

**COPING WITH THE BLINDNESS
IN TAYLOR HAKCFORD'S *RAY*:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITICISM**



RESEACH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Ray is a movie from Taylor Hackford. It was released on October 19, 2004. The screenwriters are Hackford and James L. White. Hackford was also the producer; Stuart Benjamin, Howard Baldwin, and Karen Baldwin helped him. (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258>). Hackford has many experiences in movie industry. Years by years, he has a film production. His career started in 1973 as a writer and then tried to become a director (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000431/>). This movie Jamie *Foxx* is the main character, played as *Ray Charles Robinson*. Hackford makes this movie based on true-life story of Ray Charles. Ray Charles was a successful legendary rhythm and blues musician. As the writer knows, he was blind musician, had lack of physic. Not much abnormal person could be success so Hackford had challenged to make its phenomena to become an epic movie. It takes 152 minutes long play (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258>).

Ray Charles Robinson was not born blind. He was blind when he was seven years old. His mother, *Aretha Robinson* teaches young Ray how to use his minds, ears, and hands as his eyes that help him in his dark life. Aretha does not want his son to ask for help or something to other. She wants he could do anything by himself. Young Ray learns piano from an old man from his neighbor. He has talent so his learning growth fast. Touring across the Southern musical circuit, the soulful singer gained a reputation and then

exploded with worldwide fame when he pioneered incorporating gospel, and country, jazz and orchestral influences into his inimitable style.

He becomes great talent in playing jazz from one club to another and finally he has a band. He marries with Della Bea Antwine and has two sons. Ray also has a fair with other woman like Marry Ann and Margie. Both of them are Ray's backing vocal singers. Ray's problem is about not only women's affair but also drug. Ahmed had already known he used drugs, warned him to leave it, but Ray did care it. Ray almost comes to jail but he does not. He can stand up until he died.

Ray movie becomes box office in USA. The first proof is earning \$100 million in the U.S. with an additional \$75 million internationally, bringing its world wide gross to \$175 million, so received mostly positives reviews (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258>). The reviewers come from not only in USA but also in also other country, like Canada, Ireland, India, etc. The writer gives examples of reviews from around USA. They are Terry William (USA), Rebus2 (Louisiana), an Mxracer157 (USA) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258/usercomments>). First reviewer is *Terry William* (USA), she said that she is really adored to this film because it was inspiring and entertaining. According to her, the entire cast was perfect, great screenplay, and awesome settings. This was her picture of that year and certainly one of the best biographical films ever made. The second commentator is *Rebus2* from Louisiana. Ray was inspiring her to be a better person. She learned that love can build a strong person, because love is a part of human living. The last

one is Mxracer157 (US), says that Jamie Foxx had amazed him with his acting ability. Ray is a comedian and a singer, but in this movie, he breaks grounds could do a solid film that makes please to add to his collection.

This movie however receives some bad reviews. They are Ryan Ellis (Toronto), Ccthemoviemman-1 (Lockport, New York), and Lambiepie-2 (Los Angeles) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258/usercomments>). The first viewer is *Ryan Ellis* from Toronto, Canada. He argued that no mere can sing like Mr. Charles anyway, and star on that picture as about as close to “everything as we’ll probably see for a while.” The second one is *Ccthemoviemman-1* from Lockport. NY, United States. He argued that that film how easily hooked Ray in the first place and disappointed, he was so unfaithful to his wife. A sad comment that his wife was more upset with him for missing his kid’s Little League games than she was for all the cheating he was doing in her. The last viewer is Lambiepie-2. He felt that some of that movie was shallow and heavy handed for emotional appeal and this film seemed to end with the whimper not a bang certain parts including the ending played like on lifetime cable network movie.

Ray movie also gets many awards. From 2004 up to 2006, there are 24 awards (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258/awards>). In 2004 got seven awards, like in BSFC Awards (Best Actor & Best Supporting Actress); FFCC Awards (Best Actor); NBR Awards (Best Actor); PFCS Awards (Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role & Best Use of Previously Published or Recorded Music). In 2005, *Ray* got 16 awards, like in Oscar

(Best Achievement in Sound Mixing & Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role); Golden Globe (Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy); and in 2006 got Grammy Awards (Best Compilation Soundtrack Album for Motion Picture, Television or Other Visual Media & Best Score Soundtrack Album for Motion Picture, Television or other Visual Media) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0350258/awards>).

The writer has three points in choosing this movie. First, this movie tells about the desire of a blind man (Ray Charles) to get success with his own feet. His succeed depend on his mother support. Second, talk about mother's love. Aretha Robinson is a widower with two sons (Ray and George). He teaches her sons to live by his own feet especially for Ray because he is blind. She tells him that living in this world has to compete with others so he must be a strong man. He has taught by his mother never says to give up for something in his front.

The last point is about the elements of this film itself, like the characters, setting, and costumes by the director. The chosen character is like Jamie Foxx as the main character is appropriate one. He acts and copies Ray Charles well. The next element is setting. The director chooses some cities around in USA likes Los Angeles, Dallas, Indianapolis, Atlanta, etc. The last element is costumes. The actors are wearing cloth based on the setting. The setting taken on 1946 so the costumes are simple model. Men wear coat or jacket, shirt mean while the women wear short dress.

Thus, the writer wants to analyze the main character toward his blindness using individual psychological criticism. The reason chooses Adler's theory because this film tells how the main character tries to get success and money toward his lack of physic (blind). Related to all of those described earlier, the writer entitles this study "COPING WITH THE BLINDNESS IN TAYLOR HAKFORD'S RAY: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL CRITICISM."

B. Literature Review

Ray movie has not analyzed before, so the writer is the first researcher who analyze this movie. The writer finds the other researcher that conducted with the title.

The first researcher is Partini (UMS, 1999). Her title is The Coping Behavior in Booth Tarkington's *The Magnificent Ambersons's*: An Individual Psychological Approach. The second researcher is Erwan Sumiyanto (UMS, 2004). His title is Coping Behavior of Maximus in Ridley Scott's *Gladiator* Movie: An Individual Psychological Approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background above, the main problem in this research is *how Ray Charles, as the main character, copes his blindness.*

D. Limitation of The Study

Not to make this research go too wide, here the identified problem is focus on the coping with the blindness of the main character in Hackford's movie:

RAY. Thus, the analysis is using individual psychological criticism theory from Alfred Adler.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as the following:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the film, in order to identify the unity of the film.
2. To analyze the main character of the film based on an individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the study hoped can be used for sake of teaching-learning process of English through literature. It can be used as alternative materials in teaching-learning fiction based on an individual psychological approach.

2. Practical Benefit

This study gives more knowledge of the researchers and the readers. In addition, the result of this study can be as reference for other researchers who want to conduct the same object.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

Based on the aims of the research, the writer uses a descriptive-qualitative research. Therefore, the data of this research are qualitative, that represented by describing them in words or sentence (verbal data).

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is struggle for life of Ray Charles Robinson as the main character on Hackford's movie.

3. Type of Data and the Data Source

Types of the data are texts and images are expressed by the characters and from the appropriate scenes.

In this step there are two kinds of data:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are the movie script and every scene of *RAY*.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are the literary criticism about the movie, journal of *RAY*, references, and virtual references on web site.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

Techniques of the data are note taking and image capturing Data are the sources of information. The followings are the steps in collection the data:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly
- b. Taking note of important part like, struggle for life of Ray, structural elements itself and dialogue related with theory and structural elements.
- c. Classifying and determining the relevant data
- d. Listing and typing the data

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the writer starts on struggle for life of Ray and then the structural analysis of the movie using an individual psychological approach.

H. Paper Organization

This research divided into five chapters as follows: the first chapter is introduction. It deals with background of the study, literary review, and problem of the study, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, theoretical approach, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of an individual theory. The third chapter is structural analysis. The researcher explains about the structural elements of the story that include character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, and theme. The fourth chapter is data analysis and discussion. It includes data analysis and discussion of finding. Finally, the research presents the conclusion and suggestion in the fifth chapter.