

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

The strongest reason which lies behind this research is because *The Legend of 1900* movie shows a good example of human failure in *normal adaptation* in life. Instead of using the word *normality*, Powell (1983) prefers to use the term *normal adaptation* which means the capacity to find satisfaction from a balance of work, love and play in the presence of high –level responses to stress (p.16). In addition, Powell also stated that there are ten guidelines for living normally. Those tenth guidelines are: care for the body, cultivate hope, take opportunity for new experience, be in touch with and express emotions, define the Not-Me, practice self reliance, see the future as a series of nows, resow the seeds of love, develop a sense of humour and value struggle (p.441-445). Surprisingly, after watching *The Legend of 1900* movie thoroughly, the writer discovers that most of guidelines above have been violated by the main character of the movie, Danny Boodman T.D Lemon 1900, or known as Nineteen Hundred. Nineteen Hundred is shown as a character who cares for the body and has a sense of humour only. Apart from those two guidelines, he neglects the other eight directions to live normally. Without doubt, Nineteen Hundred fails in adapting normally in life.

The plot of the movie flashes back to the mid-1940s periodically, telling the life of Nineteen Hundred who had been living inside the *Virginian* ship for his whole life. His fear of leaving the ship had failed him to express his love the woman he loved. Moreover, his extreme fear of the world outside the ship also banned him from taking an opportunity for new experience, becoming a well-known genius musician. Lastly, the fact that the ship was scheduled to be scuttled and sunk far offshore could not bring himself to leave the only home he knew. He was too daunted by the size of the world. In the end, the *Virginian* blown up and sunk, with Nineteen Hundred still aboard. Surely, Nineteen Hundred’s behaviour triggers the writer’s curiosity; why would a person prefer to die, when he has a chance to live?

According to Phares (1984), “It is very human to want to know about ourselves and others” (p.5). Human’s achievement and aspirations are empty unless

they can compare them to the goals of other. Phares also affirmed that the comparison and the study of human being will not happen without a psychological understanding of human being (p.6). Thus, mesmerized by the decision of Nineteen Hundred not to leave the ship and prefer to die, the writer is determined to find out the reason which lies behind it using psychological approach.

Erich Fromm's humanistic psychoanalysis is chosen as the writer finds the theory match the problem found in Nineteen Hundred; *man's existence*. Fromm believed that all passion and strivings of human are attempts to find an answer to his existence or, as we may also say, they are an attempt to avoid insanity. The most powerful forces motivating human's behaviour stem from the condition of his existence, the 'human situation' (2008, p.27). Feist and Feist (1980) elaborated Fromm's basic thesis; that modern-day people have been torn away from their prehistoric union with nature and can never return to it. In addition, humans have acquired the facility to reason; a condition Fromm called the human dilemma. Unfortunately, human can never resolve their human dilemma by satisfying these physiological needs (hunger, thirst, sex) only. Fromm believes that only the distinctive *human needs* can move people toward a reunion with the natural world (p.191).

Briefly, Fromm claimed that one important difference between mentally healthy individuals and neurotic or insane ones is that people find answers to their existence by completely corresponding to their total human needs of relatedness, transcendence, rootedness, a sense of identity and a frame of orientation. Therefore, in analyzing the character of Nineteen Hundred, the writer of this research uses Fromm's theory of human need.

Secondly, aside from the fact that the main character of the movie sets an example failure of human *normal adaptation* in life, the movie is chosen also because it has shown its quality by winning a lot of prestige awards. Inspired by *Novecento*, Alessandro Baricco's monologue, *The Legend of 1900* movie is well known as the winner of European Film Awards, Golden Globes, Satellite Awards, for Best Cinematography and Best Original Score. Just as Stephen Holden stated in his review from *New York Times* published 29th October 1999, as a director Giuseppe Tornatore can be awfully good at plucking nostalgic heartstrings. In

addition, Stephen also praised the cinematographer, Lajos Koltai's for he thought that the cinematography bathes everything in a rich golden light. Quoted from his review, Stephen also pointed out that watching "*The Legend of 1900*" is a little like coming upon a beautifully lighted, ornately framed painting in a museum. Thus, the writer believes that beyond question, this movie clearly shows its excellence.

There are three previous researches that the writer notices as a good model for the writer's own research. The first research was done by Ester Daniyati from Diponegoro University in 2010 entitled *Perjalanan Pencarian Jati Diri Tokoh Kim Dalam Novel Kim karya Rudiyard Kipling*. In this research Ester analyzed the main character of the novel, Kim and his journey to define his identity by using both Erich Fromm and Erik Erikson theories. The background of the quest for identity in the novel is analyzed deeper by Fromm's humanistic theory. The analysis shows that on the adolescence age, Kim started to feels the need to discover Fromm's sense of identity. In addition, Kim's lack of relatedness and love becomes his trigger to find *A Red Bull on a Green Field*. By finding the red bull, Kim is trying to build relatedness, love, and the satisfaction of existence which he has not found in his life.

The second research entitled *Maria's Self-Transcendence in Paulo Coelho's Eleven Minutes* (2014) was written by Aprilia Lestari and Diana Budi Darma, SS, M.Pd. In their article, Aprilia and Diana analyzed the main character of the novel, Maria and her ability in transcending her passiveness. The journal was written by using Maslow's concept of transpersonal psychology and strengthened with Fromm's existential needs of man and Reed's theory of self-transcendence. Based on Fromm's theory, the analysis shows that Maria experienced self-transcendence both as a destructor and creator. Thus, Maria's conduction of destructor is presented when she mistrust about love; through her sexual-experiences; and her decision to work in prostitution. On the other side, besides being a role of destructor, Maria also creates her life better. Her conductions of creator are shown when she fell in love and experienced eleven minutes of sacred-sex (sex, in the content of love) with Ralf Hart. The meeting with Ralf Hart, a painter who stated that Maria has a special inner-light, emerges her optimism and survival spirit. She found her true love with a man who treated her differently.

The third research was written by David Latingua from University of South Florida, entitled *Freedom and the Dialogical Self* (2004). In his article, David

analyzed the meaning of freedom portrayed in *The Legend of 1900* movie by using Richard Rorty theory of freedom. The analysis shows that there are two kinds of freedom depicted in the movie. The first type is freedom as *liberation*, or breaking loose of external oppressive forces which is represented in the beginning of the movie by a passenger hazing and shouting, “*America!*”. This scene shows that modern liberating sense of freedom is reflected from the discovery of a new land for the European immigrants. The second type of freedom is reflected on the character of Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900. For Nineteen Hundred, living freely does not entail seeking out new lands, but moving around in a situated space. The research resulted with the idea that freedom works within boundaries. Only in a bounded space people can move freely, and from situated locale people have the ability to stamp actions their own specific meaningful signature.

Based on the three previous researches, a new research entitled *Fromm’s Humanistic Psychoanalysis on Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900 in The Legend of 1900 Movie* is developed. The significance of this research is that this new research is using Erich Fromm’s theories of humanistic psychoanalysis in order to find out the cause of Nineteen Hundred’s failure to adapt in life. The value of this research is to give new perspective of humanistic psychoanalysis by elaborating Fromm’s theory, especially the five existential needs through the character of Nineteen Hundred.

1.2. Problem Formulation

The problems that will be discussed in this research are:

1. How are the character and characterization of Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900 shown in the movie through the elements of fiction?
2. How are the symbols portrayed in the movie and its connection to Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900?
3. How is Fromm’s humanistic psychoanalysis shown in the character Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900?

1.3. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research will be focused on *The Legend of 1900* movie and psychoanalysis criticism approach.

First, as the limitation of this research, the writer will choose plot, character and characterization, and symbol to analyze the movie's elements of fiction. Secondly, among the characters shown in the film, the writer will only focused on the character Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900.

Lastly, in analyzing the character Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900, the writer will only use Erich Fromm's five basic human needs, or the existential needs; *relatedness, transcendence, rootedness, a frame of orientation, a sense of identity* will also be analysed.

1.4. Goal and Function of Research

The goals of this research are:

1. To find out the character and characterization of Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900.
2. To figure out the symbols portrayed in the movie and its connection to Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900.
3. To analyze the character Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900 and his psychological aspects by using humanistic psychoanalysis theory.

The function of this research is to give a new understanding about humanistic psychoanalysis to the reader through the character, Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon 1900.