#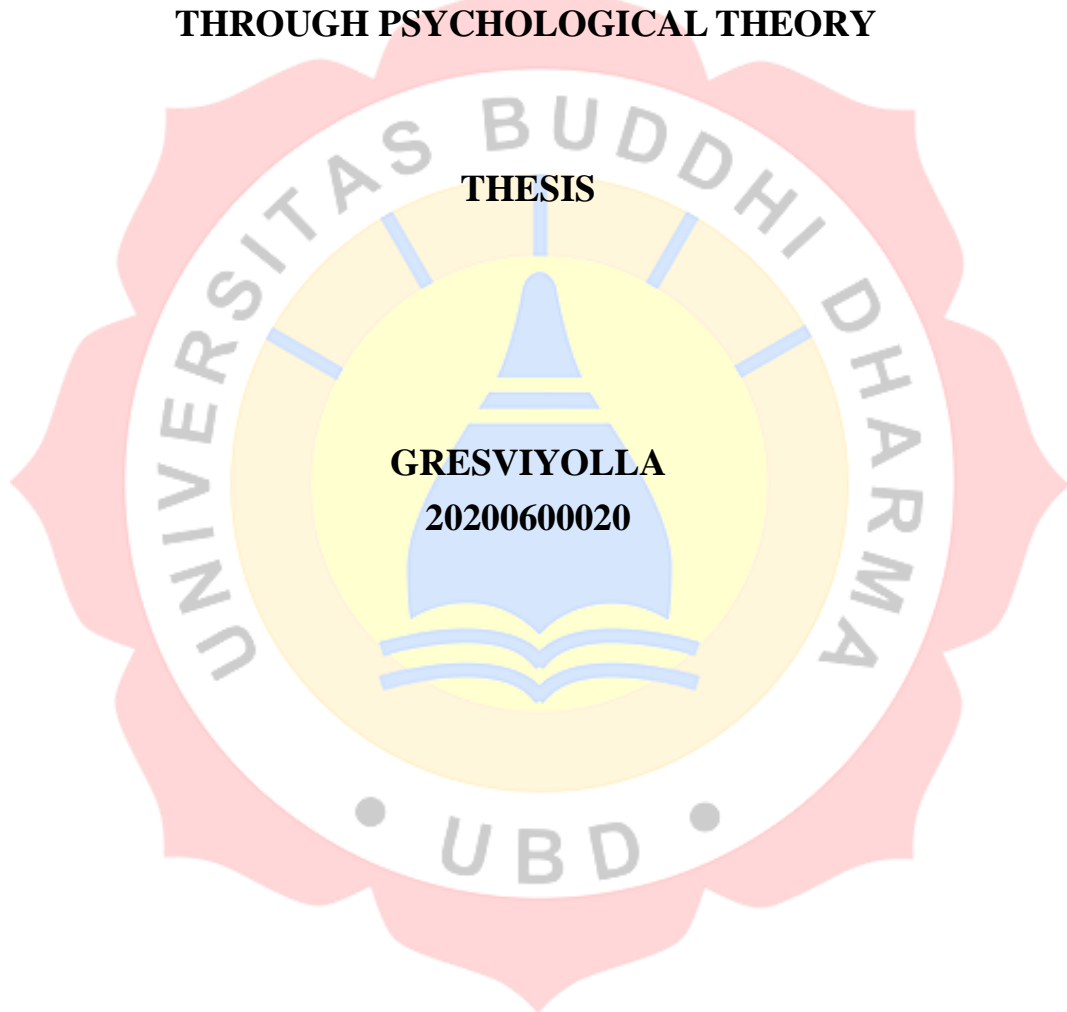 CHRIS GARDNER'S CHARACTERIZATION DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS IN *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS* MOVIE DIRECTED BY GABRIELE MUCCINO THROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY

THESIS

GRESVIYOLLA
20200600020

ENGLISH STUDIES

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

BUDDHI DHARMA UNIVERSITY

TANGERANG

2024

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Presented as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Bachelor Degree

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FINAL PROJECT APPROVAL

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Study Program   : English Studies

Final Project Title   : Chris Gardner's Characterization Development Analysis in *The Pursuit of Happyness* Movie Directed by Gabriele Muccino Through Psychological Theory

The Final Project Proposal has been approved to examined as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Bachelor Degree

Tangerang, 05 September 2024

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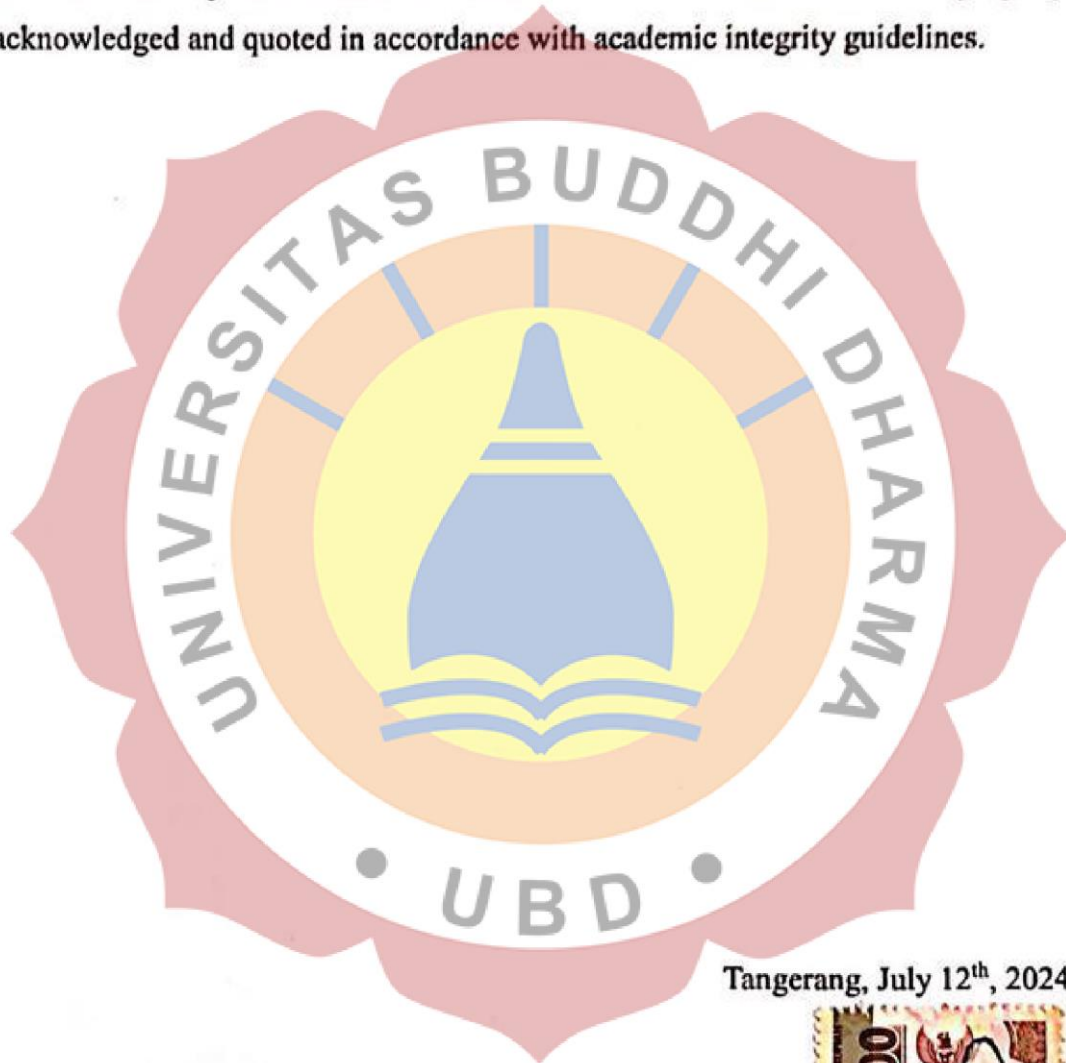
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STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I confirm that this thesis is my original work and that I have not unfairly used ideas and work from other scholars. I have not taken any scholarly ideas or content from others in dishonest manner. I assure that this work has not been previously submitted for any examination. All sources cited in this thesis have been properly acknowledged and quoted in accordance with academic integrity guidelines.

Tangerang, July 12th, 2024

Gresviyolla

20200600020

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8. I would like to take a moment to thank myself for the dedication, perseverance, and hard work that have gone into completing this thesis proposal. Balancing this thesis with full-time job was very challenging and through countless hours of research, writing, and revision, I have pushed myself to achieve this milestone. I am grateful for my own resilience and commitment to learning, which have been essential in reaching this point.
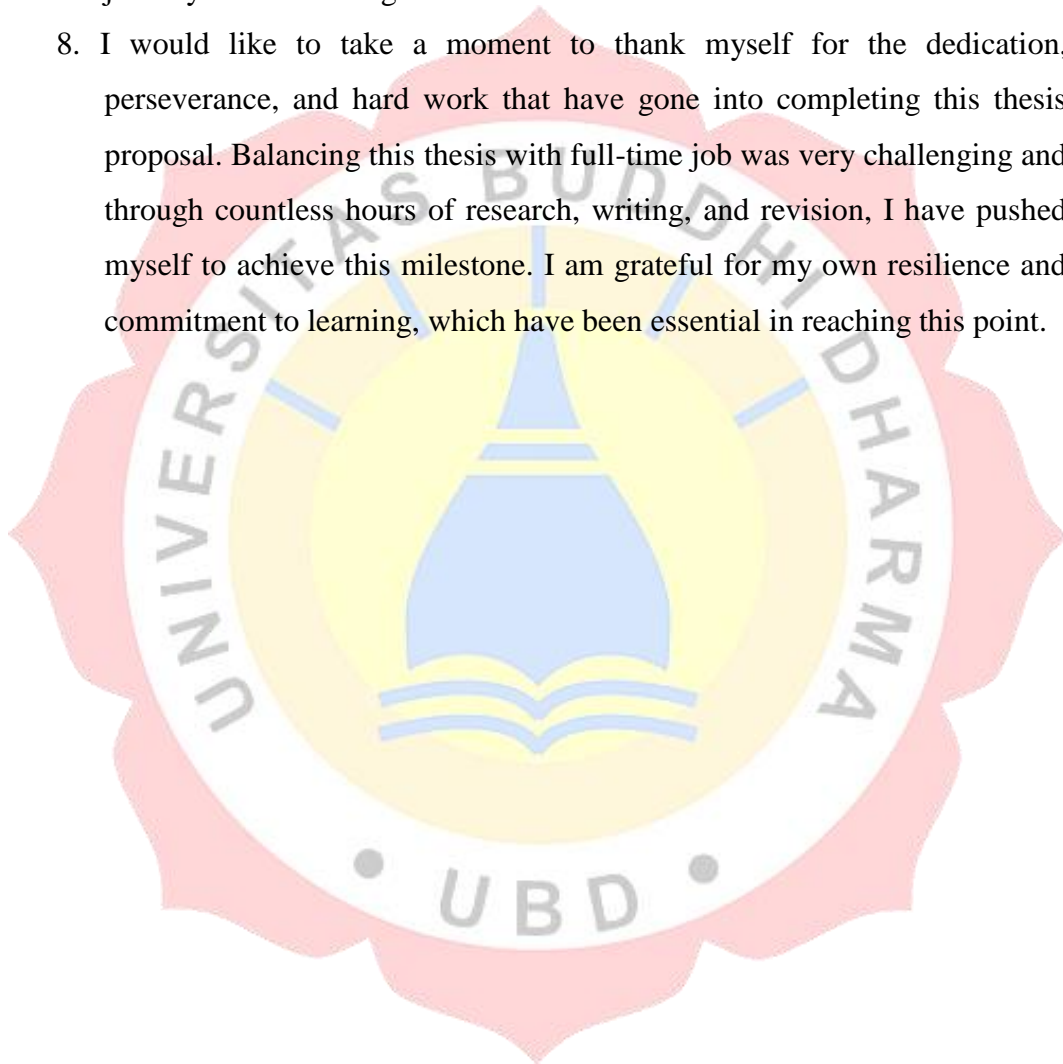
ABSTRACT

This study aims to find out Chris Gardner's characterization development reflected on Alfred Adler concepts. The writers used qualitative method. The data of this research is *"The Pursuit of Happyness"* movie script directed by Gabriele Muccino in 2006. The primary data which is the movie script was downloaded from the credible website. The writer used individual psychology theory by Alfred Adler as a guide to find and analyze the characterization development portrayed in Chris Gardner character. The study on Chris Gardner's characterization development in "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" examines how Chris Gardner's actions and experiences reflected on Alfred Adler's concepts. Chris Gardner's early experiences with financial instability feed his emotions of inadequacy and inspire him to superiority or strive for success which is aligned with Alfred Adler's belief that obstacles can be overcome through dedication. His interactions at the childcare, where he fixes a mistake, show that he cares about society and the community. Chris Gardner's adaptable style of life, demonstrated by his repeated sprints due to lack of transportation, exemplifies his resourcefulness shaped by personal experiences. Lastly, Chris Gardner's ability to use imagination to overcome difficulties describes Alfred Adler's concepts of fictional goal. The study shows that Chris Gardner's determination and success are driven by feelings of inadequacy and the need to compensate for them. As a result of this study, the writer found that the characterization development of Chris Gardner are reflected on Alfred Adler's concepts such as inferiority complex, superiority or strive to success, social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal. Based on the findings on characterization development of Chris Gardner in the movie *The Pursuit of Happyness* that aligned with individual psychology theory by Alfred Adler shows that the concept of inferiority is most frequently found in Chris Gardner with 13 datas, meanwhile the concept of social interest is least frequently found with 2 datas in this research.

Keywords : literary works, characterization development, individual psychology

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

      Literature in the form of a series of sentences and beautiful words is in fact not only used as information that is needed by humans but can also be used as a medium of entertainment. According to Klarer (2004) defines literary production is essentially the desire of humans to leave a lasting mark of themselves through creative expression, which will exist independently from the individual and endure beyond their lifetime. So, it means literature cannot be separated from human life. Literature can certainly provide significant benefits and changes future.

      One of the most popular literary work is movie. Many people watch movies at home or theater with the aim of entertainment and as a medium that describes social life in society, it cannot be denied that movies can also be used as a means to convey important messages to the public. Movie as one of the attributes of the mass media is the most effective means of communication. According to Villarejo (2007) explain that film, on the other hand, is not just a passive object for critics to analyze. Instead, it is a dynamic entity that engages with viewers on a sensory and emotional level, forging a reciprocal relationship between subject and object. This understanding challenges the traditional notion of film as a static object and highlights its profound impact on spectators. This perspective challenges the conventional perception of film as a static entity and underscores its profound capacity to influence and resonate with its audience.

      Psychology, however as the study of the human mind and behavior, can provide valuable insights into the motivations, emotions, and experiences of characters in literary works. In short, a psychological theory of literary value must explain how the literary object, in virtue of its form and content, satisfies psychic needs (Jhangiani & Tarry, 2014) it means a psychological theory of literary value should explain how a work of literature fulfills emotional and mental needs through its structure and content. According to Gabbard (2005) defines psychoanalysis

involves embarking on a voyage of self-exploration, with the patient as the adventurer and the analyst as the facilitator of this journey.

Characterization development is the process by which people's unique traits, behaviors, and personalities evolve throughout time, according to Perry & Pollard (1998). It covers the ways that people grow and change as a result of their experiences, reflection, and relationships with other people. According to developmental psychology, people's personalities gradually change and become more sophisticated as they go through different stages of life and encounter different challenges. Overcoming adversity, for example, can increase resilience, and developing deep relationships with others can increase empathy. Consequently, characterization development refers to the process through which an individual's behaviors and characterization alter as a result of life events, shaping their character and development.

The writer used a movie script with the title "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" in this research and interested in analyzing Chris Gardner because Chris Gardner is a complex character with an inspiring story of perseverance and dedication to his son. Chris Gardner's story shows that it is possible to overcome even the most difficult challenges, and he is a role model for anyone who has ever struggled in life. The movie also has an interesting plot and insights that make it even more fascinating and inspiring. In other words, the writer is interested in Chris Gardner because he is a well-developed character with a compelling story that is both inspiring and thought-provoking. The analysis of this film is to understand the deeper nature of characterization development that exists in the characterization of Chris Gardner. Besides that, this movie can be analyzed by exploring its psychological concept of the character related with, in this research is Chris Gardner.

"The Pursuit of Happyness" directed by Gabriele Muccino and released in 2006, is a movie that tells the compelling story of Chris Gardner. The film is inspired by the true story of Gardner's struggle with homelessness while raising his young son, Christopher Jr. Set in San Francisco in the early 1980s, the film begins with Chris Gardner as a struggling salesman. He invests his life's savings in portable bone-density scanners, hoping to sell them to doctors. However, this investment does not pay off as expected, leading to severe financial instability. Chris's wife,

Linda, becomes increasingly frustrated with their dire situation and eventually leaves him, moving to New York to pursue a better life, and leaving Chris to care for their son alone. Facing eviction and unemployment, Chris and his son find themselves homeless, forced to sleep in shelters, public restrooms, and subway stations. Despite these hardships, Chris remains determined to provide a better life for his son. His resilience and resourcefulness lead him to an unpaid internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, Dean Witter Reynolds, where he competes against 19 other candidates for a single paid position. Throughout his internship, Chris juggles the demands of his job with the pressing need to care for his son and secure stable housing. His days are marked by relentless effort, unwavering optimism, and a deep love for his son. His strong desire for success and happiness drives his actions throughout the film. Despite facing numerous challenges, Chris remains determined to achieve his goals and provide a better life for himself and his son. The film highlights the emotional and physical toll of Chris's pursuit, underscoring themes of perseverance, sacrifice, and the American Dream.

Ultimately, Chris Gardner's hard work and dedication pay off. He secures the coveted position at Dean Witter, which marks the beginning of his successful career in finance. The film concludes with a brief epilogue noting that Chris went on to establish his own multimillion-dollar brokerage firm. "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" is a poignant narrative that captures the essence of determination against all odds.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background study above, the research will be focused on the characterization development of Chris Gardner reflected on Adler's concepts. The film "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" presents a profound exploration of the characterization development of Chris Gardner. This transformation offers a rich case study for examining the psychological concept related to the main character of this movie.

As mentioned slightly before, Chris Gardner faced many challanges and feelings of inferiority, particularly when he and his son were homeless due to financial struggles. Despite these difficulties, Chris strove for superiority or

success, aligning with Alfred Adler's concept such as social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal portrayed in this movie.

However, there is a lack of scholarly analysis and exploration in academic literature regarding the use of Adlerian principles to analyze the main character of "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" movie, which is Chris Gardner. Alfred Adler's individual psychology provides a comprehensive framework for understanding human behavior. This research seeks to fill this gap by analyzing the characterization development of Chris Gardner using individual psychology theory. The study will focus on how Chris Gardner's life experiences, social context, and personal aspirations align with Alfred Adler's concepts of inferiority complex, superiority or striving for success, social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal.

1.3 Research Question

In order to understand and focus on the Chris Gardner's characterization that the writer want to analyze according to the focus of the study, the writer stated a research question as :

"How does Chris Gardner's characterization development in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie reflected on Alfred Adler's concept?"

1.4 Goal and Function

The primary theoretical goal of this research is to conduct an in-depth analysis of the characterization development of Chris Gardner in the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" using Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory. This study aims to identify and analyze how Adlerian concepts such as inferiority complex, superiority or striving for success, social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal reflected in Chris Gardner's behaviors and decisions throughout the movie.

The practical goal of this research is to offer a reliable analysis of Chris Gardner's character development from a psychological perspective, obtain an information and explanation regarding to the research question. This study will be a resources for readers, students and references for any further research who want or interested in exploring the psychological theories and literary studies,

particularly those exploring characterization development through psychoanalysis frameworks. However, this research is to find out and analyze Chris Gardner's characterization development reflected on Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory.

The function of this research is to find out and discover the characterization development on Chris Gardner in "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" movie in order to provide reliable analysis and information related to psychological analysis, especially the personality, focusing in Alfred Adler's theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research focus on analyzing the characterization development of Chris Gardner in the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" reflected through Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory. The study will examine how key Adlerian concepts such as inferiority complex, superiority or striving for success, social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal are portrayed in Chris Gardner's characterization development.

This study is limited to the analysis of the character Chris Gardner as portrayed in the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" and does not extend to other interpretations of Chris Gardner's life, such as his autobiography or other media representations. The research is constrained by the scope of Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory and does not incorporate other psychological theories or frameworks.

1.6 Conceptual Framework
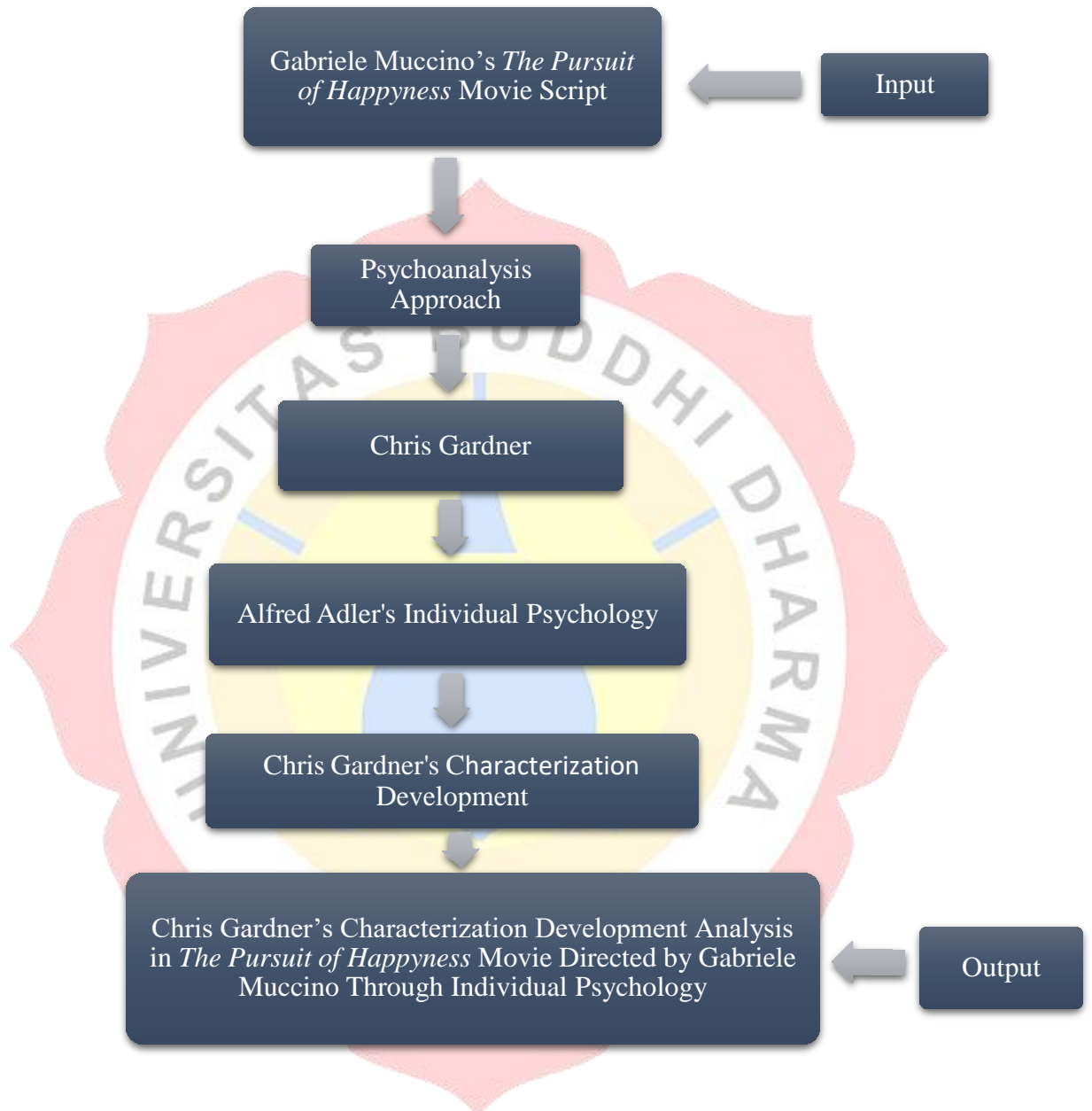
Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework shows that the writer choose "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" movie script as the object and source of this research. To find out and complete the data, the writer took it from the movie script. After collecting the data, the writer will analyze it using psychoanalysis approach. Continually, the writer discusses the findings and reliable information about psychoanalysis approach focusing in individual psychology in the further discussion chapter on this paper. The writer produces and presents the result of the process to answer the research questions that have been mentioned in the previous chapter.
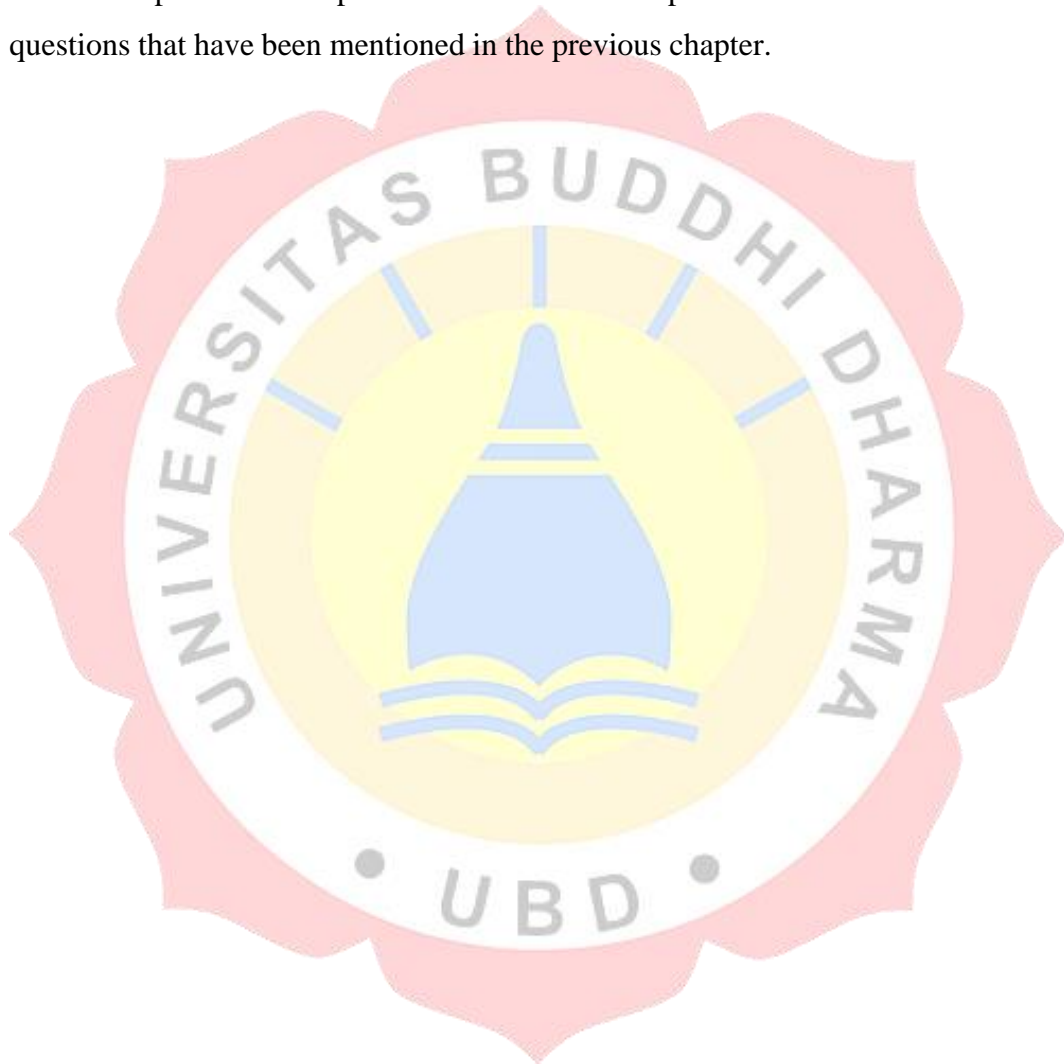
CHAPTER II

PREVIOUS STUDIES AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Studies

Before conducting the research, the writer reviewed previous research on the same topic to gather necessary information, reliable resources, and relevant references. In addition, the writer reviewed previous research in order to create a comprehensive, informative work and provide more information about the theory.

This chapter reviews existing literature and previous studies that have applied Alfred Adler's theory to character analysis in both film and literary works. By examining these studies, this chapter aims to establish a foundation for the current research, which focuses on the characterization development of Chris Gardner in the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" reflected on Alfred Adler's theory.

Thesis of Qonita (2020), a student of English Department, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University with the title "*Analysis of Jamal Al-Fayeed's Inferiority Complex in Tyrant TV Series*". The aims of this study is to examine the personal traits of Jamal Al-Fayeed, a prominent figure in the Tyrant television series. Jamal has brutal personality where he dominates others in goal of becoming the new president of Abbudin. Jamal frequently reacts aggressively to any issue and to anyone who gets in the way of him accomplishing his objective. This study examines the personality and characterization of the character using Alfred Adler's theory of individual psychology. As a result of the study, it shows that Jamal exhibits multiple symptoms of an inferiority complex. These symptoms are evident in his unusually growing sense of inadequacy, which is fueled by jealously. He also exhibits violent accusatory conduct and retreat, both of which are signs of neurotic protective behavior. In an attempt to prove his dominance, Jamal also has a tendency to act like a tyrant and engage in sexual harassment. This study also identifies the factors, such as a neglected youngster and a lack of social engagement, that contribute to his inferiority mentality. This

research also finds the factor that influences his inferiority complex, such as neglected child and low social interest.

Thesis of Putri (2023), a student of English Letters Study Program, Faculty of Cultures and Languages, UIN Raden Mas Said Surakarta with the title "*Factors of Inayah's Inferiority Feeling and Her Lifestyle in Muslim Girl Novel By Umm Zakkiyyah*". The research subject is formulated into two primary questions: first, the factors of Inaya's inferiority feelings that reflected in Muslim Girl novel by Umm Zakkiyyah. Second, how does inferiority feeling impact Inaya's lifestyle in Muslim Girl novel by Umm Zakkiyyah. To answer the problem, the researcher used two theories of Alfred Adler such as Adler's (1931) inferiority factors and Adler's style of life idea found in Boeree (2006). According to Alfred Adler's perspective, there are sixty data points in Umm Zakkiyyah's Muslim Girl novel that stem from the protagonist's perceived inferiority. The 60 data in the Muslim Girl novel that were found to be associated with feelings of inferiority were divided into 5 factors: 4 data from childhood experience, 17 data from parental influence, 4 data from social comparisons, 1 data from striving for superiority, and 34 data from cultural and societal influences. Data of Inayah's lifestyle in Muslim Girl novel found, there are 60, which are divided into 4 types; 1 data from ruling type, 17 data from getting type, 37 data from avoidant type and 5 data from social useful. Out of the collected data, 34 is the influence of cultural and societal factors, while 37 avoidant type. This suggests that societal and cultural influences are the main sources of Inaya's sentiments of inadequacy. Because she thinks people wouldn't view her positively, Inaya feels forced to hide her true identity at school. As such, she is constantly uncomfortable when she is around her peers.

Research by Normaningtyas, et al (2020) in Konferensi Ilmiah Mahasiswa Unissula (KIMU) 3, a student of Universitas Islam Sultan Agung with the title "*Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology: The Inferiority Feelings of Anna as Main Character Depicted in Miracles From Heaven (2016)*". This study applies Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology theory to examine Anna's sense of inferiority in the Miracles from Heaven film. As the result of this study, it can be seen that Anna, the main character of Miracles from Heaven in 2016, initially experiences feelings of inadequate or inferiority. Her physical weakness, anxiety, and pessimism caused her

to feel inferior. Anna experiences those emotions as a result of a physical digestive system disease that is abnormal compared to other people.

Thesis of Putra (2019), a student of English Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya with the title "*The Analysis of Combo's Superiority And Inferiority As Depicted in This Is England's Movie by Shane Meadows*". The main focus of this study is to find out the superiority and inferiority of a character named Combo. The result of this research found the Combo's superiority and inferiority towards the other characters. The effect of Combo's superiority complex, those who are less than him are forced to share his viewpoint, pay attention to him constantly, and even accept responsibility for everything. The effect of Combo's inferiority complex is that Combo expects people to bargain with him for what he wants, and when he is offended, the others may have to deal the anger when he offended.

Research by Ikram and Waheed (2018) in International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications, Volume 8 from GC Women University, Faisalabad with the title "*Inferiority Complex: A Character Analysis of Elif Shafak's Honour*". The aims of this study will be focus on the socio-psychological factors that motivate the perpetrators. This qualitative study used psychoanalytic literary criticism to analyze the characters in Elif Shafak's book Honour, particularly the matricide, Iskender. The purpose of the study is to exploring the character's mental state in order to determine the root-causes of his behavior and actions. The research approach used in this study is analytical-cum-critical for the psychoanalysis of characters using the conceptual framework of Alfred Adler's ideas of inferiority complex.

The similarity between the previous studies and this study is that to analyze certain character that aligned with Adler's concepts with the same qualitative method. The five previous studies above also used Alfred Adler's theory but this study, however, is unique in that it focuses on Chris Gardner from the "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" movie as its primary topic. Meanwhile the differences compared to the previous studies is that this research intends to provide a more detailed examination of Adler's individual psychology theory, in contrast to prior studies that only focuses on the inferiority and superiority concepts of Alfred Adler, this

research presents and provide in-depth study of individual psychology theory by Alfred Adler such as inferiority complex, superiority or striving for success, social interest, style of life, creative power and fictional goal. In contrast to the earlier studies, which had a more constrained scope, this one seeks to provide a more thorough examination of Adler's concepts.

2.2 Literature

Literature encompasses written artistic works like poetry, drama, fiction, and non-fiction. It uses language to express ideas, emotions, and experiences. Through literature, we can explore diverse cultures, historical eras, and viewpoints, gaining insight into the human condition. It has the ability to inspire, educate, and provoke thought, making it a significant part of our cultural heritage. Literature is made up of only those books that are of general human interest and are well-written, with a focus on form and the reader's enjoyment (Hudson, 1913). Literature is the body of written works, but not all written works are considered literature (Klarer, 2004).

2.2.1 Psychology in Literature

Psychology in literature entails the examination and depiction of human thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and mental processes within literary works. It involves exploring the psychological aspects of characters, including their motivations, conflicts, and relationships. By delving into the complexities of the human mind, literature with psychological elements explores themes such as identity, consciousness, perception, memory, and the influence of societal and cultural factors on individual psychology. Through psychological analysis, literature offers readers a deeper understanding of human nature and the intricacies of the human condition by providing insights into the inner worlds of its characters. The meaning of psychology in literature is explained by Wellek and Warren (1963) as the psychology of literature is the study of how writers create, how literature reflects human psychology, and how readers respond to literature. According to Aras (2015) defines literature and psychology are closely related because they both study human beings and their reactions, thoughts,

feelings, and experiences. Authors use their own unique perspectives and values to represent life in their work, which can open up new worlds and insights for readers. Literature can also help people to understand and question their own identities and to find meaning in life. Man and existence have always been central themes in literature, as well as in other areas such as science and art. So, psychological theories can be used to analyze a character in a literary work to reveal their personality.

2.3 Personality

Personality refers to the unique set of traits, patterns of thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that define an individual and distinguish them from others. It encompasses a person's consistent patterns of thinking, feeling, and acting, which are relatively stable over time and across different situations. Personality is influenced by a combination of genetic factors, environmental experiences, upbringing, and cultural influences. It shapes how individuals perceive and interact with the world around them and affects their attitudes, values, and social relationships. Personality traits can vary widely among individuals, leading to diverse personalities such as introversion/extroversion, openness, conscientiousness, agreeableness, and neuroticism. According to Ryckman (2008) personality is a set of characterization that dynamic and organized that uniquely influences a person's cognitions, motivations, and behaviors in various situations.

2.4 Characterization Development

According to Perry & Pollard (1998) characterization development is the process by which people's distinctive qualities, actions, and personalities change over time. It includes the ways in which individuals develop and alter as a result of their interactions with others, experiences, and introspection. Developmental psychology holds that as people move through various life phases and obstacles, their personalities gradually grow and become more refined. For instance, overcoming adversity can lead to improved resilience, while meaningful relationships with people can lead to enhanced empathy. So it means, the process by which a person's characterization and behaviors change as a result of life events,

forming their character and development, is known as characterization development.

2.5 Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology

The theory of individual psychology created by Alfred Adler, is a psychological framework that focuses on how social factors and an individual's pursuit of goals shape their personality and behavior. Adler believed that people are driven by their desire for significance, belonging, and success. He argued that early experiences, particularly within the family, greatly influence a person's personality. Adler introduced the concept of the "inferiority complex" suggesting that feelings of inadequacy can motivate individuals to strive for superiority and compensate for perceived shortcomings. Another important aspect of Adler's theory is the notion of lifestyle which refers to an individual's unique way of perceiving and interacting with the world. Adler also emphasized the significance of social connections and the individual's role within their community. According to his theory, a sense of belonging and social interest are crucial for psychological well-being. So it means, Adler's theory of individual psychology emphasizes the interconnectedness of social, psychological, and subjective factors in shaping personality and behavior. The individual psychology is the study of the individual as a person with unique needs and goals who is also a member of society and interacts with others. (Adler, 1997).

2.5.1 Inferiority Complex

According to Adler (1997) inferiority complex is feelings of inferiority or inadequacy that lead to distress, psychological defenses, and a compensatory drive towards grandiosity. The inferiority complex, as described by Alfred Adler, refers to deep-seated feelings of inadequacy or inferiority that individuals experience. It is a psychological condition where a person perceives themselves as less capable or valuable than others. These feelings can stem from various sources, such as early life experiences, comparing oneself to others, or internal self-criticism. Individuals with an inferiority complex may develop compensatory behaviors or strategies to overcome their perceived shortcomings. This can include a strong drive for

success, a desire for power or control, or seeking validation from others. It is important to note that having an inferiority complex does not mean that individuals are actually inferior or less competent; it is about their subjective perception and emotional experience. Adler believed that understanding and addressing these feelings of inferiority were essential for personal growth and developing a healthy sense of self.

2.5.2 Striving for Superiority Complex or Success

Superiority complex is a condition that develops when a person over compensates for normal inferiority feelings. According to Schultz and Schultz (2017) superiority is the ultimate goal to strive for. Striving for superiority does not imply superiority, arrogance, dominance, or overestimation of one's abilities and accomplishments. In Alfred Adler's perspective, superiority is not about a conventional sense of being better than others. Instead, Adler defines superiority as a fundamental drive for perfection. In Adler's view, striving for superiority entails a pursuit of excellence, completion, and wholeness in oneself, rather than a comparison to or dominance over others. This concept emphasizes self-improvement and the fulfilment of one's potential as opposed to feelings of superiority over others.

2.5.3 Social Interest

Thus, it has always been necessary for people to collaborate with others to express their social interest. The individual must collaborate with and contribute to society to realize personal and communal goals. Adler believed that people have a fundamental need to belong in order to be healthy, well-functioning individuals (Schultz & Schultz, 2017). Alfred Adler defines social interest as an individual's innate ability to collaborate with others in order to achieve personal and societal goals. It refers to the ability to engage in community feeling, or Gemeinschaftsgefuhl, which emphasizes the importance of belonging, cooperating, and contributing to society for individuals' well-being and functioning. Adler believed that social interest was a fundamental aspect of human nature that influenced

how people interacted with others and dealt with life's challenges. Social interest refers to an individual's natural desire to interact with others, collaborate for mutual benefit, and contribute to the well-being of the community.

2.5.4 Style of Life

According to Schultz & Schultz (2017) our ultimate goal is superiority or perfection, which we strive for through various means. Each of us expresses our striving differently. We form a distinct pattern of characterization, behaviors, and habits, which Adler referred to as a distinctive character or way of life. Alfred Adler's concept of "style of life" refers to a distinct set of personal behaviors, characterization, and habits that people develop to compensate for feelings of inferiority. This way of life develops early in childhood through social interactions, particularly within the family dynamic, and becomes deeply ingrained by the age of four or five. It influences how people interact with their surroundings, what they prioritize or ignore, and their attitudes. So, a person's life style reflects their unique approach to life, shaped by their efforts to achieve superiority and overcome perceived weaknesses.

2.5.5 Creative Power

The innate ability that every individual possesses to create their own life and personality is referred to as creative power in Alfred Adler's theory. Alfred Adler defined creative power as the belief that people can actively shape and create their own personalities, characters, and lifestyles. Adler argued that we are not solely the products of our childhood experiences; rather, our conscious attitude toward these experiences is critical in shaping our attitude toward life. Adler believed in individual free will, allowing each person to choose and create their own path, while also acknowledging that once established, a lifestyle tends to remain consistent throughout life.

2.5.6 Fictional Goal

According to Alfred Adler's concept of fictional finalism, people are motivated by subjective ideals and goals that are not necessarily grounded in reality. These fictional ideals, such as the pursuit of perfection, guide human behavior and shape interactions with others. Adler believed that striving for superiority and perfection is an inherent part of human nature, both on an individual and societal level. He emphasized the interconnectedness of individuals and society in their pursuit of these fictional goals, emphasizing the ongoing quest for improvement and cultural perfection. Finally, fictional finalism emphasizes the idea that people are motivated by subjective ideals and beliefs as they strive for their own sense of fulfilment and ideal selves.
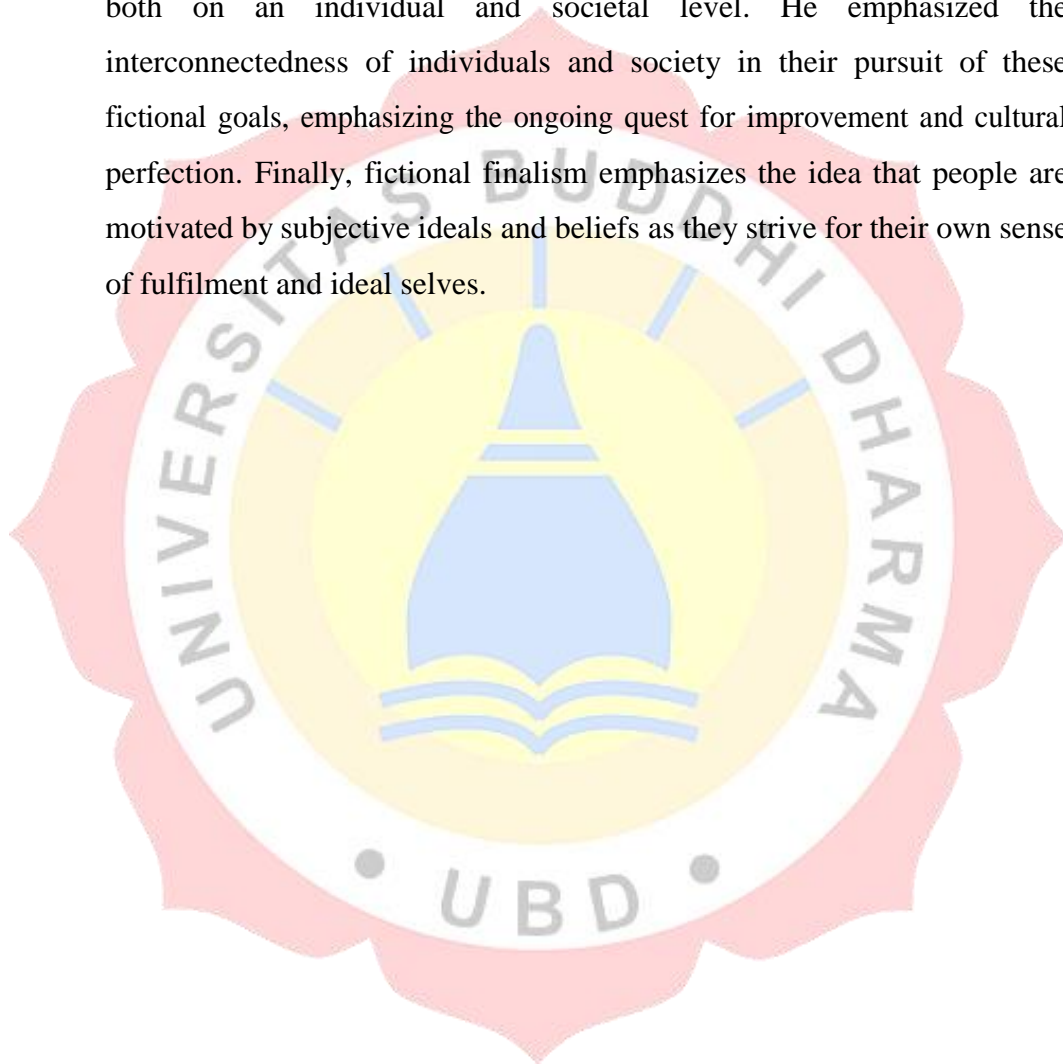
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Subject Matter

The subject of the research is Chris Gardner's characterization development in the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" directed by Gabriele Muccino in 2006. The writer explains about psychological problem experienced by Chris Gardner using individual psychology theory. This research was analyzed the characterization development of the main character in "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" Chris Gardner where he feels inadequate as a result of his financial difficulties, his homelessness, and the demands of being a single father. Chris Gardner utilizes his sense of inadequacy as inspiration to work harder and become a better person in spite of these obstacles. Chris Gardner changes his life by working hard and overcoming obstacles, as a result, he eventually lands a permanent job and achieves considerable success. This story of going from feeling inadequate to successful emphasizes the importance of resiliency and willpower in character development.

3.2 Material

This section discussed the material which come from the movie of "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" directed by Gabriele Muccino in 2006. The movie falls under the melodrama genre and delves into the psychological theory surrounding Chris Gardner's personality as the main subject. The writer conducted research using journals, articles, the internet, previous thesis and other references to support the analysis. As the main material, the movie script itself was also utilized to gather relevant statements, dialogues, and conversations that align with the discussion. The focus of the analysis is on Chris Gardner's characterization development as portrayed in the movie.

3.3 Approach

The writer applied a qualitative method in order to analyze the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*". According to Mack et al. (2005) define qualitative research as a kind of scientific investigation that seeks to comprehend a study problem from the viewpoints of those who are directly involved. It adheres to particular protocols

in order to obtain data and provide results that are not predefined and go beyond the scope of the current study. This method works well for gathering culturally relevant data about the beliefs, attitudes, actions, and social contexts of certain groups. To grasp the topic under examination, qualitative research is helpful primarily because it offers a thorough insight of the experiences of the research subject, including their behaviors, perceptions, motives, and actions. The writer also used psychoanalysis approach, focused on individual psychology theory by Alfred Adler.

3.4 Procedure

The research was conducted in several steps. First, the writer selects a movie that is interesting for analysis, in this study is the movie "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" by Gabriele Muccino. Then, the writer started to watch and understand the elements of the movie structure and psychoanalysis contained in the movie. After that, the writer also read and learn the movie script to gain more valid and reliable data. The writer also seeks additional information sources through the internet to support this research. After understanding and analyzing the data, the writer collects data to report the research results to the supervisor. The outcome will be utilized to categorize and organize data according to the specific section, aligning with the study's objectives. The writer also applied the psychological theory to analyze Chris Gardner's character that will be discussed in the next chapter.

3.4.1 Data Collecting Method

The writer use a thorough approach to data collecting for this study of Chris Gardner's characterization development in "*The Pursuit of Happyness*" using Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology theory. First, the writer watch the movie several times while carefully noting important speech, character interactions, and sequences that highlight Adlerian concepts. The writer also read the movie script and academic papers on Alfred Adler's theory and how it applies and relate to the movies, which will add theoretical depth to this analysis. After understanding and analyzing the data, the writer collects data to report the research results to the supervisor. The outcome will be utilized to categorize and organize data according to the specific section, aligning with the study's objectives. The writer also applied

the psychological theory to analyze Chris Gardner's character that will be discussed in the next chapter.

3.4.2 Method of Data Analysis

The writer analyzed data using Alfred Adler's individual psychology theory. After that, the data will be analyzed in order to provide answers to the study questions and conclusions. Relevant topics will be used to categorize the data. At the end of this case, the writer will be able to answer to the research questions in-depth and come to relevant yet reliable conclusions as a result.

3.4.3 Sample of Data Analysis

- **Inferiority Complex Reflected on Chris Gardner**

*CHRIS (CONT'D) "**I never had a dad.** That's not going to happen to him. I'll always take care of him."*

LINDA "You didn't want to be in this kind of thing."

CHRIS "What kind of thing?"

*LINDA **"Kid. Not married. No jobs. No real jobs. Neither did I." She's sad over the event of her pregnancy.** Page 1*

- **Superiority Complex Reflected on Chris Gardner**

TWISTLE "I don't care. We can drive around all day. Because you can't do it. It's bullshit."

CHRIS "Yes, I can."

TWISTLE "No, you can't."

***CHRIS "Yeah, I can."** Twistle's smiling now.*

Chris sits in the back of the cab, twisting the thing backwards and forwards. Twistle watches. The cab driver looks on in the rear view mirror. He's got a Rubik's Cube on the seat beside him. Chris continues moving the thing around. Twistle continues watching. The cab driver keeps watching as well. Chris has two sides solid already. Twistle looks on. The cabbie pulls up to where Twistle was headed. No one leaves the cab. Chris keeps

working on the cube. He stops for a while, though. Some part of it's got him hung up. He stares at it. Everyone's gone quiet in anticipation of Chris succeeding or not. Chris figures something out, turns the thing three times. **Then he shows the finished cube to Twistle.**

TWISTLE (about the cube, to Chris) "Good job." Page 32.

- ## Social Interest Reflected on Chris Gardner

Then Chris looks at the daycare motto painted above. Mrs. Chu's Daycare. Fun, Joy, Happyness. **Chris looks at the word Happyness.** *Time passes. Then he speaks to a Chinese daycare maintenance worker who's sweeping out there.*

CHRIS "That's misspelled."

MAINTENANCE WORKER "Hui hyu tsa."

CHRIS "Happiness? There's no y. After p." Page 3.

- ## Style of Life Reflected on Chris Gardner

*Like a bolt, Chris takes off running. He **sprints** with his scanner toward the platform steps down. Chris reaches the other platform and **sprints** toward the closing doors of the metro train. He jumps in as the doors close and the train rolls off.* Page 21.

- ## Creative Power Reflected on Chris Gardner

CHRIS "Don't step in the fire. When you're a caveman, you need that fire. There's no electricity. It's cold out here." Chris puts his hands up like he's warming them in their fire. Christopher does it too. Then Chris rises.

CHRIS (CONT'D) "Okay. It's late. Let's go in our cave." The idea's excited Christopher. Chris has nodded over at the station bathroom. He begins to take their stuff over there. Soon, he arrives at the bathroom door. Christopher's behind him.

CHRISTOPHER "Can we stay here all night? For real?"

Chris looks at the room.

CHRIS "Yeah..."

The two of them walk into the bathroom. The door locks.

Page 94-96

- **Fictional Goals Reflected on Chris Gardner**

CHRIS (CONT'D) "I never had a dad. That's not going to happen to him. I'll always take care of him." Page 1.