

**DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF ACHILLES IN WOLFGANG PETERSEN'S
TROY: PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

By:

JUMADI SUSILO

A 320 020 039

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2007

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The movie with the title *Troy* is a retelling of Homer's novel entitled *The Iliad Story of Achilles*. This movie is an action-epic colossal film which is produced by Wolfgang Petersen. *Troy* was released in Friday, May 14th 2004 and published in Indonesian's cinemas at August 12th 2004. This film takes about 02.42.00 duration". This is a big story of the legendary Trojan Horse War (www.warnerbros.co.uk/movies/troy/info pages).

Wolfgang was born in March, 14th 1941 in Endea, Lower Saxony, Germany. His father is English and his mother is German. He broke into the entertainment industry in 1960 with the Hanburg Ernest Deutsch Theatre as an assistant director. He became a director in 1981. Wolfgang Petersen has now published ten movies: *Boot Das* (1981), *Unen dlichegeschichte*, *Die* (1984), *Enemy Mine* (1985), *Shattered* (1991), *In the Line of Fire* (1993), *Outbreak* (1995), *Air Force One* (1997), *The Perfect Storm* (2000), *Troy* (2004) and *Poseidon* (2006). All have been box office both in United State and Europe.

Troy film is one of spectacular stories that is starred Orlando Bloom as Paris; Eric Bana as his young brother. Paris as a prince of Troy was kidnapped Helen who acted by Diane Kruger, a consort of Sparta. This event caused a big war. A great Greek warrior and one of the leader soldier of Greek, Achilles rolled by Brad Pit was emerged with his heroic action and personality.

Before legendary of the biggest Trojan War occurred, Priam, the king of Troy, sent his sons, Hector and Paris. They brought message that Troy wanted to live peacefully with Sparta, but Paris broke the agreement. He fell in love with consort of king Sparta, Helen and brought her to Troy. Menelaus, as the king of Sparta was very angry then he asked to his brother, Agamemnon to help him attack Troy and get his consort back. Agamemnon asked Nestor to invite all kings in Greek to attack Troy. Achilles, a warrior from Greek as a leader of his famous armed forced, Myrmidon decided to take a part in war.

Achilles decided to joint in the war because he could reach his desire, so he joined Greek soldier to attack Troy with this decision. This war was a biggest war in that era. After dominating the beach of Troy, Greek soldier went forward to the city, but Achilles got conflict with Agamemnon and he did not join Agamemnon anymore. Therefore, Agamemnon lost in the battle for the defense fortress of Troy. Following the actions, Achilles joined the war for himself and for cousin Patroclous.

This war story of *Troy* is very interesting with the detail of story in plot, background of place, *mise en scene*, setting of visual-audio effect and structural elements of character and portraiture. The author found the fascinations of this Wolfgang Patersen's *Troy* is in character and portraiture. Each major characters and supporting characters have special job in play character of each character of the movie, so audience is interested in scene by scene every time they watch this film. Slowly but surely, audiences who watch this would understand the plot and the ideas of story.

In *Troy*, the researcher finds the problems and some aspects that are complicated especially in individual aspects of each character. The characters Hector and Achilles are the interesting major characters in Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*.

Both Hector and Achilles are warriors of their each kingdom, but Achilles as a leader of Myrmidon has a good personality. His personality is imitating a heroic soldier as a killing machine in the war. He is an individual character who has an important role in Mycenae. Achilles has so many stories that make his acts in *Troy* such as a leader of Myrmidon, a Greek citizen, a Paleus's son, Breseis' lover, even as for him self imitated some processes to decide what he has to do and he feels safe for the anxieties and act his decision.

Seen from character and the portraiture, this story is about warrior. The major character is strong physically and mentally. He as a leader of Myrmidon army focuses on a situation in deciding what he has to do to the other kinds of self's problems. Self-individual principle and deciding situation of self's problems are suitable for describing the theory of psychoanalysis.

Freud who proposed theory of psychoanalysis was the first person to develop the concept of psychoanalytic belongs to his theory especially in relationship between ego and defense mechanism.

Psychoanalytic is one of psychological theory. This theory is usually used in research as an approach to the analysis of a literary work. As literary work, the movie entitled *Troy* could be analyzed.

In this work, the author inspired a character from the mythological-epic character that would be produced with a film. The character would be analyzed by psychoanalysis especially in defense mechanisms, because it often occurs in characters of a literary work.

Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*, not only imitates mythology of Yunani about legendary war, but also describes story of Achilles. Achilles already makes a hero for himself and makes his name famous. His action defends his anxiety and reaches his desire. This story is good to be analyzed by some approaches, from political side, war's strategies, social theories, cultural, mythological, and also individual or psychological approaches. These approaches are suitable because of the complicating problem that is faced or happens.

Defense mechanisms are often seen as the major component of personality and it is often found in the literary work such as literary in a spectacular film Wolfgang Petersen's *Troy*.

In Freud's Theory of Psychoanalysis, defense mechanism is triggered when anxiety occurs. According to Pervin and John (1997: 86) Anxiety represented a painful emotion that acts as a signal of impending danger to the ego.

In anxiety, person will respond with their mind and increase some ways to find the problem solving of thinking and seeking rational ways to escape from the situation. If this is not getting a good result, defense mechanisms will occur. Some people anticipate decreasing or reducing depression dread or stressing feeling by doing defense mechanisms unconsciously or not. It is like a Freud's

opinion that “Such defense mechanisms are put into operation whenever anxiety signals a danger that the original unacceptable impulses may reemerge” (Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2002). The descriptions above are the reasons why the researcher is more interested in the human being and the part of psychoanalysis of individual approaches.

The researcher will analyze this film using psychoanalysis approach based on defense mechanisms for action of human being. Related to all of the explanation above, the writer entitles this study “DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF ACHILLES IN WOLFGANG PETERSEN’S: *TROY* PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

The study of Wolfgang Petersen’ *Troy* is not new. The researcher who has analyzed this Film is Yudhi Kurniawan, with his research entitled “Struggle for Being a Hero in Wolfgang Petersen’s *Troy*: an Individual Psychological Approach”. He applied the theory of individual psychological as the main approach.

The researcher now takes psychoanalytic approach to analyze defense mechanisms and its influence on the major character’s personality in Wolfgang Petersen’s *Troy*.

C. Problem Statement

To clarify the title and background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problem. The problem statement of the study is: “How defense

mechanisms are reflected in Achilles as the major character of Wolfgang and Petersen's *Troy*"

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Achilles' characterization, as the major character in Wolfgang and Petersen's *Troy* based on psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the study based on structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give a new contribution to the other literary researchers, especially for those who study about Wolfgang and Petersen's *Troy*.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to give information, better understanding, and additional knowledge in applying a psychoanalytic approach into literature.

G. Research Method

Dealing with research method, there will be at least four points involved in this research.

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the movie of Wolfgang and Petersen's *Troy*; analyzed using structural analysis and psychoanalytic approach.

2. Data Sources

The study will use library research, whose data are taken from:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are the movie and the script of Wolfgang and Petersen's *Troy*.

b. Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data sources are some materials related to the data require, such as author's biography, some books of the literary theories, the official website related to the subject.

3. Technique of Data Collection

The method used for collecting data is library research by collecting and selecting both primary and secondary data.

The researcher will involve some required steps:

- a. Watching repeatedly this movie to get deep understanding.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- c. Reading the manuscript to get more understanding.

- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of the important part in primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Classifying the data into some categories.
- g. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant information which is doesn't support the topic of the study.
- h. Summarizing, paraphrasing and documenting the data analysis.
- i. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive and hermeneutics. Descriptive means that the researcher explores some information stated implicitly within both of primary data and secondary data, while hermeneutic, helps the researcher in interpreting the conversation in the script.

H. Paper Organization

The study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains the background of the study, problem statements, literature review, and objective of the study, benefits of the study, theoretical approach, research method and paper organization. While, the second chapter is the underlying theory. The third chapter is structural analysis, psychoanalytic analysis is presented in fourth chapter and in the last chapter the researcher will find conclusion and suggestion.