STRUGGLE FOR FINDING THE TRUTH BEHIND THE UNEXPLAINABLE MOMENT IN PAUL HAGGIS’ *IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Life is always up and down. People will face pleasant and unpleasant thing each day. When the moment of pleasant come, the people welcome it with hope it will never end. In the other hand, pain and sorrow wait the people to be friend also. They walk together beside of those people. It is called destiny.

The destiny makes the people aware of effort. People try to get the best things even though it follows them to get nothing. Everything can be learnt as the process of maturity. When the condition lasts, the people are being forced to decide their own life. Sometimes they are desperate but sometimes not. The movie Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah* shows us how the spirit of getting the truth for their close person. Paul Haggis is a director who often makes the film such these with the similar theme “war”.

Paul Haggis is known as best director, script writer and screen player. He subsequently makes his future directing debut with *Crash (2005)*. It explores racial and social tension in Los Angeles. Following his Oscar wins, Haggis adapted the screenplay for Tony Goldwiyn’s *The Last Kiss*. The same year, Haggis was hired to do rewrite of *Casino Royale*, the 21st installment of James Bond Franchise. He also makes other works.

Paul Haggis also wrote the screenplay for Client Eastwood’s Oscar

Works usually leave a critical or adornment. Some people say it is good but there are many critical follow in Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah*. One of then is Boyd Van Hoeij. He thought that the director used to convey the idea that people can ever fully see or understand what someone else has gone through. It is even when that person is as close as our own child, and even when the events are as shared as one soldier's war is known to another. People can, at best, only begin to glimpse small parts of another's experience; and even when people do, those glimpses are distorted by noise and obscured by our own distance and removal. So, people’s understanding is always incomplete ([http://iraqwargriefdailywitness.blogspot.com/2007/09/iraq-war-grief-in-valley-of-elah.html](http://iraqwargriefdailywitness.blogspot.com/2007/09/iraq-war-grief-in-valley-of-elah.html)).

Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah* is drama movie. It is needs two hours and one minute to watch. This film is begun with the curiosity of a war veteran, Hank Deerfield (Tommy Lee Jones), and his wife, Joan (Susan Saradon). They search for their son, Mike (Jonathan Tucker). Mike is a soldier who recently returned from Iraq but has mysteriously gone missing.
Hank never has been tired to look for his son. He investigates this case carefully. He is aided by a police detective (Charlize Theron) who personally involved in this case. Fortunately, Hank finds where Mike is. Based on the investigation, Mike’s body is cut into pieces and burnt. The military officials initially attempt to block the police investigation and then suggest that Mike’s death was due to drug related violence.

The investigation continues although the military officials has blocked. The platoon mates who last saw him lie to Hank and the police. Hank tells to the police that although he suspects the soldiers are lying about something, they could not have killed their comrade. Ultimately, it turns out that Hank is wrong. The soldier who confesses to Hank and police seems emotionally detached from his words and action, likely due to post-traumatic stress disorder from the war.

Hank understands what really happens to his son. He comes back home. He is disappointed about this case. He turns down the American flag in front of the office. He changes into the dirty flag and turns it over so that it is upside down. The movie *In the Valley of Elah* shows the power of human for getting the truth. Paul Haggis makes it good.

After analyzing the film’s case, the writer would like to analyze the major character, Hank Deerfield. He is a wise and strongly man who plays important in this case. He shows the psychological phenomenon by his character and characterization. In this study, the writer encourages herself to give a title **STRUGGLE FOR FINDING THE TRUTH BEHIND THE**
UNEXPLAINABLE MOMENT IN PAUL HAGGIS’ IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”

B. Literature Review

The movie, In the Valley of Elah, is an interesting work. The theme brought makes the people aware of situation which is people ever get through the same case, unexplainable moment. There is no researcher uses this movie as the object, but the writer finds several researchers use the same perspective, individual psychological approach.

The writer chooses two researchers with the similar perspective, Individual Psychological Approach. They are Mariana Sri Utami with “The Struggle for freedom of Rolland Emmerick’s The Patriot: An Individual Psychological Approach and Dwi Purwaningrum with “A Struggle for love in F. Scoot Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby: An individual Psychological Approach. Both are the student of Muhamadiyah University of Surakarta of 2004 and 2001 year. They investigate about the major character within the object.

The first researcher, Mariana Sri Utami, concerns with the striving of the major character, Benjamin Martin, to gain the freedom in their own land. There are many obstacles have to be faced by him to reach his goal. The personal adventure plays as the important role there. The second ones, Dwi Purwaningrum, investigates the influence of love on the life of the major character. It means to create good behavior, generous and good appearance. The writer also concerns with the major character.

In this paper, the writer will take the individual psychological approach to
reveal the struggle for finding the truth behind the unexplainable moment. Here Hank Deerfield (Tommy Lee Jones) is the main character who wants to make his case is clear.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is how the struggle for breaking the lies and finding the truth of Hank Deerfield is reflected in Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah*.

D. Research Limitation

This study is limited to the struggle for finding the truth of Hank Deerfield and how the struggle influences his psychology development in Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah*. This study uses individual psychology perspective. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that Hank Deerfield’s psychological development is influenced by the struggle for finding the truth behind the unexplainable moment.

E. Objectives of the Study

This research paper aims to analyze the structural element of Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah* based on an individual psychological perspective.
F. Benefits of the Study

The result of the study is highly expected to give benefit as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give a high contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly to those who are interested in Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher in analyzing the movie Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah* into different perspective.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analyzes the Paul Haggis’ *In the Valley of Elah*, using qualitative method. There are four points that should be taken into account in this research method:

1. Type of the Study

The type of study is qualitative study which takes the source data from words and other written texts.

2. Object of the Study

The writer takes *In the Valley of Elah* as the object of the study. The movie is directed by Paul Haggis released in September 14, 2007. The duration is 121 minutes.
3. Type of the Data and the Data Resource

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of the data, there are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the film itself *In the Valley of Elah* by Paul Haggis. The data are taken from the dialogue, scene, setting and all of the statement related to the problem.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which relates to the primary data such as website about the film and another data related to this research.

4. Technique the Data Collection

a. Observation

The data are taken by watching the movie of *The Patriot* in order to understand about the movie.

b. Library Research

The data are collected from the book that related to the topic.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses two techniques in analyzing the data:

a. Analyzing the structural element of the movie.

b. Analyzing the struggle for freedom of the main character using descriptive analyzing based on underlying theories.
H. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method and paper organization. The second chapter deals with underlying theory, including the notion of individual psychology and basic assumption of individual psychology, structural of the film and theoretical application. The third chapter is the structural analysis of the film, including narrative and technical elements. The fourth chapter is dealing with analysis individual psychology. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.