

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objectives of the study, benefits of the study and research paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

The Pursuit of Happyness movie is very worth watching because there are many life lessons that can be taken in it. The persistence shown by Chris Gardner in living his life was truly extraordinary. This is something we should emulate in our daily lives. Besides that, Chris also inspired all of us not to be easily discouraged and continue to focus on our goals/dreams. There are several messages that have profound meanings, such as in one of the scenes in the movie, when Christopher-son Chris tells a story to his father:

“There was a man who was drowning, and a boat came, and the man on the boat said “Do you need help?” and the man said, “God will save me”. Then another boat came and he tried to help him, but he said “God will save me”, then he drowned and went to Heaven. Then the man told God, “God why didn’t you save me?” and God said, “I sent you two boats, you dummy!”

Another scene that also had a positive meaning was when Chris taught the importance of keeping dreams to Christopher:

“You got a dream, you gotta protect it. People can’t do something themselves, they wanna tell you that you can’t do it. Do You want something? Go get it. Period”

Seen from some audience reviews in IMDB, they said that this movie was one of the inspiring movies.

Fatherhood then is status attained by having a child and is irrevocable (unless an only child dies). Tanfer and Mott (1997) distinguish between “fatherhood” as a status attained by having a child and “fathering” which includes the procreative act and all the child-rearing roles that fathers may fulfill. Fatherhood has a big influence on his children. It can be seen in literary work in this movie. One of the movies that show the fact of fatherhood is *The Pursuit of Happyness*. *The Pursuit of Happyness* is a family drama, the major character in this movie has a good spirit and good character to be a father. This movie describes the hard work of Chris Gardners while he is a father. This movie also describes the love of a father to his son, and this movie can make the spectators be affected. In this movie tells about Chris Gardners to love and care with his son, Christopher. Chris Gardners become a good father for Christopher.

The Pursuit of Happyness movie is a film by Gabriele Muccino. Gabriele Muccino as movie director *The Pursuit of Happyness*, was born in Rome, Italy, 20 May 1967. Muccino enrolled in the faculty of letters at Rome’s “La Sapienza” university. He is an Italian director, working in Europe was always easier than working in America. He begins his movie career as an assistant to Italian director’s Pupi Avati (“The Story of Boy and Girls”) and Marco Risi (“Steam: The Turkish Bath”). Muccino is directing debut earned him a spot in 1998 in film festival where he received a nomination for best direction. The film “The Last Kiss” that propelled Muccino into the international spotlight. In the award, he wins 6 awards and 14 nominations. *The Pursuit of Happyness* release in USA at 15 December 2006.

The Pursuit of Happyness is a 2006 American biographical drama movie based on entrepreneur Chris Gardner's nearly one-year struggle being homeless. The length of the movie is around 2 hours. The movie

features Will Smith as Gardner, a homeless salesman. Smith's son Jaden Smith co-stars, making his film debut as Gardner's son, Christopher Jr. The screenplay by Steven Conrad is based on the best-selling memoir of the same name written by Gardner with Quincy Troupe. The film was released on December 15, 2006, by Columbia Pictures. The unusual spelling of the film's title comes from a mural that Gardner sees on the wall outside the daycare facility his son attends. He complains to the owner of the daycare that "happiness" is incorrectly spelled as "happyness" and needs to be changed.

In this movie, it is told, that Chris Gardner (Will Smith) lives with his wife, Linda and his son (Jaden Smith) who is only 5 years old, in a small apartment. Chris invested all his money to buy portable bone-density scanners, which he offered from one hospital to another hospital. Because the price is still considered expensive, Chris also found it difficult to sell it. While his increasing life needs make his finances difficult, even though his wife has added to his shift. This resulted in Linda finally leaving Chris to New York City. At first, Linda wanted to invite her child, but because Chris insisted, Christopher his son must live with him. Chris is a person who always works hard, and is optimistic. After he met someone he finally decided to work as a stockbroker. One day he lost his car and apartment. Chris had to live without a place to live, even he had to sleep in a public bathroom because he saw his son was very tired and sleepy. The hard work and struggle of Chris Gardner finally managed to become the best apprentice and was accepted to work at Dean Witter Reynolds. A few years later, he founded his own brokerage firm, Gardner Rich.

There is some reason why researcher chooses *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie as an object of this research. First, this movie is about struggle. Anything is Possible or everything is possible. If we are asked how much chance a person who does not have a home, lives on the streets and has a child to look after can be a successful stockbroker and then have a successful stock brokerage company? We will honestly say the odds are

zero / none. But Chris Gardner's story proves that if the dreams and goals to be achieved are so clear and we really want them, any difficulties and challenges can be overcome.

Second, the movie showed how the good father, the good husband, and the good man. To achieve success, do not make a reason for our failures and blame the situation or other people, but take that it is our responsibility. Chris has many reasons and alibis for his failure. He could blame his wife for not supporting and leaving her. He could have blamed the person who offered the opportunity for medical devices that made him difficult. He could blame God for his bad luck. He could blame the government for not helping him. But Chris did not make all these reasons. He takes responsibility and changes his destiny. Many people just complain about the situation, but a winner will take action to change the situation.

Third, *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie is the movie adaptation from the true story, which many people like this story. There are many people express with the various response. The researcher wants to know how the various response after the audience watching this movie. Moreover, the researcher will take from the different subject based on gender, that its man and women, and the researcher will take from parental relation.

Eventually, based on the reason and the background of the study, the researcher presented to do research entitled “Gender-Oriented Perspective On Fatherhood: A Reader Response Study On *The Pursuit Of Happiness* Movie”

B. Problem of the Study

This study formulating into three research question as follow:

1. How is the audience's response to *The Pursuit Of Happiness* movie?
2. How is the audience's response seen from the different background of gender?

3. How is the audience's response seen from the different background of parental relation?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following:

1. To describe the audience's response to *The Pursuit Of Happiness* movie.
2. To find out the different response based on gender background.
3. To find out the different response based on parental relation background.

D. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are explained as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of the study is expected to give new contribution and information to the larger knowledge of literary studies, particularly the literary studies on *The Pursuit Of Happiness* movie.

2. Practical Benefits

a) To the reader

This study gives valuable knowledge to the reader to have a deeper understanding of reader response theory and analysis.

b) To the teacher or lecturer

This study can be the learning model that able to stimulate the critical thinking abilities of students in developing ideas in writing skill.

c) To the future researcher

The result of this study can be one source of information or a reference for the future project. They can conduct further study in reader response with the more complex discussion in different objects such as in the novel, press media, political speech,

advertisement, and television programs or can be an approach to analysis the using of authentic texts such as news reports or any other discourse type.

E. Research Paper Organization

In order to ease the reading, this paper is originated in the following order. Chapter I is introduction consists of a background of the study, the problem of the study, objectives of the study, and benefits of the study. Then, chapter II is the underlying theory, composed by the notion of reader response, gender, traumatic and previous studies. Followed by chapter III that covers a method of the study and it consists of a type of the study, the object of the study, the subject of the study, criteria of selection, type of the data and data source, procedure of the research, the method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. Afterward, chapter IV provides the research finding of the study and discussion. The last, chapter V presents the conclusion, limitations of the research, pedagogical implication, and suggestion.