



**LOUIS BLOOM'S DEFENCE MECHANISMS IN DAN GILROY'S
*NIGHTCRAWLER***

A FINAL PROJECT

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
For S-1 Degree in Literatures
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this final project is compiled by himself without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in diploma. In addition, The writer ascertains that he doesnot take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned.

Semarang, 7September 2017

Rizal Yunianto

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Victory belongs to the most persevering.

(Napoleon Bonaparte)

This project is dedicated for my family and friends.

APPROVAL

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfection. Thus, he will be glad and thankful to receive any constructive criticisms and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the readers who wish to learn something about personality, especially in dissociative identity disorder.

Semarang, 7September 2017

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ABSTRACT

This essay aims to analyze the character of Louis Bloom in the movie *Nightcrawler* who is a criminal news hunter in a city. The author uses the theory of id, ego, super ego, and defense mechanism to assist the analysis process. This proposal also uses additional data from the internet. Louis Bloom's character in the movie *Nightcrawler* has to survive in a big city without having a working experience. It makes him have to use all means to survive. Although it violates the law and social norms. The result of this proposal is to find out what type of defense mechanism in Louis Bloom.

Keywords: Id, Ego, Super Ego, Defense Mechanism.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

According to *merriam-webster.com* “a movie is a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television.” For audience or viewer, its main purpose is for entertainment. However, for researchers, they can analyze the movie because it contains many interesting aspects, such as the character or the cinematography itself.

One of the movies that caught the writer’s attention is *Nightcrawler*. It tells an interesting story about a man who rises from nobody to become a well-known freelance criminal reporter in Los Angeles. He does everything that needs to be done in order to reach his goal, even if it is socially unacceptable and dangerous to others.

Nightcrawler is an American film directed by Dan Gilroy in 2014. It tells the story of a man desperate for work named Louis Bloom, who becomes a freelance cameraman after he sees another cameraman recording an accident. He meets many characters that make him who he is now.

This essay will analyze the characters, the plot, the setting, and the psychological aspects of Louis Bloom such as id, ego, superego, and the most important of all, the defense mechanism.

1.2 Research Problems

1. What are the causes of defense mechanism on the character Louis Bloom?
2. What kind of defense mechanism that Louis Bloom use?
3. What are the impacts that Louis Bloom's defence mechanism cause to other characters in *Nightcrawler*?

1.3 Research Method

Based on the background of the study, The writer uses psychoanalytical approach in analyzing the *Nightcrawler* movie. According to Kennedy and Gioia in *Introduction to Fiction, 11th edition*, the psychological approach is trying to uncover more meanings, thoughts, and motives behind the words.

“Psychological approach examines the surface of the literary works, customarily speculates on what lies underneath the text, the unspoken or perhaps the unspeakable memories, motives and fears that covertly shape the work (2007: 2193).

Objective approach is also used to analyze the intrinsic aspects of the *Nightcrawler* movie such as the narrative aspects and cinematography. To support this research, the writer uses library research method. According to Mary W. George in *The Elements of Library Research*, library research is

“an investigation involving accepted facts, speculation, logical, procedures rigorously applied, verification, evaluation. repetition, an ultimately an interpretation of finding that extend understanding”, (2008: 22-23).

SYNOPSIS

Louis Bloom was a man desperate for work and struggling to make a living until he saw a car accident, and witnessed a "Nightcrawler" or a criminal reporter named Joe Loder who was gathering video footage for a local news broadcast. He thought that this was a good opportunity for him to get a decent job. Louis Bloom used his money to purchase a police scanner and a cheap video camera, and hit the streets.

After a while, Lou hired an assistant named Rick to help him record and navigate the city streets, and started selling footages to local TV producer Nina, one of Joe's regular buyers. After learning how to be a good Nightcrawler, Louis Bloom usually manipulated a crime scene in order to get a picture that made a good story so he would get more money.

His rivalry with Joe was getting intense when Joe bought another van to cover more news in the city. Afraid of being beaten by Joe, Lou sabotaged Joe's van. It caused Joe's van to crash into a tree and make him badly injured. This event made Lou have one less rival in the video gathering industry.

One day, Louis Bloom arrived at the scene of a deadly home invasion before the police. He recorded the shooters but hid it from the police because he wanted to

gain more money. After he told this plan to his partner, Rick wanted half of the money. Louis Bloom finally agreed to splits the money. They followed the shooters into the restaurant and call the police. Louis Bloom wanted to film it and sold the video to Nina. However, the shooters ran away from the police and they had to chase them. Louis and Rick followed them while still recording.

After an intense car chase, the shooters' car is crashed and Louis asked Rick to filmed them and assures him that they were dead. When Rick approached them, one of the shooters was still alive and shot him. With Rick's death, Louis Bloom got all the money and built his own video production company.

LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Intrinsic Aspects

3.1.1 Narrative Aspects

3.1.1.1 Characters

According to Laurence Perrine in her book *Fiction: the Elements of Fiction*, it states,

Authors may present their characters either directly or indirectly. In direct presentation they tell us straight out, by exposition or analysis, what the characters are like, or have someone else in the story tell us what they are like. In indirect presentation the authors show us the characters in action; we infer what they are like from what they think or say or do (1987: 66).

A character in literature usually a person or animal. However, character can also be other being, such as a creature or a thing. Characters in literature is used to do an action and speak dialogue to move the story and plot. Usually, a story has two or more characters interacting with each other. Character is revealed by how a character responds to conflict, by his or her dialogue, and through descriptions.

3.1.1.2 Conflict

According to Perrine in *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense* states that

“Conflict – a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills. The main character may be pitted against some other person or group of persons (man against man); he may be in conflict with some external force – physical nature,

society, or “fate” (man against environment); or he may be in conflict with some element in his own nature (man against himself). The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional, or moral” (1984:42).

Every story has a conflict - a struggle between two opposing forces. The conflict may be between two people or it may be between a person and some other force.

3.1.1.2.1 Internal Conflict

Michael Meyer in *The Bedford Introduction Literature* states

“Conflict may also be internal; in such a case some moral or psychological issue must be resolved within protagonist. Internal conflicts frequently accompany external ones” (1990: 46).

Internal conflict happens between the people itself. It shows the struggle inside the character’s mind.

3.1.1.2.2 External Conflict

According to Michael Meyer in *The Bedford Introduction Literature* *“external conflict places the major character in contradictory situation between him and other characters, society, nature, or all of those” (1990: 46).*

External conflict happens between the person with the things around him. Usually, it happens between the protagonist and the antagonist of the story.

3.1.1.3 Settings

The word ‘setting’ is used to identify and establish the time, place and social environment of the events of the story. It can be used to analyze where or when the story takes place and what happened at that time.

“Setting is physical and social context in which the action of a story occurs. The major elements of setting are the time, the place, and the social environment that frames the character” (Meyer, 1990:107).

There are three elements of setting based on Meyer:

It is the time in which every action or event takes place. Time gives us information about date, year and century or morning, night or the dawn.

Place explains about the location where the action occurs. The place can be a room, a town or a country. Natural environments, such as a mountain, island, forest, etc, can also be the setting of place. The actual geographical location including topography, scenery, even the details of room’s interior can describe the setting of place.

Social environment covers society’s social environment. It shows surrounding condition of the main character. It consists of governmental regulation, society custom, and religion, intellectual and emotional.

3.1.2 Cinematography Theory

According to Blain Brown in *Cinematography Theory and Practice*,

“Filmmaking is about what the audience “gets” from each scene, not only intellectually (such as the plot) but also emotionally. Perhaps just as important, at the end of each scene are they still asking themselves, “I wonder what happens next?” In other words, are they still interested in the story?” (2012:14)

Every scene in movie is very important because it influences the audience about how the story goes or let the audience see what the filmmaker wants them to see.

One of the important thing in every scene of a movie is the camera-take technique, especially the shot element. Some of them are wide shot or long shot, full shot, medium shot, and close ups

According to Blain Brown in Cinematography Theory and Practice,

“The wide shot is any frame that encompasses the entire scene. This makes it all relative to the subject. For example, if the script says “Wide shot — the English Countryside” we are clearly talking about a big panoramic scene done with a short focal length lens taking in all the eye can see. On the other hand, if the description is “Wide shot — Leo’s room” this is clearly a much smaller shot but it still encompasses all or most of the room.” (2012:17)

Wide shot or long shot is used to capture the place entirely. It usually shows us the scenery for the movie or where the setting takes place.

“Full shot indicates that we see the character from head to toe. It can refer to objects as well: a full shot of a car includes all of the car.”(Brown, 2012:20). Full shot is used to capture a character or thing entirely. It has to shows the character from head to toe. Medium shot is closer than full shot. It is usually used to show people and the background. “The medium shot, like the wide shot, is relative to the subject. Obviously, it is closer than a full shot. Medium shots might be people at a table in a restaurant, or someone buying a soda, shown from the waist up.” (Brown, 2012:20)”.

Close up shot is used to show the facial expression of a character and gives the audience more intimate view with the character. It is usually only show the face of a character or from chest up. “A close-up (CU) would generally be from the top of the head to somewhere just below the shirt pockets.”(Brown, 2012:21).

3.2 Extrinsic Aspects

3.2.1.Id, Ego, andSuper Ego

3.2.1.1.Id

“The id functions to increase pleasure and avoid pain. The id strives for immediate satisfaction of its needs and does not tolerate delay or postponement of satisfaction for any reason. It knows only instant gratification; it drives us to want what we want when we want it, without regard for what anyone else wants. The id is a selfish, pleasure-seeking structure, primitive, amoral, insistent, and rash” (Schultz, 2009: 57)

Id exists since birth. It needs only for satisfaction and pleasure. Id is essential to our lives because it protects us from pain. Id follows the person’s instinct to fulfill their biological and psychological needs.

3.2.1.2 Ego

“The ego operates on the reality principle, which seeks to gratify the id’s impulses in realistic ways that will bring true pleasure rather than pain or destruction” (Myers, 1986: 398).

The Ego acts to protect the individual by mediating between the super ego moral’s code and the need of the Id or desire. The Id says, ‘I want that’, but the Ego

says, 'If you have that you will be punished and suffer'. Ego's function is to decide which is best whether to follow id or super ego.

3.2.1.3 Super ego

"The superego is the third major divisions on human personality. The superego is the person's moral code (ego ideal). It develops out of the ego as a consequence of the child's assimilation from his parent regarding what is good and virtuous and what is bad or sinful (conscience)"(Hall, 1956: 31).

Super ego exists later after id and ego already develop. Super ego follows the norm and moral code of the society. It develops from the parents or the natures teaching. Super ego sometimes conflicted with id because of the differences between one's desire and moral code.

3.1.2. Defense mechanisms

Someone who get stress, anxiety, tension, or conflict creates this mechanism. Defense mechanism not only can reduce unpleasant feeling, but also can prevent unacceptable gratification or even solve conflict by allowing impulses revealed in a form that can be accepted socially.

According to C. Robert Boeree in his book *Personality Theories* stated that

The ego deals with the demands of reality, the id, and the superego as best as it can. But when the anxiety becomes overwhelming, the ego must defend itself. It does so by unconsciously blocking the impulses or distorting them into a more acceptable, less threatening form. The techniques are called the

ego defense mechanisms, and Freud, his daughter Anna, and other disciples have discovered quite a few. (2006:7)

3.1.2.1. Displacement

Displacement according to C. Robert Boeree is “*the redirection of an impulse onto a substitute target*” (2006:9)

It transfer emotion from one object of the emotion to another. A person repress their feelings when they are afraid to express them. After that, when there is an opportunity, they transfer their emotions to a safer object and releases them. (e.g., a man gets yelled at by his boss at the office when he comes home he yells at his wife because the food is not good enough).

3.1.2.2. Rationalization

Plotnik states that “*rationalization involves covering up the true reasons for actions, thoughts, or feelings by making up excuses and incorrect explanation*” (2011: 437). Proving one's behavior is justifiable, rational and thus worthy of self and social approval. (e.g., a student cheats on an exam because he wants to get a high grade and makes his parent happy)

3.1.2.3 Reaction Formation

According to Kasschau, Reaction formation is “*involves replacing unacceptable feeling of urge with an opposite one.*” (2003: 382). It happens by

conducting the opposite action from the person's desire so that it is acceptable and tolerable by the society. (e.g., a gay person becomes homophobic in public).

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