

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

"Da 5 Bloods (2020)" is a movie script that explores the lives of a group of Vietnam War veterans who face trauma, guilt, and self-destruction in a compelling and thought-provoking way. Paul, the central character, grapples with the emotional scars of war and his rising suspicion within the group later on the story. Paul struggles with unresolved guilt and anxiety stemming from his past, particularly his relationship with Norman, their fallen leader. Although others have tried to compensate his anger and lack of emotional control his trauma further fuel by rage gets the best of him. His inner turmoil manifests in self-destructive behaviours, such as his volatile temper and emotional isolation ultimately leads him to his death. Spike Lee's movie script "Da 5 Bloods (2020)" can be analyzed using both intrinsic and extrinsic methodologies to gain a comprehensive understanding of its themes and characters. The intrinsic approach examines elements such as characterization, plot, and setting, and their connection to the central issues of the narrative, while the extrinsic approach applies psychological theory of Freud defence mechanism, particularly those related to displacement and aggression. The overarching theme that emerges from this analysis is how defence mechanism is portrayed by the characters Paul and Otis. This dual approach provides deeper insight into the film's narrative structure and its broader psychological implications.

Based on the problem formulation and the analysis conducted in the previous chapter, I utilized both intrinsic and extrinsic approaches, including a psychological perspective, to reach a conclusion. Through this analysis, I found that the intrinsic approach is highly effective for examining the movie script. By employing the indirect or showing method, I have explored the characterization of several individuals within the story. My focus was primarily on Paul, the main character, and Otis, who acts as somewhat leader of the group and Paul's closest companion.

This study analyzes the movie script of "Da 5 Bloods (2020)" by Spike Lee. The first problem formulation analyzes the characters of Paul and Otis to

reinforce the theme of portrayal of defence mechanism. Paul's displacement is evident in how he redirects his guilt and trauma from the Vietnam War onto others, particularly his son, David, whom he frequently criticizes and Otis, whom he thinks that he is going to betray him. His unresolved feelings about Norman's death and the war's psychological toll fuel this behaviour. Aggression is another key aspect of Paul's character, serving as both a coping and defence mechanism for his inner turmoil. His explosive temper and paranoia often lead to conflicts within the group. For example, his paranoia and hostility toward external threats, such as his mistrust of locals and his confrontational approach to potential danger. Otis, though compassionate and level-headed, also exhibits defence mechanisms, particularly displacement and aggression. He redirects his unresolved guilt from the war into his relationship with Tiên, a Vietnamese woman with whom he shares a past and a daughter, as a way to cope with his emotional burden. This focus on rebuilding his family helps him avoid confronting the trauma directly. While less overt than Paul's, Otis aggression emerges during moments of tension, such as conflicts over the treasure or group disagreements, showing how even the most composed individuals can resort to aggression under pressure.

The second problem formulation focuses on analysing the plot and setting to reinforce the theme of defence mechanisms as portrayed in the movie script. The plot provides the framework for understanding the sequence of events and actions involving Paul and Otis, highlighting how their experiences and choices reflect their psychological coping strategies. Paul's struggles with guilt and trauma manifest through his explosive behaviour and paranoia, while Otis redirects his emotional burden into rebuilding his relationship with Tiên and their daughter. The setting, representing the time and place of the story, further emphasizes their defence mechanisms. The return to Vietnam where a past landscape filled with memories of war becomes a symbolic backdrop for their unresolved conflicts and emotional battles. The place and the events push Paul and Otis to confront their past, showing how they handle their struggles. Together, the plot and setting weave the psychological struggles of Paul and Otis

into the broader narrative, reinforcing the film's exploration of defence mechanisms.

This study aims to serve as a reference for literary research, particularly in applying Freud's psychological theory to analyse modern literary works like movie scripts. Future researchers are encouraged to expand on this study by conducting a deeper analysis of the supporting characters in “Da 5 Bloods (2020)”, who also demonstrate intriguing uses of defence mechanisms. Additionally, this research can be broadened by exploring how the concepts of defence mechanisms are applied in other movie or series scripts from different cultural backgrounds, offering a more comprehensive comparison of Freud's theory across various cultural contexts.

This research opens opportunities for future researchers to analyse the movie script of “Da 5 Bloods (2020)” using different approaches. It can also serve as a valuable learning resource for students, particularly those in the English Language and Culture Department, to deepen their understanding of psychology, specifically Freud's theory of defence mechanisms.