

**ANXIETY OF RAY FERRIER**  
**IN STEVEN SPIELBERG'S WAR OF THE WORLDS:**  
**PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Literary work always concern with human life. It is made by processing all sides of human life, such as in psychological aspect and other aspect that deal with human behavior. All the sides of human life will become inspiration in literary work that contains many things. For that reason, psychology phenomena quite influence in literary work. Visual example is in psychological knowledge and condition of human being surrounding. The character will be made similarity with characteristic of real life of human being. An example will be applied and discussed with psychoanalytic study in a literary work by Steven Spielberg's *War of the Worlds* movie.

The writer tries to conduct a study on struggle of life of major character, Ray Ferrier in *War of the Worlds* movie version. Paramount Pictures released the movie version of *War of the Worlds* in June 29, 2005. This film was directed by Steven Spielberg. The screenplay was created by Josh Friedman and David Koepp based on the novel *War of the Worlds* by H.G Wells. Josh Friedman was born on 1967. He is an American screenwriter and journalist, best known as the writer of the 2005 adaptation of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. David Koepp was born in Pewaukee, Wisconsin, USA, on June 9, 1963. His as screenwriter, his literary works are *Zathura: A space Adventure* (2005), *War of the Worlds* (2005), *Spiderman* (2002).

In this movie, Wells described the machines as “Walking engines of glittering metal...pieces of intricate rope dangling from it...green gas squirting from its joints...its’ motion was like a head moving about...”. The film’s aliens are drastically different in design, featuring more humanoid mouths and also being *tripedal*, lipless v-shapes mouths and tentacles. Wells described the clean skeletons of human and other animals but the aliens in the book apparently don’t use human blood as fertilizer for their *xenofarming* project. In the movie the invaders also are uninterested in animals.

*War of the Worlds* is a very interesting movie. It is about the story of family at Bayonne, New Jersey. They were Ray Ferrier, with his wife Mary Ann and their two children, Robbie Ferrier as the brother, and Rachel Ferrier as young sister. Ray Ferrier worked as dock worker. Ray had broken family. He was divorced from his wife. In holiday, his wife accompanied his child to vacation with their father. His wife was married for the second. In the same day, governments gave bad news for the civilians. The government announced the storm would happen in this town. The governments warned the civilian to be careful, to evacuate them self to other town. As a responsible father, he left his works and brought them to other town. The destination was going to their mother’s house. The condition was more dangerous when the ‘Tripod’ came out from the earth. Tripod was such aliens which have three foot. The storm also came to other town. In this space, Ray Ferrier tried to save both of his children.

*War of the Worlds* movie get pro and contra from audience. The audience support of this film because of they thought that film inspired them to be more like that and to talk to people and communicate with them. One of the audience said that he likes the movie because of it can make him like as involve joining in this war by tripod (Jessica, age 25). In other hand, says that ray's characters will make a bad image for father that not responsible in daily home. When the tripod was death and both of the children gathers they mom in Boston, may be Ray is come back like a miserable father (Joe, age 27).

The writer interest in *War of the Worlds* character because of he has strong character, brave, care, and responsible to the children. Other that, the writer interest in plot of this movie that showed how the major character faced a terrible situation. He caring the children by attacks the tripod, even he must be death to save them. Because of the reason, the writer are interest in Ray Ferrier anxiety in the movie.

From the precious illustration, the writer wants to analyze further anxiety of Ray Ferrier in Steven Spielberg's *War of the Worlds* using psychoanalytic approach.

## **B. Literature Review**

*War of the Worlds* is an amazing new release film that attracts the audience. As far as the writer knows, there is no researchers have conducted the study of *War of The Worlds*, at least among the students of university in the neighborhood, especially in Surakarta scope (Sebelas Maret University,

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta) and some universities in Yogyakarta and Semarang. So the writer conducts a research on *War of the Worlds* in movie version. The title is “Anxiety of Ray Ferrier in Steven Spielberg’s *War of the Worlds* Using Psychoanalytic Approach”.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem of the study is how is the major character’s anxiety reflected in Steven Spielberg’s *War of the Worlds*?

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

To focus on the study, the writer needs to limit the study. The writer is going to analyze the anxiety of Ray Ferrier about his children’s life in *War of the Worlds* using psychoanalytic approach. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that major character’s behavior reflects the dynamic interaction between id, ego, and superego resulting in different types of anxieties.

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

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. to analyze the structural elements of the movie, and
2. to analyze the major character of the movie based on the psychoanalytic approach.

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

In this studying the research paper, the benefits expected from the study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

Theoretically, the result of the study contributes to the large body of knowledge, particularly literary study on *War of the Worlds* movie version.

### **2. Practical Benefits**

To give deeper understanding about the content of film and analyzing *War of the World's* using psychoanalytic approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

This study belongs to qualitative research, which refers to the research based on qualitative data taken from the movie *War of the Worlds*, screenplay by Josh Friedman and David Koepp.

### **2. Type of Data and Data Source**

Type of the data used is descriptive text. There are two sources of this study, those are:

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the movie itself, *War of the Worlds* screenplay by Josh Friedman and David Koepp.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data sources are taken from several references such as essay, the author's biography, and other literary work, which are related to this study.

### **3. Technique of Data Collection**

The technique of data collection in this study is library research and documentation. The writer uses the following steps:

- a. watching the movie repeatedly,
- b. identifying a particular art that is important and relevant for the analysis,
- c. taking a note both primarily and secondary data, and
- d. arranging, research and developing the elected materials into a good unity toward the topic the study.

### **4. Technique of Data Analysis**

In the technique of data analysis, the writer employs descriptive analysis. It means, the analysis is started from the author and his work and content related to the analysis of the major character.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The study is divided into five chapters. Chapters one is introduction. This chapter involves the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and reseach paper organization. Chapter two deals with the underlying theory. It covers the psychoanalytic

theory, and main principles of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis and theoretical application. Chapter three is structural analysis, which includes character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, theme, miser-en-scene and cinematography of war of the Worlds movie version. Chapter four, deals with psychological analysis and Chapter five draws conclusion and suggestion.