

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human rights are certain unalienable rights attached to people which are endowed by God. They include everything from the right to speak openly without fear, to set material wealth for happiness, to profess a religion, to the right to decent shelter and healthcare. In this sense, all people have the same rights and must defend and respect one another's human rights. They may not take other people's rights away because it violates against human rights.

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human rights are the basic rights and freedom to which all human beings are entitled, including rights for life and liberty as well a freedom of thought and expression and equality before the law, and whose exercise the government or any institution may not interfere. Human rights are premised on the recognition of the equal worth and dignity of every human being regardless of any distinguishing characteristic such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political, or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. This gives rise to the twin fundamental principles of equality and non-discrimination (Handaumlusermann, 1997).

Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December 10, 1948) everyone has the right for life, liberty and security of person. This means that everyone has the right for work, free choice of employment, justice and

favorable conditions of work and protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

However, a violation of human rights is still found at any time and at any place. The form of unjust treatment or discrimination of the superior towards the inferior is an example of a violation of human rights. It, therefore, becomes one of crucial issues for the international community from time to time which is commonly exposed in both electronic and printed media. It proves that a violation of human rights does still exist in certain places.

An issue of human rights can also be seen in a movie. Some filmmakers often use their movies as media for expressing both their response to the violation of human rights happening in certain places and their promotion for human rights reinforcement. As a product of technology, a movie often illustrates and reflects the real situation and condition of the movie makers' surrounding society. Not only can a movie increase the audience's empathy feeling and tolerance, it can also make the audience evaluate their own attitude and behavior toward other people as manifested by the figures or the characters in the story. Thus, a movie can be used as a medium for promoting human rights issues.

There are some movies promoting human rights issues as the main theme. One of them is *Philadelphia*. It is a movie about how a lawyer gets unjust treatment or discrimination from the law firm's partners due to having AIDS and how he fights against it. The major character in *Philadelphia* is Andrew Backett (Tom Hanks). He is a successful lawyer, but he is a gay and has AIDS. He works for a prestigious Philly corporate law firm in Philadelphia. Having finished the

firm's newest and most important case he has been assigned and brought it to his office, he suffers from bowel spasm and has to stay in the hospital. While still at the hospital, he receives a call from his firm's partners asking for the paperwork he has just been submitted to his office. Though his paperwork is finally discovered, he is fired by the firm's partners for the misplaced document. They claim that he is not professional and no longer a good lawyer. But he believes that someone deliberately hid his paperwork to give the firm a pretext to fire him, and that the firing is actually as a result of his diagnosis with AIDS. Resulting from this, Beckett files a discrimination suit against the firm's partners. He secures the counsel of a lawyer fearing AIDS and homosexuality Joe Miller (Denzel Washington) who previously refuses to take his case for he is afraid of being contracted AIDS. Miller finally takes Beckett's case after his doctor explains the methods of HIV infection. He then successfully convinces the jury so that they vote in his favor. Above all, Beckett's case leads him to overcome his fear and misconceptions about AIDS and gay people in general.

Presented by Hollywood studio picture, *Philadelphia* illustrates a violation of human rights, especially about unjust treatment or discrimination in the field of employment. As a matter of fact, in the United States it is illegal for employers to fire their employee simply because she or he has a disease. As illustrated in the movie, Beckett decides to sue (file a lawsuit) against his firm's partners for illegally firing him. In the light of Beckett and his family, the lawsuit will definitely represent a major fight against prejudice, and thus a fight for justice.

Nonetheless *Philadelphia* is not the first movie about AIDS (it follows such worthy independent films as *Parting Glances* and *Longtime Companion*), but it is the first big-budget and the first major movie for Hollywood studio picture that tackles and deals with the medical, political and social issues of AIDS as its primary subject. The story takes place in Philadelphia; most of the scenes happen in the court room.

The director of *Philadelphia* is Jonathan Demme. He is noted for his own way and terms in making movies and is unafraid to take on challenging and controversial subject matters in his movies. However, he also knows how to make his stories absorbing and entertaining with an unusual depth and humanity. For Jonathan Demme, a movie is the medium of address, the means by which he explores and comments on the world surrounding, the way in which he answers the muse's clarion call to create. It is the great gift of his cinema that it inspires us to go out expressive individuals all, and do the same (Uhlich, 2004). His decision to make a film about AIDS was inspired by his close friend Juan Botas who discovered he was HIV+. Botas, after spending months with a group of men with full-blown AIDS, informed Demme that the physical battle with the disease would be a "compelling subject for a documentary." Demme agreed and later decided to make "*Philadelphia*".

Jonathan Demme was born on February 22, 1944, in Baldwin, Long Island, New York, USA. He has 3 children. His wife's name is Joanne Howard. Demme's mother was an actress, and his father worked in public relations. When he was 15, his family moved to Miami, where his father had landed a job at the

Fountain Blue Hotel. For years Demme's future was prepared to be a veterinarian by studying at the University of Florida at Gainesville, yet his inability to comprehend certain necessary sciences stifled his schoolwork and he dropped out. He began searching for a new path, an enthusiastic cinema fan since childhood; he applied for an open position as film critic at the university's newspaper.

Having completed his college, Jonathan Demme continued his career as a film critic for a small paper in Coral Gables until his father introduced him to a flamboyant producer Joseph E. Levine who gave him a job as a publicist in the producer's organization. Over the next several years, he worked for several film companies, including United Artists, and continued to write about film and music during a stint in New York, where he helped to compile the score for a low-budget thriller called *Sudden Terror*.

When Jonathan Demme was in London in 1970, a friend of his at UA recommended him as a unit publicist to Roger Corman, then in Ireland shooting *Von Richtofen and Brown* (1971); the two quickly fostered a fruitful business partnership and an even longer-lasting friendship. The independent producer/director soon gave him an opportunity to write a motorcycle picture for him, and he turned up with friend Joe Viola to turn the premise of *Rashomon* into a biker film; after a few rewrites, Corman hired him to produce the film and Viola to direct, and the result was called *Angel Hard As They Come* (1971). After serving as producer and second unit director on another Corman production, *The Hot Box* (1972), he was given an opportunity to direct a steamy women-in-prison picture called *Cage Heat* (1974, Demme's debut.); along with the requisite nudity and

violence, he inserted a subplot about prisoners being abused through medical experiments.

Having succeeded in two more films for Corman entitled *Crazy Mama* (1975) and *Fighting Mad* (1976), Jonathan Demme was hired to make a film about the then-current CB radio craze. His project was a comedy drama called *Citizen's Band* (1977), which won enthusiastic reviews from a number of critics but was a dud at the box office, even after being changed its title into *Handle With Care* (1977). But the film's notices were strong enough for him when he was hired to direct the Hitchcockian thriller *Last Embrace* (1979), and in 1980 he landed a project perfectly suited to his style through *Melvin and Howard* (1980). It was based upon the true story of Melvin Dummar.

The great response of the viewers to *Melvin and Howard* leads Jonathan Demme to get involved in making *Swing Shift* (1984), a picture about women working in defense plants during World War II. His next movie as a director was more low-key: a concert film documenting the striking multi-media stage show of the rock band Talking Heads *Stop Making Sense* (1984). He then directed video clips for musicians such as Neil Young, Bruce Springsteen (*Philadelphia* original theme song, win the Golden Globe and academy Awards for the best song), New Order, and Fine Young Cannibals, and helmed another concert film, *Shorefront Hitchcock*, featuring the quirky singer/ song writer Robyn Hitchcock. Later, he directed two feature-length documentaries: *Swimming to Cambodia* (1987), a record of Spalding Gray's acclaimed one-man show, and *Cousin Bobby*, about the life and work of his cousin, an Episcopal priest and political activist.

Jonathan Demme continued his success in making thriller movies. His two major projects were *Something Wild* (1986) and *Married to the Mob* (1988). But it was 1991's *The Silence of the Lambs*, a taut thriller with a strong feminist subtext, that propelled Demme into the first rank of American filmmakers, earn him an Oscar for Best Director, among others for Best Picture, Best actor (Anthony Hopkins), Best Actress (Jodie Foster), and the Best Adapted Screenplay (Ted Tally). Demme followed this success with the AIDS drama *Philadelphia* (1993).

Philadelphia gets high appreciation in Academy Awards; the film gets some awards and nominations. It won Academy Awards for Best Actor in a Leading Role (Tom Hanks), and Best Music, Song (Bruce Springsteen for "Streets of Philadelphia"). It was also nominated for another Best Music, Song award (Neil Young) for "Philadelphia", as well as Best Makeup (Carl Fullerton and Alan D'Angerio), and Best Original Screenplay (Ron Nyswaner). This film's protagonist, Andrew Beckett, is listed at #49 among the heroes on the AFI's list of the Top 100 Heroes and Villains. The film was ranked #20 on AFI's 100 Years... 100 Cheers.

Philadelphia also calls for public's reaction. This second Hollywood big-budget, big-star film to tackle the issue of AIDS in the U.S. (following the TV movie *And the Band Played On*) signaled a shift in Hollywood films toward more realistic depictions of gays and lesbians. According to a Tom Hanks interview for the 1996 documentary *The Celluloid Closet*, scenes showing more affection between him and Banderas were cut, including one with him and Banderas in bed together. The DVD edition, produced by Automat Pictures, includes this scene.

Apart from the great achievement and appreciation, a negative reaction is also addressed to *Philadelphia* by Bowers' family as the events in the film are similar to the events in the lives of attorney Geoffrey Bowers. Bowers' family sued the writers and producers. A year after Bowers' death, producer Scott Rudin interviewed the Bowers family and their lawyers and, according to the family, promised compensation for the use of Bowers' story as a basis for the film. Family members asserted that 54 scenes in the movie are so similar to events in Bowers' life that some of them could only have come from their interviews. However, the defense said that Rudin abandoned the project after hiring a writer and did not share any information the family had provided. The lawsuit was settled after five days of testimony. Although terms of the agreement were not released, the defendants did admit that "the film 'was inspired in part'" by Bowers' story.

The writer chooses *Philadelphia* as the topic of her research because of four reasons. First, the movie brings a good message to everyone for not being prejudice and discriminative toward anyone who has AIDS. Second, the movie is so realistic that it reveals and reflects the common conflict among people in real life. Third, the movie is so simple that it is easy to understand its plot and message and is therefore enjoyable to watch this movie. And last but not least, the writer is interested to observe Andrew Beckett's personality as the major character, including his struggle to fight against the dark side of his personality.

Based on the reasons above, the writer is interested to conduct a research on analyzing the personality of the major character Andrew Beckett in the movie *Philadelphia*. Since personality belongs to individual and is in the scope of

psychology theory which serves as an important aspect for the authors to depict the psychic condition of human being through literary works, the appropriate approach which can be used to analyze Beckett's personality is individual psychological approach. For this purpose, the writer encourages herself to give a title of her research **ANDREW BECKETT'S FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN JONATHAN DEMME'S *PHILADELPHIA* MOVIE (1993): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

Philadelphia is undoubtedly a great movie. Not only does the movie serve as a source of entertainment, it also becomes the object of the research. Therefore, some researchers have conducted researches on it. As far as the writer concerns, there have been three researches conducted on analyzing the movie from different approaches.

The first research was conducted by Jana Utami Muhayati (2006) from Ahmad Dahlan University. In her research entitled *Andrew Beckett Struggle for better life in Jonathan Demme's movie Philadelphia: A Sociological Approach*, she analyzed *Philadelphia* movie through sociological approach. Her research was focused on analyzing the major character Andrew Beckett's struggle for a better life which results in the eradication of the discrimination of AIDS.

Similarly, Sandra Hapsari (2007) from Semarang University conducted a research entitled *Struggle for Human Rights of Gay and AIDS Infected Person of The Main Character in Jonathan Demme's Philadelphia Movie: A Sociological Approach*. She also analyzed *Philadelphia* movie through sociological approach.

Her research was focused on analyzing the major character Andrew Beckett and his defense Joe Miller's struggle for human rights, aimed at eradicating the discrimination toward a gay and AIDS infected person.

The third research was conducted by Nur Anik Bahagiawati (2009) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. In her research entitled *Struggle for Equality in Jonathan Demme's Philadelphia movie: An Individual Psychological approach*, she analyzed *Philadelphia* movie through psychological approach. It was referred to the theory of literature that in literary works psychological aspect played an important role in establishing real-life characters. Her research was focused on analyzing the major character's personality and his struggle for equality in employment.

In addition, the writer also takes *Philadelphia* Film Review by Jonathan Demme in 1993 which told about *Fight of Human Rights* review from his point of view and assumption from the beginning until the last part of the movie as a part of literature review in her research. Demme's review is used as supplementary information in making connection between the theory and the practice of human rights revealed in the story of the movie.

But different from the three previous researchers, in this research the writer analyzes Jonathan Demme's *Philadelphia* movie from the individual psychological approach. She emphasizes her analysis on the major character Andrew Beckett's fight for human rights, especially fight against unjust or discriminative treatment in the workplace and its influence on his personality.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study and literature review, the writer formulates the problem statement as follows:

1. How are the structural elements of *Philadelphia* movie evolved?
2. How is Andrew Beckett's fight for human rights reflected in *Philadelphia* movie?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement, the writer determines two objectives of the research, they are:

1. To reveal the structural elements of *Philadelphia* movie.
2. To reveal Andrew Beckett's fight for human rights.

E. Limitation of the Study

It is necessary for the writer to limit the scope of the study in order not to make the study go too far. The limitation of the study is as follows:

1. The structural elements which are analyzed are the narrative elements and the technical elements evolved *Philadelphia* movie.
2. The character who is analyzed is Andrew Beckett, a gay and AIDS-infected lawyer who experiences human rights violations.
3. The human right is limited to equal treatment in employment.
4. The approach used to study the movie is based on a psychological book entitled *Individual Psychology* written by Alfred Adler.

F. Benefit of the Study

Hopefully, the result of the study gives both theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the knowledge development particularly the literary work study on Jonathan Demme *Philadelphia* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie especially from the aspect of individual psychology and give input to other researchers who are interested in analyzing *Philadelphia* movie by Jonathan Demme.

G. Research Method

This section is primarily to specify how the writer plans to conduct the research. It includes the description of type of research, research object, types of data and data sources, method of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

1. Type of Research

In conducting this research, the writer uses qualitative study in the form of library. The writer wants to observe the form of the major character's fight for human rights and its influences on his personality.

2. Research Object

The object of the study is *Philadelphia* movie and movie script. The movie is directed by Jonathan Demme and released in 1993.

3. Types of Data and Data Source

In conducting this study, the writer attains the data from the movie itself and from some books that have relation to the study. Basically, the data can be categorized into two types: primary data and secondary data. The sources of the data depend on the types of the data. The description of each type and source of the data is as follows:

a. Primary Data

The sources of the primary data are the movie and movie script itself. The data include the dialogs among the character involved in the story, events, setting, and other technical supporting elements found in the movie.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data. The data include: the biography of the author, the psychological perspective, website about *Philadelphia* movie script, and some other relevant references that significantly support the study.

4. Method of the Data Collection

The method of the data collection used in this research is library research. It encompasses some steps. The first step is watching the film while reading the script. The second step is finding out the important data. The third step is sorting and arranging data into several parts

based on its classification. The final step is developing the provided data which are related to the problem statement of the study.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis. This is an interpretation of the text and context analysis to get the characteristic of the data found in the *Philadelphia* movie script. The writer will use individual psychological approach on the basis of Adler's book entitled: "Theory of Individual Psychology".

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is organized into five chapters: Chapter I, Chapter II, Chapter III, Chapter IV, and Chapter V. Chapter I is introduction. It is divided into eight sections, they are: background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It discusses the main theories which are related to the topic of the study. It is divided into five sections, they are: notion of individual psychology, basic principle of individual psychology, structural elements of the movie, theory of human rights, and theoretical application.

Chapter III is structural elements. It mainly discusses the analysis of structural elements of *Philadelphia* movie. It is divided into three sections, they are: narrative elements, technical elements, and discussion.

Chapter IV is psychological analysis. It mainly exposes how the writer analyzes the major character of *Philadelphia* movie by individual psychological

analysis. It is divided into three sections, they are: individual psychological analysis, analysis of human rights, and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It mainly reveals the result of the research. It is divided into two sections, they are: conclusion and suggestion.