

# THE FULFILLMENT OF MAIN CHARACTER'S DESIRE THROUGH DISTRUCTION ACTIONS IN JOKER MOVIE: PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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## Abstract

This article represented the study of psychological to investigate the destruction as the main character's desire fulfillment. Data source applied of this research from movie Joker released in 2019. This research applied theory concept psychology of three main major Lacan related the real, the imaginary and symbolic. Method applied in this research was descriptive analysis with librarian research as collecting data and deep interpretation with psychoanalysis approach as technique analysis data. From the analysis had been done the researchers find various phenomenon relevant with concept psychology of three main major Lacan in movie. The desire for perfection was conception in the desire for fulfilment of the real beginning from desire for created mother figure ideal because joker encounter phenomenon Joker's mother was disease disorders. Joker also attached with problem financial become depressed in social life. Subject's desire always felt lack bringing on process mirror for ideal life. Subject felt itself would be happy with laughs loud. Subject started did fulfilment desire with did destruction action as achievements on satisfaction with the level symbolic. This research explored the various efforts of the subject for fulfilment desire with did destruction actions.

**Keyword** : Destruction, Fulfillment, Desire, Psychoanalysis

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Generally, personality is general behavior fundamental in every human being. Personality is not only fundamental behavior but also the result of conflict process during life. The formation personality person is proceeds of cause and effect against towards individual and social environment conflict. The common phenomenon of individual conflict is a person that born with physical disability, then person personality will form shyness. Furthermore, if someone is often bullied in class then the person personality become a coward that is social environment conflict.

Freud explained about personality of human is something that has been ordained by God, then Freud established the three concepts psyche condition of human there are id, ego and superego. Human personality is part of psychological. Psychological has important role in the formation of personality. Therefore, psychological investigated human behavior and human mentality process with the effects obtained. Afterward Jacques Lacan explained process psyche condition and developed three psychological concepts, such as the real, the imaginary and the symbolic.

Concept psychological Lacan (2013) explained the psyche personality someone. The real concept explained that a person will experience many needs and will be fulfilled by the presence of both parents. The imaginary concept explained that a person begins to experience the mirror stage, which is when a person begins to feel that many requests are not being fulfilled. the symbolic concept is the stage of a person releasing itself to be free from anyone's influence that a desire appears to be itself. According to Kelly (1955), the person's personality is a unique way of each individual to interpreting the experience in life conflict and Allport (1937)said personality is dynamic organization of individual psyche systems than could be determine a person's thoughts and typical behavior.

Jaques Lacan's concept related to personality main character in movie joker, narrate Arthur fleck try finding his identity. Arthur Flack Arthur Fleck was influenced by his mother to look for his father so he has a desire to find his father. According to Lacan, humans are always in a shortage, feeling something is missing so that it gives rise to a desire and continuous effort to cover the lack and then rediscover what was lost. Arthur Flack's character has three concepts that are continuous if it is associated with the psychological concept of Jacques Lacan, so much evidence is found, if the Lacan concept is associated in movie Joker, Phillips & Silver (2018)

Todd Phillips directed and produced the 2019 American psychological thriller film Joker. The Joker movie won several honors, including an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role, a Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival, and a Screen Actor Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male

Lead Actor. Arthur Fleck, a clown who lives in a tough situation with a mother who suffers from illness difficulties, is the protagonist of the Joker film. Arthur Fleck was socially ostracized, bullied, and ignored. Because everyone felt Arthur Fleck was strange, Arthur Fleck chose to turn evil and spread havoc in Gotham City. The Joker movie was fascinating because Arthur Fleck was born into poverty, reached the pinnacle of misery, then rebelled and rose to power.

The several studies had very significant similarities with this research. They used same concept psychological but different data source. Listyarini, Budiman (2018) in their article discussed about analyzing of short story by using psychological approach. Shahwan's second paper is titled A Lacanian Study of Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* (2019). The goal of this study was to learn more about Lacan's influence in analyzing Hemmingway's work in the sea. And then, Arianto & Ambalegin (2020) is the third study discussed about the escaping lackness Through Fiction for Desire and Emptiness Fulfillment The goal of the study was to discover the phenomena of escaping lack through popular fiction. The fourth research about "Schizophrenia symptoms a cute in Teddy alias Andrew in the shutter island novel by Dennis Lehane, Rahmi & Arianto (2019). The purpose of research was to show the "id" more dominant than the "ego" and the "superego did not almost non-existent". The last research about psychological types of main character and influencing factors on a Caribbean mystery: Jung-Freud theory, Khotimah (2020). The purpose of research to analyze a person's personality types.

Based on the description above, destruction as the main character's desire

fulfillment in the movie joker focus of this research. it was taken because the plot of the conflict presented often discussed the conflict that existed in the main character.

## **2. THEORITICAL REVIEW**

### **2.1. Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis is branch of science that function to understand the psyche, the thought and the behavior of human being. According to Freud (1941) human behavior comes from an influence of self-consciousness. such as, the id is a personality structure that is original from birth then comes the ego and the superego. In other hand Adler (2013) said personality based on human biology. In addition to the biological basis, personality theory is also based on social influences. According to Jung (2014), humans are full of influence from previous inheritance, then personality is formed unconsciously. Otherwise, Mark (2011) said human character is formed from the environment that is in the social life. Differently with Maslow (1987) believed that humans move to understand and accept themselves as much as possible. Anyway, Jacques Lacan explained more about the process of human mental development into three concepts, such as the real, the imaginary and the symbolic. Based on explanation, the researchers selected theory from Jacques Lacan to discussed in this research.

### **2.2. The Imaginary**

The imaginary is a pointer and a picture of something that is unconscious or conscious. In this concept called the mirror stage process occurs. where one always gets what one needs without anything lacking.

### **2.3. The Symbolic**

The symbolic is personality development of a person who begins to feel lacking in itself so that subject seeks fulfillment for itself through the power of desire. someone will think back when all his needs are met from his demands before someone knows the outside world

### **2.4. The Real**

The real is person development in which person must accept his situation. so as to make one's personality always fantasize and make it seem as if the fantasy comes true, then encourage the desire to realize that fantasy.

## **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research was destruction as the main character's desire fulfillment in Movie Joker. The purpose of this research was to learn more about personality psychological used by the characters in Movie Joker 2019. This study was directed toward describing those aspects. In collecting the data the researchers applied observational method and note-taking technique. The steps were from (1) watching the movie, trying to understand, seeking for any relevant details that supported this research and seeking for all of the utterances, (2) holding the dialogue transcription, and (3) marking the conversation said by the actor in the movie.

In analyzing the data, the researchers applied technique of Ratna (2018) technique used to dissecting is descriptive method of analysis. Method descriptive is carried out of describe the facts which are then followed up with analysis. Descriptive method supported the objectives of this research, that was destruction as the main character's desire fulfillment in Movie Joker. The steps were following from (1) The first step that was collecting evidence of data

that had been collected and grouped based on the problem formulation that had been made, (2) the second step was created a data into narrative which also aims to facilitate in the process of analyzing. This narrative of data was evidence in form of destruction as the main character's desire fulfillment (The Real, The Imaginary and The Symbolic) in psychoanalytic theory Jacques Lacan.

The researchers employed an informal way for presenting the research findings, which referred to the process of providing the outcome analysis with words; this indicates that the findings might be conveyed using words or phrases. The study's findings revealed an informal way for presenting data analysis.

#### 4. RESEARCH FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1. The subject was self-reflection to get a justice.

Arthur Flack's desire for perfection was conceptualized for the fulfillment of the real, starting from the desire to create an ideal mother figure. In fact, Arthur Flack's mother was disease disorders. Arthur Flack worked hard to provide for his mother and himself, which the mother should be fulfillment desire of a child.

“JOKER'S GIVING HIS MOM A BATH, being careful with her as he shampoos her hair.

MOM

--so what did he say when you gave him the letter?

JOKER

They wouldn't let me see him.

(lying)

But they promised me it would get to him.

MOM

It's good they promised. He only works with the best. We should hear

something soon.”(Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 13)

Moreover, Arthur's desire to have a father figure. The great father could be fulfillment of needs for life Arthur Flack and his mother. In fact, Arthur Flack never knew his father. Over the influence of Arthur Flack's mother said, Thomas Wayne was Arthur flack's father. Arthur Flack's desire to get confession from Thomas Wayne that Arthur Flack was his son. Arthur Flack wanted to visit Thomas Wayne's house but never met Thomas Wayne. Eventually, Arthur Flack met Thomas Wayne at an event, but Thomas Wayne did not recognize and confession Arthur Flack his son.

“JOKER (CONT'D)

Apparently, I'm Thomas Wayne's son!

How could you keep that from me?

His mother slowly getting up out of bed.” (Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 19)

JOKER

I don't know who my father is,

Murray. Turns out I was adopted and

sexually assaulted by my mother's

boyfriend” (Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 20)

Furthermore, Arthur Fleck's desire to become a famous comedian. Desire to be the famous comedian was fulfillment of economic problems that was pressing and getting worse socially. Arthur thought had become a famous comedian, since called on a television show for an interview. At the event, Arthur Flack to be insulted by the host of television show. The host said actually Arthur Flack did not funny but looked such as stupid person to wanted become famous comedian. As well as, Arthur Flack had a mental illness. The

disease had existed since Arthur flack was baby.

Joker shakes his head no, but he can't stop laughing. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a small card. Hands it to the woman.

CLOSE ON THE CARD, it reads:

"Forgive my laughter. I have a condition (more on back)"

She turns the card over and there is a bunch of information

in small writing--

"It's a medical condition causing sudden, frequent, uncontrollable laughter that

doesn't match how you feel. It can happen in people with a brain injury or certain

neurological conditions." (Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 31)

#### 4.2. The subject changed appearance.

Arthur Fleck's self-desire was always feeling lack. The lack started from did not have father, have mother was disease disorders and would never be a famous comedian. Arthur Fleck's desire was led to the process of reflecting the imaginary to get an ideal. Arthur Fleck was feeling to make himself happy. Arthur Fleck created a new shadow inside the self. Arthur Fleck could be unconscious or conscious that had created a new shadow of itself. Here Arthur fleck success created new shadow of himself become Joker. The fact proved when the host talk show called Arthur Fleck with the name The Joker, where was it done for remove of Arthur Fleck's self

Murray and Gene turn to go, exchanging smirks with each other as they walk out, making light of Joker who we see behind them still standing there.

## JOKER

Hey Murray, -- one small thing? When you bring me out, can you introduce me as "The Joker"? (Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 87)

Beside that Arthur flack created his appearance with a clown face always smiling. From the look of the new face had reflected his true self always suffering but covered with his new appearance as a Joker.



#### 4.3. The subject destruction was going after through life conflict to fulfillment desire.

Arthur Fleck started did fulfilment desire with did destruction action as achievements on satisfaction with the level symbolic After knowing everything that happens in the joker's life. He began to be lied to by his mother who said his father was a mayor. Joker experiences contempt for his environment, and sees all those who are oppressed due to resistance from people who think they are in power. The Joker then changes his personality into a new personality. The personality that used to be named Arthur Fleck now appears a new personality who dares to fulfill his desires.

Eventually, the story of Arthur Fleck, many conflicts had been experienced. Arthur Fleck had lack of self, marginal, bullying, demand, and desire unfulfillment. Arthur Fleck reached his lowest point, that way Arthur's personality changed a hundred degrees. Arthur Fleck did destruction to fulfilled desire. The fact could be

proved by Arthur killed his mother, Thomas Wayne, three boys in Gotham City and the host talk show.

#### JOKER

Very funny, Murray. No, they came because I killed those three Wall Street guys. (Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 37)

I'll tell you what you get, JOKER (pulling the gun). You receive exactly what you deserve—

JOKER SHOOTS THE SIDE OF MURRAY'S HEAD OFF AS MURRAY FRANKLIN TURNS—

The rear of the set is covered in blood splatters. Some sprays in the face of the Joker. SCREAMING FROM THE AUDIENCE! Dr. Sally leaps to the ground. Barry O'Donnell reaches over her in an attempt to save her.

Murray--(Phillips & Silver, 2018, p. 86)

#### 5. CONCLUSION

The results of this study indicate that in the Joker movie there are three sets of Jacques Lacan's psychoanalytic concepts, including the real, the imaginary and the symbolic. The series of destruction leads to the main character, so that it has passed all three psychoanalytic concepts of Jacques Lacan. Based on the analysis in the discussion that has been carried out, the conclusions are:

Arthur Fleck's desire was feeling of inadequacy break out because of a need that was no longer provided by his parents. Arthur Flack's mother was in a disease disorders condition. Also Arthur fleck never knew who was his father, until Arthur flack also rebelled by deciding to find his father and continue to find a way for his father to be responsible for the lives of Arthur flack and his mother, the desire break out in

Arthur Flack because of feelings of inexperience in getting wholeness within him. The desire turned into a need so that Arthur Flack's desire for revenge emerged. Desire was fulfilled after he turns into Joker all his hidden wanted come true by taking action of destruction

#### Suggestion

Based on the results of the discussion that has been described, the researchers realize that there are still many shortcoming in this research that had been done. Reference books used in this study do not use direct references from Jacques Lacan but only take from book references related to Jacques Lacan's psychoanalysis. So, if the reader is going to conduct a similar research using Jacques Lacan's Psychoanalytic theory, the researcher recommended increasing the number of reference books on Jacques Lacan's psychoanalysis. It was intended that the research carried out in the future can sharper and more efficient, especially with the publication of many books on the theory

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