

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Ghost Writer is a political thriller movie focused on a ghostwriter working on the memoirs of a character based loosely on former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, *The Ghost Writer* was released in February 19, 2010 as a political thriller film directed by Roman Polanski. The film is adapted from Robert Harris novel, *The Ghost* with the screenplay written by Polanski and Harris. It is starring of Ewan McGregor as The ghost writer, Pierce Brosnan as Adam Lang (based on memoir of Tony Blair as a former of British Prime Minister), Kim Cattrall as Ruth and Olivia Williams as Amelia Bly with budget \$45 million , in demand of Box office \$73,741,549.

Roman Polanski was born in Paris 1933. Born in Paris to Polish Jewish parents, he moved with his family back to Poland in 1937, shortly before the outbreak of World War II. They moved to Krakow, Poland, when Roman was still a child. He grew up in a constricted communist environment. However, he had a highly creative intellect and created his own exceptional world of fantasy in movie. His imagination was the key that helped him overcome for become an actor and director of movie.

Polanski is starting his carrier in the National Film School in Łódź, one of the third-largest cities in Poland. In the 1950s Polanski started on acting as an actor's appearing in Andrzej Wajda's *Pokolenie* (A Generation,

1954) and in the same year in Silik Sternfeld's *Zaczarowany rower* (Enchanted Bicycle or Magical Bicycle). Polanski's directorial debut was also in 1955 with a short film *Rower (Bicycle)*. *Rower* is a semi-autobiographical feature film. And several other short films made during his study at Łódź gained him considerable recognition, is particularly *Two Men and a Wardrobe (1958)* and *When Angels Fall (1959)*. He graduated from National Film School on 1959.

Polanski's developing on his first feature film, *Knife in the Water (1962)*, made in Poland and was nominated for a United States Academy Award for Best Foreign Language. He has since received five more Oscar nominations, along with two Baftas, four Césars, a Golden Globe Award and the Palme d'Or of the Cannes Film Festival in France. In the United Kingdom he directed three films, beginning with *Repulsion (1965)*. In 1968 he moved to the United States, and cemented his status by directing the Oscar-winning horror film *Rosemary's Baby (1968)*.

In 1971, Polanski developed of his work with launched *Macbeth (1971)*, *What? (1973)*, *Chinatown (1974)*. The film was nominated for 11 Academy Awards. The stars, Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, both received Oscar nominations for their roles, and the script by Robert Towne won for Best Original Screenplay, *The Tenant (1976)*, *Tess (1979)*, The film received three Oscars: best cinematography, best art direction and best costume design. In addition, *Tess* was nominated for best picture, *Pirates*

(1986), *Frantic* (1988) *The Pianist* (2002), *Oliver Twist* (2005), *The Ghost Writer* (2010) and the last is *Carnage* (2011).

The Ghost Writer won in the European Film Awards in 2010, winning of six awards, including best movie, director, actor and screenplay. The best score of Alexandre Desplat winning in L.A. Film Critics Association, The Best Supporting Actress, Olivia Williams in L.A. Film Critics Association, The Best Independent Film 2010 National Board of Review, The Best Director, Roman Polanski in National Society of Film Critics on 2010, The Best Screenplay (Runner-up), Roman Polanski National Society of Film Critics on 2010. And in *Ghost Writer* also was nominated of The Best British Supporting Actor, Pierce Brosnan in London Film Critics Association and The Best British Supporting Actress, Olivia Williams in London Film Critics Association.

The Ghost Writer is a story of an unnamed successful British ghost writer; he is called as the ghost. The ghost agrees to complete the memoirs of the former British Prime, Adam Lang. The controversy brings reporters and protesters swarming to the security outside of the island home where Adam Lang is staying with his wife, Ruth, and his personal assistant Amelia Bly. As *The Ghost Writer* works, he uncovers clues suggesting his predecessor may have stumbled on a dark secret concerning and that somehow this information is hidden in the manuscript he left behind of Adam Lang's memoirs.

Adam Lang is accused of committing a war crime by a former British cabinet minister. Adam Lang is the Labour party's longest serving Prime

minister, the only person to have led the Labour party to three consecutive general election victories and the only Labour prime minister to serve consecutive terms more than one of which was at least four years a long. Adam Lang in 2001 strongly supported the foreign policy of US president George W Bush, notably by participating in the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and 2003 invasion of Iraq. He was succeeds as a leader of the Labour party from 1983 to 2007.

The former British Secretary of State, Robert Rychart, a friend and colleague of Lang's, is interviewed, saying that he could not a fair in all good principles in politics of Adam Lang become a British Prime Ministers. He keeps the information that was accused him to himself and so went to the media for blowing up the secret of Adam Lang. The Ghost delves into the unfinished manuscript and comes to the terrifying conclusion that his predecessor died because he discovered a link between Prime Minister Lang and the CIA. The Ghost finds more information that he uncovers, the more convinced he becomes that his life could be in danger as well as he followed in Adam Lang Politics.

Realizing that the clues were hidden in the original manuscript at the beginning of each chapter, he underlines the words at the beginning of each chapter and reveals the message, "Lang's wife Ruth was recruited as a CIA agent by Professor Paul Emmett of Harvard University". Ruth Lang has shaped Lang's every political decision to benefit the U.S as directed by the

CIA. After passing a note to Ruth of his discovery, the ghostwriter leaves with the original manuscript his hand.

There are many responses of Roman Polanski's movie. *The Ghost Writer* tells the story of how despicably the government has come to behave, and tells its story well. Most of the facts are known to us, so its value lies more in its telling, as worthwhile entertainment, than in its effect. JerryC, Newbury England. He assumes that The movie is describing awful a situation had come about, why those in our government had seen fit to behave so badly, ultimately what they were after, we might have been presented to press for change. As it is just a good movie, good pastime. Journalist or blogger William stated that one of the best films that had seen in recent years in a review for *LAS Magazine* that deal with the film's artistic and political dimension.

Beside on positive responses, there are also negative responses in *The Ghost Writer*. The first negative responses are coming from the Independent's John Rentoul. He describes the film as propaganda and a Tony Blair hating movie, launched a scathing attack on Polanski. Polanski has long maintained a thing for brooding obsession that pushes the lines of sexual perversion, yet it is in *The Ghost Writers* the neat construction of atmosphere and tension where he truly succeeds. Pam, Sarasota from New York assumes that *The Ghost Writer* was very cliché, but it had to be. Because it needs to be said over and over again that neo-cons are bad, and the CIA is bad.

In *The Ghost Writer*, there are three appeals appear in this movie. They are plot appeal, character appeal, and theme appeal. The plot appeal

from this movie is there are continuity of causes and effect in this movie act well. The director was showing the story was covering up an act of actors and actress well. It can be seen on the sequence of the story about uncovering the secret of a former a British Prime Minister with deal a mysterious story from British Politics. It was covering up by a Journalist that called him a Ghost Writer.

The character appeals in this movie when the stories about Ewan McGregor plays a ghost writer who discovers some disturbing secrets when he is hired to rework the memoirs of disgraced former British Prime Minister Adam Lang. His character is conspicuous in this movie, because of his works. The secret of Adam Lang politic is uncovers in public and media. The actor gave stellar performances of act and seems in Intelligent of Political Agency.

The last appeal is theme appeals, related with description of uncovers the secret of Adam Lang' life as a former of British Prime Minister. He accuses as member of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as references of Iraq. It is related and also showing with politics aspect condition in America in the middle of ninetieth century of Adam Lang as a Prime Minister on that period of times. The writer is witness to a story of an old America background society, which is periodically visited with the secret of memoirs of Adam Lang as a former of British Prime Minister in the middle of twenty first century.

Based on the statement above, the researcher is using a sociological approach as an appropriate theory to analyze this research. The literary work is always influenced by the social background or the history of social life at the time when the author creates his literary work, those elements above are

inseparable. In this study, the researcher is interested and challenged in analyzing the movie using a sociological approach and encourages giving a title “UNCOVERING THE SECRET OF ADAM LANG AS A FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN ROMANS POLANSKI’S *THE GHOST WRITER* MOVIE (2010) : A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

There is only one of literature review of this movie which analysis with pragmatic approach by

1. Pandu Wijaya Saputra research, this study was conducted to describe the types of strategies employed by the characters in the Film “The Ghost Writer”. The research used pragmatic approach with the indirect commands as the scope of the analysis. This research was a descriptive qualitative research with purposive sampling technique.

Factually, there is no paper that has same title” Uncovering the Secret of Adam Lang as a Former British Prime Minister in Roman Polanski’s *The Ghost Writer* Movie (2010): a Sociological Approach”.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a problem statement. The problem statement of the study is “How is Adam Lang secret Politics is reflected in Roman Polanski’s *The Ghost Writer* (2010) movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. It focuses on the analysis of uncovers secret and England society in Twenty first

Century as reflected in Roman Polanski's *The Ghost Writer* from a sociological perspective by using Swingewood and Laurenson's theories.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements of the movie, and
2. To analyze the movie based on the sociological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study is expected to give benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give contribution to the development of the body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *The Ghost Writer* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

It is expected to give a condition in literary field as reference to the other researcher in analyzing this film particularly the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

1. Subject of the Study

The researcher takes *The Ghost Writer* Film as the object of the study.

The movie is directed by Roman Polanski released on 19 February 2010.

2. Type of the Data and the Data source

The researcher here uses qualitative. This is a library research, which takes the source of the data from words and other writing. The writer divides the data source into two categories:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data is taken from *The Ghost Writer* film and the movies script downloaded from (<http://www.opensubtitles.org/en/subtitles/3641332/The-ghost-writer.htm>).

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data such as biography of the director, website about the film and another data related to this research.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The method the writer uses to collect data is both documentation by collecting and recording the primary and secondary source, library research by summarizing, paraphrasing and wording. The researcher uses documentation as technique of data collecting. The researcher takes the following steps such are:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly in order to get the all scene in the movie
- b. Taking notes of the important part in primary and secondary data.
- c. Classifying the data into some categories.
- d. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant information, this does not Support the topic of the study.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the movie and sociological analysis. Hence, the collected data are interpreted and analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is Sociological Approach to show the influence of secret and the mystery on Roman Polanski's *The Ghost Writer*.

H. Research Paper Organization

This study consists of six chapters. In chapter I, the researcher explains the background of the study, problem statement, the literature review, benefit, and research method and thesis organization. Chapter II contains the underlying theory used in analyzing *The Ghost Writer* using a sociological approach. Chapter III deals with the social background of American Society in the twentieth first century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the work, which includes the structural elements of *The Ghost Writer*, such as the character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme and technical element which includes the mise-en scene, cinematography, sound and editing. Chapter V is the sociological analysis of the major character in *The Ghost Writer* movie. Finally, this study presents conclusion and suggestion in Chapter VI.