

ANXIETY OF SOPHIE NEVEU IN *THE DA VINCI CODE* FILM:

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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

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2009

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Da Vinci Code is a film directed by Ron Howard and written by Akiva Goldsman as a screenplay. The budget of this film is \$125 million and located in France and United Kingdom, and then running time is 149 minutes (Extended Edition — 168 minutes). *The Da Vinci Code* film is based on the bestselling 2003 novel *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. *The Da Vinci Code* was released May 19, 2006 in the United States by Columbia Pictures.

The film tells about a curator who is found dead at the floor with symbols carved into his body at the Paris' Louvre museum. The symbols give messages to Sophie Neveu (Andrey Tautou) as a cryptographer and also his granddaughter, because she cannot do by herself so she needs a symbologist from Harvard University of United States named Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks). The symbols are finding one by one by Leonardo da Vinci's paintings. The symbols tell an ancient secret of the Priory of Sion who have ability to keep Jesus Christ's generation and Mary Magdalene's sarcophagus is known as the Holy Grail. A Catholic society organization known as Opus Dei try to find the greatest secret in the world. After following step by step finally Robert and Sophie can uncover that Sophie Neveu is still Jesus Christ's generation and she can meet her family (her grandmother and her brother).

This film gets some responses from the viewers of the world, the responses are differed into two; positive response and negative response. First, is positive response of this film? *The Da Vinci Code* is a very well-done film, but still it feels like a missed opportunity of making something really epic. Howard's uninspired take at times makes the film feel too simple for its original ambitions and may leave fans of the novel expecting a little extra effort in making Brown's story come alive. A bit more of creativity would have helped to make the movie a classic thriller instead of the simple mystery film we got. Despite its problems; the novel's thrilling plot, the great acting and the superb score (by Hans Zimmer) make the movie an enjoyable experience, and while it definitely could had been a lot better, it is a movie worth watching at least once.

Second is negative response of this film. Because of some controversial interpretations and factual inaccuracies of Christian history in both the book and movie, they were criticized by the Roman Catholic Church. Some bishops urged members to boycott the film. Many of the early showings were accompanied by protesters outside the movie theaters, and early critical reviews were decidedly mixed. Many people critic this film because the story of this film of Christian and Muslim groups. If people who are not read the novel firstly maybe they can understood about the story of this film because many story are cutting by the director.

A market response of this film, in opening weekend; the film earned over US\$79 million worldwide, second only to the opening of 2005's. It is the second highest grossing movie of 2006 worldwide—having reached US\$758,239,851 as of

November 2, 2006, making it both Tom Hanks' and Ron Howard's most successful film. Number 1 movie at the USA box office during its first week grossing more than \$111 million. Fifth highest gross of 2006 in the USA, and grossed \$758 million worldwide in 2006 — the 2nd highest of 2006. On June 20, 2006, it became only the 2nd movie of the year to pass the \$200 million mark in the USA. In the Netherlands, the film was released on May 18, 2006 in 127 cinemas. The film debuted at number 1 grossing over €2,249,322 in its first week, the highest debut in 2006. In its second week, it topped the Box office Top 10 again, grossing over €1,996,735 in that week. The two following weeks, it remained on the top position. As of July 12, 2006, the film has grossed a total of €6,746,406.

The film's soundtrack, composed by Hans Zimmer, was nominated for the 2007 Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score, Allan Cameron was won for 2006 Art Directors Guild for Best Art Direction in a Contemporary, Hans Zimmer was won for 2006 Broadcast Film Critics Association for Best Score, *The Da Vinci Code* was won for 2006 Cannes Film Festival for Film Presented, in 2006 Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Hans Zimmer won Best Original Score, then in 2006 Satellite Awards *The Da Vinci Code* Film won for five categories for Best Original Score Hans Zimmer, Best Visual Effects Kevin Ahern, Best Sound Chic III Ciccolini, Best Sound Kevin O'Connell, and Best Sound Greg P. Russell.

There are four things that make the film very interesting, there are characters, plot, setting and cinematography. From the characters, the writer is interested in Sophie Neveu as a major character of this film. She is very clever in symbol,

beautiful and also strong woman when she see her grandfather is dead in his museum. She is also still as Jesus Christ's generation who is still alive in this world. The plot of this film tells the story in sequence and does not make the audience confused. And the best things that make the writer interested in is the setting of the film, there are many ancient places used as a setting, there is a Paris' Louvre museum where many the best work of the best arts are save, for example Leonardo da Vinci' paintings: Mona Lisa and Madonna of the Rock. There is also a Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland where the Silas tries to find the key to open the secret. And for cinematography, the same is captured in the movie. The director has a tough job of trying to show all the incidents that happen in the novel, and he has done a marvelous job on that. However in trying to do so, the movie has become a very fast paced movie and if you are not aware of the story you tend to lose track. The writer had read the story long back and as soon the movie started the entire story came rushing to the writer's head. The writer actually helped two of the writer's friends who had not read the book to understand the movie, and at the end of it they absolutely loved the movie.

In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study on the major of anxiety in *The Da Vinci Code* film. Anxiety is a psychological and physiological state characterized by cognitive, somatic, emotional, and behavioral components. These components combine to create an unpleasant feeling that is typically associated with uneasiness, fear, or worry. Anxiety is a feeling of nervousness, apprehension, fear, or worry. Some fears and worries are justified, such as worry about a loved one or in anticipation of taking a quiz, test, or other examination. Problem anxiety interferes

with the sufferer's ability to sleep or otherwise function. Problem anxiety may be caused by a mental condition, a physical condition, the effects of drugs, or from a combination of these. The doctor's initial task is to see if your anxiety is caused by a medical condition.

Sophie Neveu as one of the major characters of this film feels anxiety when she was a child saw the ritual of her grandfather with a women, before she knows the meaning of that ritual, she ran from her grandfather until he was found dead in his Paris' Louvre museum. Sophie knows that her grandfather tries to tell something important to her by symbols.

The movie has several concurrent subplots interweaving the lives of different characters; eventually all the characters are brought together and the subplots resolved in the denouement. The unraveling of the mystery requires the solution to a series of brain-teaser, including anagrams and number of puzzles. The ultimate solution is found to be ultimately connected with the possible location of the Holy Grail and to a mysterious society called the Priory of Sion, as well as to the Knight Templar. The story also involves the Roman Catholic organization Opus Dei.

Based on the description above, the researcher intends to conduct a study on Ron Howard's *The Da Vinci Code* particularly the major character's anxiety, using Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalytic Theory. This study is conducted under the title "ANXIETY OF SOPHIE NEVEU IN *THE DA VINCI CODE* FILM: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH".

B. Literary Review

There are many researchers who have conducted a study on the movie of *The Da Vinci Code*, here the researcher will analyze it by focusing on the anxiety, one of the psychoanalytic principles proposed by Sigmund Freud, of Sophie Neveu, the main character of the movie.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon clarified above the researcher proposes the problem “How is the anxiety reflected on major character personality in Ron Howard’s *The Da Vinci Code*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher limits the study. She analyzes Sophie Neveu because she is still Jesus Christ’s generation as one of the major characters in *The Da Vinci Code* directed by Ron Howard based on Psychoanalytic Perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze anxiety on Ron Howard 's *The Da Vinci Code* based psychoanalytic perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically, the result of the study contributes to the larger body of the knowledge particularly literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

Practically, the study can add experiences to the knowledge to the researcher of the psychoanalytic theory applied in a literary work, particularly on Ron Howard *The Da Vinci Code*.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

Based on the problem statement and the discussion, the researcher will use the descriptive qualitative method to the causes and effects of anxiety by the major character toward her behavior in the movie *The Da Vinci Code* through psychoanalytic perspective.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Da Vinci Code* a film by Ron Howard.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

In analyzing Ron Howard's *The Da Vinci Code* the researcher uses the descriptive qualitative method because it does not need statistic to explore the fact.

b. Data Source

1) Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the movie itself, *The Da Vinci Code* directed by Ron Howard.

2) Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are author's biography, psychoanalytic theory books, essay, comment, critic, homepage and other relevance sources.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting techniques used in this study is the library research. The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
- d. Analyzing conclusion based on the analyzing data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The first step is analyzing the data of this research. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. Second step is analyzing data based on psychoanalytic theory conducted by Sigmund Freud.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter one is introduction. This chapter involves the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method and paper organization. Chapter two deals with the underlying theory. It covers the notion on psychoanalytic theory, main principles of Sigmund

Freud's psychoanalytic, structural elements of the movie, and theoretical application. Chapter three is structural analysis, which includes character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, and theme. Chapter four deals with psychoanalytic analysis and chapter five deals with conclusion and suggestion.