

**CLAIRE SUMMERS' TRAUMA IN RODRIGO GARCIA'S
PASSENGERS MOVIE (2008): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Degree of School Teacher Training
and Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta**

By:

MIRZA ACHMAD DANI

A.320050098

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Each human often undergo the problem in life. One of the problems is trauma. Trauma can be experienced by most individual who get big burden. Trauma can attack whoever not only to man but also woman. The word “trauma” is etymologically linked to the Greek word “wound”. It is derived from the verb which means *to pierce*. Trauma is the feeling that appears inside the personality when the feeling of being afraid is bigger than brave. Trauma happens to someone due to some cases, such as, they get accident, failure, victim of disaster, broken home, etc. People who feel trauma is too hard to forget it. It will lead to effect that they don’t want to repeat the events twice which they experienced. Trauma causes someone to be inferior when they remember that events. To solve the problem they usually go to a therapist or closest people to help healing their trauma. Trauma also appears in the major character of *Passengers* movie directed by Rodrigo Garcia.

Passengers is a 2008 thriller film starring Anne Hathaway and Patrick Wilson and directed by Rodrigo Garcia. *Passengers* is produced by Joseph Drake and written by Ronnie Christensen and edited by Thom Noble. The cinematography of the movie is Igor Jadue-Lillo. The movie is distributed by Tri-Star pictures. *Passengers* has 93 minutes duration time and uses English. It takes sound mix from DTS, Dolby Digital, and SDDS. The genre of the

movie is drama, mystery, romance, and thriller. *Passengers* was released first on October 24, 2008 in USA and the last on 6 November 2009 in Mexico. *Passengers* is one of the great movie, it has spent \$ 25 million. The movie has gross revenue \$ 4,763,917. This movie got certification from some countries, such as, USA, Mexico, Spain, Japan, etc. The director takes a number of locations in Canada, they are, Gastown, North Vancouver, Spanish Banks Beach, and University of British Columbia.

The tagline of the *Passengers* is “The Truth Can’t Hide Forever”. The plot of the movie is a grief counselor working with a group of plane-crash survivors finds herself at the root of a mystery when her clients begin to disappear. The movie succeeds in entertaining society and is proved with up 7 % in popularity. The movie can succeed because it is directed by one of the popular director, Rodrigo Garcia.

Rodrigo Garcia was born on 24 August, 1959 in Bogota, Colombia. He is the son of Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia marques and Mercedes Barcha Pardo. Garcia has directed a variety of independent film and several episodes of the HBO series, *Six Feet Under*, *Carnivale*, and *Big Love*. As of 2008, he lives in United States. He also worked as a camera operator and a cinematographer for several films such as *Gia*, *The Birdcage*, and *Great Expectations*. His film, *Nine Lives* was nominated for the William Shatner Golden Groundhog Award for the Best Underground movie, and the other films were *Green Street Hooligans*, *Mirror Mask*, *Up For Grabs*, and *Opie Gets Laid*.

The following is the synopsis of the movie based on the DVD. After a plane crash, a young therapist, Claire (Anne Hathaway), is assigned by her mentor (Andre Braugher) to counsel the flight's five survivors. When they share their recollections of the incident—which some say include an explosion that the airline claims never happened—Claire is intrigued by Eric (Patrick Wilson), the most secretive of the passengers. Just as Claire's professional relationship with Eric—despite her better judgment—blossoms into a romance, the survivors begin to disappear mysteriously, one by one. Claire suspects that Eric may hold all the answers and becomes determined to uncover the truth, no matter the consequences.

The next is the responses toward the movie based on some person's comments. The first comment comes from Igor Shvetsov from Moscow, Russia on December 26, 2008 "Dead and Bueied". He thoroughly enjoyed *Passengers*, its moving (and rather sad) story, strong emotional impact, beautiful photography and convincing performances, especially when it comes to the part of Hathaway. Some minor flaws (slow pace at times and a number of questions left unanswered) can be easily forgiven. But he made a terrible mistake to read the IMDb comments before watching this film. Even if those reviews are mostly accurate and do not expressly reveal the truth behind the mysterious events on the screen, the suggested references to other movies that may (may or not) be inspirational for the creators have significantly diminished effect of the surprise ending. He can easily name at least half a dozen of titles dealing with similar subject matter, but it may be difficult to

guess what is actually going on until the punch line, unless you are “tuned to a specific station” from the very beginning and know what to expect (Igor Shvetsov, 2008).

The second comments comes from Skeen from Canada on September 23, 2009, “interesting, thought-provoking movie”, she liked this movie. She likes the whole, elemental humanity that you find in it. It is possible to identify with the characters and universality of the movie. It really is a bit of a psychological thriller which she likes. The only thing is that, after watching it, you may get a little depressed. The ending is completely unexpected, she must say. It made the movie completely worth it, when at times it would just get really confusing out of no where. She definitely thought it was worth seeing. She loves movies that invoke an emotional response. The twists and turns will keep you guessing and you may get more out of it than you expected. Happy watching (Skeen, 2009).

The researcher is interested in analyzing *Passengers* due to four reasons. Firstly, *Passengers* is an interesting movie. This can be seen from the responses of people who like this movie. The movie places the main point in the end of the movie. Most of watcher do not guess that the major character, Claire, in the beginning, she has a role as a therapist to help healing victims of accident who get trauma led to a plane crash, but, in the end Claire becomes a patient who loses awareness. Besides, the movie also as an emotional impact to the spectator because they get unexpected ending. The movie also has two emotional responses, happiness and sadness. Happiness occurs when Claire

finds her awareness and returns her relative, and sadness happens since Claire has to lose her younger sister.

Secondly, *Passengers* is a great movie, it is proved with the budget spent for making this movie, that is about \$ 25 million. The movie also has been released in some countries such as United States, Japan, Mexico, etc which are able to take gross profit more or less \$ 5 million. The movie is not only directed by one popular director movie, Rodrigo Garcia, but it is also supported by a well known beautiful artist, Anne Hathaway and Patrick Wilson, who has got some award either as winner or nominations.

Thirdly, *Passengers* is an amazing movie. The movie has a good genre relates to drama, romance, mystery, and thriller. It has emotional responses, sadness and happiness. The movie tells unconsciousness Claire toward herself caused by her trauma can be healed by the role of close friend help to realize Claire, so that, Claire can be aware of trauma.

The last reason is Claire's personality. This movie shows that Claire is good personality, beautiful, kind, and responsible person. She can give a good morality. She is the mirror of human being in which she has trauma, love, sadness, and happiness feeling.

Furthermore, based on the explanation above, the researcher is going to analyze the trauma undergone by Claire. This research is entitled "Claire Summers' Trauma in Rodrigo Garcia's *Passengers* 2008 Movie: A Psychoanalytic Approach".

B. Literature Review

Based on researcher's observation, at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the researcher found that no one has conducted a researcher on this movie.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the explanation above, the major problem of the study is "How is Claire's trauma reflected in Rodrigo Garcia's *Passengers*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze Claire's trauma as one of the major character in *Passengers* movie directed by Rodrigo Garcia based on psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the statement above, the objectives of the study are:

1. Analyzing the play based on its structural elements
2. Analyzing the play based on the psychoanalytic approach

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research paper has some benefits, which are to give additional contributions to literature researches dealing with Rodrigo Garcia's *Pasengers*.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the play, especially from the psychological aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of research

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Here, the researcher tries to relate the discussion of analysis based on the underlying theory.

2. Objects of the Research

The researcher takes Rodrigo Garcia's *Pasengers*, which contains the series of drama description. Here, the researcher tries to analyze the trauma and the ego defense mechanisms that appear in the major character's personality.

3. Data Source

There are two types of data sources, namely:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the text of *Passengers* by Rodrigo Garcia, particularly the dialogs, statement and action reflecting the trauma of the story and the characters that supports the research.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is other sources related to the primary data such as information about the director's biography, websites about the film, and other source supporting the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data in this research are as follows:

- a. Watching and comprehending the movie.
- b. Taking note of the important part in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Choose the approach which is suitable with the movie.
- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on Sigmund Freud's theory.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of Data Analysis in this study is descriptive and hermeneutic. Description means that the researcher interprets the text and the content relating to the psychological condition of the major character, while hermeneutic interprets the script to find out the intension of the playwright.

H. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory. The third chapter deals with the structural analysis of the movie. The fourth chapter discusses A Psychoanalytic Approach on the movie. The last chapter contains conclusion and suggestion.