MASCULINITY AND POWER REFLECTED IN CHRISTOPER NOLAN’S
BATMAN THE DARK KNIGHT RISES MOVIE (2012):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

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Abstract
This study is about Masculinity and Power. The major problem of this study is to
reveal how major characters apply his masculinity and power that they have to
survive and shows their existance in The Dark Knight Rises movie created by
Christoper Nolan published in 2012. There are two objectives: the first is to
analyze the movie in term of structural elements and the second is to analyze the
novel based on Psychoanalytic Approach. The object of the study is The Dark
Knight Rises movie by Christoper Nolan. It used Psychoanalytic Approach. This
study belongs to qualitative research. In this research, there are two types of data,
namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the movie
and the secondary data is other material related to the study. Both data are
collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The
result of the study shows the following conclusions. First, based on the structural
analysis it is clear that in The Dark Knight Rises movie, Christoper Nolan deliver
message that masculinity and power is needed in everyone’s life because it is
important and can influence someone’s life to survive in their environment,
because someone who has a strength masculinity and power can show who really
they are and show their existance. Second, based on the psychoanalytic approach
shows that masculinity and power can give effect to people’s mind.

Keywords: Masculinity, Power, The Dark Knight Rises, Psychoanalytic
Approach
A. Introduction

1. Background of the Study

*The Dark Knight Rises* is a 2012 superhero film directed by Christopher Nolan, who co-wrote the screenplay with his brother Jonathan Nolan and the story with David S. Goyer. Featuring the DC Comics character Batman, the film is the final installment in Nolan's Batman film trilogy, and it is the sequel to *Batman Begins* (2005) and *The Dark Knight* (2008), and release dates on May 20, 2012.

The characters in *The Dark Knight Rises* Movie are portraying Christian Bale as Batman, Anne Hathaway as Selina Kyle, Tom Hardy as Bane, Gary Oldman as James Gordon, Marion Cottilard as Miranda, Michael Caine as Alfre Pennyworth, Morgan Freeman as Lucius Fox and Joseph Gordon Levitt as John Blake. Filming took place in various locations, including Jodhpur, London, Nottingham, Glasgow, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark, and Pittsburgh. The *Dark Knight Rises* premiered in New York City on July 16, 2012. The film was released in Australia and New Zealand on July 19, 2012, and in North America and the United Kingdom on July 20, 2012. Upon release it received a positive critical response and grossed over $1.081 billion worldwide. The *Dark Knight Rises* is currently the ninth highest-grossing film of all time, the third highest-grossing film of 2012, and the third highest-grossing superhero film of all time.

Learning from the figure that has stated on the story above, the researcher finds the reason that is to study *Batman the Dark Knight Rises movie* by using psychoanalytic criticism. Here masculinity and power occurs when the major character, Bruce Wayne must fight against him self and also for his life, for the existence of Batman as a superhero, and also for the things he believes in when he must take the right decision for the survival of Gotham city, he sacrificed everything for the sustainability of Gotham city while he was also plagued by internal problems that made him have to hide and lock himself in his
house. Until one day he had to get out from his exile, because the instigation of his influential people and there are too many events out there involved him and forced him to reveal himself again, he must continue to fight the inner and the decision usually of selfishness among people who continue to support and leave. And he has to defend the existence of the forceful, strong and masculine Batman as a hero who always need of Gotham city where the city was become chaotic and unorganized. *The Dark Knight Rises* movie has a masculinity and power in main character; the psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud is suitable in analyzing this film through the major character.

2. Literature Review

There is no previous study on *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* 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 *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie. The resesearcher uses a psychoanalytic approach to analyze the data and using of *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie as an object. The writer analyzes *Masculinity and Power Reflected in Christoper Nolan’s Batman The Dark Knight Rises Movie (2012) : A Psychoanalytic Approach*

3. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher limits the object with focuses on major character in *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie by Christopher Nolan’s on 2012, based on an Psychoanalytic Approach.

4. Problem Statement

Based on the reason in the Background of the study, the researcher proposes the problem statement as follows, how is masculinity and power reflected in Christoper Nolan’s Batman The Dark Knight Rises movie (2012) ?
5. **Objective of the Study**

According to the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are:

a. To analyze *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie based on its structural elements.

b. To analyze *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie by using a psychoanalytic approach.

6. **Benefit of the Study**

The researcher expects this research to be useful for other by deciding the benefits of study into two, they are as follows:

a. **Theoretical Benefit**

   To give some contributions to larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Christopher Nolan’s *Batman The Dark Knight Rises* movie.

b. **Practical Benefit**

   The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of writer and other students at UMS or other universities which are interested with literary studies.

7. **Underlying Theory**

   a. **Notion of Psychoanalysis**

      Psychoanalytic is a theory, which is proposed by Sigmund Freud. It means a new concept of human being, in which unconsciousness plays a significant role. For the first time, the term of psychoanalysis is used to show a new method of the study through the psyche processes (like a dream), which cannot be reached, by scientific study before (Bertens, 1983: 13).

   b. **System of Personality**

      Sigmund Freud has had an enormous impact on psychology, so the researcher uses his theory in analyzing
psychological aspect in this novel. Some of the richness of Freud’s approach can be seen in his well-known theory that the mind is divided into three parts. They are the id, ego, and superego.

1) **Id**

   *Id* refers to the biological aspects and the original system in the personality. *Id* contains the biological elements include instinct and *id* is the conscious psychic energy to operate *ego* and *superego*.

2) **Ego**

   *Ego* is a psychological aspect of personality and emerges because of the organism need to get in touch with the reality.

3) **Superego**

   *Superego* operates according to the morality principle and serves primarily to protect society and us from *id*. *Superego* has a function to determine true or false, proper or not, good or bad, in order human being will act based on the social morality.

c. **Masculinity**

   Definitions of masculinity have mostly taken by our cultural standpoint for granted, but have followed different strategies to characterize the type of person who is masculine. Four main strategies have been followed: they are easily distinguished in terms of their logic, though often combined in practice. (Connell, R.W. 2005:68)

   According to Connell there are four main strategies for defining masculinity:

   1) **Essentialist**

   Connell essentialist definitions usually pick a feature that defines the core of the masculine, and hang an account of men’s live on that. Freud flirted with an essential definition when he equated masculinity with activity in contrast to
feminine passivity – though he came to see that equation as oversimplified. Later author’s attempts to capture an essence of masculinity have been colorfully varied: risk-taking, responsibility, irresponsibility, aggression, etc. The weakness in the essential approach is obvious the choice of the essence quite arbitrary. (Connell, 2005:68)

2) Positivist

Positivist definitions define masculinity as that which men actually are. They include the Male/Female scale in psychology and ethnographic studies that describe the pattern of men's lives and then call that pattern masculinity. There are three problems with this: a) there is no description without a standpoint. These "neutral" descriptions are based on assumptions about gender (Ex., choice of items on the Male/Female scale) b) to separate what men do from what women do requires that we already separate the categories of men and women; c) to define masculinity as what men actually are prevents the usage of the terms in which we describe some women as masculine and some men as feminine, etc. In fact the terms masculine and feminine go beyond simply differences between men and women, but describe differences within each sex on issues of gender. (Connell, 2005:69)

3) Normative

Normative definitions offer a standard for what men ought to be like John Wayne standards or of genres such as thriller, strict sex role theory treats masculinity precisely as a social norm for the behavior of men. The problem with this is that we cannot define masculinity according to a standard that only a minute, if an, number of men actually meet. (Connell, 2005:70)
4) Semiotic

Define that masculinity through a system of symbolic difference between masculinity and femininity. Masculinity is defined as that which is not feminine. This definition uses masculinity as the master signifier, the place of symbolic authority, femininity is defined by lack. This definition has been very effective in cultural analysis, but it is limited in scope because it focuses on discourse. Connell argues that we need to be able to talk about other relationships. What he likes about it is the principle of connection. Masculinity only exists within a system of gender relations. (Connell, 2005:70)

d. Power

Ginkel’s in his perspective of unlimited power expansion one can distinguish three categories of power-increasing power, namely, moral power, creative power, and cognitive power (Ginkel, 1999:14)

1) Moral Power

Ginkel believes that moral power is the power to translate a paramount philosophical or theological concept into an abstract and generalist design for the human species it should become. Moral power produces the most general of all generalist concepts, namely universal concepts of humankind and world with a fixed philosophical or theological point of orientation. (Ginkel, 1999:15)

2) Creative Power

According to Ginkel creative power is the power to derive from a chosen abstract and generalist moral design a concrete and special design for concretely existing human beings of given day and age. Unlike animals, humans design and make their own nations and their own complex
societies, their systems of specialist task division and mutual trust, their weapons, tools, machines, vehicles, and buildings, their school, their sciences, and technologies, and indeed their own families and their own individual personalities, their own self-esteem, their own specialist competence, and their own happiness. (Ginkel, 1999:15)

3) Cognitive Power

Based on the principle that knowledge is power, cognitive power is the power of discovery and invention by means of systematically conducted science and technology. This is neutral and objective knowledge of the true facts, made and meant for all human minds, fit for any human hand. (Ginkel, 1999:16)

B. Research Method

In this study or research the researcher applies qualitative research. There are two data sources that are needed to do this research. They are primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is The Dark Knight Rises movie by Christopher Nolan. While, the secondary data is taken from the other data, which have a relationship with the study.

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are: reading the novel repeatedly, searching some important information, taking some important notes, and classifying the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study. The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the analysis elements of the novel and a psychoanalytic approach.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

In this research finding, the researcher determines some points to analyze The Dark Knight Rises movie (2012) as follows:
1. Structural Elements of the Movie
   a. Characters and Characterization
      1) Major Characters
         a) Bruce Wayne or Batman
            Bruce Wayne is one of the most important figures in this movie or can be regarded as the most important character that exist in *The Dark Knight Rises* movie. He has white skin, good looking face with hazel eyes, a bit brown straight hair, and he was around 35-40 years old, his body is tall, athletic, strong and tough. He is so charismatic and has a high level of masculine side. On the other hand he has a second identity as a superhero and the protector of Gotham city called Batman, who wears the bat costume and also a mask.
        b) Selina Kyle or Cat Woman
            Selina Kyle is a cat burglar, she is a thief who act in the night. At the first she is described as an associate with Bane the enemy of Batman, but later she establishes a relationship with Batman. She is a beautiful woman. Her body is slender and tall, she has white skin, red lips and long brown straight hair. She is a young attractive woman, she lives with her friend in a rented house, at old town of Gotham city.
      2) Minor Characters
         a) Alfred Pennyworth
            Alfred is a butler in Wayne's family. He served the family since Bruce still young. He is about 60 years old, he has white skin and his body is tall. His hair is white and has blue eyes. Socially, he is Bruce Wayne’s butler, guardian, and above all, his best friends. Morally, he is a faithful butler, a tireless, compassionate and always provides what
Bruce wants. He was a confidant and surrogate father figure for Bruce. He continues to aid Bruce on his missions as well as supplying him with useful advice, until he unable to accept Bruce's desire to revive his Batman persona, even then he resign from his position to impress the seriousness of him declined Bruce’s desire.

b) Lucius Fox

Lucius Fox is a head researcher and he is a friend of Thomas Wayne who is demoted by Wayne Enterprises CEO William Earle to oversee the supplies of Wayne Enterprises' aborted research projects and prototypes. He is a old man about 60years old, he has dark brown skin, his hair is grey and has a mustache. He is Bruce Wayne's business manager who support secretly runs the business interests that supply Batman's equipments need as well as financing his operations. He is an genius old man, intelligent and full of ideas. He runs Wayne Enterprises on behalf of Bruce Wayne and serves as his armor, providing him with high-tech equipment.

b. Setting

1) Setting of place

The Dark Knight Rises movie sets in many places such as in Wayne Enterprises, Wayne Mansion, Batcave, Gotham City Stadium, The Pit, Gotham General Hospital, etc.

2) Setting of Time

This movie also uses many different setting of time. The first is the day (at noon), the scene takes when the characters perform their daily activities, and then in the
evening and the last is in the night where commonly the scene taken at the night.

c. Point of View

In this study the researcher uses two kinds point of view. The first point of view refers to camera shot taken as if seen through the eyes of a character and the second is point of view refers to the perspective of the story teller.

d. Theme

The theme in *The Dark Knight Rises* movie is very interesting, how Batman survived in a collapsed condition, without the people he loves. Then how he managed to rise up again with the remnants of his strength, power and masculinity that he had.

e. Plot

The researcher uses three parts of a plot to divide the story in *The Dark Knight Rises* movie, the first is the Beginning, second is The Middle where divided into two parts, complication and climax. The last is the ending.

2. Technical Elements of The movie
   a. *Mise-en-scene*

      1) Set Dressing and Properties

      In *The Dark Knight Rises* uses various kind of set dressing and properties such as the vehicles of Batman, bus, GPD car, flag, lamp and etc.

      2) Costume and Make Up

      In The Dark Knight Rises uses many costume for major characters such as Bat Costume who wear by Batman, Cat Woman costume who wear by Selina and Bane Costume and etc.

      3) Lighting
In The Dark Knight Rises there have five kinds of lighting that is attached Shadow, Cast Shadow, frontal lighting, under lighting and top lighting. Forms of lighting and the color of lighting is different and also gives different effects too

b. Cinematography

1) Photographic Qualities of the Shot

In The Dark Knight Rises the quality of the shot which is use was very interesting, because it uses the amazing shot and also amazing effect which eventually switched to the next scene.

2) Framing of the Shot

In The Dark Knight Rises movie, there are three kinds of frames. The first is straight angle, high angle and low angle.

3) Duration of the Shot

Duration of the shot in The Dark Knight Rises movie is use by using of time that presents in every scene, the duration uses in the grooves were considered, so the resolution of the story can fit with the target.

c. Editing

1) Axis of Action, consists of a person walking, two people conversing, a car racing along a road is assumed to project along a discernible and predictable line. In this movie there a conversation between Jim Gordon and Captain Jones to make the police out who trapped.

2) Establishing Shot, is delineating the overall space of the office: the door, the intervening area, and the desk.

3) A Reverse Shot is simply a shot of the opposite end of the axis of action and the eye-line match is the expressionless actors seem to looking at whatever is in the next shot, it begins with a character
looking at something off screen, then there will be a cut to the object or person that he is looking at.

4) Reestablishing Shot is one of the most common patterns of development of space in the classical continuity style. Match on action is a figure starts to stand up and it is very powerful device.

5) Match on Action is tactic for ensuring spatial continuity. On the fig. shows that Batman asks to Blake for rescuing the people of Gotham before the bomb explode.

6) Cross Cutting in an unrestricted knowledge casual, temporal or spatial information by alternating shots from one line of action in one place with shots of other events in other places. It happened when Miranda or Talia try to kill Bruce or Batman with her knife.

d. Sound

The sound effect of *Batman the Dark Knight Rises* movie is can be heard clearly. Every action in this movie has sound effect that supports it so the action more impresser. The composer of this movie, Hans Zimmer makes the same soundtrack in the *Batman the Dark Knight Rises* movie like he did in the previous movie.

3. Psychoanalytic Analysis

a. Basic Concept of Psychoanalytic

1) Bruce Wayne’s Personality

Bruce Wayne’s *id* is need something or someone that can make his spirit and power back again, his *id* drive depends on the situation and people around him. But his *ego* is stronger than his *id*. He tries to face many problems that attack him, with his power and masculinity, he still survive. He wants to give the best for Gotham and people that he loved. Over all his action with his *ego* which does not always make a true action but also make a false action. Wayne drives his *ego* mind. In this movie Batman’s *superego* also
gives a good role to control his ego. So he can give a good decision about his action.

2) **Selina Kyle’s Personality**

Selina’s id is more dominant on herself, due to circumstances which forced her to do bad things for the safety and survival of her life. Selina’s ego is a bit more controlling her id, and her superego finally brings her back to Gotham and help Batman to save the city.

3) **James Gordon’s Personality**

Gordon’s id is for control himself in order to save his career. Gordon’s id balances with his ego, but her superego also takes control about his ego mind.

b. **Masculinity**

*The Dark Knight Rises* movie also tells about the classifier of masculinity. There is have four the classifier of masculinity they are Essentialist, Positivist, Normative, and Semiotic. Bruce Wayne shows his masculinity side in many condition and problems that he faces, such when he must survive against himself when he faces his enemy. Batman’s psychological conditions that do not want to be perceived as a hero by everyone, he just does his obligations to protect Gotham. When he does his action he always uses masks and bat costume to cover his real identity.

The election of costume in major character, for the example is Batman, he wears a bat costume because it represents a strong symbol about him that arises from his fight against fear. Cat women, she uses a cat mask and black costume because it represents that she wants to look as a vivacious female cat in every her act. Bane, he uses masks and hard clothes in addition to build a strong and brutal character, and he also use that mask as withstand pain in his face. The costumes that
characters wear its appropriate with semotic masculinity which shows the symbol of each characters.

**c. Power**

In *The Dark Knight Rises* movie also described Power, there are three classes about power, they are moral power, creative power and cognitive power. Moral power of Batman is clearly defined in *Batman* *The Dark Knight Rises* movie. He is the representative of a real hero who is ready to sacrifice everything even himself for a happiness and peace in Gotham city. In every action, he also has many good principles and he always defends the truth.

Second, creative Power, in Batman *The Dark Knight Rises* creative power can be seen in the election of tools and vehicles that Batman and the other characters use in the movie. Third, Cognitive Power, *The Dark Knight Rises* movie can be seen from the action of Batman in his movie, during his action he always supports himself by modern technology.

**D. Conclusion**

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in the previous chapter, the researcher finally takes some conclusions. *The Dark Knight Rises* movie tells about the masculinity and power especially in Batman. Start from anything that he wears such costume, vehicles, weapon and also all technologies that support him, and also from his responsibility and behavior its more or less describes masculinity on Batman. Batman also has a great power, he always believes about his power upon himself. His power brings him rise and fight to protect Gotham city.

**E. Suggestion**

*The Dark Knight Rises* movie reflected by Christoper Nolan is very interesting to watch and study. The researcher, therefore, suggests the other researcher to make deeper research about the movie from other approaches. For example, by analyzing the existence of Batman by using
Individual Psychological Approach, about how he stay and rise to get belief from publics as a good superhero. Existence side is also important, because it can shows how meaningful people in society, whether people gives advantage to the other or not. The researcher realizes that this study is not perfect yet because of her limited knowledge in literature. The researcher hopes that the reader can take the lesson from this movie and uses this study to compare this research with another’s in order to widen the readers’ knowledge to the development of literary study.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


VIRTUAL REFERENCES


