

**STRUGGLE FOR A BETTER LIFE IN *BLOOD DIAMOND*
MOVIE (2006) DIRECTED BY EDWARD ZWICK:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

Erna Wahyurini

A 320 060 189

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Blood Diamond movie is directed by Edward Zwick and the story written by Charles Leavitt (screenplay and story). Published by Warner Bros pictures, association with Virtual studies. It is a Spring Creek/ Bedford Falls production, in association with initial Entertainment Group. The producers in this movie are: Paula Weinstein, Edward Zwick, Marshall Herskovitz, Graham King and Gillan Gorfil.

The running time of *Blood Diamond* movie is 143 minutes. The release date of this movie was in December 8th, 2006 in USA and the Budget of this movie is \$ 100.000.000. This movie won many awards, that is: 79th Academy Awards, 2007 Black Reel Awards, 12th Critics' Choice Awards, NAACP Image Awards, and 78 National Board of Review Awards. In 79th Academy Awards, nominated for Best Actor in A Leading Role (Leonardo Di Caprio), nominated for Best Actor in A Supporting Role (Djimon Hounsou). In 2007 Black Reel Awards, nominated for Best Supporting Actor (Djimon Hounsou). In 12th Critics' Choice Awards, nominated for Best Actor (Leonardo Di Caprio) nominated for Best Supporting Actor (Djimon Hounsou). In NAACP Image Awards, nominated for Outstanding Supporting Actor in A Motion Picture (Djiman Hounsou). In 78th National Board of Review Awards; Best Supporting Actor (Djimon Hounsou).

The director of *Blood Diamond* movie is Edward Zwick. He was born on October 8, 1952 in Winnetka, Illinois. He came of age during the Vietnam War, which would rather fuel his artistic obsessions with the war. Before working as a director, He worked as a journalist and editor at the New Republic and Rolling Stone. Besides *Blood Diamond*, he directed many movies. In 1989 (*Glory*), the story tells about first all-black regiment in the Civil War. In 1994 (*Legend of The Fall*), the story tells about the sweeping changes wrought in the levels of a military man's son, just prior to and during World War 1. In 1998 (*The Siege*), the story tells a terrifyingly prescient action thriller about a bunch of Islamic militants unleashing a torrent of wrath of Manhattan. In 2003 (*The Last Samurai*), the story tells about a 19th century American who travels to the Far East to train Japanese troops.

In *Blood Diamond* movie tells about Sierra Leone civil war in 1999. The film shows a country which has damaged because of the struggle between government soldier and rebel forces. The film portrays many violence of the war, including the rebel's amputation of people's hands to discourage them from voting in upcoming election.

Blood Diamond is the story of Solomon Vandy, a Mende fisherman. He has a wife and three children. He loves his family very much, especially his son (Dia Vandy). Solomon has a desire to make his son (Dia Vandy) become a doctor. As they return to his village, there are many rebels who damage his village. They are called Revolutionary United Front (RUF). They burn the village and shoot many people. They don't care about them; either they are

men, female, or children. Solomon runs as fast as possible to his village, because his family is still in the house. They are safe, but Solomon has been caught by the rebels and he forces to work in the diamond field by Revolutionary United Front (RUF). He finds a large, pink diamond and burns it. Captain Poison (the head of RUF) knows it, and asks Solomon Vandy to give it to him. Before Solomon gives the diamond at captain Poison, the government troops has come, all of the rebels and miners are caught, including Solomon Vandy.

While in the prison, Solomon Vandy met Dany Archer. He is an ex-mercenary from Zimbabwe. He was in the prison, because he was smuggling the diamond to Liberia. Captain poison sees Solomon and asks him to give the diamond to him. Solomon Vandy takes his clothes off and said loudly to captain Poison that he has burned his village and has separated him to his family. Archer realizes that what captain Poison had be said is true. Archer asks Nabil (his friend) to free Solomon Vandy. Solomon Vandy has tried so hard to find his family but he still finds nothing. Dany Archer meets him and bargains dealing with him. Archer will help to find his family, but the part of diamond must to be given to him. At the first time, Solomon Vandy didn't agree it. Because the situation is in very serious condition (many rebels who shoot at and bombard people, building, and market), Solomon Vandy agreed with his dealing.

Archer and Solomon find their way to Maddy Bowen, an American Journalist, who is in Sierra Leone to uncover the truth behind conflict

diamond and helps Solomon to find his family at refugee camp. Finally Solomon meets his family, but Dia Vandy is not there. Jesse (Solomon's wife) said that Dia has been kidnapped by RUF. Solomon was very sad and disappointed to himself. Solomon decided to find his son, Archer helped him. Archer gives Maddy Bowen information that she wants and in exchange getting access to use the press convoy to Kono to find Dia Vandy and the diamond.

After across the hard trek, Solomon Vandy finds his son and the diamond that he had been buried. He is very happy to meet his son. Dia refused to acknowledge him because he has been brainwashed by the rabbles. Solomon Vandy meets captain Poison, who orders him to find the diamond that he had buried. At the moment, South African mercenary force come and kills many rebels and some of miners. Solomon kills captain Poison.

Archer realizes that he has been shot. Dia will shoots at Solomon and Archer, but Solomon manages to convince him to side with them. Because Archer is dying, he tells Solomon to take Dia home and gives the diamond to Solomon. With help Maddy Bowen, Solomon trades the diamond to Simmons, the manager of DTC for two million pounds and reunification of his family. Maddy Bowen who secretly takes picture the deal, then publishes a pieces magazine exposing the trade in "conflict" or "blood" diamond. In the end of the movie, Solomon smiles, he has found the family and gets much money from the trade of diamond.

Every human being wants to get happiness. The happiness can be gotten from enough live, can solve the problem and adapt with his /her environment. Basically, human is a social creature. They cannot live without helping other people. According to Adler (in Hall & Lindzey 1993:241) stated that human, at the first time is motivated by the social motivation. They need one to another to fill their necessity.

One of the most factors in human happiness is economic factor. We often hear the news in the television & radio that severity happened because of poverty. People who live in poverty, for example: They live in dirty area usually have a great desire to go out from the shackles of poverty. This matter is very hard to be realized because they are unskilled and it just a dream. From the unrealistic dream, can become a power incentive of human to be a better. According to Adler (in Hall & Lindzey 1985:146) stated that human being primary drive is to become better _bigger _ stronger _more skilled and so on.

After watching *Blood Diamond* movie, the researcher is interested to analyze it. There are four reasons the researcher analyzes the *Blood Diamond* movie directed by Edward Zwick.

The first reason is setting. The setting of *Blood Diamond* movie is in Sierra Leone civil war in 1999. In this movie shows a violence and chaos because of civil war between government soldier and rebel forces.

The second reason is character and characterization. In this film, there are three major characters. The first major character is Solomon Vandy (Djimon Hounsou). He is 30 years old. He is a fisherman from Mende village. He has a

family and very responsible to his family. He is a good father, honest, and loyal man. Solomon Vandy is a father who tries so hard to find his son, Dia Vandy (Kogiso Kuypers) who has been kidnapped by the rebels and having brain washed to become a part of the rebels. Physically, he is a tall person. He has a black skin, black eyes, and baldhead.

The second major character is Danny Archer (Leonardo Di Caprio). He is 32 years old. He is an ex mercenary from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). His business is trading diamond conflict from Africa under colonel Coetzee (Arnold Vosloo). He works smuggling the diamonds to Van De Kaap's Diamond Company. Physically, he has a dark brown short hair, white skin, blue eyes, and handsome man. He is an educated and intelligent person.

The third major character is Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly). She is 28 years old. She is an American journalist who tries to expose behind the sparkling diamond in the conflict area, there is a relation between diamond industry leaders and the rebels who use the diamond to buy a gun to war.

The third reason is cinematography. In this film has a good cinematography, either from setting picture, visual effect, music illustration, sound editing, or another aspect supporting in making this film.

The fourth reason is theme. The theme of *Blood Diamond* movie is a better life can be reached by struggle. In this movie tells about the struggle of a father to get a better life for his family. Starting from he is a Mende fisherman who has desire to realize his son become a doctor until he is separated from his family and force to work in rebel's camp. He keeps hold on

until he finds a pink diamond. Through the hard tract, he can find his family and trade the diamond for two million dollars.

There are positive and negative responds toward the *Blood Diamond* movie. The positive responds are: Don P (In responds of *Blood Diamond* movie: 2006) said that the movie is great. It tells that all about the worsening situation in Africa. Indeed the diamonds available in the market are “Blood Diamond”.

While the negative responds are: Susie Q (In responds of *Blood Diamond* movie) said that the way under- edited film serves only to trivialize the true horrors of this very serious issue. Lea (In responds of *Blood Diamond* movie: 2006) said that the movie really gives a fake image of what happened in the reality, making it sound like the conflict happened by greediness, while it was far more complex than this, and poverty, corruption played a major role in the star of war.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the *Blood Diamond* movie. The writer applies Individual psychological approach in analyzing her study. In this study the researcher encourages herself to give a title, Struggle for a better life in *Blood Diamond* movie Directed by Edward Zwick: An Individual psychological Approach.

B. Literature Reviews

The *Blood Diamond* movie directed by Edward Zwick is an interesting movie. As far as the writer knows, the research on *Blood Diamond* movie has been conducted by two students in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

The first researcher is Surya Sandika (2008) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta; the title is “*Suffering Behind Luxury in Edward Zwick’s Blood Diamond: A Sociological Approach*”. She employed Sociological approach. The problem statement of his researcher is how suffering behind luxury is reflected in Edward Zwick’s in *Blood Diamond* viewed by sociological perspective. The outcome of the study showed that the luxury lifestyle may cause suffering to other people of other country and the luxury lifestyle, particularly among the upper-class that gives a special appreciation to the diamond without that diamond has resulted suffering among the lower-class people, particularly conflict area.

The next researcher is Iskawati (2008) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, entitle “*Oppression Against Labor in Edward Zwick’s Blood Diamond: Marxist Approach*”. She used Marxist approach in analyzing the film. The problem statement of her research is “How is oppression against labor in Edward Zwick’s *Blood Diamond* viewed from Marxist approach. The outcome of the research showed that the lower people are pushed to be the oppression victims in the social, politic, and economy by the upper people.

Different from two previous researchers, this study focuses on the struggle for a better life in *Blood Diamond* movie by using an individual

psychological approach. In this study the writer gives the title “ *Struggle For a Better Life in Blood Diamond Movie (2006) Directed by Edward Zwick: An Individual Psychological Approach.*”

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of choosing the subject above, the problem is “How is struggle for a better life reflected in this movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer only analyzes how the struggle of Solomon Vandy to be a better life in *Blood Diamond* movie viewed from the Individual psychological perspective. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that Solomon Vandy’s psychological development is influenced by the struggle for a better life.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie
2. To analyze struggle for a better life especially Solomon Vandy based on Individual psychological approach by Alfred Adler.

F. The Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the research are as follows:

1. **Theoretical Benefit:** to give some contributions to the longer body of knowledge of the development of knowledge particularly studies in *Blood Diamond* movie, directed by Edward Zwick of the other literary researchers especially in the study of *Blood Diamonds* movie manuscript.
2. **Practical Benefit:** to give deeper understanding in literary field 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 in which the researcher does not need students to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

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

a. Primary Data

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

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the other related to the research such as some books of Individual psychology theories, movie script, commentaries, and other relevant articles.

3. Object of the Study

The object of the research is the movie of Edward Zwick's the *Blood Diamond*, running time of the movie is 143 minutes, published by Warner Bros picture, in association with Virtual studies in. The release date of this movie was in 2006.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research, which is collecting and recording both primary and secondary data. These techniques are as follow:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly and learning the script.
- b. Taking note of the important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Identifying the topic in the movie.
- d. Determining the major character.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Arranging, researching, and developing the materials which is selected into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis is descriptive in which the researcher uses individual psychological approach especially Adler's theory and draws a conclusion.

H. Research Organization

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which consist of background, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and the last is research paper organization. Chapter II comprises of Underlying theory, which presents notion of sociological approach, the Aspects of sociology of literature, and the structure elements of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III is Structural analysis of the movie, which involves the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme and discussion. Chapter IV constitutes Sociological analysis of the personality. The last is Chapter V which contains Conclusion and Suggestion.