

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is a creative work made by humans thinking. The author created the result in a form of literary work. There are many kinds of literary work, such as novels, movies, poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, etc, with different structures, styles, and subjects used. Klarer (2005, p.1) stated, “Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression”. The authors distribute their ideas, expressions, emotions, and creativities through literature. Sutherland (2013, p. 3) argues “Literature with its ability to communicate to all ages, can help”. It means that literature can be a way to convey a message contained in the work to another.

Through *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, the director portrays the motivation of the main character to struggle. Motivation is a desire, interest to achieve a certain object. Motivation makes people struggle to achieve what they want. Wood-worth as cited in Sharma and Chandra (2004) defined motivation as a state of individuals which disposes of certain behavior and for seeking certain goals. According to Jones (2005, p. 41), “Motivation is what makes them put real effort into what they do”. We can conclude that every people have a motivation in their mind to struggle for living life. The motivation in someone is a reason why he or she can struggle for themselves to get something desired.

The Pursuit of Happyness was directed by Gabriele Muccino. He was born in Rome, Italy on May 20, 1967. He enrolled at the La Sapienza University of Rome in Italian literature. Muccino created some short films on Italian television and directed a few documentaries. *Intolerance* (1996), *But Forever in My Mind*, and *The Last Kiss* (2001), *Remember Me, My love* (2003) are several of his Italian films. After his actor got the award at Sundance Film Festival, it made Muccino got attention from the American

film industry. And he was selected to direct the movie, *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

The Pursuit of Happyness is an American biographical drama movie by Gabriele Muccino, written by Steve Conrad and starring Will Smith as the main character, Chris Gardner, and Jaden Smith as Christopher, Gardner's son. This movie is a true story based on *The Pursuit of Happyness* book by Christopher Paul Gardner, he is an American businessman and motivational speaker. This movie was released on December 25, 2006, and distributed by Columbia Pictures.

This movie is told about a homeless salesman, Chris Gardner who lived with his wife, Linda, and his son, Christopher. He took the risk of investing all his money to buying medical devices, bone-density scanner machines. After being tested on the market, he realized that the medical device for most doctors was quite expensive and less needed. The on going cost of living made Chris has to work hard. His wife has to work 14 hours a day at the laundry. While his son was dropped off at cheap daycare in the morning and picked up by Chris in the afternoon when he finished selling his medical device.

One day Chris's wife decided to move to her brother's house in New York, to take a job in the restaurant. She believed that Chris can take care of her son. Even though Chris felt disappointed with his wife, he had to take good care of their son with any condition. Until finally, Chris's financial condition got worse, he could not pay the rent and caused him to be evicted by the owner. Then he lived in the toilets and showers at the train station for several days, and finally, he found a homeless shelter that provided free rooms.

When Chris was selling his medical devices, he met a wealthy man who inspired him, to be a stockbroker. But to achieve his dream, he had to go through the education and selection process. And he is required to be able to manage and face many difficulties between learning to be a stockbroker, dropping off and picking up his son at daycare, queuing in the afternoon at the homeless shelter, often not eating to save money, and still

having to find potential customers for stock brokerage firms. After going through 6 months of struggle, he finally, Chris chose to become a stockbroker and started his career. Chris became a successful stockbroker and was able to set up his own company. Although he was rich, he was still generous, he made a shelter for the homeless, remembering that he had experienced it.

The Pursuit of Happyness got reviews from many people, this movie is an amazing heartfelt performance certain to influence and motivate its audiences. She said the plot development can be slow but offers a lot of insight towards character development and explore these themes about patience and success and especially what motivates us. *The Pursuit of Happyness* is close to an ordinary person and addresses his life challenges through the character which it revolves around, played by Will Smith, quite a magnificent performance delivered, it has many potentials to build an empathizing experience and inspire. It is the most inspiring Hollywood movie, the story of a common man who struggles for his better life without any negative thinking. In spite *The Pursuit of Happyness* is naive and sentiment movie, a dangerous piece of apologetic solipsistic moral propaganda. There is no understanding of the environmental damage done by Capitalism. The movie is quite a sadist one. The plot is very straightforward and the title a bit misleading as well.

In the film industry, *The Pursuit of Happyness* is one of the best-selling movies. The budget of this movie is \$55 million and got grossed at about \$307.1 million. This movie first debuted at the North American box office with grossed 27 million dollars during the weekend. The film grossed increase to \$162.5 million in the US and Canada. This movie also available on DVD on March 27, 2007, at the DVD store in the US and sold out in one week about 5,5 million units.

Moreover, *The Pursuit of Happyness* also got some awards and appreciation from the film industry. This movie won MTV Movie Awards 2007 for the category of Best Breakthrough Performance, Teen Choice Award 2007 for the category of Outstanding Motion Picture, and also won

ASCAP Film and Television Music Award for a category of Top Box Office Films.

There are several aspects as the appeals of *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie. The first appeal aspect is a theme. The theme of this movie is about the struggle of a father with all hopes and ambitions to achieve happiness and success. This movie has moral value based on real life. Second is the characters, all characters show up strong personalities. Especially, Chris Gardner as the main character, he describes as a hard worker father, smart, not discouraged, not giving up, he always believes that his struggle will definitely give good results, and of course, he loved his son very much. How does Chris deal with and overcome many problems that come in his life, as the difficulty of selling items, his wife leaves him until his economic situation worsens and makes him evicted by the owner of a rented house? Chris's bitter life makes him do anything to change his life for the better. His characterization makes us motivated to struggle with any condition.

Third, the setting of *The Pursuit of Happyness* lies in San Francisco, California, and the setting of time in 1981. Gabriele Muccino makes a relevant setting with daily life in that city. It takes place in a lodging house, church, bus, daycare, train station, homeless shelter, stockbroker office, etc.

The last aspect of this movie touched the audience by the plot of the story. The plot is interesting with all conflicts that happened in the movie. The conflicts are when his medical device hard to sell, her wife leaves him, be a single father, he could not pay the rent cost, is evicted from his rent house, has to live with his son in the train station and homeless shelter and he wants to be a stockbroker. From the beginning to the end, the story is very emotional.

Based on the aspects above, the researcher would like to analyze the motivation in *The Pursuit of Happyness* Based on Psychological Approach, entitled *Chris's Motivation To Struggle In The Pursuit Of Happyness (2006): A Psychological Approach*.

1.2 Problem Statement

The researcher arranges the problem of the study as:

1. What is the motivation of Chris Gardner to struggle in *The Pursuit of Happyness*?
2. What are the kinds of Chris's struggles in *The Pursuit of Happyness*?
3. What is the significant meaning of Chris's motivation to struggle?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study Chris's Motivation to Struggle in *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006): A Psychological Approach as follows:

1. To describe the motivation of Chris Gardner in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie
2. To describe how the kinds of Chris's struggle in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie
3. To reveal the significant meaning of Chris's motivation to struggle in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie

1.4 Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

The study contributes to give information to the larger body of knowledge. And can be references to another researcher.

2. Practical Significance

Through this study, theresearcher gives knowledge to the writer and others and gives contribution about analyzing *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie based on a Psychological Approach.