

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE IN *THE TERMINAL* MOVIE
DIRECTED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH



RESEACH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

In an abroad traveling, we need much stuff to fulfill our preparation to travel to other country physically, mentality and financially. There must be the proper stuff that we can bring into our packages and we have to prepare enough money for anything possibly happens. The most important thing that we must have to go abroad is passport as a permission document to pass and get inside to other country. Technically, without passport we cannot get inside or get out from a country. In a case, we are traveling to other country by plane but suddenly there is a war erupts in our country while we are still in the air; consequently, when we arrived into the country, we are unacceptable and unauthorized to enter the country or get back to our country. We are fallen through in the crack in the system and only allowed to stay in the terminal transit lounge. In other word, in that kind of situation we are called the “citizen of nowhere”. We are not permitted to go outside from this lounge until we get our citizen status. It means that we have to wait the war over so that our new government will let us go or back to our country. Nevertheless, in this uncertainly situation, we have no idea about how long the war will end while we have to wait in that crack. A one may suffer even depressed in this circumstance. He has to survive and struggle for his own life as long as the war ends, so that he will get his citizen status.

Human life is one of the most interesting topics to discuss because life experiences always develop as fast as the time goes on. People need many ways to express their impressions about human's experiences and the life itself, one of this is a form of literary works. Wellek and Warren (1956:90) state that the processes of the author's creation are the objects of the psychologist investigate curiosity. The classification of the reflection of the literary works according to psychological types, they describe the author's mental illness, they may even explore his subconscious mind. The evidence of the psychologist may come from unliterary documents or it is drawn from the work itself. Psychology is also helpful for us to observe the emotion of each character and the behavior psychology, individual psychology, humanistic psychology, social psychology or psychoanalysis.

Literature has a tight relationship to psychology since it is the exposition of man's life because literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being. Literature is a work that expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward life and the world (George 1965:16). Meanwhile, psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the mind (Passer and Smith, 2004:3). Hence, it can be concluded that the object of literature and psychology is an individual that includes his personality and view about life and outside world. Furthermore, Jatman (in Endraswara, 2003:97) confirms that there is a tight correlation between literature and psychology indirectly as well as functionally; in fact, psychology and literature have the same object that is human being. In the

other word, psychology studies the real psyche while literature studies the imaginative psyche.

Alfred Adler is a psychologist who examines personality around the same time as Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud. They work on some theories together until Adler rejected Freud's emphasis on sex, and maintain that personality difficulties are rooted in a feeling of inferiority deriving from restrictions on the individual's need for self-assertion. From his best-known work are *The Practice and Theory of Individual Psychology* (1923). Adler has a tendency to change his theory on personality throughout his life but he ultimately believes that people focus on maintaining control over their lives. He believes in single "drive" or motivating force behind our behavior, claiming that the desire we have to fulfill our potentials becomes closer and closer to our ideals. Adler calls this theory Individual Psychology because he feels each person is unique and no previous theory applies to all people. Adler's theory includes these four aspects: the development of personality, striving towards superiority, psychological health, and the unity of personality. Many psychologists accept Alfred's popular idea of self-actualization.

In studying personality, Alfred comes up with the term inferiority complex. He describes this as feelings of lack of worth. He writes, "We all wish to overcome difficulties. We all strive to reach a goal by the attainment of which we shall feel strong, superior, and complete" (Ansbacher & Ansbacher, 1956). Adler is known to use the word superiority complex. This complex develops when a person tries to conquer his inferiority complex by

suppressing his existing feelings. He feels that people are constantly trying to overcome their feelings of inferiority to reach superiority.

Movie is a kind of literature work. Nowadays, movie develops rapidly. It has equal position as the major textual studies, like plays, poetry and novel. We cannot separate it from our life because it becomes such kind part of our daily life. A good movie is a movie, which is produced and directed by good qualified producer and director, based on interest story and excellent screenplay for each revealed character.

The Terminal is a movie, which is produced and directed by an academy award winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg, from a screenplay by Sacha Gervasi and Jeff Nathanson from a story by Andrew Niccol, collaborate with Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta Jones, the films stars Oscar winning, and the Emmy winner, Stanley Tucci.

The Terminal is the story of Victor Navorski (Tom Hanks), a traveler who is stranded at John F. Kennedy international airport because there is a war erupts in his country, Krakozhia, while he is still in the air. There is such kind of piracy in the government leadership of the country. It makes the new rules are not recognized by the United States. He is admitted as a citizen of nowhere. Therefore, Victor finds himself stuck in that airport, unable to enter the U.S and unable to fly home because his passport is not valid. He is told that America is closed and he is forced to wait in the international transit lounge until the war in his homeland is over. He is not permitted to leave the international transit land before he gets his admitted citizen status. He is

passing the time learning English, hanging out with the flight attendant and other airport workers and trying to avoid the problems with the airport's homeland security official.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to focus on the analysis and observation of the struggle of Victor Navorski and entitled this paper; **Struggle for Life in *The Terminal* Movie Directed by Steven Spielberg: An Individual Psychological Approach.**

B. Literary Review

As far as the writer knows, there is no such kind of research analyzing this movie, especially using Individual Psychological theory. The writer is quite interested in this movie and wants to observe it using Individual Psychological theory. Therefore, that it will be the first research of this movie.

The writer applies Individual Psychological Approach to reveal the struggle of Victor Navorski in *The Terminal* movie.

C. Limitation of Study

The writer focuses on the analysis of the behavior and motivation of Victor Navorski as the main character of *The Terminal* movie based on the individual psychological perspective.

D. Problem Statement

The writer arranges the problem statement based on the background of study, and reveals the problem as follows: “How is the struggle for life of Victor Navorski reflected in *The Terminal* movie?”

E. Objective of the Study

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

1. To analyze the structural elements of the film
2. To identify the struggle for life of Victor Navorski in *The Terminal* movie based on the individual psychological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer has some expectations to present benefits of study as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, and particularly the literary study on *The Terminal* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To give the deeper understanding about the movie and to give inputs to other writers who intend to analyze *The Terminal* movie.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The writer takes the terminal movie as the object of study. Steven Spielberg directs this movie from a story by Andrew Niccol.

2. Types of the Data and the Data Sources

The writer finds the source of the data from observation of other writing by searching in the library and other competence source that can divide into categories as follows:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data is taken from *The Terminal* movie review and movie production downloaded from; www.about.com-theterminal-movie-review.html. Movie script is downloaded from; www.manuscript.com-theterminal-transcript.html.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data is about the biography of the director, some books and encyclopedias, website searching about *The Terminal* movie and another data related to this study.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In collecting data, the writer watches the movie and uses library research by collecting and selecting the appropriate data from many sources.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

- a. Analyzing the structural elements of the movie
- b. Analyzing the underlying motives or the motivations that influence the behavior of the main character using perspective analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. It consists of background of study, literary review, limitation of study, problem statement, objective of study, benefit of study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter consists of underlying theory, dealing with the notion of individual psychological theory, the structural elements of the movie and the application of the theory. The third chapter is structural analysis of the movie, including the narrative and the technical elements. The fourth chapter contains the analysis using individual psychological approach perceptively. The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.