

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS' MANIPULATIONS BETWEEN "THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY" AND "TO DIE FOR" MOVIES

Safnidar Siahaan

*English Department University of Riau Kepulauan
safnidar@fkip.unrika.ac.id*

ABSTRACT

This research will analyze one of literary works namely movie. This research will be focused on the manipulation action as the human personality part that can be found in the movie especially about the main characters' manipulation actions in two movies namely movies entitled "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and "To Die For", then the writer will compare them. There are two points that will be described relating to the manipulation, those are; manipulation as one of Machiavellianism traits and manipulation as one of the behavior patterns used by narcissists. The purpose of this research was to describe the similarities and differences of both movies through the manipulation action from the both movies. In this research, the writer used the descriptive qualitative method. Furthermore, the writer collects the data from the two movies to classify the similarities and differences refer to manipulation action of the main characters. The data collection in this research was done by watching, and took notes before do the analysis from the dialogue, situation who delivered in the movie which become s the main data in this research.

Keywords: *manipulation, Machiavellianism, Narcissistic, Behavior.*

INTRODUCTION

Literature can be said to be a very familiar part of life. It also builds someone's imagination and sensitivity. Furthermore, literature also has a context and a history, is a vast, ongoing, ever-evolving conversation in which people most fully participate when they enter into actual conversations with others (Kelly, 2016: 08). Furthermore, Klarer (1999: 01) stated that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. In addition to Kelly (2016: 01) "literature is imaginative or creative writing, especially of recognized artistic value". Based on some definition about literature can be concluded that literature is someone's

imaginations and then it is being live up thought the various elements of its instinct, such as; events, plot, characters, setting, point of view and other things. The result of someone's imagination can be mentioned as the literary work. As Massari & Sidek (2014) stated that literature consists of a vast repertoire of human expressions carried out through the medium of language, both in oral or written forms which is this study concerns on people, both life and activities that connected to it. Both literature and real life have a close relationship each other, especially because literature represents life itself. Literature represents all life aspect such as people, problems, or even current situations which are put into fiction, poetry, drama and movie.

In this world, there are so many famous movies. People in every part of the world watch the movies as a type of entertainment, a way to have fun. Fun for people can be laughing, while for others it can mean crying, feeling afraid or feeling infuriated. Barsam and Monahan (2010) say besides as a product produces and marketed by a large commercial studio, a movie is a popular entertainment. Movie can bring expression of feeling including experiences, ideas, motivations, confidence in the concrete description by using language.

Through movie, human could take a life learning which makes their life more meaningful. In this research, the writer will analyze the manipulation actions to describe the similarities and differences between two movies namely movies entitled "*The Talented Mr.Ripley*" and "*To Die For*". That is why the writer takes the title **A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER'S MANIPULATIONS BETWEEN "THE TALENTED MR.RIPLEY" AND "TO DIE FOR" MOVIES**

REVIEW OF RELATED THEORY

Human Personality

Every human has their own personality. Feist (1976: 04) said that a pattern of relatively permanent traits and unique characteristics that give both consistency and individuality to a person's behavior is personality. Furthermore, McAdams (2005) in Jusuf (2018: 46) stated that human nature itself - what we human beings have in common with each other by virtue of the fact that we are all human beings have in common with each other by virtue of the fact that we are all human being – is a product of our species' evolution. Whereas personality develops across

the individual life course, from birth through old age, human nature has “develop” over millions of years of evolutionary history. And it continues to develop, of course, for evolution never goes away. It can be concluded that someone personality develops throughout his/her life

Manipulation as Machiavellianism Type

Christie and Geis (1970) in Bereczkei (2018) described that Machiavellianism as a personality trait, as an attitude to the world, and as a behavior. Brewer & Abell (2017) state that Machiavellianism as a manipulative interpersonal style, willingness to exploit others, and a preference for emotionally detached relationship. It can be concluded that Person who have Machiavellians personality is one who uses others as a means of achieving one’s own goals. These people are generally willing to make in troubled and manipulating others. Machiavellians take advantage of others for their own sake and they do so in order. In addition, according to Fehr, et.al (1992) in Leary and Hoyle (2009:93), Machiavellian’s motivation as one of cold selfishness or pure instrumentality. They just focus in their self, how to gain their own goals with caring others. Rather than having a unique set of goals, individuals high in Machiavellianism were assumed to have typical intrinsic motives, such as; sex, achievement, and sociality.

Through the above explanation, it can be concluded that Machiavellianism is a personality trait which sees a person so focused on their own interests, how she or he could get their own goals with doing everything ways or tactics. People who have this personality called Machiavellian, who make a living life with doing everything.

Christie & Geis (1970) in Bereczkei (2018) also stated that there are three types of situations where Machiavellians prove particular effective and successful in overcoming others: 1) in a close personal relationship with the “victim”; 2) in a structures and less regulated social environment or intuitions (e.g. workplace) which offers ample opportunity to find out unusual tactics; 3) with partners who are engrossed in, or occupied by, their emotions. Manipulation has a multifaceted connection with lying. Machiavellians often lie and they lie convincingly and effectively. They will choose to lie when they think the truth would not be effective. Broadly speaking, Machiavellians will cover the truth exist to gain their goals.

Manipulation as Narcissistic Behavior Pattern

Narcissism theory found firstly in 1914 by Freud. Nowadays an observer of psychoanalysis is abundantly apparent that in recent years issues of narcissism have taken center stage. According Sandler, Person and Fonagy (2012) in their book entitled *Freud's "On Narcissism: An Introduction"* cited of Freud (1914) said:

“Narcissism is derived from clinical description and was chosen by Paul Nakcel in 1899 to denote the attitude of a person who treats his own body in the same way in which the body of a sexual object is ordinarily treated—who looks at it, that is to say, strokes it and fondles it till he obtains complete satisfaction through these activities.”

One of the behavior patterns that can be analyzed from narcissist according to Sayers (2019) is manipulation. There are a large number of manipulation techniques used by narcissists that may be long to discuss everything. But to give people a better understanding of their true nature, it is ideal that people touch the most common tactics they use.

The first, and perhaps the most abused, is *shaming*. Done both personally and in public, the goal of humiliation is to double. The first is to increase their own values, grandeur, and intelligence, and the second is to make people feel inferior to them. Furthermore, *Playing the role of victim* is another way that a narcissist might manipulate their supply. This is typically put into motion when the abused is in a position where he might feel inconvenienced by the narcissist's demands. In addition, *Conditional love* is another tool that is used well in narcissism. This method gives victims enough thanks to feed their desire to be on the good side of narcissists, making them worthy of respect and adequate for now. Narcissists will often protest this making their victims happy or doing anything to support them, working as a positive reinforcement that makes victims want to continue working well. Unfortunately, love that qualifies as true love must be unconditional. That is, he did not choose when to love, but chose to love even though there was a lack of that person. Unfortunately this is not something that

narcissists can do. If victims do something against their desires, preferences or ideas, narcissists only hold back love and affection; make victims feel unworthy and unworthy. Only when an apology and acknowledgment of his mistake will make the narcissist 'forgive' the victim.

Finally, it is important to talk about how a narcissist might *blame people for everything*. This tactic keeps their image clean and blemish-free while causing their victim to develop a concept of accountability. Abusers do not want to be wrong in any situation, and so they exercise every opportunity to make sure that they do not get blamed for any bad publicity.

METHODOLOGY

The method of this research used the descriptive qualitative method. According to Kothari (2004:37), descriptive research is the study which is concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual, or of a group. This method will be used to describe everything that related to the main characters' manipulation actions and to find out the similarities and differences of the manipulation actions in two movies namely movies entitled "*The Talented Mr. Ripley*" and "*To Die For*". In addition, according to Creswell (2014:32) qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding about individual or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. This research process involves several questions and procedures that arise; ranging from data that is usually collected in participant's settings, analyzing data inductively collecting information according to the research theme or research topic, the researcher makes an interpretation of the meaning of the data being analyzed. Furthermore, according to Tracy (2013), qualitative research is excellent for studying contexts people are personally curious about but have never before had a "valid" reason for entering. In addition to personal interest or disciplined voyeurism, qualitative data provide insight into cultural activities that might otherwise be missed in structured surveys or experiments. Therefore, it can be concluded that qualitative research is the kind of research that examine the representation in figures and tables, behavior and provide insight into cultural activities. Qualitative research generated descriptive data that tend to use the analysis of the form of text, speech, and behavior.

In this research, the writer used two sources of data, those are: primary and secondary data. According to Hox and Boeije (2005), primary data refers to the data that are collected for the specific research problem at hand, using procedures that fit the research problem best. Based on the statement above, the primary data in this research is taken from *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *“To Die For”* movies. In addition, according to Kothari (2004:111), secondary data means data that already available, and it may either be published data or unpublished data, which is published data, are available in books, magazines, reports, journal, and so on, while unpublished data may be found in diaries, letters, unpublished biographies and also may be available with scholars and research workers, so on. It means the secondary data has benefits to increase the analysis.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the writer will analyze the main characters’ manipulation actions and to find out the similarities and differences of the manipulation actions in two movies namely movies entitled *“The Talented Mr. Ripley”* and *“To Die For”*, and the data can be seen from the following table:

Table.1. Manipulation characteristics

No	Title Of The Movies	Manipulation characteristics	Number of Data Analysis
1	The Talented Mr. Ripley Movie	Manipulation as Machiavellianism Type	4
2	<i>To Die For</i> movie	Manipulation as Narcissistic Behavior Patterns	2

Manipulation in the Talented Mr. Ripley Movie

One of the types of Machiavellianism is manipulation. Machiavellian will do manipulation to gain own goals. Some characteristics in doing manipulation can be seen from Machiavellian. There are examples of manipulation found and the analysis use in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* movie. Manipulation is characterized by a sincerity attitude. Manipulation of this movie was when Tom has a sincerity attitude to Dickie. When Tom wants to say good-bye to

Marge and Dickie, he dropped his bag containing books about jazz so that Dickie knows that Tom had the same music taste with him. It can be seen in the following data 1.

Dickie's father, Herbert Greenleaf, told to Tom that Dickie likes jazz. He recruits Tom to travel to Italy and persuade Dickie to go back to United State. Before go there, Tom learned about jazz. He was looking for some books of jazz and learned about it. After some days in Italy, Tom was pretending to say goodbye to go back to United State.

Data 1



Marge : Tom. You're off? What are your plans?

Tom : Go back, I suppose, as slow as I can.

Marge : Oh.

Tom : Oh, this bag! Oh! Oh!

Dickie : Hey, You like jazz?

Tom : **I love jazz.**

Dickie : Oh! This is the best.

(The Talented Mr. Ripley, 1999:00:17:54, 120 → 00:18:15, 920)

Based on the dialogue above, Tom has a sincerity attitude to Dickie. This utterance included manipulation because this dialogue shows that Tom admitted that he likes jazz so that Dickie could be attracted to him because they had the same musical taste. Based on the data 1, it can be concluded that Tom did manipulation that he displays sincerity through his interest in jazz, so that Dickie is attracted to him because has the same musical taste.

Another characteristic of manipulation is in the diverse tactics used. It can be seen after Tom has murdered Dickie in Rome, he was looking for ways or tactics to face Marge if she asks him about Dickie. He prepared a reason if Marge asks him about Dickie existence.

Data 2



Marge : You're back!
Tom : How are you? Your book going well?
Marge : Yes. I'm on a good streak, thank you.
Tom : I was just looking at you, so quite.
Marge : Where's Dickie?
Tom : **I think he's planning on staying in Rome for a few days.**
(The Talented Mr. Ripley, 1999:00:58:04, 680 → 00:58:24, 320)

Based on the dialogue above, Tom had tactic to response Marge's question. Marge was writing her book alone, and Tom came to her after he returned from Rome. During their conversation, Marge asked Tom about Dickie's existence. Tom response Marge with his thought that Dickie's planning on staying in Rome for a few days. But in fact, Tom has murdered Dickie. Marge doubted Tom's answer. However, Tom tells about Dickie's ugliness and gives something from Dickie that he made by himself. It can be seen in data 3 below. Before Tom should meet Marge, he wrote a letter as if he was Dickie. During their conversation about Dickie, he gave that letter to Marge so that Marge should trust him about what he said about Dickie.

Data 3



Marge : Rome? Oh. Did he say why?
Tom : **I don't understand Dickie. Your guess is as good as mine.**
Marge : Well, what does mean?
Tom : **Well, one day I'm invited skiing, next day I'm not. One day we're family, and then the next day he wants to be alone.** You tell me.
Marge : Is that what he said? He wants to be alone?
Tom : **He was thinking of you. He asked me to deliver this.**
Marge : Thank you
(The Talented Mr. Ripley, 1999:00:58:24, 320 → 00:58:51, 280)

Based on the dialogue above, Tom made a manipulation with a tactic of writing a letter as if he was Dickie and gives it to Marge, so Marge believed that Dickie wanted to stay in Rome for a few days convinced Marge that Dickie was still thinking about her.

Based on the data 2 and 3, it can be concluded that Tom had diverse tactics to manipulate Marge. He made a lying story that Dickie wanted to stay in Rome for a few days and write a letter as if he was Dickie and give it to Marge. Moreover manipulation is characterized by covering the truth exists. It can be seen in data 4 below: The Italian Police was investigating Tom (as Dickie) about Freddie's death. After that Tom was riding a motorcycle and looked around Dickie's shadow everywhere. Finally, he got motorcycle accident and caused his face bruised. Then, he met Marge. Marge asked him about Freddie's death and about where Dickie is.

Data 4



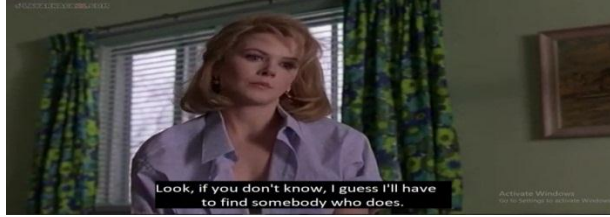
Marge : Did he kill Freddie?
Tom : Marge! When did you get here?
Marge : Tell me the truth. Did he kill Freddie?
Tom : I'd swear he didn't.
Marge : I tried again, waiting here, watching for him. Instead it's you. Whenever I look for Dickie, I find you. What happened to your face?
Tom : **Dickie. Dickie did it.**
(*The Talented Mr. Ripley*, 1999:01:26:19,360 → 01:26:43,120)

Based on the dialogue above, Tom made a manipulation with cover the truth exists. Marge meets him to find out whether Dickie killed Freddie. During their conversation, Marge saw Tom's face and asked what happened to his face. Tom answered her by saying that Dickie did it, Dickie hits his face. But in fact before meet Marge, Tom got motorcycle accident. Based on the data 4, it can be concluded that Tom manipulated with cover the truth exists which is he said that Dickie has hit him, even though he got motorcycle accident before he meet Marge.

Manipulation in *To Die For* movie

There are a plethora of manipulation techniques used by narcissists that it might be lengthy to discuss them all. The first, and possibly most abused, is shaming. Then, playing the role of victim is another way that a narcissist might manipulate their supply. Next, Conditional love is another well-used tool in the narcissistic arsenal. Finally, it's important to talk about how a narcissist might blame you for everything. Manipulation in this movie can be seen below:

Data 1



Suzanne : **So, when will it happen?**
James : Ow, Oh, come on. Please don't...
Suzanne : I just want to know.
James : Let's just do this. **I don't know.** Whenever. Jesus. Oh.
Suzanne : **Look, if you don't know, I guess I'll have to find somebody who does.**
(To Die For, 1995:01:09:18 – 01:09:31)

From data 1, it can be seen as a manipulation of conditional love. Suzanne is trying to give enough affection, making James feel worthy and sufficient for the time being just because he can do anything to benefit her. But when James against her desire, she simply withholds love and affection, making him feels unworthy and undeserving of Suzanne's care. Here is another example of manipulation:

Data 2



Reporter : Suzanne, did you get those kids to kill your husband?
Suzanne : **I loved Larry Maretto with all my heart. But the fact is... my husband had a serious cocaine problem. There. I've said it. I finally said it. I believe that while I was making my documentary Teens Speak Out, James and Russell became acquainted with my husband without me knowing and got him addicted to drugs and became his main supplier. And when he tried to break free of them, or maybe when he told them that he was thinking of turning them in to the law... they killed him.**
(To Die For, 1995:01:33:20 – 01:34:11)

From data 2 above, it can be seen that there is manipulation. Suzanne told the wrong story to the public through the media about her husband's death and said that James and Russel are the murderers of her husband's death.

CONCLUSION

In this research, the researcher focused on the type that occurs in the movies. There are similarities between “The Talented Mr.Ripley” and “To Die For” movies namely manipulation. Meanwhile the differences between these movies can be divided into six types of manipulation action that described as follows:

1. Manipulation “The Talented Mr.Ripley” movie

Tom did manipulation to gain his goals or keep his purposes. There are some characteristics of manipulation based on the theory used and some of them are found of this research such as sincerity attitude, cover the truth exists, and has diverse tactics. In doing manipulation, he showed his sincerity attitude to Dickie by admitting that he likes jazz as like Dickie like it. Then Tom cover the Dickie’s existence by telling that Dickie wants to stay in Rome for few days and he wrote a letter as like it was from Dickie and gave it to Marge. Moreover, Tom cover the truth by saying to Marge that Dickie has hit his face, but in fact he got motorcycle accident.

2. Manipulation “To Die For” movie

Manipulation can be categorized as the narcissistic behavior pattern. This manipulation can use attraction, seduction, and even coercion to pressure their partners to do what they want. Some of them are very good at manipulating others so they are unconscious.

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