

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Nowadays the world has become more strange because many unique things have appeared in life as a matter of natural change process. It appears in many aspects, for instance in technology, social science, psychology, and many others which always continue to be researched by many scientists and as a result, a new thing is being created to be a big phenomenon. One of them is psychic phenomenon.

What is Psychic Phenomenon? Psychic phenomenon encompasses a broad spectrum of psychic encounters. Harry Edwards, an investigator from A Skeptic's Guide, explains through the internet website (<http://WWW.adam.com.au/bstett/SkepticsPsychicDefinition86.htm>) that the word 'psychic' related to the mind or soul; mental, as distinguished from the physical and physiological. It is commonly used today by people when referring to the paranormal, occult or supernatural. This psychic refers to particular abilities and attributes like clairvoyant's ability to see the future, a tarot card reading practice, and ESP (Extra Sensory Perception). Those are all forms of psychic phenomenon.

Psychic phenomenon has occurred throughout history of mankind. And its accuracy is truly remarkable where on *The New Soviet Discoveries 1978*, the CIA agents carried out tests of 'astral projection', or 'out-of-the-body experiences' with two US Psychics, Ingo Swann and Pat Price who accurately describe super secret military installations and also the contents of confidential files. These successful experiments

'The Gift' begins the story in a small Georgian town where Annie Wilson (Kate Blanchett) a single mother of three boys, does a psychic reading. She has a power that allows her to see things people don't see and she talks about the things that they try to keep quiet. She also has to deal with some of conservative local as they do not like her psychic fortune telling practices. She eventually creates a trouble by advising Valerie Barksdale (Hillary Swank) to leave her abusive husband, Donnie (Keanu Reeves). Donnie dislikes Annie's practice so he makes Annie upset by scaring her son off. Then Annie's big trouble become more complicated when Jessica King (Katie Holmes), Wayne's fiancé goes missing, she is drown into the spotlight as she use her power to help to lead the police to the body, and to the killer.

This story describes wonderfully about psychic phenomenon and teaches pretty much that ruining life as psychic is not that easy. It embraces many aspects not only in dealing with people but also in their own self for having suffered from their power. That is why the writer takes this part to be analyzed through the psychology approach exactly by using some theories of personality/temperament analysis, and many perspectives from the physician.

1.2 Statement of problems

In analyzing the psychic phenomenon in 'The Gift' through psychological aspect, the writer tries to answer the following questions:

1. What kind of psychic phenomenon in the movie of 'The Gift'?
2. What is the problem of being psychic as Annie portrayed in the movie of 'The Gift'?

1.3 Scope and limitation

The scope of the study will be focused on psychic phenomenon as in psychological perspective and limit the analysis in the components of the psychic as Annie deals with, and her problem of being a psychic due to particular people who are the supporting characters: Buddy, Donnie and Valerie Barksdale, Wayne and Jessica King.

1.4 Goals and Functions

The goal of this analysis is to acknowledge the readers about psychic phenomenon by:

1. Describing more about psychic phenomenon in psychological perspective
2. Explaining more about the problem of being a psychic.

The function of this research is to notice the readers about something unique which turn to be an issue, something doubtful but exists beyond people senses. That is a psychic phenomenon and gives a profound knowledge on it through a psychological approach of what they have in their life such as the challenge, the power, and the character of psychic in dealing with people. Those are described in order to make the readers know that psychic exists and fully understand about the psychological perspective of psychic phenomenon although it still continues to be researched by the scientist.

1.5 Research Methodology

The method that the writer uses in the research is conducted in the library of Bina Nusantara University, Atmajaya University and British Council by searching and

selecting the accessible books which linked together with the topic of analysis. Afterward the writer reads and sorts a relevant data to the materials of psychic phenomenon. For supporting theories the writer also browses some internet website and at the end all sources are compiled to get an improving analysis.