STRUGGLE OF CHRIS GARTNER TO GET HAPPINESS ON
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS MOVIE:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER
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A. Background of the Study

Struggle is one of characterizations that humans should have. If someone wants to get happiness he or she must struggle to get that. Human can try many ways to get everything they want, but not all wish can be reached by human being. People can see the struggle not only in real life but also in fiction story like story in novel, or drama. Many stories give the major character strong characterization to do the struggle. Usually the major characters in the story do not give up to get their happiness.

*The Pursuit of Happyness* is a family drama; the major character in this movie has a good spirit to get his happiness. The happiness in this film is to get a job but to get that job is not easy, he must struggle to get that and the struggle is so hard. This movie can make the spectators be affected because besides describing struggle of a father to get a job, this movie also describes love of a father to his son.

*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 faculty of letters at Rome’s “la Sapienza” university. He is Italian director; working in Europe was always easier than
working in America. He begins his film 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 the 1998 in film festival where he received a nomination for best direction. Film “The Last Kiss” that propelled Muccino into the international spotlight. In award he wins 6 awards and 14 nominations. The Pursuit of Happyness release in USA at 15 December 2006. This film gets many nominations for Oscar, wins 9 awards and 17 nominations.

The Pursuit of Happyness tells about the struggle of a father to get happiness. He is Chris Gardner; he is a smart man and hard worker. He has wife whose name Linda and their son is Christopher. Chris Gardner is a medical asset salesman. He wants to change his life to be stockbroker in Dean Whittler. The Struggle of Chris to get job is very hard, finally Chris gets opportunity 6 month to apprentice without salary in the office. The struggle is not finished. He must compete with 20 people to get one job in the office. At this time his wife (Linda) left Chris and Christopher to work in New York. Chris does not have home and money, but finally he gets the job in Dean Whittler as stockbroker.

After watching this movie the researcher is interested in analyzing the psychological state of the major character (Chris Gardner), because Chris Gardner has strong character. He still fights to get better live in his life, he gets a lot of obstacle to get the job, when he gets the job he is very happy and he calles this as happiness. The change of major character from poor life to happiness makes the
researcher wants to analyze the major character with individual psychological approach.

In the literary review there are many approaches likes: feminist, Individual psychological, sociological, psychoanalytic and Marxist. Individual psychological is one of approach that has main a study of humanist psychological with Alfred Adler as the pioneer of Individual psychological.

According to Adler as quoted by (Feist, 1985:64) individual psychology insists on the fundamental unity of personality. All apparent dichotomies and multiplicities of life are organized in one-self consistent totally no definite definition that can be made between reason and emotion. All behavior is seen in relation to the final goal of superiority or success. This goal gives direction and unity to the individual. The psychologically mature individual is generally more conscious of his or her feeling and the motivation behind behavior is the psychotic or severely neurotic person, but even the behavior of the mature person is to large degree guided and controlled by unconscious instincts. (Feist. 1985:22)

*The* Pursuit of Happyness is one of box movies and gets many nominations for Oscar. *The Pursuit of Happyness* is describing the struggle of a father. The major character in this movie is Chris Gartner, he is a good father, and his struggle to get happiness is so hard. According to those aspects, the researcher would like to explore and analyze emotion in *The Pursuit of Happyness* based on the individual psychological, and the title is **Struggle of Chris Gartner to Get**

**B. Literature Review**

Before the researcher wrote this research paper the researcher looked for the research in the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta library and so far there are some researches in relation with the topic which deals with “individual approach”. One of the research papers is “The Power Of Mother’s Love In Jodi Picoult Perfect Match An Individual Psychological Approach” by Sri Hartatik Hertin. She is the student of Muhammadiyah university of Surakarta. Further in this study the researcher studies *The Pursuit of Happyness* based on the individual psychological approach and the researcher focuses on Chrish Gartner as the major character. So far the researcher has not found other researchers that research *The Pursuit of Happyness* directed by Gabriele Muccino in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

**C. Problem Statement**

Problem statement in this research is “How does Chrish Gartner struggle to get happiness in *The Pursuit of Happyness* directed by Gabrielle Muccino?”
D. Limitation of the Study

In this study the researcher limits the problem on the struggle of Crish Gartner to get happiness, as the major character on *The Pursuit of Happyness* based on the individual psychological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the movie based it is structure element.
2. To analyze the movie based on the individual psychological approach

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

   To give additional information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the study of Gabriel Muccino *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

2. Practical Benefit

   To give an addition contribution to understand *The Pursuit of Happyness* film from individual psychological perspective.

G. Research Method

In analyzing *The Pursuit of Happyness* the researcher uses the qualitative method.
1. **Object of the Study**

   The object of the study is *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie by Gabrielle Muccino.

2. **Type Object of the Data and the Data Source**

   The data in this study is script that consists of dialogue, and the movie.

   There are two data sources:

   a. Primary data source

      The primary data source of the study is *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie by Gabrielle Muccino.

   b. Secondary data source

      The secondary data sources consist of the other data such as biography of the author, books of literary especially psychological book and searching data from internet.

3. **Type of the Study**

   In the research paper the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method which focuses on the data analysis.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The method of data collection in this research is library research. The data are taken from primary and secondary source.
Some steps of collecting data applied in this study are as follows:

a. Watching the film repeatedly.

b. Identifying the topic of the film.

c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.

d. Reading some literary books to find out the theory, data, etc.

e. Taking notes of important information in both primary and secondary data source.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data the researcher employs descriptive qualitative analysis in this case. The researcher attempts to understand the story in this film and content analysis to gain the needed data. The researcher uses those data to analyze the major character in *The Pursuit of Happyness* film by employing the individual psychological approach.
H. Paper Organization

The paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter 1 deals with introduction that consists of background of the study, benefit of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, and objective of the study, benefit of the study and paper organization. Chapter 2 deals with theoretical approach and notion of individual approach. Chapter 3 deals with Structural Analysis that concerns structural analysis of the movie which includes structural elements of the movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, technical elements, point of view and theme. Chapter 4 deals with data analysis and discussion and chapter 5 deals with conclusion and suggestion.