





**PERSONALITY IN TERRY McCALEB, THE MAJOR CHARACTER  
OF *BLOOD WORK* MOVIE :  
A PSYCHOANALITIC APPROACH**

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**Abstract**

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*The problem of the study is the past trauma focused on the major character namely Terry McCaleb and the structural elements in Brian's Blood Work. This study is a qualitative study. The research uses two data sources, namely primary data source and secondary data source. The primary data source is the data taken from the text of Blood Work by Brian Helgeland. The secondary data source is other source related to the analysis such as the author biography, books about the psychology, particularly related to the psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud, and internet. The method of collecting data is done through documentation or library research. The techniques of data analysis are taking note the data, arranging the data, describing the data based on psychoanalytic theory. Based on the analysis, the researcher draws conclusion. Blood Work movie explains that the major character in the movie is so traumatic. He is a FBI agent who has a heart attack when he try to catch the killer before retirement. Since the tragedy, he has shut down and shut him self off from the world. He lives a quiet life and restoring the boat on which he lives in Los Angeles Harbor. When Graciela Rivers asks him to investigate her sister Gloria's death, her story hooks him immediately, the past trauma drives him to suicide. The main character, Terry McCaleb shows the act of past trauma. He is willing to leave his memory on the tragedy that is finding the killer. He experienced intense emotion and reactivity (mostly anger and anxiety), flashback, and numbness. Those are emotional reactions.*

*Key words: Past Trauma, psychoanalytic, literature.*

## A. Introduction

Psychoanalysis as a form of therapy is based on the assumption that the ways to cure neurosis is to allow patients to gain access to their repressed ideas. Conflicts from the fixated stage encourage them to face up whatever emerges from the unconscious. Freud uses the term insight to refer to these processes. However, this is difficult to achieve because the emergence of extremely painful ideas and memories into consciousness produces a very high level of anxiety, especially in personality.

Personality is that pattern of characteristic thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that distinguishes one person from another and that persists over time and situations. A person who is traumatized and depressed often focuses on the negative as if this negates the entire positive (Keyes, 2003: 6). The characteristic of literature lies in the fact there are two aspects in it, imaginative and reality aspects. Literature can be seen as a mirror of life, so some emotions inspire the author in producing the literary work.

The researcher chooses to analyze the personality on *Blood Work* movie of the major character in Terry McCaleb and it is a therapy drama. Drama is a story in dialogue performed by actors, on stage before an audience. It combines the use of language with representational arts involving, costuming, and actors' physical appearance. Thus a drama only becomes a complete work of art when it is seen on the stage, and the written text of a play is only its skeletal frame-lacking flesh blood, and a life of its own (Pickering, 1997: 1113).

*Blood Work* is a 1998 drama film written on March 9, 1998 and directed by Clint Eastwood; and it was produced by him. The film stars Clint Eastwood as Terry McCaleb, Angelica Huston as Dr. Bonnie Fox, Wanda De Jesus as Graciela Rivers, Buddy Noone as Jeff Daniels, and Tina Lifford as Jaye Winston. Beside that *Blood Work* is one of the first films to use September 11th as a catalyst for a fictional story. Terry McCaleb is an ailing veteran FBI agent who try to catch the murder at the ATM in San Pedro, California. But when he hunted the murder, a heart break stopped him until he almost died. Since the tragedy, McCaleb has shut him self off from the world. Then, he is taken control by his past trauma.

What the researcher's going to do is analyzing the behaviors of certain character, especially the major character in Terry McCaleb of *Blood Work* movie. The approach being implemented is a psychoanalytic approach. It is concerned with motivations of human thought and actions. It is as a therapeutic method, originated by Sigmund Freud, for treating mental disorders by investigating the interactions of conscious and unconscious elements of one's mind and bringing repressed fears and conflicts into conscious mind, using technique such as dream interpretation and free association. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological\\_trauma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_trauma)).

The theory that is going to be applied in this analysis is personality in a psychoanalytic perspective. Psychoanalytic theory originated with the work of Sigmund Freud. According to Freud, conflicts that occur during each of these stages can have a lifelong influence on personality and behavior. Personality is made up of the characteristic patterns of thoughts, feelings and behaviors that make a person unique. So, the researcher would like conduct a research paper entitled **“PERSONALITY IN TERRY McCaleb, THE MAJOR CHARACTER OF ‘BLOOD WORK’ MOVIE: A PSYCHOANALITIC APPROACH”**.

The study related to this research is conducted by Joko Saputro (UMS, 1998) entitled Traumatic Experience of the Major Character in Chekov's **‘The Brute’: a Psychoanalytic Approach**.

From the researches, the researcher would like to analyze personality in **Terry McCaleb, the Major Character of Blood Work: a Psychoanalytic Approach**.

Based on the research background, the writer will formulate the problem “How does life experience of Terry McCaleb influence his personality as reflected in *Blood Work* movie?”

The objectives of the study are:

- a. To analyze the structural elements of the movie.
- b. To analyze the movie based on a psychoanalytic approach.

The theory that is going to be applied on this research provides the explanation of psychoanalytic approach as the basic theory. The theory deals with the notion psychoanalysis, structure of personality, review on past

trauma, structural element of the movie, and theoretical application.

## **B. Research Method**

The object of the research is personality of the major character in Terry McCaleb's *Blood Work* movie.

The type of this study is qualitative research. It is qualitative research because it describes the personality of the major character in Terry McCaleb's *Blood Work* movie.

This study use library data, which are classified into two categories:

### a. Primary Data Source

Primary data source is the dialogue in the major character in Terry McCaleb's *Blood Work* movie.

### b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other source and website about the movie and another data related to this research.

In writing this research paper, the researcher use certain procedures as follows: watching the film repeatedly and deciding the important words, phrases, sentences, and dialogues.

The technique of the data analysis is descriptive. It means that the researcher interprets the text and content to get the needed data. This data then, will be used to analyze the personality of the major character in Terry McCaleb's *Blood Work* movie by implementing theory of personality in a psychoanalytic view.

## **C. Finding and Discussion**

### **1. Structure of Terry McCaleb's Personality**

#### a. Terry McCaleb's *Id*

Terry McCaleb's first *id* began to occur when McCaleb investigated the case where there were a murder and a robbery near the ATM. He believes that the killer was still in the crowd. The killer had left him a taunting message saying, "Catch me, McCaleb." McCaleb spots the killer, nicknamed "The Code Killer," personalized messages along with bloody corpses in a crowd. After he spotted the killer, he tried to catch him but suddenly a heart attack stopped him.

His second *id* occurs when McCaleb met Graciella, unexpected visitor who's sister was killed in a robbery shop. Graciella told that his heart was her sister's and she wanted McCaleb to find out the killer. Finally, he decided that he wanted to investigate the case and tried to find the killer as the owe for his new heart from Graciella's sister.

The third *id* occurs when McCaleb tried to stop his mind about the past trauma and lived into a houseboat. He has been given a second chance at life by receiving the heart of a murder victim. He was approached by a woman named Graciella Rivers, the victim's sister and asked him to solve the case. He was advised by his physician not to working hard but he defied the advice of his physician, Dr. Bonnie Fox, and set out to find the killer with the help of his neighbor, Buddy Noone, who lived on a houseboat near his, and a local police detective, Jaye Winston.

b. McCaleb's *Ego*

McCaleb's *ego* for first time begins dominated by *superego* when in an emotional situation McCaleb tried to catch the killer. But suddenly a heart attack paused his way. He was frustrated to catch or stopped his way. It showed that the big dramatic moment just hang there, twisting in the wind.

The second *ego* is dominated by McCaleb's *superego* when Graciella wanted McCaleb to find out the killer. McCaleb was confused between two choices, do what Dr Bonnie Fox advice not to working hard or accept to find out the killer. It made him in a dilemma and made him unable to sleep at night. Then he called Graciella and told her that he would do the investigation as the owe to her sister.

The third *ego* is dominated by *superego* when Dr Bonnie Fox tried to stop McCaleb continuing the investigation and advised him to reject Graciella orders. If McCaleb tried to continue the case, it caused an infection or rejection that can make him in a danger. So, she suggested him to continue the therapy for his new heart. Finally, his *ego* listened to the *superego*, McCaleb continued the investigation because he had no choice.

c. McCaleb's *Superego*

McCaleb's first *superego* occurs when his *id* says that he must catch the killer. But suddenly a heart attack paused his way. Frustrated to catch or stopped his way, his *superego* drove him to hold his 38 service revolver and bunk against near blinding pain, he aimed through the fence. Suddenly, illuminated by a spotlight, the revolver slipped from his hand as the pain overwhelmed him.

The second *superego* occurs when McCaleb found Buddy as the killer and he wanted to arrest him. His *id* said that he must be unable to arrest Buddy as the killer but McCaleb anger confused him didn't know what to do and raised his 38 revolver to shoot Buddy and a few times later McCaleb shot him when Buddy start to go to leave McCaleb .

The third *superego* occurs when McCaleb's *id* says that he must avoid from the questions about his health and duty to handle the case, because Dr Bonnie Fox was afraid it will be dangerous for his life, but his *superego* warns him that he should let him self solve the case while he joined the therapy although he did not want. It happened when McCaleb got confused and he didn't have a choice about his duty to investigate the case and the danger for his life if he did it. Then Dr Bonnie Fox asked him for therapy.

## 2. Reactions on Past Trauma Reflected by the Major Character

Here, the objective is formulated to show the past trauma reflected by Terry McCaleb, the major character. Past trauma is trauma experience that is very difficult to lose. Past trauma usually happened because of sadness experiences. It can happen to everyone, children, and adult. Trauma also gives negative effects to every person who has an extremely stressful experience. To cure the problems of past trauma people can follow therapy on psychiatry.

In this study, the researcher showed the past trauma reflected by the major character. The kind of traumatic faced by Terry McCaleb is psychological trauma. It is a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a traumatic event. The event reactions on past trauma reflected by the major character are emotional and physical reactions.

The reactions were shown when McCaleb irritated look at the family's photo and faced on the question sucks. It can be seen on the following data:

**GRACIELLA**

Excuse me?

**McCALEB**

Which one is dead?

**GRACIELLA**

My sister. Gloria Torres. Glory. Her son's name is Raymond. McCaleb holds the photo out, sighs.

**McCALEB**

Look, Miss Rivers, I just can't do this. I'm sorry. She makes no move to take the photo.

**GRACIELLA**

Look at it again. Please. Just one more time and then I'll leave you alone. Tell me if you feel anything?

**McCALEB**

(irritated) I was an F.B.I. agent, not a psychic. Now do you want this photo back or not?

**GRACIELLA**

I have a double. You know, two for the price of one. You'll want to keep that one.

**McCALEB**

Why would I want to do that? Graciella reaches out her hand. Past the photo McCaleb still holds out. She places the palm of her hand on his chest, runs it slowly down the front of his shirt, her fingers tracing the scar beneath.

**GRACIELLA**

Your heart. It was my sister's. (a beat) My phone number's on the back if you change your mind. With that, Graciella steps up to the dock and starts away. Speechless, McCaleb watches her go, then turns over the photo. A number is scrawled on back.

From the analysis above the researcher discusses several problems. In *Blood Work* movie by Clint Eastwood, the major character is Terry McCaleb. The personality of the major character is focused on the Sigmund Freud theory based named *id*, *ego* and *superego* because it consists of need, wants, activity and judgment. The relationship within the past trauma is the basic elements of past trauma itself-*id*, *ego* and *superego*. Beside that, the researcher explained about reactions of past trauma on the major character. There are kinds of the reactions that are emotional reaction and physical reaction of the major character in the explained above. To more details, so the researcher gives explanations about McCaleb's *id*, *ego* and *superego*.

Terry McCaleb's first *id* begins to occur when McCaleb investigated the case where there were a murder and a robbery near the ATM. McCaleb believes that the killer was still in the crowd. The killer has left him a taunting message saying, "Catch me, McCaleb." McCaleb spots the killer, nicknamed "The Code Killer," personalized messages along with bloody corpses in a crowd. After he spotted the killer, he tried to catch him but suddenly a heart attack stopped him.

In McCaleb's second *id* occurs when McCaleb met Graciella, unexpected visitor whose sister was killed in a robbery shop. Graciella told that his heart was her sister's and she wanted McCaleb to find out the killer. Finally, he decided that he wanted to investigate the case and tried to find the killer as the owe for his new heart from Graciella's sister.

In McCaleb's third *id* occurs when he tried to stop his mind about the past trauma and lives into a houseboat. He had been given a second chance at life by receiving the heart of a murder victim. He was approached by a woman named Graciella Rivers, the victim's sister and asked him to solve the case. He was advised by his physician not to working hard but he defies the advice of his physician, Dr. Bonnie Fox, and set out to find the killer with the help of his neighbor Buddy Noone, who lived on a houseboat near his, and a local police detective, Jaye Winston.

In McCaleb's first *ego* occurs when in emotional situation McCaleb tried to catch the killer. But suddenly a heart attack paused his way. He was frustrated to catch or stopped his way. It showed that the big dramatic moment just hangs there, twisting in the wind.

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McCaleb tried to continue the case, it caused an infection or rejection that made him in a danger. So, she suggested him to continue the therapy for his new heart. Finally, his *ego* listened to the *superego*; McCaleb continued the investigation because he had no choice.

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The last is reactions on past trauma reflected by the major character. In this study, the researcher showed the past trauma. It is a type of damage to the psyche that occurs as a result of a traumatic event. The event reactions on past trauma are emotional and psychical reactions.

#### **D. Conclusion**

After analyzing *Blood Work* movie using Psychoanalytic approach, the researcher can draw the following conclusions; firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that the movie is showing that the people in *Blood Work* movie willing to help Terry McCaleb to do therapy. Terry McCaleb is falling

into a deep depression about his past and need someone to take care of him and give support in his life.

Secondly, based on the psychoanalytic approach, the researcher concludes that the influence of Terry McCaleb's past trauma in his personality is that he can change his bad attitudes to be good attitudes. The examples of Terry McCaleb's bad attitudes are his uncontrolled emotion when he run crazily try to catch the prime suspect that he spots in crowd until he get a heart attack. Moreover, he separates himself from society after he suffers from it. Whereas, Terry McCaleb's good attitudes are that he can control his emotion, receive to solve the case, and interact with his society. Finally, Terry McCaleb starts a new life with Graciella and her nephew.

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