

**ISOLATION AS DEFENSE MECHANISM**

**IN *THE VILLAGE* MOVIE**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

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## ABSTRACT

As an artistic works, movie reflects to the culture of the movie maker and the audience as society. *The Village* movie written and directed by Night Shyamalan and released in July 2004 tells about a group of people who voluntarily start new life in the village of Covington wood as isolated society. Using the farce myth as the frightening creatures live in the woods, the elders mae the village people affraid in order that they do not pass and go away to another place or another town. It has been made the elder people as their oath as all never to go back to the town. This isolation portrayal is induced by at least two causal factors. First, Psychological trauma in the past time by the elder people. Second, fear of crime in the town by the elder people. On the other side, the isolation portrayal is divided into two isolation form. First is through creating own group. Second is through ruling own group. The objective of this research is to know why the village people isolated themselves and how the isolation as defense mechanism is portrayed based on *The Village* movie. The researcher uses cinematography to analyze the scene picture in the movie and psychoanalytic theory concerning on defense Mechanism to analyze the data. As a method, this research applies qualitative method by conducting documentary to collect the data. After conducting the analysis, The researcher finds isolation portrayal as defense mechanism which is induced by few causal factors. This supports Sigmund Freud's statement that the isolation is a form of defense mechanism related to reppression as way to reduce feelings of depression, stress, and conflict.

Keywords: isolation, defense mechanism, psychoanalytic theory

## ABSTRAK

Sebagai karya seni, film merefleksikan budaya dari pencipta dan penonton sebagai masyarakat. Terutama film *The Village* yang ditulis dan disutradarai oleh Night Shyamalan dan dirilis pada bulan Juli tahun 2004. Film ini menceritakan tentang sekelompok orang yang sukarela memulai hidup baru di sebuah desa di dalam hutan Covington sebagai masyarakat yang terisolasi. Menggunakan mitos palsu mengenai makhluk-mahluk yang tinggal di hutan, para tetua menakuti penduduk desa sehingga mereka tidak melewati dan pergi ke kota. Ini telah dibuat oleh para tetua sebagai sumpah mereka semua untuk tidak pergi atau ke kota. Potret isolasi ini disebabkan oleh beberapa faktor penyebab. Pertama, trauma psikologi di masa lalu para tetua. Kedua, ketakutan akan tindakan kriminal di kota. Di sisi lain, potret isolasi dibagi menjadi dua. Pertama, dengan menciptakan kelompok sendiri. Kedua, mengatur kelompok mereka sendiri. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui mengapa penduduk desa mengisolasi diri dan bagaimana isolasi tergambar. Peneliti menggunakan sinematografi untuk menganalisa gambar adegan dan teori psikoanalisa mengenai mekanisme pertahanan untuk menganalisa isi film tersebut. Metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dengan metode dokumentasi perolehan data. Dalam penelitian ini,, peneliti menemukan potret isolasi sebagai mekanisme pertahanan yang terjadi karena beberapa faktor penyebab. Ini mendukung pernyataan Sigmund Freud bahwa isolasi adalah bentuk represi dari mekanisme pertahanan sebagai cara untuk mengurangi perasaan-perasaan kehilangan, stres, dan konflik.

Kata kunci: isolasi, mekanisme pertahanan, teori psikoanalisa

## **DEDICATION**

**This work dedicate to;**

**English Department of State Islamic University**

**Sunan Kalijaga**

**My Beloved Parents and Family**

**My beloved friends**

**All of the readers**

## MOTTO

*Nothing is impossible;*

*Everything is possible.*





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The writter believes there is no work without errors. Therefore, the writter hopes all the constructure correction to make this graduating paper get improved.  
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

Human life and literature cannot be separated. According to Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary, literature is a written artistic works, especially those with the high and lasting artistic values while the products of literature are called literary works. A part of literary works is film or movie.

Literally, film is the cinematography which is derived from the word cinema (motion), photo or Phytos (light), and Graphie or graph (text, picture, image). Thus, the sense of film is motion with light painting. In order to paint a motion with light, people must use a special tool which is called camera ([www.kajianpustaka.com](http://www.kajianpustaka.com) accessed on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2015). Movie is not only reflect to the culture of the movie maker, but also reflect to the audience as society. It means that movie gives a critical thought concern the social problem such as giving idea, worldview, and social belief.

One of the interesting movies is the American psychological thriller film entitled *The Village* which directed by M. Night Shyamalan. The author chooses this interested movie to analyze further because *The Village* movie has critical thought of social value in terms of literature. Here the issues raise theme of the movie make the author believes find a new knowledge. It contributes intellectual view on contemporary issues from the literature perspective.

The Village movie is about a group of people who lived in the covington woods. People voluntarily start new lives and families together as an isolated community which is formed by a few causal factors. There are rules of the village life such as how can it formed and forbidden thing that people have to obeyed. Governed by the founding elders, who warn of the depravity of the towns, no one is to brave the beasts and leave the village. In addition the crimes inflicted the elders, society is constructed as an incurable threat, justifying the elders' motives for controlling the knowledge and fear of the village. Later an accident happens which is allow a blind woman, Ivey go to the town for something important. On the other side the isolation life in the village to be continued.

From the contain of the village movie above, the writer finds that isolation as defense mechanism become a problem which is induced by few causal factors such as past trauma and fear of crime from the elder people character's. Representation of isolation on this movie is making a social group and building an isolated society

Isolation as defense mechanism related to the village movie is a principle of constant form such as Sigmund Freud's statement that the psychic life tends to maintain the quantity of psychic tension at the lowest possible level at least at a stable level. Stability is generated by the release of psychic energy that already exists on the subject. Then the subject avoids the increasing of the tension by defense mechanism. (2006: 13) Absolutly the defense mechanism represented on the village movie is isolation.

“Violence disproportionately haunts for city residents which makes them getting experience of crime and violence such as rape, robbery, assault and theft which are more cruel than rural or suburban” (Deddy Kurniawan: 2008: 197).

A crime accident in past time became a trauma and a fear in the other side for elders character. It influenced their eagerness to start a new life with builded their own communities and isolated themselves. The isolation is chosen to avoid the fact that lifestyle of city residents considered brutal and dangerous for their survival.

Moreover, isolation as reflection of defense mechanism is interesting to be analyzed focused on the causal factors and isolation forms as defense mechanism. It attempts to explore why people turn society become isolated community by doing defense mechanism and how they do it. The writer uses psychoanalytic theory from Sigmund Freud and theory of the film called cinematography to analyse the village movie. Also uses the qualitative research both of the method and the data collection.

Related to the explanation above, the research has a relation with the Quran verse on Surah Al-Baqoroh: 155

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصِمْ نَالَكُمْ وَالْوَالِئَاتِ فَسِوَاكُم مَّا تَدْعُونَ  
صَّابِرِينَ

The meaning of the verse:



And most certainly shall We try you by means of danger, and hunger, and loss of worldly goods, of lives and of [labour's] fruits. But give glad tidings unto those who are patient in adversity (Quran, Mujama' Khadimal Haramain asy Syarifain al-Malik Fadhn li Thiba'ah al Mushaf asy-Syarif: 1971).

People should have their own decision and try the best to solve the problem. Every accident in past time could not come back anymore. The logical thing is everyone has to face everything in the real life and uses a past time as a best learning. Thus, the most important thing that your accurately life is today.

## **1.2 Research Question**

The researcher formulates the research question as follow:

1. What are causal factors of isolation as defense mechanism related to the village movie?
2. How is isolation portrayed as defense mechanism based on the village movie?

## **1.3 Objectives of Study**

Based on the research questions above. This paper has two objectives of study. First, to identify the causal factors of isolation related to the village movie. Second, to analyze the isolation portrayal as defense mechanism based on *The Village* movie.

#### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The significance of the study is divided into two significances. Theoretically this research is used as contribution concerning literary field, particularly as a reference and additional input in psychoanalytic discussion concern on a movie. It can be used as an appropriate reference in conducting the further research with similar topic by using psychoanalytic theory especially the theory of defense mechanism.

Practically, this research can be used to understand the content of work of isolation as defense mechanism as represented on the vilage movie. It also can be used to teach about psychoanalysis theory concerning the isolation forms and causal factors related to defense mechanism.

#### **1.5 Literary Review**

Studying some previous research is necessary for the writer. It can become a comparison research and complemented on literary field. Thus, the writer does a research easily. There are no other reseracher discussing about the village film. The writer has found some researchers relating to this research on similar theory concerning about Sigmund Freud's psychoanalitic theory.

The first is the research which was written by Wahyu Ismoyo. In his research entitled "Anxiety and Defense Mechanism of Bethany Hamilton in Pursuing Her Dream as Portrayed in Soul Surfer Movie" (Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2009). He applies psychoanalitic theory based on true story movie. It tells about a young girl, her name is Bethani Hamilton who

can be a professional surfer with only one arm. His paper reflects human's anxiety and combines with a good defense mechanism. Bethani's character is related to the Sigmund Freud's theory which focuses on psychoanalytic theory. This research aimed to find out the types of Bethani Hamilton's anxiety in soul surfer. Thus, it will be identified through the causes which is leading her anxiety and the form of defense mechanism concerning her anxiety on pursuing her dream.

Second research is written by Khairul Fuad from Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2009. This research entitled "Jilly's Defense Mechanism As Seen In Plyllis A. Whitney's, *The Singing Stones*. It is related to a novel which tells about Asche Family. In Asche family, there is a child named Jilly who afraid of strage person. She feels anxious after the tragedy which happens when she and her father, Stephen look around in his contruction. Since she feels anxious, a theory of anxiety which is introduced by Sigmund Freud. By using Freud's theory, it analyzes what Jilly's anxiety type Jilli's defense mechanism that are used to overcome the anxiety.

Third prior research is written by Nida Nurul Huda from Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, 2009. This reserach entitled *Anxiety On The Main Character Rebecca Bloomwood In The Film P.J. Hogan's Confessions Of A Shopaholic*. This is related to the film of *Confessions of a Shopaholic* which tells about American Woman who has a shopping addiction and she get anxiety in her life. The anxiety she undergoes is really crucial since it affects the main character of this movie. The aim of this final project entitled

Anxiety on the Main Character Rebecca Bloomwood in the film P.J. Hogan's Confessions of a Shopaholic is to show the psychological aspect of the main character. The writer applies psychoanalytic theory concerning about anxiety which proposed by Sigmund Freud.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

This research examines the theory of the film as cinematography and psychoanalytic theory concerning defense mechanism. It uses film theory to analyze a scene picture and psychoanalytic theory to conduct a movie contain. Through its theory, the researcher identifies why isolation created and analyzes how the isolation portrayed.

### **1.6.1 Psychoanalytic Theory**

Concerning Psychoanalytic theory, Sigmund Freud identify the personal mentality of human into three parts. First is id which is the core of personality. Everything starts from id because id is a part of the personality that contains all the original encouragement which is not studied in psychoanalysis or called instinct. Id contains everything psychologically inherited and has been there since birth. Second is ego which means I or self. Where he grew from infancy as a tool of communication to outside world. The individual ego can distinguish between itself and environment, forming a core that integrates personality. According to Freud, the ego differentiated for id from birth to distinguish itself to the outside world. Superego is a moral or ethical part of the personality. Third is superego

which contains the internal embodiment of the values or ideals of traditional communities, as explained parents to children and they do it by giving reward or punishment. The superego is controlled by the principles of moralistic and idealistic as opposed to the pleasure principle of the id and reality principle of ego. (Yustinus, 2006, 61-66)

Besides Id, Ego, and Superego, according to Freud there is another mechanism that affects human behavior. It is a defense mechanism. “This is the most individual way to reduce feelings of depression, anxiety, stress, and conflict. Basically, the defense mechanism does not change the objective conditions of danger but only changed the way of people to perceive or think about this issue” (Daniel and Lawrence, 2011, 86-87).

Related to The Village Movie the form of defense mechanism is isolation. Isolation is a defense mechanism in psychoanalytic theory first proposed by Sigmund Freud. Freud states” While related to repression, the concept distinguishes itself in several ways that are characterized as a mental process involving the creation of a gap between an unpleasant or threatening cognition, and other thoughts and feelings” (Baumeister, Roy F., Karen Dare, Kristin L: 1998: 66).

Through the international journal that according to Freud,” personal mentality of human is rooted by psychosexual stages through the meaning of the dream” ( Salkind, 2004 ). Sigmund Freud states that” Through the dream we understand symbolism. Standing on primitive , there are many sexual symbol as a symbol of a man and woman” (Erich, Julia, 2006: 182).

### 1.6.2 Cinematography

In nineteenth century film has been dynamic medium, put to uses other than those of the commercial narrative form (Villarejo, 2007: 23). There are three important aspects in cinematography. The aspects are framing, editing, and sound. Framing is that when the camera is placed to include some elements and to exclude others (Villarejo, 2007:36).

Such as Villarejo statement in her book *Film studies the basics* that there is a framing of the movie or film. Framing, of course, depends on other cinematographic choices. Every placement of the camera can be analyzed in terms of the distance between the camera and its object(s). Film analysis has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing distance, that using the human body as the reference point for each designation. Those are including in framing: First, the extreme long shot (ELS), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure. Second, the long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable but remain dwarfed by the background. Third, the medium long shot (MLS), or plan americain, in which the human is framed from the knees up. Fourth, the medium shot (MS), in which we move in slightly to frame the human from the waist up. Fiveth, the medium close-up (MCU), in which we are slightly closer and see the human from the chest up. Sixth, the close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human (the face, most prominently). Sevent, the extreme close-up (ECU), in which we see a mere portion of the face (an eye, the lips) (2007: 38).

## **1.7. Method of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

In general perspective the research has two type such as quantitative and qualitative research. Quantitative research is the theory to prove something to be verifiable. Truth or validity of a theory will be tested through research on a group or a particular region. (Martono, 2010: 22) Based on the explanation above the writer uses qualitative research as method of research. This paper explores social problem related to isolation which concerns defense mechanism.

Qualitative research is a form of social inquiry that focuses on the way people interpret and make sense of their experiences and the world in which they live. A number of different approaches exist within the wider framework of this type of research but most of these have the same aim: to understand the social reality of individuals, groups, and cultures. Researcher uses qualitative approaches to explore the behaviour, perspective, and experiences of the people they study. (Holloway, 1997:2)

### **1.7.2 Data Source**

There are two data sources: the main data and the secondary data. “The main data is data that collected for the specific research problem at hand while the secondary data is originally data collected for a different purpose and reused this movie” (as cited in Hox, 2005: 593). In this research the main data is the movie entitled *the village* movie and the second data is the script of the movie. On the other side, the researcher tries to improve and expand data through the supporting

data source which is obtained from some books, website and other matters which are relevant to support this research.

### **1.7.3 Method of Collecting Data**

The Method of collecting data according to Prof. Dr. Burhan Bungin, S.Sos, M.Si. is divided into three. They are interview, observation and documentary. (2010: 108)

The object of the research is a movie. Thus, the researcher uses documentary as method of collecting data because movie is a part of documentary form. Then, the researcher finds the main problem from the movie which is related to isolation as defense mechanism.

There are some steps of documentary method on this research. First step is watching *The Village* movie repeatedly. Second step is reading the script of the movie. Third step is making a point of view related to *The Village* movie and creating the analysis essay on it. Fourth step consists of taking notes as necessary parts in both main and supporting data. Fifth step consists of classifying and determining relevant data into some categories. The last step consists of taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and analyzing it.

This paper is approached by library research, and website surfing. The library research is approached by observation some books which have relation to the research topic. While website surfing is approached by browsing some websites which support the writer's analysis.



#### **1.7.4 Data Analysis**

The method of analyzing data on this research is descriptive analysis. The writer concerns to understand the story on the movie and content analysis to gain the data. Then, the writer uses the data to analyze the causal factors of isolation and the isolation portrayed through psychoanalytic theory as defense mechanism which is proposed by Sigmund Freud.

#### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains an introduction. The introduction includes the background of study, research question, objectives of study, significance of the study, prior research, theoretical approach, method of research, data source, method of collecting data, data analysis, and paper organization. The second chapter consists of the intrinsic elements of the movie. It deals with the intrinsic element of the movie such as theme, character and characterization, setting of the movie, plot and summary of the movie. The third chapter consists of a discussion with two parts. The first part of discussion concerns about the causal factors and the second part of discussion is about the isolation portrayed as defense mechanism by using psychoanalytic as the Sigmund Freud's theory and cinematography as the film theory to support the analysis. The last chapter is conclusion that concludes the results of entire discussion.

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

#### 4.1. Conclusion

As already stated in previous chapters, the village movie absolutely focuses on the isolation as defense mechanism. This movie emerges as a victim of its own ambition from an Elders. It presents a compelling premise about a people's inability to protect themselves from loss, pain, and crime.

In this point, the researcher explains about the isolation portrayal as defense mechanism and it is identified through few causal factors. Based on the first research question, they are psychological trauma and fear of crime by the elder people. Representation of psychological trauma is shown by a traumatic accident in past time from the elders. On the other side, an accident crime happened in past time changed into a fear of crime for the elder people. Based on the movie, both psychological trauma and fear of crime are central causes because they are the elders' crucial reasons for making an isolation society as a defense mechanism. Moreover, causal factors influence everything of the elder's thought for creating it. It consists of such as crime experience, a cruel accident, and losing a beloved person that induced the elder's fear of crime. Few factors above often compound each other as major illness and hurts that emotionally lead their ambition to control the village's existence into an isolation form as a defense mechanism. As if the village society will be created as they see it should be. Through creating and ruling their own group, the elders realize an isolated society.

In the relation of the research question number two, the researcher has finds two kind of isolation form. First, the isolation is formed by creating own group on perspective. The elders's ambition is creating the isolated society as they want in Covington. Through the myth, the elders create it as the creatures that live in the forest and make the village people affraid. The fear of the people for the unknown creatures which is made by the elder people, thus imposible for the village people to go away or to find another town. They keep stay in Covington and isolated themselves from the outside. On the other side, Mr. Walker keep a secret of the farce myth and asks Ivey to tell no one. Many people in the village do not understand what happen in the Covington woods. It is a secret and continued as a secret for a long time. Second, the isolation is formed by ruling own group. It means the society should created as they see it should be. There is a truce between Covington people to the creatures that live in the wood. Hence, no one will go into the woods thus the creatures will not come to the village. As if there is an agreement between the creatures and the people even lying. Through the creatures myth which is live in the woods, Mr. Walker strictly forbids to the children or the people go outside from Covington in order to the creatures will not come. Also there is an oath among the elders that they promise to do not come anymore to the town. Rules on behalf the elder people become a most important factors of ruling own group as an isolated society especially for the elders and the village people in a same time.

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## APPENDIX

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- 2013-2016 : English Teacher and Trainer (Bintang Privat)
- 2012-20-- : Realism Artist/ Realism Painter
- 2012-2016 : Member of PMII Organization (Intelectua Coordinator)
- 2012-2016 : Member of Ikatan Mahasiswa Semarang (IKANMAS) and member of Ikatan Mahasiswa dan Pelajar (IKPM) Jawa Tengah
- 2016-2017 : Dema of Letter and Cultural Faculty UIN Sunan Kalijaga
- 2015-2016 : Member of Wednesday Forum UGM
- 2012-20-- : Member of Mocopat Syafaat Maiyah Yogyakarta