ABSTRACT

The Skeleton Twins (2014) movie, which received numerous awards by the end of 2015, is one of the appropriate examples to study about psychological condition as the result of the dysfunctional family. Data taken from Social Ministry of Indonesia says that at least 4.1 million children are having parental issues in 2015. Therefore, the aim of this study is to raise the awareness towards the welfare of children by learning the twin characters’ Eros and Thanatos instincts in their trauma and anxiety, namely fear of abandonment. This study applies a method of qualitative research by deploying critical approach to reveal The Skeleton Twins characters’ psychological states either consciously or unconsciously. Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic approach is used as the basic theory in doing this study with the help of Louis Giannetti theory of Understanding Movies considering that the object of this study is a movie; therefore in examining the text the writer uses narrative and non-narrative aspects to collect the data needed. The result of the study shows that the characters are generally holding onto death instinct or Thanatos when the tensions dominate their level of awareness. Meanwhile, even though the cause of the trauma and anxiety they have is family, life instinct or Eros is excessively operated by the characters and it is the instinct they naturally demand toward family.

Keywords: Eros instinct, Thanatos instinct, dysfunctional family, trauma, fear of abandonment