

**TORETTO'S STREET GANG AMBITION REFLECTED IN *THE FAST*  
*AND THE FURIOUS* MOVIE (2001) DIRECTED BY ROB COHEN:**

**A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*The Fast and the Furious* movie (2001) is directed by Robert Cohen. This film was produced by Neal H. Moritz. The genres of this film are action, crime, and thriller. *The Fast and the Furious* movie were first published on 22 June 2001 in USA. The next release in United Kingdom at September 14, 2001 and in Australia September 20, 2001. This film conveys about the Asian automotive import and takes setting in North America. The situation and condition of this film was inspired by Vibe and Ken Li magazine's article that talked about street racing (Racer X), written by Gary Scott Thompson, Erik Bergquist, and David Ayer in New York City. This film has biggest stars such like; Paul Walker as Brian Earl Spilner or Brian O'Connor, Van Diesel as Dominic Toretto, Michelle Rodriguez as Letty, Jordana Brewster as Mia Toretto, Rick Yune as Johnny Tran, Chad Lindberg as Jesse, Johnny Strong as Leon, Matt Schulze as Vince, Ted Levine as Sgt. Tanner, Ja Rule as Edwin, Vyto Ruginis as Harry, Noel Gugliemi as Hector, R.J. de Vera as Danny Yamato, Stanton Rutledge as Muse, Thom Barry as Agent Bilkins. *The Fast and the Furious* movie was distributed by Universal Pictures USA. In this movie only consist of one language is English language. This movie has running time 100 minutes.

*The Fast and the Furious* movie tells much about real-life car racing gangs to becomes fast-paced automotive. Paul Walker (Brian O'Conner) a youthful FBI agent, investigating a series of hijackings by going undercover with

a street gang is charismatic Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel). Toretto's world of gang has conflict that is resolved in late-night by car races. Paul Walker (Brian O'Conner) starts to sympathize with his chief suspect with Toretto and falls in love with Toretto's younger sister Mia (Jordana Brewster). In the meantime, Paul Walker (Brian O'Conner) initially suspects the wrong gang that complicity in the crimes. While Toretto remains involved in a forbidden romance, like Romeo and Juliet, with his girlfriend Letty (Michelle Rodriguez). Letty (Michelle Rodriguez) is the sister of the leader of the gang that becomes an enemy of Toretto's gang. Rick Yune (Johnny Tran) is the enemy of Toretto's gang and the brother of Toretto's girlfriend.

One day, Toretto joins the race with the other street gang racers. There are four racers that race in this night; one of them is the youthful FBI (Brian O'Conner). The race start, at the end of this race got that the winner is Toretto as the number one. The price that gotten by Toretto is \$ 8.000 and one car from Brian O'Conner because he stakes all off the documents and his car, but if he wins he get the money and get respect. After the race done, police comes and encircling the arena. All of the racers run away, inside Toretto and Brian O'Conner. On his run away, Toretto meets a patrol police car that tries to catch him. On his run from the police he meets a man on the car that suddenly stops in front him it's Brian O'Conner. Brian O'Conner brings him back and on the main way they lose away and meet the Johnny Tran's gang that stop them. There is a deal form Toretto and Johnny Tran, which they deal to stay away from each authority areas. Finally, the

Brian O'Conner's car is burnt by the Johnny Tran's gang. After this, the competition to become a real street gang is begun.

During the success of *The Fast and the Furious* at 2001, there are many awards was gotten. The first award is at year 2002; this film got the nominated of *AFI Film Award USA* in category *Cinematographer* of the year. In the same years, the film got many awards, beside *AFI Film Awards USA*. The second award is the nominated of *ALMA Award* with category *Outstanding Song in a Motion Picture Soundtrack Molotov*. The film also got rewards from *ASCAP awards as the winner with category Most Performed Songs from Motion Pictures Paul Tru Stylze Walcot*. The film also got the winner in *BMI Film Music Awards. The Fast and the Furious* film got the nominated for *Golden Trailer with category best action*. And the film also got many rewards from *the film industry MTV Movie Award as the winner. In Golden Reel Award* this film got rewards as the nominated and in *Taurus Award* this film got rewards as the winner.

Rob Cohen (Robert Cohen) was born on 12 March 1949 in Cornwall, New York, USA. Robert Cohen lived in America and work as producer, director, screenwriter, executive, script reader, and assistant to director. Rob Cohen graduated from Harvard University (MA), Cambridge (BA), visual and environmental studies at 1971. Robert Cohen married with Barbara and has four children; daughter: Zoe Cohen (Triplet of Sean and Jasi; born 20 March, 2008; with mother, Barbara Cohen) son: Kyle Cohen (Born 1987; from a previous relationship). Kyle reverted his name back to the family's original surname Cashulin. Now, Rob Cohen was 60<sup>th</sup> years old. Rob Cohen was beginning his

profession since 1980 in film *A Small Circle of Friends* (1980), till now and the last film that released *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor* (2008). Beside as the director and producer, Rob Cohen also works in *Hired* by producer Martin Jurov, try writing screenplays. He worked also as a reader for the International Famous Agency (now branch of ICM). At 1973, he evaluated and recommended the script for *The Sting* (1973); the project was set up at Universal within a week. He hired as an assistant to Richard Bergera and vice president of 20<sup>th</sup> on Century FOX TV. Not only became vice president on FOX TV, but also he became as director of the made-for-TV movies at 20<sup>th</sup> Century FOX and began directing TV commercials. Rob Cohen became vice chairman of Keith Barish Productions, and now, works in The Badham/Cohen Group with director John Badham, merging their two separate deals with MCA.

Rob Cohen produced some films, beside as the director, he also became a film producer, and some of the produces are starting from *Mahogany* (1975), *The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings* (1976), *Scott Joplin: King of Ragtime* (1977), *Thank God It's Friday* and *Sidney Lumet's notorious The Wiz* (both 1978). Years by years Robert Cohen produced these films in TV programs.

In age 28<sup>th</sup>, he produced his own production company and set to work on his directorial debut, the film is *A Small Circle of Friends* (1980); a nostalgic comedy and was set at Harvard University (Cohen's alma mater), which starring by Brad Davis and Karen Allen and inspired by Francois Truffaut's superior *Jules et Jim* (1962). Cohen produced that was followed with *Scandalous* (1984); with farce starring were Robert Hays and John Gielgud. He also became an executive

produced the high-minded remake of *The Razor's Edge* (1984); with starring a miscast Bill Murray. Then he produced the teen drama *The Legend of Billy Jean* (1985). After 1985, Cohen had become a significant director of TV commercials and programs, with credits including *Miami Vice*, *A Year in the Life* and *thirty something*. In 1978, he became an executive producer in *The Running Man* and *Ironweed* (1978).

At 1988, he produces again *The Serpent and the Rainbow* (1988). In October 1988, Robert Cohen and his friend John Badham merged their two separates made of MCA from The Badham or Cohen's Group. In 1990, Cohen's Group first made movie entitled *Bird on a Wire* (1990); starring by Mel Gibson and Goldie Hawn. Then at 1991, Cohen group produced *The Hard Way* (1991); with starring James Woods and Michael J. Fox. He returned back in 1993 with produced fanciful biopic *Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story* (1993); with starring Scott Lee, the film get surprise critical and commercial hit. He also produced film in TV movies at 1994; *Vanishing Son* TV-movies as part of the syndicated *Action Pack* series in 1994.

He starts again at 1995 in syndicate spin off series *inferior modern day fusion of Kun-Fu, the incredible hulk, and the fugitive well displayed* by Cohen's. Interested issues in confronting Asian immigrants in the US. One of his movie is *Vanishing Son* was began in mainland China that talked about the two brothers caught up in the turmoil of the Tiananman Square demonstration are forced to flee for the safety of the US. The starring are; Jian-Wa (Russell Wong), was torn between a career as a concert violinist and further developing his already

formidable martial arts skills. The younger, Wago (Chi Muoi Lo), mesmerized by glitz and power, becomes a gangster. In 1996 years Cohen released *Dragon Heart*; a big-budget, special effects-driven period fantasy at the same years (1996), he produced *Daylight*. Cohen directed a few television projects including the television series, *The Guardian* (1997) and the HBO drama, *The Rat Pack* (1998).

Then, he turns back to the big screen after made in commercial TV program, direct summer in blockbusters, *The Fast and the Furious* (2001) and *xXx* (2002), both of them serviceable but unambitious vehicle starring then rising action star Van Diesel. At 2005, he made *Stealth* movie; *a stupefyingly lowbrow cross between Top Gun* (2001); about a troika of fighter pilots of a new generation stealth plane.

Street gang is painful emotional experiences represents a threat or danger to the person especially on the street. Usually, the members of street gang conduct some worst on environmental street such like; street racing and close the road before, murder mall, and making situation uncontrolled on the street. Ambition's of the Toretto become a street gang is reflected on the movie, starting from the Toretto's gang murder a delivery truck on the street using three cars. Not only murder truck but also they also join on a street racing with other street gangs. On the other hand, the ambition of Toretto is clearly reflected on the movie.

Sigmund Freud the Austrian scientist introduced three basic structures in the anatomy of personality with his psychoanalysis theory. Freud assumed that the mind is divided into three parts. First is the id. This part contains the sexual and

aggressive instincts, and is located in the unconscious mind. The sexual instinct is called libido. The id works in accord with the pleasure principle, with an emphasis on immediate gratification. The id contains our primitive impulse, our secret needs, dark dreams, and strong fears, for example: thirst, hunger, anger, etc. Second, there is the ego. This is the conscious, rational mind, and develops during the first 2 years of life. This part maintains a balance between our impulse (id and superego). It works on the reality principle, taking account of what is going on in the environment. The ego understands that the people has needs and sometimes can hurt himself or herself in the end. Third, there is the superego. This part represents the moral parts of us. It develops at about the age of 5. The superego control our faith its right or wrong. The superego sometimes gives an angel on someone's mind to do an action in the society.

There are three reasons why the movie is interesting. The first reason is *The Fast and the Furious* is the interesting movie. Its mean this film shows the real life of street gang that surface in characters in each actor in this movie.

The second reason is challenging. *The Fast and the Furious* movie is challenging because the director makes the audience fell satisfy. Its mean the challenging is reflected on this film; by using race car, murder the truck on the high way. It's real life of street gang in the daily activities.

The third reason is familiar. Its mean that, *The Fast and the Furious* movie tells much about the real life of street gang in USA especially in North America, Los Angeles. The simulation of street gang is familiar in USA. So, this film is very familiar in USA especially or in the world generally.



Considering the explanation above the writer is interested in observing the Ambition's Street Gang in *The Fast and the Furious* movie by using psychological approach, entitled **TORRETTO'S STREET GANG AMBITION REFLECTED IN *THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS* MOVIE (2001) DIRECTED BY ROB COHEN: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

The movie *The Fast and the Furious* by Rob Cohen is an interesting movie. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the movie *The Fast and the Furious* has been conducted by student.

The first research is Yaakob Williams a senior student at Concord High School at January 2008, entitled is *Illegal Street Racing in The Fast and the Furious* movie. Focus of his research is how fast the car reaches the maximum speed on the street and illegal street gang and he also defines about the illegal street racing. The outcome of this study is there are four kinds of street racing which consist of drag, circuit, drift and a relatively new type of racing called touge (Toe-gay). Finally there are some difference reasons people races. For some it may be an adrenaline rush while others may do it because it's free. There are multiple consequences which can range from a lost of ones license to life in prison. Street racing is a dangerous sport that shouldn't be done by anyone. It leads to a rise in gang activity, violence, theft, and in some instances death.

The second research is the article from Ben Turner in June 1, 2009, entitled *Why You Should Love The "Fast And The Furious" Series?* In the article, he defined the characteristic of each actor in the movie. He describes also about

the first set out of the movie is cover street-racing culture essentially where it became biggest, in Los Angeles (USA). The culture as proposed by the film is macho in nature, mainly men racing cars against each other for money. Then he explains about the car that is used in this movie, the cars in this film are mostly import tuners rigged up with NOS (nitrous oxide systems) with replacement engines and pearlescent detailing on the body. The idea is that you buy a cheap car and kit it up so it can go faster with less weight and at a lower cost than buying a sports car. At the end of this article he defined about the actors of the movie Dom and Walker's character chase a shamed Asian gang's leaders (victim to a Joy Luck Club-like humiliation in the form of an FBI raid while eating dinner with their parents and elders) and then finish in an industrial zoning section of LA.

The differences of this study and the previous studies are in the theme and the approach. This movie focused in Toretto's street gang ambition reflected in *The Fast and the Furious* movie (2001) uses Psychoanalytic approach while the first study focused on how fast the car reaches the maximum speed on the street and the second previous study focus on the characteristic of each actor in the movie, the first set out of the movie is cover street-racing culture essentially where it became biggest, in Los Angeles (USA) and explains about the car that is used in this movie. The different from the two previous studies, this research focuses on Toretto's Street Gang Ambition Reflected in *The Fast and the Furious* Movie (2001) Directed by Rob Cohen: A Psychoanalytic Approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of the research is “How are Toretto’s the Street Gang Ambition is reflected in *The Fast and Furious* directed by Rob Cohen?”

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

The writer focuses on analyzing Toretto’s Character becoming a Street gang based on Psychoanalytic approach.

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

The objective of the study is to expose the Toretto’s street gang ambition in *The Fast and the Furious* movie based on a psychoanalytic approach.

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

The study of Toretto’s street gang ambition reflected in *The Fast and the Furious* movies has two benefits:

1. Theoretical benefit: to give some contributions to the larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly studies in Rob Cohen’s *The Fast and the Furious* movie.
2. Practical benefit: to give deeper understanding in literary fields as the reference to the other researcher, and enriches the literary study, particularly among the students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

## **G. Research Method**

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

This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

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

#### a. Type of Data

The data of this research are scenes and dialogue or script of *The Fast and the Furious* movie by Robert Cohen (Rob Cohen).

#### b. Data Source

##### 1). Primary data

Primary data is the main data obtained from all the words, dialogues (script), phrases and sentences occurring in the movie related to the topic.

##### 2). Secondary data

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

### **3. Object of the Study**

The research of the research is *The Fast and the Furious* movie directed by Robert Cohen, published on 22 June 2001 in USA and distributed by Universal Pictures USA.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method of data collection in this research is documentation.

The writer views the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding of source. Next, the writer takes, compares, quotes, and studies others data into some categories and develops them into a good unity.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis is descriptive; researcher uses especially psychoanalytic approach and draws a conclusion.

#### **H. Research Organization**

The researcher systemizes this research into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the research, objective of research, benefit of the research, research methodology, and the last is research organization. Chapter II comprises of the Underlying theory, which present Notion of Psychoanalysis, Basic Concept of Psychoanalysis, the structure of personality, Structural Elements of the movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III Structural analysis of the movie, which involves the Structural Elements of Characterize and Characterization, Setting, Point of View, Plot, Style, Theme, and Discussion. Chapter IV is Psychoanalytic Analysis. Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.