COPING BEHAVIOR OF FRANK ABAGNALE Jr. IN

STEVEN SPIELBERG'S *CATCH ME IF YOU CAN*:

AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Catch Me if You Can is handled by professional people inside. The movie is directed and produced by Steven Spielberg. Screenplay is handled by Jeff Nathanson. As the cinematography is Janusz Kamiński. The movie is stared by Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank Abagnale Jr., Tom Hanks as Carl Hanratty, Christopher Walken as Frank Abagnale Sr., Nathalie Baye as Laura Abagnale, etc. It is published by Dream Works on December 25, 2002. The film has the genre crime, biography and drama with the running time 141 minutes. The tagline of the movie is the true story of a real fake.

Frank Abagnale Jr. is the central character of *Catch Me if You Can*. Abagnale Jr. is the son of Frank Abagnale Sr. that very rich, and he also has a happy family. But, Frank cannot feel his happy family for long time, because after his father cannot take the money from the check, he and family move on the narrow apartment. It makes Frank's mother cannot feel comfort and she starts to make affair with someone secretly, and Frank knows about the mother's affair. Finally his parents decide to separate.

Frank runs out from home and starts to do something that makes him forget his family problems. He starts to forge the check, and release it.

After that, he moves on to the flight, and he is interested to be a co-pilot. Of course he makes some denies to be a co-pilot. There, Frank also releases his forge check. But, the actions are known by FBI. So, Frank becomes a wanted person.

Not give up, Frank moves on to the different job, which is as a doctor. There, he pretends to be a professional doctor having graduated from Harvard Medical School. In the hospital he introduces him self to nurse, that is Brenda. He makes relationship with her and wants to marriage to her. After Brenda's family knows about it and accepts Frank to marriage with Brenda. But, unfortunately FBI knows about it and arrives there to catch Frank. Frank runs off. But, with the strong power of FBI, finally Frank arrested. In jail, Frank got requests to see and carefully examined the forge check. After that, Frank starts his new job as consultant in one of FBI's department.

The public respond of the film is so variety. They who pro with the film are: Camcmahon from United Kingdom comments that the movie was an entertaining and fun piece of film making from the ever-reliable Steven Spielberg. He was interested in this man, and it only served to increase his interest. Although it is important to remember (as with any such film) that this is only 'inspired' by a true story and not told word for word from one, the plot is fascinating and keeps laughing, crying and wondering until the end.

Jotix100 from New York, according to him, Spielberg has found a perfect actor to fill the shoes of the con man with the perfect casting of Leonardo DiCaprio. It's very easy to see why all the women fall prey of this charmer. He was a fast talker and a slick operator. He exudes charisma to fill another couple of movies.

Mudit from India said that the Steven Spielberg-Tom Hanks are known for making one of the most entertaining movies on Earth. Their movies are generally long in duration, very narrative, simple and most importantly very entertaining. Every actor in this movie is flawless. Mudit was really impressed by Leonardo's performance first as a troubled young student and later as a full blown conman. Tom Hanks together with Christopher Walken adds spice to the movie. Tom's presence in any movie sets the mood of the audience.

Roedy Green from Victoria, BC. Canada said that this works for much the same reason Shakespeare works with women characters dressing as boys in the play where the original actor is a boy playing a woman. Di Caprio plays a con man who is a consummate actor. Since his skill at conning is identical to di Caprio's acting skill in the movie, his schemes blend seamlessly. His ability to fool people seems completely natural.

They who contras with the film are: MovieAddict2009 from UK comments, there is no real plot to go into. Film opens when Frank is sixteen and runs away from home after his parents (Christopher Walken

and Nathalie Baye) have a messy divorce, you pretty much have the setup for a light, fluffy, and altogether fun film.

Gregund from San Fransisco said that the biggest problem he has with this film is the same one he had with Coppolla's `Dracula': this film is a hodgepodge of vignettes, less a continuous stream than a series of carefully crafted scenes. He has no idea what motivates Frank Abagnale, for example. One might be tempted to look at the failure of the family business or his parents' divorce as a catalyst, but still we are given absolutely no insight into the character.

Mercury Adonis from Toronto said that Steven Spielberg's world is a parallel universe where nuance, subtlety and personal interpretation are non-existent. In this world FBI agents are stumbling lead-footed stooges, wearing identical MIB suits and porkpie hats, who enter a suspected check-forger's apartment with handguns drawn, shouting "CLEAR!" as they stumble about from room to room. In this world a love scene must be accompanied by items on a bedside room service cart being knocked off one-by-one. A conversation between two secret agents must be shot in silhouette against an ominous blue background.

Rachel from Adelaide, Australia said that, she would like to be able to say she was disillusioned having read Abagnales' book before watching the movie, but she can't. This is one of the worst movies she has ever seen.

In the market *Catch Me If You Can* including box office movie. The movie was released in big countries like Germany, Brazil, Mexico, United State, Japan, China, Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Australia, Etc. in Germany itself the movie release at January 30, 2003 with the gross: $23,529,181. In Brazil release at February 21, 2003 with the gross: $3,106,532. In Mexico release at January 01, 2003 with the gross: $8,059,068. In United Kingdom release at January 31, 2003 with the gross: $24,300,180. In Japan release at March 21, 2003 with the gross: $22,678,989. In China release at April 21, 2003 with the gross: $1,262,377. In Taiwan release at January 10, 2003 with the gross: $3,407,127. In India release at February 28, 2003 with the gross: $607,948. In Indonesia release at February 19, 2003 with the gross: $357,470. And in Australia release at January 09, 2003 with the gross: $8,415,977. In United State itself gross in opening weekend up to $30,053,627, open in 3.156 theaters.

While the film industry itself gets some awards from Academy Awards USA; Oscar nominated as best actor in a supporting role of Christoper Walken, then Best Music, Original Score John Williams, Art Directors Won Excellence in Production Design Award Feature Film Contemporary Films, Best Score Soundtrack Album for a Motion Picture. From Golden Globes USA, Nominated by Golden Globe Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture Drama, Leonardo DiCaprio,

nominated best sound editing in domestic features dialogue. And from online film critics society award, best screenplay adapted, Jeff Nathanson.

The researcher appeals to the film in the plot, character, cast, performance of the actor and theme. The plot itself beside interest, it contains of the real story, and the plot makes the researcher laugh, cry, and aware about the life, how to face some problems. The character, especially Frank Abagnale, has uniqueness, smart, and makes the movie difference. The cast is one of the writer favorite actors; Leonardo DiCaprio has totally acting and his performance so good in the film. Theme here is appropriate with coping behavior, because it can seen from the character that has many problems with his life and he copes the problems with himself way without any body help him. So, from the reason above the writer entitled the research: COPING BEHAVIOR OF FRANK ABAGNALE Jr. IN STEVEN SPIELBEGR'S *CATCH ME IF YOU CAN*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.

B. **Literature Review**

To guide the researcher in doing the study, she has found the research paper from Dhini Parianti, (2006) in Airlangga University. The research paper entitled "Hyperreal Identity in Frank William Abagnale's Novel *Catch Me If You Can*." In the study, Dhini concerns with Frank's identity and applies hyperreality to analyze Frank's identity. The analysis

on the identity of Frank is seen through his effort to appear as the competent person in the occupations.

Here, the researcher analyzes the coping behavior of Frank William Abagnale to differentiate the study. In this study, the researcher applies coping behavior to analyze Frank William Abagnale as the major character in coping his problems in *Catch Me If You Can*.

C. Limitation of The Study

The researcher focuses in analyzing coping behavior of Frank Abagnale Jr. as the major character of the movie based in Individual Psychological Approach.

D. Problem Statement

In this study, the researcher propose a single problem statement, the problem of the research paper is how Frank Abagnale Fr. as the central character of Steven Spielberg's *Catch Me if You Can* cope his life problems.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the film based in its structural elements by finding characters, and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot and theme.

2. To analyze the film especially the central character of Frank Abagnale Jr. using the individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

a. Theoretical benefit

The result of this study is expected to be able to give contribute to the development of the body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Steven Spielberg's *Catch Me if You Can*.

b. Practical Benefit

This study is dedicated to the development of literary study in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, especially English Department and to give reference to the other researchers in analyzing *Catch Me if You Can* into different perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research method belongs to qualitative method because it does not need a statistic analysis to explore the fact. The writer also applies the individual psychological approach to analyze the main characters as a central of further research.

2. Data and Data Source

There are two kinds of data:

a. Primary Data

Primary data are taken from the text of *Catch Me if You Can*, it consists of dialogue, plot, themes, conflicts, etc which are relevant to the object of the study.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data are taken from some books, websites, and other that support this analysis.

The source of data in this study is the script of *Catch Me if You Can*.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer uses library research in the collecting data which consists of the following steps:

a. Watching and learning the film carefully.

b. Reading the script of the film

c. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and Information.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer uses individual psychological approach and applies it using the descriptive analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, covering background of the study, literary review, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is the underlying theory of individual psychological approach. The third chapter deals with structural analysis of the movie which are consist of character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, and cinematography. The fourth chapter is data analysis, covering coping behavior of Frank Abagnale Jr. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.