EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND

SADNESS IN *THE BEST OF ME* MOVIE

Thesis

Submitted to Fulfill a Partial of Requirements for S1 Degree In the Department of

English, Faculty of Humanities Bung Hatta University

TOMI CANDRA

1210014211009

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

BUNG HATTA UNIVERSITY

2016

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahirobil'alamin, thanks to Allah SWT for giving his mercy, giving me a power, always guide me, giving me a health and blessing me for every single day and effort to accomplish this thesis with a tittle "**EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND SADNESS IN *THE BEST OF ME* MOVIE.** Alhamdulillah.

I really appreciate to some people who always guide me and support me to write and finish this thesis :

1. Thank you very much for my great supervisor I Dr. Yusrita Yanti, S.S M.Hum. She is the best of the lecturer. She is so inspiring for her kindness and love for all the student. Someday, I want to be like her. She has a great knowledge that I want to practice in a job later. She always helps me and guides me to make this research.. Also, to my supervisor II Novarina, M.Hum. She is more than lecture, she is like my best friend. She always has a solution on my problem about academic or non academic. Thank you for always take care of me in college for wonderful 4 years.

2. I would like to give a thank to all the lecturers in English Department, Bung Hatta University, Femmy Dahlan, S.S., Dr. Elfiondri, S.S, M.Hum, Dra. Mariati, Dra. Fatimah Tanjung, Villia Yusraini, S.S, M.Pd and all of the lecturer who teach me for 4 years. And also to all the staffs in English Department.

3. Special for my parent, my beloved mother, Hj. Marlina and my great father Hj. Harizal Nazar, thanks for your love and sacrifice for me. Thanks for your

wonderful moment that you gave to me until now. I know without both of you, I am nothing. Thanks for always mention my name in every pray that you said to Allah. Long life ma, pa. I promise I can be a good and success person for you.

4. To my brothers and sisters, Jimmy Chandra, Ricka Toursia, Rossi Chandra and Yanti Indra. Thank you so much for your love since I was born until know. Thanks for the greatest moment that we made and funniest things that happened in our life. I always remember all the laughed. I'm so proud to having all of you.

5. My best friends in Bung Hatta University, Adil Fitra, Annisa Ulhasanah, Ayu Ramadhani. Thanks for the unforgettable moments that we made. After this, we will separated and find out life each other. Don't forget me, you are best friends and thanks for the time. Keep young and reckless! LoL.

6. To my all ex-announcer friends, thanks for the good time. Yoggie, Hesti, Indo, Unya, Maulia, Putra, and many more. See you in the next life guys! And also to all the Ambassadors friends, thanks for the knowledge, happiness, and the experience. You are very inspiring.

7. Keep fighting for English Department '12, I will be missing all of you. Thanks for caring and experiences. Hope you get graduated as soon as possible.

EMOTIONAL EXPRESSIONS OF L OVE AND SADNESS IN

THE BEST OF ME MOVIE

Tomi Candra[1], Yusrita Yanti[2], Nova Rina[2]
[1]English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University
[2]English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University
Email: tommychandra72@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research aims at describing how the words literally and non-literally used to express the emotions of love and sadness and the contexts that influence such emotional expressions. This study uses qualitative method in describing and expalaning the results. Some theories used were taken from Parrot (2001), Fiehler (2002), Kovecses (1990), Crabtree (1991), Yanti, Y. (2013). The writer represents the data analysis in descriptive paragraph. There are 19 expressions of such emotions. The detail as follows: (1) literal words of love emotions, (2) non literal words of love emotions, (3) literal words of sadness and (4) non literal words of sadness. There are four types of contexts that influence the emotion in this movie: physical context, social context, linguistic and epistemic context, but the epistemic context is more dominant to influence the emotional expressions of love and sadness.

Keywords: *basic emotions, love emotions, sadness emotions, context*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problems

Emotion is a human feeling that belongs to everyone when people get reaction to something. The reaction of the emotions can change some aspect in life. As stated by Parrot (2001), emotional reactions can involve changes in thinking, behavior, physiology, and expression. Emotion can be expressed by verbal (the words or phrase) and nonverbal (attitude, behavior, gesture, body language and face).

In addition, Izard (1991) states that emotions affects the whole person, and each emotion affects the person differently. People will give the different emotional expression to someone and the emotions can be positive or negative, it depends on what emotion that people use. According to Staats (1975) emotion is divided into two types, positive and negative emotional. Positive emotional state which side to be glad, happy, joyful, in love, delighted, and pleased. Moreover, negative emotional state which may be also be spoken as angry, upset, hateful, fearful, and unhappy.

The study of emotions has been developed by linguists. A number of linguists have studied language and emotions, how words are used to convey the emotions. According to Papez (1937) Emotions imply the behavior (expression) and feeling (experience subjective aspect). Emotion is concerned with the expression. When people express their feelings in communication, people will use emotions to show

what they feel in a conversation. Based on Kovecses (1990) statements, emotion is expressed, repressed, suppressed (press words), or it leaks, bursts, or pours out (like fluids from a container). It means, people express their emotions spontaneously and directly.

Furthermore, Parrot (2001) classified emotions into some categories, they are (1) Love that involves love, liking, caring, desire, (2) Joy that covers pride, optimism, eagerness, hope, zest/enthusiasm, surprise, (3) Sadness, such as sad, disappointed, hurt, melancholy, dismayed, regret, (4) Fear that involves worry, anxiety, fright, tenseness, undercurrent, and (5) Anticipation that covers eagerness, optimism, and tolerance.

In this study, the writer chooses two emotions to be analyzed, they are an emotional expression of sadness and love. Love is a strong affection for others arising out of kinship or personal ties (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 1998). Love has a distinct place in Izard's (1991), he viewed love as basic to the human condition, as involving strong, affectionally based social attachments, to be full of interest and joy but also to '… run the full gamut of emotions' (1991, p. 407). Like many psychologists who had written about love, Izard distinguished between various types: love of parents, love of siblings and love in a romantic sense.

On the other hand, sadness is the emotional pain associated with, or characterized by feelings of disadvantage, loss, despair, helplessness, disappointment and sorrow. Moreover, sadness is a mood characterized by feelings of disadvantage and loss (Spinoza, 1997). Therefore, sadness can make

people feel worse because they lose something in their life. To support the explanation, look at the following examples of sadness emotions quoted from Beger, Jakel and Flensburg (2009):

(1) "I am feeling kind of **low** right now"

(2) "I have decided not to contact my ex because that **gets me down** as well".

(3) "However, she's been getting quite **depressed** lately"

In the examples (1-3), it can be seen that the word "low" refers to the sad expression that refers to someone's feels sad because their feeling is not in good condition. This example is one of figurative language, that is metaphor. "Low" refers to down condition, it expressed non literally, and it is sadness. The next example is "depressed" in example 3, this is the example of literal word that is known by the meaning literally that refers to sadness condition. According to Cambridge Dictionary Online (CDO), depressed means sad or "unhappy or without hope". Additionally, "gets me down" in the example 2, which means that someone feel disappointed because someone falls down and down refers to sad. As a result, from the examples the writer can analyze the expression by using literal words, and non literal words.

The movie is the object of this research and movie is one of literary product that consist of emotions. The writer is interested to discuss about emotional expression in a drama movie, The Best of Me (2014) because this movie tells about love and sad story. That is why, this research discussed about love and sadness emotions. The actors in this movie use emotions of sadness and love in

different strategies. In studying about emotions, sometimes people feel confused and do not understand about emotions. So, the writer needs doing a research about emotional expression and supported by theories to make the emotions are easy to understand by the people especially in the movie The Best of Me.

The Best of Me is an American romantic drama film directed by Michael Hoffman and written by Will Fetters and J. Mils Goodloe, based on Nicholas Spark's 2011 novel of the same name and the story of two high school lovers Amanda and Dawson. They both are separated from life, but after 20 year's destiny brings them back together and give them a chance to revive their feeling each other. This movie was released on October 17, 2014 by Relativity Media. In a love story movie, of course, there is a lot of story about love and sometimes it begins with a sad story. From a linguistic side, the writer analyzed verbal emotions with literal words and non literal words that appears in this movie.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

In the movie The Best of Me, the writer found the linguistic aspect can be analyzed such as emotional expression, figurative language, intonation, meaning, and context. The approach of emotional expression in linguistic studies is Pragmatics, Discourse Analysis, and Linguistic Cognitive. Emotions found in literal words and non literal word such figurative language and repetition. Emotions can be analyzed from the literary product such as movie, song, poem, drama, novel and short story. The writer can also analyze the emotion of anger, sadness, happy, love, joy/happy, fear/anxiety, and disgust. Emotions can be

analyze from verbal (word, articulation, pronounce) and non verbal (facial expression, body movement, gesture, intonation).

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In this research, the writer just focuses to analyze about emotional expressions. Emotions can be analyzed from literary product and the writer just focus on the movie, with the title The Best of Me in 2014. This research analyzes emotional expressions just from verbal communication from the words and utterances of the actors in the movie. The writer just discuss from literal and non literal words and also discuss about context that influence the emotions. The writer discusses type of each emotion as well. The writer limit the emotional expressions that discussed in this research is only sadness and love to be data analysis.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The writer has researched question to understand and to make it easier to be analyzed in this study and these are the research question as follow:

1. What words are literally and non literally used to express the feeling of love and sadness in the movie?

2. What is the type of love and sadness emotions in the movie?

3. What are the contexts influenced the feeling of love and sadness?

1.5 Purpose of the Research

The writer has some purposes to study expression of emotion in this drama movie as follows:

1. To find out and explain how literal and non literal words are used to express the feeling of love and sadness in the movie.

2. To examine the types of love and sadness emotions in the movie.

3. To explain the contexts that influence the feeling of love and sadness expression in the movies.

1.6 Significance of the Research

By doing this research, the writer wanted to study about emotions that become a great significance for the reader. The writer hopes this research has a significant contribution in developing of linguistic studies and give a new knowledge for the reader, especially in emotional expression studies. From this research, the writer expected the reader to get new knowledge about the kind of emotions of sadness and love life in society life, such as friends, family, teacher and all the people who are involved in communication by using emotions. The writer wants that people become easy to understand and interested in discussing the emotions because it is useful in daily life. The writer also desires someday the readers can make this research as an inspiration for them to study about emotions. Hopefully, this research can be a reference and information for the researcher who are interested in analyzing emotional expression. This research can also enrich the English vocabulary for those who are studying English.