

**MYTH OF FAMILY IN “THE GREATEST SHOWMAN”
MOVIE**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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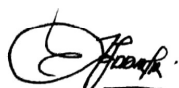
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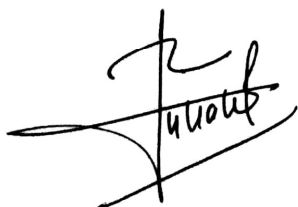


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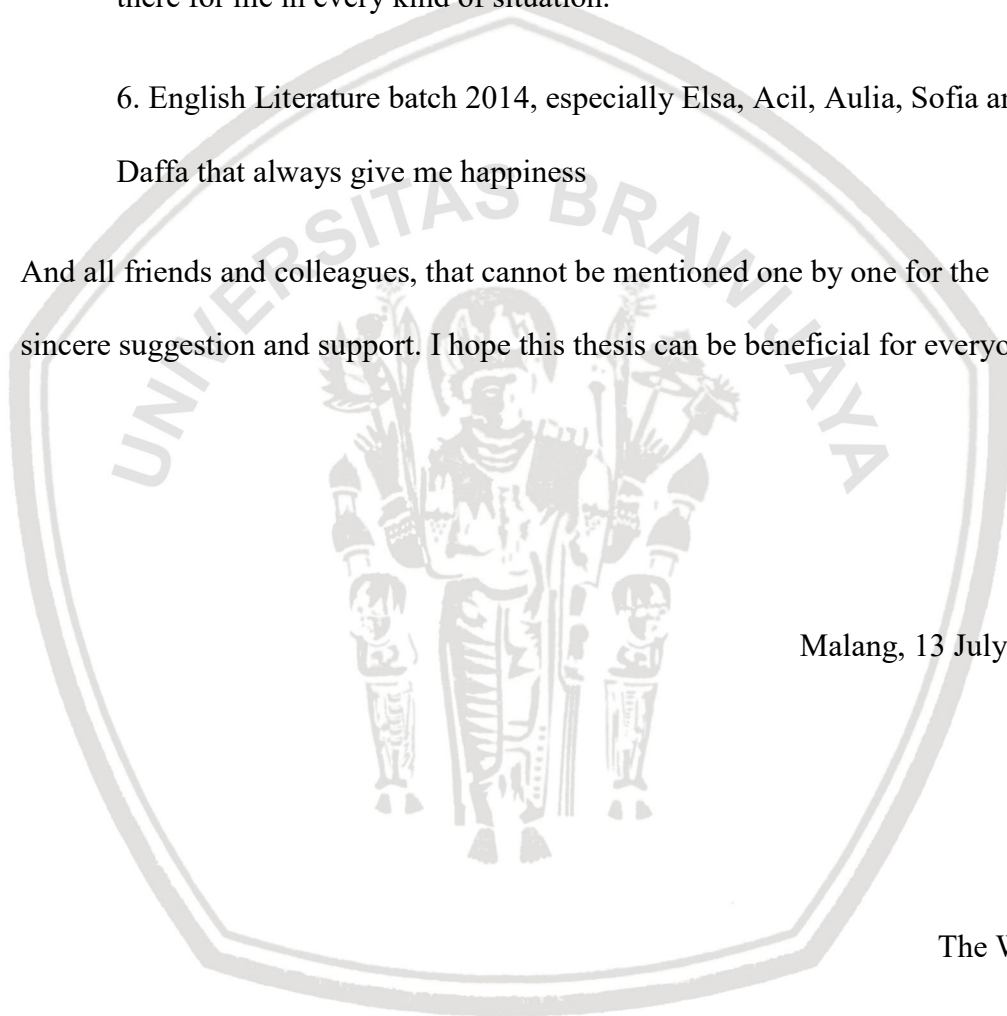
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ABSTRACT

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Keywords: Roland Barthes, Family, American Family, Myth

This study is about the myth of family implied in the movie *The Greatest Showman* by using Roland Barthes' concept about myth as a system of communication from his book titled *Mythology* (1957). The objective of this study is to analyze how family is talked in the narration of *The Greatest Showman* movie.

This research uses a qualitative method. The writer collected the data by selecting the scenes and dialogues that consist of word 'family' and analyzed them using Roland Barthes' concept about myth as a system of communication to see how the characters talked about family in the movie.

The result of this study confirmed that a myth of family implied in the movie is that a family is a demanding and binding thing for every member in this movie. But it is not necessarily a bad thing because demands are a form of commitment and consequences of a relationship. Therefore, although in the movie the circus crew has no blood ties, yet they still regard the circus as their own family. Because in the circus they feel needed and they need each other.

ABSTRAK

Buiswarin, Hans Revlino Wijaya. 2018. **Mitos Keluarga dalam Film “The Greatest Showman”**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya, Pembimbing: Henny Indarwaty, M.A

Kata Kunci: Roland Barthes, Keluarga, Keluarga Amerika, Mitos

Studi ini adalah tentang mitos keluarga yang tersirat dalam film The Greatest Showman dengan menggunakan konsep Roland Barthes tentang mitos sebagai sistem komunikasi dari bukunya yang berjudul Mythology (1957). Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis bagaimana keluarga dibicarakan dalam narasi film The Greatest Showman.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penulis mengumpulkan data dengan memilih adegan dan dialog yang terdiri dari kata 'keluarga' dan menganalisisnya menggunakan konsep Roland Barthes tentang mitos sebagai sistem komunikasi untuk melihat bagaimana karakter berbicara tentang keluarga dalam film.

Hasil penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa mitos tentang keluarga yang tersirat dalam film adalah bahwa keluarga adalah hal yang menuntut dan mengikat bagi setiap anggota dalam film ini. Tetapi itu tidak selalu merupakan hal yang buruk karena tuntutan adalah bentuk komitmen dan konsekuensi dari suatu hubungan. Oleh karena itu, meskipun di film awak sirkus tidak memiliki ikatan darah, namun mereka masih menganggap sirkus sebagai keluarga mereka sendiri. Karena di sirkus mereka merasa dibutuhkan dan mereka saling membutuhkan.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates background of the study which explains further why the object of study is chosen as it also reflects to the problem of the study. Furthermore, to answer the problem of study there are also indicates the objects of study

1.1 Background of Study

Family is part of society and it is the smallest form of it. Family in general consists of father, mother, child who have blood ties between them. But in reality, there are many types of families that exist. Like a family consisting of only father and child or just mother and child. There are also families consisting of mothers and fathers without children so they sometimes adopt children from orphanages or from their own relatives, so between parents and children have no blood ties. According to Oxford dictionary (2018, para. 1) “family is a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit.”

In addition to the family that formed by blood ties, they are also family that formed from bonds between each member. They gather together because they have something in common such as hobby or passion. Because they are so close to each member, they regard the community or group as a second family after their own biological family. Others feel there is a connection within the community or group that is tighter than their own family. It can be seen here that the definition of family itself extends, not just about father, mother and child or blood ties anymore but it is also about how close the bond between each

individual and how strong the ties in a group even though they are not related biologically. Each individual had their own opinions and definitions about what is family. The writer interviewed some respondents to ask them what families mean or what is the definition of family according to them. Cicilia Edmy said (personal communication, April 3, 2018) "Family is the people who are so close to you. It can be close because blood relation. It can also be close because they know who you really are. They do lot of things with you together, and may experience lot of sentimental things (feelings, special accident or occasion) with you" and Sofia said (Personal communication, April 3, 2018) "It does not have to be in a parent-children bond or as in blood-related only. Whoever that can accept you for whoever you are, choose to stay around you no matter what, and acknowledge you really well can be considered as family. It is not "I love them because they are my family" or "they are my family that is why I love them", but "I love them because of this, this, and this, and they feel like a family to me". Another view is from Rachel Eunike (personal communication, April 3, 2018) "Family is a place to return. As far as life goes, they still wait for us to go home "she said, also Hisyam Arif Adhitama (personal communication, April 3, 2018) said "I think family is everything. They know you, those who are there when you are in distress, those who know your ugliness and those who accept you. When on the outside, we are ravaged by world affairs, but at home there always will be families who give us shoulder to hug and gripe". From these definitions of family, we can say that family is defined by relationship and feeling by the members. No wonder there are so many kinds of literary works that use Family as their main object.

In literature field, there are a lot of literary works use “family” as its main theme. Such as poem, novel, drama, short-story, song, and film or movies. There are some movies that use family as their main theme, such as *Coco* (2017) and *Wonder* (2017). Both movies are mainly about family but have different focuses of problem. *Coco* is a story about a boy named Miguel who wants to be a musician but opposed by his family while *Wonder* is a movie about a boy named Auggie who has a disease called Mandibulofacial dysostosis. These two are really different, in *Coco* the family act as the problem itself, but in *Wonder* the family act as the supporting system. However, out of those two different focuses, there is another film that even though the main theme is not about family, it has a family aspect in it. Which is a 2017 movie *The Greatest Showman*.

The Greatest Showman is a musical drama film that is inspired by the story of Phineas Taylor Barnum the creator of Barnum & Bailey Circus. It takes place in 19th century in New York City, America. Phineas Taylor Barnum or P.T. Barnum in short is a son of a tailor that works for Hallett family. Barnum becomes friends with Charity Hallett the daughter of Hallett family and eventually they get married even though Charity’s parents do not like him, especially Charity’s father. They have 2 daughters and they live well. Until the shipping company where P.T. Barnum works goes bankrupt, he decides to loan some money from bank and buy a museum from it. Eventually he turns it into a circus and begins gathering people that have unique features on them for freak show. Long story short, his business becomes really successful but some people in that city where he put out a show want the freaks in the circus to go to their own place and do not want them to live

there. Barnum meets a playwright called Phillip Carlyle and asks him to join his venture. Phillip likes one of the P.T Barnum Circus's performer, an African-American trapeze artist named Anne Wheeler. He decides to ask her out but Phillip's parents find out about it and they do not like what they see because Phillip is from a noble family and Anne Wheeler is just a circus performer. Moreover, she is an African-American woman. The situation heats up where people who do not like the circus fight with the freaks from P.T Barnum Circus. Eventually, one of the people who do not like them put the circus on fire and P.T Barnum goes bankrupt because of it. The freaks tell Barnum that they want the Circus back, not because they get money from it but because they have found their real family in that circus. Just like one of the characters, a bearded lady called Lettie Lutz says :

“Our own mothers were ashamed of us. Hid us whole lives. Then you pull us out of the shadows. And now you are giving upon us too. Maybe you are fraud. Maybe it was just about making a buck. But you gave us a real family.” (The Greatest Showman, 2018):

Based on the synopsis of *The Greatest Showman* previously described, even though this musical movie is about entertainment, we can see some aspects of family of it. For examples the problem of P.T Barnum with his wife's family where Charity Hallett parents do not want him to become his son in law because he comes from a poor family, or Phillip Carlyle's family where his parents do not want him to join venture with Barnum and date an African-American woman. Last but not least is the freaks from the circus themselves. Some of their families reject them and Finally, they regard the circus troops as their family. Even though they do not have any blood ties, they become really close to each other. By this,

those family aspects in the movie are interesting to be discussed since it might reflect the American family concept in that era.

America in 19th century (the USA online, para. 14), economy was no longer the main problem of social life there. It can be seen from the society where there were many couple got married based on affection and love, no longer based on prosperity where rich people and poor people could hardly unite in marriage. Still, the economic consideration did not entirely disappear. Before 19th century, physical punishment for children often happened and it was common among the society at that time. By the end of 18th century and into 19th century, physical punishment did not disappear, but it began to decrease and was combined with encouragement and rewards. Nuclear family (father, mother, child that lived under one roof) became the biggest object for many kinds of literature works at that time, where almost all of them tells about ideal and loving family. However, there were still so many families in 19th century did not fit into ideal nuclear family. Because of the rent cost were so high at that time, more people lived under one roof so that there were more than one nuclear family inside the house. During the 19th century, there was a rise of labor unions and it began changing the nature of work and the shape of families in America. The unions demanded for higher wage for men and they argued that women and children should refrain from labor.

1.2 Problem of Study

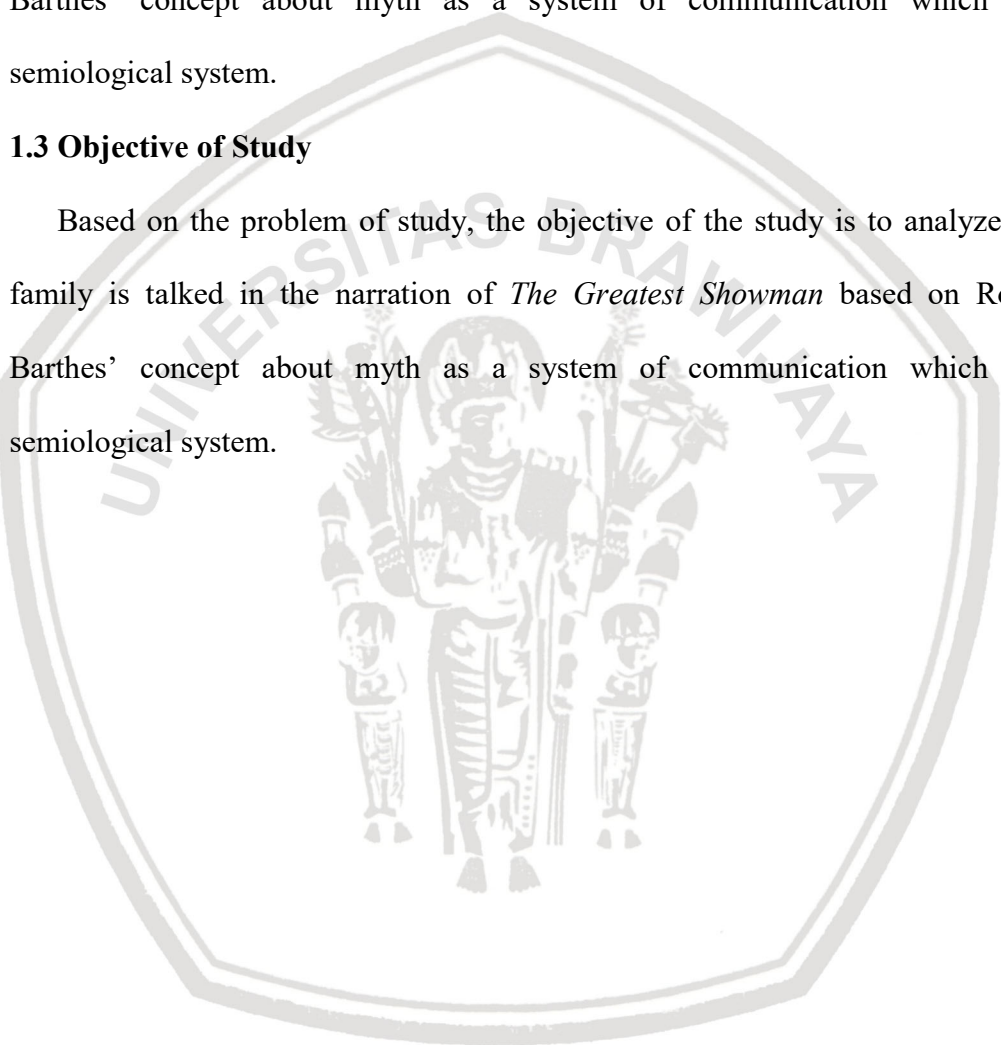
Even though The Greatest Showman did not use family as the main object or main theme of the movie, but there are several aspects of family and some dialogues that mention family in the movie. Myth is a system of communication,

it is a mode of signification form. Speech can be anything including dialogue. According to Roland Barthes, myth is a second semiological system.

Therefore, based on the background of the study, the problems of the study is how family is talked in the narration of *The Greatest Showman* based on Roland Barthes' concept about myth as a system of communication which is a semiological system.

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the problem of study, the objective of the study is to analyze how family is talked in the narration of *The Greatest Showman* based on Roland Barthes' concept about myth as a system of communication which is a semiological system.





CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the writer uses American Family and Roland Barthes' concept about myth as a communication system to support the research about *The Greatest Showman* and family in America 19th century. The writer connects those theories to answer the problem of the study.

2.2 Roland Barthes' Concept of Myth

Roland Barthes said in his book of mythology, myth is the most basic form, a special type of speech. A myth is not just a genre of stories. It is a way of saying something. According to Barthes, the special trick of myth is to present an ethos, ideology or set of values as if it were a natural condition of the world, when in fact it is no more than another limited, man-made perspective. A myth does not describe the natural state of the world, but expresses the intentions of its teller, be that a storyteller, priest, artist, journalist, filmmaker, designer or politician. This also means that the same myth can be expressed through many different mediums.

Even though there are many definitions about family, a family is a family. Just like in *The Greatest Showman* movie, there are kinds family which is family by blood and family by feelings. According to Roland Barthes (1957), myth is a system of communication. Myth itself not just about folklore and fairy tales, myth can be anything. There is no eternal myth and myth itself is a speech. Myth distorts Naturalization and it can transform history into nature. Myth is read as a

factual system while it is a semiological system. Roland Barthes said (1957, p.108),

“Mythical speech is made of a material which has already been worked on so as to make it suitable for communication: it is because all the materials of myth (whether pictorial or written) presuppose a signifying consciousness, that one can reason about them while discounting their substance.”

A myth can sit at the heart of a culture for very long periods of time, becoming a reference point for morality, philosophy, spirituality and art. The same myth can be told or evoked in many different ways, but almost always for the same reason, to promote the myth-maker’s own position.

In semiotics, connotation and denotation are terms describing relationship between signifier and signified. The sign is more open to interpretation in their connotation than denotation. Because denotation is only about what is the sign while connotation is about how the sign formed.



Figure 2.1 Roland Barthes’ semiological table

Roland Barthes uses two terms to describe the signification process. The signifier is the object that people can see, touch, taste and smell and the signified

is the concept of the signifier. According to him there are two order of signification. The first order is that of denotation, at this level there is a sign consist of signifier and signified. The connotation is a second order of signification which uses denotative sign (signifier and signified).

This theory will help the writer to analyze the myth of family from *The Greatest Showman* movie. The movie itself is not about family but the word 'family' is talked several times. Since family is the most basic form of society, this theory can help the writer to understands better about the myth of family or human community that connected to the society of America in the movie.

2.3 Movies Studies

Movie as one of the literary works has different theory from the other literary work such as novel or short story to be analyzed. It happens because movie contains many aspects than novel and short story. James Mooney (2013) states:

"Film studies urges us to move beyond such claims to ask how and why films make us feel the way that they do, and why we think some films are better than others. It requires that we move beyond the story and look rather at the form of the film- how it put together"

Dialogue that present by the characters is important to analyze the data.

The writer uses the dialogue that consist of word 'family' to analyze the movie.

2.4 Family

According to Narwoto and Suyanto (2004), "Family is the basic social institution from which all other institutions or social institutions develop. In any

society of the world, the family is a universal human need and the most important center of activity in the life of an individual” and Duvall and Logan (1986) also said, "The family is a group of people with marriage, birth and adoption ties aimed at creating, sustaining culture and improving the physical, mental, emotional and social development of each family member." Both of these definitions explain that family is people that have blood related or ties. However, many people now have so many different opinions about family.

Over the decades, social scientists have struggled in their efforts to define the multidimensional concept of family. Jan Trost research (1990) confirmed this overwhelming definitional dilemma experienced not only by family researchers but also the general population. Specifically, she illustrated the difficulty and diversity with which people identify those who could or should be labeled family members. For some in her sample, family consisted of only closest family members, the nuclear family, while for others family included various other kin, friends, and even pets. This study highlights the difficulty in defining the part of the family. However, the complexity of defining the family does not end with the determining of family membership. Family definitions are also linked to ideological differences. For example, John Scanzoni and colleagues (1989, p. 27) explained, "All other family forms or sequencing tend to be labeled as deviant (as in research on minorities) or as 'alternatives' (when occurring among whites)." Katherine Allen (2000, p. 7) also said, "Our assumptions, values, feelings, and histories shape the scholarship we propose, the findings we generate, and the conclusions we draw. Our insights about family processes and structures are

affected by our membership in particular families, by the lives of those we study, and by what we care about knowing and explaining." These inescapable ideological differences result in a definition of the family that is driven by theory, history, culture, and situation. A classic definition of family, according to anthropologist George Murdock (2008, p. 1):

"Family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation, and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved relationship, and one or more children, own or adopted, of the sexually cohabiting adults."

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has defined a family as (The U.S. Bureau, para. 1) "two or more persons related by birth, marriage, or adoption, who reside together". Thus, a family can be two or more adult siblings living together, a parent and child or children, two adults who are related by marriage but have no children, or adults who adopt a child. A family is a set of human being related to each other in a non- professional manner, giving rise to a concrete cohesion within the family. Love, care, and affection are the most prominent human values, which are responsible for maintaining these bonds of relationships within a family. (Agarwal, 2005), not only these but a family also gives strength to an individual and because of its strength an individual can overcome from different kinds of problems too. A family gives strength to an individual; it is not only the strongest point but also the weakest point of an individual. According to Sociologists (UK essays, para. 1):

"The family is an intimate domestic group of people related to one another by bonds of blood, sexual mating, or legal ties. It has been a very resilient social unit that has survived and adapted through time. So, the element of time referred to above is again present here. The

family is seen as the main pillar block of a community; family structure and upbringing influence the social character and personality of any given society. Family is where everybody learns to love, to care, to be compassionate, to be ethical, to be honest, to be fair, to have common sense, to use reasoning etc., values which are essential for living in a community.”

In the perspective of Law, Family is defined as (US Legal, para. 1):

“One or more persons occupying a single dwelling unit, provided that unless all members are related by blood or marriage, no such family shall contain over five persons, but further provided that domestic servants employed on the premises may be housed on the premises without being counted as a family or families.”

Generally, a family can mean the following a group of persons who are connected by blood or by affinity or through law within two or three generations, a group that consists of Parents and their children, or a group of persons living together and having a shared commitment to a domestic relationship.

In this study, the writer emphasizes on an analysis about how there are many kinds of family. Each individual has their own opinions about family and how they relate to their definitions about family. Therefore, this study will help me to understand what the definition of family according to *The Greatest Showman* movie.

2.4.1 American Family

America is the third country that has the most populous and densest population in the world. According to U.S. Census Bureau (The US Census Bureau, 2018), there are one birth every 8 seconds, one death every 11 seconds, one international migrant (net) every 29 seconds, and net gain of one person every 15 seconds. Based on this census, it can be seen that society in America are so big. They are made up of various of people that have different culture, race, religions.

Family structure in America is considered a family support system involving two married individuals providing care and stability for their child. The family structure in America keep changing because of many reasons over time. That is why family structure in America becomes more or less one of the most important things in American culture.

In every country, family have different culture and religion. Of course, families in America also have differences from families in other countries. Take example of Indonesia. In Indonesia (afsusa, para 2), the father is the breadwinner and the ultimate decision maker, and the mother is the “home manager” and general advisor of the family. The mother’s role is highly respected in a family. There is an Indonesian saying that speaks to the immense respect mothers are given: “Heaven lies under a mother’s feet.” In Indonesia, parents and elders are highly respected, and children are taught to listen and obey without question. Children are taught to kiss the back of the elder’s right hand as a sign of respect. There is a slight different with the family in America, according to The USA Online (The USA Online, para 33) Many women work and control their own wages. The amount of time that men contribute to house work has been increasing. What makes American family different from Indonesian are from their history.

In America there are system of values consists of three pairs of benefits—individual freedom, equality of opportunity and material wealth (or the American Dream)—and the price people paid to have these benefits—self-reliance, competition, and hard work. These three pairs of values have determined the

unique culture of the United States and its people. Another way of thinking about these basic values involves rights and responsibilities. Americans believe that people have the right to individual freedom, equality of opportunity, and the promise of material success, but these all require substantial responsibility: self-reliance, a willingness to compete, and hard work (Vintage American Ways, para. 7). These are the values that shape families in America.

In the movie *The Greatest Showman*, the background family is American family in 19th century. (the USA online, para. 14), economy was no longer the main problem of social life there. It can be seen from the society where there were many couple got married based on affection and love, no longer based on prosperity where rich people and poor people could hardly unite in marriage. Still, the economic consideration did not entirely disappear. Before 19th century, physical punishment for children often happened and it was common among the society at that time. By the end of 18th century and into 19th century, physical punishment did not disappear, but it began to decrease and was combined with encouragement and rewards. Nuclear family (father, mother, child that lived under one roof) became the biggest object for many kinds of literature works at that time, where almost all of them tells about ideal and loving family. However, there were still so many families in 19th century did not fit into ideal nuclear family. Because of the rent cost were so high at that time, more people lived under one roof so that there were more than one nuclear family inside the house. During the 19th century, there was a rise of labor unions and it began changing the nature of

work and the shape of families in America. The unions demanded for higher wage for men and they argued that women and children should refrain from labor.

In this study, I focus on the American family as the background family of the characters in The Greatest Showman movie. The characters of The Greatest Showman coming from different kinds of family and become one in the circus where they regard it as their family. This will help me to analyze how American family portrayed in the movie.

2.5 Previous Studies

Other studies related to the topic will be used in this study as a source. The first paper entitled "*Changing Families around the World: The American Family in a Global Context*" by Frank F. Furstenberg (2015) from University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. This paper shows some of the recent trends in family systems in nations with advanced economies. Through the globe these systems are experiencing common disruptions: lower marriage rates and growing levels of cohabitation, greater control of fertility and hence smaller families, higher levels of singlehood and childlessness, higher levels of divorce especially among the less advanced. The different with the thesis of writer is that this paper focus on the economy impact to the American family today. This paper will help the writer to understand how the condition of American family and how American family developed.

The second is an International Journal entitled "*The Construction of Family in Selected Disney Animated Films*" by Belinda Marie Balraj Kupusamy Gopal (2013) from University Pertahanan National, Malaysia. This Journal

explain about how family plays an important role in most Disney animated films, be it the nuclear family, extended family or step family. Though Disney has received numerous backlashes regarding stereotyping and racism, the family scope is always seen as something that needs to be valued and cherished. The construction of family in Disney films is the same in most films whereby the role of the mother is nonexistent and the main character is usually portrayed as not having any siblings. Keeping this in mind, this study looks at how family members are portrayed in the selected Disney animated films specifically *The Little Mermaid*, *The Princess and the Frog*, *Snow White and Beauty and the Beast*, *Mulan* and *Pocahontas*. The different with the writer thesis is this journal focus on the character and members of the family portrayed in the movie, while the writer thesis focuses on the word 'family' in the dialogue. This journal will help me to understand family portrayal in the movie.

2.6 Research Method

There are three steps in conducting this research to deepen writer understanding about the problem of study in this research, there are:

2.6.1 Collecting the Data

The Greatest Showman chosen as the object of study because this movie contains several family myths. Even though this movie is not mainly focused on family as its main object, but it shows the meaning of family. To collect the data, the writer selects the scenes and dialogues that consist of word family to elaborate how the character talked about family

2.6.2 Analyzing the Data

The writer analyses *The Greatest Showman* movie by using some theory which are Family, American Family, and Roland Barthes' concept of Myth. The collected data which is the dialogue in which the word 'family' mentioned is related to the context when it takes place in the scenes of the movie to help the writer analyzing what kind of family inside the movie. Then the writer analyzes the American family in 19th century which is the setting of the movie. From there, the writer can see the relations between the family in the movie and the family in 19th century. The theory of Roland Barthes 'notion Mythology is then used to scrutinize and analyze the data.

2.6.3 Drawing Conclusion

The last step of this research is summarizing the results of the analysis and drawing the conclusion in this study and make suggestion for next researchers.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Findings

The Greatest Showman shows some family condition. For examples, P.T. Barnum and his family that related by blood and the circus troops that regard the circus as their own family that related by feelings, but family is a family. Because of that, to find the meaning of family in this movie, the writer uses Roland Barthes's concept of myth as a system of communication and according to Roland Barthes (1957, p.108),

“Mythical speech is made of a material which has already been worked on so as to make it suitable for communication: it is because all the materials of myth (whether pictorial or written) presuppose a signifying consciousness, that one can reason about them while discounting their substance.”

And by collecting the data, it is found at least there are 4 mythical speech about family in this movie.

3.1.1 Child Should Be Proud of their Family

Phineas Taylor Barnum, the main character of the movie and the owner of the circus has 2 daughters. The Eldest is Caroline Barnum and the youngest is Helen Barnum. Caroline has a dream to become a ballerina since she was a little girl. Therefore, after P.T. Barnum become successful, he enrolled Caroline into Ballet lesson.

Caroline Barnum attends a ballet lesson in New York and she is doing a recital show. When the recital over, she comes to her friends and they say that

something smells like peanuts. They are referring to Caroline Barnum. Peanuts here means a person with low wage or no money at all. It shows that New York society had a big issue about gossiping other people life and they really love to talk about it especially about other people's background. It can be seen here that this is correspond with American value equality of opportunity. Even though at first Caroline family doesn't have anything. But thanks to P.T Barnum hard work, Caroline has the same opportunity with others to attends ballet lesson in New York.



Figure 3.1 Caroline friends call her peanuts

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 00:34:19)

This kind of pressure makes Caroline Barnum wants to quit ballet. Her father, P.T. Barnum tells her that she cannot quit Ballet because she is the best Ballerina dancer on that stage referring to the recital. Then Caroline says to her father "Ballet takes years of hard work. It's not like the circus. You can't just fake it." From what Caroline says to her father, it shows that she knows Barnum uses cheap tricks to make the Circus successful.



Figure 3.2 Caroline tell her father she wants to quit ballet

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 00:34:37)

Barnum himself known as fraud in his own business. Many people love his circus but some people also hate the fact that he comes from poor family and becomes successful. Then it leads to the dialogue below.

- Charity Barnum: New York society will never accept us. If they did, they'd have to stop judging... and actually do something with their lives.
 P. T Barnum: This isn't about me.
 Charity Barnum: Oh... So it's different than everything else then?
 P.T Barnum: I just want her to be proud of who she is, of her family.
 Charity Barnum: She is proud. (The Greatest Showman, 2017)



Figure 3.3 Barnum wanted her daughter to be proud of her family

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 00:35:29)

When Charity Barnum, P.T Barnum's wife says "New York society will never accept us. If they did, they'd have to stop judging... and actually do something with their lives." This dialogue shows that in this era, there are still strata between poor people and rich people. Even though Barnum and his family are already rich and have a successful life and live well, but the New York high class society still does not welcome them as a part of them. It is because they came from a poor and broke family.

Charity Barnum also implies in his dialogue that New York society where rich people gather, they tend to spread a gossip and they like to talk behind someone's back. That is why Charity Barnum says that they need to do something with their lives instead of talking about someone or in this case Barnum's family. This also effect to Barnum's daughters, especially Caroline. When Barnum says "This isn't about me." It means he does not really care what people around him do or talk behind him. He does care about his family a lot and that is why he wants his child to be proud of who they are now. Based on P.T Barnum dialogue "I just wanted her to be proud of who she is, of her family", Barnum implies that his children should be proud of whatever the condition of their family. Especially because his family become very successful now. On the contrary, it seems like he demands her daughter to be proud of the family.

3.1.2. You Cannot Change Where You Came From

Jenny Lind is a popular opera singer in Europe. P.T Barnum makes a contract with her so she can debut in America under P.T. Barnum's management. After her performance, P.T. Barnum throws a ball for Jenny Lind debut in

America. Many famous and rich people came from all over America. Including P.T. Barnum family in law, Charity's Barnum parents.

P.T. Barnum tries to humiliate Charity's parents in front of their friends. He introduces Jenny Lind to them so he can show to them that now he is rich and successful and he can make a contract with a very famous singer from Europe. He wants to get revenge because of the treatment and humiliation that Mr. Hallett gives to him and his father in the past. But they counter it and Mr. Hallett, Charity's father says "All that fortune and still just a tailor's boy". From what Mr. Hallett says, even though Barnum is already succeeded with his business, but it still does not change the fact that he is just a son of a tailor that used to work for the Hallett's family. This kind of strata still can be found in America in that era. It also implies that no matter how hard a person works and succeed, if they come from a common people, then they are still not on their level.



Figure 3.4 Mr. Hallett tell P.T. Barnum that he is still a tailor's son
(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, 00:54:41)

After that incident, P.T Barnum tells them to get out of his party. Some of the guesses hear what they talking about and it makes the mood of the

party kind of awkward. So, Jenny Lind step up and try to make the situation less awkward by making a toss for Barnum and his successful career. Eventually, it leads to the dialogue below.

Jenny Lind: It's hard to understand wealth and privileges when you're born into it. I sometimes don't feel like I belong here.

P. T. Barnum: You?

Jenny Lind: I was born out of wedlock and that brought shame upon my family. And life always manages to remind me that I don't deserve a place in this world. And that leaves a hole that no ovation can ever fill.
(The Greatest Showman, 2017)

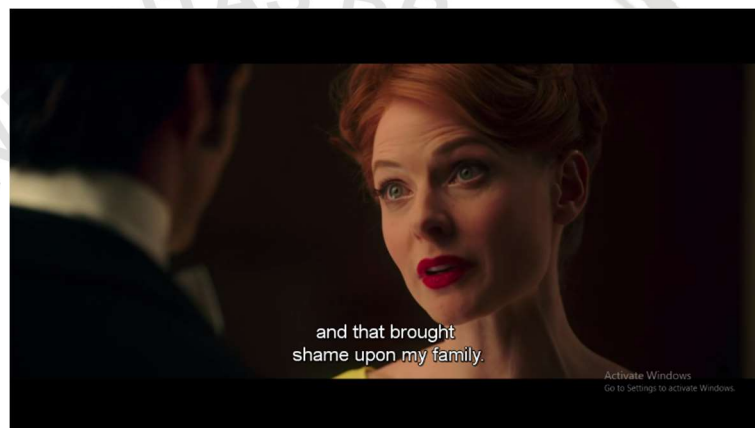


Figure 3.5 Jenny Lind born outside of marriage

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 00:55:38)

Jenny Lind says “It's hard to understand wealth and privileges when you're born into it”. She implies that she is too coming from zero to a level popularity with her own hard work. When Jenny Lind says “I was born out of wedlock and that brought shame upon my family. And life always manages to remind me that I don't deserve a place in this world. And that leaves a hole that no ovation can ever fill”. She means that we can change anything about ourselves but we cannot change where we came from, that is our family. This is in accordance with the

American value equality of opportunity. Jenny Lind and P.T. Barnum are working hard to get a successful life even though they are not from a noble family.

3.1.3. Family is about needing each other

After the successful debut of Jenny Lind in America, Phineas Taylor Barnum decided to have a concert tour with her so he can make more money. In the middle of their tour, both P.T. Barnum and Jenny Lind grows feeling for each other. In the end, Barnum still chose his own family and it makes Jenny Lind disappointed. After her performance, he kisses Barnum on the stage in front of her audiences. P.T. Barnum ask her why she kiss him in front of so many people and Jenny Lind said that it is a goodbye kiss. This scandal between P.T. Barnum and Jenny Lind makes Charity Barnum runs away from home brings their two daughters to her parent's home.

Another problem come from P.T. Barnum Circus. After his circus performance, some of the people who doesn't like them make a ruckus there. One of the performer of the circus getting punched by one of the people who doesn't like the circus. It makes the circus troops angry and they pick a fight with them. Eventually, one of the people who doesn't like the circus burn the building. Because of this incident, it makes P.T. Barnum bankrupt. The depressed P.T. Barnum comes to a bar for a drink and the circus troops come for him. Eventually it leads to the dialogue below.

Charles Stratton: Figured you'd end up here. Feeling sorry for yourself?
P.T. Barnum: Folks if you have come to get paid, the money is gone. All of it. Nothing left to give...
Lettie Lutz: Shut up, Barnum. You just don't get it. Our own mothers were ashamed of us. Hid us our whole lives. Then you pull us out of the shadows. And now you are giving upon us too. Maybe you

are fraud. Maybe it was just about making a buck. But you gave us a real family.

W.D. Wheeler: And the circus... That was our home. We want our home back.
(The Greatest Showman, 2017)

Charles Stratton, a dwarf performer on P.T. Barnum circus says “Figured you'd end up here. Feeling sorry for yourself?”. It means that his troops know Barnum habit and because of the tragedy that happened before they also know that Barnum is in the lowest point of his life. P.T Barnum says in this scene “Folks if you have come to get paid, the money's gone. All of it. Nothing left to give...”. In this scene Barnum does not directly answer the question about his feeling, instead he changes the topic by telling them about their payment. It indicates that Barnum has not paid them since the circus is burned down and he is going bankrupt. This line gives us a bit of Barnum's character because he is still thinking about his troops and how to pay them. It is true that Barnum uses the troops to gain money but he is not a selfish man. He is not just thinking about himself and his own problem with his own family.



Figure 3.6 Charles Stratton talk to depressed P.T. Barnum

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:22:40)



Figure 3.7 P.T. Barnum tell his troop that he is bankrupt

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:21:30)

One of his troops performer Lettie Lutz, a bearded lady with a great voice says afterward “Maybe it was just about making a buck. But you gave us a real family.” It means that she or in this case the whole troops know that Barnum just uses them to get money. However, for some reasons, it what makes them a family, bonding in a place where they never imagine before. Even though their own parents and their own family rejected them and seeing them as a disgrace. In this circus, they found the love and compassion of a family. They don’t have any kind of blood ties or relation between each member, but they bond together like a family. They know each other so much and they care for each other. All of them have unique appearances and that makes them being rejected by society and this is what makes them unit, and P.T. Barnum make this happens. For them family is where you feel needed and you need them too. This is corresponds with American family equality of opportunity, where the circus troops get the same right and treatment in the circus just like other family.

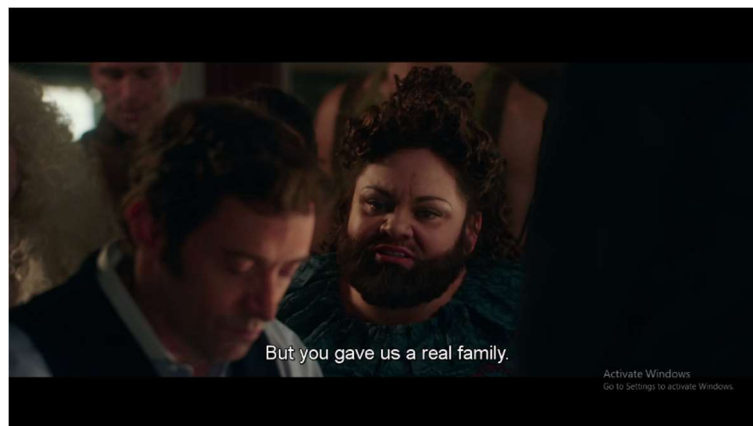


Figure 3.8 Lettie Lutz tell Barnum that this circus is a family

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:23:30)

3.1.4. Take care of your family's good name

After Jenny Lind kiss P.T. Barnum her audience and tell him that it is goodbye kiss, the media uses this situation as a headline in their newspaper. They say that Jenny Lind quits her tour and P.T. Barnum has an affair with Jenny Lind.

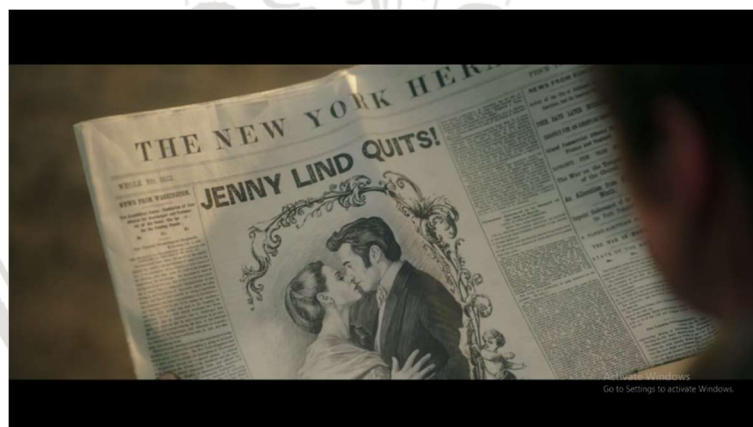


Figure 3.9 Headline on Newspaper

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:21:01)

Charity Barnum, P.T Barnum's wife reads that news and she runs away from her home with their children to her parent's home. Barnum tries to stop her

and he says that he is not in love with her referring to Jenny Lind. Charity replies it “Of course you're not. Not with her, not with me, not with anyone. Just you and your show”. What Charity means is that P.T. Barnum is too obsessed with his job and his show it makes him kind of neglecting his own family. It is one of the reason why Charity Barnum goes back to her parent and the other is because their house is being seized by the bank because of Barnum bankruptcy. When loans some money to build the circus, he uses a certificate of ships as a warranty. The certificate cannot be use because all the ships have been drowned.



Figure 3.10 Charity confront Barnum and she is going home to her parents
(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:21:30)

P.T. Barnum catch up a train and goes to his parent in law's house to pick up Charity and his daughters. She finds Charity beside the sea shore. She is looking through the ocean and that is when the dialogue below takes place.

- P.T. Barnum: I have brought hardships on you and our family. You warned me... and I wouldn't listen. I just wanted... I wanted to be more than I was.
- Charity Barnum: I never wanted anything but the man I fell in love with. (The Greatest Showman, 2017)



Figure 3.11 Barnum tell Charity what he feels

(Source: The Greatest Showman, 2017, minute 01:44:49)

Charity Barnum already warned him about everything, she says “You don't need everyone to love you, Phin. Just a few good people.” The meaning of this sentence is that Barnum is trying really hard to get recognition from people around him. But he does not need it because what he gets now is more than enough for him and for his family. P.T. Barnum says to her “I have brought hardships on you and our family.” It implicitly means that he regrets everything about his decision. Because of his tour with Jenny Lind, he neglected his own family for three months. Although in the end Barnum did not choose Jenny Lind and returned to his family, but he had a feeling for her and this led to the affair scandal. This is what bring damage to his family. Wherever, whenever, and whatever form, affair is never justified and ultimately brings a bad impacts and problems to the family. Barnum also says “I wanted to be more than I was”. It means that he wants to be more successful than now, it implies that he wants a recognition from people around him, not just as a tailor son but as a successful man. This is actually corresponded to the American dream where people try to

find fortune to get a successful life and get recognition from others. Also, this is in accordance with American value self-reliance, where Barnum rely on himself and did not pay attention to his wife warning. That is why when he says he brings hardships upon his family, he means that his action does not only affect him, but also his family's name.

3.1.5 Family Myth in the Movie

Base on the myth that have been found in the movie by analyzing the word family in the dialogue. The writer found that this movie defined family as demanding and binding group.

Table 3.1 Family Myth table

I. Signifier: Family	I. Signified: a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit
I. Signification: II. Signifier: Relationship criteria in a basic form of social institutions	II. Signified: Connotative meaning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Should Be Proud of their Family - You Cannot Change Where You Came From - Family is about needing each other - Take care of your family's good name
III. Sign Demanding and binding that also exist in a group which is not related by blood	

At the end of movie, P.T. Barnum eventually rebuild his circus with help from his partner Philip Carlyle. Barnum give his baton to Philip and tell him that this baton is form, it indicates that now Philip is the one who's in charge of the circus. When Philip ask Barnum what is he going to do now, P.T. Barnum answer him "Watching my girls grow up." It means that he wants to enjoy his time and focus on his family. In the end, even though family is demanding and binding, but we cannot live with them. Because demands are a form of commitment in a relationship. Demand is not necessarily a bad thing, and a demand can lead someone to the right path. Therefore, the family has many demands to be done by its members because it is required by its members to protect the family.

3.2 Discussion

American family is really diverse and huge. There are so many kinds of family there, besides regular nuclear family. For examples like childless family, divorces family, adopted family, single parent family, extended family, LGBT family and etc. Because of the impact of American history, there are many people who come from all over the world and become an immigrant there, either it is legal or illegal. Those immigrants decide to stay and settle in America because they think that in America they can have good fortune and prosperous of living rather than where they come from. It is the reason why immigrants and multi-racial family are also very common in America like African-American family, Asian-American family, Hispanic Family, family that adopt or get married with people that came from different race, and etc.

The Movie “The Greatest Showman” background family is American family in 19th century. In America the 19th century is probably a century of change for families there. It is also the century where huge amounts of immigrants came from all over the world, either they came for working or education. Initially, the social gap between men and women was still very clearly visible. Men held the power in family life. They were the head and bread winner of family. The divorce ratio was still very low and rare. The concept of divorce itself still looked taboo at that time. It was because women really depended on their husbands, even though they also worked for their family. Moreover, living together without any status of marriage and having children outside marriage were generally against the law. Not until the end of 19th century, women and children were refrain from working. Rules that incriminated women began to be reviewed for similarity in family life. At first women should not have their own property. It has been revised and they were then allowed to have their own property just like men.

There were many changes or it can be said as an evolution from American in 19th century until now. Today, each family members have rights that are protected by laws in America. Almost all family members have equality in the family. After graduating school or reaching a certain age, children in America usually decide to get out of their homes and live in a separate place from their families for reasons such as academic or work. Staying with a partner without marital status or having a child outside of marriage is not something taboo anymore. Divorce is not something uncommon anymore. Woman can be a breadwinner for her family but with the condition like she is a single parent or her

husband does not work. Women now can have their own job and have the same education as men. Cultural differences in one family because of the marriage of different races is a common thing today.

According to the USA online (The USA Online, para. 52) in 19th century, status differences between men and women in the family are very visible. Girls also have different rights in education with boys. School are still reserved for boys, while girls have to help their mothers at home or join her mother's work. But this does not apply to girls whose parents have power and money. They can send their daughters to school like boys in general. In contrast to the present day, children are free to receive education both boys and girls. They have equal rights in education and employment. Even though in 19th, marriage was no longer based on matchmaking but feeling, it is still limited and uncommon because the social gap between the rich and the poor is still very strong. It is undeniable that such social inequalities exist until today, but matchmaking is considered to be an ancient thing. So now, people in America are free to choose their life partners.

The families in the movie "The Greatest Showman", more or less have similarities with families in America because the background family in the movie is American family. In this movie, we can see from the Hallett family. Charity Hallett's father slaps P.T. Barnum because he makes his daughter laugh when she is in the middle of table manner lesson and Mr. Hallett forbids his daughter to play with P.T. Barnum because he is just a tailor son. It shows that in this era, men have more authority especially in the family. They have full power and their child must obey what their father said. The social gap here is also very clear

where Mr. Hallett forbids his daughter to play with P.T. Barnum because he is coming from a poor family. Charity Hallett is sent by his father to go to finishing school. In this century women are allowed to have the same education as men, but not all women can go to school. Only rich people can sent their daughters to school and have the same education as men.

Eventually, Mr. Hallett allows his daughter to marry with P.T. Barnum even though they both come from families with a very different classes. This condition corresponds to the late 19th century family in America where marriage is not based on matchmaking, but based on love and affection. Although marriages like this begin to be a common thing, but it is still considered as inappropriate because of the class differences between the two families. This can be seen from what Mr. Hallett says, "She'll be back. Sooner or later she will get tired of your life of having nothing and she will keep running back home". Even though what Mr. Hallett says really come true because of the affair scandal, but in the end, they come back together. This is corresponded to the American values that is Individual freedom, where they have the freedom to choose their partners.

It also can be seen from this movie that the idea of having a child outside of marriage is a taboo in this century for American family, just like Jenny Lind said "I was born out of wedlock and that brought shame upon my family. And life always manages to remind me that I don't deserve a place in this world. And that leaves a hole that no ovation can ever fill". Different from American family in modern era, there is no law that prohibited couple to life under the same roof. Because of that, it become a common thing that a child born outside of marriage.

In one of the scenes, Phillip Carlyle, a play wright and P.T. Barnum business partner has a date with one of his troops members, Anne Wheeler, a trapeze artist. They meet with Phillip Carlyle's parents. Phillip's mother says, "You forget your place, Phillip". His mother implies that he is from a well-known and popular family and he shouldn't waste his time dating with a person whose level lower than him. Phillip defenses Anne and says, "My place? Mother, if this is my place, then I don't wanna be a part of it". This is similar with what happened to P.T. Barnum and Charity. Their parents forbid them with all sorts of restraints. In the end, it is up to their children to choose their own life partner.

From these we can see that there are many demands in the family. Charity's father forbids her to play with Barnum when she was a little girl. Here it clearly states the strata between rich and poor are strong. But, when viewed from the other side, Charity's father actually wants his daughter to have etiquette and courtesy like a nobleman in general. He doesn't want his daughter to behave like poor people because he thinks that poor people don't have manner. It is the same with Philip Carlyle problem, his parents don't want Philip to date Anne Wheeler who in fact is an African-American woman. In those days, black people are also seen as servants. This is racist, but Philip's parents just want him to realize that he is from a noble family and he need to protect his family name. Therefore, in family there are a lot of demands. That is why family is binding to the members, so they know who they are and where they are come from.

However, demands are not always a bad thing. P.T. Barnum's wife already warned him about how he is too obsessed to get a recognition from people around

him. Because he did not obey the words of his wife, he fell into trouble that made him bankrupt. This incident also affected his family and it makes Barnum's wife ran away from home and bring their daughters to her parents. This is why demands in the family are needed to keep and protect the harmony of the family.



CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

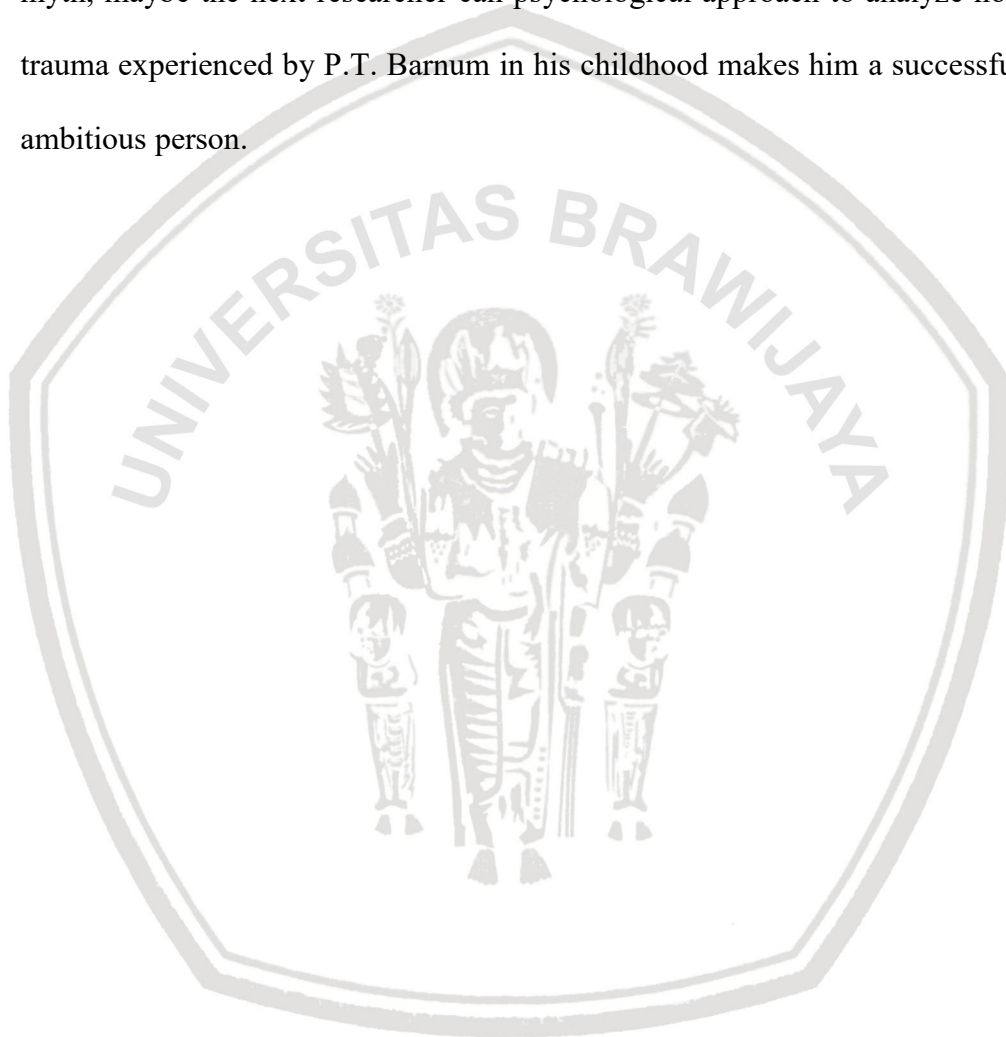
The Greatest Showman is a support to a mythical speech about family. Family is family but a family in this movie is a family which we can find from the 4 words of 'family' that appears in the dialogue. Each of them has different meaning. The first family word means "you should be proud of your family". The second one mean "You cannot change where you came from". The third one mean "family is about need and needed". The last one mean "One mistake can cause harm to a whole family". Those speech about family can be read in Roland Barthes concept myth as a communication system and combine all of them to know the implied myth in the movie, the myth that implied in the movie have been found is "family is a demanding and binding thing for every member, so each member is required to follow the family rules and norms". This is the consequence and commitment of an existing relationship within the family. Wherever a family stay and whenever a family live, demands will always exist inside it. Because demands can bring someone to the right path and it the one that can unite and protect family.

4.2 Suggestion

The writer realizes that the study is still far from perfection. Thus, it is recommended to the readers to understand more about the American family from the movie "The Greatest Showman" through Roland Barthes 'notion about Mythology. Moreover, it is also used to gain the understanding how the word

family can have different kind of meaning depends on who is talking and the context of the sentence or dialogue.

The writer hopes the similar study can be better for the next researchers in doing further study(s). Because the writer already uses Roland Barthes concept of myth, maybe the next researcher can psychological approach to analyze how the trauma experienced by P.T. Barnum in his childhood makes him a successful and ambitious person.



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