

**INDIVIDUALISM AND PRAGMATISM IN THE CHARACTER OF
RALPH AND VANELLOPE TO ACHIEVE AMERICAN DREAM IN THE
MOVIE SCRIPT *WRECK-IT RALPH* BY PHIL JOHNSTON AND
JENIFER LEE**

TERM PAPER

**Submitted in part-fulfilling for obtaining
Strata One (S-1) Degree**



by

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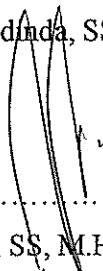
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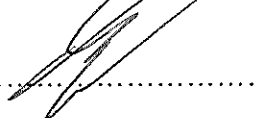
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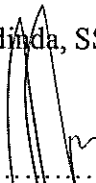
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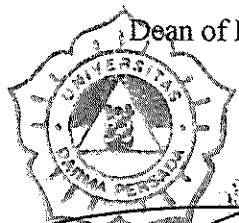

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PREFACE

Alhamdulillah rabbil 'aalamiin, owing to Allah SWT's mercy and blessing, I finally complete this term paper with the best effort. This term paper which is entitled *Individualism and Pragmatism In The Character Of Ralph And Vanellope To Achieve American Dream* is submitted to Strata One English Department of Darma Persada University as one of the requirements for obtaining the Strata One (S1) degree. This research could not be finished without the help and support from the important people who have taken their time to encourage and give the direction to me. I would like to deliver my gratitude to some people who involved in the making of this term paper as follow :

1. Mrs. Karina Adinda, SS, M.A, as the conselor of my term paper. I very thank for your time and advice that you give to me. I learn one thing from you that I must do my best effort and mind to find the good idea for this term paper.
2. Mrs. Fridolini, SS, M.Hun, as a reader of this paper. Thank you for direction and guidance during this time to me.
3. Mr. Tommy Andrian, SS, M.Hum as the Head of English Department who always shares his knowledges to me and I finally know about English deeply.
4. Mr. Syamsul Bachri, SS, M.Si as the Dean of faculty of letters.
5. Then, I thank to all the staffs and my beloved lectures in Faculty of Letter, English Department. I am very lucky to be lectured by the best lectures and thank you very much for all the knowledges you share to me.
6. Thank you for all my family especially my beloved parent, who give everything and support me in finishing this term paper. For my Father, I could not express how happy I am becoming your daughter. You does many efforts to strengthen me in facing the challenges of life. I also thank

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to my brother (Agung) and my sister (Ami) who always accompany me to my campus and wait for me in the campus every evening. You are very best sibling. And thank you for Ririn Nurhasidah, you always wonder about the time of my final day and give me spirit.

7. All my beloved friends especially Nika Sari and Ade Sucipto who become the illegal advisor and help me to find many ideas for this paper. Both of you have become the family who always give me hope to do this term paper. I hope we can get our dream in the future. The last, for several women in my religion organisation (SKMI) who allow me to make this term paper in the organisation room and remind me to never give up in writing this term paper. You are very wonderful women in my life.

This research is not perfect, it also needs the suggestion that will prove the analysis to be better. I hope this research can give the advantages to the language education especially in English literature for further research of term paper.

Jakarta, 25th February, 2015.

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ABSTRACT

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This term paper explains about analysis of the theme from a movie script that uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Through intrinsic approach, there are several concepts; characterization by using showing and telling method, the five functions of setting, and plot. In the extrinsic approach, the theories are theory of Individualism and Pragmatism philosophy from several philosophers and the theory of American Dream that become the idealism and culture of American people. This term paper is a category of basic analysis which uses movie script of *Wreck-It Ralph* by Phil Jhonston and Jenifer Lee as the basic source supported by several sources which are related to the theory and definition that close to the theme of analysis. From this analysis, this film describes about the idealism that becomes the culture in the life of American people. The characteristic of the main characters become the key in relating the variabels of this theme analysis.

Keywords : Philosophy, Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream

ABSTRAK

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Vanellope untuk Mencapai American Dream

Skripsi ini menjelaskan tentang analisis tema dari sebuah film yang menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Melalui pendekatan intrinsik, terdapat beberapa konsep yaitu: karakterisasi dengan menggunakan metode telling dan showing, setting, plot. Pada pendekatan ekstrinsik, teori yang digunakan adalah teori filsafat Individualisme dan Pragmatisme dari beberapa para ahli serta teori American Dream yang menjadi pemikiran dan budaya orang-orang Amerika. Skripsi termasuk dalam kategori penelitian dasar yang menggunakan skrip film Wreck-It Ralph oleh Phil Jhonston dan Jenifer Lee sebagai sumber dasar dan dengan didukung oleh beberapa sumber yang berhubungan dengan teori serta pengertian yang saling berkaitan dalam menganalisis tema tersebut. Dari analisis ini, film ini menggambarkan tentang idealisme yang menjadi budaya dalam kehidupan masyarakat Amerika. Karakteristik tokoh-tokoh utama menjadi kunci dalam menghubungkan variabel-variabel dari tema tersebut.

Keywords : *Filsafat, Individualisme, Pragmatisme, dan American Dream*

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CHAPTER I

Introduction

A. Background of Problem

Every people has many dreams to change their life become better than before. They do many efforts to make their dreams come true. In achieving it, there is no doubt that people have the different ways and idealism. In the social life of human, the idealism has been the culture of a group or society. It will be the character of general people in a country. To reach what the people want, they must have the principals which are related to the ways they will take in getting their dream.

Wreck-It Ralph is an animated fantasy film from America that is produced by Walt Disney in 2012. This incredible film is directed by Rich Moore and Jenifer Lee together with Phil Johnston as the screenwriters. The film tells about the story of an arcade game character who rebels his role as a Bad Guy. He wants to be a hero and gets appreciation from other people as the Good Guys. He also wants to make changes by doing the journey for his dream to get a medal. In the journey, he meets Vanellope Von Schweetz who has the same problem with him who wants to reach their dream. Both of them are the main characters of this film. They become a partner for helping each other and get what they want. Ralph never thinks about the risk he gets when he goes out from his game. It will cause many troubles for him and several game characters who are involved in his journey including Vanellope. However, he never gives up to the condition around him and always makes some efforts to reach his dream.

This movie occurs in several arcade style game world. The background of the movie is full of creativity between one and another video games. It makes the movie interesting. I am interesting in analyzing the movie because it tells about the adventure of both main characters, Ralph and Vanellope, to reach their dream. After watching the movie, I saw there is a principal of American life from the

movie. Ralph and Vanellope are the sample of the character of American people in reaching their dream. They tries hard to do something because they have the dream to be Good Guy.

B. Identification of Problems

Based on background that I have discussed in the first section, I identify problems of this film is : Ralph is an arcade game character from *Fix-It Felix* who is created as a Bad Guy. He wants to be a Good Guy who can get medals, adorable, and many friends. He envies with Felix who always get many medals and living in the nice place with his friend. He thinks to change his life becomes a Good Guy, but it will fade him from the game. Vanellope is also a game character who is hated by everyone in her world game, *Sugar Rush*. It is because she is a glitch, an unperfected character which can destroy the game. She dreams to get the win of racer competition and never give up. She does many effort to reach her dream and offers the deal to Ralph so that she can get her dream. From the problems, I assume that the theme of this analysis is *Individualism and Pragmatism In Character of Ralph and Vanellope To Achieve American Dream in the movie script "Wreck-It Ralph" by Phil Johnston and Jenifer Lee*

C. Limitation of Problem

Based on the identification of problems above, I limit the problem that Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream are into the two characters, Ralph and Vanellope. Ralph has a dream to get a medal and becomes a Good Guy. He also uses the idea of individualism and pragmatism to reach what he wants. Vanellope is a game character from *Sugar Rush* game who wants to win the race competition. She shows her character as a strong girl and never gives up with any challenges. She tries hard to learn about race with Ralph. In this study, I use some theoretical approaches included: characterization, setting, plot, and theme. The study also uses the extrinsic approaches such as theory about Individualism, Pragmatism, then American Dream as a result of both theories.

D. Formulation of Problem

Based on the limitation of problem above, I have the statement of the problems : Is my assumption about Individualism and Pragmatism In The Characters of Ralph and Vanellope To Achieve American Dream in this movie script. , I made the formulation of the problem to answer the question.

1. Can the telling and showing method be used to analyze the characterization, setting, plot, and theme?
2. Can Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream be suitable to the analyze the theme of this movie script?
3. Can the intrinsic approach in characterization, setting, and plot support the theme of this movie script?

E. Objective of Analysis

This analysis is created to show Individualism and Pragmatism, and American Dream in this movie script. In getting the achievement of this purpose, I do several steps as follows:

1. To analyze the characterization with theory of telling and showing method, setting, and plot.
2. To analyze the characterization, setting, and plot to strengthen theory of Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream
3. To analyze the theme through the result of analysis: characterization, setting, and plot as the representation of Individualism and Pragmatism to Achieve American Dream through sociology theories.

F. Framework Of The Theories

Based on the aim of analysis above, I use some theories such as the intrinsic also extrinsic approach for supporting the theme in this movie. Through the intrinsic approach, I will use telling and showing method in analyzing

characterizations, setting, plot, and theme. In the extrinsic, I will use theory of Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream.

1. Through the intrinsic approach will be used the concepts as follows:

a. Characterization Through Showing and Telling Methods

In analyzing a literary work, we need to use the most important element such as characterization. It is used to analyze the character in the literary work. In general, character is something that emphasizes the psychosocial factors associated with educational and environmental context. According to WB Saunders, character is the real and different nature that is shown by individual, a number of attributes that can be observed in the individual. Wyne said that character is something that marks the way of focusing personality on the value of kindness in the form of action or behavior.¹ Through characterization, we can describe the mind and attitude of the characters. In addition, the theme of literary work can be formed because characterization is very useful in analyzing a theme. In general, we know about the kind of characters in the literary work, protagonist as the main character of the story or the major character who is the important thing in the story, and antagonist as the opponent of protagonist that is against the protagonist struggles or contends.

To describe the characters of this film, I choose characterization method through telling and showing method is one of the step to analyze characters of the movie. Whole of content in a literature work can be analyzed included the theme and the moral messages in the movie. In defining the characters in this film, I use these methods:

1. Direct Method (Telling)

Direct method (Telling) relies on exposition and direct commentary by the author. In telling, a method preferred and practiced by many older fiction writers- the guiding hand of the author is very much in evidence. Direct

¹<http://ntanrahmah.wordpress.com/2013/04/14/definisi-karakter-menurut-ahlinya-dan-opini-mengenai-definisi-karakter/>

Method consists of Characterization through the use of names, Characterization through appearances, and Characterization by the author.²

a. Characterization through the use of names

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits. Other ones is given names that reinforce (or sometimes are in contract to) their physical appearances. Names can also contain literary or historical allusions that aid in characterization by names of association.

b. Characterization through Appearances

Although in real life most of us are aware that appearances are often deceiving, in the world of fiction details of appearances (what a characters wears and how he looks often provide essential clues to character.

c. Characterization by the Author

In the most customary form of telling, the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feelings that enter and pass through the character's minds.

2. Indirect Method (Showing)

Characterization method is showing through indirect methods with methods that ignore the presence of dramatic authors, so that the characters in these works can present themselves directly through their behavior. In terms of the audience also can analyze its own character figures. There are essentially two methods of indirect characterization by showing: characterization through dialogue (what characters say) and characterization through action (what characters do).

a. Characterization through dialogue

The task of establishing character through dialogue is not simple one. Some characters are careful and guarded in what they say: They speak only by indirection, and what we must infer from their words what they actually mean.

² Albertine Minderop, *Metode Karakterisasi dan Telaah Fiksi*, 2011 p. 26

Other are open and candid: they tell us, or appear to tell us, exactly what is in their minds. Some characters are given to chronic exaggeration and overstatement; other to understatement and subtlety. It is a rare work of fiction, whose author does not employ dialogue in some way to reveal, establish and reinforce characters.

a. Characterization through action

To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to examine the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values.

b. Setting

One of the main concepts that becomes the important thing to know about the theme is *setting*. Setting is the element which shows the name place of the story and the time of the events. Setting can be as a name of place, time, or the condition. Setting enables the reader to better envision how a story unfolds by relating necessary physical details of a piece of literature. A setting may be simple or elaborate, used to create ambience, lend credibility or realism, emphasize or accentuate, organize, or even distract the reader. According to Pickering&Hoepfer, setting is divided into five functions, as follows: ³

1. Setting as background for action

Background is extensive and highly developed, where setting in the form costume, manners, events, and institution, all certain time and place are rendered in minute detail to give a sense. It will provide the beginning of the story.

2. Setting as antagonist

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of crucial agent or antagonist, help to establish plot conflict and determine the outcome of event.

³Ibid p.18-21

3. Setting as means to creating appropriate atmosphere

In this case, setting as means of establishing atmosphere will build the suitable atmosphere in the movie script. Many authors manipulate their setting as a means of arousing the reader's expectations and establishing an appropriate state of mind for event to come.

4. Setting as means to revealing characters

Often the way in which a character perceives the setting, and the way he or she reacts to it, then it will tell the reader more about the characters and his state of mind than it will explain about the actual physical setting itself.

5. Setting as means of reinforcing themes

Setting also can be used as a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story. I have explained about the step of setting in below.

c. Plot

The several steps of plot can reinforce the theme that will be analyzed in this study. The plot of a literary work is referred to the deliberately arranged sequence of interrelated events that constitute the basic narrative structure of a literary work.⁴ Like a typical short story, the plot of nearly every play contains five structural elements: exposition, complication, crisis, falling action, and resolution. The principal difference between fictional and dramatic plots is that the latter are more regular in their use of these five elements.⁵

1. Exposition

This is the beginning of the story in the drama or literary work. The exposition provides essential background, introduces the cast, begins

⁴Ibid p. 14

⁵Ibid p. 269-274

the characterization, and initiates the action. Sometimes, a formal prologue or introduction by a narrator helps to set the scene, but more often there is no sharp division between the exposition and the complication that follows.

2. Complication

This section of the plot introduces and develops the conflict. It commences when one or more of the main characters first become aware of an impending difficulty or when their relationship first begin to change.

3. Crisis

The crisis, or turning point of the play, occurs at the moment of peak emotional intensity and usually involves a decision, a decisive action, or an open conflict between the protagonist and antagonist . It is often called the obligatory scene because the audience demands to see such moments acted out on stage.

4. Falling Action

As the consequences of the crisis accumulate, events develop a momentum of their own. Especially in tragedy, the falling action of the play result from the protagonist's loss control and final catastrophe often appears inevitable.

5. Resolution

Resolution is a solution to the conflict presented in the play. While tragedies end in a catastrophe, usually the death of the protagonist. The resolution brings to an end the conflict that has been implicit (or explicit) since the play's opening scenes. When the curtain falls, the relationships among the characters have once more stabilized.

d. Theme

Theme⁶ is one of those critical terms that means very different things to different people. To some who think of literature mainly as vehicle for teaching, preaching, propagating a favorite idea, or encouraging some form of correct conduct, theme may mean the moral or lesson that can be extrapolated from the work. Theme can be spiritual values, moral, psychology, and philosophy depends on the contents of stories that have relevance to the elements. In this case, a theme can be a sentence or phrase. After reading the contents of a literary work, the reader can determine the general theme of the literature by examining the content and main problem of the story.

2. Through the extrinsic approach will be used theories as follows :

Sociology is composed of two words : socius, meaning companion or associate; and 'logos', meaning science or study. The etymological meaning of "sociology" is thus the science of society.⁷ Sociology is the youngest science which studies about the human and the achievement of human in the society. Actually, this sociology is very difficult to be defined because it has many definition that relates to social life. According to Auguste Comte, a Frenchman, in a book by Bannisters⁸, sociology is a science that should be based on systematic observation and classification, not on authority and speculation. It is because this science talks about the phenomenon of society in the world.

Sociology must confine itself to the observable external of human behavior, thus carrying to a logical conclusion the strict inductionism of sensationalist psychology. This goal meant an end to the cataloguing of feelings, interests, or wishes. A principal activity of prewar sociologist. This science also has many fields including culture, value, the thought of a society or group of people and many others. Everything that relates to human or social life is become the part of sociology.

⁶*Ibid.*, p.61.

⁷<http://sociology-4-all.blogspot.com/2009/03/definition-cf-sociology.html>

⁸Robert C. Bannister, *Sociology and Scientism, The American Quest for Objectivity, 1880-1940*, 1987 (pg 3&18)

Sociology has many fields in the social life of human. Culture is a part of sociology which has the big role in the characteristic of human life in the society. Culture will always be associated with human because culture itself is derived from a human. Human creates a culture within the customs that exist in the social world of human. Culture will be created if there is an agreement among people in a country or place. Culture is a social process that runs in the long term and will be passed down to the next generation. Clyde Kluckhohn, in the book of Geertz⁹, managed several sentence to create the definition about culture as follows :

- Culture is the total way of life of a people
- Culture is the social legacy the individual acquires from his group
- Culture is a way of thinking, feeling, and believing
- Culture is an abstraction from behavior
- Culture is a also a theory on the part of the anthropologist about the way in which a group of people in fact behaviour

In other side, Taylor defined culture as a whole complex which includes knowledges, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and habits as well as the ability to learn human as the society members. It means that culture is the branch of comparative anthropology and semiotics that seeks to define the heruistic concept of culture in operational or scientific terms. Most social scientist view culture as consisting primarily of the symbolic, ideational, and intangible aspects of human societies.¹⁰

As the part in the social life, culture makes habit and also idealism of society including philosophy. Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.¹¹ Philosophy does not have any specific subject matter and hence cannot be defined with regard to any particular area of investigation. It may deal with every dimension of human life and can raise questions in any field of study or endeavor. Marylin Adams said that philosophy

⁹ Clifford Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 1973 (pg 4-5)

¹⁰<http://www.carla.umn.edu/culture/definitions.html>

¹¹<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/philosophy>

is thinking really hard about the most important question and trying to bring analytic clarity both to the question and answers

Different philosophers have different views of the nature, methods, and range of philosophy. The term philosophy itself comes from the Greek *philosophia*, which means love of wisdom.¹² In that sense, wisdom is the active use of intelligence, not something passive that a person simply possesses. By philosophy, several philosophers can find the idea about social life of person and the world. By studying philosophy, people can clarify what they believe, and they can be stimulated to think about ultimate questions. In this analysis, the most important philosophy that becomes the idealism of the characters in the movie script is Individualism and Pragmatism. Also, American Dream is the final result from both philosophies.

a) Definition of Individualism

Individualism is one of the idea of philosophy that is risen from the philosopher. The nature of the relationship of the individual to the state is also at the center of much philosophical thought and debate in the late eighteenth century. Conceptions of individualism are associated with liberalism and included the ideas of maximum freedom of the individual, voluntary groups that individuals can join or leave, and equal participation of individuals in group activities. Individualism is a moral, political or social outlook that stresses human independence and the importance of individual self-reliance and liberty.

Individualism is also associated with artistic and bohemian interests and lifestyles where there is a tendency towards self-creation and experimentation as opposed to tradition or popular mass opinions and behaviors, and so also with humanist philosophical positions and ethics. An important 19th century individualist thinker was Ralph Waldo Emerson¹³, who developed ideas such as individuality, freedom, the ability for humankind to realize almost anything, and the relationship between the soul and the surrounding world. Individualism has

¹²http://sciphilos.info/docs_pages/docs_Philosophy_defined_css.html

¹³<https://www.boundless.com/u-s-history/textbooks/boundless-u-s-history-textbook/religion-romanticism-and-cultural-reform-1820-1860-14/the-age-of-cultural-reforms-112/individualism-603-122/>

several characteristics. It becomes the main think that is exist in a person of the idea of individualism in his/her life. The characteristic are among others:

- Active in getting the good life
- Progressive thought to be success
- Change of Life as the Priority

b) Definition of Pragmatism

Pragmatism is a philosophical movement that includes those who claims that an ideology or proposition is true if and only if it works satisfactorily, that the meaning of a proposition is to be found in the practical consequences of accepting it, and that impractical ideas are to be rejected. Pragmatism, in William James' eyes, was that the truth of an idea needed to be tested to prove its validity. Pragmatism began in the late nineteenth century with Charles Sanders Peirce and his pragmatic maxim.¹⁴ Pragmatism is also called as an ideology of American people that is become the way of life which is combined with liberal democracy in America.

“Cara perilaku pragmatis berorientasi pada asas manfaat yang menimbulkan perilaku seperti dinamis, agresif, gemar bekerja keras, nekat, efisien, praktis, bebas, senantiasa berorientasi pada ilmu pengetahuan, dan berbagai sikap lainnya yang selaras dengan cara perilaku pragmatis.”¹⁵ (Albertine Minderop : 2005)

(Translate : The behavior of pragmatic principli is oriented to the benefits that create the attitude such as dynamic, aggressive, likes to work hard, desperate, efficient, practical, free, always oriented toward science, and various other attitude that is consistent with the behavior of a pragmatic way)

American pragmatism emerges with profound insights and myopic blindnesses, enabling strengths and debilitating weaknesses, all resulting from distinctive features of American civilization. American pragmatism is diverse and heterogeneous tradition, but its common denominator consists of a future-oriented

¹⁴https://philosophynow.org/issues/43/An_Introduction_to_Classic_American_Pr pragmatism

¹⁵Albertine Minderop, *Pragmatisme Amerika*, 2005 p.10

instrumentalism that tries to deploy thought as a weapon to enable more effective action.¹⁶

c) Definition of American Dream

American Dream is a national ethos of the United States, asset of ideal in which freedom includes the opportunity for prosperity and success, and an upward social mobility achieved through hard work. According to Jim Cullen,

“The omnipresence of the American Dream stems from a widespread though not universal, belief that the concept describes something very contemporary. At the same time, however, much of its vitality rest on premise, that it is part of a long tradition.”¹⁷

(Cullen : 2003)

In the definition of the American Dream by James Turslow Adams in 1931, “life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement” regardless of social class or circumstances of birth. The concept of American Dream included : gold, gospel, and glory. Elaboration of the above three elements are: gold, the purpose of the immigrant to America pursuit of material wealth or natural resources. Gospel, followed from the protestant ethic which instructed men to lay up wealth for the greater glory of God. God did sprinkle holy water on economic success, but success was not an end in itself. Time by time, Gospel, by losing its theological explicitness, was also shedding its religious texture and resilience and becoming secular¹⁸. It is to spread their religion, belief or ideology that latter could be interpreted as the spread of liberal democratic principles. Third are their efforts to achieve greatness and glory.

G. Analysis Method

Based on theoretical framework above, I use the analysis method with literature analysis, interpretative analysis character, various of qualitative analysis with method of collecting data such as the script of *Wreck-It Ralph* movie by

¹⁶Cornel West, *The American Evasion Philosophy: A Genealogy of Pragmatism*, 1989 p.5

¹⁷ Jim Cullen, *The American Dream; A short History of an Idea That Shaped a Nation*, 2003 p.

¹⁸ Moses Rischin, *The American Gospel of Success, Individualism and Beyond*, 1963 p.31

Jenifer Lee and Phil Johnston as the prime source and supported by some literature work connecting to the theories as the second source.

H. Benefit of Analysis

Based on the analysis method above, this analysis supposed to have the advantages for another person who is interesting in analysing deeply about *Wreck-It Ralph*. This study is also useful because it is done through a new analysis by using the concept of Individualism, Pragmatism, and American Dream are included in the social field so there is something new and there is a possibility for further research.

I. Systematic of Organization

Based on the benefit of analysis above, systematic of presentation is arranged as follos :

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION.

It consists: background of problem, identification of problem, limitation of problem, formulation of problem, objective of the analysis, framework of the theories, analysis method, benefit of analysis, systematic of organization.

CHAPTER II: ANALYSIS OF WRECK-IT RALPH MOVIE THROUGH INSTRINSIC APPROACH.

It consists: the explanation about characterization analysis through showing and telling method, setting, and plot. The concepts have to be appeared in several sub-chapters.

CHAPTER III: INDIVIDUALISM AND PRAGMATISM IN THE CHARACTERS OF RALPH AND VANELLOPE TO ACHIEVE AMERICAN DREAM.

It consists: the analysis of the movie script about Individualism, Pragmatism, American Dream and the

relation of the movie script with the intrinsic approach. The theories have to be appeared in several sub-chapters.

CHAPTER IV: CLOSING.

It consists: the conclusion that show the film has the theme “Individualism and Pragmatism in the characters of Ralph and Vanellope to achieve American Dream”, that delivered reviews about the main of analysis in the chapters of this analysis.