CONFLICTS OF VALUES AND INTERESTS IN CLINT EASTWOOD'S CHANGELING: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Changeling is a 2008 American drama film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by J. Michael Straczynski. Based on the true story in Los Angeles in 1928, the film was stars by Angelina Jolie as Christine Collins __the major character in this film, Jeffery Donovan as Captain J J Jones, John Malkovich as Pastor Gustav Briegleb and Jason Butler Harner as Gordon Northcott. The film was released in United States on October 24, 2008; in North America on October 31, 2008, in the United Kingdom on November 26, 2008, and in Australia on February 5, 2009, and the running times of this film is 144 minutes. Universal Pictures financed and distributed the film and was produced by Clint Eastwood, Brian Grazer, Ron Howard and Robert Lorenz.

The film is based on a true story in Los Angeles in 1928. The story tells about a conflict between Christine Collins and the LAPD.

Christine Collins, the major character in this film, has missed her child (Walter Collins). In the church, Pastor Gustav Briegleb, by his radio announcement, broadcasted this news to the listener and his community that he believed LAPD had tried to find the child but he didn't believe that LAPD was doing the best it could to reunite mother and child and he was sure that it was true. Given its position as the most violent, corrupt and

incompetent police department, he didn't believe that the police had done the best.

After four months she waited for finding her child, finally the LAPD report that their division has found her child. In fact, the child is not her son and she feels shock very much. At first, she doesn't accept the child but Captain J J Jones convinces Christine Collins that he is her child and he doesn't want to be embarrassed by the journalists. He said that when Christine Collins had put him back in familiar surroundings and given herself time to recover from the shock of his changed condition, she would see that he is her son. Captain J J Jones swears to Christine Collins and gives her his word that the child is her son. Finally, Christine accepts and tries to recover the child.

Christine Collins brings the child to the home and takes care of the child but she finds gaffes of his physical appearances. His tall declines and he is circumcised. Christine Collins complains to Captain J. J. Jones but he said that it was possible because the child had missed for four months. Then, Captain J. J. Jones sends Dr. Tarr to Christine Collins' home to explain about the gaffes of the child. Dr. Tarr said that under pressure, trauma and stress could affect the children growth and could shrink their tall, it was uncommon, but within the realm of possibility, his statement makes Christine Collins disappointed.

Another day, Christine Collins is called by Pastor Gustav. He invites Christine Collins to his home to give her information about brutality of LAPD. He said that LAPD avoided admitting a mistake that they brought back the wrong boy. Pastor Gustav said when Chief Davis took over the LAPD two years ago, he wanted gunmen in the LA brought dead, not alive, and he would reprimand any officer who showed the least mercy to a criminal. No lawyer, no trials, no questions, suspension or investigation. Just piles of bodies in morgues, bodies in hospitals, bodies by the side of the road, barely alive. Not because the police wanted to get rid of the competition, the police department does not tolerate dissent, contradiction, or embarrassment. Christine Collins has the power to embarrass the LAPD and the LAPD don't like it. Pastor Gustav has a mission to croak the brutality and the mistake of the LAPD by using Christine Collins' case. Christine Collins agrees it then she presents her case to the public after she got evidence from Walter's dentist and Walter's teacher. Then, Captain J. J. Jones asks somebody to bring Christine Collins to the office. Captain J. J. Jones is very angry much because Christine Collins has embarrassed their division. Then, he conveys Christine Collins to the LA County General Hospital Psychopathic Ward with code twelve. Code twelve only for everyone who makes a mistake or embarrasses the police department.

When Christine Collins is in the Psychopathic Hospital, there is an admission from Sanford that he killed twenty kids in ranch with his cousin – Gordon Northcott. Sanford Clark is a 15 years old child that will be deported to Canada. He tells all of to Detective Ybarra about what happened. He said that he did it because his cousin would kill him if he

didn't do it. Then, Sanford point out where they bury the kids. It is presumed that Walter Collins is belonged to the victim of this murder. Then, Detective Ybarra put out an APB on Gordon Stewart Northcott.

Christine Collins is gotten out from Psychopathic Hospital by Pastor Gustav. She gets lawyer, Mr. S. S. Hanh and Gordon Northcott has been caught in Canada. Then, Mr S. S. Hanh helps Christine Collins to get out all of the women with code twelve in the Psychopathic Hospital.

After all the mistakes of the LAPD have been known, and the murderer, Gordon Northcott has been caught, the city council holds the court. In front of the city Hall, there are many protesters demanding the justice and justification. After trials, the city council concludes that Captain J J Jones and Chief Davis should be removed from duty, and that extrajudicial internments by police must be reviewed and Gordon Northcott is sentenced to die by hanging.

Finally, to forget the scandal, the community of Wineville, California, changed the resident's name to Mira Loma.

There is a positive and negative response from the public for this film. From the positive response, they said that the film is interesting. You will not be disappointed by the film. You will feel the emotion of the film. The film has the best director and best production design.

Every element, including the photography, the production design, and Eastwood's own plaintive music score, seems close to perfection. There are moments when it seems as if it wants to be an inspirational story about a person who refuses to be beaten by a corrupt system -- but it doesn't, in the end, settle for the uplifting narrative. Changeling will

engage both your fears and compassion, I have no doubt. And it will stay with you long after you have left the cinema.

http://www.rottentomatoes.com

While the negative response, they said that Angelina Jolie, her performance and her character were uninteresting and her familiar made distracting enough to render her unconvincing. Both of Malkovich and Angelina Jolie are the fool of pair collaborators.

Manohla Dargis of *The New York Times* felt that Jolie's celebrity was distracting enough to render her unconvincing, and <u>David Denby</u> of *The New Yorker* said that while Jolie showed skill and selflessness, the performance and character were uninteresting. He said Collins was one-dimensional, lacking desires or temperament. He cited similar problems with Malkovich's Briegleb, concluding, "The two of them make a very proper and dull pair of collaborators.

En.wikipedia.org/wiki/changeling_(film)

The film received eight Academy Awards nomination, including Best actress for Angelina Jolie, Best Director and Music for Clint Eastwood, Best Film, and Best Cinematography.

Changeling performed modestly at the box office, the total worldwide gross was \$113 million from the total budget \$55 million. The film had opened in 1,167 theaters in nine markets for an international gross.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses this film as her research. *The first*, this film is interesting because the character of Christine Collins as the mother who loves her son very much is spread out over her face. A mother who doesn't want to miss her son is reflected by her struggle to find her son, her struggle, against the police department, to get her

justification. Second, the casting of this film is appropriate with its actor and actress. As the major character in this film, Angelina Jolie's face fit the period setting "Angelina Jolie was cast partly because Eastwood believed her face evoked the period". Jeffery Donovan portrays Captain J.J. Jones, a character Donovan became fascinated with because of the power Jones wielded in the city. The most interesting character is Jason Butler Harner plays Gordon Northcott, whom Harner described as "a horrible, horrible, wonderful person". As the murderer, Gordon Northcott has no feeling fault that he has done a great sin. It can be seen over his face. Third, As the film has the real event story, this film is interesting. This film describes the story from the beginning until the end with the complete story. And the last reason is that because this film has beautiful cinematography. Changeling is a 2008 American drama film but it was set in 1928. The team make Los Angeles City Hall appear new by retouched by the effect team. The production also used two functioning replica of <u>Pacific Electric Railway</u> streetcars for some scenes. The visual effects team added further streetcars to background shots.

The conflict between Christine Collins and the LAPD is called as the conflict of values. Jiang Chang, Feng Jun (in http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Valu/ValuChan.htm) state that the conflict of values occurred largely in the moral realm, and its essence and focus lay in the conflict between individual and whole interests. This film shows that the LAPD doesn't want to get embarrassed and admit that they have brought

the wrong boy. The conflict of values that happen between Christine Collins and the LAPD is because the LAPD want to get a lot of positive attentions from the public that their division have found Walter Collins, so when Christine Collins complaints and presents her case to the public that the LAPD have brought the wrong boy, Captain J. J. Jones send Christine Collins to the Psychopathic Hospital.

Issues of corruption are particularly salient in government contracting, where the interests of politics and business intersect. At least two interests to have a conflict of interest, one might have an investment which conflicts with his/her job, and second, conflicts of interest are sometimes viewed by those in public administration as solely the province of government (Gilman, and friends in, http://www.ethics.org/resource/conflict-interest-balancing-appearances-intentions-and-values). This film shows that the LAPD is as the most violent, corrupt and incompetent police department in government.

Based on the issue of the conflict of values and interest, attract the writer to analyze the film within sociological perspective framework. It entitled "The Conflict of Values and Interests in Clint Eastwood's Changeling: A Sociological Approach".

B. Literature Review

As the writer knows there is one researcher who has conducted research in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling*. He is Nugroho (UMS, 2010), his

study entitled *Women Disempowerment in Clint Eastwood's Changeling: A Socialist Feminist Approach.* He conducts this research by applying socialist feminist approach to explore the women disempowerments that happen in this movie.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the idea that has been explained in the background above, the major problem in this study is:

How the conflict of values and interest is reflected in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling*?

D. Objective of the Study

The writer will focus on analyzing the conflict of values and interest in Clint Eastwood's *Changeling*. The objectives of this research are:

- 1. to analyze the movie based on its structural elements, and
- 2. to analyze the movie based on sociological approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

There are two benefits expected from the study:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies.

2. Practical Approach

This study is intended to give deeper understanding for the writer herself about the movie based on sociological approach.

F. Research Method

To analyze the data in this movie the writer uses the qualitative method.

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses qualitative research. The writer describes the conflict of values and interests that reflected in the *Changeling* movie based on the sociological approach.

2. Object of the Study

The researcher takes a Clint Eastwood's *Changeling* as the object of the study.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

In this study, the type of the data is the form of texts and images which are used in *Changeling* movie.

The writer uses two sources of data, according to Burns (2000: 485) there are two types of data source, namely: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data sources are documents written by a witness to the events, whereas secondary data sources are secondhand version and therefore less accurate.

a. Primary data source

The primary data source is the movie itself *Changeling* by Clint Eastwood.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data source is taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data such as biography of the director, some books of literature, sociological and another data related to this research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer gets the data for analysis from primary and the secondary data source. The writer also takes note and captures images by the important information related to the subject.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer will employ the descriptive analysis on the director and his work than the structural analysis of the work and finally the sociological analysis of the literary work.

G. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction which consist of background of study, the literature review, the problem statement, objective of study, the limitation of study, the benefit of study, the research method and paper organization. The second chapter deals with review of underlying theory. The third chapter deals with the social background of America in the early of 21st Century. The fourth chapter deals with the analysis based on the structural elements. The fifth chapter

deals with sociological analysis of the play. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.