THE ANXIETY OF AGRIN IN BAHMAN GHOBADY’S
*TURTLES CAN FLY* (2005):
A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the presentation of human life. Literary works as the process of reflection of the author’s imagination that shows the phenomenon in his life. It means that when the authors are making their literary works, they express the problems in relationship from the author’s point of view. Of course it gives influence in every works of an author.

Literary works deal with human life, it is appropriate to use psychology as an approach in understanding human being from psychological point of view. With such social interaction, an understanding of literary work also has conspiracy with human being. “Since literature is the exposition of man’s mental life, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology. Literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being” (Wellek and Warren, 1984: 91).

“Anxiety is such a painful state that we are incapable of tolerating it very long anxiety is the key variable in almost all theories of personality. The result of conflict, which is an inevitable part of life, anxiety is often seen major component of dynamic personality. Freud’s analysis of anxiety in terms both normal and abnormal functioning had great impact on later theorist, and it has continued to influence many clinicians” (John and Pervin, 1997: 86).
Anxiety of any kind is a signal to the ego that danger is imminent and that, unless appropriate measures are taken, the ego may be overpowered. “Anxiety motivates us to do something to flee the external danger, to inhibit the instinctual impulse, or to obey the voice of conscience. When the ego cannot cope with anxiety by rational methods, it must use unrealistic defensive measures” (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 42).

Bahman Ghobady is a famous director with many masterpiece works. Bahman Ghobady was born on February 1st, 1969 in Baneh, a city near the Iran-Iraq border in the province of Kurdistan, Iran. He was the first son in a family of seven siblings. He lived in Baneh until, at the age of 12, civil disputes caused his entire family to immigrate to Sanandaj (the center of Kurdistan Province in Iran).

After receiving his high school diploma from Sanandaj, he came to Tehran in 1992 in order to further his studies. Ghobady started his artistic career in the field of Industrial Photography. Although he earned a B.A. in Film Directing from the Iranian Broadcasting College, he never properly graduated because he believed that he learned more by creating short films than during formal studies. His direct experience with film helped him to expand his individualistic voice and vision of the world he inhabited. He initially used 8mm film, shooting short documentaries as a starting point.

Beginning in the mid 1990s Ghobadi's short films received many foreign and domestic awards. One of his films, "Life in Fog" became known as "the most famous documentary ever made in the history of Iranian cinema."
In the wake of being awarded several different International Awards, this film opened up new opportunities in Ghobady's career. With the making of his full-length feature "A Time for Drunken Horses" in 1999, Ghobady became fully recognized as a professional director. Not only was this the first Kurdish full-feature film in the history of Iranian cinema, but Ghobady also came to be recognized as the pioneer Kurdish director from Iran.


The story begins with the scene of little girl falling herself from a steeply sloping, the film tells about the background of a village ‘Iraqi Kurdistan’ in the border of Iran and Turkey. The villagers in the war situation prefer the news than entertainment presented in TV. Thus, the villagers try to attach a powerful antenna which is able to capture the news broadcast wave in television.
Using setting of 2003 under the invasion of America, the film displays the obsession of people toward international news acquired from satellite to get information of American future planning to save Iraq.

A thirteen year boy or ‘de factor leader’ of orphan children group in refugee camp is called by name of Satellite because he usually get job of attaching TV antenna, and he becomes news translator to the villagers over there. Then Satellite feels disturbed by the presence of a handicapped boy, his both hands are cut, who also gets job to clean the weapons and has not been ‘member of children worker association’ under the leadership of Satellite. The handicapped child is named Hengov, who is the victim of weapon, so that the both hands are cut. Although he is handicapped, he is skillful in taming weapons.

In the other side, Satellite is falling in love in the sister of Hengov, the mysterious beautiful Agrin. Then, Satellite finds the ability of prophetic Henkov, which then he is aware that his supernatural power is more powerful than the propaganda of CNN.

Hengov, looked from others, has two brother and sister. His sister is Agrin and his brother is a year boy Rega. Wherever they go, they would be in three. The little Rega is always in the carriage of Agrin. Sometimes, he is carried by Hengov, who is able to carry the little boy without hands.

Agrin, the little girl, is 12 years old, trapped in the war. The both parent are killed by the relative war in Iraq. At the same time, she experiences other tragedy. She is raped by the soldiers, so that in her young age she has
child. The other refugees think that the little child in her carriage is her sibling. Her life is difficult. She becomes refugee together with her child and handicapped brother. Many times Agrin tries to suicide because she is not able to keep survive of the heavy life. Yet, when she remembers his handicapped brother, Hengov, she thinks whether he is able to take care of her child. And she cancels her want. The third scene is that the little child often invites sympathy.

It seems that the present war still uses propaganda or information in other language: “We are here to take away from sorrows!” “Those against us are our enemies. We will make this country a paradise. We are the best!” those are the leaflets sound fallen from helicopter of American soldiers. We do not know whether the fact of leaflets sound these or not, however, by seeing the style of American and Bush attitude, may be the content of the leaflets is these. How happy the Kurdish ethnic accepting the news that their existence is struggled and finally Saddam Hussein is discharged from his president. The messages bring expectation that the war will be over.

The good news from ‘hero’ soldiers has no impact for the young mother, Agrin. She is still depressed. She would be more depressed when she thinks of how Rega grows, what the people think about her. Many times, Agrin tells her planning to leave Rega, in order that he would be taken or cared by others, but her brother, Hengov always forbids her because Hengov loves the boy so much.
Agrin loses her childhood. Agrin who needs parent guidance, is not able to solve her burden and problem in her life. Her suffer breaks his good nature she may have. She becomes the hater for her child. She is sad and frustrated. The contradiction situation, when Kurdi begin their new life and welcome Saddam falling, they are happy and get souvenirs of Saddam statue parts in the capital city fallen by American soldiers. Agrin kills her child and then she is suicide. This scene is surprised, making the spectators uncontrolled when they see the tragedy of the both die displayed. The end of the story gives the sympathetic and touched heart song.

_Turtles Can fly_, movie by Bahman Ghobaby is an interesting movie. The writer has three reasons why choosing this movie. The first reason is _Turtles Can Fly_ tell about the reality life in this world. It is meant that the condition of the story in this movie and the conflict that appear in this movie which is faced by the characters reveal the conflict of daily life faced by human in real life.

The second reason is this movie is simple. The writer finds that this movie is simple because this movie using traditional plot which is the story has relation each other in which makes cause effect relation from the beginning until in the end of story, so it helps the viewers and the writer in understanding the story.

The third reason is challenging. This movie is challenging because the writer finds there are several aspects and there are still many interesting characters in this movie that challenge to be explored.
Seeing the Agrin characteristic above, the writer is interested to analyze the anxiety of Agrin which will be elaborated in problem statement. The writer wants to know the anxiety of one of the actor in this movie, her name’s Agrin. By analyzing this movie, the writer will know why Agrin always looks anxiety. So, there is interesting to analyze.

Based on the background above, the writer proposes to conduct research entitle “The Anxiety of Agrin in Bahman Ghobady’s Turtles Can Fly (2005): A Psychoanalytic Approach”

B. Literary Review

The movie *Turtles Can Fly* by Bahman Ghobady is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concerns, there is no researcher previously on the movie *Turtles Can Fly*, at least among students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the writer is going to focus her research on the anxiety of Agrin in Bahman Ghobady’s movie with the problem of this research is “How the anxiety of Agrin is reflected in Bahman Ghobady’s *Turtles Can Fly*?”
D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the writer focuses on the analysis of anxiety of Agrin in *Turtles Can Fly* movie, published on September 2005.

E. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the objectives of analyzing *Turtles Can Fly* movie are as follows:

1. To analyze movie through its structural elements of *Turtles Can Fly*
2. To analyze the anxiety of Agrin in *Turtles Can Fly* movie based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study of the anxiety of Agrin in Bahman Ghobady’s movie has several benefits, they are:

1. Theoretical approach

   This research will enrich the study of literature especially on Bahman Ghobady’s *Turtles Can Fly*.

2. Practical Benefit

   It is expected that the study give deeper understandings in literary field as they reference to the readers or students, and enriches the literary study, particularly among the students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.
G. Research Method

1. Type of Research

The type of research is qualitative in which the writer does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the research is Agrin in ‘Turtles Can Fly movie’.

3. Types of Data and Data Source

In this research, the writer takes two kinds of data:

a. Primary data

The primary data sources are taken from Agrin in Turtles Can Fly movie and its manuscript that are downloaded from http: www.IMSDbscript.com/ turtles can fly.

b. Secondary data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the movie.

4. Method of Collecting Data

In this research, the methods for collecting data are library research and documentation. There are six techniques of data collecting. They are as follows:

a. Watching the movie repeatedly

b. Reading the script to get more understanding

c. Reading more related references to observe the theory, data and information
d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources
e. Classifying the data into some categories

5. Technique for Analyzing Data

The technique of data analysis is descriptive in which the researcher uses psychoanalytic approach and adds structure analysis of this data work at the Turtles Can Fly movie and draws a conclusion.

H. Research Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which consists of background, literary review, research problem, research objective, research limitation, research benefit, research methodology, and the last is research organization. Chapter II comprises of the Underlying Theory, which presents notion of psychoanalysis, the structure of personality, the notion of anxiety and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis of the movie, which is involves the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme, and discussion. Chapter IV constitutes Psychoanalytic analysis. The last is Chapter V which contains Conclusion and Suggestion.