

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study:

Dance is a really pleasant and easy activity that most people love to do. Dance is easy because we can easily do it by moving our body to follow the rhythm of the music, or even create the rhythm itself. As in Cambridge Dictionaries, dance described as an activity to move the body and feet to music, or to move quickly and lightly. Dance is easy and as simple as that, therefore most of us love to dance.

“Dance is the most fundamental of the arts, involving direct expression through the body” (http://www.nccata.org/dance_therapy.htm). There are so many kinds of dances around the world; from local (Tari Piring, tari Pendet, Tari Kecak, Tari Gambyong, Poco-Poco, etc) to international (Salsa, Tap dance, Barn Dance, Belly dance, Ballet, etc) dances and accompanied by various types of music such as; disco, instrument, pop, rock, hiphop and so on.

Dance also a way for people to show and express their feeling. As we can see around, there are so many people do dancing when they are happy, or do dancing just because they feel the rhythm of the music. Besides, as the way to express feeling, people also use the dance as a tool for communicating, to deliver an ideology, deliver a message, to tell a story about a legend, etc.

In this thesis, the writer is going to observe one of the movie which brought the dance as the expression, and the cure for several psychological problems. The movie is “Black Swan”. This movie which directed by Darren

Aronofsky listed as the nominated of Best Cinematography in 83rd Oscar Award, and starred by Natalie Portman who listed as the best “actress in leading role” nomination in the same award in February 2011.

“Black Swan” tell about Nina, a ballerina in a New York City ballet company whose life, like all those in her profession, is completely consumed with dance. She lives with her obsessive former ballerina, Erica, who exerts a suffocating control over her. When artistic director, Thomas Leroy, decides to replace prima ballerina, Beth MacIntyre, for the opening production of their new season, Swan Lake, Nina is his first choice. But Nina has a competitor a new dancer, Lily, who impresses Leroy as well. Swan Lake requires a dancer who can play both the innocence, grace, fragile White Swan and the dark, sensual, guile, evil twin Black Swan. Nina fits the White Swan role perfectly but Lily is the personification of the Black Swan. As the two young dancers expand their rivalry into a twisted friendship, Nina begins to get more in touch with her dark side - a recklessness that threatens to destroy her.

This film tells about Nina, who has an obsession to get the main role in Swan Lake dance to “pay” her mother failure of getting the role because of her pregnancy of Nina. Her mother wants to keep Nina as an innocent girl, and make distances about anything of sexual desire. Her mother is afraid, once Nina knows about sex, or lets her sexual desire out, she could not control it as her mother did in the past.

Nina keeps doing what her mother wants her to do, and does anything to make that dream comes true. Until she is in the point to do something that out of

control and beyond her mother's rule. She steals lipstick from another girl, and uses it before she meets Leroy to tell him that she could play the black swan perfectly. Leroy still refuses her to get the swan queen role but maybe because of her unusual make-up, Leroy is attracted to kiss her on her red-lipstick-lips, but she bites his lips and leaves him with all the guilty feeling. Finally it comes to the times where the announcement of the swan queen play has been posted. Nina gives up and thinks that the one who will play the swan queen is Veronica, but in fact, Nina is winning that play. She is the one who will play as the swan queen. Then she calls her mother in the bathroom box to inform her mother that she is getting the swan queen role. When she comes out from the bathroom box, she is shocked by the "whore" word written on the mirror with the red lipstick.

In playing Swan Lake dance, Nina feels that black swan role is the reflection of her alter ego, and her real condition is the reflection of the white swan role. This may begin when Leroy described the story of the Swan Lake: *We all know the story. Virginal, pure, and sweet trapped in the body of a swan. She desires freedom, that only true love can break the spell. Her wish is nearly granted in the form of a prince, but before he can declare his love, the lustful twin, the black swan, tricks and seduces him. Devastated, the white swan leaps off a cliff, killing herself, and in death finds freedom.* About this alter ego will be more explain in chapter two, through id-ego-superego in Freud's theory. There are so many scenes in this film that strengthen the writer argument of Nina's reflection of herself to the dance through the unreal situation that also may caused by Nina's anxiety, such as: when the black feathers grows on Nina's skin, her

fingers stick to each other so as to resemble a duck's fingers, her eyes' color turning into red, her legs is resemble as swan's legs, and etc. Therefore, in analyzing the "Black Swan" the writer uses Freudian Psychoanalysis theory. Besides the unreal situations that the writer sees in this film also showed that Nina had a bad habit like scratching her back shoulder until it is hurt.

Begining from those explanations above, this thesis uses Freudian anxiety psychoanalysis to analyze the anxiety that Nina's experiences, and defense mechanism theory to analyze the way Nina surviving the anxiety because according to Freud, defense mechanism is the mechanism to reduce the tense impulses caused by anxiety. Defense mechanism is also unconscious psychological strategies brought into play by various entities to cope with reality and to maintain self-images. As in "Personality Theories" book written by Dr. C. George Boeree there are so many types of Freudian defense mechanism: denial, repression, asceticism, isolation, displacement, projection, reaction formation, removal, introjection, identification with the attacker, rationalization, and sublimation (39-48).

The anxiety and the defenses of Nina may appears because of her mother's strict rule that had been applied since Nina's childhood. Her mother is a failed ballerina in the past, she could not continues her ballet career because she got pregnancy of Nina. She keeps telling Nina to not doing the same mistakes as she did. She wants Nina to be a perfect daughter as she wants her to be; a pure little girl that obeys her. This is the reason why Nina always tries to make her mother happy and does what her mother wants. She tries to "pay" the failure and the

disappointment of her mother's. If Nina does something that beyond her mother's rule and expectation, her mother will give Nina a mentally punishment through her angry face or her upset voice. Her mother's assumption that Nina is still and always be her little daughter, makes Nina repress her body's need, her sexual desire, and causing Nina experiences anxiety because of what she has been repressed. This repression makes Nina's personality does not developed perfectly. Freudian personality development theory describes there are some stages of personality that should developed perfectly inside human psychology, such as; infantile stage (0-5years old), oral stage (birth-2years old), anal stage (2-4 years old), phallic stage (4-5 years old), latency stage (6years-puberty), genital stage (puberty onwards). The personality development of Nina may stop between the latency and genital stage, so it makes Nina's personality does not perfectly developed.

Besides the Freudian theory, there are several aspects to be considered in doing research about movie, which are narrative and non-narrative aspects. Narrative aspects analyzed by seeing the plot, setting, dialog, and the characters, while non-narrative is about cinematic representation such as appearance (costume and hairdo), and colors. As Smelik said in "*And the Mirror Cracked: Feminist Cinema and Film Theory*" (4). The anxiety of the main character will be the main point used by the writer because one of the ways to understand the psychological problem of the main character is by knowing deeper the character. The writer also going to include the narrative and non-narrative aspects in analyzing the research, which will be discussed further on Chapter 3.

“Black Swan” film contains a psychological issue, which is near with our life around and packaged in an unusual dance-dancer story with a good making appearances, which make it more attractive to be watched. The interesting point of this movie, according to the writer is an packaging itself that rarely found in other works literature especially movie.

1.2 The statement of the problem

The writer takes on the analysis of the identity conflict with Freudian psychoanalysis theory as told in “Black Swan” to discover the problems;

1. How is Nina’s anxiety portrayed in Black Swan movie?
2. Why can Swan Lake dance be Nina’s tool to overcome her anxiety problem?

1.3 The Objective of The Study

The objectives of the study will be intended to answer the question, as it has been mentioned in the statement of the problem:

1. To find out Nina’s anxiety that portrayed in Black Swan movie
2. To find out why Swan Lake dance can be Nina’s tool to overcome her anxiety problem

1.4 The Significance of The Study

This paper aim to gives benefits for the Airlangga University especially the student of the Faculty of Humanity students.

In addition the writer also hopes that this research paper of “Black Swan” film could be a lesson for us, to give more acknowledgment towards the student of English Department who interested in doing psychoanalysis with Freudian psychoanalysis theory as the part of it with movie as the object.

1.5 Scope And Limitation

“Black Swan” movie does not only consist of psychological issue. There are several others, but the writer would not analyze it all. The writer focus on psychoanalysis theory in film that uses narrative to find out and describe the psychological condition of the main character, and non narrative aspect to support the writer arguments that Nina’s psychological condition is the main issue in this study.

1.6 Theoretical Background

1.6.1. Psychoanalysis Defense Mechanism

In analyzing the movie “Black Swan” by Darren Aronofsky, Freudian’s psychoanalysis is used as the basic theory in order to figure out the psychological matter of the main character. The writer of the study will describe how psychological issue is raised in this movie.

The writer use Freudian’s theory about anxiety to figure out some causes why Nina has a bad habit like scratching, then relate it to self defense mechanism by using Freudian’s theory, and finally make it one big group in Eros-Thanatos which also by Freud.

In “Psikologi Kepribadian” by Sumadi Suryabrata, anxiety is explained as a warn for people about the danger which might coming, as a warn to *das Ich*, and if it not held with the right action, then it might defeat the *das Ich*

Defense Mechanism here is used to hold that action. The right action in order to make someone keep survives in facing her anxiety. “Defense mechanisms are thought to safeguard the mind against feelings and thoughts that are too difficult for the conscious mind to cope with. In some instances, defense mechanisms are thought to keep inappropriate or unwanted thoughts and impulses from entering the conscious mind” (<http://psychology.about.com>). Defense mechanisms are used in an attempt to protect a person from unpleasant emotions, they often result in equally harmful problems.

The last, the writer also uses life-death instinct (*eros-thanatos*) to analyze her instincts role in order to find out the statement problem which the writer already mention above in significant of the study: to find out the way main character overcome her anxiety.

1.6.2. Narrative and Non-Narrative of *Black Swan* movie

The analysis also analyzes the cinematic point of views which differ it from another literary work. From the *Studying Film* book written by Nathan Abrams, Ian Bell, and Jan Udris (76) the writer can assume that movies could be considered as a new form of novel. The writer differentiate it not only from the narrative (text, story) but also the non-narrative aspect such as the appearances of the main character (costume, hairdo), and colors.

1.7 Method of The Study

The writer of this research uses the qualitative method to support her analysis. The main source is the movie itself; “Black Swan”. The writer collects data from books, articles, journals, and other sources that can be considered related to the study. The writer also uses the data collection from the narrative and non-narrative aspects of the movie which are focused on characters, costume, and color tone. Data collection is used to identify the psychological condition of the main character to answer the statement of the problem.

After collecting all of the data, the writer read and analyzes it into deeper understanding in purpose to support the research paper. In analyzing the data, the theory uses to find the psychological condition through the narrative and non-narrative aspects, and to classify it into defense mechanism based on Freudian psychoanalysis theory.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Anxiety : An uncomfortable feeling of nervousness or worry about something that is happening or might happen in the future, something that causes a feeling of fear and worry (dictionary.cambridge.org)

Defense Mechanism : Blocking the impulses or to shrink the drive impulse into a more acceptable form and less threatening. (Bouree, C George, *Personality Theories*, 2008)