CONTRASTING WOMAN CHARACTERS IN *MAMA* MOVIE

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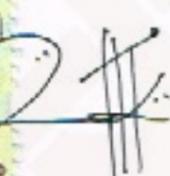
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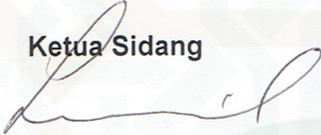
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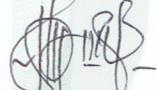
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ABSTRACT

Talking about mothers, there are several types of mothers that are seen by biological and social aspects. The types are biological, surrogate, and adoptive mother. The concept of mothers becomes an issue that is conveyed in the *Mama* movie. The movie tells a story about two women who play a role as a mother. Both women are not the children's biological mother, but they love the children very much like their own children. *Mama* movie is important to be analyzed because it emphasizes the concept of mother diachronically. In the movie there are two woman characters who can be compared and contrasted. They show the central and marginal concept. This research has addressed the nature of ideal mother figures. This research is purposed to describe the contrasts of woman characters: Annabel and Edith in *Mama*. This research is a qualitative research, and it uses a case study as the strategy of inquiry. A close reading strategy and audio-visual technique are applied to collect the data. The analysis uses an objective approach and uses the binary opposition theory by Claude Levis-Strauss. Furthermore, the writer applies the film theory to analyze the pictures in the movie. The type of this research is library research. The result of this research is that binary oppositions that are found show relation about the ideal mother. Seen from children's side and this modern era, the ideal mother figure is Annabel. Besides, the flawed mother figure is Edith. On the other hand, Annabel represents the culture, but Edith represents the nature. Both culture and nature in the movie are balance.

Key Words: Binary Oppositions, the Contrasts of Woman Characters, the Ideal

Mother Figure

CONTRASTING WOMAN CHARACTERS IN *MAMA* MOVIE

Oleh: Romelah Isti Komah

ABSTRAK

Berbicara mengenai ibu, ada beberapa tipe ibu yang dapat dilihat dari aspek biologis dan sosial. Tipe-tipe dari ibu adalah ibu kandung, ibu pengganti, dan ibu angkat. Konsep ibu menjadi isu yang disampaikan dalam film *Mama*. Film ini menceritakan dua wanita yang berperan sebagai seorang ibu. Kedua wanita tersebut bukan ibu kandung bagi anak-anak, akan tetapi mereka menyayangi anak tersebut layaknya anak mereka sendiri. Film *Mama* penting untuk diteliti karena film ini menekankan konsep ibu secara diakronis. Dalam film ini ada dua wanita yang dapat dibandingkan dan dikontraskan. Mereka memperlihatkan konsep *central* dan konsep *marginal*. Penelitian ini berkontribusi dalam menyelesaikan masalah mengenai sosok ibu yang ideal. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan perbedaan karakter Annabel dan Edith dalam filem *Mama*. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dan strategi studi kasus. Teknik dokumentasi dan audiovisual digunakan untuk mememperoleh data. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan objektif dan teori oposisi biner dari Claude Levi-Strauss. Tipe dari penelitian ini adalah studi kepustakaan. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah oposisi biner antara Annabel dan Edith yang ditemukan dalam filem *Mama* menunjukan adanya hubungan antara kedua karakter tersebut. Hubungan dari dua karakter adalah mengenai sosok ibu yang ideal. Dilihat dari sisi anak pada era sekarang, dalam film *Mama*, sosok ibu yang ideal adalah Annabel, dan sosok ibu yang kurang ideal adalah Edith. Annabel mereprentasikan budaya, sedangkan Edith merepresentasikan alam. Dari budaya dan alam dalam filem *Mama* bersifat seimbang.

Kata Kunci: Oposisi Biner, Perbedaan dari Karakter Perempuan, Sosok Ibu yang deal

MOTTO

Verily, along with every hardship is relief (Qs. Al-Insyirah: 6)
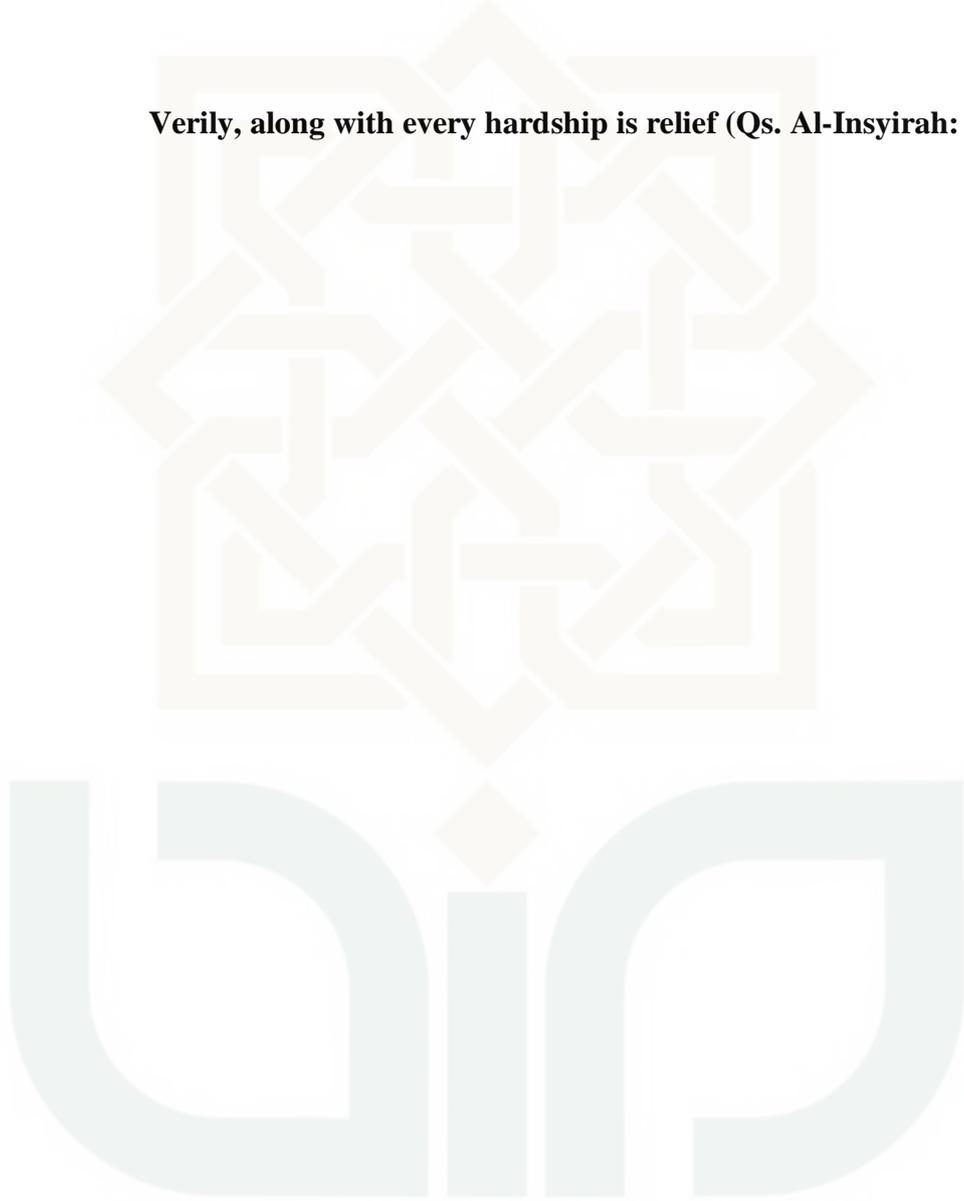
♥*For My Mom and My Hero*♥

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Finally, I do realize that there are still many errors in my research in this graduating paper. Thus, I do feel gladly to hear any suggestion and correction to improve this graduating paper.

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Yogyakarta, December 18th 2015

ROMELAH ISTI KOMAH

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of Study

Literature has close relation with life because literary works contain both aesthetic sides and moral values. Although literary works have aesthetic sides, the important thing lies on its moral values because literary works convey social criticism that reflects social conditions, social issues, and even religious values. Those moral values can be used as a way of life for people. As it is known, there are many literary works, such as poems, dramas, novels, and short stories.

One of the new forms of literary works is a movie. "Turner said that film is seen to be analogous to literature" (as cited in Zaeni, 2014:1). A movie is included in the kind of literary works because the movie does not only give entertainment for humans but also reveals a condition of "[s]ocial, historical, industrial, technological, philosophical, aesthetic, psychological, personal conditions, and so forth" (Villarejo, 2007: 9). The writer uses the movie as the object of this research because the movie is different from other literary works, like novels and poems. Movies have effects which make the story looks as if real. According to Monaco, "The best description of the movie, compared with pictorial art and literature, is on its capability to 're-create' of using almost all of art such as narrative, picture, music as well as technology into a new medium"

2009: 24). Movies have many genres, like action, animation, comedy, horror, film-noir, romance, and so forth.

In addition, the writer takes a horror movie as the material object in this research because of some reasons. First, a horror movie is unique because even the horror movie frightens some people about the loathsome monster or ghost, but many people still try to seek and watch the horror movies. According to Carroll, "But, on the other hand, many people-so many, in fact, that we must concede that they are normal, at least in the statistical sense –do seek out horror fictions for the purpose of deriving pleasure from sights and descriptions that customarily repulse them" (1990: 158). The quotation means that people have attraction to the horror genre, although the horror movie is repulsive, foul, and disgust.

Second, horror movies not only make people become scary, curious, and fascinating, they also represent the politically repressive themes of social. Horror movies try to convey about the pertinent socio-political factors. In the horror movie, there are several issues that become the politically repressive themes such as sexism. Recently, horror movies that are produced show that the monster or ghost is women. Some horror movies that have the woman ghost are *Drag Me to Hell* (2009), *Insidious I* (2010), *The Woman in Black* (2012), *The Conjuring* (2013), *Annabelle* (2014), and *Mama* (2013). According to Carroll (1990), "Feminists have pointed out that, in many recent horror fictions, often the victims of monster's grisly onslaught are sexually active adolescent women (p.196). The case is a proof that the horror movie reflects a social issue like patriarchal society.

The word 'mother' is one of beautiful words in the world. Some people think that mothers are women who give birth to a child. However, nowadays, mothers are not only women who give birth to a child but also women who adopt a child. They adopt children because they have some reasons, and one of the reasons is that they do not have children, or they take care of the children of family members who have died. The important thing of mothers is that they look after and save their children from danger, and they give love for their children. According to Bowbly, children have closer attachment to their mothers because mothers are women that give children's psychological needs, such as giving them food, warmth, and breast-feeding (1958: 350).

Many stories in movies reflect humans' daily life, like how mothers look after and love their children. Such stories appear in many movies like in *The Odd Life of Timothy Green* (2012) movie. This movie tells how a mother wants a child because for long times, she does not have a child. Then, there is a little miracle. She gets a son from green leaves, and she loves her son very much. The nature of mothers is to love their children and to take care of them. They want to sacrifice their life and anything to make their children happy.

From the phenomenon above, the writer takes a movie that contains a story about mothers as the object of this research. The movie entitled *Mama* which was directed by Andres Muschietti is a kind of horror movies. It was released on January, 18th 2013 and has got some awards. The movie got eleven wins and fifteen nominations. It won ASCAP award (2014), DGC award (2013), International Fantasy Film Award (2013), Golden Trailer Awards (2013), and so

forth (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2023587/awards?ref_=tt_ql_4). The movie tells about two children: Victoria and Lily who live in an isolated house called Helvetia after their father died. Victoria and Lily are taken care of a female ghost named Mama. Five years later, Lucas, the children's uncle who looks for Victoria and Lily, finally, finds them.

Lucas and Annabel, agree to take care of the children. They are helped by Dr. Dreyfuss, so they can get custody to care the children from Mrs. Jean. Lucas, Annabel, Victoria, and Lily then move to Dr. Dreyfuss' house. When they stay in the house, Lucas and Annabel think that there is a ghost in their house. A female ghost that looks after Victoria and Lily comes to the house. Sometimes Victoria and Lily play together with her at night. A few days later the female ghost feels jealous with Annabel because Annabel looks after the children like her own children. The ghost tries to kill Annabel and Lucas, so she can have the children. In addition, Annabel does not give up to save Victoria and Lily. She strives to save those children because she loves them very much and wants to take care of them. In the opposite, the female ghost also struggles to own the children because she loves the children very much.

The writer takes the movie because *Mama* movie shows the tension between the new concept and the old concept of mothers. Furthermore, *Mama* movie portrays about the ideal mother. The ideal mother issue becomes one important thing to be analyzed because mothers play an important role for their children. Mothers have an important part in a family. They are the first teacher for

their children, so the ideal mother is needed. Mothers have the good position in Islam. The virtues of mothers can be seen in the following hadith.

حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ، حَدَّثَنَا جَرِيرٌ، عَنْ عُمَارَةَ بْنِ الْقَعْقَاعِ بْنِ شُبْرُمَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي زُرْعَةَ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ ـ رضى الله عنه ـ قَالَ جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صلى الله عليه وسلم فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مَنْ أَحَقُّ بِحُسْنِ صَحَابَتِي قَالَ " أُمُّكَ ". قَالَ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَ " أُمُّكَ ". قَالَ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَ " أُمُّكَ ". قَالَ ثُمَّ مَنْ قَالَ " ثُمَّ أَبُوكَ ". وَقَالَ ابْنُ شُبْرُمَةَ وَيَحْيَى بْنُ أَيُّوبَ حَدَّثَنَا أَبُو زُرْعَةَ مِثْلَهُ.

A man came to Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) and said, "O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! Who is more entitled to be treated with the best companionship by me?" The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Your mother." The man said. "Who is next?" The Prophet said, "Your mother." The man further said, "Who is next?" The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Your mother." The man asked for the fourth time, "Who is next?" The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Your father. " (Sunnah.com).

The hadith implies that children should be dutiful to their parent especially to mothers. The Muhammad Prophet mentions mothers three times which means that children should love and respect their mothers more than their father. In Islam, mothers have special position. Mothers play an important role in children's development. They look after their children even they sacrifice their life to their children. The ideal mother is needed to make the better generation.

In addition, *Mama* movie has been researched by Alensy Pujianita Purbaningrum (2014) in analyzing fear and anxiety which is caused by the ghost,

and the different reaction that appears in the movie when characters see the ghost. There is no researcher who examines about ideal mother figures from this movie. This makes the writer takes the topic. This research is contributed for knowledge, especially how to know about ideal mother figures. Thus, it can be used for everyone.

The movie shows that there are two women who play an important role in taking care of the children. Ideally, a mother represents the woman who gives birth to a child. She looks after and loves her children even she sacrifices her life. In fact, there are two women; Annabel and Edith Brennan. They are not biological mothers of the children, but they play roles as a mother. Based on the fact, the writer is interested to analyze the character of Annabel and Edith Brennan because that the characters have the contrasts in caring the children. It is important to be analyzed because the movie shows how two women strive to get those children. The struggle of two women will show how the ideal mother figure is.

1.2   Research Question

Based on the phenomena in background of study, the writer conducts this research to answer this following question: how can contrasts of woman characters in *Mama* movie be explained?

1.3   Objective of Study

By referring to the research question above, this research aims to describe the contrasts of woman characters in *Mama*. In this case, the contrasts between Annabel and Edith Brennan result in the ideal mother figures which are used to get the meaning of a mother in the movie.

1.4 Significances of Study

This research is important because of some reasons, both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research is significant for development of literature. It is included in literary criticism, especially structuralism. It can be used to understand the binary opposition theory through a movie. Practically, first, this research is expected to help English literature students in understanding the binary opposition of characters in movies, especially in *Mama*. Second, for lecturers, this research is significant to give knowledge about the application of the binary opposition theory in literary works, such as in movies. Third, for women, prospective mothers, mothers, and parents, this research can be used as the guidance how to be ideal mothers and parents for children.

1.5 Literature Reviews

The writer has found some researches which have the same material object and theory as this research. Seen from the theory, the binary opposition theory is also discussed in a book entitled *The Raw and the Cooked*: *Introduction to a Science of Mythology I* by Claude Levi-Strauss that is translated from the French by John and Doreen Weightman. Levi-Strauss stated that "the aim of this book is to show how empirical categories –such as the categories of the raw and the cooked, the fresh and the decayed, the moistened and the burned, etc …" (1986: 1). This book applies the qualitative method. The book discussed several songs from North America such as Bororo Song and Ge Variations. The songs that have been analyzed represent the structure of other myths in the world.

Seen from the material object, the writer finds a previous research, which uses *Mama* movie as the material object of the study. It is a thesis entitled "Fear and Anxiety Portrayed in Film Titled *Mama*" by Alensy Pujianita Purbaningrum (2014) from English Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Brawijaya University. This research aims to describe the fear and anxiety that are suffered by girls and their family in the movie titled *Mama*. This research applies a qualitative method and the psychoanalysis: fear and anxiety theory by Sigmund Freud to analyze the movie. The result of this research is the different reaction of characters in the movie to overcome their fear and anxiety.

In the previous researches, there have been no researchers who examine ideal mother figures from *Mama* by applying the binary opposition theory. The writer has the different way in analyzing *Mama* and applies the binary opposition theory to analyze it. This research focuses on the contrasts of woman characters: Annabel and Edith Brennan in the movie. The contrasts of women characters aim to find out the ideal mother figure in the *Mama*.

1.6   Theoretical Approach

In this research the writer applies two theories to analyze *Mama*. The theories are the binary opposition and the film theory. The paradigm that is applied in this research is structuralism. There are several assumptions of structuralism. They are the death of the author, anti-humanist, deterministic, materialistic, unconscious or hidden structures, and binary oppositions. In addition, first, since this research analyzes the contrasts of two woman characters in the *Mama* movie, the main theory that is used is the binary opposition that is

formulated by Claude Levis-Strauss. The binary opposition theory by Levi-Strauss is affected by phoneme theory of Roman Jakobson. According to Carter, "In phoneme theory, it manifests itself in pairs which are, for example, nasalized/non-nasalized, voiced/unvoiced etc" (2006: 46). The binary opposition theory is started from myth. According to Abrams, "In classical Greek, "mythos" signified any story or plot, whether true or invented" (2009: 206). *The Raw and the Cooked* by Claude Levi-Strauss, it emphasizes to discuss myths in the North America. In the book, Levi-Strauss tries to give explanation about myths in science explanation. According to Levi-Strauss, he stated that:

> It follows that as the nebula gradually spreads, its nucleus condenses and becomes more organized. Loose threads join up with one another, gaps are closed, connections are established, and something resembling order is to be seen emerging from chaos. Sequences arranged in transformation groups, as if around a germinal molecule, join up with the initial group and reproduce its structure and determinative tendencies. Thus is brought into being a multi-dimensional body, whose central parts disclose a structure, while uncertainty and confusion continue to prevail along its periphery (1986: 3).

From the quotation above it can be seen that, actually, myths that happen in the world have the same structure. The analogy is that a nebula has its own nucleus. It becomes the central part. In the myth, the central part is a structure that each myth has it. The structure is called mythemes, and it becomes the pattern of myths because it seems impossible if myths that appear in the world are analyzed one by one. The structure of one myth represents other myths. This is like an example that Levi-Strauss gives. He stated that "It merely implies that each myth taken separately exists as the limited application of a pattern, which is gradually

revealed by the relations of reciprocal intelligibility discerned between several myths" (1986: 13).

Furthermore, *The Raw and the Cooked* also discusses that myth has relationship with music. Levi-Straus (1986) also said that "Therefore, when I suggested that the analysis of myths was comparable with that of a major musical score, I was drawing the conclusion from Wagner's discovery that the structure of myths can be revealed through a musical score" (p.15). The relationship is about the similarity and contiguity. In reading myths, to get the meaning people have to read it totally. It is like when reading music or orchestral score, to know the meaning, it must be read the whole page. The myth cannot be known line after line, but totality. People have to read it from beginning until end. The basic meaning of myth depends on the bundle of relations or events. The bundle of relations happens in binary oppositions. According to Storey, "Like morphemes and phonemes, mythemes only take on meaning when combined in particular patterns" (2009: 114-115).

The binary opposition is two terms which are in opposite to each other. Storey (2009) also stated that "He (Levi-Strauss) also observes that myths are structured in terms of binary oppositions" (p.115). Units of systems have meanings in the relation of its opposites, for example, a thing can be named as good because another thing is bad. Anything in the world has contradictions and has a positive value to things and a negative value to things, for instance, beautiful/ugly, light/darkness, right/left, presence/absence, and so on. In the binary opposition theory there are privileged and marginalized. The positive value

is the privileged one, and the negative value is the marginalized one. The privileged one is also called center, and the marginalized one is called marginal. According to *Literary Theory: The Basics*, "For Levi-Strauss, the structure of primitive thinking is binary" (Bartens, 2001: 62). Moreover, it becomes the basic of human signifying system and human cultures.

By referring to the explanation above, the binary opposition discusses the opposition of things. This research deals with comparing and contrasting the woman characters, so this research applies this theory. In *Mama*, Annabel and Edith Brennan are the binary opposition because they have opposite characteristics. The theory helps the writer in determining the contrast of woman characters in *Mama*. The result of analyzing the binary opposition between the two characters derives an ideal mother figure that can be used to determine what Mama in the title of the movie refers to.

Second, the main data of this research is a movie. Therefore, this research applies the film theory as the secondary theory. This research applies *Mise-en-scene* and cinematography in the film theory to analyze the pictures and get the meaning of the pictures in the movie. Because every picture which is displayed on the screen has meanings, the meaning can be understood through the film theory. Furthermore, *Mise-en-scene* is the basic component in film analysis. According to Villarejo, "Remember, in other words, that "reality" partakes of the *functions of mise-en-scene* more than the measurement of its elements against a presumed "real world" at the same time as films summon our experience of living in that real world by way of our reactions and responses" (2007: 29). *Mise-en-scene*

consists of six components: setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior. Those components help the writer in analyzing the pictures in the movie. In *Mise-en-scene*, the lighting as a component in it has a function to express emotion (as cited on http://www.picturecorrect.com/tips/how-lighting-plays-a-crucial-role-in-your-photography/). The lighting magnifies the nature of characters in the movie. Here, the lighting that is used in this research is the low light and the high light.

On the other hand, the other theory of film theory that is used in this research is cinematography. Here, in this research, the components that are emphasized in the cinematography are framing techniques and camera angles. According to *Movie Studies: The Basics*, framing techniques are divided into seven types:

a. The extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;

b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background;

c. The medium long shot (MLS), or plan americain, in which the human is framed from the knees up;

d. The medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from waist up;

e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up;

f. The close up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently);

g. And the extreme close up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips) (Villarejo, 2007: 38).

Furthermore, camera angles are used to position the viewer so that they can understand the relationships between the characters. There are several types of camera angles. First, a bird's eye angle is an angle that looks directly down upon a scene. This angle is used to establish setting. Second, a high angle is a camera angle that looks down a subject. A character that is shot by this angle will look vulnerable or small. This angle is often used to demonstrate to the audience a perspective of a particular character. Third, an eye level angle puts the audience on an equal footing with the characters. This is the most commonly used angle in most films as it allows the viewers to feel comfortable with the characters. Last, a low angle is a camera angle that looks up at a character. This angle makes characters look more powerful (as cited in http://www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-54_u-251_t-647_c-2411/camera-shots-angles-and-movement-lighting-cinematography-and-mise-en-scene/nsw/camera-shots-angles-and-movement-lighting-cinematography-and-mise-en-scene/skills-by-text-type-film/film-overview).

Those two theories are combined to get the contrast of Annabel and Edith Brennan. Every picture in this research has a meaning about the contrast between Annabel and Edith Brennan. So, the film theory is applied.

1.7   Method of Research

1.7.1   Type of Research

This research applies a qualitative research. According to Creswell, "Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem" (2009: 1). It means

that this research uses qualitative data not numbers or statistic. This is a method that tends to explain data instead of calculating the data. This design is used because this research aims to describe and explore the contrasts of two woman characters: Annabel and Edith Brennan in *Mama*. The problem of this research is dynamic and holistic so this research does not use questionnaires and interview to collect the data.

In addition, the strategy of inquiry that is used in this research is a case study. The writer explores the process, events, and activities in detail. Here, Annabel and Edith Brennan as the binary oppositions are described deeply. This research uses a library research. The writer collects some books and journals to support the data. This research applies an objective approach to analyze data because this research uses structuralism, so the writer just focuses on the intrinsic elements of *Mama* movie.

1.7.2 Data Sources

There are several data that are used by the writer in this research. The object of this research is the contrasts of two woman characters and the main data is *Mama* movie. The source of the data is *Mama* movie. The data are included in primary data. On the other hand, this research uses supporting data such books or journals, which will help the writer in analyzing the main data. The type of the supporting data is primary data. The forms of the data in this research are pictures, utterances, and actions that relate to the contrasts of Annabel and Edith. The data that are taken are based on the contrasts of Annabel and Edith that use motherhood aspects.

1.7.3   Data Collection Technique

In this research, the writer uses a close reading strategy and audio-visual as the technique to collect data. Furthermore, there are several ways that are used by the writer to collect the data. First, the writer watches the *Mama* movie closely to be able to understand the intrinsic aspects of the movie. Second, the writer determines the aspects to classify the data based on the contrast of Annabel and Edith Brennan. The aspect that is used is motherhood that is seen by the nature, appearance, and performance of Annabel and Edith that will be explained in detail. Third, the writer collects the data through classifying the pictures, utterances, and actions in the movie, which relate to the contrasts of Annabel and Edith Brennan. The pictures and utterances that are selected are not only from Annabel and Edith but also other characters such Victoria, Lily, Lucas, Dr. Dreyfuss and so forth that support and show the contrasts of the two woman characters. The contrasts of Annabel and Edith are influenced by the emergence of other characters, so the writer takes some pictures and utterances from other characters. The data that have been found help the writer to find the binary oppositions of Annabel and Edith Brennan.

1.7.4   Data Analysis Technique

The analysis of the data in this research uses an objective approach. First, after the data are collected, the writer analyzes the data using the binary opposition theory. Second, the writer analyzes the character of Annabel and Edith Brennan using the binary opposition theory. The binary oppositions from the two

characters are classified by motherhood aspect that is seen by the nature, appearance, and performance of Annabel and Edith. Third, the writer analyzes the comparison between Annabel and Edith to get the similarities between them. Then, the writer analyzes the contrasts between the two woman characters to get binary oppositions. After that, when the binary oppositions have been found, the writer explains the binary oppositions of Annabel and Edith one by one. Then, after explaining binary oppositions of Annabel and Edith, the writer gets the main binary. It will be used to determine the ideal mother figures in *Mama* movie. Moreover, the writer applies the film theory for explaining pictures that are taken from the movie. It consists of lighting, framing technique, and camera angles. From the analysis the writer draws the conclusion.

1.8   Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consists of the background of study, research question, objective of study, significances of study, literature reviews, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter explains the intrinsic elements of *Mama* Movie. The third chapter is discussion. It is about the contrasts of two woman characters in the movie. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research that contains the conclusion and the suggestion for the next research with the same material object.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1   Conclusion

In this chapter, the writer shows the result of discussion in the third chapter. Since the aim of the research is to describe the contrasts of woman characters in *Mama*, in this case, the contrasts between Annabel and Edith Brennan result in the ideal mother figures which are used to get the meaning of *Mama* in the movie. To analyze the contrasts of woman characters in *Mama* movie, the writer applies the binary opposition theory by Claude Levi-Strauss. According to Storey (2009), "He (Levi-Strauss) also observes that myths are structured in terms of binary oppositions" (p. 115). Units of systems have meanings in the relation of its opposites. The basic meanings can be understood by bundle of relations. In this research the writer discusses the contrasts of Annabel and Edith Brennan because they have relation. The relation between the two woman characters is the ideal mother.

Furthermore, by applying the binary opposition theory, the writer is able to find the contrasts of the woman characters: Annabel and Edith Brennan. By seeing their nature, performance, and appearance, the writer finds several contrasts between Annabel and Edith as the following table.

Privileged	Marginalized
Annabel	Edith
Civilized	Savage
Protective	Overprotective
Egalitarian	Restrictive
Masculine	Feminine
Modern	Traditional
The Ideal mother	The Flawed mother

Table. 2

Lists of Binary Oppositions of Woman Characters

The contrasts above show the ideal mother figure that is depicted in the *Mama* movie. The ideal mother is seen by children's side and the modern era. The ideal mother figure in *Mama* that is appropriate for this modern era is Annabel. It does not mean that Edith is not the ideal mother figure, but she is a flawed mother figure. Based on the contrasts of the woman characters above, the ideal mother is civilized, protective, egalitarian, masculine, and modern. The civilized mother will school her children to behave in a good manner such as walking with their legs and being well-dressed. The protective mother looks after her children with enough love. She does not become the overprotective one because she wants her children improve and get confidence. Moreover, in the modern era, the egalitarian mother is needed since the children want their mother to be their friend and

partner. A mother is not only a mother but also a friend to share the children's problem pleasantly. The modern mother is appropriate for the children in the modern era because this era is the development of technology. A mother should give the better knowledge such as introducing the technology for children.

In addition, by applying the binary opposition theory, all characteristics of Annabel and Edith Brennan show a pattern. According to *The Raw and the Cooked*, Annabel represents the cooked one which means culture. Annabel is affected by culture. The ways that she dresses, behaves, and performs are influenced by the culture because culture is the creation of social order. Here, the culture emphasizes intellectual than instinctual. In the *Mama* movie, Annabel who is affected by culture around her does anything with logic think. For example, when she gives food for Victoria and Lily, she knows what food that is edible and inedible. She gives nutritious food for the children such as juice, rice, milk and so forth. When Victoria and Lily are in danger, Annabel tries to have the children from the ghost because logically Annabel is a human being, so she should save others from danger. Culture is constructed social convention.

On the other hand, Edith Brennan represents the raw one. In food, the raw one compares with the fresh meat. The ways that she dresses, acts, and behaves are influenced by nature. The nature emphasizes instinctual than intellectual. In *Mama* movie, Edith Brennan represents the nature. She does anything with her instinct. For instance when she gives food for the children, she gives whatever that her instinct regards as the edible one. She gives moths for Lily and Victoria because she perceives that moths are edible. Furthermore, when Edith stays with

the children, she does not think if the children stay with her they will die. Edith follows what she feels. In conclusion, the contrasts between Annabel and Edith Brennan are the hidden structure in a myth. The binary oppositions of the two characters show the concept between culture and nature. Culture is the cooked one, and the nature is the raw one.

In *Mama* movie, the relation between nature and culture can also be seen by the relation of Victoria and Lily. Victoria who prefers Annabel is regarded as Annabel's product, and Lily who prefers Edith is regarded as Edith's product. Edith as the woman who looks after the children since the children are young, she is regarded as the mother. In the movie, the relation between nature and culture is balance because both Annabel and Edith get a child. Annabel gets Victoria, and Edith gets Lily. Victoria who represents culture, she chooses to move to the culture, Annabel, from the nature, Edith. Victoria prefers to leave her nature because she knows that moving to the nature is the way to stay alive. In life, children have to separate from their mother. They cannot hug their mother forever because they need culture. On the other hand, Lily prefers Edith, and she chooses to stay close to the nature. She wants to gather with Edith, the mother. When Edith asks Lily to follow her, Lily dies. In conclusion, in the *Mama* movie, culture and nature are balance.

4.2   Suggestion

Mama movie tells an interesting story that is covered many issues such as gender, economics, politic, and so forth. In this research, the writer analyzes the gender issue by applying the binary opposition theory. Thus, there are many issues that

can be analyzed by other researches using different theories. The writer suggests to other researchers to apply feminist theories, psychoanalysis theories and the deconstruction theory. The feminist theories that can be applied from the movie are the monstrous feminist theory and the liberal feminist theory. The movie has close relation with the struggle of women in getting the equality. The new researchers can use *Mama* movie as the material object. The deconstruction theory can be applied because this research applied the binary opposition theory.

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APPENDIXES

CURRICULUM VITAE

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B.   Formal Education

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2006-2009	: SMPN 4 Bandar
2009-2012	: SMAN 1 Wonotunggal
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