their personality better when they feel inferior and anxious. Freud (in Hjelle and Ziegler, 1976: 38) stated that defense mechanism is a strategy used by the individual to defend against open expression, of id impulses and posing super ego pressure. Here, the researcher wants to explore the defense mechanism on the major character's personality that shows in *The Caller*, a movie directed by Matthew Parkhill.

Matthew Parkhill grew up in Leigh-On-Sea in east Essex, Matthew studied history at Cambridge University and later moved to Paris for a PhD while teaching at the same time. His debut novel *And I Loved Them Madly* was published in the UK in 1995, the book is based on his experiences working in a USA summer camp for the mentally challenged. A film company optioned the book and Matthew was subsequently asked to write the screenplay of the movie. He doesn't know anything about screenwriting and he tried to convince them not to hire him. He ended up writing the script any way, it was well received and the door for his career in the film industry had been opened. He directed several short films for which he had written the screenplay, commercials and in 2003 his first feature film, *Dot the I*. At the moment he is working on a project about the 2012 London Olympics. Other recent projects include a feature script for Mickey Rourke about the life of gay Welsh rugby icon, Gareth Thomas and *Killing an Arab*, a political thriller about the 1956 Suez crisis. And in 2011 his second film is *The Caller*.

The Caller is a supernatural thriller directed by Matthew Parkhill and written by Sergio Casci, starring Rachelle Lefevre (Mary Kee) , Stephen Moyer (John Guidi) and Lorna Raver (Rose). The movie was filmed entirely in Puerto Rico. The Gala Premiere of the movie was on August 23, 2011 at Metro Cinema in Puerto Rico. Brittany Murphy was originally cast as Mary Kee, but left the production and was replaced by Rachelle Lefevre. The movie released on April 15, 2011 (Gulf Film Festival), August 26, 2011 (United States) and September 1, 2011 (Puerto Rico). *The Caller* needs 92 minutes for running.

The Caller is most definitely the latter. Seemingly playing out like a movie of the week melodrama for half of its running time, the film follows divorcee Mary

(Lefevre) as she moves into a new apartment with the hopes of getting on with her life without her abusive ex-husband (Quinn). Starting a new relationship with the charismatic John Guidi (Stephen Moyer), she begins to receive phone calls from a mysterious woman called Rose. However as the calls become more regular, Mary realizes that Rose's claims that she is calling from the past may actually be true and tries to cut off all contact. Rose makes it frighteningly clear that she does not like to be ignored and threatens Mary with a terrible revenge. As the phone calls become more frequent and more threatening, the two become embroiled in a petrifying game of cat and mouse that traverses time through Mary's past and present.

There are slow burning horror films like *The Caller*. Even with the creepy phone calls there was no real sense of fear for the first 45 or so minutes, but then the film takes a sharp turn as Mary, discovering she has a smaller pantry in her apartment, realizes what Rose has done in the past. From that moment the film ramps up the tension as Rose in the past affects Mary in the future, literally. Obviously shot on a low-budget *The Caller* tries its best to make sense of its convoluted plot, but in the end the movie suffers from a schizophrenic personality, by all accounts the film should be a tightly-paced thriller about a woman taunted by strange phone calls but instead it throws in the "ghostly caller" angle which, whilst giving the film a spooky edge, confuses the entire film, which leads to a ridiculous scene where *True Blood's* Moyer has to explain what going on to Mary, and more importantly explain what's going on to the audience.

After watching the film and reading the plot and summary of the film the researcher is interested on doing the analysis of *The Caller*. Matthew Parkhill subscribes an overview about the reflection of human personality. Each part of this

movie always presents a thriller for the audiences and also the film tells about the defense of a woman.

Here the researcher wants to analyze the defense of the main character in dealing the problems. Then the researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled: **MARY KEE'S DEFENSE MECHANISM IN MATTHEW PARKHILL'S *THE CALLER* MOVIE: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

As long as the writer knows, there is no previous researcher that studies Matthew Parkhill's *The Caller* at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. So this study is the first study. Further, in this study, the writer studies Matthew Parkhill's *The Caller* based on the psychoanalytic approach.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem in this study is how the major character's defense mechanism is reflected in Matthew Parkhill's *The Caller*.

D. Problem Limitation

In this research, the researcher analyzes the defense mechanism of the major character Mary Kee in Matthew Parkhill's *The Caller* movie by using psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of study are described as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the Psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study will be beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *The Caller* directed by Matthew Parkhill.

2. Practical Benefit

In this study, the researcher will get more understanding about Psychoanalytic and how to see character's personality using Psychoanalytic Approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The writer analyzes *The Caller* movie by using qualitative method. Moleong (1995: 5) states that qualitative research is a type of research, which result the descriptive data in the written or oral words from observed object. The data in this research are qualitative data, in from of words, spoken or written of people an analyzed attitudes (Moleong, 1995: 3), The qualitative method it self usually uses the surrounding area as a data source; qualitative usually has an analytic descriptive nature, in which there are documentation, interview, and note.

2 .Object of the Study

The object of the study is Matthew Parkhill's *The Caller* movie.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study there are two sources of data, namely primary and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data are taken from the script of *The Caller* movie and movie itself.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data such book reference and browsed from web pages.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this case, the writer uses two techniques of collecting data:

a. Observation

This step is used to make the analysis by watching the movie repeatedly to get the understanding about this movie.

b. Library research

There are some procedures in library research, they are:

- 1) Finding out the important data and identifying the relevant elements.
- 2) Taking notes.
- 3) Arranging data into several parts based on its classification.
- 4) Developing data to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of analyzing data in this research is classifying the data based on the Freud's defense mechanism psychoanalysis approach by classifying the dialogue within the script.

I. Research Paper Organization

The research paper will be divided into V chapters. Chapter I is introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II will be underlying theory, covering notion of Psychoanalysis theory, basic principles of Psychoanalysis and the structural elements theory. Chapter III will be structural analysis which includes the characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme and Cinematography. Chapter IV will be Psychoanalysis of *The Caller* movie. It presents the application of underlying theory in analysis the problem. Chapter V will present conclusion and suggestion for this research paper also the synopsis of the story.