

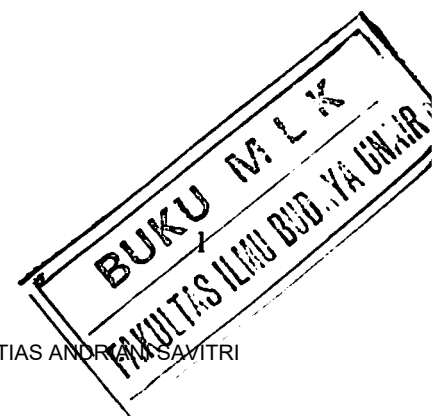
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The desire of a child to always get closer especially to his or her mother is considered as a common thing. It is true since a child had already experienced the pleasant moments when he or she was in the mother's womb. His or her needs seemed to be completely fulfilled, or in other words the womb provides anything what the child needs. The comfort feeling which the child experienced will make him or her to always miss it and get closer to mother. As Lacan suggested "in the mythical moment of plenitude, there was no clear distinction between subject and object. Our union with the mother was perfect and complete" (Storey 61). From his statement, it can be stated that the child becomes an inseparable unity from the mother's womb. There is a unity created between mother and child since the child is in the mother's womb. The pleasure condition that the child experienced in mother's womb which then makes him or her feels complete and perfect.

However, the children's desire to always get closer to their mothers will become a common thing since it is also supported by the parents' control. It has already been the parents' responsibility in guiding their children, so that they will not get the misstep later on. This children desire is called the Oedipus complex. This term is firstly found in the study of psychology, which explains about the expectation of children to completely have the figure of parents of the opposite sex (Colarusso 65).



Oedipus complex is the conflict which occurs in the psychosexual stage development, in which the children will be able to develop their personality. The success of children in passing this period or stages is also supported by the parents' roles in giving the right understanding about this conflict. The harmonization created between the parents and the children is required mainly when the children are on the early stage of psychosexual development, as the parents can help their children to create or form their children's personality. On the contrary, Oedipus complex can also be something uncommon, in which the children will strongly have a desire toward their parents. It is called uncommon because it can affect the children's personality later on. The lack of parents' control dealing with a strong desire of children toward their parents can be one of the factors that make the Oedipus complex persistently exists until the adult period (Young 5).

However, the analysis of the thesis initially began with the curiosity of the writer toward the behaviour of one of the writer's relatives which is quite similar with the explanation above. He was an eight year old boy and there were two of his behaviours which attracted the writer's attention, such as his possessiveness to his mother and his jealousy to the people around his mother, mainly those whom he did not know before. There are some of the examples that the writer can share related to the boy's behaviours. The first example was he often made the person whom his mother talked with uncomfortable. It could be seen when he suddenly cut his mother's words then asked her to sing a song and even tell some stories. In other words, he only wanted his mother to give more attention to him. Another

example was when his mother is considered truly became the person who strongly affected his life. It seemed to be difficult for him to do his daily activity without her, such as he usually made a call to his mother and asked her to accompany him when taking a nap. He could not sleep before his mother came and it finally made him difficult to manage himself. From these issues, the writer thought whether it could affect the boy's personality indirectly as he would be dependence upon his mother later.

Since the writer does not live at the same town as the boy lives, so it seems hard for the writer to know the further development of the boy. Meanwhile, the writer suspects whether the boy's condition above is apparently found in a fiction movie, *Birth*, by Jonathan Glazer, in which the major character seems to have similar behaviours to the boy's, which are strong obsession and jealousy feeling mainly toward men around the woman he obsessed.

Birth was released in September 2004 and is kind of dramatic mystery movie. This movie is played by Cameron Bright, a fifteen year old boy, who has lots experiences in movie productions, such as *Godsend* (2003) with Robert De Niro and Greg Kinnear, *The Butterfly Effect* (2004) with Aston Kutcher and Amy Smart, *X men – the last stand* (2006), *Running Scared* (2006) with Paul walker, and *Ultraviolet* (2006) with Mila Jovovich . His selected to become the major character in this movie is because he has some of the characterizations for being Sean. Nick Morris, *Birth* producer, in his statement:

Finding the right child to portray that little boy proved to be the most difficult casting challenge. And yet there has to be a manly quality in this little

boy, and a kind of power and an assured way of conducting himself. Finally, I found Cameron Bright, a young actor from Canada who turned ten in January 2003. You just looked into those two eyes and you saw a man (“Birth”).

Birth becomes the box office movie since the income of production reaches more than 20 million dollars. This movie has already won the Citizen Kane Award for best Directorial Revelation in Catalonian International Film Festival and Best movie score by Alexander Desplat in LA Film Critics Association. The other appreciations are being the nominations for some categories, such as the Best Actress and Best Performance by a younger actor, and the Best Fantasy Film in Academy of Science Fiction Fantasy Horror Film USA, the Best Original Score in Online Film Critics Society Awards, the Best performance in a Feature Film – supporting Young Actor in Young Artist Awards, and any other nominations unwritten (“Birth”).

Moreover, this movie seems to have several comments, reviews, and articles recorded in its website. One of *Birth*'s reviews written by Brian Orndorf, in which he writes that the movie seems to be quite carefully made as it provides mystery idea since the opening of the story. In his review, he stated:

Birth is a meticulous film that moves glacially, but holds attention with a hulk-sized grip for every moment of its running time. It's a wonderful movie, carefully made, and consistently rewarding. Normally, this would come as a great concern, since so much of the plot features a gently threaded mystery that seems to be leading to a great revelation. The revelation never comes, and for audience members who desire constant payoff, “Birth” will provoke confusion and

disappointment. *Birth* is unfailing in its desire to keep an arm's length toward the young Sean character ("Movies of 2004").

Jonathan Glazer, known as the English famous movies director, commercials, and music videos, was born in 1966 in London. After studying theatre design at Nottingham Trent University, he started to direct theatre and make film and television trailers, including Award – Winning work for the BBC. In 1993, he wrote and directed three short films of history, that are *Mad*, *Pool*, and *Commission*, then he ever joined Academy Commercials. He produced *Birth* after his success of his debut feature film, *Sexy Beast*, which earned Ben Kingsley to be the nomination of the Academy Award. His idea to produce *Birth* initially came from his interest to make the same theme but in different genre compare to his debut movie, *Sexy Beast*. Both *Sexy Beast* and *Birth* shared the similar theme of a past catching up with someone ("Birth").

The title *Birth* itself may represent the new born of Sean, when he has to deal with the conflict he experienced. It is after all of what he does which in the end has no result, and finally his new spirit returns as he is ready to face his new life. *Birth* belongs to the interesting movie which provides such mystery scenes. Besides, it also tells about love and secret which are then all arranged in a great visualization. Glazer tries to make this movie different from his other movie productions by presenting the mysterious acts in most of the movie's scenes. He adds that this will be surprising the audience as they will be curious toward this movie ("Birth").

Birth tells about the life of a little boy who seems to be obsessed to an adult woman, named Ana, and claims himself as the reincarnation of Ana's dead husband. The boy's name is Sean and he is just ten years old. He has the same name as Ana's dead husband. Sean's parents divorced as they are lack of having communication and even interaction to each other. Sean's claiming as the reincarnation started when he is inspired by Ana's letters which he intentionally found. The letters contain Ana's love feeling toward her husband at the time he was still alive. Everything start to run in confusion when little Sean suddenly comes into Ana's life and claims himself as the reincarnation of Ana's dead husband. In the story, it is shown how reckless he is, in which he tries hard to ensure Ana and her family that he is the reincarnation of Ana's dead husband. This little boy encourages himself to meet Ana at her apartment and tell her that he is the reincarnation of her dead husband. Moreover, he usually does something that invites the emotions of Ana's families. Besides, his jealousy is also shown to Joseph, Ana's fiancé, which he knows that this man will get married to Ana. The situation seems to be more complicated as he does the competition with Joseph for Ana's affection and attention. At the end of the story, it is known that this little boy is only the fake reincarnation of Ana's dead husband. There is someone, finally, who discovers and reveals the evidence supporting Sean as the fake reincarnation. This little boy afterwards confesses to Ana while telling her that he is not her dead husband's reincarnation. He even promises not to disturb and come to her life anymore ("Birth").

The writer is interested in analyzing this movie because it contains the issue of the unresolved Oedipus complex experienced by little Sean. Besides, the issue seems to be important since it is dealing with the development of children which later will affect the children's psychology, above all to their personality. The writer expects that this issue will become a great concern mainly for the parents as they will understand more with the psychological development of their children.

1.2. Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer will arise for some questions:

1. How is Oedipus complex represented in *Birth*?
2. How does Oedipus complex affect the major character of *Birth*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Regarding the statements above, the writer would arrange the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To know how Oedipus complex is represented in *Birth*.
2. To know how Oedipus complex affects the major character in *Birth*.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is aimed to promote deeper comprehension and understanding about the issue of the unresolved Oedipus complex experienced by the major character in *Birth*, which apparently relates to the issue of the parents' divorce.

Through this study, it is expected that the readers will get knowledge in understanding the psychological condition of the children who have experienced the oedipal conflict. Besides, the writer hopes that this study can give contributions and valuable inputs to the students of Airlangga University English Department, especially the student who are taking literature as their major and fiction movie as their subject of interest.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This thesis will focus on the analysis of the major character in the movie, little Sean, who experiences the unresolved Oedipus complex and also its affect toward his personality. Moreover, the writer decides to limit the discussion only in the major character in the movie. The writer also uses other characters to help her in analyzing and discussing the problem, such as a little Sean's mother and father, the woman he obsessed (Ana), his rival (Joseph), and the other characters dealing with the major character's conflict.

1.6. Theoretical Background

The approach that will be used in this study is intrinsic approach which explains the intrinsic elements of the movie. The intrinsic approach becomes the appropriate approach since the object of the study comes to the major character in the movie. The writer then decides to apply the psychoanalysis approach which relates to the conflict of the major character. The theory of Oedipus complex by Sigmund Freud will be used to support the writer's analysis. The writer's option for Sigmund Freud as he became the first theoretician who centered his attention

to the personality development, considers that the Oedipus complex belongs to the conflict in children's development period.

7. Method of the Study

The method used in this study is qualitative method. *Birth* becomes the main sources in this study. Moreover, this study uses the method of data collection from the movie by having a close and constant review. The writer does a library research to find and collect important information from the internet related to the movie. The other sources are also found from books dealing with the literary approach as well as the psychoanalysis approach. The data collection above will be used to analyze the Oedipus complex and its affect toward the personality of the major character.

8. Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms in the analysis that will be used, with a purpose to make the analysis more understandable.

Desire: Expressing a wish.

Substitute Objects: The replace object that are able to fulfill people's desire.

Reincarnation: Rebirth in new bodies or forms of life.

Oedipus complex: One of the children's conflicts in their stage of psychosexual development, in which they will consider the parents of the same sex as their competitor, while the parents as different sex as their lover.

Psychosexual Stage Development: The period which the children pass, so that the children are able to develop and create their personality.

CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW