

ANXIETY OF ARTHUR DIMMESDALE IN *SCARLET LETTER* MOVIE:

A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Scarlet Letter is one of the most suspenseful psychological thriller movie ever produced. Nathaniel Hawthorne is an American author of scarlet letter novel. The screenplay of this film is adapted from the novel with the same title by Douglass Day Stewart and Rolland Joffe as director who was born on November 17, 1945. *Scarlet Letter* is the sixth movie by Rolland Joffe of ten movies. It was released in Cinergi Pictures on October 13, 1995 by Rolland Joffe which running time is 135 minutes. The cover artist of Scarlet Letter movie is Gary oldman and Demi more. The Editor of the movie is Douglass Day Stewart. The publisher of the movie is Ticknor, Reed and Fields. The movie uses English Language. *Scarlet Letter* movie is a movie which focuses on introductions romance movie. It is the sixth of ten movies in the Rolland Joffe Cycle. There are The Killing Fields in 1984, The Mission in 1986, Fat Man and Little Boy in 1989, City of Joy in 1992, Super Mario Bros in 1993, The Scarlet Letter in 1995, Goodbye Lover in 1999, Vatel or Francois Vatel in 2000, Captivity in 2007, You and I in 2007.

Scarlet Letter tells about adultery between Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale. Arthur Dimmesdale as a church leader, a young woman Hester Prynne, Roger Chillingworth is Hester's husband, and Pearl's child. A young woman, Hester arrives at the colony with the purpose to find a house for

herself and her husband, old doctor Roger Prynne who still resides in good old England and follow later. Hester's husband who is much older than her is sent her head to America, but he never arrives alone in Boston, Massachusetts.

From the first day, the other inhabitants of the village notice that Hester is an intelligent and independent woman which attracts the ones and strikes the other. While waiting her husband, she meets Dimmesdale a church leader. In the moment, when she finds herself a house near the forest and takes a walk in it she sees by chance a naked young man swimming in the river nearby. The man as she finds out later is the very popular Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale. The two soon find themselves attracted to each other and secretly begin an affair. As result of this Hester becomes pregnant and when the government finds out, she is showed up in public and has to wear a scarlet "A" as adultery on her chest. Because she refuses to tell name of her child's father, she goes into jail where she gives birth to her daughter, Pearl. Then, surprisingly, Roger Prynne whose ship is supposed to have been destroyed in a storm with no survivors appears in the village. The doctor is now driven by the idea to find out who is Hester's lover and destroys his life as well as the life of Hester. Finally, in the moment a war happen when Hester and Dimmesdale will justice of society and them to slip away from capital punishment. Then, they become happy family.

Scarlet Letter was major critical success. *Scarlet Letter* movie is one of movie which every audience loves it. From the audience, *Scarlet Letter* is a good movie which shows someone's sacrifices, someone who wants to protect

her lover. The movie is an adventurous and exiting movie. *Scarlet Letter* not only is a good movie but also in the novel and literature to be analyzed. The audiences also evaluate that it is a glowing movie and enthralling journey to end. *Scarlet Letter* was released on October 13, 1995. In published, *Scarlet Letter* has budget \$50,000,000. This movie gets 1 Won and 9 Nominations Award.

The good acceptance movie does not only come from the market, but also from the film expert. They said that this film is generally regarded as a landmark because there are visualization of both repulsion and psychological acts shown to the audience. It also portrays a distinctive relationship between two very significant characters named Hester Prynne and Arthur Dimmesdale. *Scarlet Letter* has Best Actor by Gary Oldman as Arthur Dimmesdale, Best Actress for Demi Moore as Hester Prynne. Besides the good response, *Scarlet Letter* also gains complain, especially from extramarital affairs about adultery between church leaders with follower in the film.

There are aspects that make the movie interesting to study. The first aspect is in the visualization and cast of the movie. Hester Prynne makes the audience feel enthusiastic with this thriller movie, even when the movie shows about the process of punishment by society. The cast of this film also a valuable part in this film.

Second, in *Scarlet Letter* movie the director add interesting people along the way to move the plot along. This movie shows adultery action between church leaders, Arthur Dimmesdale, with follower, Hester Prynne.

The last aspect is theme in the movie. The movie has close relationship with psychoanalytic and literary work which has involved in anxiety is *Scarlet Letter* movie which proposed the psychoanalytic study, especially anxiety as problem of *Scarlet Letter*.

Here the anxiety occurs when Arthur Dimmesdale wants to skip with society which is not supposed to be belonged to. He feels anxiety when visited Hester Prynne in her home, because he is the detected by people. Dimmesdale appears to be wasting away and suffers from mysterious heart trouble seemingly caused by psychological distress. It is clear that *Scarlet Letter* has anxiety in the main character; the psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud is suitable to analyze this movie through the major character Arthur Dimmesdale. Then, the research is intended to conduct a study on psychological aspect of character in this movie using psychoanalytic approach under the title: ANXIETY OF ARTHUR DIMMESDALE IN *SCARLET LETTER MOVIE*: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

Before the writers analyze it, the writer has read other papers that are relevant with his analysis, especially about the approach as follow: Umar Faruk with the title Anxiety in John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas*: A Psychoanalytic Approach (UMS 2001) and the Aim of his Research is to Analyze how Anxiety in John Grisham's *Skipping Christmas* A Psychoanalytic Approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study, the writer formulates the problem as follows “How is Arthur Dimmesdale’s anxiety reflected in *Scarlet Letter* movie? “

D. Limitation of the Study

To achieve the objective of the research, the writer needs to limit study. The researcher is going to analyze Arthur Dimmesdale as the major character of The *Scarlet Letter* Movie from psychoanalytic perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

Objective of the Study are:

1. To analyze the *Scarlet letter* movie based on its structural elements
2. To analyze the *Scarlet letter* based on the psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are two benefits expected from this study they are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contribution on understanding of the *Scarlet Letter* movie especially by a Psychoanalytic approach.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta who have interest with literary study on the movie from psychoanalytic approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In the research, the writer analyzes the *Scarlet Letter* movie using qualitative method besides books and other related references to support the subject matter.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Arthur Dimmesdale in the *Scarlet Letter* movie directed by Rolland Joffe and written by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

The data of the research is the movie *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne as the script writer and Rolland Joffe as directed. Beside that the data sources come from internet and other sources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In the research, the writer uses documentation methods and then the steps on collecting data are:

- a. Watching the movie more than one to get deep understanding.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed

- c. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
 - d. Taking notes of important parts in the data
 - e. Classifying and determining the relevant data
 - f. Developing the selected materials into a good.
5. Technique of the data analysis

In Analyzing data, the research used descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and the psychoanalytic approach.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter contains introduction, which consists of background of the study, literature review and limitation of the study, problem statement and objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory: it deals with psychology of literature, notion of psychoanalysis, system personality, anxiety, structural elements and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis. In this chapter the writer explains the structural elements and discussion of the movie. The fourth chapter is psychoanalytic analysis. The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion of the research.