

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everybody needs enough love. Lacking of love makes a person try to get it even in wrong way. The writer sees that if a person has not enough love especially in childhood, he will have disorder personality. This will affect his social life and future. There are many kinds of observation and of study about this. Making a research, the writer wants to observe a person who suffers personality disorder. She is interested in discussing the story and the character of *The Talented Mr. Ripley* because the main character, Tom Ripley, has a unique personality. He often lies to get good impression but his real feeling is actually sad and lonely. His personality is mysterious.

Ripley's character shows that he is a narcissist. Narcissists are said to be in love with themselves (Vaknin, 2003, www.samvak.tripod.com). But Vaknin corrects this statement that Narcissus is not in love with himself but with his reflection. According to Diagnostic of Statistical Mental Disorder, narcissism personality disorder (NPD) is "an all-pervasive pattern of grandiosity (in fantasy or behavior), need for admiration or adulation and lack of empathy, usually beginning by early adulthood and present in various contexts." (Angelettie, 1999-2004, <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art22079.asp>). Narcissist has some characteristics such as lack of empathy and being arrogant.

The writer will analyze the movie through some psychoanalytic theories those of Sigmund Freud, Sam Vaknin and Paul Wink. This is also supported by psychological

concepts. By making this research, the writer hopes that the reader will understand about narcissism so if they meet a narcissist they can help or be a friend of them rather than avoid them.

The Talented Mr. Ripley is a drama movie about a unique character names Tom Ripley. The setting is in Italy and New York in 1958. It is made based on a novel with the same title written by Patricia Highsmith. It was released in December 1999 and commented by many critics.

The story begins with the scene when Ripley (acted by Matt Damon) is wearing a jacket and playing a piano. Considering Ripley as one of Princeton student like his son (Dickie), Herbert Greenleaf, who is a shipbuilder, offers him an order to persuade his son to come back. He says that he will give Ripley 1000 dollars. This is the first lie of Ripley because the white jacket is actually not his. The Princeton jacket symbolizes elite university.

As a blue-collar worker who dreams to get higher class, Ripley takes this order and goes to Italy where Dickie Greenleaf (acted by Jude Law) and his girlfriend, Marge Sherwood (acted by Gwyneth Paltrow), live. Planning a strategy, he succeeds to become Dickie's and Marge's friend. After he is quite intimate with Dickie, he tries to persuade him to return to his parent but Dickie refuses. Ripley also shows his homosexual desire with Dickie. He expresses his feeling for Dickie when they are in a boat together. The statement of Ripley disturbs Dickie and they are involved in debate and fight. Ripley kills Dickie unexpectedly.

Nobody knows where Dickie is. Ripley lies to Marge that Dickie suddenly decides to be on vacation. Ripley takes Dickie's identity and kills Dickie's friend who

Patricia Highsmith was born on January 19, 1921 in Fort Worth Texas, USA. She immigrated to England in 1951. She lived most of her life in Switzerland. She attended Columbia University. She wrote 20 novels such as *Strangers on a Train* (1950), *The Price of Salt* (1952), *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1955), and her final novel, *Small G: a summer idyll* (1995). The character of her books is mystery. She died on February 4, 1995 because of leukemia.

Anthony Minghella is the director of *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and the writer of its screenplay. After attending the University of Hull (North Yorkshire/Humberside, England), he worked as a university professor where he started writing music and plays. He won the London Theatre Critics Award in 1984 for Most Promising Playwright and in 1986 for Best Play with *Made in Bangkok*. He has also directed *The English Patient* and *Cold Mountain*. He wrote some screenplays and became the producer of some films.

1.2 Statement of Problem

How is narcissism shown by Ripley Character in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*? And what is the impact of this characteristic?

1.3 Scopes and Limitation

The writer will analyze the narcissism aspect through:

1. Some psychoanalytic theories those of Sigmund Freud, Sam Vaknin and Paul Wink.
2. The writer will analyze Tom Ripley character. She will connect Dickie's and Ripley's characters to explain that Dickie's reflection proves the narcissistic character of Ripley.

1.4 Goals and Function

The goal of this research is:

1. To know the physical presentation of Ripley who suffer from narcissism
2. To know the emotional presentation of Ripley who suffer from narcissism
3. To know the impacts of Ripley's narcissistic character

The function of this research is:

1. To give more information about narcissism as part of psychoanalytic for readers

1.5 Research Methodology

The method used to analyze this study is library research. First, the writer watches the movie. After getting the idea to analyze, the writer searched for data that are needed. The writer went to Bina Nusantara Library, Atmajaya Library, Tarumanegara University, Indonesia University Library and browsed Internet. Then the writer selected them; which ones appropriate with the topic. The next step is analyzing the movie by using the data and the theories. The writer will analyze the movie using psychoanalytic theories from Sigmund Freud, Paul Wink and Sam Vaknin. This will also be supported by psychological view. The final step is making conclusion from the discussion.