

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, the problem of the study, and the objective of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, movie has become one of the most popular media in literature. Watching movie gives a different feeling than reading a book or a novel because it is more efficient and enjoyable. People can enjoy movie without reading, they just sit and enjoy the audio visualization given. Watching movie also takes shorter time than reading novel. The popularity of movie has made a new definition of literary works. Many novels and books have been filmed to give a new way in enjoying literary works. Although some groups of people are still reading novel, they prefer to watch movie as the choice of enjoying literary works. Movie also shows the description of the change of desire happened in the character, because it gives clear portrayal of body language happened in each character. A play of plot, theme, and setting give more explanation that desire is shown clearly by the main character of movie.

Libido plays an integral part because libido is under the shelter of sexual desire. Libido is one of the important needs to fulfill. Human needs to be loved and be married. It is better for people to maintain libido as their sexual needs in

the right way. Furthermore, libido has a massive role in life. There will be some problems if people use their libido wrongly. The writer is interested in conducting this study and uses some theories related to this study. The writer uses the theory of self-actualization and also uses other theories to support his study; those are the terms of needs by Abraham Maslow *Personality Theories* (2006, p. 277), and a concept of "Libido" in general. The writer also adds the movie theory as the object of this research.

Furthermore, human has some needs of life which are involved in life changing. Abraham Harold Maslow as cited in *Personality Theories* (2006, p. 277) argues that five level of human needs are; physiological needs, safety needs, belonging needs, esteem needs and self-actualization. Physiological needs consists of needs of oxygen, water, salt, sugar, and calcium and also some minerals and vitamins. Moreover, the needs of movement, relaxation, sleep, and having sex is also included in physiological needs (*Personality Theories*, 2006, p. 279).

Beside the physiological needs, other level of human needs which have to be considered is safety needs. It is occurred when human needs to be saved, consisted, and guarded. For example, human chooses to live in healthy conditions that have good neighbors, far from criminal and safe living.

Another level of human needs to discuss is belonging needs. It is commonly occurred when human needs someone to complete each other. For example, when human needs a friend to have fun, a girlfriend or boyfriend to share and kids to complete their family. After the explanation of some levels of

human needs stated, the writer tries to explain more about the other level which is almost different with the others, that is self-actualization. Self-actualization is “a growing motivation (as the opponent from deficit motivation), the needs of *B-needs* (as the opponent of *D-needs*). *B-needs* is also as the opponent from *D-needs*. *B-needs* is the needs for self actualization” (*Personality Theories*, 2006, p. 280). He also states that the needs of self actualization do not need a balancing.

Once you can grab it you can feel it continually.

Dealing with all explanations above, the writer chooses libidinal investment as the basic point of this research. As we know the word “libidinal” coming from libido. Libido is also included in physiological needs under the shelter of sex. Sigmund Freud as the father of psychology defined libido as the instinct energy or force, contained in what Freud called the id, the largely unconscious structure of the psyche (www.wikipedia.com,2010, para. 1). So, if we look from the word generally, libido means sexual desire. Related to “Libidinal investment”, there are some points that might be noted on the process of “Libidinal Investment”. The process includes seeing, the common experience, instinct, and imagination. Related to the matter above, the writer tries to categorize libido as the physiological needs which is the part of Hierarchy of Needs, so that it gains the self-actualization. Therefore, analyzing libido as the basic point is interesting to know what the reason of human being to do that kind of desire.

The writer chooses the movie entitled *The Reader* which is adopted from Germany novel by Bernhard Schlink in 1995. This movie is written by David

Hare and directed by Stephen Daldry, and published in December 10, 2008. The Reader was nominated and won several awards. According to www.IMDb.com, this movie has won 2 Oscars, 13 awards, and nominated for another 16 awards (2010, para.1). It was nominated for the best motion picture of the year in Academy Awards 2009, nominated for the best song written for motion picture TV or other visual media in Grammy Awards 2008, nominated for Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography in Theatrical Releases at American Society of Cinematographers, USA, and it won for the best leading actress in BAFTA awards, and other awards.

This movie tells about a teenager, Michael Berg, with all his confusion to hide a secret which can help his girlfriend namely Hanna to escape from her death penalty. The meeting between Michael Berg (David Kross) and Hanna (Kate Winslet) is never planned. They both met while Hanna is helping Michael, who fell ill when he got home from school.

After Michael's healthy enough to return home, he later came back to say thank you. Starting from this meeting, Michael and Hanna began a more distant relationship despite the age of Hanna is actually much older than Michael. At that time Hanna was in his thirties while Michael was only fifteen years old. He often read stories for Hanna and he also first knew about the first time sex, but this relationship did not go long because Hanna suddenly disappears without telling him.

Eight years had been passed and Michael married when he took the law school. One time, Michael who was studying the criminal justice case of war

(Nazi) met Hanna again. It was surprising that Hanna is on trial for the massacre of three hundred people in a concentration camp on place she worked. Though she was been threatened with severe punishment, but Hanna refused to defend herself and Michael finally realized that the woman who first introduced him about love hides a big secret that can not be expressed, although the secret could free her from the threat of punishment.

Hanna received a life sentence for her admitting of leadership role in the church deaths while the other defendants are sentenced to four years and three months each. Michael meanwhile has already divorced and has a daughter. Retrieving his books from the time of the affair with Hanna, he begins to read them into a tape recorder. He sends the cassette tapes and a recorder to Hanna. Eventually, she begins to check the books out from the prison library and teaches herself to read and write by following Michael's tapes. She starts writing back to Michael in brief, child-like notes.

Michael does not write back or visit, but keeps sending tapes, and in 1988 a prison official (Linda Bassett) calls him to ask for his help with Hanna's transition into society after her upcoming release. He finds a place for her to live and a job and finally visits Hanna a week before her release. In their meeting, Michael remains somewhat distant and confronts her about what she has learned from her past. Michael arrives at the prison on the date of Hanna's release with flowers. He discovers that Hanna hanged herself and left a tea tin with cash in it with a note asking Michael to give the cash and some money in a bank account to Ilana.

After that, Michael travels to New York to meet Ilana (Lena Olin), who is a survivor of Nazi's concentration camp. He confesses his relationship with Hanna and tells her about Hanna's suicide note and illiteracy. Ilana tells Michael there is nothing to be learned from the camps. Michael suggests that she donate the money to an organization that combats adult illiteracy, preferably a Jewish one, and she agrees, though she wryly notes "illiteracy isn't much of a Jewish problem." Ilana keeps the tea tin since it is similar to one stolen from her in Auschwitz, and in the end of the story Michael gets back together with his daughter Julia at Hanna's grave and begins to tell her his story.

The study on Michael Berg character will become interesting and worth conducting. The effort of Michael Berg has several behavioral changes which are interesting to be analyzed. His effort is so unique. He has different way to finish his problem. Michael is in love with a woman 20 years older than him, and they have an affair. He is wrong, when he gets into the affair, but on the other side, he helps an illiterate old woman in order to read and write. With all his ability he helps her by sending some books and some taped voice record. Michael efforts, however, does not represent his real "normal" life, which revolves around his daughter. He wants to prove that he has certain reasons to meet, know and have affair with Hanna. He does what he wants to find out for his actualization in life.

At least, he can make her reading and writing by herself. Analyzing the effort of character will become very interesting because this study will indirectly study human psychology, behavior and thought.

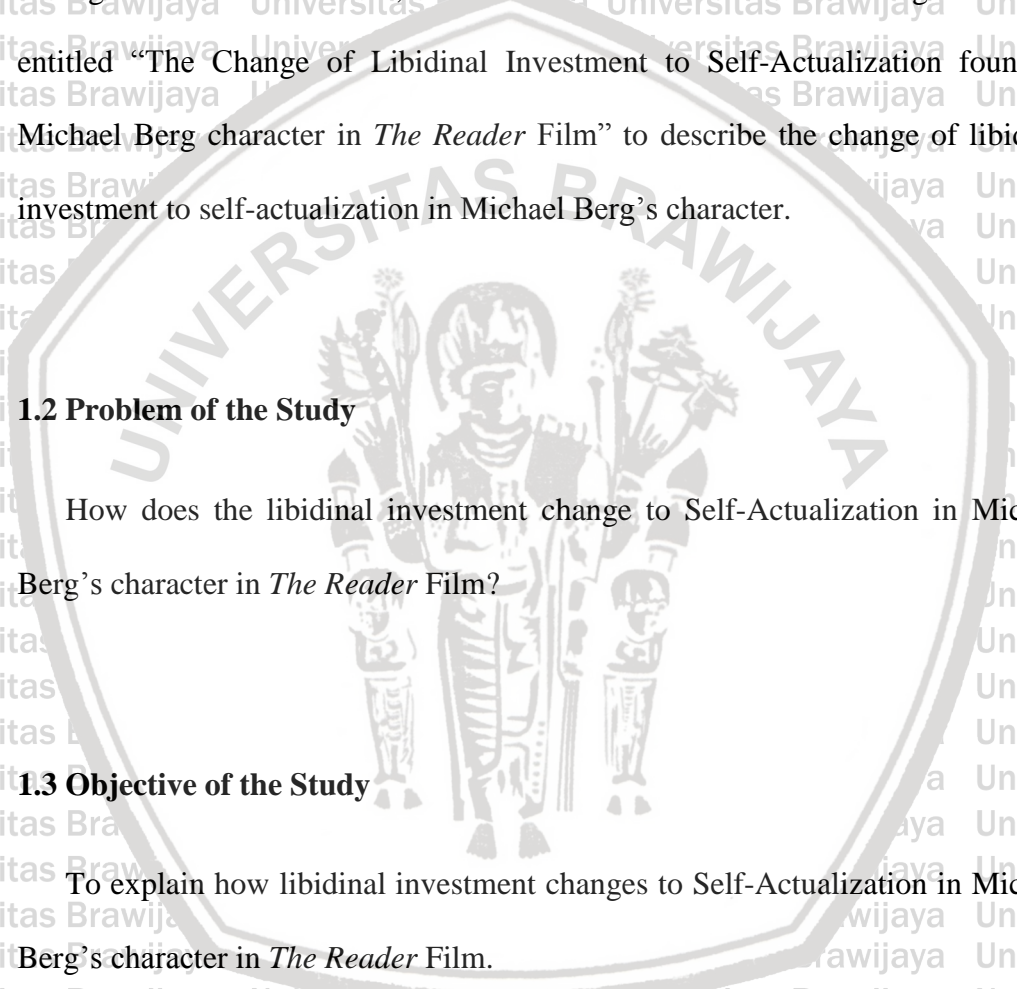
The psychoanalysis theory by Abraham Harold Maslow is an appropriate theory to analyze Michael Berg's effort. By using Maslow's conception of Needs as explained before, this study on Michael Berg is expected to give the explanation about psychological phenomena which is changing his needs and raising his effort. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting this study entitled "The Change of Libidinal Investment to Self-Actualization found in Michael Berg character in *The Reader* Film" to describe the change of libidinal investment to self-actualization in Michael Berg's character.

1.2 Problem of the Study

How does the libidinal investment change to Self-Actualization in Michael Berg's character in *The Reader* Film?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To explain how libidinal investment changes to Self-Actualization in Michael Berg's character in *The Reader* Film.



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