

ANXIETY OF ACHILLES IN WOLFGANG PETERSEN'S *TROY* FILM:

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

As every body knows that the behavior of the general human being is changeable. For example, behavior changes in better or worst. There are many elements of the world of reality that provides human being with supplies that may offer satisfaction of what they are thinking. It makes the human being acquire that. Now the point is how to make the dreams come true in reality. In sum, it can be said that human being's behavior is derived from what they think on mind.

To fulfill desire, human being can choose either the right way or the wrong one. It depends on their decision of which ways will be advantageous for them. In fact, every human being always wants to live in prosperity and far from misery, since human being basically follow the desire and avoid pain. But, to gratify their instinct for pleasure, they sometimes have no regard for social conventions, legal ethic, or moral restrains. Furthermore, human beings become selfish. Therefore, they can do anything for their own advantages. Human being will ignore others as long as they can gain their own purposes. They may harm, betray, or lies to other even their own families. However human being cannot live in peace even though they have already become strong and powerful, since they may be chased by the feeling of insecurities and fear as the consequences of wrong behavior. In other word, human beings become anxious.

In this research the writer is interested to analyze the film which is featured with the anxiety. The film is the great media which offer many stories, the action of the actor within shown in the film make the moviegoer impressed. Sometimes we find several scene shown happily and sadly, especially the anxiety of the actor when they got a misery or confusedness so that the researcher attempts to analyze the anxiety of Achilles in *Troy* as the major character in order to make the reader understand the film clearly. However, the writer wants to attempt one film entitle *Troy*. *Troy* is an epic film released on May 14, 2004, concerning with the Trojan War. It is loosely based on Homer's *Iliad*, but includes material from Virgil's *Aeneid* and other sources, and frequently diverges from myth. The film has the following cast of actors prominent at the time of its release: Brad Pitt as Achilles, Eric Bana as Hector, Orlando Bloom as Paris, Diane Kruger as Helen, Brian Cox as Agamemnon, Sean Bean as Odysseus, Rose Byrne as Briseis, Garrett Hedlund as Patroclus, Peter O'Toole as Priam, Brendan Gleeson as Menelaus, and Tyler Mane as Ajax. *Troy* was directed by Wolfgang Petersen and written by David Benioff. It received an Oscar nomination for its costume design.

In ancient Greece, the passion of two of history's most legendary lovers, Paris, Prince of *Troy* (Bloom) and Helen (Kruger), Queen of Sparta, ignites a war that will devastate a civilization. When Paris steals Helen away from her husband, King Menelaus (Gleeson), it is an insult that cannot be suffered. Familial pride dictates that an affront to Menelaus is an affront to his brother Agamemnon (Cox), powerful King of the Mycenaean's, who soon unites all the massive tribes of Greece to steal Helen back from *Troy* in defense of his brothers honor.

In truth, Agamemnon's pursuit of honor is corrupted by his overwhelming greed. He needs control of *Troy* to ensure the supremacy of his already vast empire. The walled city, under the leadership of King Priam (O'Toole) and defended by mighty Prince Hector (Bana), is a citadel that no army has been able to breach. One man alone stands as the key to victory or defeat over Troy? Achilles (Pitt) believed to be the greatest warrior alive.

When the film was completed, total production costs were approximately \$180,000,000. This makes *Troy* one of the most expensive films made in modern cinema. Not adjusted for inflation, it is number 13 on the all time list of most expensive films and number 16 when adjusted for inflation.

Troy screenings have earned \$133 million (US\$133,378,256) in the United States. Having cost \$180 million to make, the film was a disappointment in the US. Many critics anticipated that it would flop as *Troy* barely missed the \$50 million mark on its opening US weekend and wrote off the film. *Troy* was among the several historical epics released in 2004 that disappointed, such as *Alexander*, *The Alamo* and *King Arthur*, although it fared better than those films.

However, *Troy* was a financial success at the international box office and did extremely well, making more than 73% of its revenues outside of the U.S. Eventually *Troy* made over US\$497 million dollars worldwide, placing it in the #60 spot of top box office hits of all time. This places the film 17 spots above *Gladiator* (#77) and approximately 20 spots above *300* (#80) in the all-time worldwide box office.

Troy met mixed reactions by reviewers. Rotten Tomatoes gave it an average approval rating of 55% from a base of 215 reviews, while Yahoo! Movies gave it a critic rating of "B-" (although that was based on 15 Critical Reviews). Roger Ebert, who disliked what he saw as

an unfaithful adaptation of the *Iliad*, gave it two stars out of four Ebert claimed that *Troy* "sidesteps the existence of the Greek gods, turns its heroes into action movie clichés and demonstrates that we're getting tired of computer-generated armies."

Actually the phenomenon above has a similarity in the real of life, the conflict within such as: revenge, falsehood, conceit, betrayal, suppression, etc. based on the elements above this research more actual in the real of life. Simulated by the fact above, the researcher intends to conduct a study from psychological aspect of a character described in a film by using psychoanalytic theory proposed by Sigmund Freud. The research is focused on pleasure principle of Achilles and its consequence, one of the major characters in *Troy*, film made by Wolfgang Petersen and written by David Benioff. There are many appreciations for this film until this film enjoyed by the moviegoer in the world.

2005 ASCAP film and Television Music Awards

- Won - Top Box Office film — James Horner

2005 Academy Awards (Oscars)

- Nominated - Best Achievement in Costume Design — Bob Ringwood

2005 Japanese Academy Prize

- Nominated - Best Foreign film

2005 MTV Movie Awards

- Nominated - Best Fight — Brad Pitt, Eric Bana
- Nominated - Best Male Performance — Brad Pitt

2005 Motion Picture Sound Editors (Golden Reel Award)

- Nominated - Best Sound Editing in Foreign Features — Wylie Statesman, Martin Cantwell, James Boyle, Harry Barnes, Paul Conway, Alex Joseph, Matthew Grime, Steve Schwalbe, Howard Halsall, Sue Lenny, Simon Price, Nigel Stone

2005 Teen Choice Awards

- Won - Choice Movie Actor - Drama/Action Adventure — Brad Pitt
- Nominated - Choice Breakout Movie Star - Male — Garrett Hedlund
- Nominated - Choice Movie - Drama/Action Adventure
- Nominated - Choice Movie Fight/Action Sequence

There are two considerations why *Troy* is taken into account. The first, one of the major characters, Achilles is representation of human being who gets the anxiety because of the relationship in society. The second is that the film possesses a great potentiality to comprehend a phenomenon related to psychological problem in life of characters. Those all are the elements of the film so that writer is interested in analyzing.

B. Literary Review

In this study, the researcher attempts to compare to another related to this topic. The first research belongs to Lastri Cahyani entitle “Symbolism Analysis in Wolfgang Petersen’s *Troy*: Structural Approach” and her result includes the symbolism and the structural elements. The second research belong to Sigit Priyanto entitle “The Seeking for Pleasure and its Consequence in George Elliot’s *Romola*: Psychoanalytic Approach” and his result includes the major character seek for pleasure and his consequence.

From the literature reviews above, the present researcher assumes that there is no researcher who has analyzed Anxiety is employed by of Achilles in Wolfgang Petersen in his film entitle *Troy* using Psychoanalytic Approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research formulates the problem in this study follow “How is anxiety of Achilles in Wolfgang Petersen’s *Troy* Film?”

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the film in terms of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the film based on the Psychoanalytic approach.

E. Limitation of the Study

To carry out this study, it is necessary for the researcher to limit this study. In this case, the researcher wants to analyze the conflict between *id*, *ego*, and *superego* of the major character that influences his behavior applies for desire that causes unpleasant consequences.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are two kinds of the benefits of the study namely:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result can enrich the body of knowledge related to the research to research on *Troy* film and also give contribution of the development of literary studies in UMS especially for an English Department.

2. Practical benefit

The result helps other researchers who want to analyze *Troy* film and fulfills the requirement for getting bachelor degree.

G. Research Method

1. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is *Troy* film.

2. Type of the Study

This research belongs to qualitative study.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The method of collecting data in this study is library research, which means the data from the both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document as evidence. The technique is as follows:

a. Primary data source

The primary data source is the transcript of *Troy* film directed by Wolfgang Petersen, particularly the statements expressing the mental condition of the major character that supports the research.

b. Secondary data source

Secondary data source includes books, journal, websites, dictionary and other sources that the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used for collecting data library research. By collecting and selecting both the primary data and the secondary data the researcher finds some requires steps.

- a. Watching the film repeatedly to get deep understanding
- b. Watching some related film

- c. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data sources.
- d. Classifying the data into some categories

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis used by the writer includes two techniques.

First, descriptive technique in which the researcher explores some information started implicitly within both of primary and secondary data sources.

Second, hermeneutics technique in which the writer involves the researcher effort in interpreting the film.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and research paper organization. Chapter II deals with theoretical approach in analyzing *Troy* film, it exposes the theory of Psychoanalytic theory. Chapter III deals with the structural analysis of the work, which includes the structural elements that construct the work. Chapter IV deals with the discussion of psychoanalysis. It represents the application of the underlying theory in which the novel is analyzed by means of Freud's psychoanalysis. This chapter describes how psychoanalysis elements, namely the id, *ego*, and the *superego* interact one another and make a conflict influencing the major characters behavior that causes anxiety. Chapter V is the conclusion of all the discussion and suggestion.