

**RON KOVIC'S STRUGGLE FOR BEING A HERO  
IN OLIVER STONE'S *BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY* MOVIE;  
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Born on the forth of July* is a literary work in a movie form, which directed by Oliver Stone. The story of the movie is based on best selling autobiography Ron Kovac's book tells about Ron Kovac's experiences in Vietnam war. *Born on the Forth of July* was published in December 20 1989. The duration is 138: 17 minutes. The genre of the movie is drama, biography and war.

The story of the movie is about a young boy Ron Kovic, he was born on the forth of July in Massapequa, Long Island. At the same time for the American, forth of July they celebrate the day for Americanization or the freedom day. For Massapequa's citizens the celebration for this day usually, by coming together in a way or park, watching the parade, and in the night they enjoy the work fire on their field. At the parade, unintentional Ron sees the old veterans walk by their wheel chair, and he interests being a United States Marine. The compensate is he never entered the regular school but he always choose the sport school, because he wants his body shape like a marine. Before he graduated from his school, the head master invites marine to give the student many information about marine, the points of the marine's speech is about marine requirement. Ron very interests for being a marine, but when he discusses about it he does not get a good responds from his friends he still applies for a marine. Ron does not think anything except for being a marine, until he does not interest in his prom night

In the night when their friends celebrate their graduate, he does not come because Ron prepares his equipment for his first tour in Vietnam. He is so nervous and confuse, but he believes he must go to his first tour to Vietnam, because being a marine is only one thing what he wants. He prays to the God, he wants his heart more peace than before. Then he awakened to meet his sweetheart Dona. Although Ron late comes in the prom night, he can dance with Dona, before he really leaves Massapequa for his first tour in Vietnam.

His first tour to Vietnam is going on like what he wants, but in his second tour in January 1968, unintentional he shoots his own troop Wilson. It makes him so guilty and does not concentrate in to the next fight until his chest and his foot wounded. The shoot makes him to be paralyzed from mid chest down, dysfunction of his sexual reproduction and living forever in a wheelchair, because the doctor at the Veteran's hospital are few and not very education. They promised a physical therapy for Ron but it is only a joke.

Finally, his family picks him up in home. Here, the real struggle started, many conflict with his family, his friends and peoples in his environment, begin. It is causing from the different statement about Vietnam War and nurture of their state. Ron gives up, and goes to the Mexico. In Mexico, he gets what he wants, women, wine and respect. They called Mexico is paradise for the veteran. However, in his deepest heart, he still feels so guilty in Wilson death. Then he goes to meet Wilson's family in Venus, Georgia. He pardons Wilson's family and admits that he shot Wilson in Vietnam. All of Wilson's family give their apologies to him expect for Wilson's wife. It is makes Ron convinces that war is

wrong. Then, he joins the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and Ron with the veterans demonstrate in President Nixon's campaign state. Ron speeches in the front of the press that war is wrong. The conflict does not equal between veteran who walking by wheelchair with the security, beginning. Four years later Ron's struggle in vain, he gets the same right as an American. In the past, the citizen was mocking him as a stupid people who were being a marine for paralyzed him and living in wheelchair forever, now they respect him as a president candidate. Ron realizes for his mother that he speech in important thing in the front of Americans.

After *Born on the Forth of July* movie has a launched in December 22, 1989, it got positive responds from the viewer. Rotten Tomatoes reports in April 1, 1990 that 88% of criticism gave the film positive reviews. Metacritic reports that had an average 75 out of 100. Roger Ebert gives the film "four stars" and called the film as a one of best films in 1990es. (Born\_on\_the\_Fourth\_of\_July\_(film)#Box\_office)

In 1990, *Born on the Fourth of July* got many prestige awards in the world. There are Best Director ( Academy awards), Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Motion Pictures (Directors Guild of America), Best Director - Motion Picture (Golden Globes), Best Film Editing (Academy Awards), Best Actor (Chicago Film Critics Association Awards), Best Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama (Golden Globes), Best Motion Picture - Drama (Golden Globes), Best Screenplay - Motion Picture (Golden Globes), Film Music Award (BMI Film & TV Awards), Best Sound Editing (Motion Picture Sound Editors), Democracy

(Political Film Society) and many other nomination awards. They give it because *Born on the Forth of July* movie has different appeals and many points of interests. (Born\_on\_the\_Fourth\_of\_July\_(film)#Box\_office)

The cinematography side is one of points of interest from the film. The process of making this film uses high technology. It shows in lighting, sound, properties, dressing and make up from the film. The sound and the lighting are so appropriate with the situation in the environment of the plot because, the director shows the central points of the film by using good lighting and good sound. Then the properties, dressing and make up so interesting because it shows that the film looks like in 1960es.

Second, the plot of process making the film often to moved. We can see from the film that *Born on the Forth of July* must be produce in Vietnam. Because the reasons of not good enough the relationship between Vietnam and America the film produce in Philippine. The film more interesting because the plot tells the boyhood of Ron Kovic in Massapequa. After Ron being a teenager as a marine he moves for his first, second tour to Vietnam, then he wounds and gets the nursing in Brooklyn Veteran Hospital. After he paralyzed he goes to Mexico and Georgina for gets what he want here, then he backs to Massapequa again.

The third point of interest is the director Oliver Stone has an experiences being a marine in Vietnam War. He was joining Marine in 1967 in the second platoon of Bravo Company 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 25<sup>th</sup> infantry then he field in 1968 because he wounds twice. In this film, Oliver Stone can apply his psychological

experiences for the major character of *Born on the Forth of July* movie Ron Kovic acted by Tom Cruise. (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000231/bio>)

Forth, the major character Ron Kovics is adapted from best selling autobiography Ron Kovac's book, which tells about his experiences in Vietnam War. *Born on the Forth July* movie is one of waited films from the book lover and the movie lover of American, because the author is an American who active and critical people although he paralyzed from a war. He sacrifices his selves for his country by joining marines against the communism in Vietnam.

Based, from the illustration about the movie we know that bring good name to save our country is not only joining army and fight our enemies. We have other activities in other way for example being athlete, scientist, artist, and so on. Nevertheless, Ron Kovic has different way to make his country gets good name. He is joining marine, he gives all of him only for his country fight the enemies in Vietnam until he wound and he must lost his confidence in his society, dysfunction of his sexual organs, and paralyzed. With full of surrender, he gives it only for his country. However, when he comes back in his hometown, he does not get good responds from his society. They mock the veteran that being a marine, fight the communism in Vietnam and paralyze is a stupid things. He knows that war is wrong but he knows for being a hero, he does not going to war again. He joins the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), In here the struggle begin for get the same right as an American.

So, that why the writer is interested in analyzing the major character of Ron Kovic in *Born on the Forth of July* movie. The title of the research paper is

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### **B. Literature Review**

Before analyzing the movie, the researcher has read other paper that is relevant with the analysis, especially about the approach. That is as follows **Hajar Sumantri-A 320 040 260**, the title is **Struggle for Being an Actress in Shakespeare in Love Movie by John Maddin: an Individual Psychological Approach**. He was a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The aim of his research is analyzing the major character of *Shakespeare in Love* movie in Individual Psychological perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is "How is a struggle for being a hero of Ron Kovic reflected in Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth Of July* movie?"

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

To make the discussion clear, the study is limited into certain topic. The topic is about a young, patriotic American's Marine for being a hero reflected by Ron Kovic as a main character in Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth Of July* movie.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

Dealing with the problem statement above. The objective of the studies is to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and to analyze the movie based on the individual psychological approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

### **1. Theoretically Benefit**

To get additional contribution to literature researches dealing with Oliver Stone's *Born on The Fourth Of July* Movie.

### **2. Practical benefit**

To give deeper understanding about the content of the movie especially from the individual psychological aspect.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Research**

In this study the researcher applies qualitative research.

### **2. The object of the Research**

Object of the research in this case is Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth of July* movie. In inducting the research, the writer is going to analyze it by using individual psychological approach.

### **3. Source of Data**

a. Primary Data Source



The primary data source are taken from Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth of July* movie

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are manuscript of *Born on the Fourth of July* movie, books, and virtual references as documentation

#### **4. Technique of Data Collecting**

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. These are the technique of data collecting:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly,
- b. Reading the script to get more understanding,
- c. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information,
- d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources, and
- e. Classifying the data into some categories.

#### **5. Techniques of Data Analysis**

In this research, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies individual of major character in Oliver Stone's *Born on the Fourth Of July* movie using individual psychological perspective.

## **H. Research organization.**

The writer organizes the paper into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and research method organization. The second chapter is dealing with underlying theory that consists of fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving, style of life, social interest, creative power and theoretical application. In third chapter, the researcher explains the structural element of the movie, which contain of plot, character, setting, point of view, style and theme. The forth chapter is dealing with the analysis of individual psychology toward the ambition of the major character. Finally, the researcher draws conclusion and suggestion in the fifth chapter.