

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Survival instinct is the particular act that belongs to human being which appears when the human being is in uncommon situation circumstances. It means that the uncommon situation is the major factor which may cause the appearance of survival instinct. There are many factors that could cause the act of survival instinct: death, acute disease, poverty, complicated life, etc.

My Sister's Keeper is one of the most epic dramas which Nick Cassavetes ever produced. The screenplay of this film is adapted from the novel with the same title written by Jodi Picoult. Jodi Picoult is an American novelist who was born on May 19, 1966, in Nesconset on Long Island in New York. Picoult studied writing at Princeton University, where she earned her bachelor's degree. She also earned a master's degree in education from Harvard University. She is most famous for her *My Sister's Keeper* (2004), which won the winner of The Gold Book Award from Nielsen Bookscan UK, Vermont Green Mountain Book Award Master List (2007), Winner of the Best Novel, Spanish or Bilingual - 2009 Latino Book Awards, and the winner of the 2007 Virginia Readers' Choice Award. Many of her novels are reworking of social material. The

other novel of Jodi Picoult are *Change of Heart* (2008), *Nineteen Minutes* (2007), *Harvesting the Heart* (1993), *Picture Perfect* (1995), *Handle with Care* (2009), *House Rules* (2010), *Perfect Match* (2002), *Sing You Home* (2011), and many more. The only one novel which is filmed is *My Sister's Keeper* with the same title released in 2009.

My Sister's Keeper movie is directed by Nick Cassavetes, an American director, and screenplay by Jeremy Leven. The other movies which are also directed by him are *Alpha Dog* (2006) and *The Notebook* (2007) in which he is as both of the director and screenwriter, in *The Incredible Mrs. Ritchie* (2003) he is as the executive producer. Beside as the director he is also as an actor. Some of the movies which are starred by him are *Atlas Shrugged- Part 1* (2011) as Richard McNamara, *Life* (1999) as Sgt. Dillard, and *The Astronaut's Wife* (1999) as Alex Streck.

My Sister's Keeper is an epic drama movie which is inspired by the controversy of medical phenomenon called vitro fertilization; Anna Fitzgerald was brought into the world to be a genetic match for her older sister, Kate, who suffers from acute promyelocytic leukemia. Because of her sister's dependency on her, Anna is unable to live the life she wants; in and out of the hospital constantly, she cannot take part in extracurricular activities such as cheerleading or soccer. Because of the feeling of love to her sister, Anna, Kate told Anna to visit the lawyer named Alexander Campbell. After going home she goes to the office of Campbell Alexander in order to hire him to sue her parents "for the right to her own body." The

reason her parents had her in the first place, she explains, was so that she could donate bone marrow to her older sister. But over the years she has had to go through more and more surgeries. And now, her parents want her to donate a kidney to Kate, Anna has never had to donate a body organ before. Once Campbell realizes that she is very serious about what she is doing, he agrees to be her lawyer, knowing he will get a lot of publicity from the case. He is going to demand medical emancipation for Anna.

Anna's parents are shocked when they receive the legal papers informing them of what Anna is doing. When they realize that they are going to need a lawyer, Sara, who is a lawyer, decides to be the lawyer representing the opposing side, not really believing the case will go far and thinking she will be able to talk Anna out of the suit. She thinks Anna is only doing this for attention. Campbell makes it clear in court that he wants Anna out of the house since her mother is opposing counsel. The judge appoints a guardian ad litem for Anna, Julia Romano; her job is basically to represent the best interests of the minor child.

In this point, it can be seen perspective that Anna feels guilty about the decision she has made and questions it. She doesn't want to hurt her family. Campbell becomes very agitated at Anna's reluctance. He goes through his own turmoil, having to work with an old flame. It comes out during the trial that his service dog is meant to warn him when he is about to have seizures. Turns out that Campbell got into a car accident at 18 and suffered permanent seizures from it. He left Julia because he didn't want to

burden her with his affliction. When Julia finds out she begins to forgive Campbell for what he did, and they start a relationship again.

Brian finds out that Jesse, his son, has been the person starting all of the recent fires he and his men have been putting out. Confronting Jesse, the boy admits that he feels immense guilt due to the fact he was not a donor match for Kate. Brian realizes that Jesse's psyche worked to convince him that since he could not rescue, he had to destroy.

From Sara's perspective, which is told from the past, starting from when Kate was diagnosed, to the present story. The major point of perspective can be recognized through everything she did was always out of love. However, it seems that she did pay too much attention to Kate to the point of emotionally neglecting her other children. Kate was always her first concern and she didn't think much about that and considered it a given since Kate was dying. Throughout the trial and book, Sara realizes where she went wrong in some aspects of her parenting. Though she is frustrated at what Anna is doing, she never hates her or stops loving her for it.

Right before the end of the trial, a plot twist: When Anna first found out about the need for a kidney transplant, she was going to do it and had no problem with it. But, Kate convinced her not to. Turns out, she didn't want to go through with the surgery, she was sick of it all. She knew she would die without the transplant, but she just could not go through it all. It was Kate who convinced Anna to get a lawyer. The trial ends with

the judge ruling in Anna's favor. She receives medical emancipation from her parents. Everyone is happy that the case is over, and no one is mad at Anna for doing what she did.

A sad twist of fate then happens. Campbell is driving in a car with Anna in the passenger seat. The car is struck by a truck. Campbell makes it out okay, but Anna is left brain dead. Everyone is stricken with grief, especially Sara who had always been planning out the death of her other daughter, Kate. The doctor asks about organ donation. Campbell, being the medical power of attorney for Anna, says that Anna would want her kidney donated to her sister.

My Sister's Keeper was a major critical success. My sister's keeper was made in 2009 and released in the US in general on June 26, 2009. The film runtime is 109 minutes, released in VCD and DVD distributed by New line cinema. Besides that this movie also published in Canada, Mexico and United Kingdom. The good response from public makes *My Sister's Keeper* which only had \$30,000,000 for their budget; finally gain \$95,714,875 for their worldwide gross.

My Sister's Keeper is nominated for 5 awards category and winning four among them. It is Choice Summer Movie Drama for my sister's keeper, Outstanding Actress in Motion Picture for Cameron Diaz, Best Performance in a Feature Film - Leading Young Actress for Abigail Breslin, Best Performance in a Feature Film - Supporting Actress for Sofia Vassilieva.

My Sister's Keeper is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is *My Sister's Keeper* has the uncommon story that belongs to social life in the circumstances of family. When the parents realized that their own child has a terrible disease relates directly to the death, they absolutely try to help and support both medically and also psychologically as possible as they can. The way that would be taken could be both commonly or even very uncommonly in order to realize the best thing for their own child. Parents are touched by their child in whatever situation included when they are in conducive or even terrible situation. Nick Cassavetes, as the director of *My Sister's Keeper* makes the audience touched when the parent's instinct impact the survival instinct belong to their child. It is getting more complicated when the parent's instincts do even crush into the law.

The second aspect is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Nick Cassavetes makes the audience feel touched with this epic drama movie, even when the movie shows about the invisible intimidation to the underage children. The intimidation is indirectly appearing because it is done by realistic phenomena. It is necessary to reconsider the wise decision that would be taken because entire children have same right. The casts of this film also have valuable part. In this film, Cameron Diaz who plays as Sara Fitzgerald is a wonderful actress. She makes the character of Sara Fitzgerald is really alive. When people talk about Sara Fitzgerald, they will realize that she is the great parent who always takes care of her

children's even when they are in terrible condition. Abigail Breslin also plays Anna Fitzgerald very well. Her acting is successfully representing the children who pretends to be indirectly intimidated by her parent in order to fulfill the other objective belongs to duty of parents.

The third is humanity feeling that appears in this movie. Nick Cassavetes, as the director, views the humanity through actors and the actress appropriately. The spirit of the parents in order to protect and keep caring of their own children is an obligation that should be done as the humanity perspective. The circumstances of the parents humanity is begun when the medical department uttered uncommon suggestion which even in the circumstances of law could be forbidden. The sacrificing of the parents could be very risky. The humanity is the crucial aspect of the movie because it contains a lot of messages that try to be delivered to the audiences.

The last is the survival instinct which is reflected in *My Sister's Keeper* is one of appealing aspects that is interesting to be studied. Nick Cassavetes, the director, wants the audience underline the sacrificing of the parents especially which belongs to mother instinct. But the instinct potentially causes the blind thinking of human being because of the high obsession to protect one child by sacrificing another one. The effects can be studied in psychoanalytical term which studies the psychology of human being.

Based on the reasons, the researcher will analyze *My Sister's Keeper* movie by using a psychoanalytical theory by Sigmund Freud. So the researcher constructs the title **SURVIVAL INSTINCT IN NICK CASSAVETES MY SISTER'S KEEPER MOVIE (2009): A PSYCHOANALYTICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

There are three researchers that had been conducted on Jodi Picoult *My Sister's Keeper* novel. The first researcher who analyzes the novel of *My Sister's Keeper* is namely Santa Miduk (2010), University of North Sumatra student, with the thesis entitled “ Analysis of Meaning of Phrasal Verbs Found In Jodi Picoult's Novel *My Sister's Keeper*”. In her research, she finds there are 132 sentences that contain of phrasal verbs in *My Sister's Keeper* novel.

The second researcher is Dini Herawaty (2010), Student of The State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim of Malang, with the thesis entitled “ Psychological Dilemma of The Major Characters in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* “. In her research, she finds the id, ego, and superego of both Anna and Sara take place in every decision they have made.

The three researcher is Dewi Nina Septiningtyas (2011), a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, with the thesis entitled “Moral Conflicts of Organ Donation In Nick Cassavetes's *My Sister's Keeper*”. In

her research, she finds the id, ego, and superego of both Anna and Sara in the moral conflicts.

This research will be completed and it can enrich the three previous researches above. This research is different from them, it focuses on the survival instinct with using a psychoanalytical approach.

C. Problem Statement

Knowing that the problem is the important part of research, the writer proposes, “How is survival instinct reflected in Nick Cassavetes’s *My Sister’s Keeper* movie (2009) using a psychoanalytical approach?”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the survival instinct in Nick Cassavete’s *My Sister’s Keeper* movie based on a psychoanalytical approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follow:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural element.
2. To describe the film based on psychoanalytical approach by Sigmund Freud.

F. The Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical benefit

Theoretical benefit is the study is expected contribute to the development of the body knowledge, especially the literary study in Nick Cassavetes's *My Sister's Keeper* movie.

2. Practical benefit

Practical benefit is the study is expected to give an additional contribution on understanding the major character in Nick Cassavetes's *My Sister's Keeper* are viewed by psychoanalytic approach- Sigmund Freud.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the movie applying psychoanalytic approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of research, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collectin, and (5) determining tchnique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* movie directed by Nick Cassavete and has already been published by New Line Cinema, Universal Picture, and Columbia Picture in 2010, USA. It is analyzed by applying a psychoanalytic approach.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data which are needed to do this research.

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is the data obtained from all the words, dialogues, phrases, and sentences occurring in the film itself, *My Sister's Keeper* by Nick Cassavetes.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data, such as the biography of the author, the website from the internet about the *My Sister's Keeper* movie and other resources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in this study is library research. The necessary steps are as follow:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several part based on its classification

- d. Analyzing the data
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzing data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The first step in analyzing the data of this research is clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. Secondary step in analyzing data based on psychoanalytic theory proposed by Sigmund Freud.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “survival instinct in Nick Cassavette’s *My Sister’s Keeper* movie (2010): A Psychoanalytic 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 the Notion of the Psychoanalytic, Major Structure of Human Being Personality. Chapter III is structural analysis which includes character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, and theme. Chapter IV deals with psychoanalytic analysis and chapter V deals with conclusion and suggestion.