

## Greek Myth and Fantasy as Portrayed in *Black Swan* Movie Script by Andrez Heinz

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### Abstract

This research aimed to describe The Myth and Fantasy in the *Black Swan* Movie by using Algirdas Julius Grimmas Theory. This research used a Descriptive Qualitative Method. The source of the data in this research is *Black Swan* movie script written by Andrez Heinz that was published in 2010. The data was collected through watching the movie carefully for several times, pausing every scene to read the conversation text, screenshotting the image that related, and taking a note about the data. This research is analyzed by classifying structuralism of the main characters that represented the psychoanalysis, analyzing the data of the narrative structure by using Algirdas Julius Greimas Psychoanalysis Theory, and making a data display. The result of this research found that *Black Swan* movie there are several actions depicted in the movie, namely sender, object, subject, and Opponent. In addition, illustrations of myths and fantasies in the film were also found, namely myths originating from doppelgangers in which the main character experienced a very strong mental disorder, resulting in depression and hallucinations. *Black Swan* Movie certainly comes from the Doppelganger Mythology according to the content of the story in the movie. The point is that the doppelganger is actually not real or just a shadow.

**Keywords:** *action, fantasy, myth, psychoanalysis, structuralism*

### INTRODUCTION

Literature is an expression of human expression in the form of written or oral works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, to feelings in imaginative forms, reflections of reality or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media. Literature itself is then contained in a work called literary work. A literary work is an expression of the author's self. Literary work is a form of self-expression from a creator of literary works who not only want to express their soul, but also want to influence the reader to understand and appreciate the problem expressed by the author of the literary work. Some types of literary work whose whole stories come from descendants of previous ancestors which can be categorized as myths ( Ratna, 2011).

Myth is a sacred story in symbolic form that tells a relationship between real and imaginary events regarding the origin and changes in the universe and the world, gods and goddesses, powers over human nature, heroes, and society. Myths are then believed by people from one generation to the next even though the contents of the story are sometimes beyond the reach of the norm. On the other hand, the existence of mythical stories is useful for human life both physically and mentally, and contains certain values that provide guidelines for human life. Myth itself is very closely related to the world of literature so that it is categorized as oral literature. According to Walker (1995), myth is closely related to cultural recognition that constructs the existence of entities beyond human understanding. This entity will shape the mindset as well as human daily behavior. Myths can also greatly influence the religious realm to daily actions to become a way of life. Although it sounds unreasonable by modern society's thinking, its existence is still believed by most people. Myth or mythology in a story is usually incorporated in a work of fiction that contains fantasy.

Fantasy is something that is associated with fantasy or with something that does not really exist and only exists in the mind or thoughts. Another word for fantasy is imagination. Fantasy can also be a genre of fiction, which uses forms of magic and the supernatural as one of the elements of the plot, theme and setting in a film. The fantasy genre is generally distinguished from the science fiction genre, which is more about science fiction and horror about the horrific. The development of variations in the structure of fantasy stories can be done in various patterns. Orientation development patterns can be developed from setting descriptions, character recognition, or conflict recognition. The pattern of developing complications can be developed by presenting other characters, changing the setting, or jumping to a different era (past or future). Patterns of resolution development can be developed by leaps of time, unique causation, or by surprise. Ahmadi (2009) says that fantasy is the soul's ability to form new responses or images. Through fantasy, humans can escape from the situation they are in and reach forward, into the future state. Mythological and fantasy stories are widely published in various literary works, especially movies.

Movie is a period of communication as well as a combination of technologies such as photography and sound recording, as well as a combination of fine arts and artistic literature and architecture and also music art. Through movies all the principles and aesthetic forms in postmodern theory and culture display the integrity of the work and captivate the audience. Meanwhile, movies are all paradigms and theories of postmodern culture can be read easily throughout the world (Effendy, 1984). *Black Swan* is a 2010 American mystery thriller drama film directed by Darren Aronofsky and produced by Mike Medavoy, Arnold W. Messer, Brian Oliver and Scott Franklin. This movie tells the story of a 28-year-old woman named Nina who has a profession as a professional ballet dancer for the New York City Ballet Company. Nina is known as a talented woman among her coworkers and is predicted to have a bright career in ballet. One day, Nina hears an announcement about an audition for a performance of *Swan Lake*, which is being broadcast by artistic director named Thomas Leroy. Leroy's chosen theme was *Swan Lake* Tchaikovsky, he made a different appearance on this stage. In the new season of *Swan Lake* Tchaikovsky, Leroy wants a ballerina who can play multiple roles as a white swan with a graceful character and a sensual black swan. The search for characters for both roles began with auditions, after Nina convinced Thomas but again Thomas said that black swan was not suitable for Nina. The next day Nina tried to seduce Thomas, until finally Thomas kissed Nina forcibly, but after that incident Nina managed to get the role of white swan, after the audition Nina re-convinced Thomas but again Thomas said the character *Black Swan* was not quite right by Nina.

The researcher realizes that the research of mythology and fantasy is often discussed in a study model, while movies that are quite popular have become common objects. However, this study has significant differences with other studies. The previous researcher looked for the relationship between Percy Jackson and Greek mythology and focused on the main character. Meanwhile, this research is based on Greek myth and fantasy and analyzes it by using the theoretical actantial structuralism model by Greimas to reveal its representation in *Black Swan* movies. The reason the researcher took this research is because basically this film has not been thoroughly researched using the actantial structuralism approach in the psychoanalysis theory by Greimas and between formal objects and material objects in this study are closely related based on their form and characteristics. A.J. Greimas's theory of narrative structure is built on the basic

assumption that narrative text is composed of dyadic analogies structure in linguistics originating from Ferdinand de Saussure on the one hand, and the narrative theory of Vladimir Propp's fairytales on the other. As Greimas mentioned "The Actants are established by Propp from their spheres of action" (Schelefier, 2010). Greimas (1984:223) summarizes Vladimir Propp's concept of 31 functions of action into 20 functions grouped into in three syntagms, namely Syntagmes Contractuels (by agreement), Syntagmes Performance (administrative nature), and Syntagmes Disjontionnels (disjunctive structure).

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher will analyze *Black Swan* Movie because in the movie there are mythologies and fantasy used by the characters. In addition, the researcher also takes the *Black Swan* movie because it is very closely related to the theory of Psychoanalysis, especially in terms of criticizing the Myth and Fantasy. So, the researcher was then interested in analyzing the movie of *Black Swan* by Andrez Heinz by using the concept of Actant Narrative Structuralism theory by A.J. Greimas because the researcher sees that *Black Swan* movie is related to one of the Psychoanalysis.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method for language research. Language research is a type of qualitative research that has different characteristics from other studies. Research as activities have their own characteristics or characteristics. Moleong (2007:6) explains that qualitative research is research that is intended to understand what phenomena the subject experiences, for example behavior, perception, motivation, action, and so on. The research was carried out in a holistic and descriptive manner in the form of words and language in a special natural context and by making use of various scientific methods..

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Data 1

Ballet Mistress : It needs to be looser. Relax. Let it flow flustered, Nina nods and tries to follow her instruction. Suddenly, the girls around Nina begin stripping off their sweatshirts and insulated pants. **Nina sees that the intense and brooding director of the company, THOMAS LEROY, has entered the space. He has**

**the unkempt look of an artist. Magnetic and intense.** The ballerinas remove their warm-up gear to show off their bodies. Leroy walks around the room, judging his flock. Smiles and glances are thrown his way. He goes up to the ballet mistress, takes her hand and kisses her on the cheek. Even she manages a smile.

Leroy : We all know the story: virginal girl, pure and sweet, trapped in the body of a swan.  
She desires freedom, but only true love can break the spell.

Based on the conversation above, we can know that a director of a ballet dance, , namely Thomas Leroy, was the introduction to the hallucinations and delusions of Nina Sayers. Leroy needs a ballet dancer who is reliable and can demonstrate two different characters, namely being able to be a white swan and a black swan at once in a show. So, the researcher knows that the sender in this *Black Swan* movie is Thomas Leroy himself who selects the ballet dancers.

## Data 2

Nina (unsure) : I came to ask you to give me the part

Leroy : That's all?  
She doesn't know what he means. He comes around his desk and approaches her. Truth is when I look at you, all I see is the White Swan. Yes, you're beautiful, fragile, fearful. Ideal casting. But the Black Swan...it's a hard fucking job to dance both.

Nina : I can be the *Black Swan* too.

Leroy : Really? She's hungry, volatile. In four years, every time you dance, I see you obsess over getting each move exactly right, but I never see you lose yourself. Insecure, she looks like she wants to run out of the room. All that discipline, for what?

Nina : I want to be perfect.

He laughs.

Leroy : Perfection Isn't just about control. It's also about letting go. Surprising the audience. Surprising yourself. Transcendence. He considers her for a moment.

Based on the conversation above, the sentence **“Truth is, when I look at you, all I see is the White Swan. Yes, you're beautiful, fragile, fearful. Ideal casting. But the *Black Swan*...it's a hard fucking job to dance both”** explain that the researcher examines that the object described in the movie is a wish of Nina Sayers, despite getting various mental challenges, but she remains firm in her conviction that she wants to play two characters in a show. Nina always tries to

persuade Leroy who is the director of a ballet dance company and despite the actions that hurt her she still believes in her position.

### Data 3

Nina : It's my turn. Lily coughs up blood and collapses, dead. Nina stares at her, breathing heavily, high on adrenaline. A knock on the door.

Stage Manager : *Black Swan*, places in 5.

Nina drags the stiffening body into the wardrobe closet. Nina zips up the back to the *Black Swan* costume. She deliberately applies the *Black Swan* makeup. Dark eye shadow and rouge, maroon lipstick. Dressed in black and wearing the dark make-up of the *Black Swan*, she looks fierce. She stares at her reflection, her eyes burning red. New rash bumps pop up on her arms, the intensity building within. Nina bursts onto stage as the *Black Swan*, accompanied by Rothbart. She looks powerful, intense as she moves towards David. His face shows his surprise.

Based on the conversation above, the sentence “**Nina bursts onto stage as the *Black Swan*, accompanied by Rothbart. She looks powerful, intense as she moves towards David**” explain that the researcher saw that the subject depicted in this film was very passionate about getting a dual role in a ballet dance performance so that it had an impact on herself, namely high hallucinations and made her have to accept the fact that everything she did to play the black swan was just a delusion because she was so depressed that Nina realized she stabbed herself.

### Data 4

Beth : What are you doing here?

Stunned, Nina's unable to answer.

Beth follows her gaze to the random items on her table.

Nina : I'm so sorry.

Beth begins touching the objects, vaguely remembering.

I didn't mean to make you feel this way. It's happening to me now. She's trying to replace me.

Beth sees the earrings and it all clicks in.

Beth : You stole all these things?

Nina : I just wanted to be like you. Perfect.

Beth shoots Nina a dark look and turns away.

Beth : I'm not perfect. I'm nothing.

Nina : It's not true.

Beth : Fucking nothing!

Beth grabs the memory board and stabs herself in the face.

Nothing! Nothing!!!

Nina : Beth?!

Nina spins Beth around. She is now a bloody version of the double! She

continues stabbing herself. Nina grabs the Double's hand and struggles to restrain her. Double Nothing Stop it! Stop! The emory board stabs into Nina's arm. Nina rushes from the room.

Based on the conversation above, sentence **“Fucking nothing! Beth grabs the emory board and stabs herself in the face. Nothing! Nothing!!!”** which the sentence describes the character who opposes the subject of the movie and does not want anyone to compete with the perfection of the new dancer. Opponents in this movie have the feeling that they don't want anyone who can match their ability in a ballet dance that becomes one of the big show events. Beth basically always blocks all plans that Nina wants to play two characters at once, but this is what keeps Nina from hallucinating the existence of another Nina and makes her always depressed about it. If that happened, then Nina would keep blaming herself for not getting to the point of perfection.

## Data 5

Lily : Rough start, huh? Pretty humiliating...

Nina : Get out of here.

Lily : Wow...rude. Lily coyly smiles, and continues applying makeup.

LILY : I'm worried about the next act. Not sure you're feeling up to it.

Nina : Stop. Just stop.

Lily : How about...I dance the Black Swan for you?  
Nina looks into the mirror. Instead of Lily's reflection there's the Double.

Nina :Leave me alone. Leave me alone.  
Double(n mirror)  
But it's my turn. Nina's fury rises up from inside.  
Leave me alone!!!She charges...And smashes her into the wall length mirror, shattering it.Shards fall everywhere.The Double flips Nina over and wails on her. Punch after punch. Nina does her best to block the onslaught. They scuffle, knocking things over, bumping into walls. The Double gets her hands around Nina's neck.Gasping for air, Nina tries to pull the hands free, but she's too strong.Her hands frantically scramble along the surface of the floor. The fingers barely touch the edge of a Mirror shard,but can't grasp it. The Double squeezes down. The blood vessels in Nina's eyes burst again. Her neck starts to stretch unnaturally. Strength surges through her body and she lunges.Finally grabbing the Shard. And drives it into the Double's stomach. Nina glances at her hand, cut by the mirror then back up. The Double is now Lily. Stunned, Lily looks down and touches the stab wound. It's my turn.  
Lily coughs up blood and collapses, dead.

The script can be said to have an important role in the whole story. From the picture, it can be seen that Miss is trying to kill Lily. Still with the same grudge against her jealousy as Lily, Nina tries to get rid of Lily at all costs. However, this doesn't just happen for no apparent reason. Nina would not be able to do something so cruel as killing. We are reminded that at that time Nina was in a state of extreme frustration and emotional turmoil. Where at that time, he had to fight the boundaries of his good values in order to transform into something he had to do. At that time, Nina had just finished playing the role of the White Swan character. Within minutes, he had to make himself a *Black Swan*. Lily was unlucky because at that time she was at the peak of her emotions to reach the *Black Swan* character. As a result, he became a victim with all the frustrations and hallucinations he experienced because he was initially required to be a dancer who had to be perfect, causing mental disorders.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the finding and discussion above, the researcher can conclude that Narrative structure or imaginary story is a type of text that presents a unique and entertaining series of events. The text can be made purely the result of the author's imagination or a combination of facts with the author's imagination and the impression that readers get after reading imagination stories is certainly fun because they can imagine things that cannot be realized in the real world. In addition, narrative texts are also a medium to teach many good things and provide lessons that readers can learn. Therefore, the function of imaginary stories is to entertain the reader and provide lessons and wisdom that can be learned by the reader. As in the *Black Swan* movie, the whole series of stories is structured in such a way as to be able to get points that become elements of psychology and by presenting myths and fantasy in the *Black Swan* movie. The narrative structure shown in this movie is transformed into an action model. The action itself examines the series of stories as a whole. The distribution of actants in this study consisted of subjects, objects, senders, and opponents. The sender is played by Thomas Leroy, who has provided space for Nina to develop her talent in ballet, but it burdens Nina. The object in the movie is related to Nina's ambitions, who want perfection in dancing, but because of the demands of everyone around her, she becomes depressed. The subject in the movie is Nina as the main character who actually has depression and high hallucinations so that she always feels a



doppelganger haunting herself. The last thing is the opponents in this movie, of course, Beth and Lily are very antagonistic towards Nina. Beth doesn't want anyone to achieve or beat her perfection, while Lily is one of the figures who keeps Nina's mind in a mess so that the hallucinations she feels continue to escalate.

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