

**STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IN ROLAND EMMERICH'S *THE PATRIOT*:  
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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**by**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Every country has right to be free from colonialism of the other countries. To get freedom, sometimes the country needs struggle because the colonizer will not easily give their domination. Struggle is an energetic attempt to achieve something. Struggle also has a meaning to strive or to make effort with a twisting or with contortions of the body. One of the examples of struggle is war. War is the way of several countries to get freedom. Freedom, independence, liberty, (<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/freedom?>) refer to an absence of undue restrictions and an opportunity to exercise one's rights and powers. Freedom emphasizes the opportunity given for the exercise of one's rights, powers or desires.

Struggle for freedom reflected in American revolutionary war, that is “The American Revolutionary War” which happened in 1775 until 1783, also known as the American War of Independence, as a war between the Kingdom of Great Britain and thirteen united former British colonies on the North American continent. The war is the culmination of the political American Revolution, when the colonists reject the right of the Parliament of Great Britain to govern them without representation.

At the beginning of the war, the Thirteen Colonies lacked a professional army. Each colony provided for its own defenses through the use of local militia. Militiamen were lightly armed, slightly trained, and usually did not have uniforms. Their units served for only a few weeks or months at a time, were reluctant to go very far from home, and were thus generally unavailable for extended operations. Seeking to coordinate military efforts, the Continental

Congress established a regular army in June 1775, and appointed George Washington as commander-in-chief. The development of the Continental Army was always a work in progress, and Washington used both his regulars and state militia throughout the war. Those are The United States Marine Corps and Continental Marines of the war.

In film *The Patriot* directed by Roland Emmerich (2000), The American Revolutionary War become the theme of that film. The story is about a man, namely Benjamin Martin (Gibson), a South Carolina veteran of the French and Indian War and a widower raising his seven children on his farm. Gabriel (Ledger), the eldest, wants to join the American forces fighting the British in the Revolutionary War. Knowing war from personal experience, Ben tries to stop his son's ambitions, but he cannot stop him. Gabriel returns home two years later, but British soldiers arrive and kill the Colonial wounded, burn the Martin house and arrest Gabriel as a spy. Ben's next eldest son Thomas (Smith) is shot and killed by the leader of the Green Dragoons, Colonel William Tavington (Isaacs). Because of that reason, martin finally has desire to against British soldiers. By using his knowledge of fighting, Martin finally can save Gabriel. After that, Ben decides to join the soldier, leaving the other children in the care of their aunt Charlotte (Joely Richardson), Ben's sister-in-law.

Ben was asked by Continental Army Colonel Harry Burwell (Cooper) to organize a militia. Knowing that Ben is a commander of a militia, Cornwallis tries to arrest Ben's family but his effort is failure and finally burns Ben's house. During the war, Tavington kills Gabriel. Ben is shocked and his passion for combat extinguished, but he returns to the Continentals to avenge his sons, and plans to kill Tavington. The final of the battle quickly begins and Cornwallis is forced to retreat and eventually surrenders. Martin and his family return to their home and find the militia builds their home again.

In this paper, the researcher is interested in analyzing Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film (2000) by using individual psychological approach. According to Adler (1930:399), Individual psychology insists the fundamental unity of personality. All apparent dichotomies and multiplicities of life are organized in one self-consistent totally. No definite division can be made between mind and body, between conscious and unconscious. All behavior is seen in relation to the final goal of superiority of success. This goal gives direction and unity to the individual.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing struggle for freedom in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film by using individual psychological approach and proposes to conduct a research "Struggle for Freedom in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot*: An Individual Psychological Approach".

## **B. Literary Review**

The research of Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* is not a new thing. There is a research on this film. Nurjanti (UMS, 2008) entitle: "Freedom and Sacrifice in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* Movie: A Sociological Approach".

In her research paper, she emphasizes about freedom and sacrifices that shown in *The Patriot* film. She uses sociological approach while the researcher uses An Individual Psychological Approach.

## **C. Problem Statement**

From the background of the study above, the writer would like to state the problem statement as "How is struggle for freedom reflected in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film?"

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

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the writer will make a limitation to the research. The writer will only focus on how the Ben's struggles are shown in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film.

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

Dealing with the problem statement above the objectives of the studies are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the film in order to identify the unity of the film.
2. To analyze the major characters of the film based on the individual psychological approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By doing so, the writer expects some benefits from this research, those are:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

By doing this research, the writer wants to have contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing criticism as objective as the writer can.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

This research can be used by the next researchers to do a research related to psychological approach, especially on Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film.

### **G. Research Method**

#### **1. Type of the Study**

The writer uses descriptive qualitative type. Crabtree and Miller (1999: 5) says that a qualitative is "an interpretive research focusing on a natural, often human, field of activity, with the goal of generating holistic and realistic descriptions and/or explanations".

## **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is the Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* film.

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

There are two kinds of data namely primary and secondary data. First, the primary data are taken from the text of the movie such as dialogues, character action and whole narration, which are relevant to the object of analysis. Second, the secondary data includes the references of some books and the internet.

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

The techniques of collecting data are:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly
- b. Determining the major character that will be analyzed
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification
- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on individual psychological Alfred Adler's theory
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzed data.

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

The researcher uses two step of technique in analyzing the data. The first step in analyzing data of this research is trying to clarify to obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. The second step is analyzing based on individual psychological theory.

## **H. Paper Organization**

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some order for the paper organization. Chapter 1 contains introduction that consist of title, background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study,

benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II is about underlying theory that deals with theory of individual psychology, major principles of individual psychology, structural element of a movie and theoretical application. Chapter III covers structural elements of the movie that includes character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme of movie and style. Beside, this chapter also contains discussion of the structural elements of movie. Chapter IV is individual psychology analysis. It is about application of the theory individual psychology toward the movie. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion.