

SELF-CONFIDENCE IN ANTHONY McCARTEN'S MOVIE SCRIPT *BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY*

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Abstract

This research was aimed at conducting analysis on self-confidence in Anthony McCarten's movie script, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The self-confidence was analysed by using the theory proposed by Lindenfield (1994) who states that self-confidence consists of self-confidence born and inner self-confidence. Self-confidence born allows someone to show confidence in what he will do. This confidence can make someone believe in himself to achieve what he wants. In confidence born, he claims that a person must develop skills such as communication, assertiveness and feeling control. Inner self-confidence is self-confidence that gives to the individual's feelings and suppositions that the individual is in good condition. There are three main characteristics that are distinctive to people who have a healthy inner self-confidence. The three characteristics are self-love, self-understanding, and positive thinking. This research used descriptive qualitative method because the discussion was descriptively accomplished. The descriptive qualitative method was applied to explain the self-confidence to get success from the quotations in the movie script. The result result shows that self-confidence born and inner self-confidence vividly played important role to make the protagonist's success come true.

Keywords: *self-confidence, inner self-confidence, self-confidence born, self-love, self-understanding, positive thinking.*

1. Introduction

A film is a work of art in the form of a series of live images that are played to produce the illusion of a moving image presented as a form of entertainment. The illusion of the series of images produces a continuous motion in the form of a video. Movies are often referred to as moving pictures. Film is a modern and popular art form created with the primary purpose of being for business and entertainment purposes. However, film is not only a means of entertainment, art or business because it is also a form of mass communication that conveys messages using audio and visuals. Films also serve to describe and reflect the realities of human life so that they can have a profound effect on the audience, and of course, can provide valuable moral lessons for the audience.

Bohemian Rhapsody is a biographical film of English rock band Queen, which tells about the life of Freddie Mercury and his confidence to get success. This film,

written by Anthony Mc Carten, was published in Great Britain on 24 October 2018 and in United State of America on 2 November 2018. This film constitutes the highest grossing musical biographical film of all time, earning more than the 2015 film *Straight Outta Compton* released.

Anthony Mc Carten, a novelist, filmmaker, and playwright, wrote script for *The Theory of Everything* (2014), *Darkest Hour* (2017), and the last script *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018). Mc Carten, born and raised in New Plymouth, New Zealand, worked as a reporter for a couple of years on *The Tanakari Herald* before studying for an arts degree at Massey University.

In this research, the analysis focused on the protagonist's self-confidence to get success depicted in in Anthony Mc Carten's movie script *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The self-confidence was analysed by using Lindenfield's (1994) theory focused on the types of self-confidence, in which he states that self-confidence consists of confidence born and inner self confidence. Further, Lindenfield (1994) claims that *self-confidence born* allows someone to show confidence in what he will do. This confidence can make someone believe in himself to achieve what he wants. In confidence born, he claims that a person must develop skills such as communication, assertiveness and feeling control. Inner confidence is self-confidence that gives to the individual's feelings and suppositions that the individual is in good condition. There are three main characteristics that are distinctive to people who have a healthy inner self-confidence. The three characteristics are self-love, self-understanding, and positive thinking.

The protagonist of the movie, named Freddie Mercury, known for his spectacular voice and flamboyant stage persona, became internationally known as the lead singer of Queen with the release of the successful 1974 album *Sheer Heart Attack*. *A Night at the Opera* (1975), featuring the song "Bohemian Rhapsody," made him a star.

The researchers feel interested in analysing the self-confidence to get success in Anthony McCarten's movie script *Bohemian Rhapsody* since in this movie, McCarten has remarkably reflected the story of the protagonist by the name of Freddie Mercury to get his success. The ways in which he achieves his success in the long run are noticeably exposed, and it is mainly due to his self-confidence. The success of the protagonist mainly due to his self-confidence would be surely of valuable lesson for the readers. It would teach us that having real, true self-confidence is important because it is extremely difficult to go through life when we do not trust our own decisions or believe in ourselves. When we lack self confidence, we usually end up looking to others to make decisions for us instead of looking within. This can be dangerous because it means that other people will influence our decisions, rather than we being the primary decision maker in our life. Therefore, it is necessary to have genuine self-confidence and believe in ourselves; no task or goal seems insurmountable.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Self-confidence

Lenney (1981: 905) says self-confidence is defined as 'individuals' performance expectancies and their self-evaluations of ability and complete performance. Self-confidence has long been used as an business, marketing and ducation. Self-confidence is a trait character that must be possessed by everyone, both within the family and in the work environment. This trait brings positive things for all those who believe in themselves, and not everyone has it. There are those who tend not to be confident in

what they have done or on the contrary, they believe in themselves so that it leads to a better direction.

Self-confidence is a person's belief and attitude towards one's own abilities by accepting it as it is, both positive and negative in order to be happy. Self-confidence is related to how a person struggles for his desire to achieve something. A person's self-confidence has different levels for each human being. Some are not so confident in what they are going to do, while others are too confident for what they are going to do. Basically, every human being must have experienced failure in the efforts they do; however, a good human being is a human being who learns from his failure and struggles persistently and tries earnestly and confidently to rise from that failure, and is confident to achieve his success.

Freddie Mercury's confidence is that he believes that whatever he does will be successful and it is proven that whatever the work of Freddie Mercury is accepted by the wider community. One of his works is *Bohemian Rhapsody*, an opera song with the longest duration of a song ever created by him. At first the song was not accepted by their producers, but with his confidence, the song was still published and accepted by the public.

Barbara de Angelis (1997) said that confidence starts from a determination to yourself, to do everything we want and need in life. He is built from self-confidence, not from the work of other people even though the work is successful.

2.2 Concept of Self-Confidence

The concept of self-confidence is generally used as a guarantee in personal assessments, abilities, strengths, and others. A person's self-confidence will increase if someone succeeds in solving a problem easily and with strong confidence. This is a positive self-belief that actually someone will be able to easily achieve success with confidence.

Bandura (1988) defines self-confidence as "belief in one's ability to succeed in specific situations or accomplish a task and therefore is the term that more accurately refers to specific self-confidence.

A person's self-confidence is related to how person fights for his will to achieve something and related to a person's ability to deal with problems that hinder his struggle. Someone with good self-confidence will tend to conclude that he is bigger than his problem. Conversely, people who have low self-confidence will tend to conclude that the problem is much bigger than themselves. Lack of self-confidence will make someone hesitate to move for the better and excess self-confidence will create traits that are not good for him.

According to Tasmudji (1998) the main requirement is to be independent in all actions, namely if a person believes in his abilities and strength. That what they are doing is good and right. Without self-confidence there will be doubts in all his actions. Sometimes it can even cause the courage to do nothing, including completing a task without expecting help from other.

On the other hand, low self-confidence creates doubts about one's own abilities. A person will feel inferior or more susceptible to criticism by others who intend to demean. Someone who lacks self-confidence he will feel that even a small problem will look big on him, so he does not have the ability to solve these problems. While someone who has a high sense of trust, he feels that whatever problem he will experience will be easier to solve.

2.3 Types of Self-confidence

According to Lindenfield (1994), self-confidence consists of confidence born and inner self-confidence.

2.3.1 Confidence Born

Confidence born allows someone to show confidence in what he will do. This confidence can make someone believe in himself to achieve what he wants. In this self-confidence, a person must develop skills such as communication, assertiveness and feeling control.

1. Communication

The communication referred to here is that someone must have the courage to talk to anyone and dare to have discussions with other people. In communicating we also have to listen to other people's opinions so that the communication goes well and can argue in various ways.

2. Assertiveness

Each individual must have a definite character in him. The assertiveness of a person is functioned in arguing and compromising on anything that is well accepted, accepting criticism and giving constructive criticism, and making complaints effectively.

3. Feeling control

One must be able to control himself. If a person is able to control himself, confidence in himself will arise and will make him a person who believes in himself. But if a person cannot control himself then it is not a belief in him but excessive emotions and he feels that failure always comes to him.

2.3.2 Inner Self-confidence

Inner confidence is self-confidence that gives to the individual's feelings and suppositions that the individual is in good condition. There are three main characteristics that are distinctive to people who are have a healthy inner self-confidence. The three characteristics are self-love, self-understanding, and positive thinking.

1. Self love

A confident person will love himself. whatever ability he has he will not compare himself with others. People who love themselves will always be grateful for what they receive and get. People who love themselves care about themselves because their behavior and lifestyle is to nurture themselves.

2. Self understanding

People with inner confidence are also very self-aware. They not constantly contemplating themselves but they are thinking their feelings and thoughts. The belief that is meant by self-understanding is that a person is aware of the weaknesses that exist within him which these weaknesses can be accepted by him. Because basically every human being must have their own weaknesses and strengths, it's just that not everyone is aware of them.

3. Positive thinking

Confident people are usually good friends fun, partly because they could see life from the sunny side and they hope and seek good experience and results.

3. Research Method

Research design is plans and the producers for research to detailed methods of data collection and analysis (Creswell, 2009: 3). This chapter discusses the research design that the researchers use in this research. It explain about the set of methods and procedures used to collect and analyze data. In exploring this research the researchers use descriptive method. The descriptive method is a method that is used to describes or analyze research result but is not used to make broader (Sugiyono, 2005).

Descriptive research in unique in the number of variables employed. Like other types of research, descriptive research can include multiple variables for analysis, yet unlike othe methods, it requires only one variable (Borg & Gall,1989).

Data collection is how the reasercher collected and got the data. This research used documentation method as Namawi (1991: 95) states that the documentation method is a method of collecting data conducted by classifying the written materials related to the problem of the research and used for obtaining the data by some variables such as magazine and books. In this research, the procedures that are conducted are colleting the data obtained, making important note based on the words, phrases, and sentences relating to this analysis, classifying the data into points include in the problem of this research, and finally, organizing the whole data.

The data in this research were obtained from the movie script. The data were analyzed by classifying the obtained data in two sub-topics related to the research problem. The data analysis is formulated into the aspects of self-confidence to achieving success in Bohemian Rhapsody movie script.

4. Discussion

In this part, an in-depth analysis of the topic is carried out. They are the types of self-confidence, which is divided into confidence born which is focused on communication, and inner-self confidence which is focused on self-understanding and self-love.

4.1 Confidence Born

Confidence born is supporting individuals to appear and behave in a way that shows the outside world that the individual believes in himself. To give the impression of confidence in the outside world, individuals need to develop three skill areas, namely: communication, assertiveness and feeling control.

4.1.1 Communication

Communication is the act of transferring information from one place, person or group to another. Every communication involves at least one sender, message, and receiver. This sounds simple and straightforward, but actually communication is a very complex subject. The transmission of a message from sender to receiver can be affected by many things. This includes our emotions, cultural situations, the media we use to communicate, and even our location. The complexity is why good communication skills are the desire of everyone, especially by people who are often involved or interacting with many people from various groups and other nations in the world. It should be

understood that accurate, effective, and unambiguous communication is actually very difficult, and is a skill that not everyone has.

By having a good foundation in the field of communication skill, the protagonist of the movie named Freddie Mercury makes use it in his attempt to materialise his dreamt success. Freddie Mercury wants to his song entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody* to be performed with the opera genre. Freddie wants the single song he wrote with his band could become one of the best singles on their album. They gave the song to Ray Foster the producer of music in the conversation there was a difference of opinion between Freddie Mercury and Ray Foster.

RAY FOSTER

It's--opera.

FINANCIAL OFFICER

It's opera.

JOHN REID

Opera.

ROGER

Seems to be an echo in here.

FREDDIE

Wait!

FREDDIE, as if conducting the orchestra, thrills to a particular passage (a coloratura) in the music - singing along with it -

FREDDIE

You see?!

(Mc Carten, 2018: 42)

The quotation clearly reflects that Freddie, the leader of the band Queen, gave his opinion about the new single they would release but with a different arrangement from their previous single.

FREDDIE

(quietly)

That's our concept--mix genres, no boundaries, dare to go anywhere. I can't think of anyone whose ever done that before.

RAY FOSTER

Precisely what worries me.

FREDDIE

I don't want us to repeat ourselves.

The same formula, over and over--How boring! We want to capture a hurricane! Paint pictures on an enormous scale, heavy rock foundation, ethereal vocals, different voices, rhythms, keys. Deafen 'em, blind 'em, and leave 'em wanting more.

We want to make the *greatest fucking album ever made*.

RAY FOSTER

Really? Trouble is, Freddie, that's exactly what *every* band who comes in here says - minus the "fucking".

(*beat*)

Because it's our feeling, here at EMI, that your biggest success was "Killer Queen", and it's *that* we'd like to see you get back to.

FREDDIE

Go backwards? It's not in our nature. You want us to go back?

RAY FOSTER

Not necessarily back, no. *You* stay here, we want you right here--just--bring sound...*forward*.

The BAND stare at FOSTER - not buying it.

FINANCIAL OFFICER 1

We really need a firm undertaking to that effect. John? If we are to take the risk one more time.

JOHN REID looks at the band, and then nods -

JOHN REID

I understand what you're saying.

FREDDIE glares at JOHN REID for this.

FEATHERSTONE

So--we are agreed? An album--in the vein of "Killer Queen"? Radio friendly? Top of The Pops?...Good?

Silence from the BAND, until -

JOHN REID

Absolutely.

(Mc Carten, 2018: 42-43)

This shows that they are talking about a new project that they will be doing in the near future. One of the projects they will be working on is releasing a new single with the opera genre. In the conversation they are discussing about the single they are going to perform. In this conversation, different opinion as well as idea between Freddi and Ray Foster taking place.

JOHN REID

It's a great album, Roy.

RAY FOSTER

I think--that what you have made here -

FINANCIAL OFFICER

- is the most expensive album ever made. That's official.

RAY FOSTER

And as for Bohemian -

JOE BASTIN
Rhapsody -
RAY FOSTER
What is that? It goes on forever - six
minutes! *Six* minutes?
FREDDIE
I pity your wife if you think six
minutes is forever. It's a *rhapsody*.
FINANCIAL OFFICER
It's a *travesty*.
FREDDIE
We want to release it as our single.
RAY FOSTER
Well, that's not possible. Anything
over 3 minutes the radio stations
won't program it. And what on earth is
it about anyway? Scaramouche, Gallileo
FINANCIAL OFFICER 1
- Figaro -
RAY FOSTER
And all that "ISSMILLER" business--
"ISHMILLER" -
FREDDIE
Bismillah.
JOE BASTIN
(*reading lyrics*)
"Bismillah, they will not let him go"
RAY FOSTER
What is that, anyway? "Bismillah"?
(Mc Carten, 2018: 57)

The quotation indicates that Freddie, John Reid, John Bastin and Financial Officer are arguing with Rat Foster about the album that would be released by Freddie and his band. Ray feels that the album is too long, so people will get bored when listening to it. According to Ray, the song played on the radio is only 3 minutes long; therefore, he feels that the *Bohemian Rhapsody* album will not be easily accepted by the public.

4.1.2 Inner Self-confidence

Inner self-confidence is a belief that gives feelings to individuals by assuming that they accept what is inside of them. Thus making the individual believe in himself. In this kind of confidence, self-understanding and self-love would be analysed in details.

4.1.2.1 Self-understanding

Self-understanding is a form of self-image effort someone about how the individual understands its advantages and disadvantages. Then the individual will build self-confidence that arises from self-understanding. Self-understanding is meant here

that a Freddie Mercury understands what is inside him, whether it is a deficiency of an advantage. He never hides anything from others, therefore he has a strong self-confidence to do anything and the people around him also accept his strengths and weaknesses.

FREDDIE grabs his coat -

PAUL PRENTER

With everything I know? With all the
photographs I have of Mr Freddie
Mercury?

FREDDIE

Careful! Be very careful! I used to
box in school--still have the trophy!
Do not! Mess! With me!

PAUL PRENTER

You're blaming me for everything?

FREDDIE

No, I blame *myself*! I made a monster,
used every trick in the book on myself
and I fell for it all - lights!
camera! action! - because, truth is, I
don't much like myself--so I made a
monster--but one so damn big I don't
have the strength to play him most of
the time! Blame myself for something
else too, for being *weak*--too weak to
realise the first thing you attract,
when you go rotten, is fruit-flies,
attracted by the decay, dirty little
fruit flies...

(Mc Carten, 2018: 125-126)

The lines quoted above show that Freddie understands the abilities he has. He felt weak to realize something he had done. He could not afford to do anything greater; therefore, he blamed himself for what mess that had happened.

PAUL PRENTER

How are you?

FREDDIE

I'm working too hard. Sometimes I feel
I could just give it all up. Honestly.
Tour, album, video, tour, album
video...

PAUL PRENTER

What you need to do? What you need to
do--is go solo.

FREDDIE

Not you now.

PAUL PRENTER

I'm serious. It's *so* clear. You're the star. You're *the leader* of Queen.

FREDDIE

Not "leader", no. The most important person perhaps.

PAUL PRENTER

Don't want control over your life? Your schedule?

FREDDIE doesn't dismiss this...

(Mc Carten, 2018: 102-103)

The lines above illustrate that Freddie understands his abilities. In the quote above, Freddie realizes that he has tried to work hard to realize his dream in the world of music. However, sometimes he also feels tired and almost gives up on what he has been doing so far.

4.1.2.1 Self-love

Confident people generally love themselves, and this self-love is not something to be kept secret. It is clear to outsiders that they care about themselves because their behavior and lifestyle is self-defense. In the script for the film *Bohemian Rhapsody*, Freddie loves himself even though he realizes that he has many flaws, and he is very open about his situation.

FREDDIE

You *know* that. But -

The truth hits MARY in this moment -

MARY

(*anticipating*)

Say it. "But" what?

FREDDIE

Mary -

TEARS come to her eyes.

MARY

Say it. Say it. Go on. It's okay.

Freddie. It's okay. Go on.

FREDDIE

(*emotion breaking through*)

I'm. Bi-sexual.

MARY

No. I love you--but you're fucking gay.

(Mc Carten, 2018: 81)

The quotation above shows that Freddie understands himself for the abnormalities that exist within him. Freddie says he is bi-sexual. He loves the flaws in him. He realized that he was bi-sexual and he did not hide it from anyone including his girlfriend, Mary.

After the types of self-confidence in the movie script, *Bohemian Rhapsody* are analysed, several findings can be presented. Self-confidence can bring success to every individual who has it. The two types of self-confidence proposed by Lindenfield namely confidence born and inner self-confidence are clearly conducted by the protagonist of the movie, and vividly reflected in the movie script. Self-confidence plays important role to materialize success.

5. Conclusion

After conducting analysis on the topic, several points can be concluded. Freddie believes in himself that he is able to show his ability in the world of music. Freddie and his friends worked together to build a band called Queen. In his efforts to get success, Freddie also gets supports from his girlfriend, Mary. Freddie is good at communicating in everything, one of which is at the time when Freddie brilliantly coordinates with his friends to show one of his works with his band. The result result shows that self-confidence born and inner self-confidence vividly played important role to make the protagonist's success come true. The story in this film is very interesting, and deserves to be recommended to others. This movie script contains important lessons especially dealing with self-confident in life. This story also motivates everyone to develop self-confidence. There are still many interesting and good topics or themes that can be analyzed from this movie script.

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