

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

*The Upside* is a film based on the true story of Philippe Pozzo and his caretaker Abdel Sellou in Italy. Their story was previously made into a documentary film entitled *A la vie, à la mort* which was later adapted into a film in French called *Les Intouchables*, directed by Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano. In other words, *The Upside* is a remake of *Les Intouchables* presented in the perspective of American culture and habits.

The film, directed by Neil Burger and Jon Hartmere, tells the story of a billionaire named Phillip Lacasse who suffers from a disease called quadriplegia.

Phillip's life got worse when his wife died. He, who was previously known as a perfectionist and idealist, became frustrated. Phillip's personal assistant, Yvonne Pendleton (Nicole Kidman), tries to find a nanny to help her care for Phillip. However, of the many people who had tried to take care of him, they all stopped.

Dell is a former convict who has parole. Dell had to get a job immediately to be able to be released from convict status. Their meeting was accidental at first. Dell originally wanted to attend an interview for a janitor position at the apartment where Phillip lived. Dell saw Phillip interviewing applicants to become his nurse, he then barged in in the middle of the interview. Dell thought that Phillip was the apartment manager who was going to interview him. Unexpectedly, Phillip was attracted by Dell's unreasonable character and offered him a job to become his caretaker.

Phillip's decision was strongly opposed by his secretary, but Phillip was still convinced of his decision. Dell, who initially refused, finally accepted a job as a nurse for Phillip because the salary was very high. With no

experience in caring for the sick, Dell treated Lacasse as he thought he should. It turned out that, slowly, a bond was building between them. Lacasse seems to rediscover a reason to live.

Likewise, Dell, who initially considered his wife and child to be useless, returned to hope for a better life without having to commit crimes. Unlike Phillip who immediately trusted Dell, Yvonne still didn't trust Dell to be Phillip's nanny. I assume this is very reasonable considering Dell's status as an ex-convict certainly makes it difficult for people to build trust in him.

According to Gove (in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, 1966: 1545), trust is an implication of assured toward another which may rest on blended evidence of experience and more subjective grounds such as knowledge, affection, admiration, respect, or reverence. In the study of psychologists. Trust is important in positive interpersonal relationships in a variety of life settings because it is a staple in interactions with others (Mcknight & Chervany, 1996). Psychoanalysis is a scientific discipline that was started around the 1900's by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalytic theory deals with human mental function and development. This science is part of psychology that has made a major contribution and made to human psychology so far (Minderop, 2013: 11).

Regarding the difference in trust between Phillip and Yvonne in Dell, I am interested in this film and want to conduct research by Sigmund Freud's theory of personality and defense mechanism. I will analyze the characters, plots, and settings through psychological approach and qualitative methods. I assume that this research is about trust issues.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the research background above, I identify that the problem that happened to the Phillip's character who easily trusted Dell. Meanwhile, the character Yvonne finds it difficult to trust in Dell. I assume and focus on the trust issue problem using Sigmund Freud's theory of personality through psychological approach

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problems above, I limit the research problem to the concept of the compensation defense mechanism as the source of the problem that causes the trust issue in the film *The Upside*. The theory and concepts used are literary approaches, namely methods of point of view, characterization, themes, plot, and background. I use defense mechanism through the personality psychological approach.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the background above, this research is intended to analyze the characterization and problems that exist in the film *The Upside* by Neil Burger. Therefore, the problems in this research are formulated as follow :

1. How are the characterization through the methods of characterization be used in the main characters in this film?
2. How are the function of plot and setting in building theme in this film?
3. How are the concept of defense mechanism and trust issues reflected in this film?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to prove the existance of trust issues in the film *The Upside*. To achieve this goal, the researcher did several research stages as follows:

1. To analyze the characters by using the dramatic methods.
2. To analyze the function of plot and setting in building theme in this film.
3. To analyze the concept of defense mechanism and trust issues reflected in this film by using intrinsic and extrinsic approach.

## 1.6 Methods of the Research

Based on the research objectives above, the research method used is a qualitative approach method with a descriptive nature. Qualitative methods are research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and behaviors that can be observed and directed at individual backgrounds as a whole. Data collection techniques are collecting references from movie scripts, online journals, the internet and the nature of research in the form of analysis using data collection methods in the form of a movie script from the film *The Upside* as the main source, and supported by several references as a second source, related to theory and concepts. as well as psychoanalytic theory that supports the research process

The following are the process that I do for collecting the data:

1. First, I was watching *The Upside* movie to understand the scene, and what the characters do in the movie. Then, I was reading the script to be more understand about the dialogues.
2. Second, I used my secondary data which are the books *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* and *Psikologi Sastra: Karya Sastra, Metode, Teori, dan Contoh Kasus* by Albertine Minderop, to know more about the plot of story, point of view, direct or indirect methods, etc. I also used the theories from the experts to be more understand and know more about the concept of trust.
3. Third, I was reading journals and articles that I found on internet to help me to complete my research.

## 1.7 Benefit of the Research

Based on the above matters, it is hoped that this research will be of use to those who are interested in deepening their knowledge of related topics. This research may be of benefit to those who are interested in analyzing literary works using the concepts mentioned above. This research is useful because it

is conducted through a new perspective using a qualitative approach. It is hoped that the results of this study are open to further research.

## 1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

The term paper has paper organization. The researcher organizes the term paper into four chapters as follow:

### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

It consist an explanation to the background of the problem from the film *The Upside*, Identification of the Problem, Limitation of the Problem, Formulation of the Problem, Objective of the Research, Research Methods, Research Benefits, Presentation System.

### CHAPTER II : FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES

This chapter consists of intrinsic and extrinsic approach that contains of theme, settings, plot, and literature review. An applied psychological approach that includes views and habits through the concept of trust.

### CHAPTER III : THE ANALYSIS OF *THE UPSIDE* MOVIE SCRIPT THROUGH INSTRINSIC APPROACH

This chapter consists of the dramatic point of view, characterization, plot, and settings used in the film. The above theories and concepts appear in sub-chapter form.

### CHAPTER IV : AN IMPLICATION OF TRUST ISSUES AND DEFENSE MECHANISM IN *THE UPSIDE* MOVIE SCRIPT BY NEIL BURGER

This section consists of a brief explanation of this chapter's content, analysis of trust issues and defense mechanism through intrinsic elements. The concepts above must appear in the number of sub-chapters research used psychology of literature approach with the theories of trust and Sigmund Freud theory of defense mechanism.

## CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION

I will provide a description consist of the summaries, an evaluation of the previous chapters, and the implications of the research results.

