

**STRUGGLE FOR THE TRUTH IN OLIVER STONE'S *JFK* MOVIE:  
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

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**by:**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Good civilians are civilians who love their nation. The evidence of loving their country are making the country become peaceful, make the corruption, collusion and nepotism disappear and of course make the country become comfortable place to live. To bring it become reality there should be a good law and justice. Justice should be maintained to get the truth although to find something that had been hided for a long time needs brave hearth. A good civilian that care of the country will do anything to know what really happen with the justice in the country, although the civilian will get pressure and be threatened from a lot of sides and of course someone that care of the law and justice will find problem that disturb the way. But, with great spirit it is possible to make justice become reality.

That phenomenon does not only influence society but also literary works such as movie, novels, poem, and short story and so on. Movie is one of literary works that needs to get attention from the society. A movie describes human experience, human live, human style, and human feeling that can be used to describe the real live.

The story of the movie reflect real life, it can be a character or problems in personal or in the relationship between individuals in social life. If someone wants to know more about the movie, they should study the movie

using science. There are many sciences that can be used. One of them is Individual Psychological. Generally, individual Psychological is science, which studies human being or human personality. Individual psychology focused on the study about human social nature, striving from mastery and effort to overcome feeling of inferiority of compensation. (Adler, <http://psych.eiu.edu/spencer/Adler.html>.)

Individual psychological theory was introduced by Alfred Adler (1870-1937), an Austrian neurologist and psychologist (Baron, 1995: 474). According to Adler as quoted by Ryckman (1985-95) individual Psychological is a science that attempt to understand the experiences and behavior of each person fundamental attitudes toward life.

The struggle of finding the truth can be seen in the *JFK* movie. In *JFK* movie we will see how the struggles of an Attorney find the murder of the United State President that is John Fitzgerald Kennedy or *JFK*. *JFK* is a 1991 American film directed by Oliver Stone. The movie was released on December 20, 1991. The film examines the events leading to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and alleged subsequent cover-up through the eyes of former New Orleans district attorney, Jim Garrison (played by Kevin Costner.) Garrison filed charges against New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw (Tommy Lee Jones) for his alleged participation in a conspiracy to assassinate the President. The film was adapted by Stone and Zachary Sklar from the books *On the Trail of the Assassins* by Jim Garrison and *Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy* by Jim Marrs In.

*JFK* movie storied about Jim Garrison a New Orleans District Attorney that want to investigate the murder of *JFK* in November 20, 1963. But, he investigates this case 3 years later in 1967 after the Jim Garrison read the Warren report of John Fitzgerald Kennedy murder. He started the investigation with interrogating several witnesses of the Kennedy's assassination. The first of the witness he interrogated was Willie O'Keefe and then David Ferrie and also Clay Shaw. But, Garrison was late because most of the witnesses were asked to shut up. Here, Garrison sure that there is conspiracy in the highest level of Government. Garrison also get an information from Mr. X , that tell to Garrison about what he think in *JFK* case that makes Garrison realize who is someone that has motif to murder the president. In here, Garrison that Kennedy's vice president Lyndon Baines Johnson as co-conspirator because he has strong motive to change Kennedy. Mr. X asks Garrison to interrogate international business man called Clay Shaw. When Garrison does the investigation he gets a lot of pressure from the conspirator and people around him. From his family, his wife thinks that Garrison time only to think about Kennedy's case and he forgot about his family. He also get pressure from his staff that that doubt his motives in this case and one by one leaved Garrison when they didn't agree with Garrison way of thinking. The last pressure is from the conspirator, he get mysterious call that makes his family scared. Then, the witness become afraid and didn't want to tell about this case anymore. One by one of the witnesses are killed but, before Ferrie's death he told that there was a conspiracy around

Kennedy's murder. In March 1969 when this case bring to the court, the jury accused Shaw but the jury believe that there was a conspiracy behind the assassination but not enough evidence to link Shaw to that conspiracy.

The writer is interested in analyzing this movie because this is true story movie about the struggle of a New Orleans Districts Attorney, his name is Jim Garrison. He is good guy, brave, honest, never give up, hard worker that really love his family although he rather emotional. He wants to find the truth and to prove something that he had believed is true in *JFK* murder although, he in inferior place and should strive from mastery of the conspirators. He also get a lot of pressures both from the conspirators and people around him but he never give up and still wants to prove it with logic evidences. After watching this movie the writer has new point of view that people especially in here is Garrison will do everything to prove what he had believed although he should face a lot of problems. This movie also gives new information to the people that don't know yet about the murder. This movie also storied about controversial case that still debated. According to the writer point of view Garrison's struggle is best to be studied using Individual Psychological Approach that focus on human social nature, striving from superiority and effort to overcome inferiority feeling and compensation.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze the *JFK* movie entitled "Struggle for the truth in Oliver Stone's *JFK* movie: An Individual Psychological Approach."

## **B. Previous Study**

The previous research related to the study was conducted by D.K. Holm. His article entitled “The Director’s Cut”. The research result is that *JFK* is not historical document, because it needs to be viewed as a “Boy’s Own Adventure”, with Kevin Costner as simple heroic figure out to stay dragons.

Another previous research was written by Romanowski, William D. His article entitled ”Oliver Stone’s “*JFK*”: Commercial Film Making, Cultural History and Conflict”. The research result is that this movie has long been recognized a powerful transmitter of culture because it transmits beliefs, values, knowledge.

In this research, the writer wants to analyze the *JFK* movie entitled “Struggle for the Truth in Oliver Stone’s *JFK* Movie: An Individual Psychological Approach”.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study, the writer wants to propose a problem statement: how struggle for the truth is reflected in Oliver Stone’s *JFK*.

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this study the writer limits the idea to focus and analyze Jim Garrison as the major protagonist character of the *JFK* movie script in his struggle for the truth based on Individual Psychological Approach.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement mentioned above the researcher has the following objectives:

1. To analyze the movie based on its Structural elements by finding characters and characterizations, settings, point of view, plot, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, editing.
2. To analyze Garrison's Struggle motives for finding the truth viewed on Individual Psychological Approach?

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefits:**

To give additional information and give contribution the larger body of knowledge particularly studies in *JFK* movie by Oliver Stone.

### **2. Practical Benefits:**

To give deeper understanding for the writer self about *JFK* movie based on Individual Psychological Approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Types of the Study**

This research is descriptive qualitative method which focused on the analysis of textual data.

## **2. Object of the Research**

The object of the research is *JFK* movie by Oliver Stone.

## **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

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

- a. Primary data source of this study is *JFK* movie by Oliver Stone.
- b. The secondary source consists of the other data that have relationship with the study, such as data from website, articles, journals and commentaries.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The writer uses library research by collecting and selecting both of the primary and the secondary data source. The writer also watches *JFK* movie and reads another data from website and takes a note of the important information related to the subject matter.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. The structural element of the movie will be analyzed by finding the character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, editing using the collected data. Then the collected data also is analyzed in detail through Individual Psychological Approach, especially individual Psychological Approach to find the Inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for the



superiority, style of live, social interest, creative power, and fictional finalism.

#### **H. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of an Individual Psychological Approach by using Alfred Adler's theory. The third chapter deals with the structural analysis of the movie. The fourth Chapter discusses an Individual Psychological Approach on the movie. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.