

AGENTIC EXTRAVERSION NARCISSISTIC OF AMY DUNNE'S AS SEEN IN THE MOVIE "GONE GIRL" BY DAVID FINCHER

Ahmad Rifqi¹ , Ch. Evy Tri Widyahening²

English Language Education
Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Slamet Riyadi University Surakarta

Email: Ahmadsungkar18@gmail.com

Abstract: The objective of this research was to analyze the agentic extraversion narcissistic traits exhibited by the main character, Amy Dunne, as seen in the movie "Gone Girl," directed by David Fincher. The researcher used a descriptive-qualitative methodology. The data were collected through the use of documentation, including watching the movie, reading the script, and taking notes. In analyzing the data, the researcher used an interactive approach to data analysis, as defined by Miles and Huberman, which included the following stages: data collection, data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion verification. This approach was used to ensure the validity of the research. Additionally, the researcher employed a triangulation of data and triangulation theory to enhance the rigor of the research. The findings of this research indicate that the agentic extraversion narcissistic traits exhibited by the main character, Amy Dunne's, are: achieved goals and influenced by fame, as seen in the movie Gone Girl.

Keyword : Narcissistic, Gone Girl Movie, Descriptive Qualitative

Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis sifat-sifat narsistik ekstraversi agen yang ditunjukkan oleh karakter utama, Amy Dunne, seperti yang terlihat dalam film "Gone Girl", yang disutradarai oleh David Fincher. Peneliti menggunakan metodologi deskriptif-kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan melalui penggunaan dokumentasi, termasuk menonton film, membaca naskah, dan membuat catatan. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan interaktif untuk analisis data, seperti yang didefinisikan oleh Miles dan Huberman, yang meliputi tahap-tahap berikut: pengumpulan data, reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk memastikan validitas penelitian. Selain itu, peneliti menggunakan triangulasi data dan triangulasi teori untuk meningkatkan ketelitian penelitian. Temuan dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ekstraversi agen sifat narsistik yang ditunjukkan oleh karakter utama, Amy Dunne's, adalah: mencapai tujuan dan dipengaruhi oleh ketenaran, seperti yang terlihat dalam film Gone Girl.

Kata kunci : Narsistik, Film Gone Girl, Deskriptif Kualitatif

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a genre of creative writing that reflects human life in society and can be appreciated, understood, and utilized by society. The term is typically applied to works belonging to major genres such as poetry, drama, novels, and short stories.(Cuddon 1928-1996, 2013), and literature that deals with ideas, thoughts, and emotions. The word "literature" is derived from the Latin term "littera," which translates to "letters.". This word refers to written texts; therefore, literature is everything that is written. Literary appreciation is intimate activity to literary works seriously so that it can grow understanding, appreciation, and sensitivity of critical mind and sensitivity of good feeling to the literary works (Evy Tri Widyahening & Eko Wardhani, 2016). Literature can take the form of works such as drama, poetry, short stories, and novels. Literary works include the following types of works , such as novels, textbooks, poems, short stories, and movie, are intertwined with social issues (Olsen, 1982). The movie represents one of the principal areas of study within the field of popular literature. In the modern era, cinematic productions have become a reflection of life, offering insights into a range of interconnected aspects, including education, social issues, politics, and psychology. Movies have always played an important role in showing and reflecting the society in which they exist. As an integral art form, they capture the essence of time and allow us to explore the values, beliefs, and challenges of a society. Movie is an example of various mass communication media presented using elements of technology and elements of art (Afriyanto & Widyahening, 2024).

Movie is a cinematografi representation of a story, drama, episode and event. Movie is kind of motion picture, a visual medium that tells stories and exposes reality. According to Hornby (2015) “ Movie is a series of moving pictures, recorded with sound that tells the story, shown on television or at the cinema or movie theater." A movie is comprised of thousands of individual images that, when viewed in succession, create the illusion of movement and a sense of life. In order for this illusion to be achieved, the images must accurately and faithfully represent the subject matter. The term "object" is used in a broad sense to encompass any entity depicted in a motion picture. A movie, also a popular literary form, is a moving image that conveys a storyline through scenes. The cinematic medium is capable of conveying a multitude of messages, expressing the ideas of the writer, providing entertainment, and imparting knowledge to audiences. A movie can give a lot of beneficial things for many people by watching movie, people can get some information, learn foreign languages, and get inspiration or ideas. It can be concluded that movie is type of visual communication that the most popular entertainment in the world. Also, movie is a motion picture which is produced that can give many beneficial things for many people (Ch. Evy Tri Widyahening et al., 2023) .It can be related to various aspects of life, such as social, cultural, religious, and philosophical aspects. A movie is a cinematic work that typically encompasses a person's life story, elements of fiction, and biography, presented for the

purposes of entertainment. In general, motion pictures tend to explore a variety of themes, including but not limited to love, life, socio-political issues, and the portrayal of violence. Movie acts as a mirror, showing us what people think and feel about the world around them. Narcissistic also become one of the psychological aspects that can be seen or reflected through movies and can be used as objects or topics in literary research. Narcissistic also exists in literature, especially in the world of drama. This psychological form, characterized by excessive self-love and lack of empathy for others, has long been a topic in the literature. The roots of narcissism can be traced back to ancient Greek mythology, of which the Narcissus myth is a basic model. Drama has developed in different historical periods, from classical Greek tragedies to Shakespearean plays to modern works. Narcissistic not only reflects the complexity of individual psychology, but is also a reflection of social attitudes and values. Classic plays such as Hamlet, Othello become example of the reflection of social attitude (Narcissistic).

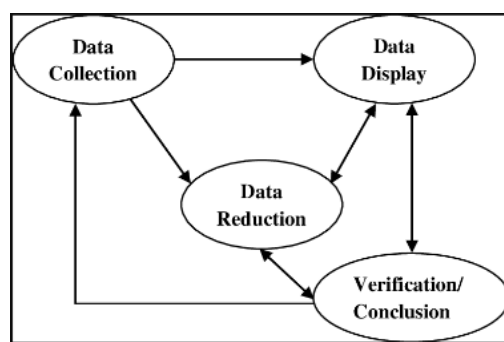
The concept of narcissism is also explored in the movie *Gone Girl*. In the movie *Gone Girl*, the character of Amy, the protagonist, is presented as a narcissistic individual. This movie adaptation of Gillian Flynn's novel was directed by David Fincher and released on October 3, 2014. Amy Dunne displays a multitude of intricate psychological characteristics, one of which is narcissism. She is described as a woman of striking physical beauty, with a fair complexion and an attractive countenance. The social dimension pertains to the character's background. Amy is a celebrated author known for her exceptional work, "Amazing Amy." The psychological dimension pertains to the character's personality traits. Amy is intelligent, manipulative, and exhibits psychopathic tendencies. This indicates that Amy possesses a multitude of personalities, which have been shaped by her external environment. According to Coons, (1988) multiple personalities is a syndrome that occurs when a person self-hypnotizes himself and creates another personality. This means that Amy performs self-hypnosis on herself without realizing it because of her environment. In this research, researchers wanted to examine the agentic extraversion narcissistic aspects is experienced by the main character in Amy. In assessing this aspect, researcher uses the theory of Campbell & Crist, (2020).

METHODS

The Research was conducted in the central library of Slamet Riyadi University at Jalan Sumpah Pemuda No. 18 Kadipiro, Surakarta, Central Java. The research was carried out from July to August 2024.

The researcher used the movie *Gone Girl* as a source of data for the research. The researcher employed a descriptive qualitative research approach. The research was conducted using a library-based approach, employing a psychological perspective that focused on the main character's narcissism, as postulated by Campbell and Crist (2020) in their book, *The New Science of Narcissism*. To address the research questions, this research was aimed to gain insight into one of the most significant psychological challenges of our time and explore potential solutions. According to Punch, (1998), qualitative research does not rely on numerical data. Initially, the research questions and methods were more general, becoming increasingly focused as the research progressed.

According to (Moleong, 2010) explained that descriptive qualitative research was a research that aimed to understand the phenomenon of the research subject, including their behavior, perception, motivation, and actions, holistically. The results were described in the form of words and sentences. Qualitative research did not include data and findings in the form of tables, charts, statistics, or numbers. Instead, it consisted of narratives, stories, and quotes in descriptive form. The analysis was based on two data sources. In this analysis, the researcher collected data from two sources: the movie *Gone Girl* and the screenplay or dialogue script for the movie. To collect data for this research, the researcher employed a documentary research technique, reading the screenplay and watching the movie directed by David Fincher. The researcher then conducted a data analysis based on the theoretical framework of Miles & Huberman, (1994). The term "analysis" was defined as comprising three simultaneous processes: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification.



Picture 1. 1 Component of Data Analysis , Miles and Huberman (1994)

In order to ascertain the accuracy and reliability of the data, the researcher employed a triangulation technique to validate the findings. The process of triangulation served to reinforce the findings by subjecting the information to cross-checking. According to Miles & Huberman, (1994) "triangulation was supposed to support a finding by showing that independent measures of it agreed with it, or at least, did not contradict it." The researcher used 'theoretical triangulation' and 'triangulation of data sources' as the types appropriate to apply in this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research study presented an analysis of how the character of Amy Dunne is portrayed in the movie "Gone Girl.". The research method was descriptive-qualitative, and the findings and discussion are presented in the form of description and narrative. The findings and discussion were related to the theory by Campbell & Crist, (2020). Was illustrated in :

1. Focus Heavily On Tasks And Projects To Achieve Goals

This data showed Amy's plan to trap Nick. Amy said she was happy with her plan to fake her death and frame Nick for her murder. Everyone would see this as murder. Amy believed that Nick would be imprisoned for the murder charges against him, and she found joy in the thought of framing him and getting her revenge. Amy was described as confident in the success of the plan to trap Nick. According to Campbell & Crist (2020), "Agentic extraversion captured self-confidence and social boldness, as well as the ability to achieve goals, rise to leadership positions, and achieve other positive outcomes." Individuals who exhibited agentic extraversion were frequently regarded as charismatic and capable of attaining their objectives. Individuals who exhibited high levels of agentic extraversion demonstrated a proclivity for focusing on tasks and projects. it can be seen in the line below :

Data 1

Context : Amy plan to disappear and framing nick for her disappearance and conviction for murder.

.....

Amy : I am so much happier now that I'm dead. Gone. Technically, "missing." Soon to be presumed dead. And my lazy, lying, cheating, oblivious husband... will go to prison for my murder.

In the dialogue (**Data 1**), Amy outlines her strategy for entrapping Nick. Amy stated that she was gratified by her scheme to feign her demise and incriminate Nick in her murdered. She said he stole her assets: money, pride, dignity, and hope. It was widely considered that Amy had committed murder and framed Nick. She succeeded in making herself disappear. Campbell & Crist (2020) posit that "Narcissists often fantasize about fame and approval."

Data 2

Context : Amy's plan to ruin Nick's life by framing him for murder.

.....

Amy : Finally, honor tradition with a very special treasure hunt. And if I get everything right, the world will hate Nick... for killing his beautiful, pregnant wife. Nick Dunne dumped his beloved like garbage. And she floated down past all the other... abused, unwanted, inconvenient women. Then, Nick will die, too. Nick and Amy will be gone.

From the dialogue (**Data 2**) In regard to the framing of Nick as the primary suspect in the murder, it can be observed that individuals with agentic extraversion tend to exhibit a high degree of task- and project-specific focus, as well as a proclivity for responding to rewards, including those of a psychological nature. She took bold and decisive action to ensure her success. Amy's plan to ruin Nick's life by framing him for murder can be seen to be an exercise in dominance and control, as she framed events to ensure Nick's public humiliation and downfall.

2. Influenced By Fame

The data provided evidence of Amy's need for attention and validation from others. Individuals who exhibited high levels of agentic extraversion demonstrated a proclivity for task-oriented focus, a sensitivity to rewards, and a tendency to pursue success, fame, and opportunities for recognition. The media attention and public response validated her. She saw herself as a skilled public relations practitioner. The acknowledgment made her feel accomplished and validated, and elicited admiration. This moment of media coverage provided the psychological reward she sought. it can be seen in the line below :

Data 1

Context : People reaction about amy's missing.

.....

Ellen : What kind of moral rot... allows a beautiful, talented, kind, smart, loving mother... to vanish without the heavens hearing our outraged cries? Amy Elliott Dunne, we care about you, and we will not forget. And you know what else we won 't forget? Missouri has the death penalty.

The dialogue (**Data 1**) showed the mysterious disappearance of Amy Elliott Dunne, a woman described as beautiful, talented, and loving. The presenters express outrage and highlight the ethical shortcomings of a society that permits such a person to be rendered invisible. In order to reassure Amy that she will not be forgotten, the presenter states that the state of Missouri, in which the story is set, has the death penalty, which entails severe consequences for the individual or individuals responsible for Amy's disappearance. It would appear that Amy is experiencing a high level of happiness, which in turn is influencing these individuals. Campbell and Crist (2020) say such people are "attracted to success, fame, and the opportunity to achieve, excel, and be recognized." They believe they are worthy of attention and admiration, and this desire drives their behavior and satisfaction with the attention they receive. This shows Amy has a narcissistic, agentic extraversion personality.

Data 2

Context : Nick Dunne did an interview on a talk show on television.

.....

Nick Dunne : Amy, I love you. You're the best person I've ever known. And I've taken myself to the woodshed for the way that I've treated you. And if you come back, I promise... I will spend every day making it up to you. I will be the man that I promised you I would be. I love you. Come home.

The dialogue (**Data 2**) demonstrated that Nick, who was aware that Amy was still alive, attempted to convey a message to her, urging her to return home. Nick's actions were intended to garner Amy's attention, as he had previously acknowledged shortcomings in his role as a husband and expressed a continued need for her. In public, Nick named Amy the "best person" he knew, validating her need for praise. He used Amy's exceptional qualities and aspiration for public acclaim. This public statement was designed to capture the audience's attention while resonating with Amy emotionally, showing he was a devoted and remorseful husband.

DISCUSSIONS

In this section, the researcher presents the findings of analysis data was presented in the movie *Gone Girl*. The data was based on an examination of the agentic extraversion and narcissistic traits exhibited by the main character, Amy Dunne. The research revealed that there were multiple facets of Dunne's character that align with these personality types ;

1. Focus Heavily On Tasks And Projects To Achieve Goals

In the movie *Gone Girl*, there are numerous instances in which Amy meticulously devised a strategy to accomplish her primary objective of evading capture and leaving Nick, her husband, to sit in prison for a crime he did not commit. To illustrate, when Amy wrote 300 pages of a fictional diary with the intention of presenting it as evidence to incriminate Nick in a court of law, she did not hesitate to fabricate 300 false narratives in order to ensure the success of her plan. Another example from the movie *Gone Girl* demonstrates Amy's meticulous planning. She prepared her residence as a crime scene, creating a disorganized living room and placing blood that had been removed. Furthermore, she concealed the burned and blood-covered handle.

This was done to create a crime scene that appeared neat and directed, thereby preventing suspicion and leading the police to believe that Nick was the perpetrator. Amy was described as exhibiting a high degree of confidence in the success of the plan to trap Nick. As posited by Campbell & Crist (2020), "agentic extraversion encompasses self-confidence and social boldness, as well as the capacity to attain goals, ascend to leadership roles, and realize other favorable outcomes." Individuals with agentic extraversion are frequently perceived as charismatic and efficacious in attaining their objectives. They are inclined to pursue rewards, including those of a psychological nature, and are drawn to success, renown, and prospects for achievement, excellence, and recognition.

2. Influenced By Fame

According to Campbell & Crist (2020), "This meant that people with agentic extraversion were often seen as charismatic and effective in achieving their goals were influenced by rewards including psychological rewards, and were drawn to success, fame, and opportunities to achieve, excel, and get recognition." This is exemplified in the movie *Gone Girl*, in which Amy's demeanor appears to be one of happiness, contentment, and a profound sense of satisfaction. This demonstrates the efficacy of Amy's psychological strategy, as evidenced by the public and media attention her plan attracted. The extensive media coverage and public response served as a form of validation for her. She perceives herself as an adept manager of public perception. The gratification she derives from the acknowledgment of this occurrence reflects her sense of accomplishment and validation.

The general public's acknowledgment of her ingenuity and the dramatic impact of her actions engenders a sense of appreciation and admiration. This instance of media attention served as the psychological reward she sought. In accordance with Campbell & Crist (2020), there are criteria in narcissism, one of which is that narcissists fantasize about fame, power, and status. This is also included in the characteristics of agentic extraversion.

Narcissistic individuals often fantasize about fame, power, and status, and this scene perfectly illustrates these for Amy. Amy's narcissistic personality and agentic extraversion are evident in her reaction to the successful execution of her plan. Her overconfidence is manifest in her belief that she merits the admiration and attention she receives.

CONCLUSIONS

This conclusion is based on the findings of a research study that examined the agentic extraversion and narcissistic tendencies of the main character, Amy Dunne, as depicted in the movie *Gone Girl*. The movie demonstrates the capacity of an individual to exert influence over the opinions and perspectives of others. The movie serves as an educational tool for studying narcissistic tendencies among teenagers, who are aware that narcissism is a global phenomenon that is currently prevalent. After analyzing the scenes and scripts from the movie *Gone Girl*, researchers have concluded that the agentic extraversion and narcissistic characteristics of the main character, Amy Dunne, are driven by a focus on tasks and projects to achieve goals and influence fame.

REFERENCES

- Afriyanto, D., & Widyahening, C. E. T. (2024). Phenomena of Acculturation: Kinds of Acculturation Between Middle East And West As Seen In The Aladdin Movie (2019) By Guy Ritchie. *English Research Journal : Journal of Education, Language, Literature, Arts and Culture*, 8(2 SE-).
<https://doi.org/10.33061/erj.v8i2.10263>
- Campbell & Crist. (2020). The New Science of Narcissism: Understanding One of the Greatest Psychological Challenges of Our Time—and What You Can Do About It. *Sounds True*, 2022, 2, 304.
- Ch. Evy Tri Widyahening, Ericha Nataliana Nugraheni, & MH Sri Rahayu. (2023). Moral Values in a Movie Entitled Frozen by Jennifer Lee. *Jurnal Multidisiplin Madani*. <https://doi.org/10.55927/mudima.v3i1.2286>
- Coons, P. M. (1988). Psychophysiologic Aspects of Multiple Personality Disorder A Review. *Dissociation*, 1(1), 47–53.
<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/47ec/decc2ac8073516914dd1eeb2dbf4e7ad9ac3.pdf>
- Cuddon 1928-1996. TA - TT -, J. A. (2013). *A dictionary of literary terms and literary theory* (5th ed NV). Wiley-Blackwell, A John Wiley & Sons, Ltd., Publication. <https://doi.org/LK> - <https://worldcat.org/title/809456968>
- Evy Tri Widyahening, C., & Eko Wardhani, N. (2016). Literary Works and Character Education. *International Journal of Language*.
- Hornby, A. S., Deuter, M., Bradbury, J., Turnbull, J., Hey, L., & Holloway, S. (2015). *Oxford Advances Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. Oxford University Press. <https://books.google.co.id/books?id=F1C3DAEACAAJ>

- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Expanded Sourcebook*. SAGE Publications. https://books.google.co.id/books?id=U4lU_-wJ5QEC
- Moleong, L. J. (2010). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Olsen, S. H. (1982). The “Meaning” of a Literary Work. *New Literary History*, 14(1), 13. <https://doi.org/10.2307/468955>
- Punch, K. F. (1998). *Introduction to Social Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*. Sage, London.