CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Life is beautiful a 1997 Italian language film which tells the story of a Jewish Italian, Guido Orefice (played by Roberto Benigni, who also directed and Co-write the film). Life is Beautiful is the movie which had the potentially premise of a comedy set in a Nazi concentration camp. The genre movie is comedy/drama and needs 110 minute in duration. The movie twice includes music from Jacques Offenbach's operetta Les Contes d'Hoffmann (Tales of Hoffmann), with its melody "Barcarola". Life is beautiful movie released on 1998 and released on video at 11/09/1999.

Roberto Benigni is widely known as one of the most popular comics of italian cinema, often writing, directing and starring in his own films. He was born in Misericorida (Arezzo, Tuscany) on october 1952. In 1991, he got married with Nicoletta Braschi, she appeared with him in number of film, including Johnny Stecchino and Life is Beautiful. His Mother Isolina Papini (1918-2004) worked as a fabric inspector. His Father Luigi Benigni (1918-2004) who work as a Farmer, Carpenter and Briclayer, was a prisone in the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen between 1943 and 1945. Roberto used his stories as the basic for his film Life is Beautiful.

Life is Beautiful introduced popular Italian comedian Roberto Benigni to international mainstream cinema. The concept of the film would be bizarre to the point of being offensive if not for Benigni's seen ability to actually make it
work. While international flavour is a wonderful aspect of the world of film music, *Life is Beautiful* is indeed only an average score that rode the success of Benigni to its accolades. Piovani does admirably achieve that convincing balance of humor and tragedy so deeply required by the film's character.

At very beginning of the movie is romantic comedy and often slapstick. Guido, a young Italian Jew arrives in Arezzo where he set up a Bookstore. He lives at his uncle house, Eliseo. Guido is a waiter in a restaurant hotel. Guido is both funny and charismatic, especially when he romance Dora. Dora is a beautiful girl, but not Jewish. Dora is upper class girl engaged to a man she does not love. Then Guido with a colourful imagination has won heart of Dora, the woman he loves. Several years pass, in which Guido and Dora have a son, Joshua. Joshua is around five years old.

When Joshua’s birthday, Guido, Guido's uncle Eliseo, and Joshua are take to a Concentration Camp. Dora demands to join her family and is permitted to do so. Guido hides Joshua from the Nazi guards and sneaks him food. In an attempt to keep up Joshua's spirits, Guido convinces him that the camp is just a game in which the first person to get 1000 points wins a Tank. He tells Joshua that if you complain for hunger you lose points, while quiet boys who hide from the camp guards earn points. He convinces Joshua that the camp guards are mean because they want the tank for themselves and that all the other children are hiding in order to win the game. He puts off every attempt of Joshua ending the game and returning home by convincing him that they are in the lead for the tank. Despite being surrounded by rampant death
and people and all their sicknesses, Joshua does not question this fiction both because of his father's convincing performance and his own innocence.

Guido maintains this story right until the end, when in the chaos caused by the American advance drawing near, he tells his son to stay in a sweatbox until everybody has left, this being the final test to get a Tank. After trying to find Dora, Guido is caught, taken away, and is shot by a Nazi guard, but not before making his son laugh one last time by imitating the Nazi guard as if the two of them are marching around the camp together. Joshua manages to survive, and thinks he has won the game when an American tank arrives to liberate the camp, and he is meet with his mother.

Many people worried that the film would be as offensive as plopping a cartoon character in Auschwitz. (A similar work The Day the Clown Cried, a Jerry Lewis film about a comedian in a concentration camp, turned out to be a disaster two decades earlier.) Although *Life is Beautiful* did provoke some controversy, many people found the film to be a poignant, tragicomic story that profoundly reaffirmed the humanity of concentration camp victims. The film became the highest grossing foreign language film in the U.S. and established Benigni as an international star.

Italy's rubber faced funny man Roberto Benigni accomplishes the impossible in his World War II comedy *Life Is Beautiful*, he shapes a simultaneously hilarious and haunting comedy out of the tragedy of the Holocaust. *Life Is Beautiful* is a moving and poignant tale of one father's
sacrifice to save not just his young son's life but his innocence in the face of one of the most evil acts ever perpetrated by the human race, (Sean Axmaker).

Life Is Beautiful was nominated for seven Academy Awards, winning three Oscars including one for Best Actor Roberto Benigni. The movie made the Cannes Film Festival in 1998, winning the Grand Prize of the Jury. It then went on to win Academy Awards for Best Music, Original Dramatic Score and Best Foreign Language Film. The film was additionally nominated for Academy Awards for Directing, Film Editing, Best Picture, and Best Original Screenplay.

Roberto Benigni’s performance as the extravagant Orefice seems at first simplistic and one dimensional. However, as the story moves along, an interesting development occurs: Benigni simultaneously becomes the films comedic character and its tool to evoke emotion. Benigni shows unusual talent for displaying a man who hides his fear and hatred, for the sake of comforting his son. If there is a definite fault in Life is Beautiful, it would lie in its script and the way Benigni handles it. On occasions, Benigni seems unsure of where he wants to go, so he ponders more than he pursues. That’s fair enough when you imagine all the choices he would have had to make, when to develop the "serious" side of his tale, when to tickle the funny bone, but overall his direction is unmistakably brilliant.

The theme of the movie is “Being powerless can makes people creative”. In this movie, Guido’s family life treatened in the Nazi’s concentration camp. So, Guido has to find a way to make this family safe. Guido really concerns
about Dora and Joshua, especially Joshua, he just a five years old boy who didn’t know anything about concentration camp. Knowing this condition, Guido always hides the truth of concentration camp from Joshua. He becomes creative instead. He told Joshua that concentration camp is just a game and the winner would get a tank.

The symbol of the movie is the box. Guido sends Joshua to hide in a box next to a wall. This box is shown several times during the film and becomes a symbol of being in hiding. The first time we see the box, it is simply focused on by the camera as everyone enters the concentration camp. Although we do not know it at the time, the box will eventually become a major symbol of the film. The concentration camp is a hidden place in Germany, and the rest of the world was also hiding from the reality of the war at the time.

The idea of a comedy set against the backdrop of the Holocaust. The subject is too dark to be dealt with comedically, because humor is one of the ways we deal with them. The grimmest of national tragedies inevitably triggers a backwash of sick jokes, the vileness of which increases in proportion to the seriousness of the incident. Humor is a salve and a leveller; it also helps shape an understanding of events that are otherwise beyond comprehension. For that reason, it's hard to agree with the reviewers on both sides of the Atlantic who've denounced Roberto Benigni’s Life Is Beautiful solely on the basis of its premise. Since it won the Grand Prix this year at Cannes, Life Is Beautiful has been tagged as "a comedy about the Holocaust," which is not entirely accurate.
Including the great cinematographer, Tonino Delli Colli. The movie is first half the airy, sumptuous elegance of a musical. The early scenes are so beautifully stylized that when the setting shifts to the stark, oppressive camp, we share the characters' dread. Benigni, who co wrote the script as well as directed, sketches the horrors of the camp as humanely as possible without denying the truth. A simple shot of men undressing for the showers with wrenching fastidiousness makes its point without melodrama or exploitation.

As director and writer, Benigni is more interested in the leaps of imaginative daring and denial that allowed men like Guido to function than in the mechanics of genocide. That is in bold contrast to the majority of recent films about the Holocaust, which unwittingly wind up commemorating the ruthless capability of the Nazis rather than the suffering and endurance of the concentration camp inmates. The lack of characterization of the other prisoners is a glaring flaw, but the warmth of Benigni's own character keeps us aware of the weight of all those vanishing lives, even though Guido is capable of acting without concern for anyone but his son, as when he translates a German guard's strict rules of camp conduct into nonsense game instructions.

Psychological aspect of the movie, namely defense mechanism of the major character, describes the complicated problem faced by Guido Orefice as the major character. This problem really makes his fell hurt, stressed, anxiety and becoming demented revenge. Realize or not has done several ways to solve the problem from this condition by defense mechanism.
Life is Beautiful is that whilst it is a holocaust movie, it is also a comedy, and a hilarious one at that. From the background above, the movie makes the researcher is really interested in analyzing defense mechanism that is use of the major character, Guido Orefice. Because Life Is Beautiful is a moving and poignant tale of one father's sacrifice to save not just his young son's life but his innocence in the face of one of the most evil acts ever perpetrated by the human race. The writer is interested in analyzing this movie, in this research entitled: “DEFENSE MECHANISM OF GUIDO OREFICE IN ROBERTO BENIGNI'S LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL MOVIE: PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

Life is Beautiful is that interesting film, and as far as the writer knows, there is no student that has analyzed this film, especially in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. So it is the first research on this film.

The researcher takes the Psychoanalytic Approach to analyze the major character of Guido Orefice in Roberto Benigni’s Life is Beautiful.

C. Problem Statement

The problem that researcher wants to study is about Guido Orefice’s life describe in Roberto Benigni’s Life is Beautiful. Based on the research, the writer formulates the problem of the study that “how is the defence mechanism of Guido Orefice in Roberto Benigni’s Life is Beautiful?
D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the writer just focuses on the major character of Guido Orefice in *Life is Beautiful* By Roberto Benigni based on psychoanalytic Approach, because in this study, the writer will focus on the analysis of character’s personality and the ego defense mechanism of Guido Orefice as the major character in *Life is Beautiful* movie by Roberto Benigni.

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. to Analyze the movie based on its structural elements of the movie, and
2. to Analyze the movie based on psychoanalytic Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   This study will beneficial for contributing to the large body of knowledge, particulary literary study on *Life is Beautiful* Movie By Roberto Benigni.

2. Practical Benefit

   To give deeper understanding about the movie and to give input to other writers who intend to analyze the movie.
G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

In this research paper, the researcher takes *Life is Beautiful Movie* by Roberto Benigni as the object.

2. Type of Data and Data Source

a. Type of Data

The writer uses descriptive qualitative research method. Descriptive qualitative method is one of the two major approaches to research methodology in social sciences which involves an in-depth and the reasons that govern human behavior in order to categorize data into patterns as the primary basis for organizing and reporting result. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/qualitative.research)

b. Data Source

There are two data sources in this study, they are the primary data source and secondary data source.

1. The Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *Life is Beautiful* movie by Roberto Benigni.

2. Secondary data source

The secondary data source is the other data which have relationship with the study, such as some biography of the author, the articles from internet, the books and other relevant information.
3. Technique for Collecting Data

In writing this research paper, the writer uses the following certain procedures.

a. The data are taken by watching the movie repeatedly to understanding the Movie.

b. Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary data source, and

c. The books are related the topic.

4. Technique for Analyzing Data

The technique for the analyzing data is descriptive analysis. In which the researcher identifies defense mechanism of Guido Orefice in Roberto Benigni’s the movie by using Psychoanalytic approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapter, as follows: Chapter one is the Intodution, which contains Background of the Study, literary review, problem statements, limitation, object of the study, benefit, research method, paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory, in this chapter, the writer explains the notion of Psychoanalytic, major structure, anxiety, and the ego defese mechanism. Chapter three is the structural analysis of the movie. Chapter four is psychoanalytic analysis and last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.