THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF
ROBERT ZEMECKIS’ MOVIE “FORREST GUMP”

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Abstract. The purpose of this study was to learn about the psychological aspects of the main characters in the film "Forrest Gump" by Robert Zemeckis. The descriptive method was used in this study. The main data came from the movie "Forrest Gump," and the secondary data came from some literature related to the subject of the research. The data were analyzed using descriptive method.

The result of the study showed the psychological aspects of the main characters that had been analyzed. Forrest Gump was stupid, foolish, limited in terms of intellectual development. He was patient and generous in terms of personality development. He was good in terms of morality development. Jenny was clever and connect in terms of intellectual development. She was annoyed, happy, regret, and friendly in terms of emotional development. Mrs. Gump was good in term morality development. She was approximately in term morality.

Keywords: Psychological aspects, main character.

INTRODUCTION

Broadly speaking, when we talk about literature, we will concern ourselves with an art, which exploits language. Literature also is an imitation of actual life. It expresses life as seen in real life, produces and recreates it through words as medium and takes human experiences as its material. The literary works have some kinds of form or conventional academic classification of literary gender, like poetry, drama, and prose and each item has a different characteristic and form, but the contents of them almost the same subject.

Literature may also be good information of any cases in human life. That is because of literature is manifestation or representation of human life or human act in the stage of world. World is the stage of drama and human being is the actor and actress of the drama. Literature as an expression of experience of human being through the language can lay open various life aspects. Literature earns to find the secret to world of human being and gives the very valuable mind experience to readers, also can give the way to truth by open secret of psychological problem in details and life psychology of human being, because that literary works represent its author soul.

One of form of literary works is movie. Movie is an achievement by human being in science and technology. This achievement is encouraged by something. So human can establish or get it. Something intended to convey in this case is inner spirit possessed by human being that usually called motivation. Movie tends to emphasize its unsure figure of characterization. Element of the
character in a movie become more uppermost because more to expand the psychological aspect.

An aspect such as sociology, psychology, and the other usually is an important thing in literary work, to make sure that is a good work. In psychology, character is a general term for the motivational aspect of a person’s mental life that are acquire i.e.; developed from in born tendencies as a result of personal experience (Encyclopedia Britannica 11, 1978: 748). In fiction, the author reveals the characters of imagery persons. And in all successful fiction, character came alive as individuals. They must be realize on the page thorough the accumulation of details about their appearance, action, and responses, as seen, heard, and felt physical realities (Charter, in Dedi Hidayat 2005).

Person in movie is in like met in life. Personality in everyday life is complex, but personality in movie only requires signalizing some nature of it. Figure of the movie have to be described as clear as possible about something they say, do, think, and concealed have to support the character depiction that typical on the figure of the movie.

Here the writer would like to study about psychological aspects of the main characters in movie “Forrest Gump” by Robert Zemeckis. The story follows the life of low I.Q Forrest Gump and he was experiences many events which suffering and happy. The film chronicles his unintentional encounters with some of America's most important people and events from the late 1950s to the 1970s, including a meeting with Elvis Presley, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, fighting in Vietnam, and so on. The problem is that he is too oblivious to the significance of his actions. In this movie the writer focused to the characteristic aspect based on psychological approach to analyze the attitude of the main character through his behavior.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this research was descriptive that was intended to describe everything all related to the topic of the research. Data in this research divided into two, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data was main data to collect and analyzed as an object of the research. Thus the primary data in her research was entire the movie “Forrest Gump”, such as statement made by actors and the picture presented. Secondary data were some related literature, such as: books, dictionary, encyclopedia, and information from internet, that support the writer in analyzing the primary data. Data had been transcribed using by structuralism or in the other word the writer used intrinsic approach. This determination was taken because in psychological aspects, the focus of the research was one of the intrinsic elements of a movie so the approach used in intrinsic, and because the writer intended to see and analyze the psychological aspects internally by consideration the a literary work can stand alone or has autonomy significance, this analysis was categorizes as structuralism analysis. Four steps of analyzing the data:

1. Watching the movie “Forrest Gump” comprehensively for five times.
2. Reading the script carefully and compare with the movie to helps understand about movie more comprehensively.
3. Watching the movie again and notes some expression, action and also events in the movie that is considered containing the psychological aspects.

4. Classifying the psychological aspects in four categories.

**Finding and Discussion**

A. Psychological Aspects of Some Characters

In this movie, the writer found out kinds of psychological aspects are intellectual, emotional, morality, and personality. Those aspects are mentioned in detail below.

1. Forrest Gump

At the beginning of this movie presents the main character of Forrest Gump. He lived about a quarter mile of Route 17, about a half mile from the town of Greenbow, Alabama. That’s in the County of Greenbow.

a. Intellectual

The writer can know about the intellectual condition of Forrest Gump from his cognitive process especially for thought activities, for example: to connect and to consider. The ways of Forrest connected something to something else. It can be showed in the Forrest’s monologue:

Forrest : Earl, what’s going on?
Earl : Coons are tryn’ to get in to school.
Forrest : Coons? When raccoons try to get on our back porch, momma just chase ’em of with a broom
Earl : Not raccoons, you idiot, niggas. And they want to go to school with us
Forrest : With us? They do? Forrest walks toward the schoolhouse.

The dialogue above point that Forrest was not connected what Earl spoke. Coons he means that raccoons. The ways Forrest considered can be shown when at day’s end the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa had been desegregated and students Jimmy Hood and Vivian Malone had been sign up for summer classes. The young black girl drops one of her books. Forrest steps out from the crowd and picks up the book. He brings it up to the girl.

Forrest : Ma’am, you dropped your book. Ma’am.

The funny acts of Forrest can be found when President Kennedy met with the Collegiate American Football Team at the Oval Office, Forrest was there too. The all American players mingle around the food table. Forrest steps up to the table. A large spread of food and soda is on the table. Now. The real good thing about meeting the President of United State is the food said Forrest. Forrest takes a bottle of Dr. Pepper from the buffet table. Numerous bottle of Dr. Pepper are displayed on the table. A servant opens the bottle for him. They put you in this little room with just about anything you’d want to eat or drink. And since number one, I wasn’t hungry, but thirsty…said Forrest. Forrest begins to guzzle the Dr. Pepper…and number two, they was free, I must drank me about fifteen Dr. Pepper, said Forrest. Forrest gets down an empty Dr. Pepper bottle
next to a large number of other empty bottles. Forrest holds his stomach and burps. And when President Kennedy shakes hands Forrest.

President Kennedy : Congratulations. How do you feel?
Forrest : I gotta pee. President Kennedy turns and smiles
Forrest urinates in the bathroom, then lowers the lid and flashes Actively of Forrest can be found when he joins in Football Team of Alabama, his runs was very fast, so his team being the winner. It can be found too when the recruits were sitting at the base of their bunks assembling their rifles.

Forrest : Done, Drill Sergeant!
Drill Sergeant : Why did you put that weapon together so quickly, Gump
Forrest : You told me to, Drill Sergeant. The Drill Sergeant looks at his stop watch.
Drill Sergeant : Jesus Christ! This is a new company record. If it wouldn’t be a waste of such a damn fine enlisted man, I’d recommended you for O.C.S., private Gump. You are gonna be a general someday, Gump. Now, disassemble your weapon and continues.

b. Emotional
The writer can know the emotional condition of Forrest from his affective experience that accompanies generalized inner adjustment and mental and psychological stirred-up states in his, and that shows itself in his overt behavior. There were some various emotional conditions of Forrest in this story.

1. Sad
The sadness of Forrest can be found when he met with Jenny in the night club. Forrest wants to help Jenny from the mans tries to grab her. But Jenny was angry to Forrest.

Jenny : You can not keep doing this, Forrest. You can’t keep tryn’ to rescue me all the time.
Forrest : They was tryn’ to grab you
Jenny : A lot of people try to grab me. Just you can’t keep doing this all the time!
Forrest : I can’t help it. I love you.
Jenny leave him alone after stopped a pickup truck pulls over. The sadness of Forrest also can be found when Jenny’s his loved and his best good friend, Bubba was died.

2. Anxious
Forrest was anxious because he wasn’t saw Bubba his best friend when they runs toward the cover of the jungle. It can be shown in the dialogue below:

Forrest : Bubba! Forrest turns around, then run back into the jungle searching for Bubba.
3. Happy
Forrest felt happy when we met Jenny and knows that he had a child, his name is Forrest too. Forrest Junior. He was very smart in the class. Forrest felt happy too when Jenny ask him that was he married her.
   Jenny : Would you married me?
   Forrest : Okay

4. Friendly
Forrest was friendly to all of people. He always introduced his self to all people his met. And he was a good listener to his best friend, Bubba.

5. Jealous
The jealous of Forrest can be found when he visited Jenny. A car pulls up. The two people inside car begin to kiss and embrace to each other. Jenny was inside in the car with a boy. Forrest stands up and dashes toward the car. As he steps over the driver's side door, he tries to look out the window. He opens the door and starts punching the boy inside. Jenny leaps from the car and sprints over to Forrest.
   Jenny : Forrest ! Forrest ! Forrest, stop it ! Stop It !
   Forrest : He was Hurtin you, Jenny’s date, named Billy, gets out of the car angrily.

c. Morality
Discussion about the morality of Forrest Gump, here we would see in quotations as follows :
   Lt. Dan : Gum, you stay here, goddammit ! That’s an order !
   Forrest : I gotta find Bubba.
Forrest runs through the jungle searching for Bubba. Forrest slows down and looks around carefully. Another of his good morality that shown when he helps Lt. Dan, eventhough Lt. Dan order to Forrest leave him in the jungle.

d. Personality
Forrest’s personality presented as idiot, stupid, foolish, patient, and a generous man. He was generous man can be found when he gave chocolates for the nurse, woman who was his met for the first time. And we can be found it when he was bring chocolates for Jenny. The patient of Forrest can be found when the people said that he was stupid, ididot, but he was never angry. And when his friends were slip a way him and throw him with more dirt clods, he just runs and runs without say anything and never fighted.

2. Jenny
Jenny was most special friend Forrest from elementary school until senior high school. She always accompanied Forrest every where and protected him if there were someone disturb him.
   a. Intellectual
      Talking about intellectual, here Jenny used her intelligent when Forrest throws rocks by a teenage boy, Jenny order to Forrest runs.
      Jenny : Run, Forrest, run !

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They never got him. Because every day he runs, his run being like a wind. One day he runs onto the high school football Forrest runs across the field during a football scrimmage. The football coach of University of Alabama watching the scrimmage was surprise saw Forrest runs like a wind, and he was followed him in their team football. And Forrest being famous. All of it cause Jenny.

When Forrest will be send to Vietnam, Jenny advised to Forrest that if he is ever in trouble, don’t try to be brave, just run a way. In war Vietnam Forrest really did what Jenny never told to him and he can safe and helps his friends.

b. Emotional

There were some various emotional conditions of Jenny in history, like happy, friendly, and annoyed.

Jenny was annoyed to Forrest when she inside the car with her boyfriend. Forrest opens the door and begins to punch the boy inside the car. Jenny jump out of the car and runs over to Forrest.

Jenny : Forrest ! Forrest! Forrest, stop it! Stop it! 
Jenny : What are you doing ? 
Forrest : He was hurtin you. 
Jenny : No, he isn’t

It can be found too when Forrest tries to help Jenny when the man wants to grab her.

Jenny : Forrest, what are you doing here? What are you doing ?
Jenny : What are you doing ? Forrest, let me down ! Jenny struggles and frees herself from Forrest.
Jenny : Forrest you stay a way from me, okay? You just stay a way from me, please.

The friendly of Jenny can be found when she met Forrest the first time. No one give him seats. Only she offered seats to Forrest and being his friend.

Jenny : You can sit here if you want.

Jenny was happy when she met Forrest when she speech in the stage.

Jenny : (Screaming) Forrest ! Jenny wades out in to the reflection pool and waves her hand the air. Forrest recognizes her.

Jenny : Forrest ! Forrest jumps down into the crowd and runs. Jenny smiles as he tries to run through the water. The crowd parts as Forrest runs into the pool. Jenny rushed toward him.

Jenny regret to Forrest when Forrest came to her house. It can be shown the dialogue below :

Jenny : There. Listen, Forrest. I don’t know how to say this. Um, I just….I want to apologize for anything that I ever did to you, cause I messed up for a long time.
c. Morality
Discussion about morality of Jenny, it can be found when Jenny being Black Panther member, which is disagreement if black shoulders sent to the front line to die for country that hates government and white people. Other good morality of Jenny is honest. Jenny was honest about her sick to Forrest.

Jenny : Forrest, I’m sick.
Jenny : I have some kind virus. And the doctors don’t they don’t know what it is. And there isn’t anything they can do about it.

And good morality of Jenny can be found too when she helped Forrest to learn how to read.

d. Personality
Jenny was covert women. It can be found when she hidden her sick in long time. She always avoid Forrest and she wasn’t told what is the cause. And she always followed what is she wants to do, like associated with wrong people, drinker and drug user.

3. Mrs. Gump
Mrs. Gump was Forrest’s mother. She was a stiff mother and always had a way of explaining things to Forrest, and given support to Forrest.

a. Intellectual
Mrs. Gum was a clever and hard mother. She was believed that her son was not different than anybody else is. So she came to the Greenbow County Central School to met the principal.

Mrs. Gump : What does normal mean, anyway? He might be a bit on the slow side, but my boy Forrest is going to get the same opportunities as everyone else. He is not going to some special school to leran to how re-tread tires. We are talking about five little points here. There must be something can be don.

The dialogue above point that how to Mrs. Gump connected the topic that they spoke. We can see in the other dialogue :

Forrest : Momma, what’s vacation mean?
Mrs. Gump : Vacation?
Mrs. Gump : Vacation is when you go to somewhere, and you don’t ever come back.

b. Emotional
Discussion about the emotional of Mrs. Gump, Here we could see in quotations as follows :

Mrs. Gump : Louise, he’s here, he’s here everybody.

The dialogue above state that Mrs. Gump was very happy because her son had been coming back. And she was sad when she would be died and leave Forrset alone.

Mrs. Gump : I will be miss you Forrest.
c. Morality
   The morality of Mrs. Gump we can see from her’s appreciation to anybody can be found when she was forbidden to Forrest disturbs Elvis.
   Mrs. Gump : Forrest ! I told you to not to bother this nice man.

d. Personality
   The personality of Mrs. Gump was generous and strong. She was never surrender to educate Forrest, and she was generous too. We could see in quotation as follows:
   Mrs. Gump : All right, but your supper’s ready if y’all want to eat.

CONCLUSION
Based on those of the data analysis and discussion, it can be concluded that the psychological development of Forrest as follows:

1. Forrest Gump
   a. Forrest had low IQ was 75. So, he couldn’t think normally like anybody else such as stupid and foolish. It can be showed when he spoke with other people wasn’t connect. He had mental retardation was shown his behavior unsuitable with his age. He was actively if he ordered anything.
   b. Forrest was in bad emotional condition when she was in problem. The emotional conditions of Forrest in his life were bad such as sad and anxious. But there are some of his good emotional such as friendly and happy.
   c. Forrest had a basic good personalities such as generous can be showed when he gave chocolates for the nurse, human who was his met for the first time, and his patient can be showed when people said that he was stupid, idiot, but he was never angry.
   d. Forrest had a good morality because he was always helps everybody who needs help.

2. Jenny
   a. Jenny was a clever woman. She solved her problems well with her intelligent.
   b. The bad emotional of Jenny is annoyed, and her good emotional are happy, regret, and friendly.
   c. Jenny had a good morality
   d. Jenny was a covert woman because she hidden her sick to Forrest in long time and she did whatever she wants to do.

3. Mrs. Gump
   a. Mrs. Gump was a clever mother and always connect with the topic that spoke
   b. The good emotional of Mrs. Gump is happy and bad emotional is sad.
   c. The personality of Mrs. Gump was generous and strong, she was never surrendered to educate Forrest. It can be showed when she permit herself slept with principal in order to Forrest can be learn in Greenbow County Central School
   d. The good morality of Mrs. Gump is appreciately.
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