



**THE MEANING OF WALTER MITTY'S LIFE AS REFLECTED IN
"THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (2013)" MOVIE**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
the Sarjana Degree Majoring in American Studies of English Department
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Indra Pujianto

13020111130018

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY
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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that he compiles this thesis entitled “The Meaning of Walter Mitty’s Life as Reflected in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013) Movie” by himself without taking any result from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains that he does not quote any material from other publications or someone’s paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 19 May 2015

Indra Pujiyanto

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Anything’s possible if you’ve got enough nerve.”

— *J. K. Rowling*

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— *Nelson Mandela*

“Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you riding through the ruts, don’t complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Don’t bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live!”

— *Bob Marley*

“To see the world, things dangerous to come to, to see behind walls, to draw closer, to find each other and to feel. That this is the purpose of ‘Life’”

— *Credo of Life Magazine*

*I proudly dedicate this thesis to my beloved family and friends
You are the unconditional love, the light of my life and the pure joy maker
Thank you very much
I love you*

APPROVAL

Approved by,
Thesis Advisor

Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum

NIP. 197212231998022001

VALIDATION

Approved by
Strata 1 Thesis Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University
on June 2015

Chair Person

First Member

Prof. Dr. Nurdien H. Kistanto, M.A.
NIP. 195211031980121001

Dra. Christina Resnitriwati, M. Hum.
NIP.195602161983032001

Second Member

Third Member

Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197507111999031002

Drs. Jumino, M. Lib., M.Hum.
NIP. 196207031990011001

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ABSTRACT

The Secret life of Walter Mitty movie directed by Ben Stiller is one of many American movies which depicts the cultural and social life condition in American society. This movie tells about the struggles of the main character named Walter Mitty in achieving the meaning of his life and his meaningful life. The objectives of this thesis are to describe the intrinsic aspect which covers the narrative elements (theme, character, setting and plot) and cinematic elements (camera distance, *mise-en-scene* and sound) on *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* movie and to explain the extrinsic aspect which covers the life of Walter Mitty and his struggles in achieving the meaning of his life and his meaningful life based on the meaning of life “*logotherapy*” theory proposed by Victor Emil Frankl. The writer used library research in collecting the data. To analyze the extrinsic aspects of the movie, the writer used objective and social-psychological approach. The result of this thesis is that the main character of the movie, Walter Mitty, passes some steps in achieving the meaning of his life and truly struggles to achieve his meaningful life. As it seen from the movie, his meaningful life is shown when he got appreciation, happiness and love from the people who love him.

Keyword: struggles, the meaning of life, meaningful life, logotherapy, social-psychological, appreciation, happiness, love

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Warren and Wellek in their book *Theory of Literature*, “literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation” (1949 : 89). Therefore, it can be inferred that literature is always connected with society. Literary writer produces literary works that live in society as the expression of humans’ feelings and ideas. The expression can be in the form of drama, novel, short story or poem. Film can be an adaptation of literary work, especially novel. And movie is produced by movie director.

Movie or film is one of literary works which delivers the story through motion pictures to the audiences audio-visually. Dr. Greg M. Smith states in his book *Film Structures and The Emotion System* :

For the purposes of this work, “film” is assumed to be a highly coordinated visual (and usually audial) medium that has developed a number of conventional strategies (shared by producers and consumers) for storytelling in uninterrupted real time (2003 : 20).

Movie has audio-visual element so that the viewers can watch the story and listen to the dialogues at once. In its relation with society, movie always corresponds to the society because the stories refer and depict the problems of people in the society, as it is stated by Graeme Turner in his book *Film as Social Practice*, “understanding a movie is not essentially an aesthetic practice; it is a social practice which mobilizes the full range of meaning systems within the culture” (Graeme, 1999 : 225).

The writer chooses a movie entitled *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013)* directed by Ben Stiller, as the object of this thesis. *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013)* is a remake of the same titled movie (*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*) in 1947 which is directed by Norman Z. McLeod and is adapted from a short story written by James Thurber in 1939. *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013)* is one of many American movies which depicts the social and cultural issue in American society. Stephen Prince, in his book *American Cinema of The 1980s Themes and Variations*, explains that “american culture/american cinema series is an anthology of original essays exploring the impact of cultural issues on film and the impact of film on American society” (Prince, 2007 : ii). Therefore, it can be said that this movie can give influences to the social life in American society indirectly because what the audiences see from this movie could be new learnings and inspirations which can be applied in the society.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013), a romantic adventure movie, is an interesting and inspirational movie. As it is shown from the title, the story of the movie truly focuses on the main character named Walter Mitty. This movie brings the audiences to Walter Mitty’s life and let them see his struggles in achieving his meaning of life and meaningful life through the journey that he did. From this movie, the writer found that there are valuable things which main character got such as great appreciation, love, happiness and changes of his attitude and behavior as the proofs that he finally learned the meaning of life which is influenced by social environment. Therefore, the writer entitles this thesis “The

Meaning of Walter Mitty's Life as Reflected in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) Movie*".

1.2 Scope of the Study

Scope of the study refers to the parameters under which the study will be operating. It gives the limitation of the problems will be discussed in the thesis in order to make the explanation clear and still in the accepted range of the study. Therefore, the writer limits the object of research and theories used to support the object itself. In this thesis, the writer analyzes the intrinsic aspect to explain the narrative and cinematic elements of the movie and extrinsic aspect to explain the the main character's struggles in searching the meaning of his life and achieving the meaningful life as reflected in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) movie*.

1.3 Aim of the Study

After watching the movie "*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*", the writer could determine the aims of the study. The aims of the study are presented as follows:

- 1) To describe and analyze the intrinsic aspect in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) movie*.
- 2) To explain and analyze the extrinsic aspect namely the meaning of Walter Mitty's life, the sources of his meaning of life and his struggles in achieving the meaningful life.

1.4 Method of the Study

Method of the study is methodology that is used by the writer in writing the thesis to answer the research problems. Method of the study explains where the information sources come from and how the writer collects the data needed in the thesis. To analyze the problems of the thesis, the writer employs two methods namely method of research and method of approach.

1.4.1 Method of Research

In method of research, the writer uses library research method in gathering the data needed to support the analysis in this thesis. As it is explained by Mary W. George, “library research involves identifying and locating sources that provide factual information or personal/ expert opinion on a research question; necessary component of every other research method at some point.” (George, 2008:6). The writer collects the data by watching the movie and looking for the reference books that are connected to the research and browsing the internet to get some information and articles related to the topic.

1.4.2 Method of Approach

Method of approach is the method used to analyze the data obtained previously. In method of approach, the writer uses objective approach to analyze the intrinsic aspect and social-psychological approach to analyze the extrinsic aspect. Objective approach is an approach that analyzes a literary work purely as literary work. It means that objective approach is not associated with the author’s

point of view. It is in line with the statement of M.H. Abrams in his book *A Glossary of Literary Term* about objective criticism. He states :

Objective criticism deals with a work of literature as something which stands free from what is often called an “extrinsic” relationship to the poet, or to the audience, or to the environing world. Instead it describes the literary product as a self-sufficient and autonomous object, or else as a world-in-itself, which is to be contemplated as its own end, and to be analyzed and judged solely by “intrinsic” criteria such as its complexity, coherence, equilibrium, integrity, and the interrelations of its component elements. (2008 : 63).

Objective approach digs out the intrinsic aspect of the literary work. As the object of this thesis is a movie, the intrinsic aspect covers narrative and cinematic elements.

Turning to the social-psychological approach, social-psychological approach used by the writer in this thesis will support the explanation of the topic taken. Social-psychological approach is an approach of science which studies the psychological aspects of human behaviour which is influenced by social interactions. Social interaction within group or outside group and internal factors within the human person can influence in changing the behaviour or forming a new behaviour of someone. As it is stated by William McDougall in Wendy Rogers’ *Social Psychology – Experimental and Critical Approaches*, “social psychology should be recognized as the rightful domain in which to study ‘the springs of human action, the impulses and motives that sustain mental and bodily activity and regulate conduct’” (Rogers, 2003 : 12). In this approach, the writer applies the theory of Meaning of Life called “Logotherapy” based on the book *Man’s Search for Meaning* written by Victor E. Frankl to analyze the problems proposed by the writer in this thesis, those are the meaning of Walter Mitty’s life,

the sources of his meaning of life and his struggles in achieving the meaningful life as reflected in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013)* movie.

1.5 Organization of the Study

The organization of this thesis comprises five chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five sub-chapters. They are background of the study, scope of the study, aim of the study, method of the study, and organization of the study.

CHAPTER II SYNOPSIS OF “*THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY (2013)*” MOVIE

In this Chapter, the writer gives synopsis of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013)* directed by Ben Stiller.

CHAPTER III THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Chapter three contains the reviews of literature used by the writer. Theoretical framework consist of intrinsic and extrinsic aspect. The intrinsic aspect covers the narrative elements (theme, character, setting and plot) and cinematographic elements (distance, *mise-en-scene* and sound). While, the extrinsic aspect of this movie covers the the meaning of Walter Mitty’s life, the sources of the

meaning of his life and his struggles in achieving the meaningful life.

**CHAPTER IV THE MEANING OF WALTER MITTY'S LIFE
 AS REFLECTED IN "*THE SECRET LIFE OF
 WALTER MITTY (2013)*" MOVIE**

In Chapter four, the writer analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic aspect proposed.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

This chapter is the conclusion of the thesis which contains the result and summary of the previous chapters.

CHAPTER II

SYNOPSIS OF *THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY* (2013)

MOVIE

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) tells about Walter Mitty, the main character, and his adventurous life. Walter Mitty was a negative assets manager of LIFE magazine company who had worked for sixteen years. He had a crush on a coworker named Cheryl Melhoff. Unfortunately, Walter was a kind of day-dreamer who did not dare to take action. In the middle of his activities, he always escaped his anonymous life by disappearing into a world full of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and actions. That was why he was always mocked by his coworkers. The story was started with Walter who was trying to send a wink to Cheryl Melhoff's *E-Harmony* account, but it was failed due to the bad connection. His meeting and introduction with Cheryl Melhoff was the starting point as well as one of his reasons why he would do the dangerous and amazing journey in his life.

In LIFE magazine, Walter worked with his assistant, Hernando, and a photojournalist named Sean O'Connell whose images were greatly appreciated. However, they never met each other because Sean was always outside to capture the photographs needed for LIFE magazine. At that time, LIFE magazine was in the transition phase from printed magazine company to the digital magazine company. Therefore, everyone there was busy preparing for the last printed LIFE magazine. O'Connell had sent Mitty his latest negatives and a wallet as a gift in

appreciation of Walter's work. He chose negative #25 to be the cover of LIFE magazine's final print issue and believed that it contained the quintessence of life. Ted Hendrick, the transition manager of LIFE magazine who led the company unfriendly and annoyingly, started to fire a number of employees to downsize the company. To him Walter was responsible to give the negative #25. However, Walter cannot find the negative#25 because it was missing from its place.

He believed that only Sean who knew where the negative #25 was. Cheryl approached him and gave a suggestion to think of the other negatives as clues to Sean's location. Helped by Cheryl, he promptly flied to find Sean. Greenland became the first place he visited to find Sean. Arrived there, he met a big drunken postal helicopter pilot who was angry with Walter because he refused to sing a song with that drunken pilot. Seeing the pilot's big thumb which was the same with another negative Walter used as a clue, he realized that he was in the right track. To find Sean, he had to go on the postal helicopter to reach the "Erkigsnek" ship which was depicted in another negative. At first he refused to board the helicopter, but his imagination of Cheryl singing a song for him gave him courage and confidence to board the helicopter. When the helicopter was getting closer the ship, Walter found that the helicopter cannot land upon. Misunderstood with the pilot, Walter splashed down into ice-cold water and was attacked by a shark.

Helped by the ships crew, finally Walter got into the ship. In the ship, he learned that Sean had departed the ship earlier from the wrapping paper he found as the cake wrapper which contained the list of Sean's destination. It led him to Iceland where Sean was photographing the *Eyjafjallajokull* Volcano. The eruption

there and a text message recalling him made he went back to New York. For failing to get the negative #25, Walter was fired.

In New York, he spent his time to hangout with Cheryl and to visit his sister and mother at home. At home, he threw away the wallet given by Sean, but his mother took and kept it. Hearing his mother's story that Sean visited her mother at home and seeing the curve of the piano which was the same with the last negative clue, his surprise was doubled. The suggestions from his mother made him took a journey on Himalayas and found Sean was taking a photograph of a snow leopard. Directly he asked about the negative #25 to Sean. Sean answered that the negative was in the wallet. When Walter asked what negative #25 actually was, Sean says that negative #25 was very beautiful and important for him. Sean dismissed the question and asked Walter to join in a soccer game with some local people.

While helping his mother sold her piano, Walter told that he did not had the wallet anymore. Hearing that, her mother gave him the wallet that she retrieved from the trash bin. Directly, Walter took the negative#25 and delivered it to LIFE magazine. Arrived there, he teold to the manager that it was the negative #25 Sean wanted for the cover of the final print issue. A few days later Walter reunited with Cheryl and told her that he still did not know what negative #25 actually showed. They saw the final issue of LIFE magazine at a newsstand. They were surprised by its cover. It showed Walter sitting outside LIFE building holding a sheet. It was Sean's biggest appreciation for Walter's dedication of work. Then, they continued their walking down the street holding hands.

CHAPTER III

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Intrinsic Aspect

Intrinsic aspect is very essential to understand the movie well. It is because intrinsic aspect depicts the environment and condition of the movie. Therefore, if the viewers do not understand the environment and condition of the movie, there will be confusion in understanding the movie. Intrinsic aspect consists of two elements. Those are narrative and cinematic elements.

3.1.1 Narrative Elements

Narrative element is one of the elements of intrinsic aspect. Narrative element of the movie is comprised of theme, characters, setting and plot. According to Helen Fulton in her book *Narrative and Media*, she states “ narrative is historically and culturally positioned to turn information and events into structures that are already meaningful to their audiences” (Fulton et al., 2006 : 1). Therefore, it can be said that narrative element of the movie is essential to make the audiences understand the movie well.

3.1.1.1 Theme

Every movie has one main idea which can explain the whole story of the movie which is usually called “theme”. Theme of the movie can be determined by viewing the dominating idea of the movie’s scenes. According to Kennedy, “the

theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals” (Kennedy, 1991 :144).

3.1.1.2 Character

Character is the figure who plays some roles in the movie in building the story. According to Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, “characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation” (Bennett and Royle, 2004 : 60). Generally, the number of character in a movie is not only one, there are several characters who interact each other to give the meaning of the story. That is why characters can deliver the ideas, motives and themes of the story to the viewers. The characters deliver those movie’s messages to the viewers nicely through their role and actions. Character is divided into two namely major character and minor character.

3.1.1.2.1 Major Character

Major character is the character who plays large portion of role and gives big influence in the story. Major character is usually known as the main character of the story. Generally, in a movie, major character is the character who is always seen in the movie.

3.1.1.2.2 Minor Character

Minor character is the character who only plays small portion of role in the story. Minor character helps the major character in building the plot of the story.

Minor character can be protagonist and antagonist, so that is why minor character commonly exist as friends or rivals of the major character.

3.1.1.3 Setting

According to Sylvan Barnet, “the setting of the story – not only the physical locale but also the time of the day or the year or the century – may or may not be symbolic. Often, however, the setting is more important, giving us the feel of the people who move through it” (Barnet, 2008 : 152). Therefore, the writer could say setting is associated with the location, time and the social background where the story happens. Setting is divided into three, they are setting of time, setting of place and setting of social environment.

The first setting is setting of time. Setting of time refers to when the story takes place. Setting of time includes date, month, year, century and also natural condition such as morning, afternoon and night. The next setting is setting of place. Setting of place can be explained as a place where the story happens. Setting of place can be a nation, a city, a village, or a room. It depends on the story. And the last is setting of social environment. Setting of social environment can be defined as customs, traditions, cultures, norms and other social conditions of the story. Commonly, setting of social environment is served as the social background of the place or time which gives influences to the society in the story.

3.1.1.4 Plot

Plot is the sequence of the story which influences to the other sequences. Plot also can be said as the pattern of cause and effect in the story. Plot is very important to make the story more attractive and easy to understand. Ansen Dibell

argues, “plot is built of significant events in a given story – significant because they have important consequences” (Dibell, 1988 : 5).

Plot consists of five structures. Those are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion. The first is exposition, exposition is the background information of the character and setting. Exposition will give information about what happens before the story began. The next is rising action, it is the problem or conflict of the story which will start to appear in this part. Rising action will lead to the climax of the story. Climax is the mountain peak of the story. It is the most interesting part of the story, because in this part, there will be a total conflict and turning point of the story where the conflict will be resolved. This part will lead to the falling action of the story. Falling action is the part brought by climax. Commonly, it is the part when the conflict of the story is resolved. Therefore, the tension of the story is reduced in this part. And the last is conclusion, it contains resolution of the conflict and the summary of the story.

3.1.1.5 Conflict

Conflict is an important event in the story because it provides basic material which constructs plot. It is in line with Ansen Dibell’s thought about conflict, he states “attitudes turning into motives, meeting resistance, creating conflict, and leading to consequences—becoming plot” (Dibell, 1988 : 8). Conflict is a struggle between two or more forces that creates a tension that must be resolved in the story. Conflict is divided into two, they are internal and external conflict.

Internal conflict is the conflict that happens in a character's mind. For example, a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two options. While, external conflict is the conflict that happens between a character and an outside force that could be another character, environment, and supernatural things.

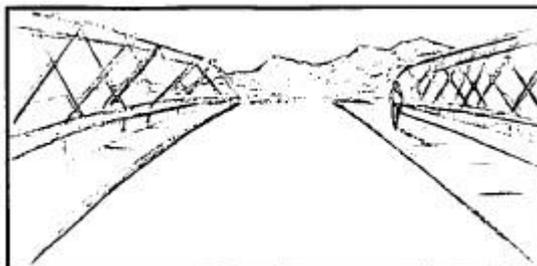
3.1.2 Cinematic Element

Cinematic elements are the elements of the movie brought by the film maker. Cinematic elements are also essential parts which establish the movie. Cinematic elements show the audiences how the scenes of the movie are taken and supported. It consists of camera distance (shot), mise-en-scene and sound.

3.1.2.1 Camera Distance (Shots)

Camera distance is the distance of the camera placement in taking the scenes of the movie. Jill Nelmes utters "it refers to the range of shots which suggests the apparent distance of an object from the camera; it is conventionally defined according to the framing of the human form" (Nelmes, 2012 : 93). There are six kinds of camera distance or shot.

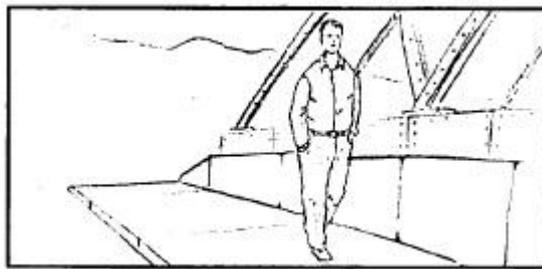
a. Extreme Long Shot



Picture 1
("*Basic Cinematic Techniques*", p.10)

The film maker takes the scene in a far away distance. Extreme Long Shot makes the object looks very small in the picture frame (2012 : 94). Commonly, this kind of shot also shows the panoramic view of the location of the movie.

b. Long Shot



Picture 2
(*“Basic Cinematic Techniques”*, p.10)

Long Shot is taken in nearer distance than Extreme Long Shot. The framing of long shot shows the full human figure or character (typically a human body shown from head to toe) and the environment near him/her (2012 : 94). The viewers also can see the emotional expression of a character and what a character is doing in this distance.

c. Medium Long Shot



Picture 3
(*“Basic Cinematic Techniques”*, p.10)

Medium Long Shot is taken in the distance between Long Shot and Medium Shot. This is a framing in which the human body is shown from mid-calf

or knees upwards (2012 : 94). In this distance, the viewers can see the emotional expression of a character and what a character is doing more clearly.

d. Medium Shot



Picture 4
(*“Basic Cinematic Techniques”*, p.10)

Medium Shot shows a little over half of the a character’s body. It is generally used to show the interaction between characters. This is a framing in which the human body is shown from the waste upwards (2012 : 94).

f. Close Up



Picture 5
(*“Basic Cinematic Techniques”*, p.10)

The framing of Close Up is in the scale of the object or character which is shown relatively large or closer. Generally, Close-Up focuses on a character’s face (2012 : 93). It is used to show the intimacy or emotional expression of the characters. In this distance, the viewers will lose the visual information about a character’s surroundings.

g. Extreme Close-Up



Picture 6
(*“Basic Cinematic Techniques”*, p.10)

Extreme Close-Up shows the detail of an object or a character in the movie. Mostly, it is used to highlight the detail of a part of the body more clearly in an extremely close distance such as an eye, a hand, a mouth, or a nose (2012 : 93).

3.1.2.2 Mise-en-scene

According to David Bordwell, in the original French, “mise-en-scene (pronounced “meez-ahn-sen”) means staging an action. Mise-en-scene refers to all objects and characters in a particular frame” (Bordwell, 1979 : 169). More specifically, it refers to the composition of the frame. Mise-en-scene includes several aspects. Those are costumes and make-up and lighting.

3.1.2.2.1 Costumes and Make-up

Costumes are the dresses and accessories which are worn by the characters of the movie. Costumes have specific function in the movie. Costumes can depict a character’s condition and social environment. Costumes can also explain visually who a character is. Costumes are always related to makeup, because makeup will support the costumes and enhance the appearance of characters in the movie (1979 : 176).

3.1.2.2.2 Lighting

David Bordwell states, “that much of the impact of an image comes from its manipulation of lighting. In cinema, lighting is more than just illumination that permits us to see the action” (Bordwell, 1979 : 178). Lighting shapes objects by creating highlights and shadows. Lighting also creates the mood of a scene in a movie. There are four major features of lighting, they are quality of lighting, direction of lighting, source of lighting and colour of lighting.

First, quality of lighting, it is the relative intensity of the illumination. Intensity of lighting is divided into two, those are hard lighting and soft lighting. Hard lighting creates bold shadows and crisp textures and edges, whereas soft lighting creates a diffused illumination.

Next, direction of lighting, it means the position of the source of lighting to the directed object. There are five types of direction of lighting, they are frontal lighting, side lighting, back lighting, under lighting, and top lighting. And for the source of lighting, there are two kinds of the source of lighting, they are natural lighting and artificial lighting. The last is colour of lighting, it is the use of colour in source of lighting.

3.1.2.3 Sound

In the movie, sound plays important role in delivering the story to the viewers. Sound is used to add mood or atmosphere to the movie by creating soundscape. Pitch, tempo and volume of sound indicates how the filmmaker expects the viewers to respond to a given sound. Jill Nelmes states that sound of

the movie is divided into three, they are dialogue or speech, music and sound effect (Nelmes, 2012 : 100).

Dialogue is a verbal communication between two or more characters in the story. Music is an element in the movie which strengthens the mood or atmosphere in the movie such as happy and sad. And sound effect, it is usually called noise. It is all additional sound besides the sound of dialogue, song, and music. For the examples are the sound of waterfall, wind, rain, and others.

3.2 Extrinsic Aspect

Like the intrinsic aspect, extrinsic aspect is essential to understand the movie. Extrinsic aspect in this research is about the meaning of life, the sources of the meaning of life and the meaningful life. The writer chooses those three extrinsic elements because the writer found that the movie mainly concerns on the concept of the meaning of life.

3.2.1 The Meaning of Life

The meaning of life theory is proposed by Victor E. Frankl, a psychiatrist and medical expert for mental and neurological diseases. He called his own theory “logotherapy”. The word “logotherapy” is derived from the word “logos” means meaning or spiritual, while “therapy” means a treatment. According to Victor E. Frankl in his book *Man’s Search for Meaning*, logotherapy consists of three psychological concepts. They are freedom of will, will to meaning and meaning of life.

a) Freedom of Will

Logotherapy considers human as beings with free will. Everyone has their ability and freedom to choose every option to shape their own life. Everyone also has freedom to determine his life and achieve a better life in order to live in a meaningful life. Frankl states :

After all, freedom of will means freedom of human will, and human will is the will of a finite human being. Human freedom is not freedom from conditions, but freedom to take a stand and to face whatever conditions might confront him (Frankl, 1988; p. 16).

Therefore it can be said that the word “freedom” here, means the freedom to answer the question existed in life and to choose attitude towards a given condition. However, this freedom has to be followed by responsibility, so that one can choose the options in life wisely and accept the condition sincerely. Freedom of will is marked with a given condition that gives one options to choose.

b) Will to Meaning

Everybody wants to be dignified and useful for themselves, their family, and their society. Will to meaning is the desire to understand the purpose of life. To search the meaning of life and the will to get a meaningful life is truly the main motivation for everyone. This will encourages one to work in order to get a meaningful life. Frankl emphasized that the true meaning of each person’s life is something that must be discovered by activity in the world through interaction with others.

To achieve will to meaning, one has fulfil it by him/her alone. As Frankl said in his book, “this meaning is unique and specific in that it must and can be fulfilled by him alone; only then does it achieve a significance which will satisfy

his own will to meaning” (Frankl, 1985 : 121). Will to meaning is marked with one’s attitude towards the options whether he/she choose and take it or not. When a person cannot realize his or her will to meaning, they will feel emptiness and experience depression and frustration.

c) Meaning of Life

Meaning of life is the things which are considered very important and valuable. Each person has special purpose to fulfil in life. Meaning of life provides particular values for someone and it is worthy to be the purpose of life. Meaning of life is contained within the concrete experiences of daily life. Therefore, it is marked with the experiences that one got in life after struggling. If one successfully found the meaning of life, he/she will feel that life is very meaningful and valuable. And the meaning of life is in life itself, it can be found in every pleasant and unpleasant state and in happiness and suffering (Frankl, 1985 : 121).

Meaning of life is part of life fact that can be found in every part of life. Therefore, the meaning of life can be fickle at any time. The meaning of life cannot be given by anyone, but only can be searched and found by one’s self. It is because each person’s meaning of life is different.

3.2.2. The Sources of The Meaning of Life

The meaning of life can be found everywhere in one’s own life. Meaning of life also has its sources. The sources of the meaning of life tell one about the values of life which come from him/her ownself that can help him/her in searching the meaning of life. Frankl states :

According to logotherapy, we can discover this meaning in life in three different ways: (1) by creating a work or doing a deed; (2) by experiencing something or encountering someone; and (3) by the attitude we take toward unavoidable suffering (1984: 133).

In life, there are three values that allow one to find the meaning of his/her life. According to Bastaman, those values are the sources of the meaning of life. They are creative values, experiential values and attitudinal values (Bastaman, 2007).

a) Creative Values

Creative values can be defined as creative activities such as working, creating, and doing the duties and obligations as well as possible with full of responsibility. Pursuing a job and improving personal involvement of the tasks and trying to do it as well as possible is one of the examples of working activities. By doing creative things such as working and other things that can give advantages for oneself and the others, one is able to find the meaning of life.

b) Experiential Values

Experiential values can be defined as the confidence and appreciation of the values of truth, virtue, beauty, faith, and religious as well as love. Appreciating and believing in a value can make a meaningful life in one's life. Experiential values are marked when one is experiencing something or encountering someone that gives him/her learnings to find the meaning of life. Love and affection also can make one feels and appreciates his/her own meaningful feeling in his/her life. By loving and feeling loved, one will feel that his/her life is full of happy experiences.

c) Attitudinal Values

Attitudinal values can be defined as the attitude of accepting with full of fortitude, patience, and courage to all forms of suffering which is not possible to be avoided such as incurable illness, death and the seconds to the death after every efforts and endeavor are done optimally. The attitude of accepting sincerely and patiently to the tragic things may be able to change one's view which full of sufferings at first into a view which is able to see the meaning and wisdom of the sufferings.

3.2.3. The Meaningful Life

To get a meaningful life is everyone's right, and a meaningful life is a worthy goal to achieve in everyone's life. Everyone wants to get happiness in his/her life, and that was a motivation for everyone to keep on living and achieve a meaningful life. According to M. Joseph Sirgy, "Jeremy Bentham (1789/1969), the founder of moral philosophy of utilitarianism, viewed happiness as a consequence of choice among alternative courses of action. Jeremy Bentham has stated that happiness is a state of being that people experience as a result of action by oneself or another" (Sirgy, 2012 : 5).

Happiness is the top objective of one's life. As it is stated by Jurg Rohrer in his book "ABC of Awareness Personal Development as the Meaning of Life" that the top objective is the need for self-realization : The human being wants to be able to be himself and to permanently be able to experience inner peace, happiness and harmony (Rohrer, 2007 : 7).

And according to Bastaman, there are stages of one in achieving the meaningful life (Bastaman, 1996). Bastaman divided the stages into five stages, those are :

a) Suffering Stage

At this stage, one is in the condition when he/she feels his/her life is not meaningful. It can be caused by the tragic events or unpleasant experiences which he/she experienced in life. When one is suffering, he or she will start to find the way to relieve the suffering.

b) Self-Accepting Stage

At this stage, the self-awareness starts to appear to change his/her condition to be better. One feels his/her self-awareness is begin to permeate in his/her life because of consultation, others' experiences learning, and social supports. When one has accepted his/her condition, he/she will try to do something to make the condition better such as asking for help, looking for support, learning others' experiences.

c) The Meaning of Life Discovering Stage

When one realizes that there are valuable and meaningful values in his/her life, he/she tries to set it as the purpose of life. This stage gives a comprehension that one will get a meaningful life if he/she always want to try and give the best in life.

d) Meaning Realization Stage

The zest and desire of life increases at this stage. Then, consciously one declares his/her self-commitment to do more focused and targeted activities. The

activities are usually in the form of doing something that gives him/her advantages, happiness and satisfaction.

e) The Meaningful Life Stage

At this stage, the changes of life condition in oneself appear. It is marked when one gets a better life and express that his/her life is meaningful. He/she starts to improve the appreciation of the meaning of life with the happiness as the result of his/her efforts.

Therefore, from the statements above, it can be concluded that one is said that he/she has achieved the meaningful life if one has positively committed to the concept of the meaning of life, one has felt the awareness and the positive changes in his life, one has realized that his/her zest of life is increased and one has appreciated his life.

CHAPTER IV

**THE MEANING OF WALTER MITTY’S LIFE AS
REFLECTED IN “*THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY*
(2013)” MOVIE**

4.1 Intrinsic Aspect

4.1.1 Theme

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty is an American movie which depicts the romance and adventure of Walter Mitty in his life. The love story of the movie is wrapped by adventurous experiences of Walter Mitty. It is shown clearly from the movie that the romance is connected with the adventure which is the majority of the movie. In the story, Walter faces two realities in his life, those are love and career. The conflicts that happen in the story make Walter Mitty takes a great journey in his life as his struggle for his love and career. The romantic and adventurous side of the movie are depicted from the pictures below :



Picture 7
00:09:49



Picture 8
01:02:42

Picture 7 which is taken by using close-up shot shows the romantic side of the movie. It depicts Walter who does not have enough bravery to talk with his crush, Cheryl Melhoff, is daydreaming himself as an Icelandic man talking with

Cheryl. While, picture 8 which is taken by using long shot technique shows the adventurous side of the movie. The missing negative #25 makes him take a great journey in his life. During his journey, Walter Mitty got many new experiences and knowledge which change him into a better person. From those two pictures above, it can be concluded that the theme of this movie is struggle to achieve the meaning of life and a meaningful life.

4.1.2 Character

4.1.2.1 Major Character

In this movie, there are two characters who roles as major character. They are Walter Mitty and Cheryl Melhoff. They become the major characters because they have big role and influence in the movie.

4.1.2.1.1 Walter Mitty



Picture 9
00:05:30



Picture 10
01:19:01



Picture 11
01:34:26

Walter Mitty is categorized as a major and main character because he plays big role in the movie. From those picture above, it can be seen that Walter Mitty is portrayed as a forty two years old man who has wavy hair, pointed nose and blue eyes. In the movie, it is heard in the movie that he has soft voice. Sometimes, when he talks, he is hesitant to say something to Cheryl Melhoff and

Ted Hendrick. He is still single. He is a hardworking man and also a breadwinner for his mother and sister. He really loves his mother and sister. However, he is a little bit careless. He works as a negative assets manager of LIFE magazine. As a negative assets manager, he is responsible to manage the negatives and process it into a photograph. He has a crush who is his coworker named Cheryl Melhoff, but he is not brave enough to talk with her. Sometimes, in the middle of his activities he is daydreaming himself who becomes an adventurous, brave, creative and heroic person.

Picture 9 which is taken by using medium long shot technique shows Walter who wears formal outfit which shows that he is an employee. The scene shown in this picture uses side natural lighting which comes from the sunlight to indicate that it is in the morning. In this scene, he is talking with Todd Maher, a representative of *E-Harmony* by phone. He talks about why he cannot send a ‘wink’ to Cheryl Melhoff. In the middle of the conversation, Walter escapes to his fantasy world. He daydreams of himself jumping into a fired apartment and saving Cheryl’s dog. After a few seconds, he realizes that he is still in the middle of conversation with Todd Maher. It is explained by the dialogue of the movie in minute 00:05:21 to 00:05:44.

Todd Maher : My man ? Hey my man, you still there ?
Walter Mitty : Hey.
Todd Maher : What ? Did you passed out or
Walter Mitty : No, I just like zoned out for a second.
Todd Maher : Oh, okay. Do you do that a lot ?
Walter Mitty : Ah, normal amount. I guess. I I gotta run, sorry.
Todd Maher : Oh okay, but we we need a lot more
(*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), 00:05:21 - 00:05:44)

It has been said that he likes to daydream in the middle of his activities and it makes himself always mocked by his coworkers and especially by LIFE transition manager. In transition phase of LIFE magazine, negative #25 which has been sent by Sean O’Connell is needed to be the cover of the last print issue. However, negative #25 is missing from its roll. The missing negative #25 makes Walter takes a great adventure to find Sean who knows where the negative #25 is. It is shown by the picture 10 taken by close-up shot and natural lighting above that Walter takes a journey to Afghanistan to find Sean. It is supported with the outfit that he wears shown in the picture. He wears red jacket and scarf which show that he is ready to take a great journey.

And picture 11 which is taken by using medium shot shows that Walter is talking with his mother after the great adventure which he has been through to find Sean. The side lighting used in this scene shows that the light comes from the right side. He gets so many new experiences and learnings from his journey. At the end of the story, he has changed into a better person who is not a daydreamer anymore and he already turned into a person who brave to talk and to act.

4.1.2.1.2 Cheryl Melhoff



Picture 12
00:18:53



Picture 14
01:42:30

Cheryl Melhoff is also categorized as a major character because she has big influences although she does not play big role in the movie. In the movie Cheryl Melhoff is portrayed as a beautiful woman who has brown hair and blue eyes. She is a divorced woman who has a young son. In the picture 12 which is taken by using medium shot technique shows Cheryl Melhoff, who wears formal outfit which indicates that she is also an employee, is talking with Walter Mitty. This picture uses soft lighting to show the characters' face softly. Cheryl is very talkative. It is heard in the movie that she also has soft voice which indicates that she is a soft person. However, she talks a lot and fast.

She is a kind and helpful woman. She does not hesitate to talk and to give suggestions to Walter. It is proven by the dialogue when they are talking about the negative #25 and how to find Sean outside LIFE building.

Cheryl Melhoff	: Is that #25 ? Can I see ?
Walter Mitty	: That's a..... No, I can't quite find #25 just now.
Cheryl Melhoff	: You can't find it ?
Walter Mitty	: Yeah, that's why I'm trying to find Sean. I'm trying to track him down, somehow. With his other images.
Cheryl Melhoff	: His whereabouts ?
Walter Mitty	: Yeah.
Cheryl Melhoff	: I take this class, writing the mystery novel. Anyway, they say the key is to work backwards. You connect the clues and then scatter them and seem unrelated. It's like a whole science to it. May I ?
Walter Mitty	: Sure.
Cheryl Melhoff	: Okay..... Thumb.
Walter Mitty	: It's an unknown thumb.
Cheryl Melhoff	: Okay..... Water.... Just water I guess.
Walter Mitty	: Yeah, just water.
Cheryl Melhoff	: Okay, and uh..... like a curve piece of..... some kind of particle thing. But, hey, the thing of clues, my teacher says is you only need one good one. Then you can act and you'll be like... oh yes, of

course. I'm not dumb water. I should've seen this the whole time.

Walter Mitty : Yeah.... Yeah.... That'd be like like.....

Cheryl Melhoff : Anyway, I should get back and try not to get fired.

(*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), 00:18:47 - 00:20:07)

In the movie, it is said that Cheryl has divorced with his husband. However, she is open and honest to Walter, she tells Walter a little about she and her ex-husband. It is seen from the picture 13, taken by medium long shot techniwue and frontal lighting above, depicts Cheryl and Walter are walking and talking about Cheryl's previous job, ex-husband, and son.

And in the picture 14 which is taken by using medium shot technique, shows that Walter and Cheryl are reunited after Walter disappear for a while to find Sean. This scene portrayed in this picture plays the colour of lighting to give romantic impression. In this picture, it is shown that Cheryl wears a lovely pink dress. It depicts that Cheryl is happy and in good mood. At that moment, Cheryl misses Walter and feels happy to meet him. Walter who has changed, talk and ask her bravely to go to Rizzo together. At the end, it can be seen that they are walking down together holding hands. It explains that Cheryl has big influences Walter. Undirectly, her supports have changed Walter into a better person.

4.1.2.2 Minor Character

There are several minor characters in this movie such as Ted Hendrick, Sean O' Connell, Edna Mitty, Odessa Mitty, Hernando, Todd Maher, and Richard Melhoff. The writer only describes Ted Hendrick and Sean O' Connell because both of them are the minor characters who have big influence in the movie.

4.1.2.2.1 Ted Hendrick



Picture 15
00:14:54



Picture 16
01:10:19

Ted Hendrick is a transition manager of LIFE magazine. He is responsible to handle the downsizing of LIFE magazine and the transition of LIFE magazine into LIFE online. It can be seen from picture 15 and picture 16 above that Ted Hendrick is portrayed as a young manager with wavy hair and thick beard. It is also shown from those picture that he also wears formal outfit with vest and blazer very neatly which indicates that he is very exclusive and neat. In the movie, it can be heard that he has boasting voice which indicates that he is arrogant.

In managing the transition of LIFE magazine, he leads the company annoyingly and boastfully. He also fires many LIFE employees unfriendly. That is why everyone does not seem to be happy led by him. One of his unpleasant behaviors that is changing an employee's name with other name is proven by dialogue below taken from the movie :

Gary Mannheim	: Guess what ? We just got acquired.
Walter Mitty	: Yeah, I heard.
Tim Naughton	: Yeah, there's gonna be changes, downsizing of us into some kind of dot com thing possibly. I wonder how these things go down. How the transition would play out ?
Ted Hendrick	: I could probably tell you. Ted Hendrick, Managing Director of the transition.
Tim Naughton	: Hey, Tim Naughton, Sales.
Gary Mannheim	: Gary Mannheim, Graphic Designs.
Ted Hendrick	: And.... What do you do, cake man ?

(The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013), 00:07:11 - 00:07:39)

In the picture 15 taken by medium long shot technique shows Ted who is introducing himself and telling that there will be downsizing company due to LIFE transition. In this picture, artificial lighting is used to illuminate the room. And the picture 16 taken by medium shot technique and frontal lighting depicts an unpleasant act done by Ted Hendrick. At that moment, Ted is firing some employees, then he sees Walter and insists him to hand the negative #25. Finally, Walter is fired because he does not have the negative #25 with him.

4.1.2.2.2 Sean O'Connell



Picture 17
00:36:15



Picture 18
02:28:21

A photographer as well as photojournalist of LIFE whose photos are greatly appreciated. As a photojournalist, he works very hard and goes everywhere to capture photographs needed for LIFE magazine. He is a very calm, kind and friendly person. He is also very adventurous and also mysterious. From those pictures above, it can be seen that Sean O'Connell is depicted as a long haired man who has mustache and beard with a serious face. He has hard voice and speak a little which can indicate that he does not like to talk too much.

In the picture 17, which is taken by using medium long shot technique and dark colour of lighting to give mysterious impression, can be seen that Sean O'Connell is standing in unknown place holding an old camera. It also can be seen

that there is a volcano behind him which seems dangerous, it indicates that he is very adventurous man. Then, the picture 18 taken by using medium shot technique shown Sean O Connell who is trying to capture a photograph of snow leopard in Himalaya. In this picture, it also can be seen that he wears thick winter jacket which indicates that the weather is very cold. This scene is taken by frontal lighting to show the serious gaze of Sean. Walter who has tried to find him everywhere, finally he made it and find Sean in Himalaya. Sean is very patient to wait for the moment to capture the photo. It indicates that he is very patient, calm and also mysterious.

In the movie, it is also shown that Sean really appreciate Walter Mitty's hardwork eventhough they never meet each other before. He gives Walter a wallet with LIFE's motto in it and a negative #25 inside it. When Walter asked what photo of negative #25 is, Sean answers that negative #25 is a very beautiful photo. Actually negative #25 is a photograph of Walter and it is Sean's appreciation for Walter's dedication of work that will be shown at the end of the movie.

Sean O'Connell : Well, that hurts my feelings.
Walter Mitty : No, Man. I liked it. Very much. I appreciate it very much.
Walter Mitty : (Shaking his head)
Sean O'Connell : You said, you threw it away. So, you have no idea what it was.The photograph ?
Walter Mitty : (Shaking his head)
Sean O'Connell : That's a shame. It was a beauty.
(*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), 01:26:38 - 01:26:56)

4.1.3 Setting

4.1.3.1 Setting of Place



Picture 19
00:28:34



Picture 20
00:08:44



Picture 21
00:38:08



Picture 22
01:02:49



Picture 23
01:19:45



Picture 24
01:31:24

There are many places which are shown in the movie because it is an adventure movie. Mostly, the setting of place seen in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013) is taken in New York City as it is shown in the picture 19 taken by using long shot technique and hard lighting. In New York City, actually there are some places which are also shown in the movie, they are Walter Mitty's house, LIFE building, the park, Edna Mitty's apartment and airport. In picture 20, it is seen LIFE building, the place where Walter Mitty works. In LIFE building, there is a room named negative asset room highlighted in the movie.

As walter wants to find Sean, the first place he visits is Greenland as it is shown in the picture 21, taken by using extreme long shot technique with natural lighting which comes from sunlight, which depicts the beautiful greenland. In Greenland, the movie also highlights some places such as Nuuk Airport, a bar , and Erkgisnek Ship. Then, in picture 22, it is shown the beautiful Iceland. In Iceland, there are also some places highlighted such as Stykkishólmur, a village

on the Snæfellsnes peninsula in Iceland, Höfn, a village in southeast Iceland and Eyjafjallajökull Volcano.

Walter’s journey to find Sean continues to Afghanistan where finally he found Sean in Himalayas as it is shown in the picture 23 taken by using extreme long shot technique. And picture 24 taken by using medium long shot technique shows an airport prison in Los Angeles.

4.1.3.2 Setting of Time



Picture 25
00:01:16



Picture 26
00:14:27



Picture 27
00:53:36

The setting of time in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013) is taken in modern era. It is proven by three pictures above taken from the movie. Picture 25 shows that there is already dating social media named E-Harmony. It is in modern era which has developed online-based technology. It is also further strengthened by picture 26 which shows the characters who wears formal outfit which is very neat and modern, blazer or coat with vest and tie. In the picture 27, it is highlighted a deck crew who is talking about instagram and facebook which are the products of modern era. Those three picture prove that the setting of time of the movie is in the modern era.

- Walter Mitty : Is this Sean’s
- Deck Crew : Yeah, he wrapped the cake in it.
- Walter Mitty : This is shoot itinerary. It’s a field itinerary for photo. Did he says anything about where he was going?

Deck Crew : No, He didn't say much. He was just taking picture, of these guys. The Junior deckhands. He even gave me some tips for my instagram. (Taking a picture). Facebook friends?

Walter Mitty : Yeah, sure.

Deck Crew : Great.

(The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013), 00:53:17 – 00:53:42)

4.1.3.3 Setting of Social Environment



Picture 28
00:14:13



Picture 29
00:42:41

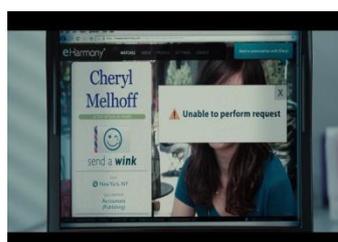


Picture 30
01:29:31

The social environment setting in this movie shows the atmosphere of working people. As it is shown in picture 28, the main character, Walter Mitty, is surrounded by job oriented people. Because this movie is an adventure themed movie, it is also shown many people from different places with different culture. It can be seen from picture 29 and picture 30 that Walter meets a pilot in Iceland and people in Himalayas. It can be concluded that the social environment in the movie shows diversified culture.

4.1.4 Plot

4.1.4.1 Exposition



Picture 31
00:02:31

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013) begins with the scene of Walter Mitty who is hesitate to send a wink to Cheryl Melhoff, his crush as well as his coworker at work, on a dating social media named E-Harmony as it is depicted in picture 31. In the beginning of the movie, it is also shown that he is also a person who likes to daydream in the middle of his activities.

4.1.4.2 Rising Action



Picture 32
00:13:21

The rising action of this movie is indicated by the missing of negative #25 which is needed for the cover of LIFE last print issue as it is shown in the picture 32 taken by using close-up technique above. At the same time, Ted Hendrick says that there will be downsizing of the company that means employees will be fired. Walter starts to think how to maintain his job and overcome the problem. Getting information from Cheryl that Sean is in Greenland, Walter promptly goes there to find Sean to ask where the negative #25 is.

4.1.4.3 Climax



Picture 33
01:10:31

The climax of the movie is when Walter arrives in New York after the journey to Greenland and Iceland that he took to find Sean, he suddenly is fired by Ted Hendrick because he cannot find and has not handle the negative #25 to Ted yet. It is shown in the picture 33 taken by using close up technique, when Walter is fired by Ted. The climax is strengthened by his negative thinking after meeting Cheryl's ex-husband that Cheryl and ex-husband will get back together.

4.1.4.4 Falling Action



Picture 34
01:35:35

Picture 34 which is taken by using medium shot above shown the falling action of the movie. It is when Walter finally found Sean and the negative #25 inside the wallet given by his mother that she takes from the trash bin. Promptly, he delivers it to LIFE to be printed as the cover. Arriving there, he hands the negative #25 and bravely berates Ted.

4.1.4.5 Resolution



Picture 35
01:43:49

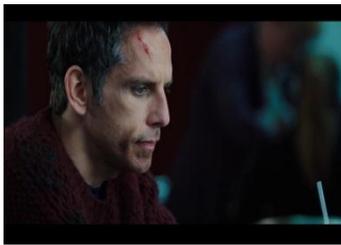
The resolution of this movie is when Walter and Cheryl are reunited. When they meet each other, Walter expresses his feeling to Cheryl. It is shown in the picture 35 above taken by using medium shot technique. Cheryl is also happy to meet Walter again after a few days. At the end of the movie, when they are walking down the street, they see the last issue of LIFE magazine that has been released. They surprised that the cover shows the photograph of Walter. Then, they continue walking down the street holding hands.

4.1.5 Conflict

There two kinds of conflict that the writer find in this movie, they are internal and external conflict. The writer found that the main character of the movie, Walter Mitty, likes to daydream in the middle of his activities, so that, most of the conflicts either internal conflict or external conflict is illustrated by his imagination within his daydream.

4.1.5.1 Internal Conflict

In this movie, the internal conflicts happen when Walter is thinking to find the best way to overcome the problems, when he is facing two options, and when he is thinking of Cheryl that is illustrated eventually by his imagination. The internal conflicts are shown in three pictures below taken from the movie.



Picture 36
01:05:58



Picture 37
00:46:37



Picture 38
01:18:12

Picture 36 which is taken by using close-up technique and soft lighting, shows an internal conflict between Walter and himself. Picture 36 highlights Walter's forehead which is blooded and his face which shows that he is very confused. At that moment, Walter is thinking about his decreasing savings and how to find Sean by using the last clue that is the photo of a piano's curve.

Then, picture 37 which is taken by using medium shot technique and side lighting shows Walter who is facing two options whether he boards the helicopter or not. Actually he is still afraid because of the intoxicated pilot. In the picture 37, it is highlighted that he fixes his gaze on the helicopter. When he thinks about that, his imagination is started. At that time, he is imagining Cheryl Melhoff playing guitar and singing a song titled "Major Tom" to support him.

And picture 38 taken by using close-up technique and soft lighting shows Walter's gaze fixed on his backpack. He thinks about continuing his journey to find Sean or not. Suggested by his mother, promptly he goes to Himalayas to find Sean.

4.1.5.2 External Conflict

The external conflict of this movie happens between Walter Mitty and Ted Hendrick. There are some scenes that show the conflict between those two

characters. The external conflicts of this movie are shown by these three pictures below.



Picture 39
00:24:57



Picture 40
01:10:44



Picture 41
01:37:24

At the beginning of the movie, it is shown that Walter does not like Ted's attitude and behavior. Ted is a very unfriendly and annoying boss for Walter. Ted always mocks Walter and calls him with other name. Walter who is afraid of him, always daydreams of himself taking a revenge to Ted. Picture 39 taken by using medium shot technique, shows one of some external conflict scenes. From that picture, it is seen that Walter who meets Ted, zoned out for a second imagining himself fighting with Ted.

Another scenes of their conflicts is shown in the picture 40 which is taken by using medium shot technique. In picture 40 shows Ted who is firing Walter because Walter still could not find the negative #25. Walter, who does not like and disagree with Ted's decision, tries to protest him.

Ted Hendrick : Hey ! I see you ! What did I say ? I see you ! (Walking towards Walter) The photograph, now ! Let me see it. He looked it up. There's no such thing as a 'Silverbath'.

Walter Mitty : Listen, there was uncertainty about the negative. I thought, I understand that hopefully it was in Iceland

Ted Hendrick : It was in your care !

Walter Mitty : If you just give me some more time

Ted Hendrick : You are fired ! (Talking with his assistant) Make another cover.

Walter Mitty : Hey !! More than a million way more negatives have come through my office. I've never miss layed one.

Ted Hendrick : Put on a plaque, hang it in your next job.
(*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), 01:10:13 – 01:10:46)

The picture 41 taken by using medium shot technique, also shows a scene of the external conflict between Walter and Ted. It shows Walter who finally got the negative #25, promptly delivers it to Ted and ask him to print the cover immediately. In that scene, Walter bravely berates Ted for what he has done to many employees outside.

4.2 Extrinsic Aspect

4.2.1 The Meaning of Walter Mitty's Life

According to the theories stated in the previous chapter, everyone lives their life to achieve their meaningful life. However, everyone has their own perspective about their meaningful life. Everyone has their own way in giving meaning their life and in achieving their meaningful life. In this thesis, the writer analyzes the struggle of Walter Mitty, the main character of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013) movie, in achieving the meaning of his life according to the concepts of the meaning of life theory proposed by Victor E. Frankl.

To achieve the meaning of life, Walter Mitty is triggered by three values which come from himself and are called the sources of the meaning of life. Those values are creative values, experiential values and attitudinal values. Walter Mitty's creative values are indicated by him while doing creative activities such as working and doing something which gives advantages to him. The other source is experiential values. Walter's experiential values are marked with his encounter and interaction with the other characters. By encountering and interacting with other

characters, Walter gets motivation, support and love from the people around who love him. The last source is attitudinal values. Walter's attitudinal values are marked when he accepts his condition and gives response to the unavoidable events he experienced. By accepting his bitter condition and responding to an unavoidable event, Walter thinks positively what he should do in the future.

In achieving the meaning of his life, Walter Mitty passes three psychological concepts which form an interconnected link namely freedom of will, will to meaning and meaning of life. Freedom of will is the freedom that everyone has that can trigger someone in meaning his/her life. From the movie, it can be seen that there are some people who greatly influence Walter's life positively and negatively. They are Edna Mitty, Cheryl Melhoff, Sean O'Connell and Ted Hendrick. However, Walter always has his own freedom to do and to choose something. Walter always has his own way in living his life.

According to the story, Walter's freedom of will is expressed when he chooses to try to get closer to Cheryl Melhoff and to elude Ted Hendrick and try to find Sean as well as the negative #25 by his own way.



Picture 42
00:01:17



Picture 43
00:16:13



Picture 44
00:35:47

In picture 42, it is shown that Walter is trying to send a wink to his crush, Cheryl Melhoff, on dating social media named E-Harmony. Fortunately, Cheryl is

open and friendly to Walter, and he always try to get closer to Cheryl. In the picture 43, it is highlighted Walter who wants to elude Ted Hendrick by deceiving about the negative#25 and then he tried by his own way to find Sean and the negative #25. It is proven by the dialogue below taken from the movie.

Ted Hendrick : Ah, Major Tom. Can I get that ?

Walter Mitty : It's at.... ink process.

Ted Hendrick : Alright, let's do it. Let's process some quintessence.

(The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013), 00:16:05 – 00:16:18)

It is also supported by picture 44 which shows that Walter Mitty has two options whether he will go to take the journey to find the negative #25 or not. He has freedom to choose what he will do in the future. His freedom of will brings him to the next state, will to meaning.

Walter's will to meaning is discovered by his concrete activity through action and interaction. Walter's will to meaning is expressed in the movie when he is willing to take a great journey in order to find Sean and the negative #25 and to get closer to Cheryl Melhoff. During his journey, he visited many places he has never visited before such as Greenland, Iceland, and Afghanistan. He got many new learnings and experiences from his journey that he has been through. He experiences fighting with a shark, running from volcano eruption, and skateboarding for miles until he finally came back to New York and got fired. However, he never give up to find Sean and the negative #25.



Picture 45
00:36:57

Picture 46
01:18:25

Picture 47
01:12:50

Picture 45 taken by using long shot technique shows Walter's willingness to take the journey to find the negative #25. In that picture, it is shown that he is walking at the airport. It is supported by picture 46 taken by using medium shot technique which shows Walter who is preparing for the journey to Himalayas. Supported by his mother, he promptly continues his journey to Himalayas through Afghanistan and he finally found Sean. It proves that he really struggles to get what he wants. Besides, picture 47 taken by using medium long shot technique also shows Walter's willingness to get closer to Cheryl Melhoff. Picture 55 above shows Walter who is putting a skateboard which is a gift for Richard Melhoff from him. His action depicts that he is also struggling for love.

Walter's will to meaning continues to his meaning of life. Walter's meaning of life is indicated when he found that something he felt and he got is important and valuable. Walter's meaning of life is shown when he is looking for the negative #25. It is not only he believes that negative #25 is very important for fulfilling his responsibility as negative asset manager but also because negative #25 is his responsibility and his struggle to appreciate Sean's hardwork. Besides, his meaning of life is also to get a better life including happiness and love from the people who love him.

4.2.3 Walter Mitty's Meaningful Life

After struggling in giving meaning of his life, finally Walter found his meaningful life. Meaningful life is the positive result of his struggle in giving

meaning of his life. His meaningful life is expressed from everything what he gets which is considered important and valuable for him such as a better life, love and happiness.

In achieving his meaningful life, Walter passes five stages. The first stage is suffering stage, Walter's suffering stage is marked when Walter received an unpleasant experiences and decision from his boss, Ted Hendrick, that Walter is always mocked by him because of his daydreaming and he is fired.



Picture 48
00:10:31



Picture 49
01:10:31

Those two pictures above express the suffering stage of Walter Mitty. Picture 48 taken by using medium shot technique shows that Walter Mitty is always mocked by his coworkers and his boss in his office because he likes to daydreaming in the middle of activities. Walter who has worked for LIFE magazines for sixteen years has to end his job because he cannot hand the negative #25 to his boss. As it is shown in picture 49 which is taken by using medium shot technique, Walter has to accept a bitter decision from his boss that he is fired. Those are two proofs of the suffering stages experienced by Walter.

The next stage of his life in achieving the meaningful life is self-accepting stage. At this stage, Walter Mitty start to realize and understand his condition. In the movie, it is shown that he is always supported by his family and his coworker,

Cheryl Melhoff and Hernando. Their supports help Walter to work harder to get meaningful life.



Picture 50
01:16:47



Picture 51
01:33:25

In picture 50, which is taken by using close up shot technique, shows Walter who is realizing and understanding his condition that he was fired. He tells her mother that he was fired then her mother supports him. Her mother's supports bring him to Himalayas to find Sean and the negative #25. And in picture 51, which is taken by using medium long shot technique, shows Walter who is talking with Todd Maher about Walter's plan after this. In this scene, Walter says that he wants to get another job. It proves that, he understands his condition and makes a decision to move forward.

The next stage which Walter experienced is meaning of life discovering stage. At this stage Walter start to set what he wants to do that he considers it is valuable to be the purpose of life. These picture below, picture 52 and 53 which are taken by medium shot, prove the meaning of life discovering stage of Walter Mitty.



Picture 52
01:20:53

Picture 53
00:19:24

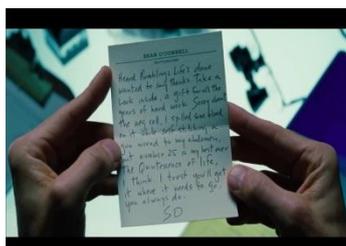
Walter who is trying to find Sean and the negative #25 in Himalayas is shown in picture 52. He considers that negative #25 is meaningful in his life, so that he always tries to find it even he got fired. For him, to find negative #25 is his responsibility. In the movie, it is known that Walter has a feeling with Cheryl. Picture 53 shows Walter who is trying to get closer to Cheryl.

Turning to the next two stages, meaning realization stage and meaningful life stage. Walter experiences meaning realization stage when he believes to do something that he set to be a purpose of life. One of his action which shows his meaning realization stage is when he tells his feeling honestly to Cheryl as it is shown in picture 54 taken by using medium shot below.



Picture 54
01:41:33

Continue to the final stage, that is meaningful life stage. At this stage, Walter gains the result of his efforts, that is meaningful life. Finally, he successfully found his happiness which includes better personality, appreciation and love from the people who love him. Those are proven in these pictures below.



Picture 55
00:12:05

Picture 56
01:17:45

Picture 57
01:43:46

Those three pictures above express the appreciation of Sean O’Connell to Walter Mitty. In picture 55, it is shown a message from Sean O’Connell for Walter which express Sean’s appreciation and gratitude for Walter’s hardwork. Sean also sends him a wallet with LIFE motto inside. Besides, Sean’s appreciation is also shown in picture 56. That picture shows Edna Mitty who is giving support and telling Sean’s gratitude to him. And picture 57 shows the suprising and shocking cover of LIFE last print issue.

The cover shows a photograph of Walter sitting outside LIFE building holding a sheet which reads “Dedication to the people who made it”. The cover comes from the negative #25 which is considered very beautiful by Sean O’Connell. That last issue is the greatest gift from Sean for Walter. It is Sean’s dedication to Walter Mitty who has work very hard to process Sean’s negative into beautiful photographs. It is proven that Walter is very important for Sean.



Picture 58
01:33:06



Picture 59
01:37:09

From the journey that he has been through, he got many new learnings and positive changes in his life. It is proven by picture 58 and picture 59 above. Picture 58 shows Walter and Todd who are having a chat about Walter. Todd asks him about Walter’s daydreaming, and Walter answers that it has decreased.

Todd Maher : How's the uh daydreaming going ?
Walter Mitty : Lately less.
Todd Maher : Good, less is good.
Walter Mitty : Thanks for the pastry.
Todd Maher : You owe me.
(*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (2013), 01:32:58 – 01:33:14)

Picture 59 shows Walter, delivering the negative #25 to Ted, bravely berates Ted for what he has done to the employees. It proves that Walter has changed into a better person who is brave to argue or protest and to act.



Picture 60
01:39:21



Picture 61
01:44:13

It is shown in picture 60 that Walter is watching a video from Richard Melhoff who wants to say thanks to Walter for giving a new skateboard and teaching some tricks. In the ending of the movie, it can be seen that Walter and Cheryl are reunited. At that time, Walter expresses his feeling to Cheryl. And as it seen in the picture 61, the relationship between Cheryl and Walter is getting closer. Found in the picture 61, they are walking down the street holding hands. From all the explanations above, it can be concluded that Walter successfully achieved his meaningful life; he got great appreciation, happiness, love from the people who love him.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The meaning of life is the awareness of an opportunity and possibility in which reality is the background of it. The meaning of life is the things that are considered important, valuable perceived, and is believed to be something big and can be used as a purpose of life by a person. The meaning of life also gives special value to someone such as new learnings and positive changes to make a better living.

The writer found that the aspects of the meaning of life are seen in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* movie. To achieve the meaning of life, Walter has to deal with three psychological concepts namely freedom of will, will to meaning and meaning of life. In this movie, the struggles of Walter Mitty in giving meaning to his life can be seen when Walter chooses to try to get closer to Cheryl Melhoff and takes a great journey to Greenland, Iceland and Afghanistan to find Sean and negative #25. From his journey to those places, he got many dangerous and breathtaking experiences.

It also can be seen that after the journey that he has been through, he finally found Sean and negative #25 which is considered very important and valuable. Without his high responsibility and great willingness to struggle, he will never make it happens. He got many new learnings and experiences from his journey that change him into a more positive and better person. In the ending of the movie, it can be seen that Walter finally understood and successfully achieved

the meaning of his life. He got what he deserves in accordance with his struggle such as great appreciation, happiness and love from the people who love him.

It can be inferred that the meaning of life is closely related to meaningful life. The meaning of life is the comprehension about what are the valuable things and meaningful to be the purpose of life and how to get them in life. While, meaningful life the results of one who has comprehended and applied it in life through struggling.

Turning to the values which come from himself to find the meaning of his life and stages he has been through in achieving his meaningful life, he delivers and passes them successfully. By delivering the values such as creative values, experiential values and attitudinal values in his life, he is motivated to move forward. As the result, he is able to find the meaning of his life. And finally, he successfully achieved his meaningful life after passing the stages such as suffering stage, self-accepting stage, the meaning of life discovering stage, meaning realization stage and the meaningful life stage. Based on the analysis in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* movie, the writer concludes that finally, Walter Mitty, successfully achieved the meaning of his life and his meaningful life in accordance with the concepts of the meaning of life which is called “logotherapy” theory proposed by Victor E. Frankl.

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