

**STRUGGLE FOR GETTING A POPULARITY IN TINA'S
MEAN GIRL MOVIE (2004):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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by

DIAN SEPTINA KHUMAIROH

A 320 040 177

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature can not be separated from human life. Since it emerges from an author who lives as human being. Thus literary works are bringing up social problem existed in the society. Literature is a reflection of conditions around the writer, about feeling the life, or showing the ideal condition wanted by the author.

A literary work reflects something in the past, today, and future. Literature plays in the term of mirror occurred in the society whenever it is. In most cases, literature referred to as the entirely written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the most exact sense of the world (Klarer, 1999: 1).

A literary work as a part of art work leads towards major aim, it should carry on esthetic structure attempts to move people emotionally to arise their interest. It is being a means of ordering human existence of interpreting life and giving important meaning in life. It is one of instrument in which man attempts to explore and to explain his own nature.

A literary work creates its own world in which it finds an atmosphere of life as it might find in the real world. In fact, a literary work, which constitutes an author's imagination, sometimes can reveal the truth, sadness,

and happiness. Literature has a tight relationship to psychology since it is the exposition of human's mental life.

It is because literature and psychology have the same object of research that is human being. Literature is a permanent writing that expresses and communicates thought, feelings, and attitudes toward life in the world. (George, 1965: 16).

Literature in its history from past to the present is a record of the changing conception of human nature. It provides a universal description of the nature of man, individual and society, good man and evil man, common person and noble man. In addition, literature is an exploration of life morality in the nature of man. It can be neglected that literature is addressing itself to psychology because it also explores the morality of life. It deals with love, hate, environment, society, family, crime and individual experience. Because of this reason, literature is called psychological mode of artistic creation. Literature also relates with desire. With desire people can create something, or artistic creation, so they can show their self actualization. Talking about desire everybody has a desire in his or her life. There is no one who lives in the world without having desire. Generally, a kind of desire could motivate a person to do something better, so they are challenged. There are many existing desire that could make uncomfortable and anxious. Sometimes, people are not capable of raising desire.

Desire is a problem for someone who has hard way to raise it. Some people give up before trying to raise their desire. And some people try hard

but they are fail to raise their desire. Just a few people who are dare to run their desire, for example in the “*Mean Girl*” the amazing movie by Tina fey. This movie has genre comedy/ drama. The running time is 97 minutes. The movie was released on 30 April 2004 (USA) by paramount pictures. The writer is Rosaline Wiseman, based on her book, “*The Queen Bees and Wannabe*”. The screen play by Mark Water and the director is Tina Fey. It has user rating 6.9/ 10. This movie has been get 7 win and 15 nominations Awards. This movie tells about a girl named Cady Heron. She was grown up in Africa by her parents who have profession as a zoologist. Cady has never known what “high school” truly meant. She lived her first 15 in the African jungle, home schooled, and living with only her parents. Knowing all of the rules of survival, she thought that she knows all about struggle to survive. But her living in Africa was brought her for a new meaning, when for the first time she has entered a usual school; she has to learn the rules of high school. She instantly makes friends with two teenagers, namely, Damian and Janis. Then she meets the plastics girl. They are the three crude, beautiful, and popular girl. Consisting of Regina, the unofficial leader. Gretchen, the Regina’s full time follower, and Karen, she is a one of dumbest people.

In her new high school, she is trying for getting a place among a group of people who are adorned curiously, and other unique friends. Finally, the plastics girl lets Cady to join their group. So Cady has joined with the plastics. The two convince Cady to keep her relationship with plastics, it is only so that she knows about the plastics dark secrets. However, events turn for the worse

when Cady falls in love with Aaron Samuels; he is a Regina's ex-boy friend. This fact is making Regina so angry, and she has planned to make Cady's life be destroyed. But Cady knows about Regina's plan. Then she uses her intelligence quickly to defeat Regina's plan. Now together with Janis and Damian, they has plot together to bring Regina's status down. Finally, she is wound in girl's world war. It is a situation, where all students in the schools are striving to hide up of secrets to each other.

The struggle of Cady Heron to get her popularity is very impressed the writer to write this research entitled "Struggle for Getting Popularity in Tina's *Mean Girl* Movie (2004): an Individual Psychological Approach.

B. Literature Review

As far as the writer knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study this movie. But the researcher takes the title to be the literary review. Namely, "Struggle to survive in Ron Howard's *Cinderella Man*: an Individual Psychological Approach by Syarif Hidayatullah. It is chosen by the writer to be the literary review. Therefore, this is the first research of the "*Mean Girl*" movie ever conducted.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this study is how Cady Heron's struggle to get popularity is reflected in *Mean Girl* movie.

D. Limitation of the Study

The study only analyzes how Cady's struggle to get popularity and survive in her community in high school, viewed from the individual psychological approach. It is as a means of analysis with consideration that Cady Heron's psychological development is influenced by the struggle to get her popularity and how to survive in her new community in high school.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the main character's Cady Heron based on Individual Psychological Approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit.

Hopefully, the result of this research will give some benefits to the world of literature, beside development particularly the literary study on Tina's *Mean Girl*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie, especially from aspect of psychoanalytic and gives input to other researchers who are interested in analyzing Tina's *Mean Girl*.

G. Research Method

The research methods are as follows:

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Mean Girl* movie with manuscript.

2. Type of the Study

This study is a qualitative study, which takes the sources of data from words and other written texts.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the movie itself. Namely "*Mean Girl*" by Tina Fey.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from the article, internet, book and references, which are relevant with this study. In addition there are also some important information such as comments, interest, essay, criticism, and relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

Data are the sources of information. The followings are the steps in collection the data:

a. Watching the movie repeatedly

- b. Taking note of important part, such as: struggle of Cady's life, structural elements itself and dialogue related with theory and structural elements.
- c. Classifying and determining the relevant data
- d. Listing and typing the data

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive technique it is used to describe the elements of the play to understand the play.

H. Paper Organization

These studies consist of five chapters. It is begun with chapter I: Introduction that consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, and limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II: Underlying Theory that consists of notion of individual psychology, basic concept of individual psychological and theoretical application. Chapter III: Structural Analysis that involves the character and characterization, plot setting, theme, casting, point of view, technical element, sound, symbol, editing, cinematography, and discussion. Chapter IV: psychological analysis and discussion. Chapter V: Conclusion and suggestion,