

**DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JEAN VALJEAN  
IN BILLE AUGUST'S "LES MISERABLES" MOVIE:  
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

People as long as their lives always get in touch with other person or their society. That is why people cannot avoid problems between their society and event with themselves. Problem will exist when there is a discrepancy between their present state and their perceived goal state and there is no readily apparent way to get from one other. They sometimes experience in sadness, hesitation, and anxiety.

Anxiety is one of psychological problems. Anxiety can be a nightmare for one individual. Anxiety may occurs when one individual feels his society not to treat him as an individual who has right to decide what he or she wants to express his or her feeling. Instead he or she pushes to except his or her society decision without giving him or her chance to speak. Anxiety is an unpleasant emotional experience similar but not identical to feelings of nervousness, worry, agitation, or panic (Burger, 1986: 59).

Under her pressure of excessive anxiety, the *ego* is sometimes forced to make extreme measures to relieve the pressure. These measures are called defense mechanism. In general, defense mechanisms serve the useful purpose of defending the *ego* against the paint of anxiety. Although they are normal and universally used when carried to an extreme they lead to compulsive, repetitive, and even neurotic behavior. The establishment and maintenance of defense

mechanism. Require a consist expenditure of energy any person who elaborates them has title psychic energy left to satisfy *id* impulse. Defense mechanism deals directly with instinctual demand and to defense it self against the anxiety (Feist, 1985: 33).

Literature as artwork has a close relationship with the psychoanalysis. The author gives the character has in his or her work which this character is faced on two o more choices or some difficulties and the character becomes anxious. Therefore, the character will do defense mechanism to solve his or her anxiety or problems.

In this case, the writer intends to conduct a study personality aspect of the main character, Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*. *Les Miserables* based on the classic novel in 1862 by Victor Hugo, Bille August as directed and Rafael Vglessias as manuscript in this movie. It tells situation and condition at revolution French, Jean Valjean is a Frenchman imprisoned for stealing bread, paroled in Dijon after nearly two decades of hard labor, and he flee from a police officer Javert. At the time Valjean stay in a bishop's house, he treated with respect, and a honest man, but even so, he steal bishop's silverware, then captured. However, the bishop says that the silverware was a gift, proving Valjean's innocence by giving him two silver candlesticks. Valjean is free, but the bishop asks him to treat others with equal kindness. In 1822, Valjean has raised to mayor the village of Vigau, where he also maintains a successful factory. He always survives in difficulty, he defense his *ego* that in revolution period.

There are three reasons the writer analyzes *Les Miserables* movie by Bille August. First, the story of the movie is an adaptation from the classic novel by Victor Hugo's. For that reason the writer want to know the condition and situation at the revolution France period. At the time was people are poor, hunger, persecution, humiliation and have not been education.

Second, the object is *Les Miserables*, inside Valjean is a mayor life in era revolution France, occurred oppression, he must choose between staying in hard labor or defending to survive. He was getting anxious in his live he always struggle for his lives. This is one psychological sides in Valjean as major character that defense his *ego* to save himself for unsatisfied condition without cares the other. It is very possible did by everybody to avoid from unsatisfied.

Third reason can be seen from cinematography sides, such as photographical qualities of shot, and the duration of shot. A process of making of film or movie is different with the product. In making of process, it needs long time to produce a product in a cassette form that can be watched only two or three hours. It needs the balance inside, and coincidentally in taking or cutting the picture.

Such as setting of the place at time must nomad from one place to another place, it needs hard work and good cooperation in the team. Moreover, the picture has been made color, to attract the audience or watcher. Nevertheless, it needs the balance and suitable for the clothes and the war equipment that is used at the time.

Based on the reason above it can be learned that a famous person and bring good name for the country will be known and remembered time by time. Bring good name not only with against enemies and become a hero but can be done by other activity for example to this time have achievement in sport, art, science, and so on. Beside that, we can learn to defense mechanism in bad situation and against threats by defending ourselves defense the *ego* in unsatisfied and anxious. And we can learn the cinematography in the movie.

From the illustration above, the writer is interested in analyzing defense mechanism that is used in main character in Bille Agust's *Les Miserables* Movie. The title for the research paper is **DEFENSE MECHANISM OF JEAN VALJEAN IN BILLE AUGUST'S "LES MISERABLES" MOVIE: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**

## **B. Literary Review**

Before analyzing it, the writer has read other papers that are relevant with her analysis, especially about the approach. The writer is Arum Triana Lestari (2004) her researcher title is "Defense Mechanism of Szpilman in Roman Polanski's the pianist movie:a Psychoanalytic Approach".

## **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem in this study is "How is defense mechanism reflected by Jean Valjean in Bille August's *Les Miserables* movie?"

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

To focus on the study, the writer focuses on the analysis of Jean Valjean's defense mechanism as a major and main character in Bille August's *Les Misérables* based on psychoanalytic approach.

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

Dealing with the problem statement above. The objectives of the study are follows:

1. To analyze Bille August's *Les Misérables* the movie based on its structural elements by finding character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme and style.
2. To analyze defense mechanism on Jean Valjean Bille August's *Les Misérables* the movie based on psychoanalytic approach.

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

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

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

This study is gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study on Bille August's *Les Misérables* the movie.

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

This study can add the writer knowledge about Bille August's *Les Misérables* the movie particularly related to the psychoanalytic approach.

## **G. Researcher Method**

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

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method, the research object in this study is Bille August's *Les Miserables* the movie.

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

Object of the research in the case is movie. In inducting the Bille August's *Les Miserables* research, the writer is going to analyze it by using psychoanalytical approach.

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

In study there are two source namely primary and secondary data source. There are:

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data sources is original materials on which other research is base that usually the first formal appearance of result in the print or electronic literature and it's from the tine period.

The primary data source of the study is Bille August's *Les Miserables* the movie.

#### **b. Secondary Data Resources**

The secondary data source is the data that consist of the other data related to the primary data as the support that comment on and discuss the evidence provided by primary source.

The secondary data source consist of the other data, which are related to the primary data, such as books some biography of the author, and other relevant information.

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

The techniques used in this study are observation and library research by collecting and recording both of the primary and the secondary data. The steps of collecting data applied in this study are the follows:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly.
- b. Reading the script to get more understanding.
- c. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information.
- d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources.
- e. Classifying the data into some categories.

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

In this research the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identities defense mechanism of major and main character Bille August's *Les Miserables* movie using psychoanalytic perspective.

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

To make this study more understandable, this study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introductions that consists of background of the study,

literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is about underlying theory that deals with theory of psychoanalytic, major principles of psychoanalytic approach and theoretical application. Chapter III covers the 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 about the structural elements of the movie. Chapter IV is psychoanalytic approach defense mechanism toward the movie. Chapter V consists of conclusion and suggestion of the study.