STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY IN
MATTHEW PENRY-DAVEY'S *LORD OF WAR* MOVIE:
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

The field of literature is part of this world. It cannot 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 experiences facing the life, or showing the ideal condition wanted by the author. But, sometimes every human being is also having their problems in this life. Each problem would refer to its psychological aspect. These relate to the field of psychology.

Psychology has the same object of study as literature does. It is seen from the definition of literature as a permanent writing, which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings and attitudes toward life and the world (William, 1958: 17). This relates to the individual psychology. The term individual psychology can also be used more generally to refer to what is more commonly known as differential psychology or the psychology of individual differences. Usage of this term is likely to imply a more individualistic focus than is found in mainstream psychology of individual differences, where there is frequently a bias towards nomothetic research. Shortly, both psychology and literary is the study of human being's life with its problem. It cannot 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, an individual experience, etc. Because of this reason literature is called psychological mode of artistic creation.

This movie demonstrates how to get rich selling warring nations the tools of their deadly trade in this dark comedy drama. Yuri Orlov (Nicolas Cage) is an opportunistic businessman who stumbled into a gold mine after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Huge caches of Soviet weapons became available at bargain prices (and even for free if one was not above stealing), and as literally billions of dollars' worth of Soviet military technology disappeared, it began finding its way into the hands of weapons dealers eager to sell it to the highest bidder. Orlov was one such dealer who found plenty of buyers for guns and military gear in unstable Third World nations, who paid cash and did not appreciate too many questions. Orlov's exploits in the arms business quickly made him a very rich man, but they've also led to some unwanted attention from Jack Valentine (Ethan Hawke), an Interpol agent who is convinced Orlov is not playing by the rules. (Answers.com. 2009).

The movie follows arms trafficker Yuri Orlov's meteoric rise to the top of his profession. Yuri, played perfectly by Nicholas Cage, is the ambitious son of Ukranian immigrants whose desire to escape the banality of New York's Little Odessa leads him to the hyper-violent war zones of post-Cold War West Africa - "the edge of Hell," quips Yuri. There, he dodges bullets and Interpol agents while delivering planeloads of weapons to a sociopathic dictator. After each sale, Yuri returns to his multimillion dollar Manhattan condo, his fashion model wife, and their young son. Yuri's transition between the two worlds is seamless, as is the ethical compartmentalization that allows him to exist in both: "Cars and cigarettes kill more people than guns," "I simply give people the means to defend themselves," etc.

Slowly the corrosive depravity of Yuri's vocation eats away at this bifurcated morality and he succumbs to the vices that his weapon sales indirectly cultivate - prostitution, drug addiction, and murder (Imdb.com. 2009).

The director Matthew Penry-Davey's portrayal of international arms trafficking is inspired. At one level, gun running is an activity that lends itself perfectly to the big screen - big guns, lots of money, exotic places, shady characters. But that's only half the story. Less sexy but more important is the dizzyingly complex administrative and bureaucratic arrangements made by traffickers to hide their activities and throw law enforcement officials off the scent. Fraudulent end-user certificates, front companies, false bills of lading - all essential elements of the illicit arms trade but hardly the stuff of an enjoyable Friday night at the movies. He manages to communicate these details while keeping his audience on the edge of their seats with the guns, money and shady characters (Fas.org: 2009).

Based on the abstract problem mentioned above, the writer is eager to conduct the study about psychological aspect depicted in the *Lord of War* movie which is directed by Matthew Penry-Davey. Lord of War is a 2005 political crime thriller written and directed by Matthew Penry-Davey which starred Nicolas Cage.

B. Previous Study

The writer has not found yet other writers who researched Lord of War movie. However the writer took an essay to be the literary review. *Struggle to survive in Ron Howard's Cinderella man: an individual psychological approach* by Syarif Hidayatullah is chosen by the writer to be the literary review. The second literary

review came from *Struggle For Freedom In Find Me Guilty Movie By Bob Yar: An Individual Psychological Approach*. This research was conducted by Fairuz Nandi.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of this study is how struggle for superiority is reflected in the world of arm-trafficking business in Lord of War movie.

D. Limitation of the Study

The study particularly analyzes how Yuri Orlov's struggle in striving for superiority in the world of arm-trafficking business in Lord of War movie viewed from the individual psychological perspective.

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 (Yuri Orlov) personality based on the individual psychological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this research will give much supplementary knowledge and information to the world of literature, beside development; particularly the literary study on Matthew Penry-Davey's Lord of War movie.

2. **Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to give comprehensive understanding about the Lord of War movie particularly from the aspect of individual psychological and to give further reference to other researchers who are interested in analyzing Matthew Penry-Davey's Lord of War movie.

G. Research Method

1. **Object of the Study**

The object of this study is the characters of Lord of War movie, particularly the leading character Yuri Orlov.

2. **Type of the Study**

This study will apply qualitative research, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the movie Lord of War by Matthew Penry-Davey.

3. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**

This research will consist of two data sources:

a. **Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the movie itself which is Lord of War by Matthew Penry-Davey.

b. **Secondary Data Source**

The data are taken from the related internet sites and reference books.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

In collecting data, the writer will apply the following steps:

a. Watching the Lord of War movie repeatedly and carefully

b. Collecting and selecting the appropriate data from the movie and sources.

c. Analyzing the data using the appropriate approach and literary review

d. Concluding the result of this research.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

The writer will use descriptive technique in analyzing the data. It is used to describe the elements of the play make some understanding toward the movie.

H. Paper Organization

This research consists of five chapters which start with the first chapter. It comprises introduction including the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Furthermore, the second chapter presents the underlying theory and theoretical application. The third chapter presents the structural analysis of the movie, which involves the character and characterization, plot, setting, theme, and style. Moreover, the fourth chapter presents individual psychological analysis and its application in analyzing Matthew Penry-Davey's Lord of War movie. Finally, the fifth chapter deals with conclusion and suggestion for this study.