

**ANXIETY IN DAVID FINCHER'S *PANIC ROOM* FILM:
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human beings are social creatures who have to relate with the external world. They need the nature to satisfy their wishes. They feel sad, happy, disappointed, and anxious. Human being can't be separated from anxiety in their life. Every person ever feels it because they have a feeling. Sometimes they feel anxious to lose their job, to fail in the examination, and got bad mark. This condition makes them feels guilty, under pressure, sad and disappointed. They are different one another, thus each is unique. Human, though, have various nature also. Sometimes some persons can be so nice but in the other occasion they may do so cruel. For certain case, it may emerge very extreme. They will face anxiety if the need is not fulfilled in their daily.

The sources of anxiety come from two factors. The first factor comes from internal human being itself or from biological instinct, and the second factor comes from external world. Human beings do the wishes to satisfy the need so that they will not be anxious. So the needs motivate them to relate with external world. If human being can't anticipate both of sources, they will be controls by their anxiety.

Anxiety is the part of psychoanalytic theory which is the branch of psychological theory. Sigmund Freud is the psychologist who introduced the theory. The concepts of personality have two fundamental assumptions that mental life is divided into two levels; they are conscious and the unconscious.

Freud divided the kinds of component of personality; they are *id*, *ego* and *superego*. In defining anxiety, Freud emphasized that anxiety is “A felt affective, unpleasant state, accompanied by a physical sensation that warns the person against impending danger” (Feist, 1985: 31). And anxiety is “An ego function which alerts the persons to source of impending danger that must be counteracted or avoided” (Hjelle, 1992: 102).

In explaining about anxiety above, the writer describes the anxiety of major character in literary works. There are so many examples of literary work in which the character faces anxiety to solve the problem. The author creates a conflict in which the character will face one or more difficulties to overcome it. So they will feel anxious. One example of film is *Stop-loss* that portrays the soldier anxiety in the war. The soldiers did their job in Iraq, and they met with the fearful situations.

In this case, the writer analyzes *Panic Room* film. *Panic Room* is a 2002 thriller film directed by David Fincher. David Leo Fincher was born in August 28, 1962. He is an Academy Award-nominated American filmmaker and music video director known for his dark and stylish movies such as *Seven*, *Fight Club*, *Zodiac* and *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. *Panic Room* starring Jodie Foster and Forest Whitaker, It also stars Jared Leto, Dwight Yoakam, and Kristen Stewart. The film tells a story of a mother and a daughter hiding in a panic room during an invasion by three armed robbers who aimed at millions of dollars stored in the house.

The film focuses on a panic room, a safe shelter usually located inside a residence. The panic room in this film is protected by a four-inch-thick steel door and an impressive security system, and features a phone line not connected to the residence. The residence is 38 West 94th Street in Manhattan, a four-story townhouse that was previously owned by a disabled reclusive millionaire. Following the owner's death, the house was bought by Meg Altman (Foster), a woman, recently divorced from the owner of a pharmaceutical giant, who is planning to go back to college. Meg has a 12-year-old daughter Sarah (Stewart) who suffers from Type 1 diabetes.

On the night the two moves into the house, it is broken by Junior (Leto), the grandson of the previous owner, and Burnham (Whitaker), an employee of the security company, the residence used the services. The two robbers are known after \$3 million in bearer bonds, which is locked inside a floor safe in the panic room. Unknown to Burnham until after they've broken in, Junior has recruited Raoul (Yoakam), a bus driver who lives in Flatbush, to assist in the heist.

After discovering that the Altmans have moved into the house one week before they anticipated, the robbers decide to go on as planned with the heist. However, Meg wakes up and discovers the intruders from the CCTV monitors in the panic room when she wanted to switch off its glaring light. Before the three can stop her, she runs to Sarah, wakes her by pouring water onto her face, and together they escape to the panic room.

The three make several attempts to get into the room, including filling the room with propane to get the Altmans to come out, and tunneling in from underneath. Both do not work. The Altmans make several attempts to call for help, including signaling a nearby neighbor with a flashlight (who they can only see from the opening of a water pipe) and tapping into the main telephone line to call for help (because Meg has not yet hooked up the panic room's phone). Only one works; the two get through to Meg's husband and Sarah's father, Stephen, before the burglars cut them off. To make matters worse, Sarah collapses due to hypoglycaemia caused by her diabetes and unfortunately the glucagon injections are in the fridge.

However, a police patrolman arrives having received Altman's call earlier. With Sarah trapped with the two burglars, and Raoul threatening to kill her, Meg lies to the officer. Meanwhile, Burnham gets to work on the safe and obtains the bearer bonds. As the duo attempt to leave while using Sarah as a hostage, Meg and the badly injured Altman attack them. After an intense struggle, Burnham flees while Raoul prepares to kill Meg with a sledgehammer. However, upon hearing her screams for help, Burnham doubles back and kills Raoul, delaying him enough that he gets caught by the police who return as the earlier patrolman was suspicious at Meg's behaviour. As they approach, he releases the bonds, letting them fly off into the night. The film closes with Meg and Sarah searching for a new house in the newspaper.

The writer tried to conduct study on personality of major character, Meg Altman (Jodie Foster) in *Panic Room* film. It is the point the writer wants to highlight. The person who has fear about the danger caused by the beyond of the world. Therefore, the writer settles on that the appropriate approach for this work is psychoanalysis. The title of this research is formulated **“ANXIETY IN DAVID FINCHER’S *PANIC ROOM* FILM: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”**.

B. Literary Review

The writer finds some literary reviews deals with the research. The first literary review from Ristiani (UMS, 2005) with her **Suppression Toward The Anxiety Reaction in Tennessee William Play A Steetcar Named Desire: A Psychoanalytic Approach**. She analyzes the play and finds that suppressions toward anxiety reaction are used to reduce Blanche Dubois. Anxiety reduces the personality and causes mental illness for the major character.

The second literary review is from Udin (UMS, 2005) with his **Anxiety in John Knowles’ a Separate Peace: A Psychoanalytic Approach**. He analyzes the data dealing with Gene’s structure of personality and Gene’s anxiety. The author’s describe that jealousy will cause someone anxious and it will add the problem in Gene’s life.

Here the writer will analyze anxiety that reflected *Panic Room* film focusing on personality of major character, Meg Altman (Jodie Foster) with

Psychoanalytic approach. This research has same theory with the literary review.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon clarified above, the writer proposes the problem. The problem of this research is how anxiety is reflected in David Fincher's *Panic Room* film.

D. Limitation of the Study

To focus on the study, the writer needs to limit the study. The writer analyzes Meg Altman (Jodie Foster) as major character in *Panic Room* by using psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

From the problem statements above, the writer can draw the objectives of the research, they are:

1. to describe the *Panic Room* film based on the structural elements.
2. to describe the *Panic Room* film based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects this research will give some benefits for everyone who concern with it. They are as in the line:

1. Theoretical Benefit.

The aim of study is to give additional information in literary research, especially literary studies on *Panic Room* film.

2. Practical Benefit.

This research uses by the next researchers to do the research relates to Psychoanalytic approach, especially on David Fincher's *Panic Room* film.

G. Research Method

In every research, there should be a short method to make the research easy to be carried out. The methods of this research are as follows:

1. Type of the Study

The writer will use descriptive qualitative research in this literary work. It refers to research based on qualitative data taken from film script "*Panic Room*" written by David Koepp and David Fincher as the director.

2. Object of the Study

The researcher took the *Panic Room* film written by David Koepp and directed by David Fincher as the object of the study.

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

The data of this research are texts in the form of movie script and also the motion pictures of *Panic Room* film.

b. The Data Source

The writer will use the data which are taken from the movie script and VCD film of *Panic Room*.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collection method will be library research, release document to be observed. Meanwhile, the techniques are:

- a. Reading the script and watching the movie repeatedly and carefully.
- b. Identifying a particular part that is important and relevant for the analysis.
- c. Making note both primary and secondary data.
- d. Arranging, researching and developing the selected materials into good unity toward the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer will take the descriptive analysis in which the writer will try to find the answer of the alteration nature of the major character in *Panic Room* film using the psychoanalysis approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

In order to make this paper easy to followed, the writer makes the paper organization. Chapter one is Introduction. It deals with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method and the research paper organization. Chapter two deals with Underlying Theory that will

consist of the theory of psychoanalysis, character of psychoanalysis, anxiety and theoretical application. Chapter three will concern with the structural analysis of the work, which includes character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, theme, and style of the *Panic Room* film and the discussion. Chapter four is deals with Psychoanalysis and Chapter five is Conclusion and Suggestion.