

**TENSION BETWEEN CONSTITUTION AND HUMANITY
IN BRUCE BERESFORD'S *EVELYN* MOVIE:
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Evelyn is a family drama movie directed by Bruce Beresford, produced in United States on Friday December 13, 2002 by Beau St. Clair, Michael Ohoven, and Pierce Brosnan, wrote by Paul Pender and edited by Humphrey Dixon, the music was arranged by Stephen Endelmen. This film was produced by Cine Evelyn's Company Production and Pathe distribution as the distributor. The cinematography was made by Andre Fleuren. The running time of *Evelyn* movie is around 94 minutes. The country which is being as the setting of this movie is Ireland 1953 and use English as the language. Tagline of this movie is the story of a father's love that changed a nation (*Evelyn*, 2003).

This movie was starred by Pierce Brosnan as Desmond Doyle, Aidan Quinn as Nick Barron, Juliana Margulies as Bernadette Beattie, Stephen Rea as Michael Beattie, Sophie Vavasseur as Evelyn Doyle and, Alan Bates as Thomas Connolly. This movie was supported by some actors and actresses such as Alan Barry, Don Foley, Bosco Hogan, Frank Kelly, Mark Lambert, John Lynch, Andrea Irvine, Marian Quinn, and Karen Ardiff (*Full Cast*, 2003).

The director of this movie, Bruce Beresford, was born on August 16, 1940 in Sydney, Australia. He got started producing short documentaries as the head of the British Film Institute Production Board from 1966 to 1970. He was active in the film industry between '70s until 2000s. He was nominated in Academy Award of Australian film as a director, writer, and producer of film (Craven, 2009).

The background of *Evelyn* movie is about family case especially broken home because of some factors, one of them is economic factor that becomes in a family have

not good relationship among them. Pierce [Brosnan](#) stars as Desmond Doyle, an unemployed painter and musician whose just been abandoned by his wife - leaving him to care for their three children.

By that time, Mrs. Deisley (mother in law of Doyle) reporting those condition to the authority called The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (SPCC) that Doyle is unable to mothering his three children. After that, SPCC currently executes their duty to remove the Doyle's children from the house and sent to an orphanage. This action was accorded with constitution under section 10 of the Children's Act 1941 that, until there is a significant improvement in the domestic and financial circumstances of Desmond Doyle, his two sons, Dermot and Maurice will be placed in care of the Christian Brothers in Kilkenny and his daughter, Evelyn Doyle will be committed to St. Joseph's School in Dublin. Doyle felt very disappointed with that decision, so that he proposing an appeal to a higher law institution until the Irish Supreme Court to get solution and he also promises to get a good job for the happiness of his family. For further step, Doyle enlists the help from an American lawyer (Nick Baron), a solicitor (Michael Beattie) and a retired legal wiz (Tom Connolly), the four set out to change the laws of Ireland.

The Doyle case spent four times of conferences. The first conference was litigating the section 10 subsection 1 of the Children's Act 1941 which is the result is the loose of Doyle. The second conference was discussing the literal and grammatical meaning of word "Both Parent" in mothering children because the court says that it was a basic for that case. It is also made Doyle into the loser because he cannot prove anything by his word.

The third conference was attended by Minister of Education. It was held in the Irish Supreme Court. Here, the Doyle's team proposing a new base for the case. The base is the Irish Constitution under article 1 that states "the Irish

Constitution shall be consistent with the law of God”, article 41 that states “a parent and child have a fundamental and God-given right to the enjoyment of each other’s mutual society”, and also article 42 that states “a blameless parent shall not be deprived of his or her right to direct the child’s education”. By these words, the minister of education proven that he has denied the Doyle’s fundamental and God-given right. The agenda of this conference is to deliver the eyewitnesses’ testimony in order to get the truth of the case.

The last conference is also in the Supreme Court. The agenda of this conference is to read the decision. Here, only justice Ferris who states the disagreement, while Justice Delay and Justice Lynch found in favor of plaintiff, Desmond Doyle. Finally, Desmond Doyle won the case. As the impact of this case, the family rules in Ireland were corrected and thousands of children were liberated from the orphanage.

Some people give their comments to the *Evelyn* movie based on their own experiences. Firstly, came from Dennis Schwartz (2002). He stated that, "Since this film is based on an injustice that really happened and changed Ireland's law that separates children from their parents, it's wonderful to see that the good guys defeated the meanness in the end". Then, Daneman (2003) from Middle town, DE USA said that “A heartwarming tale, told with elegant restraint”. The third comment comes from a TV Guide. They state that “Brosnan’s performance is surprisingly effective. Bruce Beresford makes the best of a workmanlike script, the children are undeniably adorable” (TV guide, 2003). It is concluded that this movie was pretty well picture, best decision on the casting, and great cinematography.

On the other hand, it must be there a person whom does not interest to the certain element on this movie. R. Kyle, as the teacher he said that "*Evelyn*" is an excellent film, but not for younger children due to language and drinking (Kyle, 2003). He disagrees

with the Doyle's behavior that always takes a drink when he got a problem. Kyle stated that it is not good for children to follow Doyle's attitude. So, it refers to the behavior value than a big thing that we can pride from this movie.

Evelyn had been filmed twice: in United State on December 13, 2002 and in United Kingdom on April 15, 2003. It is very great on the income -about US \$.1.341.151- because this movie was very popular whether in the review of viewer, movie market, and film industry.

As the results, *Evelyn* movie got a lot of awards from some film industries and film appreciation. It won the award of distinction of Australian Cinematographers Society in 2004. Besides that, *Evelyn* movie also nominated in Bangkok International Film Festival as the best film in 2003; Irish Film and Television Award as the best Irish film in 2003; Phoenix Film Critics Society Award as the best performance by the youth in a leading or supporting role-female in 2003; Political Film Society USA as a human right film in 2003 and; Young Artist Award as the best performance in a feature film-young actress age ten or under in 2003 (*Awards*, 2003).

Evelyn is an interesting movie to be researched, because it has a lot of point plus. It can be seen from the theme, character and characterization, casting, cinematography, and the plot. The theme of *Evelyn* movie is the story of a father's love that changed a nation upon a tension that so strong from government to dissociate children from the broken home parent. All of us have been knew that change a nation is a hard work for everyone, but in this movie, a love from parent to their children had been proven could make that dream do come true.

The second point of interest from *Evelyn* movie is on the character and the characterization. The character of Desmond Doyle here show that he is very romantic parent but too obstinate to cover his entire problem during the time. The other character

that makes the writer interested is Evelyn. She tends to think such like an adult female than a little girl in facing her problem, but in other sense she is a smart little girl who is cute and has fine personality that make her so strong every time in her life.

The third point is the casting itself. Pierce Brosnan who played the character of Desmond Doyle is an artist who has any talents as a producer and actor. A few times ago we know pierce Brosnan play a character for James Bond, but he had proved that he could be a romantic character too.

The fourth point is the cinematography. In the process of movie production of *Evelyn*, the cinematography becomes the duties of Bruce Beresford in choosing lighting and camera when record the photographic. Besides, the director helps cinematographer to select the artistic of aesthetics element in image. This movie is good because the runtime is not too long, and also use the classic frame of the 1953. By applying the classic frame we could got a clear picture of that time accurately.

The last point interest of *Evelyn* movie is on the plot because there are some events that become as the conflict both internal and external. The internal conflict is in the character of Desmond Doyle. In facing his case Doyle becomes a desperate man over the loss of his children but later he has a spirit to struggling the right to reach his children again. The external conflict occurs when Doyle efforts to convince the judges that a single parent could raise his children with love him had. He promises to get a good job for the happiness of his family. He thought that the tension from Irish court here was not relevant with the pureness of humanity.

Actually the thematic conflict of *Evelyn* movie is the decision of the Irish constitution that prohibiting the single parent to mothering their children even though it is very clears that God has given right to the society of children. This social role seems to be irony with the belief of all religion in this world which recognizing the human right fully.

The theory that will be applied on this research is sociology, because the main message of *Evelyn* movie is a sociological thing, whereas the problem comes from the meaning of a subsection in the Irish constitution which used to cope all of Irishman. In a book entitled *The Sociology of Literature*, Swingewood define that Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institution and the study of social process. Furthermore he stated that sociology also concerned with the process whereby society changes gradually or cataclysmically as in revolution from one type of society to another kinds of society and with the effect which in these changes have on the social structure (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 12).

From the brief explanation above the writer is interested to analyze the tension given by the government dealing with the children bringing up right in that movie entitled “TENSION BETWEEN CONSTITUTION AND HUMANITY IN BRUCE BERESFORD’S *EVELYN* MOVIE: A SOCIO-LOGICAL APPROACH”.

B. Literature review

The *Evelyn* (2002) represents a new drama movie, so it is interesting to be analyzed. As long as the researcher knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study the movie *Evelyn* (2002) before whether in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or Surakarta region. So, this research is the first study. Based on this statement the writer is interested in analyzing this movie by using sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Evelyn movie was set in Ireland, and this movie brought a theme about the Irish law which a lot of people said that it must be changed. Before discussing the event, we have to know the notion of constitution first. Literally the word constitution came from

French vocabulary “constituer” which has meaning “forming”. Furthermore, C.F. Strong (in Thaib, 2001: 13) gives the definition that constitution is a collection of principles according to which the power of the government, the rights of the governed, and the relations between the two are adjusted. In this movie, the Irish constitution forces single parents to deliver their children into the state. Meanwhile, God has given the right fully to the human to live together with their family. This is one of the humanity feelings of every human that cannot be removed at once.

Based on the background, the researcher proposes a single problem statement. The major problem of the study is “How is the tension between constitution and humanity reflected in Bruce Beresford’s *Evelyn*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to the tension between constitution and humanity in Bruce Beresford’s *Evelyn* (2002), especially the major character in the movie *Evelyn*. This study uses the theory of sociology which is developed by Swingewood. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that human being has follows the rules given by God and by their heart to exists their life, it is also happen in a family which is the tension cannot separates one person and others.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on sociological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The beneficial of the study relates with:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give contribution to the literary studies on Bruce Beresford's *Evelyn* movie by using sociological theory.

2. Practical Benefit

To give benefit to the researcher in comprehending about the content of the Bruce Beresford's *Evelyn* movie especially from the sociological aspects.

G. Research Method

The research method covers objects of the study, source of data, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis.

1. The objects of the study

The researcher takes Bruce Beresford's *Evelyn* released on Friday December 13, 2002 (US) as the object of study.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study there are two sources of the data namely primary and second data sources.

- a. The primary data source of the study is the movie *Evelyn* (2002) which is directed by Bruce Beresford. The main data involve the ideas, way of thinking, attitudes, and the whole narration, in the movie and the dialogues between and among the character that are relevant to the subject matter this research.
- b. Secondary data source are taken from other sources such as the author's biography, essay, comment, historical information, some books of sociology theories, movie script, and information related to the study.

3. Technique of the Data Collecting

The data collection technique used in the study is the library research; the necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Seeing the play repeatedly and learning the script.
 - b. Taking note of the important parts in both primary and secondary data.
 - c. Identifying the topic of the movie.
 - d. Determining the major character.
 - e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
 - f. Arranging, researching and developing the selected materials into a good unity toward the topic of the study.
4. Technique of the Data analysis

The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis. It is begun with the author and his work, the structure analysis of the movie, and finally sociological analysis of the literary work.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make the researches easier to follow the research paper is organized into six chapters. *Chapter I* is introduction, it deals with the background of the study, literature review, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. *Chapter II* presents underlying theory. It deals with the notion of sociology, the principle of sociology, structural elements of the movie, and theoretical application. *Chapter III* is the United Kingdom Social Background in the end of twentieth century and early twenty first century. *Chapter IV* includes the structural analysis of the movie by describing character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot and theme of the movie and a brief discussion. *Chapter V* presents the sociological analysis of the movie based the sociological theory. *Chapter VI* consists of conclusion and suggestion.