

**STRUGGLE FOR LIFE OF MEG ALTMAN
IN DAVID FINCHER'S *PANIC ROOM* MOVIE:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

World is filled by things that always make human life up. Joy and pain come and go. Those conditions must be considered by the people to decide the best thing to make them survive. Every person brings his or her own destiny. So, every person needs some efforts to survive.

People have different destiny but they have a desire in such society. They must fight to get what they want. People gather in such society to hold a nation. The people sacrifice is needed to strengthen the nation. Life is the key of nation to alive. The struggle for life needs a strong behavior and good strategy of people. Therefore, everything that can be achieved as one goal is called the life. So it means that struggle for life is decided by willingness, personalities, desire and behavior. Those phenomena are the object of psychological studies that represent the reality of life.

Psychology has the same object of the study as literature does. It is seen from the definition of literature as a permanent writing, which expresses and communicates thoughts, feeling and attitudes toward life and the world. Shortly, both psychology and literature study human beings life with its problems in their life (William, 1965: 24).

An individual psychology is study about human social nature, striving for mastery, and efforts to overcome feeling of inferiority by compensation

(http://www.biology_online.org/dictionary/individual_psychology). It is also describes the relationship and comparison of the characters between an individual with the others, that is to understand human's attitude.

Suryabrata (2002: 191) states that individual psychology is a way of understanding human's attitude. The fictional finalism, inferiority feeling and compensation, life style and creative self are the crucial based to understand human being.

Stimulated by the case above, the writer intends to conduct a study on psychological aspect of the main character in the movie of *Panic Room* directed by David Fincher. He was born on August 28th, 1962 in Denver, Colorado, USA. He was successful in directed some the movies such as *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* (2008), *Zodiac* (2007), *Fight Club* (1999), *The Game* (1997), *Se7en* (1995), *Alien 3* (1992), *The Beat of the Live Drum* (1985). He also the director of some videos clip famous actress such as Paula Abdul in *The Way That You Love Me* (1988), *Cold Hearted* (1989), *Straight Up* (2005), *Forever Your Girl* (2005), Madonna in *Oh Father* (1989), *Express Yourself* (1989), *Vague* (1990), *Bad Girl* (1993), George Michel in *Freedom* (1999), Aerosmith in *Janie's Got a Gun* (1989), *Big Ones You Can Look at* (1994), Michael Jackson in *Dangerous* (1993). (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Fincher).

This movie setting is in 38 West 94th Street in Manhattan. The film focuses on a panic room, a safe shelter usually located inside a residence. The panic room in this film is protected by a four inch thick steel door and an

impressive security system, and features a phone line not connected to the residence.

The residence is 38 West 94th Street in Manhattan, a four story townhouse that was previously owned by a disabled reclusive millionaire. Following the owner's death, the house was bought by Meg Altman (Foster), a woman, recently divorced from the owner of a pharmaceutical giant, who is planning to go back to college. Meg has a 12 year old daughter Sarah (Stewart) who suffers from type 1 diabetes.

On the night the two moves into the home, it is broken into by Junior (Leto), the grandson of the previous owner, and Burnham (Whitaker), an employee of the security company used by the residence. The two are after \$3 million in bearer bonds, which is locked inside a floor safe in the panic room. Unknown to Burnham until after they have broken in, Junior has recruited Raoul (Yoakam), a bus driver who lives in Flatbush, to assist in the heist.

After discovering that the Meg Altman have moved into the home one week before they anticipated, the villains decide to go on as planned with the heist. However, Meg Altman wakes up and discovers the intruders from the CCTV monitors in the panic room when she wanted to switch off its glaring light. Before the three villains can stop her, she runs to Sarah, wakes her by pouring water onto her face, and together they escape to the panic room. The three villains make several attempts to get into the room, including filling the room with propane to get the Meg Altman to come out, and tunneling in from underneath.

Meg Altman makes several attempts to call for help, including signaling a nearby neighbor with a flashlight and tapping into the main telephone line to call for help because Meg has not yet hooked up the panic room phone. Only one of way is with called Stephen, he is Meg's husband before the villains cut them off. To make matters worse, Sarah collapses due to hypoglycemia caused by her diabetes. (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0258000/synopsis>).

In the end of movie, she can save the family them from the three villains with do anything.

In fact people can solve their problems automatically through their daily life. Human being cannot be separated from the phenomenon and reality of life. Some people may see problems as a challenge in their lives and drive them to solve the problems. Beside that, people also can find some persons who give different reaction; they may see those problems as a border and have no clues to solve the problems. The complexity consists of sadness, happiness, hesitation, and anxiety, which appear, in life as evidences that every human has thought and feeling.

Based on the case above, the writer is interested in analyzing the major character, Meg Altman, because she has a very important role in the plot, and gives information about psychological phenomenon. It is seen from the way of the main character struggle, a person who wants to get his life. The writer gives the title of this research **“STRUGGLE FOR LIFE OF MEG ALTMAN IN DAVID FINCHER’S *PANIC ROOM* MOVIE: AN**

INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH". The writer adopts the psychological theories by Alfred Adler.

B. Literature Review

Among the libraries of university in Central Java there are many researchers who have analyzed the movie by using individual psychology approach. The first researcher "Dwi Purwaningrum 2001" investigates how the major character struggles to get his love in F. Scoot Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* by using Individual Psychological Approach. Her title is *A Struggle for love in F. Scoot Fitzgerald the Great Gatsby: An Individual Psychology Approach*. The second research, Syarif Hidayatullah 2002, investigates how the major character struggle to survive and create a better life in Ron Howard's *Cinderella Man* by using Individual Psychology Approach. Her title is *The Struggle to survive in Ron Howard's Cinderella Man: An Individual Psychology Approach*.

In this occasion, the researcher takes the individual psychological approach to reveal struggle for life of Meg Altman as the main character in *Panic Room* movie.

C. Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to the struggle for life of Meg Altman and how the struggle influences his psychological development by David Fincher in *Panic Room* movie. This study uses individual psychological perspective. It is

as a means of analysis with consideration that Meg Altman psychological development is influenced by the struggle for life.

D. Problem Statement

In this research, the writer will propose a single problem statement. The problem of the research is how the struggle for life of Meg Altman is reflected in *Panic Room* movie.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study will be:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural element by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, style, plot and theme.
2. To analyze the movie based on individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

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

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To enrich references of individual psychological approach in a movie, which can be used by those who are interested in analyzing this literary work.

- b. To give a high contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly to those who are interested of Meg Altman in *Panic Room* movie by David Fincher.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For getting deeper understanding about individual psychological perspective of Meg Altman in *Panic Room* movie.
- b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer will analyze the Meg Altman in *Panic Room* movie by David Fincher using qualitative method. There are four points that should be taken into account in this research method:

1. Object of the Study

The writer will take the *Panic Room* movie as the object of the study. The movie is directed by David Fincher.

2. Type of the Study

There are several kinds of method that can be used in a research and what method should be used depends on the purposes of the research. In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (1991: 5) states that “qualitative research is a type of research, which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from observed object.” This research takes the descriptive data in the form of written of film script entitled *Panic Room*.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Resource

The type of the data will be in the form of a script movie entitled *Panic Room* movie directed by David Fincher. The researcher will divide the data source into two categories, they are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source will be the film itself the *Panic Room* by David Fincher. 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 will be taken from other sources, which relates to the primary data source such as website about the film and another data related to this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method will be used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- b. Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- c. Reading some relates books to find out the theory, data and information required.
- d. Classifying the data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer will use two techniques in analyzing the data:

- a. Analyzing the structural element of the movie.
- b. Analyzing the struggle for life of the main character using descriptive analyzing based on underlying theory.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper will be divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, literature review, limitation of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory, which consists of the notion of individual psychology, basic assumptions of individual psychology, and structural elements of the movie. The third chapter is the structural analysis of the movie. The fourth chapter is the individual psychological analysis of Meg Altman in *Panic Room*, namely inferiority feeling and compensation, striving for superiority, style of life, social interest, and creative self and fictional finalism. And the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.