

**STRUGGLE FOR A BETTER LIFE IN MARIO PUZO'S
THE GODFATHER MOVIE VERSION:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Everybody is created with their own characteristic that defines their personality. Their characteristic also influences someone's way of thinking to develop themselves to face the life and also develop the characteristics which differentiate them with others. This suggests that every person can be distinguished, in term of human values, from others through the characteristics and qualities she or he expresses in social interaction within society. As the result there is no two people who seem to be exactly alike. When people face the problem, they will try to solve that problem by using the method which they have learnt from their environment as the affection of social interaction.

Meanwhile, in the literary work the director always depicts the human life in the characters of the story. Literary work and life have the relationship because the literary work displaces the real daily life characters, situation and problem. The literary work is not merely a mirror of real life, but also an expression of the author's inner. Beside that, literature gives us knowledge to understand the essence of life and contributes to the understanding of the reality of life in order to be realistic.

Every person has ever felt anxious in his life even ones. This situation happens as people interacts with other people that sometimes, the stronger power innervate her or him that finally pressure results un-good feeling or uncomfortable condition into the weaker one. That is why people will struggle that to get free no matter what he or she tries to effort as long as he or she can try to overcome.

The Phenomena obviously really happens in our daily life. For further, this phenomenon is transferred into film or cinema by director. The cinema always performs the situation that had happen in the certain time in order to reveal the reality in human life. Beside that, film gives us understanding about the essence of life and contributes to the understanding of the reality of life in order to be sensible. The problem which is usually in the film is the characterization which indicates anxious feeling, disappointment and his withdrawal from social interaction. That is why there are a lot of director displaces the realism of life into film through the screenplay.

Person's value in their life can be seen among others from his or her personality. This suggests that every person can be distinguished, in term of human values, from others through the characteristics and qualities she or he expresses in social interaction within society.

Hornby (1995: 863) assumes that: "personality means the characteristic and qualities of a person seen as a whole". People view personality as a struggle between good and bad. Ambitious as one of the manifestations of bad personality provides, people turning point to achieve a certain goal in life.

Struggle itself is defined as the tendency to expect the best in all things; confidence in the success of a course of action (Drever, 1958: 814). The last definition implies the main character who have this kind of belief and faith as reflected by Michael Corleone, the main characters in Mario Puzo's movie version entitled *The Godfather*.

According to the above explanatory, there is a relationship between literary work and psychology. The literary work itself displaces phenomena of psychology. The problem which is usually in the literary is the characterization which indicates frustration, excessive of inferiority feeling, his withdrawal from social interaction and his creativity in coping and solving the problems that are caused from situation around him. That is why there are a lot of directors who displace the realism of life into the literary.

One of the novelists whose novel has been adapted into the movie is Mario Puzo. He was a successful Sicilian novelist who was born in an immigrant family in New York City in the area known as 'Hell's Kitchen' at October 15, 1920. His father was a railway trackman. Puzo lived with his six brothers and sisters above the railway yards. The discovery of public libraries and the world of literature led Puzo in the direction of writing. During World War II Puzo served in the US Air Force stationed in East Asia and Germany. After the war he stayed in Germany as a civilian public relations man for the Air Force. Puzo then studied at the New School for Social Research, New York, and at Columbia University. During this period he took classes in

literature and creative writing. In 1946 he married Erika Lina Broske; they had five children. (Film Review, 2009).

The themes of love, crime, family bondage, and Old World values were further developed in Puzo's novel *Godfather* (1969), his international breakthrough story about the roots of mafia, corruption, violence, and honors. His other works was *The Dark Arena* (1955) *The Fortunate Pilgrim* (1965) *The Runaway Summer of Davie Shaw* (children's book) (1966) *The Godfather* (1969) *Fools Die* (1978) *The Sicilian* (1984) *The Fourth K* (1990) *The Last Don* (1996) *Omerta* (2000) *The Family* (2001). His nonfiction *The Godfather Papers & Other Confessions* (1972) *Inside Las Vegas* (1977). Mario also wrote several screenplays, including *Earthquake*, and *Superman*. He received two Academy Awards for his three *The Godfather* movies.

The Godfather story revolves around Vito Corleone, He was born Vito Andolini on December 7, 1891 in Corleone, Sicily, a leader of organized crime in the 1940s. He was known as *The Godfather*. He is a man who rules with quiet persuasion, asking those who wish favors from him for their loyalty and dealing mercilessly with those who cross him. His youngest son, Michael Corleone becomes the Don upon his death. Two other sons, Santino "Sonny" Corleone and Fredo Corleone, and a daughter, Connie Corleone. He also informally adopted another son, Tom Hagen, who grew up to become the Family's *consigliere*. His youngest son Michael has returned from World War II just in time to see the wedding of Connie Corleone (Michael's sister) to Carlo Rizzi. All of

Michael's family is involved with the Mafia, but Michael just wants to live a normal life.

Learning from the figure that has stated on that story above, the researcher finds the reason that is to study *Godfather* movie by using an individual psychological approach by Alfred Adler to disclose the struggle for a better life of the major character Michael Corleone in his personality.

B. Previous Study

The first study about Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* has ever been conducted in Muhammadiyah University by Dian Kusuma Suci (2006) with entitled *Mario Puzo's World View in The Godfather, A Genetic Structuralism Approach*. The writer emphasizes the analysis on relating the structure of the work to the large structure of the social realities in which the work was made.

The second study was conducted by Rendry (2005) did research entitled: *The Optimism of Julia Stanford In Sidney Sheldon's Morning, Noon And Night: An Individual Approach*. The writer finds that Julia's optimism of feeling leads her to an autonomous personality that has a great self confident in life. The writer would like to present previous research related to an individual psychological approach with different object. Therefore this research will study about the different object in the struggle for a better life of Michael Corleone.

To fulfill the aim of this research and to limit this analysis, the researcher will focus on analyzing the major character Michael Corleone in

Mario Puzo's *The Godfather*. It will focus on the struggle for a better life of Michael Corleone in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* movie: an individual psychological approach.

C. Limitation of the Study

This study does not cover the personality of all characters, but it only focuses on the one of the major characters in *The Godfather*, Michael Corleone.

D. Problem Statement

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The major problem is how the major character's struggle for a better life is reflected in Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* movie.

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 on its structural elements and technical elements by finding characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the film especially the character of Michael Corleone in *The Godfather* movie using an individual psychological approach developed by Alfred Adler.

F. Benefit of the Study

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The study is expected to be able to provide the following benefit:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the development of the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The result of the study is expected to find out the writer's own comprehension about Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* movie. The study is dedicated to the development of literary study in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, especially in English Department and to give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing the film that is analyzed in this research into different perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Godfather* movie to discuss the struggle for a better life that is reflected in the main character's personality.

2. Type of the Study

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The writer uses a library research, which employs qualitative method. The writer also applies an individual psychological of the main characters as a means of further research.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The primary data are taken from the texts of *The Godfather* movie version, it consists of dialogue, plot, themes, conflicts, and the whole narration, etc, which are relevant to the object of the study. While the secondary data sources are taken from some books, web sites, other literary and also other matters which support this analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer uses library research in collecting data, which involves several steps:

- a. Searching the script of the film from internet.
- b. Reading the script repeatedly.
- c. Marking the point in the script to make easy in analyzing it.
- d. Taking notes of important in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying the data into groups according categories of elements of literary study.
- f. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant sources, which doesn't have important information to support the topic of the study?

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses an individual psychological approach and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the researcher is looking for a selecting the correlation of data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, previous study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization. The second chapter deals with review of underlying theory involving the theory of individual psychological that will be used to analyze the data. Third chapter is a structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements of the film. Fourth chapter is an individual psychological analysis. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.