

**CONFLICTING CHOICES OF MARIA'S LIFE  
IN ROBERT WISE'S *SOUND OF MUSIC*:  
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

*Sound of Music* movie is directed by Robert Wise and starring Julie Andrews in the lead role. This movie is published by Robert Wise Productions and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Studios. It has 174 min long duration includes credit title of the movie maker. The movie version was filmed on location in Salzburg, Austria and Bavaria in Southern Germany, and also at the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Studios in California. This movie released in 1965.

The film is based on the Broadway musical *The Sound of Music*, with songs written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and with the musical book written by the writing team of Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. The screenplay wrote by Ernest Lehman. It already played in Broadway in year 1959. *Sound of Music* also played in West End and Melbourne in year 1961. The musical originated with the book *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers* by Maria von Trapp. It contains many popular songs, including “Edelweiss”, “Do-Re-Mi”, “Sixteen Going on Seventeen”, and many more as well as the title song.

According to the real Maria von Trapp, the writers of *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, the film presents a history of the von Trapp family which is not holly accurate. Georg Ludwig von Trapp, who was not anti-Nazi, lived with his family in a villa in a suburb of Salzburg, called Aigen. Maria

and Georg had been married 10 years before the Anschluss and had two of their three children before that time. Georg had even considered a position in the Kriegsmarine but ultimately decided to emigrate.

While the von Trapp family hiked over the Alps to Switzerland in the movie, in reality they walked to the local train station and boarded the next train to Italy. From Italy they fled to London and ultimately the United States. Salzburg is in fact only a few miles away from the Austrian-German border, and is much too far from either the Swiss or Italian borders for a family to escape by walking. Had the von Trapps hiked over the mountains, they would have ended up in Germany, near the Kehlsteinhaus, Hitler's mountain retreat in Berchtesgaden.

*Sound of Music* movie tells about Maria who lives in a convent, where she is a postulant preparing to enter an unidentified order of nuns. Some of the senior nuns find her to be a troublesome presence. To test her vocation, she is sent out to be the governess of Captain Georg von Trapp, a widower and a decorated World War II Captain of the Austro-Hungarian Navy. Von Trapp is an Austrian patriot at a time when it would be safer to be friendly to the ascendant Nazi regime.

The Captain is raising his children in a strict and militaristic manner, of which Maria doesn't agree with. The children, who are naughty, soon come to love the bravery of Maria, as she works to loosen the Captain's strict policies and bring warmth back into the family. She finds herself in love with the stern Captain but tries to deny her feelings, because he is engaged to be

married to Baroness Elsa Schrader and because she is still considering returning to the church to take her vows as a nun. He too finds himself enjoying Maria as governess but remains quiet about his feelings.

The Baroness tries to make misunderstanding between Maria and Captain von Trapp so that Maria returns to church, but the children pursue her to return. After some reflection and conversation with the Mother Abbes, Maria leaves the church. After she return, the Captain soon breaks off his engagement with the Baroness and asks Maria to marry him. The Captain is called to duty in the Kriegsmarine of the Thrid reich, but Maria an the Captain arrange for the family to leave the country. Following a family concert that features the Captain's singing "Edelweiss", they sing their final song, "So Long, Farewell," as they escape through the church and travel over the mountain to Switzerland.

This movie tells about the dilemma faced by Maria when she tries to choose between being a nun and getting married. It shows the conflicting choice within Maria when she finally realize her feelings to Captain von Trapp. She must choose her way of live to become a nun o become a wife and a mother.

*Sound of Music* movie reflects the conflicting choices in human life. As a postulant, Maria, who lives all alone by herself thinks that without any family left she better becomes a nun and make herself as God servant. In the way to learn about being a nun, she faces dilemma because she finds herself falling in love with a man. In this movie, Mother Abbes, as a senior nun try to

tell Maria to look up in her deepest heart to get an answer. Mother Abbes believe that any dilemma or any conflicting choices in your heart can be answered by hearing your deepest heart. In the end this movie shows that the decision which Maria made can make her life happier.

There are some public responses toward this movie. The reviewer from Time Magazine gives comment that it was good movie, although in dialogue, song and story, music still contains too much sugar, too little spice. Another one is Lucia Bozzola from All Movie Guide who gives comment that this movie became unabashedly sentimental and a box office smash, *The Sound of Music* (1965) became the last old-fashioned blockbuster musical before the seismic shifts of the late 1960s and 1970s. For family who loves this kind of movie may also enjoy *The King and I* (has similar romance, while the servant loves the boss) or *Marry Poppins* (has similar story about how to baby sit children).

*Sound of Music* movie estimated spends about \$ 8,200,000. This movie was released on 2 March 1965 in the United States; 29 March 1965 in the United Kingdom. Based on the blockbuster movie of all time website, the marketing *Sound of Music* grossed a total of over \$ 158 million domestic with a total gross of \$163,214,286 worldwide.

*Sound of Music* already had some award. There are, the Academy Award for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Sound, Best Film Editing and Best Music, Scoring of Music, Adaptation or Treatment of 1965. The cast album was nominated for a Grammy Award for Album of the Year. The United

States Library of Congress also selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry in 2001. The other awards are Eddie Award in American Cinema Editors, USA as the Best Edited Feature Film, in Directors Guild of America, USA in Outstanding Directional Achievement in Motion Pictures, in Writers Guild of America, USA in the Best Written American Musical, in Golden Globe Awards in Best Motion Picture Musical-Comedy and Best Motion Picture Actress Musical-Comedy, and in Laurel Awards for Golden Laurel in General Entertainment Musical Performance, Female all in 1966.

There are five points of interest from this movie are; first is the cast of the major character which is the best female character ever, Julie Andrews. It shows by the awards that she has won. She is an award-winning English actress, singer, author, and icon. She is the recipient of Golden Globe, Emmy, Grammy, BAFTA, People's Choice Award, Theatre World Award, Screen Actors Guild and Academy Award honors.

Second, is about the character. Julie Andrews, act as the real person in the world, Maria von Trapp. In this movie she acts as a nun and become a fairy good-mother for the seven children of Captain von Trapp. In the entire life of her career as an actress, this role will always become her specialization.

Third, is about the location and the background story in making this movie. This shooting scene is in Salzburg, Austria. We can see beautiful scenery of Austrian popular place. The background story which is in the late 1940s and also include the World War 1, make the story as unusual and really

make this movie as a classic movie in this century. It also shows us simple and almost real conditions in that era.

The fourth point is the plot of this movie that tells about Maria (Julie Andrews) who lives in a postulant to become a nun, in the middle of Nazi regime. She sent by her senior nun to teach seven children of Captain von Trapp (Christopher Plummer), a widower and a captain of the Austro-Hungarian Navy. She spent her life to teach the children in love and harmony, not in military way as the Captain did. As the time goes by, Maria and Captain von Trapp falling in love, and it makes the great conflicting choice in Maria's heart. She must decide whether she marries the Captain or stay becomes a nun. As she decides to marry the Captain, her new family must face the Nazi which wants to recruit Captain von Trapp. In the end of the story, the whole family escapes over the mountain to Switzerland.

The last point is about the theme, this movie talks about Maria that faces conflicting choices in her life. In the beginning of the movie, Maria was a loner and lives as a postulant to become a nun. But in the middle of the movie, she finds herself to be falling in love with a man. Of course it was an obedient for those who want to be a nun. This movie shows the great conflicting choices in life. It shows that choices, some of them maybe conflicting, are often occur.

*Sound of Music* movie is an interesting movie. It can be seen from the background of this movie. The background of *Sound of Music* movie is about how people face and choose the choice in life. As we know that choice always

occur in everyone life. This movie can help people to realize or perhaps to choose the best or the suitable solution of their choices.

Conflict may occur within our self or with other people. Conflict can happen when the Id, Ego, and Superego not in one condition or opposite. It means that conflict is the way of human to develop the personality.

Psychoanalysis approach helps us to analyze conflicting choices that occur in character in any literature. Psychoanalysis has significant correlation with any conflict occur in human life, whether it within itself or with other person. In considering issues about conflict, psychoanalysis has some perspectives to explain.

Based on the description above, the writer wants to conduct the research entitled “CONFLICTING CHOICES OF MARIA’S LIFE IN ROBERT WISE’S *SOUND OF MUSIC*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”.

## **B. Literature Review**

The study on *Sound of Music* has not been done yet, at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. As far as the writer knows, this movie has not been analyzed before. This is the first study on the *Sound of Music* movie. The writer is interested in this movie because the other researches has not analyzed yet.

The researcher takes the psychoanalytic approach to reveal the conflicting choices of Maria as the major character in the *Sound of Music* movie.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The main problem statement emerged in this research is how the conflicting choices are reflected in *Sound of Music* movie.

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

The researcher limits this research in analyzing the character only in the major character, Maria, and limits the approach only by Sigmund Freud.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

According to the problem statement above, the writer has the following objectives on this study. They are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the movie based on psychoanalysis perspective.

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

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

To give some contribution to the development of the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary study on *Sound of Music* movie especially by a psychoanalysis perspective.

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

This study is dedicated and gives deeper understanding for the writer herself about the play based on psychoanalysis perspective.

### **G. Research Method**

To analyze the data in this play, the writer uses the qualitative method in this study.

## **1. Object of the Study**

The researcher takes a Robert Wise's *Sound of Music* as the object of study.

## **2. Type of the Study**

Type of the study used in this research is qualitative research.

Qualitative research is a research that

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

### **a. Type of Data**

Type of data employed in this research is textual data consisting of words, phrases, and sentences.

### **b. Data Source**

Types of the data source in this research are classified into two categories, called primary data and secondary data:

#### **1) Primary Data**

The primary data source is the *Sound of Music* movie.

#### **2) Secondary Data**

The secondary data sources are the books about psychoanalysis and also the other materials related to the analysis.

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

In collecting the data of this research, the writer uses the library research. The techniques of data collection procedures are as follows:

- a. Watching and learning on *Sound of Music* and secondary data from other sources.

- b. Identifying data obtained for the analysis.
- c. Classifying the data into some categories.
- d. Making some notes of important parts.
- e. Selecting some parts considerate relevant for the analysis.

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

The data analyzing technique of this research is descriptive qualitative analysis of content analysis. The analysis is starting from the structural analysis of the work and finally the psychoanalyst analysis of the literary work.

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

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that explains the background of the study, the literary review, and the problem statement, the limitation of the study, the objectives of the study, the benefit of the study, the theoretical approach, the research method, and the paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. It consists of the notion of psychoanalysis, structure of personality, conflict, structural element of movie, and theoretical application. Chapter three is the analysis of the movie. It includes the structural element of movie. Chapter four is psychoanalysis analysis that deals with the discussion. Chapter five contains conclusion and suggestion.