



**SOCIAL MOBILITY AS REFLECTED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF  
MICHAEL OHER IN *THE BLIND SIDE* (2009) MOVIE**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Degree Majoring in  
American Studies in English Department Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer truly declares that she complies this thesis entitled “Social Mobility as Reflected in the Main Character of Michael Oher in *The Blind Side* Movie (2009)” by herself without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ensures that she did not quote any material from other publications or someone’s paper except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 29th July 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gecia Irene', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Gecia Irene

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*I've learned there's power deep down yourself, and you can find it when you don't give up on yourself and when you ask for help*

**Selena Gomez**

*This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family, friend and those who helped me to get through my life and accomplished this thesis*

*Thank you.*

**APPROVAL**

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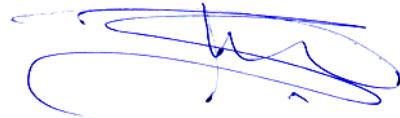
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The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, the writer gladly accepts all corrections and opinions to make this thesis better. Finally, she expects that this thesis will be useful for the readers and can be a reference for those who need it.

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## **ABSTRACT**

In society, people have a tendency to experience changes in their life whether it is better or worse. Those changes are parts of human achievement that is obtained from the efforts, opportunities, abilities they have. Moreover, it is also affects their social status in life. Social status could be switched from one status to another and it is known as social mobility. *The Blind Side* movie contains an example of the process of social mobility in its main character, Michael Oher, an African American football player. In order to gather the data for this thesis, the writer used library research method by taking sources by the film itself entitled *The Blind Side*, e-books, journals, and website articles. The writer also used the theory of social mobility by Pitirim A. Sorokin. The study results in showing the existence of social mobility's process which was portrayed in the movie.

Keywords: Society, Social Mobility, Social Status, The Blind Side, Sociology.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Society plays an important role in daily life since it gives people a space to interact each other. The interaction in society helps people to live life, participate in many social activities, and fulfill their duties as social beings. Since there is an interaction in society, it takes a part of the creation of social environment. Social environment determines individual or group behavior frequently, and it also becomes an important aspect that could affect a person, or a group's life. A good social environment makes one's personal behavior great and otherwise, bad social environment creates a low quality of manners in someone and indirectly, it has an impact to create a problematic society (Arifin, et al, 2018:932). Moreover, social environment consists of many components, such as race, ethnics, religion, and culture. There are several factors that influence the formation of social environment, and one of them is social class.

Basically, social class has a meaning that it consists of a group with a similar interests in several aspects such as political orientation, cultural values, attitude, and social behavior (Horton 1984:6). Each individual or groups in society is divided into social classes according to several factors, such as family background, income, and education. For instance, people with high salary generally will be in a

high social class, and vice versa. But social class is frequently considered as a lack of social equality.

Setyorini (2009:13) states that social inequality potentially occurs in these things, such as access to education, voting rights, freedom of speech, and the extent of property rights. However, social class could be changed and this change is known as social mobility. Another statement about social mobility by Giorgos Tsakarissianos on *Social Mobility and VET* (2008) states that “social mobility is defined as the degree to which, in a given society, individuals’ offspring and subsequent generations move up (and down) the social scale or as the degree to which individuals’ social standing can change throughout the course of their lives”.

Sorokin, on *Social and Cultural Mobility* (1959), defines social mobility as “any transition of an individual or social object or value – anything that has been created or modified by human activity – from one social position to another.” In the other words, social mobility can make everyone in society move to the higher or lower position in social class. He also states that there are two main types of social mobility. The first type is horizontal, which means that social class movement occurs at the same level, and the second type is vertical, which means that social class movement occurs at the different level, from the higher to lower class or from the lower class to higher class. Although social mobility is known as a movement, but it is not a physical movement. People do not make a geographical movement, but they make a social movement (Doda, 2005:178). Furthermore, Doda also makes a statement about social mobility that “It is movement in the social space, the shifting

or changing of statuses or class positions. Social mobility is a social process that takes place among individual members or groups in a society, as they interact with each other”.

In order to do the analysis of this study, the writer decided to choose social mobility in the movie entitled *The Blind Side* as the object of the study. *The Blind Side*, an American biographical drama movie which was inspired by Michael Oher, an African American football player. This movie takes the story of life journey of Michael Oher beginning when he was 17 years old. Michael always moves around since he is a child because his mother was a drug addict, and his father has passed away due to suicide. When he becomes a homeless, he meets Leigh Tuohy, an interior designer, and her family. Because they cannot bear with Michael’s condition, they decide to try to help him, and end up with adopting him as their adopted son, and supporting him to be a football player in his school. In the middle of his journey to become a successful American football player, he should face a lot of struggles, but he is able to reach his dream, and become a famous American football player.

*The Blind Side* is a movie released in 2009, and directed by John Lee Hancock. This movie is based on a book entitled *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* (2006) by Michael Lewis, an American author. The first release was in New York, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009, and on its opening weekend, this movie showed in 3,110 theaters in America, and later in other countries. *The Blind Side* has received 11 awards, including Oscar in 2010, and nominated for 30 nominations, including Kids’

Choice Awards 2010. Sandra Bullock, who acts as Leigh Anne Tuohy, won four awards; two of them are Academy Awards USA 2010, for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role, and Teen Choice Awards 2010, for Choice Movie Actress: Drama. This movie made good impacts for her career.

A review from A.O Scott, an American chief film critic for *The New York Times*, published on November 19, 2009 about *The Blind Side* movie said that the movie tells the story of Michael Oher clearly, and does not diverge into another storyline. He also compares the effect of Sandra Bullock's acting as Leigh Tuohy with the effect of Michael Oher's attack on his rival in his football match. In the beginning of the movie, the character of Leigh Tuohy looks ordinary, but when she begins to help Michael, making him focus on his football practice, she, eventually becomes striking. Sandra Bullock's acting manages to show everyone that the character of Leigh Tuohy is energetic, and she is able to do many things by herself. So, in a sense, the character of Leigh Tuohy represents a kind-hearted independent woman.

There are some reasons why the writer finds this movie is worth to be analyzed, and chooses this movie to be the analysis material of this study because this movie represents the issue of social mobility depicted in the lives of the character of Michael Oher. He starts his journey with being a homeless, and ends up with being a famous football player. In addition, this movie appeals to the writer because it raises race issue since Michael is an African American, and the Tuohy family is American rich white people. This movie also contains religion elements which can be found



from the Tuohy family who are Christians, and they really apply the main teaching of Christianity which is “love God, love your neighborhood as yourself” by helping Michael out from his adversity without looking his past, background, and without thinking about the risks that they will face.

With the considerations which the writer has described above, analyzing *The Blind Side* movie is considered appropriate. Moreover, the issue that the writer uses to be analyzed, has been portrayed in this movie through the life journey of Michael Oher since he was desperate, and homeless, until he becomes a successful as a famous American football player. This movie also deserves to be an object in this study as an example of the process of social class movement, from one class, to another class which depicted in the character of Michael Oher, and his process could be an inspiration for those who has same life’s story as Michael. The writer believes that the intrinsic and extrinsic elements could help the writer to prove the existence of social mobility in *The Blind Side* movie.

## **1.2. Scope of the Study**

As for the scope of the study the writer tries to analyze the intrinsic and the extrinsic aspects of this movie. For the intrinsic aspects the writer analyzes the narrative elements such as theme, characters, setting, conflict, and cinematographic elements. Furthermore, for the extrinsic aspect, the writer focuses on the process of social mobility as experienced by Michael Oher.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

At the end, this study is expected to give the following results as the purpose of study:

1. To analyze the intrinsic elements in *The Blind Side* movie namely narrative elements which consist of theme, setting, character, conflict, and cinematic elements.
2. To identify the process of social mobility experienced by Michael Oher in *The Blind Side* movie.

### **1.4. Methods of Study**

In order to gather information completely and make this study easier to comprehend, the writer uses library research method. According to Kothari on *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques* (2004), there are some techniques of library research, such as recording of notes, content analysis, and statistical compilations and manipulations. Setting, character, conflict, and cinematic elements are used for intrinsic elements. Regarding to extrinsic elements, the theories of social mobility from Sorokin's book entitled *Social and Cultural Mobility* (1959) is used to be analyzed.

### **1.5. Methods of Approach**

As for methods of approach, the movie will be analyzed according to the primary and secondary data. Primary data are found from the movie entitled *The Blind Side*. Secondary data are obtained from articles, journals, internet and dictionaries.

### **1.6. Previous Study**

There are previous studies relevant to this research. First is a thesis entitled “Social Mobility in Daniel Defoe’s *Moll Flanders* (1722)” written by Prehatin Afrelia from Department of English Education School of Teacher Training and Education, Surakarta Muhammadiyah University. This thesis analyzes the indicator of social mobility which is presented in the novel, how social mobility can be found in the novel, and the reason why Daniel Defoe give concerns in social mobility issue.

The second previous study is a thesis entitled “Social Mobility and Educational Inequality in England: A Regional Breakdown” and it is written by Scott Harvey, a student of Master programme in Economic Growth, Innovation and Spatial Dynamics from Lund University, School of Economics and Management. This thesis analyzes social mobility literature to demonstrate how inequality of opportunity in human development could be the dominant casual factor in low mobility. Harvey did this research in England.

## **1.7. Organization of Writing**

### **1. Introduction**

This chapter consists of background of the study, scope of study, purpose of study, methods of study, methods of approach, and previous study.

### **2. Literary Review**

In this chapter, summary of the movie is discussed in conjunction with the biography of the director.

### **3. Theoretical Frameworks**

This third chapter includes the theories that are used for analyzing the movie. The intrinsic and extrinsic elements theory is presented to complete this study.

### **4. Discussion**

The intrinsic and extrinsic elements are discussed in this part. The intrinsic elements include setting, character, conflict, and cinematic elements. As for extrinsic elements, the process of social mobility experienced by the character of Michael Oher is identified as well.

### **5. Conclusion**

As the fifth and the last chapter of the study, this chapter contains summary of the main concept or idea of discussion and the writer's point of view is also put in this part.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### 2.1. Summary

*The Blind Side* tells a story about Michael Oher or known as Big Mike, a famous football player in United States. Mike is an African American, and has a mother who is a drug addict. Therefore, he doesn't have a home to stay, and always moves around. Fortunately, he has a talent to play all sports which are related to the ball. At that time, he lives with his father's friend named Tony Hamilton or Big Tony. One day, Tony goes to see Burt Cotton, the coach of Wingatte Christian School, and persuades him to put his son, Steve, and Mike to the school. He is impressed when he sees Mike plays basketball with Steve. Finally, he decides to help Mike by promoting him to the teachers at Wingatte. Although, the teachers are hesitant in the beginning due to Mike's track record, but they finally agree.

Mike starts his first day at school with Biology's class. When he enters the class, the whole class stares at him with a strange look. Mike has to do Biology's test, but he doesn't do it at all. In another time, Leigh Anne Tuohy, an interior designer, and a wife of a rich businessman, Sean Tuohy, is watching her daughter, Collins, volley match with Sean, and their son, Sean Junior or SJ. After the match ends, Sean sees Mike is picking up the food and drink waste from the audience's seats.

The teachers start asking Mike's progress at school because they don't see any, but Mike's biology teacher defends them that Mike has other abilities. One day,

Mike gets acquainted with SJ, and after that his teacher tells him that his father is passed away because he jumps from a bridge. In the night, Mike goes to a laundry to wash his clothes, and when he is on the way to gym's school because he seeks warm inside the school's gym after Big Tony's wife doesn't want him to stay with them; the Tuohy's family see him. Leigh knows that Mike doesn't have a place to stay, and then she brings him to her house.

The next day, when Mike wants to leave the Tuohys' house, he is arrested by Leigh, and she asks him to eat with her family while celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Sean and his children are watching TV while enjoying their meals, but Mike does not join them, and he eats his meal by himself in dining room. Leigh sees him, and turns off the TV immediately. She asks her family to eat together with Mike in dining room. Before eating, they pray while holding each other hands as a sign of their thankfulness for the food they have. After that, Mike and Leigh go to Mike's mom house, but they don't find her. Leigh also buys Mike new clothes. At school, although he has a trouble to learn, but his teachers willing to help him, and Mike's scores go up slowly.

One day, when Mike is having dinner with the Tuohy's family, he meets his brother whom he has not seen for a long time. They also go to a book store to buy a book, and Leigh reads a book for Mike and SJ. His mother never read any books for him. When the Tuohys are taking pictures for Christmas, Leigh asks Mike to join them, and uses the photo on their Christmas' card. Other Tuohy's families and

Leigh's friends make jokes about Mike staying at her house. They tell Leigh to be careful because Mike is black, but she ignores them.

Mike starts to join school's football, and begins the practice. His first practice does not go well because he does not understand much about football. Therefore, SJ helps him to practice. One day, Mike asks Leigh a driver license for him, but it is difficult because Mike's data are lost. Leigh goes to see Mike's mom to find out about Mike's past. She also asks her if she wants to see Mike, but Mike's biological mother refuses it due to her condition. Eventually, Leigh and Sean decide to be Mike's legitimate adoptive parents with Mike's biological mother permission. Finally, Mike could own his driver license, and his adoptive parents buy him a car.

But later, when Mike and SJ are on their way to buy something, they get a car accident. Fortunately, SJ doesn't suffer serious injuries because Mike protects him with his hand. Mike feels so guilty about it, but Leigh doesn't blame him even tries to calm him down. Leigh also supports Mike's football practice. She knows that Mike's greatest instinct is protecting others, and she tells him that his football team is his family, so he should protect them. Those words work for Mike, his football practice is progressing.

Finally, Mike has his first football match. The first three rounds don't go well, he receives racist treatment from a man in opposing team, and his father also makes fun of Mike from tribune. Leigh and her family hear him, and Leigh tries to ignore him at first but finally Leigh defends Mike at the end. Mike knows it but he ignores them. Besides, his coach defends him when a man from opposing team kicks his head

and mocks him. He remembers Leigh's words that he must protect his team, he feels like that he gets many supports from people around him and in the end, his team wins the match. Even Mike embarrasses a man who kicks his head by lifting him up, and pushing him off from the field. His first match is recorded by SJ, and stores on CD. It is seen by many football coaches from many colleges, and they like the way he plays.

Mike gets many opportunities to get college scholarship, but he must get 2.5 for his final score in the end of semester while he only has 1.76. Leigh hires a tutor named Miss Sue to help him improve his scores. Meanwhile, he gets visits from various universities who offer him opportunities, and guarantees for his studies. While Mike is considering all opportunities he gets, his scores begin to increase, his efforts succeed.

After he graduates, he decides to continue his study at University of Mississippi or Ole Miss. This makes NCAA suspect that the Tuohy family only uses Mike to play for their alma mater since Leigh and Sean are from Ole Miss and interviews him. After hearing that, Mike is angry to Leigh, and looks for his biological mother in a place where she lives but Mike doesn't find her.

He is welcomed by the gang leader, and his friends, but instead, they make sexual jokes about Leigh and Collins. Mike can't accept it; he is angry and fights with them immediately. After that, he calls Leigh, and apologizes for being angry, and Leigh explains that Mike could choose any university that he wants. Finally, he goes back to interview, and tells them that he chooses Ole Miss because it is the place where his family studies at.



Mike is accepted in Ole Miss, and the Tuohys drive him to the school. In the end, Mike manages to become the best football player at Ole Miss, and his football career goes fluently. A few years later, Mike is able to play in National Football League.

## **2.2. Biography of John Lee Hancock**

John Lee Hancock is a 63-year-old American director, producer, and screenwriter who was born in Longview, Texas, December 15, 1956. He graduated from Baylor University with B.A, degree, and Baylor University Law School with J.D. Before starting his career as movie director, he worked for Sowell & Ogg, Houston in production division as production coordinator, assistant production director, and location scout (*tribute.ca*, 2020).

He got inspirations towards industrial movie when he became a member of the Fountainhead Theatre Company, and Legal Aliens Theatre. Starting his career in industrial movie, he began with his first movie as screenwriter for *A Perfect World* in 1993, and continued with *Hard Time Romance* as screenwriter and director at once. Four years later, he became a screenwriter for *Midnight in the Garden for Good and Evil*. Other movies that he worked as director were *The Rookie* (2002), *Alamo* (2004), *The Blind Side* (2009), and *Saving Mr. Banks* (2013) (*tribute.ca*, 2020).

## **CHAPTER III**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Analyzing literary works by understanding more deeply the contents, meanings of those works, and imagination that the author tries to express could increase knowledge and experience. In literary analysis, people are challenged to see the world with a different, deeper, and analytical perspective. In other words, critical thinking is needed to produce an informative and enlightening information. The data, which are related to the object, are necessary in order to complete the analysis of this study.

In this study, the writer conducts the analysis by relying on several sources, and data collected. There are two elements that used to analyze this study, namely intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The descriptions of the parts that used in this study will be explained in this chapter.

#### **3.1. Intrinsic Elements**

The intrinsic elements discussed in this chapter consists of theme, settings, characters, conflicts, and cinematographic elements.

##### **3.1.1. Theme**

The first component of intrinsic elements that is analyzed is theme. Basically, every literary work requires main idea that serves to make people able to find the intent that the author wants to be conveyed. The main idea is commonly known as theme. Theme is a concept whose form can not be seen but it is made concrete

through person, actions, and images which exist in literary works (Holman, 1960: 486).

### **3.1.2. Setting**

Setting is one of intrinsic elements which explain place and time that occur in a film or other literary works. However, setting does not only include date, year, city or country but also an explanation of social, education and culture background of a character and other important supporting factors such as their clothes, foods and drinks (Barsam and Monahan, 2013:155). Wellek and Warren on their book *Theory of Literature* state that “Setting is environment and environment especially domestic interior, maybe viewed as metonymic, or metaphoric, expression of character” (1949:229).

Setting has three elements that have to be considered when checking a story or other literary works. Based on Abrams & Harpham (2009), first element of setting is place, which explains geographical location or where the story takes place. Next element is time, which explains when the story takes place (morning, afternoon, night, season historical period, the past, the future), and other specific time. The last element is social environment, which describes social conditions, such as political, emotional, mental, and cultural elements of society and characters in the story.

### **3.1.3. Characters**

According to Stephen on *An Introductory Guide to English Literature* (1984:95), characterization explains the writer’s way show the readers about the physical and non-physical characteristics of the person in a story. Character, itself,

known as an element that holds a role as the actor who helps the story of a film or other literary works run. A statement by Abrams (2009:42) said that “characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. The grounds in the characters’ temperament, desires, and moral nature for their speech and actions are called their motivation”.

Characters are divided into several categories: protagonist, antagonist, major and minor characters (Lyon, 2004:7).

a. Protagonist

This character plays as the main character in a plot. They have a purpose in a story that becomes the goal in a plot and it is usually positive.

b. Antagonist

Antagonist is known as the opposite of protagonist. This character has their own purpose that is contrary to the protagonist, and always against the main purpose in a story.

c. Major characters

Major characters hold important role in a story, and they can be protagonist or antagonist. They may be developed although their development is not much as the protagonist, or in other words, they develop under the protagonist.

d. Minor characters

Minor characters also have a role in story, but their role is not as much as major characters. They appear once or many times with little purpose and only have a little or no development characters.

#### **3.1.4. Conflict**

According to Perrine (1984:42), conflict is something that happens when there are contrasting actions, thought, or wishes. Those differences lead to contention which occurs among one character and other characters. In a story, conflict does not always mean fighting physically but also fighting emotionally through words or body movement. There are two main categories of conflict: physical conflict, or a conflict that is visible, and emotional or mental conflict, which is invisible.

In literature, conflict can also be categorized into two categories:

1. External conflict, or the conflict between a character and an outside force, whether it be a person, society and its rules, or even the force of nature, such as natural disaster, wild animals, or environmental issues. This conflict may cause a change of the characters' personality because the characters learn something from the struggle they have been through in the end of the story.
2. Internal conflict or the conflict that happens within a character's mind. In other words, internal conflict is the conflict between the opposing desires, emotions, ideas, or other factors within a person's mind. This conflict affects emotionally and mentally. The characters battle with their feelings like feeling of guilt, and feeling of revenge inside themselves due to some mistakes they make or

something is not occur as they expect. Internal conflict makes a change on the characters' mind, their view of something, and for the worst, if they are not strong enough to deal with their conflict, they might feel a depression or suicide.

### **3.1.5. Cinematic elements**

Cinematic elements or cinematography becomes a technical aspect that is used to capturing all moving pictures with its sound. Barsam & Monaham (2013:226) assert that:

“Cinematography is closely related to still photography, but its methods and technologies clearly distinguish it from its static predecessor. Although cinematography might seem to exist solely to please our eyes with beautiful images, it is in fact an intricate language that can (and in the most complex and meaningful films, does) contribute to a movie's overall meaning as much as the story, mise-en-scène, and acting do.”

According to Bordwell & Thompson (2017:188), camera position in cinematic elements consist of camera angle and camera distance.

#### **3.1.5.1. Camera Angle**

Camera Angle is the position of camera placed when taking a subject in a picture. It can suggest certain significance, or tone to the film. The position of camera angle is divided to three: straight-on angle, high angle, low angle.

##### **a. Straight-on angle**

Straight-on angle is a basic position in camera angle. The position of camera is straight to eye-level of object in a picture.

b. High angle

As for high angle, this position is when the camera is placed higher to eye-level. High angle makes object or subject in a picture look clearless because camera takes a picture above the subject or the object.

c. Low angle

This position is the opposite of high angle. Low angle takes a position under the subject or object in a picture, or it is placed lower to eye-level. If high angle makes the subject or object look clearless, low angle makes it look clearly and for some pictures, low angle leaves superiority and powerful impression to the subject.

### **3.1.5.2. Camera Distance**

Camera distance is the placing of camera to the picture in close or long distance. (Brodwell & Thompson, 2017: 189). This camera position is divided to seven shots: extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close up, close up, and extreme close up.

a. Extreme long shot

Extreme long shot takes picture from a great distance. The object usually taken is a place or scene that is related to the characters. The characters are barely visible even some of them are invisible.

b. Long shot

This shot also takes a picture from a distance but not as far as extreme long shot. The characters are seen from head to toe even though the surroundings are dominant.

c. Medium long shot

Medium long shot shows the balance of shooting between the characters and the surroundings. In this technique, characters are seen from head to knee.

d. Medium shot

In this techniques, the characters are shown more clearly. They are shoted the waist up but still showing the environment around the characters.

e. Medium close up

This shot focuses on subject or character in a picture. For characters, this shot usually frame them from head to chest.

f. Close up

This technique frames only one part of characters' body and the picture is shoted closely. For instance, focusing on head or face to show characters' expression.

g. Extreme close up

This technique provides picture from very close distance, and it shots a small area of body's parts. Eyes and mouth are parts of body that are taken frequently.



## **3.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **3.2.1. Social mobility**

Sorokin states in his book, *Social and Cultural Mobility* (1959) that social mobility is “any transition of an individual or social object or value – anything that has been created or modified by human activity – from one social position to another.” Social mobility by Sorokin’s theory describes the process of social status’ movement from one status to another status. The movement occurs to an individual or social object, and they could be placed in a higher status, lower status or same status level. Everyone has a chance do social mobility but it is lightly happens to inclusive society rather than exclusive society because inclusive society tends to interact with others openly and has less social restrictions than those who are in exclusive society.

The process of social mobility is influenced by several factors. As stated by Alex Nunn, *et al* (2007: 71), the factors are: a.) family, b.) education, c.) health, d.) employment and labour market, e.) geographical location. However, these factors are connected and create a combination with each other in fortifying ways.

The drivers of social mobility are multiple and complex. Attempting to isolate one over the others in a causal hierarchy may be unrewarding because they work together in combinations and work differently for different people. (Nunn, *et al*, 2007:69)

For instance, ill-health may constrain labour market participation and can lead to downward social mobility, but such thing can also be caused by labour market exclusion. Hence, in accordance with the instance that has been mentioned, the factors that affect social mobility are so intertwined that it would be difficult and potentially unrewarding to disentangle them from one another.

According to Sorokin (1959:133) there are two principal types of social mobility, horizontal and vertical. These types will be described as the following.

#### **3.2.1.1. Horizontal Mobility**

Horizontal mobility, or also called as shifting, refers to switching of an individual or other social object from one social group to another group with on the same level (Sorokin, 1959:133). A person's position can be up or down in the same class but their roles change, and therefore, they require adjustment in order to do their new roles. Transitions of individual as seen in horizontal, could be exemplified as from the transfer of citizenship status from one country to another, from one religious group to other religious group such as the Baptist to the Methodist, or marital status changes as from marriage to divorce.

### **3.2.1.2. Vertical Mobility**

Vertical mobility is the opposite to horizontal. It means that there are transitions of individuals or social objects from one social group to another group on the different level (Sorokin 1959:133). This type puts an upward or downward change in individuals or social objects position. Vertical, itself, consists of two types: ascending (social climbing), and descending (social sinking).

#### a) Ascending

Ascending could be called as social climbing. It means that there is a transition of individuals or social objects from lower class to higher class. This type also exists in two forms: infiltration of someone from lower class to higher class, or creation of a new group by the lower-class individual and the insertion of the group into a higher class group. Alternatively, the group can also exist side by side with the higher class group.

#### b) Descending

Descending, or known as social sinking, occurs when individuals or social objects move from a higher class to lower class. Similiar to ascending, descending is divided to two principal forms: dropping of an individual from a higher class to a lower class, and the degradation of a social group as a whole, or disintegration of a social group as a social unit.

However, besides horizontal and vertical mobility, there are other types of social mobility according to its scope, namely intragenerational and intergenerational mobility.

### **3.2.1.3. Intragenerational Mobility**

According to Lam and Cuong in *Intragenerational and Intergenerational Mobility in Viet Nam* (2017:01), intragenerational mobility refers to switching of a person social object or status in the same generation. This can occur between brother and sister, a person with his or her friends. For instance, when a man gets a job as a doctor while his sister is an unemployed. This makes a different social status between them.

### **3.2.1.4. Intergenerational Mobility**

Lam and Cuong (2017:01) also states that “intergenerational mobility is the change in position of a person or a household as compared with previous generations”. This can occur between parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren. As example, the son of a farmer becomes a president. The son has a higher social status and better welfare than his father.

## CHAPTER IV

### DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. Intrinsic Elements

##### 4.1.1. Theme

Theme is defined as the central idea in literary works which contains the purpose that the author wants to tell to the readers. In consequence, analyzing the theme in *The Blind Side* movie is indispensable in order to know the true meaning of this movie. *The Blind Side* itself involves several themes and the most notable is generosity, and this can be found in the Tuohy family. The scene when Michael is walking at night to school's gym by himself because he has no place to stay, he accidentally meets the Tuohy family and fortunately, Leigh Tuohy lets him stay at her house. Her husband and children, Collins and SJ allow and do not mind about it. This scene shows that the Tuohy family have mercy on Michael and they can not bear to let Michael has no place to sleep on a cold night. In the end, the Tuohy ends up with adopting him as their son.

They are not just adopting Michel, but they love him as their own family and support him to develop his football skill. These could be shown on the scenes when the Tuohy asks him to join them when they are taking family pictures for Christmas, when Leigh directs him to use his instinct to protect his team on Michael's football practice, and when Collins leaves her friends just to sit with Michael on school's

library when he is sitting alone. Another proof that shows the Tuohy family kindness and love to Michael is when Michael receives many offers for college scholarship and they let him to choose his own path when he gets many offers for his college scholarship. This could be seen in the scene when Michael is talking with Leigh after he runs away from his NCAA's interview and she asks him if he really wants to play football and goes to Ole Miss, a place where Sean and Tuohy go to school. She says that Michael can go to any school he wants and he is allowed to make his own decision for his life.

Another theme that emerges in this movie is racism. Since Michael is an African American who lives with a white family, he experiences discrimination several times by society. At the time, Leigh is having lunch with her siblings, they make jokes by telling Leigh to adopt Michael as her son, and they also warn Leigh that it's dangerous to let Michael, a black boy sleeping in the same room with her daughter, Collins. The scene indicates that there is a stereotype that black people are wicked and inappropriate to live together with the whites.

Other than that, Michael faces racism and body shaming on his football match. He is called "fat", "big black bear", and "black piece of crap" by a player no. 66 from the opposing team and his father. It can be seen that *The Blind Side* movie takes a setting of place in Tennessee, one of the southern states in United States. The southern states have a bad historical about racism which is slavery of black people. Through the movie it can be seen that racism is still carried out by some people in the southern states and becomes a common trend of American mainstream.

## 4.1.2. Setting

### 4.1.2.1. Setting of Place

*The Blind Side* movie takes a place in Memphis, Tennessee on the whole. The scenes are most frequently taken in Wingatte Christian School and the Tuohys' house. The appearance of the front side of Wingatte Christian School can be seen in the picture 4.1 when Michael has his first day of school and it is taken from high angle with long shot technique and the Tuohys' house is visible in the picture 4.2 when the Tuohys and Michael are eating together in Thanksgiving's day. This picture is taken from straight-on angle with medium long shot technique.

But this movie also takes in other places such as Hurt Village, a place where Michael's biological mother lives and football field where Michael practices football and plays football for the first time. The pictures for these scene are put in the picture 4.3, picture 4.4, and picture 4.5.



Picture 4.1 (09:21)



Picture 4.2 (28:01)



*Picture 4.3 (30:01)*



*Picture 4.4 (51:32)*



*Picture 4.5 (01:13:34)*

#### **4.1.2.2. Setting of Time**

This movie does not include the setting of time directly in each scene but it can be known from several scenes that this movie takes place in the present day. The shot in picture 4.6, taken with close up technique, shows a telephone in the Tuohys' house for receiving all messages from scholarship's college recruiters for Michael is Vtech, a cordless telephone brand which is commonly used in 2000s.

Moreover, some scenes indicate that the movie occurs in about the end of November until September. In picture 4.7 the Tuohys are going to have eat together in Thanksgiving day, which celebrates in November. In the picture, they are taking foods for themselves, and in the picture 4.8, the Tuohys are taking family pictures for



their Christmas greeting cards, which the cards will be sent to their family. Those picture were taken with medium shot technique. Picture 4.9 shows that Michael is walking among the students in his college and at the time, he becomes a college student. As we know that the first semester of for college in US usually starts in September. This picture was taken with medium long shot technique.



*Picture 4.6 (01:27:17)*



*Picture 4.7 (26:16)*



*Picture 4.8 (01:27:17)*



*Picture 4.9 (02:02:03)*

#### 4.1.2.3. Setting of Environment

*The Blind Side* movie has setting of place in Memphis, Tennessee; and according to the movie, most of black and white people live in seperated area based on their wealth. This leads to social inequality. The tuohys is a rich family who lives

in a large terraced house in East Memphis, the people around them are also rich and educated, and most of them are white people. Meanwhile Michael was from the poverty of Hurt Village, the other side of Memphis, where most people there are black, uneducated, drug addicts and alcoholic. The appearances of a house where the Tuohys live and a house in Hurt Village are available in the picture 4.10 and picture 4.11. A house in East Memphis looks modern with neatly arranged buildings, and its surroundings are clean and comfortable meanwhile a house in Hurt Village and its surroundings are not well taken care of and its building is not a luxurious designed building. These pictures are taken with medium long shot technique.

Leigh, herself, has never been in Hurt Village before even though she has lived in Memphis for a long time. This can be proven from her conversation with Michael when they are going shopping for Michael, she says “I’ve been in Memphis in my whole life and never been anywhere near here” (*The Blind Side*, 32:47-32:50). If they had never met, Leigh would not have known that there is a place called Hurt Village in Memphis. When Leigh is eating at restaurant with her siblings and asking them if they have ever been in Hurt Village, her siblings tell her that they have never been there and one of her siblings say Hurt Village sounds like a threat and it will ruin their reputation if they go there. From their opinion, it can be concluded that they assume that Hurt Village is terrible and is not compatible with them although they have not seen any side of the place.



*Picture 4.10 (22:12)*



*Picture 4.11 (30:01)*

### **4.1.3. Character**

#### **4.1.3.1. Michael Oher**

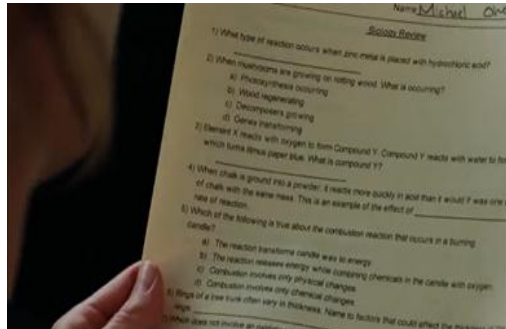
Michael Oher is the major character and protagonist in this movie. The story of *The Blind Side* movie focuses on his life. Michael is an African American teenager who is homeless with no parents to take care of him but he is blessed with the skill of playing any sports related to ball. Since he was a child, he was separated from his mother by the state because she is a drug's addict and his father left him when he was a baby then passed away when he was 17 years old.

The state has sent Michael to stay at foster home several times but he always runs away because he feels uncomfortable and that makes him a homeless. Growing up without parents' love and frequently rejected by people around him, making Michael become a quiet and insecure child. Moreover, he attends a school where the majority of students are white. Most of them discriminate him and nobody wants to be his friend.

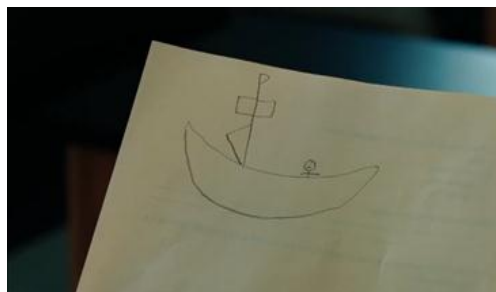
Michael has low reading skill with learning disability since he has an IQ of 80 due to the lack of supports for his school and the traumatic memories of his past always haunts him. In his first day of school, his teacher asks his class to do a biology test but as portrayed in the picture 4.12 which was taken with medium long shot technique, Michael has difficulty in doing the test. When his friends are doing the test, all he can do is glancing at his friends to the left and right and the picture 4.13 shows that he ends up not doing the test at all. After the time is up and his teacher is checking his paper, he only draws a small boat with someone behind his paper in the picture 4.14. The picture 4.13 and 4.14 are taken with medium close up technique.



Picture 4.12 (10:38)



Picture 4.13 (11:31)



Picture 4.14 (11:37)

Michael's ability to learn is indeed low but he has another talent besides playing football. He has a high protective instinct so he likes to make others feel safe when being with him. When Michael is driving his truck with SJ and they have an accident, it is known from the dialogue between Leigh and Michael that Michael uses his hand to block SJ's head so his head does not hit him hard and finally SJ does not suffer a serious injury. But as the result, Michael's hand is injured although he is more concern about SJ's condition rather than himself.

Leigh : SJ is fine, he is actually enjoying all intentions he's getting back there.

Leigh : Hey Michael, could've happen to anyone, alright? That's not your fault.

Leigh : Honey, look at me.

Michael : *\*looking at Leigh while showing his arm\**

Leigh : Michael, what happened to your arm?

Michael : I stopped it.

*(The Blind Side, 1:07:51-1:08:21)*

From the picture 4.15, which is taken with medium long shot, depicted that Leigh knows his ability in protecting, and she makes Michael uses his protective instinct to play football. Picture 4.16 shows the focus of the camera on Michael's face that is closing his eyes, trying to concentrate to use his protective instinct and it manages to make him sucessfully win the football match.



*Picture 4.15 (01:10:28)*



*Picture 4.16 (1:19:38)*

#### **4.1.3.2. Leigh Tuohy**

Leigh is an interior designer and wife of Sean Tuohy, a wealthy businessman with two children, Collins and Sean Tuohy Jr. She is a strong confident woman with good communication skill and she is like an angel who plays a major role for the changes of Michael's life. When she meets Michael for the first time, Michael, who at the time has no place to stay, is immediately invited to stay at her house, and in the next day, she asks Michael to eat with her family and celebrate Thanksgiving together. Michael is very lucky to meet Leigh, a kind and loving woman who sees him as a desperate and poor boy, regardless of racial differences between them.

With the wealth that Leigh and her husband have, she is still not arrogant and a humble person. After she helps and allows Michael to stay at her house, she does not want to get any compliment about it. Her decision to help Michael, was criticized by her sisters, and they make it as a joke when they are having lunch together. But later, they apologize to her because Leigh does not want to be criticized, and one of her sister, Beth, gives her a compliment and as showed in the dialogue, Leigh rejects it because she feels that Michael changes her life.

Beth : Honey, you're changing that boy's life.

Leigh : No, he's changing mine.

*(The Blind Side, 48:10-48:15)*

When she and her husband are about to be Michael's legal guardians, she looks for Michael's identity and comes to Michael's biological mother's house, located in a slum area. While Leigh is at Michael's mother's house, she does not give a contemptuous look to her and when Michael's mother feels sad for being a bad mother to Michael, Leigh cheers her up by saying that she is always be Michael's mama. Leigh also consoles her by coming close to sit next to her and holds her hands as a sign of her support to Michael's mother. These scenes are seen in the picture 4.17 and picture 4.18 which are shot with close up and long shot techniques.

In the beginning of the movie, the character of Leigh looks like a determined and resolute woman and likes to hide her feeling but in the middle of the movie Leigh changes to a soft woman although she does not indicate it explicitly. In the scene when Leigh shows a bedroom that belongs to Michael, in the picture 4.19, which was taken with medium long shot technique, Michael asks Leigh if this room is belong to him and he tells her that he never had a his own bed. After Michael says that, Leigh looks at Michael for a minute then leaves Michael immediately and goes to her room because she feels sad for him but she does not want him know about it. She sits on a chair while taking breath and showing a sad expression. Her expression is available in the picture 4.20 which taken with long shot technique.



*Picture 4.17 (01:02:16)*



*Picture 4.18 (01:03:07)*



*Picture 4.19 (37:59)*



*Picture 4.20 (38:33)*

#### **4.1.3.3. Sean Tuohy Jr.**

Sean Tuohy Jr. or known as SJ, is the youngest child of Sean and Leigh Tuohy. This little boy is the first of the Tuohys who knows Michael. He is energetic just like common little boys in his age. SJ meets Michael for the first time at school, and he is very friendly. At the time SJ is the one who introduces himself first to Michael when Michael is ignored by two little girls he greets. SJ is also a fussy boy, in the dialogue between SJ and Michael when he introduces himself to Michael, he tells Michael a lot about his father, Sean Tuohy although Michael does not ask.

SJ : Smile at them and that's they know you're their friends. You're Big Mike, right?



Michael : *\*nodding\**

SJ : I'm Sean but everyone calls me SJ, it's for Sean Junior. My father's name is Sean, Sean Tuohy. He was a basketball star in Ole Miss, point guard. Now he owns like a million taco bell.

*(The Blind Side, 15:10-15:28)*

SJ also plays a big role in helping Michael's football practice. When Michael is lazy to practice and asks SJ to play video games at home, SJ refuses by saying that everyone expects him to be a football player because Sean, Leigh, and Collins are athletes. In the picture 4.21, he helps Michael by becoming his "coach" (53:13), telling him all exercises he should do even SJ records Michael's first football match (picture 4.22), saves it on a CD (picture 4.23) and it leads many coaches from many colleges offer him a football scholarship.



*Picture 4.21 (53:13)*



*Picture 4.22 (01:21:23)*



*Picture 4.23 (12:25:53)*

#### **4.1.3.4. Coach Burt Cotton**

Burt is the football coach at Wingate Christian School. He does not appear very often in this movie but he is one of people who contributed to Michael's success. Coach Burt appears in the beginning of the movie, when Big Tony, a friend of Michael's father and Michael's unofficial foster father, decides to move his own son to a christian school, and takes Michael with him too, Tony comes to Burt and asks him to get his son and Michael accepted in Wingate. He doubts Michael at the first time, but after he sees Michael playing basketball with Tony's son, he becomes interest in Michael. He submits a request to accept Michael in Wingate in a teachers meeting with the principal, and he defends Michael with "Christian value" because the teachers are very doubtful of Michael, who have a very low IQ and grades. Coach Burt tells them to forget about sports and he reminds them that Wingate is a christian school by pointing to Wingate's logo which there is a word "Christian" under it, so they have to show mercy to Michael and accept him so he will get a better education.

This scene is depicted in the picture 4.24, taken with medium long shot technique and showing the setting of place is in a teacher's meeting room.

However, there is a bad side of Burt. He is an impatient person. This can be known after Michael becomes Wingate's student and joins Wingate's football club. Since Michael's first football practice, Coach Burt has expected Michael to make Wingate famous. But after knowing that Michael has not mastered the techniques of football, he doubts him. In Michael's second practice, he starts yelling at him because Michael makes mistakes during football practice, and he regards that Michael is too soft because he does not want to hit anyone until Leigh intervenes and tells Michael to use his protective instinct. This scene exists in the picture 4.25, which was taken with medium long shot technique and shows us that Burt talks to Michael while leaning closer to Michael and holding his shirt tightly as a sign of his impatient. Burt puts his high expectation too high without trying to know Michael's personality.



*Picture 4.24 (08.59)*



*Picture 4.25 (01:09:08)*

Another bright side of Coach Burt is seen in Michael's first football match. He defends Michael after he is being discriminated by the player no.66, who kicks

Michael's head and the referee, who says that Wingate does unsportsmanlike attitude. In the dialogue below, he shows his anger to the referee by yelling at him and this is one of his supportiveness to Michael. His impatience turns out to be his affection and support to Michael.

Coach Burt : Hey! Hey! Ref, are you gonna do something about this? He just kicked my boy in the head and he cussed him!  
The referee : *\*ignores him\**  
Coach Burt : Thank you.  
The referee : Unsportsmanlike conduct, Wingate. Fifteen yards.  
Coach Burt : What?  
The referee : You shut up or you get another 15.  
Coach Burt : This young man plays for my team. My team! And I will defend him like he's my own son against you or any other redneck son of a bitch.

*(The Blind Side, 01:18:23-01:18:50)*

#### **4.1.4. Conflict**

##### **4.1.4.1. Internal Conflict**

Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs between a person and himself. In this movie, the internal conflict is between Michael Oher and himself. Since Michael grows without his parents' love, gets a lot of rejections from society including Big Tony's wife, his friends at school, and Leigh's big family, he becomes shy, quiet, and unconfident man. He also rarely smiles and frequently puts a sad face, and it makes him friendless.

In the picture 4.26 which was taken with medium long shot technique, Michael gets a rejection from two little girls who are playing swing in their school

playground. Those little girls immediately run away when Michael says “hey” and walks towards them. The little girls are scared of Michael because Michael does not show his friendly face when saying “hey” to them. Picture 4.26 shows that he only puts a flat expression on his face and no smile at all unlike most people who usually greets someone with a friendly expression. Michael tries to make friends but he does not know how to do it right, and eventually he is alone with no friend.

Michael’s sadness moments are clearly depicted in the picture 4.27 when his teacher tells Michael that his father is passed away. This scene is taken with close up technique focusing on Michael expression. While the picture 4.28 shows that Michael feels embarrassed when he finds out that his mother moves from her house but he does not know where exactly she lives now.

Leigh herself also has internal conflicts. In the scene when she asks Michael to stay in her house because he has no place to sleep for the first time, she doubts about her decision to help Michael. In the night, Leigh shows Sean about her doubt and she is a bit afraid if Michael does something bad in her house. Her hesitation portrayed in the picture 4.29, Leigh and Sean Tuohy are having conversation on their bed while Sean is reading his book. Leigh shows a flat expression but actually she is thinking about her choice.



*Picture 4.26 (14:59)*



*Picture 4.27 (17:04)*



*Picture 4.28 (31:58)*



*Picture 4.29 (24:01)*

Furthermore, when Michael is mad at her and leaves her house after he has an interview with NCAA because the investigator says that Sean and Leigh are alumni of Ole Miss, and she suspicious that Sean and Leigh only used Michael to play

football for their alma mater. She feels guilty because she never asks what Michael wants and she doubts if she is a kind person or not. The conflict with herself is described in her conversation with Sean, and they talk about Michael in the dialogue below.

Leigh : Was he right? What he said about us?

Sean : Leigh Anne, be reasonable. We gave clothes to a boy who had one pair of shorts and we gave him a bed. To hell with the NCAA. I would do it again tomorrow.

Leigh : What about all the rest of it? All the stuff we did to make sure that he got a scholarship. A scholarship to Ole Miss.

Sean : He could go anywhere he wanted. He knew that

Leigh : Oh, did he? Did you ask him? Because I sure as hell know I never did

Sean : Hey, come here.

Leigh : Am I a good person? Not a joke. Not a rhetorical.

Sean : You are the best person that I know. Everything you do you do for others

Leigh : And why is that?

Sean : I have not a clue. But you obviously get some sort of sick satisfaction out of it.

Leigh : Sean?

Sean : Yeah?

Leigh : What if he never comes back?

*(The Blind Side, 01:48:13-00:49:43)*

#### 4.1.4.2. External Conflict

There are several external conflicts that occur in this movie. The first external conflict is between Michael and society. Michael as a black people, must interact with white people since he attends Wingate Christian School for the first time. He has to deal with racism. As shown in the picture 4.30 which is taken with medium long shot, on his first day of school, he enters the class and all of his classmates look at him with a strange look because he is the only black person in the class. Even when one of his friend wants to give him a biology's test paper, she looks at Michael's shoes with the expression as if she wants to say that his shoes are ugly. Picture 4.31 describes the look of Michael's shoes and taken with close up technique. In the class, all students wear neat clothes but Michael only wears a rather worn t-shirt and short pants.

And after Michael is adopted by the Tuohys, a white family, he increasingly has to mingle with other white people especially Tuohy's big family. Sean and Leigh's decision to be Michael's legal guardians. Leigh's sisters against their decision for the reason that it's not safe for Collins to stay in the same roof with Michael. There is still a stigma among white people that black people are bad and dangerous. Their disapproval is conveyed in the dialogue between Leigh and their sisters when they are eating together at a restaurant.

Beth : I think what you're doing is great. To open up your home to him?  
Honey, you're changing that boy's life.  
Leigh : No, he is changing mine.  
Elaine : And that's awesome for you but what about Collins?  
Leigh : What about Collins?



Elaine : Aren't you worried? I mean, even just a little. He's a boy, large, black boy, sleeping under the same roof.

Leigh : Shame on you.

*(The Blind Side, 01:48:08-00:48:32)*

Another external conflict in this movie is Michael vs Leigh. Michael gets interview from an investigator of NCAA named Jocelyn Granger. During the interview he gets information that NCAA is suspicious of Sean and Leigh because they want to use Michael so he is going to play football for their alma mater, Ole Miss, and Michael does not know about it. After hearing that, his confusion turns into anger. He leaves Jocelyn immediately and comes to see Leigh who is waiting for him in the lobby. Michael is disappointed and mad at her. In the picture 4.32, which was taken with medium shot technique, Michael argues with Leigh, he tells her about what Jocelyn says and Michael asks for her explanation. Leigh does not have a chance to explain because Michael is too upset and he does not believe her. Michael ends up with leaving Leigh and goes to Hurt Village.



*Picture 4.30 (10:01)*



*Picture 4.31 (10:23)*



*Picture 4.32 (01:47:28)*

## **4.2 Extrinsic Elements**

### **4.2.1. Social Mobility**

The analysis of social mobility involves the main character Michael Oher, as the main character of *The Blind Side* movie and the focus of this analysis. The story of Michael's life including his experiences, becomes the source of discussion in this study. There are two types of social mobility described in part, such as vertical and intergenerational mobility.

#### **3.2.1.4. Vertical Mobility**

Vertical mobility is a transition of individuals or social objects from one social group to another group on the different level (Sorokin, 1959:133). In this case, Michael experienced ascending or social climbing mobility. The process of his vertical and ascending mobility begin when Michael is a homeless boy who lives with Big Tony and his family for a while. Big Tony wants to put his son and Michael

in Wingate Christian School. Since Michael is placed in numerous homes before but he always run away from his foster parents, he also has moved from numerous schools. But he is lucky for getting an opportunity to study at school again, and Wingate accepts him to be their student after considering a few things. In Wingate, he meets the teachers and a coach who help him to improve his grades and football skill. In the beginning of the movie, Big Tony asks Coach Burt to help his son and Michael so they can be accepted in Wingate. In the picture 4.33, which was taken with close up technique, Tony tells Burt not to worry about the school fee because he has money and if Michael becomes Wingate's student, Coach Burt will get a new football player for his team because Michael has a skill to play all sports with a ball and Coach Burt impressed by Michael's athletics size.

Michael's acceptance at Wingate leads to his encounter with SJ and later with the Tuohys. After Sean and Leigh become his legal guardians and makes him be a part of the Tuohys, his life is increasing. He gets new clothes, drive's license, a new truck, a bedroom, and family supports, which he never had before. Unlike his life before, he has "home" and family who love him. He changes from an unfortunate boy to a fortunate boy. Being the Tuohys' adoptive child leads him to meet, Miss Sue, as his tutor.

When Michael needs to get an 2,5 GPA for his football scholarship while at the time his GPA is only 1,76, he needs someone to teach him privately, and in the picture 4.34, taken with long shot technique, Leigh decides to pay a tutor, who also an alumni of Ole Miss same as Sean and Leigh. Miss Sue guides him to study and helps him a lot as depicted in the picture 4.35, shot with medium long shot techique. Besides being a tutor, she also supports Michael to increase his grades, tells him not to give up, and lets him to choose which school he wants to go although she is an Ole Miss' alumni.



*Picture 4.33 (07:13)*



*Picture 4.34 (01:27:48)*



*Picture 4.35 (01:28:45)*

In the middle of his struggle with his GPA, Michael has to choose which school he wants to go. In the picture 4.36, which was taken with medium long shot technique, in the Tuohys' house, Michael sits with 3 different school hats in front of him, and he should takes one of those hats as a sign that Michael chooses that school as a place he wants to go. Accompanied by the Tuohys and his coach who stand behind him, and some reporters who capture the moment, Michael takes a hat on the left that belongs to Ole Miss, a place where Sean, Leigh, and Miss Sue go to school then puts it on his head. Everyone in that house gives him applause for his decision in the scene that shot in the picture 4.37, which was taken with long shot technique.

When all his teachers already give him good scores, in the picture 4.38, taken with close up technique, his literature teacher gives him D for his exam. After knowing that, in the picture 4.39, which was taken with long shot technique, Leigh comes to see the teacher at school, and asks why he gives Michael a D, and his teachers says that he will not give a student a grade if he or she does not deserve it. Leigh tells him that Michael needs B and what should he does to deserve it then the teacher says that Michael needs to write an essay at the end of the year because it counts for a third of the grade.

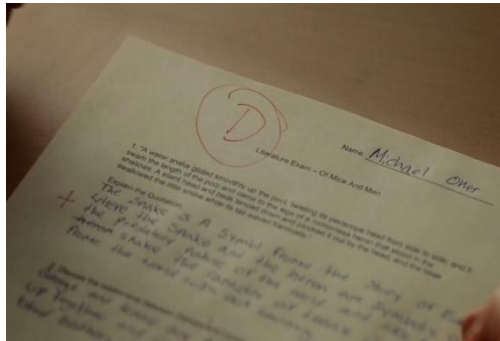
Michael and Miss Sue are trying to figure out the theme of his essay. Miss Sue suggests him to write about Great Expectations, but Michael does not feel like it is the right essay to write. When Miss Sue is reading him a reading list they have and when she reads “The Charge of the Light Brigade”, Sean Tuohy, who is watching basketball says that he loves that poem. Then, in picture 4.40, Sean helps Michael to explain that LSU’s stadium is named Death Valley because of this poem.



Picture 4.36 (01:36:55)



Picture 4.37 (01:36:58)



Picture 4.38 (01:37:15)



Picture 4.39 (01:37:59)



*Picture 4.40 (01:38:50)*

Because of Sean's help, Michael finds the right essay to write. Fortunately, his teacher likes it and gives him B for his final grade. On his graduation day, Michael manages to increase his GPA from 1,76 to 2,52. His essay leads him to change his grade and he receives his football scholarship, and it is written below.

Courage is a hard thing to figure. You can have courage based on a dumb idea or a mistake but you're not supposed to question adults or your coach or your teacher because they make the rules. Maybe they know best, but maybe they don't. It all depends on who you are, where you come from. Didn't at least one of the 600 guys think about giving up and joining with the other side?

I mean, valley of Death, that's pretty salty stuff. That's why courage is tricky. Should you always do what others tell you to do? Sometimes you might not even know why you're doing something. I mean, any fool can have courage. But honor, that's the real reason you either do something or you don't. It's who you are and maybe who you want to be. If you die trying for something important then you have both honor and courage, and that's pretty good.

I think that's what the writer was saying. That you should hope for courage and try for honor and maybe even pray that the people telling you what to do have some too.

*(The Blind Side, 01:40:18-01:41:35)*

Finally, Michael becomes Ole Miss' student. The Tuohys drives him to Ole Miss, and tells him to focus on his study. Miss Sue still guides him on his study, in the picture 4.41, which was taken with medium long shot, Miss Sue gives him class schedule and his study-hall hours. Michael real journey to become a successful football player begins in Ole Miss. His name is getting famous as one of Ole Miss' football player, he and his team frequently win football matches and it upholds the name of Ole Miss. In the picture 4.42, taken with medium long shot, Michael and his team, who wear Ole Miss attributes, his coach, Nick Saban, and SJ give a high five to their supporters when they are going to play in a football match.

Later, Michael becomes the best amateur player in Ole Miss and because of Miss Sue too, Michael gets the Dean's list. In the final scene of the movie, which is potrayed in the picture 4.43, taken with Michael is selected to be 23rd pick in the 2009 NFL draft and plays as offensive tackle. The Tuohys, his coach, and Miss Sue are there in Michael's precious moment, and in they take a picture together to celebrate Michael's succes. This potrayed in the picture 4.44 and taken with long shot technique. His encounter with the Tuohys and his efforts change his life and lead him to his success.





*Picture 4.41 (01:59:28)*



*Picture 4.42 (02:02:53)*



*Picture 4.43 (02:03:34)*



*Picture 4.44 (02:03:50)*

#### **4.2.1.4. Intergenerational Mobility**

Intergenerational mobility means that there is a change of individuals social object or status in different generation (Lam and Cuong, 2017:01). In this movie, intergenerational occurs between Michael and his parents. As can be seen in the movie, Michael's father does not appear at all, but according to the movie, his father is passed away due to suicide. Michael's mother, Denise Oher, is a drug addict and alcoholic who has 12 children and Michael is one of them while his father left him and his mother when he was only one week old. Due to Michael's mother drug abuse, her

children including Michael are taken by Family Service and they send Michael to foster care at age seven and Michael has been living with various foster homes but he always run away and back to his mother until he meets the Tuohys family. In the scene when Leigh Tuohy goes to Denise's house to talk about Michael's background and her intention to adopt him, can be seen that she stays in a messy house and physically looks unwell due to the influence of drugs. She avoids to meet Michael because her condition is unstable and she does not want Michael to see it. In the conversation below Denise tells Leigh about her condition.

Denise: No matter where I was, that boy would come find me, take care of me. I've had some health problems.

Leigh: Miss Oher, was Michael born under a different name?

Denise: Proctor. That was his daddy's last name.

Leigh: Where is he?

Denise: I ain't seen him since he left.

Leigh: And when was that?

Denise: Week after Mike was born

Leigh: Do you happen to have his birth certificate?

Denise: *\*shake her head slowly\**

Leigh: It's all right. I'll figure it out.

*(The Blind Side, 01:01:15-01:01:59)*

Denise is indeed an irresponsible mother who gives Michael a dark childhood and lacks of attention although in her deepest heart, she loves Michael very much. Michael does not let himself fall into her mother habits even though he has many opportunities to do it. There is a scene when Michael is looking for her mother in her house but he can not find her, Michael meets a gang who was his friends in Hurt

Village, and in the scene that was captured in the picture 4.45, which was taken with long shot technique, Alton, a gang leader accosts him and tries to tempt him by saying that he will buy him new sneakers and wants to take care of him as a sign that he is trying to persuade him to back to his gang, but Michael ignores him and he only accost his friend, Dave.



*Picture 4.45 (30:56)*

Moreover, after Michael has an argue with Leigh right after his interview with NCAA because of his scholarship, he goes to Hurt Village, wants to meet his mother. He goes to a house where Alton and his gang usually get together, and he meets Alton in front of the door, and Michael tells him that he is looking for his mother. In the picture 4.46, which was taken with medium close up technique, Alton tells him that his mother usually comes there for a drink then he asks Michael to get inside for a drink.

In the house, Michael meets his black friends and they have a conversation about their condition. But in the middle of their conversation portrayed in the picture 4.47, which was taken with medium long shot Alton starts to make sexual jokes about Leigh and Collins, and Michael is angry and not long after that as depicted in the

picture 4.48, he fights with them then leaves the house. Although he has a problem with Leigh, he still does not want her and her family are being harrassed by Alton's gang because the Tuohys are kind to him.

Michael also has a chance to join Alton's gang and becomes a drug addict and alcoholic who is uneducated since they are very welcome him, but he avoids it and chooses to back to the Tuohys and focuses on his future, and he makes a right decision because it leads him to be a sucessfull football player even be a member of NFL team. Michael may have a drug addict mother and born in a bad environment, but instead, he makes a change and cuts off the cycle of failing that his parents made.



*Picture 4.46 (01:50:19)*



*Picture 4.47 (01:52:19)*



*Picture 4.48 (01:53:19)*

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

*The Blind Side* by John Lee Hancock is a movie that focuses on the biography of an African American football player, Michael Oher. This movie truly represents the issue of social mobility which can be found in the main character. Social mobility is the moving of individuals or groups' social status or object from one status to another, it can be higher or lower. For completing the study, the writer takes the theory of social mobility by Sorokin (1959) and uses two forms of social mobility for analyzing the biography of Michael Oher, based on its types, vertical mobility, which is divided into two types: ascending and descending, and based on its scope, intergenerational mobility. Vertical mobility refers to transitions of individuals or social objects from one social group to another group on the different level, and its type: ascending means that there is a transition of individuals or social objects from lower class to higher class while intergenerational mobility refers to switching of a person social object or status in the same generation.

Two forms of social mobility, vertical and intergenerational mobility are shown clearly in Michael's attitude, expression, and people around him. As for vertical mobility and ascending started when he gets a chance to be a Wingate's student, and meets the Tuohy family then becomes their adoptive child. Being the Tuohy family adoptive child, his athletic size and his football skill lead him to be a successful football player then he becomes a member of NFL team in 2009. The

intergenerational mobility is portrayed between Michael and his parents. His father passed away due to suicide and his mother is a drug and alcohol addict who has 12 children but her children are taken away from her by Family Service. She lives a poor life in Hurt Village with her health problem. She does not want to see Michael because of her condition.

Michael, himself, was a homeless traumatic poor boy who is quiet and his face does not look friendly. He does not have parents who take care of him until he meets the Tuohys and becomes their adoptive children. Due to the Tuohys' supports, love, all facilities given to him, and his skill and efforts in football, he becomes a successful football player and a member of NFL team in 2009. Despite all his traumatic past made him living a poor life before, he tries to get up and fight for the better future and he gets it. Therefore, he has completed the process of social mobility with his efforts and luck.

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