

**KATHERINE'S CONFLICT OF INTERESTS IN MIKE NEWELL'S
MONALISA SMILE :
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

ENIS MARHENDRI WAHYU PUTRI
A. 320 040 299

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everybody in the world has a problem in his or her life. It is impossible if human being in the world never faces any problem. One of the problem is conflict. Conflict is actual or perceived opposition of needs, values, and interest. Psychologically, a conflict exists when the reduction of one motivating stimulus involves an increase in another, so that a new adjustment is demanded (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conflict>).

There are many ways to understand human. One of the ways is by appreciating a literary work. Literary works are the representation of human life and society in which literary works exist. An author or writer and his literary works are always influenced by the reality of his society. Literary works always deal with the human life. It is related to the psychology that concerns the human behavior. In many ways, psychology phenomena always become an inspiration to create a literary work. In the play for instance, the writer creates the study based on his psychological knowledge or psychological condition of people around him. The psychological phenomena can be an object of study, it is about human behavior. One of them is in Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile*.

Monalisa Smile is a movie which is directed by Mike Newell. This is an American film produced by Revolution Studios and Columbia Pictures.

Monalisa Smile realizing December 19, 2003, this movie acted by Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst, Julia Stiles, Maggie Gyllenhaal and Ginnifer Goodwin. The running time of this movie is 117 minutes. The budget to make this movie is \$ 65,000,000. the genre of this movie is drama (<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Mona-Lisa-Smile>).

Monalisa Smile tells a feminist teacher who has graduated from UCLA and leaves her boyfriend in Los Angeles, California. She teaches at Wellesley College, a conservative women's private liberal arts college in Massachusetts, United State. She is an art history professor. In her first lesson, Katherine shows some famous paintings to her student. She wants to know about her student's ability of art. After the lesson finishes, she gets comment from the president of college that the ways of teaching are not suitable with syllabus. Katherine tries to open her student's minds to reach their freedom to do whatever they want with their lives. She encourages her students to believe in themselves, to study to become career professionals, and to improve their economic futures.

She uses her art teachings as a vehicle to put across her opinion to the young women. Her students need not conform to stereotypes of women made by society or the roles made from them by society, as women are born to become housewives and mothers. She feels that women could do more things in life than solely adopt the roles of wives and mothers.

She also thinks that marriage is not a matter because she has ever married but she is divorced. In Wellesley college, she has a relationship with a man but they broke. So, she decided not to marry again at this time.

In her lesson, Katherine always gives spirit to her student to reach their dream. Katherine's ideas and ways of teaching are contrast to methods deemed acceptable by the school's director. Katherine is warned that if she wants to teach in the school she must change her learning process.

Although, many people disagree with her idea and ways of teaching to the student, she is optimistic that one day a women in society must be changed to get better future. Finally, all students understand about Katherine's idea, but she must leave the campus after one year because her idea and ways of teaching are considered not suitable by the president and staff in Wellesley College.

Monalisa Smile gets reaction from many people. Negative responses come from Wellesley alumni. They disagree with the film's portrayal of Wellesley as a stodgy, conservative college was not true. Beside that, the shooting of the film is disturbed the school activities. Many students miss classes and important exams (<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Mona-Lisa-Smile>).

The other respondent said that he has not sure how long a rebel teacher like Katherine would have stayed as a teacher. Beside that, the "traditional" characters in this film are not rigid to give the impression. And also, the resolution comes too quickly for each character that makes the film less

natural and more like a fairy tale comes true (http://www.close-upfilm.com/reviews/m/mona_lisa_smile.htm). From Claudia Puig (USA Today), she wrote that, "...more likely to evoke a grimace than a grin....". Also from Jonathan Foreman (New York Post), he wrote, "...sanctimonious, relentlessly predictable and willfully ignorant of the period it's set in....". Michael Wilmington (Chicago Tribune), he wrote that, "...one of those movie where heart and head clash and neither wins..." (<http://www.christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2003/monalisasmile.htm>).

Positive response, the respondent just says about the actress and actors performance (http://www.close-upfilm.com/reviews/m/mona_lisa_smile.htm). Julie (33 years) wrote that, "...a good film that depicts the battle within a woman's heart. A difference between what the world says and what the Christian woman longs to be, a great wife and mother". "...I found this film inspiring". Jack Lane (53 years) wrote that, "...The movie gives a good example of how teachers deal with many types of students and peers....". Brady Williams (34 years) wrote that, "I enjoyed this movie very much! The story was good, it kept my attention. The acting was great!". "...As for offensive material, this movie was pretty clean" (<http://www.christiananswer.net/spotlight/movies/2003/monalisasmile.htm>).

Monalisa Smile's marketing this movie spend about \$ 25,000,000. it is not big being compared with income from this movie about \$ 63,860,942 in USA and \$ 76, 972,150 from worldwide (http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Mona_Lisa_Smile). *Monalisa*

Smile released at December in 2714 theater about 84 days or 12 weeks, (<http://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?p=monalisasmile.htm>).

Monalisa Smile also got nomination from Critics Choice Award, Golden Globe, Golden Satellite Award category Best Original Song. From PFCS Award category Best Use of Previously Published or Recorded Music. Teen Choice Award category Actress-Drama/ Action Adventure Julia Stiles and category Choice Movie Sleazebag Kirsten Dunst (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0304415/awards>).

The researcher is interested with the conflicts in this movie. The conflicts appear when Katherine teach her student. According the director of school, the ways Katherine's learning as an art teacher contrary with the method used in college. She is warned to teach her student suitable with the method. Not only that, the director of school insists that Katherine must change her progressive approach and should not use her class to express her point of views or befriend student and should stick only to teach art if she wants to continue teaching.

Beside that, conflict happens between Katherine Watson and some her students. Katherine want tries to open her students' minds to their freedom to do whatever they want with their lives. She feels that women could do more things in life than solely adopt the roles of wives and mothers. Betty is one of Katherine's student who takes every opportunity to undermine Katherine. Betty feels that Katherine's idea is not suitable with her fate as a woman. Joan is a smart student. Katherine influences her, too. She helps Joan to entrance

study law at Yale but Joan chooses to get married with her engagement. Katherine feels dissatisfied and gives solution that Joan can study at Yale although she has married, but Joan refuses it.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the conflict in main character in Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile*. The researcher uses psychological approach especially psychoanalytic. The researcher analyzes this movie into its story. Here, the researcher gives the title of the research paper: KATHERINE'S CONFLICT OF INTERESTS IN MIKE NEWELL'S *MONALISA SMILE* : A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

As long as the researcher understands, some researchers have analyzed *Monalisa Smile* namely Karlina Hendradewi, her research is entitled *Struggle for women's Independence in Monalisa Smile: Feminism Approach*. Second, Ika Puspitasari, her research is entitled *Against Traditional Colleges in Mike Newell's Monalisa Smile: Sociological Approach*.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem in this study is "How does Katherine's conflict of interests appear in Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the Katherine Watson's conflict in Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile* based on psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows :

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural element.
2. To analyze the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

Theoretically, the study gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary study on Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile*. Practically, the study can increase the researcher's ability in applying the psychoanalytic approach in Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile*.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile* the movie.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data, namely primary and secondary data.

- a. Primary data source is Mike Newell's *Monalisa Smile* the movie.
- b. Secondary data sources are from other books, thesis, and other data are related to the research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of collecting data in this research are as follow :

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Finding the important data.

c. Arranging data into several parts based on the classification.

d. Developing data provided.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The data will be analyzed using descriptive analysis. This is an interpretations of the text and context analysis to psychoanalysis of *Monalisa Smile*.

H. Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction which contents Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II deals with review of underlying theory that is psychoanalytic theory. Chapter III is structural analysis, in this chapter the researcher explain the structural element of the movie and discussion. Chapter IV is the psychoanalytic analysis. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.