



# **Civil Disobedience Reflected in the Movie “ Into The Wild”**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
Thesis project on American Cultural Studies in English Department  
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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states wholeheartedly that this thesis is completed by him without any taking from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any universities around the world. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other thesis or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, June 2016

Muhammad Adam Isnan

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*Sleep is good, death is better;*

*But of course, the best thing would to have never been born at all...*

**Heinrich Heine**

*This paper is dedicated*

*to:*

*My beloved family and the one and only, the most beautiful thing i have ever seen in my entire life ,my beloved and lovely mother.*

*“ You are my everything mom “*

## **APPROVAL**

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6. All of his true partners and friends from English Department 2010 for giving him a true inspiration, an endless support and a memorable lesson of life.

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect, therefore he will be glad to receive suggestion to make this thesis better.

Finally, the writer expects that this thesis will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn a deeper understanding about the Civil Disobedience as a symbol of resistance towards status quo of American society adopted from *Into The Wild* movie.

Semarang, June 2016

The writer

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## ABSTRACT

*Into The Wild* is a movie directed by Sean Penn based on a nonfiction bibliography of Christopher Johnson McCandles written by Jon Krakauer. As an adaptation, the movie should reflect what contain is in the book as close as possible. For Christopher, the application of civil disobedience should be processed through behaviorism and humanistic. The aims of this thesis are trying to reveal the forms of civil disobedience in *Into The Wild* to reach happy and comfortable life.

This research applies psychological perspective to help the researcher masters the forms of civil disobedience that consist of behaviorism and humanistic. The research findings show that there are two form of civil disobedience in Christopher. There are behaviorism and humanistic. In humanistic, First, the good citizens who serve the states and the rules without critical thinking. The second, which are opposite from the first, are the very few citizens which react to the states and the rules in a wider frame of refferences. They have a great sense in value the rules of the states. They do not always obey the rules, more often they resist and disobey the rules that are out of moral senses. To the rules which are big falses and out of human sense, they choose to resist and to refuse allegiance to them. Behaviorism shows the birth of the new Christ, or Christ's maturity, as well as the meaning of manhood in and what wisdom is achieved by Christ. Civil disobedience is something human but people should be able to control it. Basically, human is created to love each other, not to hurt and not to do evil things. Civil disobedience without doing good things are just like a shadow of happiness. Perhaps, they feel satisfied because their civil disobedience have been completed but actually they cannot feel the true happiness.

Key words : Civil disobedience, behaviorism, humanistic.

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Literature does not lend itself to a single tidy definition, because the making of it over the centuries has been as complex, unwieldy, and natural as life itself. No definition of literature, particularly a brief one, is likely to satisfy everyone, because definitions tend to weaken and require qualification when confronted by the uniqueness of individual works (Michael Meyer 1990: 2).

One of the advantages of studying literature is we are able to examine the character of an individual's personality. Here the writer would like to discuss an individual's personality and also to talk about the impact toward the surrounding environment.

The writer actually chooses the movie as form of literary work as the object of his thesis. Basically and in principle, the human's nature and condition is very unique and complex. It is called unique because humans are special creatures and different from other creatures. It shows that none of them has the same characteristics, even in individuals who are born in a condition of identical twins though. In the other hand, human beings are also referred to complex creatures. Human life involves various aspects such as cognitive, psychomotor, and social

aspect that interact with each other and it has a dynamic nature. With complexity, human beings remain facing a lot of difficulties in penetrating the secret that robs their races, even the secret that robs themselves.

People's personality can be influenced strongly by the surrounding environment where they stay and live. The environment may include family, friends, and surrounding nature that are very close to the person's life. And according to the writer, the strongest environment that builds up an individual's personality is the family, an environment where an individual was born and grows up for the first time. As in the study of human development, it is believed that the most important factors which is determining individual personality are (among others) parental practices and personality and the historical era in which late childhood and early adolescence are spent.

Many personality difficulties come from an unhealthy atmosphere in the family such as in a neglecting parents. Neglectful parents are usually absorbed and focus only on their own needs that they neglect the needs of their children. Neglectful parents may extremely responsive to the physical needs and wants of their children, but not to emotional needs necessary for healthy emotional and social development. Long term effects may occur on the emotional development of the children and even into adulthood. The common final consequence is behavioral issues in which children with neglectful parents will develop anger as the result of the neglect, and they often act out their emotions into improper behavior such as disobedience to the law.

Human's experiences are complex and become the inspiration for any story teller to produce a literary work in all aspects. The literary work can be functioned as a communication to convey human experiences. Swain (1976: 97) said that human or person himself is a creature of infinite depth and subtlety, infinitely complex as the product of Deity or evolution. In other words, human complexity is the product of experience. The reader may reveal human's experiences through a literary work as the portrait of life that can be imagined and understood.

In one of literary works, movie, there are interpersonal human experiences that can be found. Interpersonal communication is communication between people face to face, which allows each participant capture the reactions of others directly, either verbally or nonverbally. In the movie, there are many phenomenons about human personality found.

*Into The Wild* is a movie about the life of Christopher Johnson Mc Candles, a bright college graduate who decides to live alone in the wilderness of Alaska, leaves his family, friends, and all the comforts provided by modern life in search of ultimate freedom. The characterization of Christopher Johnson McCandles as the main character in the movie, the way he views his society and nature and wilderness, his liberal views and his economic ideas reflect Thoreau ideas of civil disobedience.

Civil Disobedience is Thoreau's essay contains his argumentations that most governments are inexpedient and in conscience. Governments tend to impose their people with their rules in which the majority rule in many cases are not based on justice but based on the will of the majority. That's why, refer to Thoreau, people

should not permit government to overrule or atrophy their consciences, for better governments are the governments which govern least or govern not at all (Thoreau, 1971: 395).

Actually, the movie is telling about someone's attitude and personality which is strongly influenced by environmental conditions, especially family. There is a condition in the family that he does not expect, later from this condition that he changes his attitude and personality to reach and achieve a freedom in truth, an absolute freedom, an ultimate freedom. He comes out of the zone that he should take. So the writer very interested in exploring and examining what is actually happens and experienced by the great characters in the movie.

## **1.2. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

In order to sharpen the observation and to make the analysis clear, a researcher should formulate the scope of analysis. Therefore, the writer limits the object of research and determines the theory to analyze the data. This limitation is aimed at getting a specific and valid result. In this research the writer only focuses on the discussion of the form of civil disobedience reflected in the major character named Christopher Johnson McCandless.

### **1.3. AIMS OF THE STUDY**

In arranging this thesis, the writer has some purposes :

1. To give a deep insight about the form of civil disobedience reflected in the major character named *Christopher Johnson McCandless*.
2. To describe the challenges that he faces from the environments including family and society

### **1.4. METHOD OF THE STUDY**

#### **1.4.1 Method of Research**

To find the data for analyzing the problem, the writer uses library research. According to Semi (1993:7), "Method of research is a method that is used to find out, develop and test the truth of knowledge empirically based on the fact and data. Library research is analyzing on the object inside the researcher's work room". The sources are any library materials correlated to the subject analyzed. There are two kinds of data here :

1. Main Data : film entitled *Into The Wild* directed by Sean Penn
2. Supporting Data : the supporting data are collected from the books and articles from the internet related to the film and theory needed by the writer .

### **1.4.2 Method of approach**

Related to the scope of the thesis, the writer uses the following methods: objective approach by M. H. Abrams, and civil disobedience by Henry David Thoreau. According to M. H. Abrams (1971:26), “objective orientation which on principle regards the work of art in isolation from all these external points of reference, analyzes it as a self-sufficient entity constituted by its parts in their internal relations, and sets out to judge it solely by criteria intrinsic to its own mode of being”. The reader or the audience should re-create in their imagination to communicate the work.

In order to discuss the extrinsic elements, the writer also uses civil disobedience by Henry David Thoreau, “ individuals should not permit government to overrule or atrophy their conscious and that they have a duty to avoid allowing such acquiescence to enable the government to make them the agents of injustice”. They are as the method to dig the nature of class struggle and condition illustrated on the movie.

## **1.5. ORGANIZATION OF THE WRITING**

### CHAPTER 1:

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, aims of the study, scope of the study, method of the study, and the organization of the study.



## CHAPTER II:

### THE SUMMARY OF THE MOVIE

This chapter contains the summary that is reliable to the theme of the thesis based on the movie that is used. Therefore, the readers can easily dig out and understand the essential correlation between the film and the content of the thesis.

## CHAPTER III

### LITERARY REVIEW

It covers the theoretical review that can support the writing of the thesis. The theories deal with the definition of the characters, settings, and conflicts. It is also about the sociological approach of the movie.

## CHAPTER IV

### DISCUSSION

The main part of the thesis, it discusses the theoretical review above connected with the story in the movie as well as an analysis of its intrinsic and extrinsic aspects.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

It provides the results of the analysis and the discussion in the previous chapters.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE SUMMARY OF THE MOVIE**

“Into the Wild” is a movie adopting a real story of the crazy travels of Christopher McCandless across North America and his life spent in the Alaska wilderness in the early 1990s. Actually, this film tells the story about a young man who strongly wants the ultimate freedom in his entire life named Christopher Johnson McCandless. He is a student who recently graduated from college at Emory University, his parents are very proud of him. When Chris and his family eat at the restaurant, Chris’ parents talk to him and actually they want to buy a new car for him. Unluckily Chris refuses it and tells his parents that he does not want to buy anything, Chris just wants to decide to leave the life he has before. He considers that everything around him is false. He only believes in her younger sister, Carine McCandless. He decides to try to survive in Alaska. Chris leaves all that he has, ranging from savings, credit cards, ATM cards, identity cards, and many others. He burns all of his stuff and cuts all his cards. Chris begins his journey by using his favorite old car until he arrives at a lonely place in the Arizona area. The night comes when Chris falls asleep in his car, the thundering approaches him, it caused by a very great sump that reaches him in the car. In the morning, Chris chooses to walk away and to leave his last stuff that is his car, he burns his last few pieces of money he has in his wallet, and he throws away his car’s number in order to difficult to identify. Chris continues his journey by boarding from one car to another car, while

his parents just realize right after Chris runs away from his apartment after two months from may.

Chris finally gets a place in Alaska where they are going so far. With a very long journey to get here and start a new life in Alaska. To him, Alaska is the right place to find his identity and to find out how humans can survive and be happy in the wild world without the need to think about the material, as told by his sister, Carine McCandless, in the materialist rejection of conventional life from his parents, Walt McCandless.

In Alaska, Chris lives melting to the nature. He enjoys the life here , until on the way he finds a buss carcass that has been leaved by its owner in a very long time and he makes it as his house then Chris calls it " Magic Bus ". Chris starts to clear the contents of the bus with items inside for his needs. Chris starts to find food by hunting animals that are around with his air rifle. He is hunting the bird, even buffalo. The food is increasingly becoming difficult to find. No big game here, Chris gets an important lesson here that it is very difficult to get food in the wild despite all the effort he has tried and without despair. And finally Chris more often spends more time by reading books.

Living in the wild world is getting harder, food supplies begin to used up. Though he kills a deer, the meat can't be saved for food stock because the meat filled by flies and maggots. He realizes that the wild is very rude, hard, and it does not care anything. Chris imposes himself to go a little bit far from his 'magic bus' and crosses

a river. After spending a lot of time for hunting, he can't find a single animal to hunt. Finally, Chris chooses to go back to the bus. Along the way, Chris is trapped by large rivers and heavy stream so it is difficult to pass. Chris tries and he is drifted by heavy stream far enough. But in the end he can cross the river , and back to the bus for a rest, looking for contents in bus for food, but he can't find at all.

Chris starts starving, he can't think how he can get food. By reading his book, Chris is looking for food that can be found in the forest. Chris is looking for the kind of plants that can be consumed in the forest. After getting the kinds of plants that he gets from the book, he finds one type of plants that can be consumed and he brings it to the bus to eat. The next day Chris gets sick, he gets high fever, there is no medicine to drink. Chris rereads the book to find out what kind of plants he eats. Regretfully, he does not suspect that the kind of plants he ate yesterday, it can cause a death if consumed. After consuming those plants, Chris' condition is getting worse increasingly and more hungry. Chris is becoming much more silent and sleeps on the bus. Chris is very shivering and he can not do anything and he just accepts that very pathetic condition defenselessly. Chris feels very sorry, Chris imagines about his friends and family, he remembers the time when they are together in the house with jokes and laughter with his family. Chris' condition is getting worse, his body is shivering, and his face looked very pale, and on eventually Chris breaths his last at his 'magic bus'.

Into the Wild is the fourth film Sean Penn has directed, and it is totally engrossing from start to finish. Based on the bestselling nonfiction work by Jon Krakauer, this quest drama has many magical moments which convey the wonder of this seeker as he happens upon scenic vistas. There are many moving scenes of intimacy between Alex and the strangers who befriend him and listen to his dreams about the wild. When he finally makes it to the region near Mt. McKinley where he is going, a kind stranger even gives him a pair of boots. He finds a battered old bus for shelter as he settles in to savor solitude. But the tooth and claw of the wilderness surprises this youthful nomad on more than one occasion.

Alex learns many lessons on this spiritual journey about his needs for solitude and companionship, about the enchantments and dangers of nature, about what he knows and what he doesn't know. And, thankfully, he also learns the big ones about forgiveness and love before it's too late. Emile Hirsch gives an intense and mesmerizing performance that lights up this drama and keeps it reverberating in our minds long after we have left the theater. Krakauer ends this story of adventure that resulted in tragedy with a low-key but heartbreaking scene. By this point in the narrative, the reader has probably come to know Christopher McCandless better than many of those who crossed his long and tortuous path; thus, we share in their sense of loss. It is because of Krakauer's reporting and writing skills and his capacity for empathy with the misguided young man that the reader is able to do so, rather than merely judging McCandless for what he did and failed to do.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **LITERARY REVIEW**

#### **3.1 INTRINSIC ASPECT**

##### **3.1.1 Narrative Elements**

Elements of literary work can be divided into two parts. The division is intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Generally, both elements are often used to study literature. Intrinsic elements is the elements that build a literary work itself ( Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 23 ). They are many elements in narrative ,there are theme, character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view and symbol by analyzing the elements, it is sufficient to help the researcher to understand the content of the film.

##### **3.1.1.1 Theme**

In the creation of a movie, theme holds an important role as the core of the movie's storyline. Theme is an idea, thought, about the core problem that becomes a foundation of a literary masterpiece explicitly and implicitly.

*The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story. To derive the theme of a story, we must ask what its central purpose is : what view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals (Perrine, 1998: 90).*

As stated above, theme is also commonly developed through the plot which is related with the development of the story, characters and the other essential part of a literary work.

### **3.1.1.2 Character**

The presence of characters in a literary work also holds the same portion as well. A character is also an essential part towards the whole story due to its role as the core point where all of reader's attention goes for. In *The Element of Literature*, Potter describes the definition of characters as :

*Characters are basic elements in much imaginative literature and therefore they merit the considerable attention paid to them. When critics speak of a character they mean any person who figures in a literary work, not particularly a peculiar or eccentric one. Sometimes a given character does not actually appear but it merely talked about character (Potter, 1967: 1).*

A character is presumably, an imagined person who inhabits a story: Stories may happen not only to people but to elements of nature such as the wind, the wave, grass, stone, or animals (Kennedy, 1983: 45). There are two kinds of characters, namely major characters and minor characters. According to Kennedy (1983: 45) the major character is a character whose personalities becomes familiar for the reader and minor characters are those support the identification of the major characters. Characterization is the description of the quality of character, which includes physical, mental, social, and moral elements of character.



Nurgiyantoro ( Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 176-177) in *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi*, describes the division of a character based on its role towards the storyline of a literary work. The division could be read as follows:

1. Major Character

Major character holds the most important role; this is the centre of the characters. Main characters frequently appear the most than the other characters.

2. Minor Character

Minor Character is the rival of main character. The problem usually exist because of this character. Minor Character can help and solve the problem and also can be the rival of major character.

### **3.1.1.3 Setting**

The third aspect of a movie is setting. Setting indicates the information of the time, situation of social background, and place of a movie. As what is also stated by Meyer ( 1990:107), setting is the context in which the action of a story occurs. The major elements of setting are the time, place, and social environment that frame the characters. These elements establish the world in which the characters act. In most stories they also serve as more than background s and furnishings.

From Meyer's explanation, it can be concluded that setting mostly deals with three major elements as it explains in the following paragraph :

1. Setting of Time

Time in this context refers to a period in which an action or an event takes place. Time description may include specific timing such as date, month, year and century or natural condition such as morning, night, and afternoon.

2. Setting of Place

Place refers to the location where the location takes place. Place can be a room, a street, a field, a town, or a farm. In addition, natural environment such as forest, mountain, valley, and beach can also be the setting of place.

3. Setting of Social Environment

Social environment comprises the social background in which an action takes place. It can include social norms, religion, customs, tradition, and government regulation (Meyer, 1990: 107-108).

#### **3.1.1.4 Conflict**

Conflict appears as the next part of the intrinsic elements of a story. Conflict has a tight relation with the presence of plot and character. It does determine the

relation and the dynamic development of every part in a story. The presence of conflict in a story could be very interesting due to its role to deliver the challenge and clash among the characters.

Perrine (1988: 1408) describes the definition of conflict as:

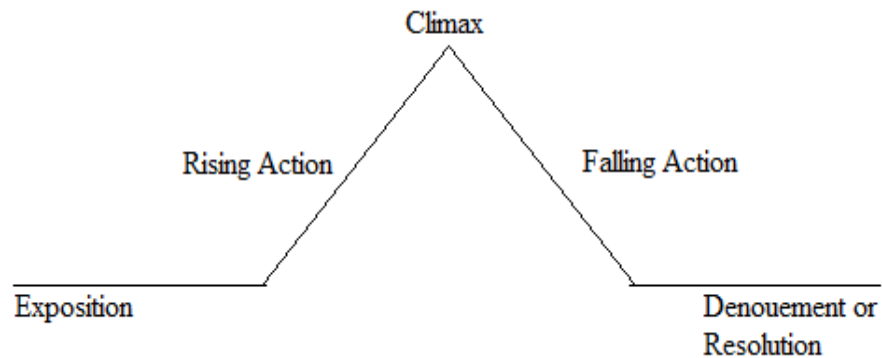
*Conflict is a clash of action, desire, ideas, or goods in the plot of a story or drama. Conflict may exist between the main character and some other person or persons (man against man); between the main character and some external force, physical nature, society, or fate (man against environment); or between the main character and some destructive elements in his own nature (man against himself).*

From the definition of conflict above, it can be assumed that the presence of conflict appears between each character's personal interest and clash. Thus, it leads to the division of internal conflict and external conflict among the characters. From the book of *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, Meyer (1990:46), defines the description of internal conflict as conflict may also be internal; in such a case some moral or psychological issue must be resolved within the protagonist. Inner conflicts frequently accompany external ones.

Meanwhile, external conflict relates with the condition of social environment of the characters. According to Meyer (1990:46), external conflict puts the major character on the contradictive condition with the other individual. Thus, this kind of conflict happens among the characters due to the interactions of groups in the story.

### 3.1.1.5 Plot

Plot is a pattern of carefully selected causally related events that contains conflicts (Griffith, 2011: 51).. Plot is literary element that describes the structure of a story. It shows the arrangement of events and actions in a story of the film.



Source: Griffith, 2011: 52

### 3.1.1.6 Point of view

Point of view is the narrator's relationship to the world or the work. It is the metaphore that indicats the point from which the narrator views everything in the narrative (Griffith, 2011: 45).Point of view is important in telling a story. It determines how much the reader must know and can know about what is happening. A story can be told from one of four different points of view. They are the first person point of view, the third person limited point of view, the third person obnective(dramatic) point of view, and the third person omniscient point of view (Griffith, 2011: 45-46).

### **3.1.2 Cinematic Elements**

Cinematography deals with the things that filmmakers do to the camera and the film. There are several major things about this element that must be understood in analyzing a movie.

*Cinematography is more than the mere act of photography. It is the process of taking ideas, words, actions, emotional subtext, tone, and all other forms of non-verbal communication and rendering them in visual terms. Cinematic technique is the entire range of methods and techniques that we use to add layers of meaning and subtext to the content of the film including the dialog and action (Blain Brown, 2012: 2).*

Pratista (2008: 104), states that cinematography covers the thread of a filmmaker to their camera. A film-maker will consider some aspects about how a scene could be taken by control and arrangement. Related with cinematic elements of a movie, there are some essential aspects that build the quality of a scene.

#### **3.1.2.1 Distance of The Camera**

##### **3.1.2.1.1 Extreme Long Shot**

Extreme long shot is used to depict an object located far from the camera or a huge panorama. This is a technique where the distance between the camera and the object reach the farthest position (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.2 Long Shot**

Within the long shot technique, the body of the object could be seen clearly on the background. Thus, a filmmaker uses this technique to depict an opening shot of a movie (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.3 Medium Long Shot**

By using medium long shot technique, the actor could be depicted from the knee to top of the body. The actor and the background could be depicted as well (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.4 Medium Shot**

A scene depicted with medium shot shows the hip of an object's body to the top of his or her body. By having this shot, the gesture and face expression seems clearer. The actors begin to be dominant on the frame (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.5 Medium Close-up**

The picture depicted could show the half part of the whole object. For human being bodies for example, the medium close up is used to depict the body from the chest to the top (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.6 Close-up**

In general, a scene captured using close-up technique will show face, hands, feet, or other small object. This distance will show the expression of the face and the detailed gesture (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.1.7 Extreme Close-up**

In the extreme close-up distance, the picture depicted will have its some detailed aspects of an object such as ear, eye, nose, and other small part of an object (Pratista, 2008: 105).

### **3.1.2.2 Angle of The Camera**

According to (Pratista, 2008: 106) angle of the camera could be defined as an angle of a scene depicted by the camera towards the object on the frame. Pratista divides the kind of the angle into three categories: high angle, straight on angle and low angle (Pratista, 2008: 106).

#### **3.1.2.2.1 High Angle**

High angle enables an object to be shown as if it looks so small, weak, and being intimidates as a further effect of this technique (Pratista, 2008: 106).

### **3.1.2.2.2 Straight on Angle**

This is a technique to depict an object directly from the camera (Pratista, 2008: 106).

### **3.1.2.2.3 Low Angle**

The object depicted within this technique is seen from a low position. The effect created by low angle technique illustrates the feeling of a confidence, strong, and dominant feeling of the object (Pratista, 2008: 106-107).

### **3.1.2.3 Sound**

Sound is a part of the movie that could be attained through the hearing sense (Pratista, 2008: 2). According to Pratista, the sound of the movie could be divided into three classifications: music, dialogue, and sound effect.

#### **3.1.2.3.1 Dialogue**

Dialogue is a form of verbal communication language which is used by all of characters both inside and outside of the story (Pratista, 2008: 149). According to Pratista, dialogue could be classified based on its variation and technique:



## **A. Monologue**

Monologue is not a form of conversational dialogue, but couple of words which are spoken by the characters ( or non characters ) to themselves or to the audience ( 2008:152).

## **B. Overlapping Dialogue**

Overlapping dialogue is a form of lapping a apart of dialogue with the other dialogue with the same volume. This technique is commonly used for fighting scenes or the other scenes which are taken in the public areas (2008:152).

## **C. Music**

Beside of dialogue, music also holds an important role of a movie as a supporting part to build the mood and feel in a movie. Pratista divides the kind of music into two categories :

### **1. Musical Illustration**

Musical illustration is usually related with the theme of the movie. This music is played during a certain kind of scene to support the illustration of the story. Musical illustration creates a further effect towards the story told on the movie ( Pratista, 2008: 154 ).

## 2. Song

The presence of a song also helps to create the mood of the movie. The theme of the movie has a tight relation with the presence of a song on a movie. It is also used to support the atmosphere of a scene (Pratista, 2008: 156).

### 3.2 EXTRINSIC ASPECT

#### 3.2.1 Civil Disobedience by Henry David Thoreau

Civil Disobedience is one of Henry David Thoreau's classic outrage, as an abolitionist he created such a great issue that was for the first time published as "Resistance to Civil Government" in 1849.

*I heartily accept the motto "That government is the best which governs least;" and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe. "That government is best which governs not at all;" and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have. Government is at best but an expedient; but most governments are usually, and all governments are sometimes, inexpedient. The objection which have been brought against a standing army, and they are many and weighty, and deserve to prevail, may also at last be brought against a standing government. The standing army is only an arm of the standing government. The government itself, which is only the mode which people have chosen to execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people can act through it. Witness the present Mexican war, the work of comparatively a few individuals using the standing government as their tool; for in the outset, the people would not have consented to this measure (Thoreau, 1971: 395-396).*

Henry Thoreau's essay of civil disobedience which criticized the dominance of the state over its people with all the inexpedient and unwise

rules is a reflection of the endless search for, and a determination to reach, the truth. Henry Thoreau is not only looking for the truth for himself, but also suggested concrete ways to realize this mistake and conduct large-scale change. Civil disobedience is one form of the correction of these mistakes.

### **3.2.4 American society in 1990s**

In 1990s, American society was dealing with a lot of very complicated and convoluted problems. It starts from the very basic problem that is a problem in the family. The experts said that there is a cultural decrease of the values in family life of American society. Rampant criminal happened everywhere. Behavior deviation of juvenile in the school environment also tended to increase.

In 1990, a survey showed that the problem of behavior deviation at school was including drug, alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, rape, robbery, and assault. All of these happened to them because of a lack of control of their families and bad neighborhoods. In fact, according to the experts All of these happened to them because there was a role shift and function of women in the social and economic sphere. Maternal heart was no longer inherent in mother in the family life. Charles Murray in his 1984 book *Losing Ground*, he emphasizes the role of federal government, he suggests that from the 1960s to 1990, the policy makers have unconsciously been discouraging self reliance, personal restraint, family

responsibility, educational achievement and adherence to the law. William J Bennet, who served as Secretary of Education under President Reagan speaks,

”Current trends in out of wedlock births, crime, drug use, family decomposition, and educational decline, as well as a host of other social pathologies, are incompatible with the continuation of American society as we know it. If these things continue, the republic as we know it will cease to be. The trends are dangerous and they are potentially catastrophic” (Edward Ashbee, 2000: 192).

## CHAPTER 4

### DISCUSSION

#### 4.1 Narrative Elements

##### 4.1.1. Theme

As loudly spoken in the title, the main theme of the movie is one's journey to find his real means by escaping from modern life and into the wild of nature. Modern life is a big false full with lies and deceit. Rules, power, money, prosperity, careers, everything in the modern life are abstract things made by society to cheat people, manipulate them and directing them away from their real meaning. To find the real truth of human existence is to throw away all the false things and to life totally free in the wild nature.

Many themes appear in this movie such as: "Young manhood". *Into the Wild* is very much the story of a young man, of his energy, his idealism, and the arrogance that ultimately kills him. It is hard to imagine anyone besides a male in his late teens or 20s who would do and say the things that Christopher McCandless does and says in this book though, bizarrely, the octogenarian Ronald Franz tries to model aspects of his life after McCandless *Fathers and son*. The title of a book by the 19th-century Russian novelist Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*, this is one of the main themes of *Into the Wild*. If there is a single turning point in the life of Christopher McCandless, it may be the discovery that his father had a second, secret family. This

revelation seems to inspire him to reject his parents completely and commence an odyssey into wild America. Along the way, McCandless gravitates toward substitute fathers including Wayne Westerberg and Ronald Franz (and one substitute mother, Jan Burres).

Another themes that was appear in this research is : “*Materialism*”. Christopher McCandless denounces and rejects what he sees as American materialism, in general when he leaves his parents and the upper middle-class suburban setting in which they raised him, and very specifically and concretely when he donates all his savings to charity, abandons his car in the desert, and actually burns his paper money on the desert floor.

The theme mentioned above can be seen clearly through many scenes in the movie, as for example in the 00.18.09 running time, when Christ rejects his parents’ intention to buy him a new car as a present. He insist to keep his old Datsun instead of a new Cadillac his parents promise him. The dialogue of the scene is:

*Mrs. Walt : Your father and I... we want to make a present to you...*

*Mr. Walt : You get rid of that junk..*

*Christ : Junk? What junk?*

*Mrs. Walt : That... (pointing to the old Datsun)*

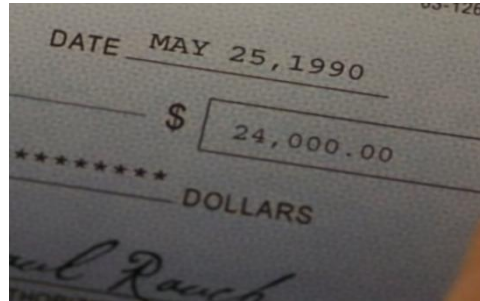
*Mr. Walt : We want to buy you a new car*

*Christ : A new car...? (astonished) Why do I want a new car? The Datsun is great... I don't need a new car. I don't want a new car. I don't want anything. These things... things... things...*



(Picture 4.1)

(Christ's old Datsun-00.18.09)



(Picture 4.2)

(Christ's donation check-00.20.01)



(Picture 4.3)

(The scene when Christ cut his bank card into half-00.20.22)

The next scenes show how Christ donates his saving to charity and how he cut his bankcard into half. The money and the bankcard are the representative of American materialism that Christ denounces and rejects for.

Another themes is "*Survival in the Wilderness*". This is the central theme of the work of one of Christopher McCandless's favorite authors, Jack London. The most striking example of this is probably London's short story "To Build a Fire,"

about a man who freezes to death in the woods because of his inability to do precisely that. In a way, this story foreshadows McCandless's own fate.

The main theme is combined with many minor themes such as sadness, the griefs of parents losing their sons, frustration, friendship, and intimacy. But the dominant story is the central character's effort to seek freedom by avoiding and rejecting every symbols associated with status quo. Christopher Johnsons McCandles (Christ), frustated by hypocrisy demonstrated by his parents which then he generalized by the whole society in the modern life, urges for happiness he thinks he will find in the wild nature. Right after his graduation from the University, he decides to go away, leave behind his family and society and all things associated with modern life, into the wild nature in Alaska. The journey to the wild is both physical journey as well as psychological journey.

Picture 4.2 indicates the number of Christ's saving that he wants to give them all to charity. This picture is taken using extreme close-up on angle. The technique is used to show that Christ doesn't need all of his money to get what he wants in his life. Meanwhile, picture 4.3 shows a Christ's bank card cut by himself. This picture is taken using extreme close-up on angle too. The technique is used to emphasize that Christ doesn't need a bank card or money to live in the wild nature.



## 4.1.2. Character

There are six major characters which play important role in the movie *Into The Wild*. They are mainly the characters who are involved in the core story and have such a great and important roles toward the development of the story.

### 4.1.2.1. Emile Hirsch as Christ McCandless



(Picture 4.4.Christ McCandless, 00:07:41)



(Picture 4.5-00:09:45)



(Picture 4.6-00:10:05)

The main characters which appears in the movie *Into The Wild* is Emile Hirsch as Christopher Johnson McCandless. Christ McCandless, the main characters in the movie, is a smart young man graduated of Emory University at Atlanta.

The picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show he has got brown eyes. He has long, wavy, black hair. Christ has important role and strong character as its described in the movie. He is the character that has the biggest portion to appear in every scene of the story. Raised up in a family full of pretense made him grows up with anger and frustration. He feels lonely and immerse himself in books to fill his empty soul. Picture 4.4 shows Christ's expression when he is looking on the nature after he just arrived in Alaska and found a magic bus. This picture is taken using close-up straight on angle in order to show how his feelings blend into the wild nature.

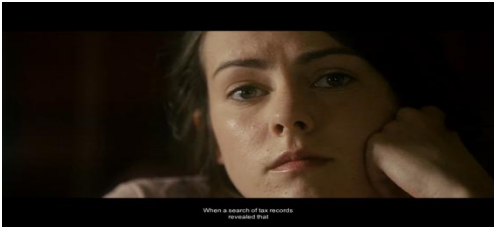
**4.1.2.2. Jena Malone as Carine McCandless**



(Picture 4.7.Carine McCandless, 00:16:03)



(Picture 4.8-00:20:23)



(Picture 4.9-00:48:57)

Carine McCandless is Christ's little sister. The picture is taken using close-up straight on angle in order to show she has got black eyes. She has long, wavy, black hair. She is very close to his brother in which they rely on each other and share everything like dreams, feelings, emotions, secrets, and even frustration and anger.

Picture 4.7 indicates Carine's expression when she is looking at her brother. This picture is taken using close-up straight on angle in order to show that she really trusts his brother and she really knows his brother very well.

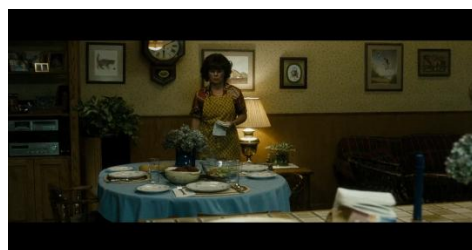
#### **4.1.2.3. Marcia Gay Hayden as Billie McCandless (Mrs. Walt)**



(Picture 4.10. Billy McCandless (Mrs. Walt), 00:17:14)



(Picture 4.11-00:30:43)



(Picture 4.12-02.15.35)

Billy McCandless or Mrs. Walt is Christ's mother. The picture is taken using close-up straight on angle in order to show she has got black eyes. She has short,

curly, black hair. She is very proud of her son but she fails to show her feelings in the proper way.

She is more of an instrument of her husband and her society rather than a mother to her children and she has no idea how to narrow the distance emerge between her and her son. Picture 4.10 indicates Billy's expression when she is looking at her son. This picture is taken using close-up straight on angle in order to show that she really loves his son and she is really proud of her son.

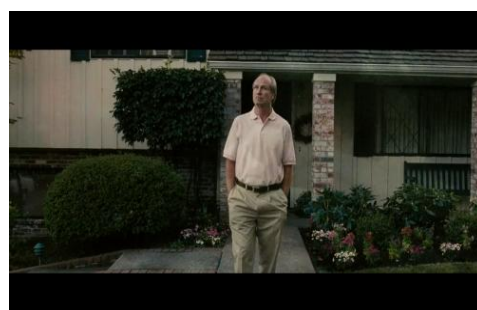
#### 4.1.2.4. William Hurt as Mr. Walt McCandless



(Picture 4.13.Mr. Walt McCandless, 00:16:39)



(Picture 4.14-00:30:57)



(Picture 4.15-02:15:47)

Mr. Walt McCandless is a genius man work for NASA. The picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show he has got brown eyes. He is bald and mature. His successfull career gives prosperity for his family. But then, career and prosperity have mislead him into the wrong directions of life and the modern life with its false value has trapped him. Picture 4.13 indicates Walt's expression when she is looking at his son. This picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show that he really loves his son and he is really proud of his son.

#### **4.1.2.5. Brian Dierker and Catherine Keener as Rainey and Jan**



(Picture 4.16.Rainey & Jan, 00:36:23)



(Picture 4.17-00:32:46)



(Picture 4.18-00:37:39)

Rainey and Jan are a couple of tramps they call themselves rubber tramps which means tramps who use vehicles to travel. As a whole, they are antithesis to Mr. And Mrs. Walt. While the second live in a sophisticated conditions, with career and well planned future, the first live mostly in the road, no house and neighbours, sleep and wake up in some place today and in another place tommorrow, and settle up everything always from the beginning.

As Jan said about themselves: "Living in the cheapest way under the sun". Picture 4.16 indicates Rainey & Jan's expression when she is loosing Christ at beach. This picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show that they really love Christ and they are really sad when they know that Christ leaves both of them.

#### **4.1.2.6. Vince Vaughan as Wayne**

The picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show he is tall, big and he has got black eyes. He has short, straight, black hair. Wayne is someone Crhist met in Eastern South Dakota, whom he work for a while during his journey to Alaska. Picture 4.19 indicates Wayne's expression when he is looking at Christ and smiling at him when Christ works for him to get some money for Christ's journey. This picture is taken using medium close-up straight on angle in order to show that he is really proud of Christ.



(Picture 4.19.Wayne, 00.41.49)



(Picture 4.20-00:51:05)



(Picture 4.21-00:51:28)

### **4.1.3. Setting of Place**

#### **4.1.3.1. Fairbanks, Alaska**

This is the place Christ McCandless dream about. In this place, Christ decided to stay for a while, outdoor, alone, without watch, map, just outdoor only with himself. Picture 4.24 is taken using medium long shot on angle. This technique is used to show some areas that could be an indication of where Christ arrives in Alaska for the first time.





(Picture 4.22-00:08:57)



(Picture 4.23-00:01:48)

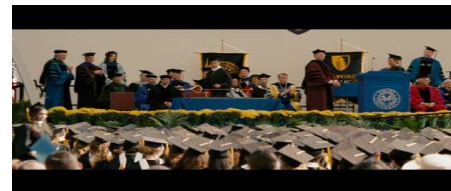


(Picture 4.24-00:06:46)

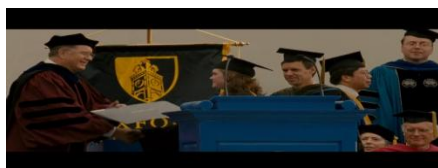
#### 4.1.3.2. Emory University, Atlanta



(Picture 4.25-00:07:25)



(Picture 4.26-00:14:24)



(Picture 4.27-00:14:48)



In this place, Christ have spent his timefor 4 years to study and finally graduated of the college. In order to show where the scene is located in, picture 4.25 is taken in using extreme long shot and high angle technique. The scene shows the graduation ceremony where whole student are about to graduate from Emory University.

#### 4.1.3.3. California



(Picture 4.28-00:44:45)



(Picture 4.29-00:41.06)



(Picture 4.30-00:43:01)

In Pacific Crest Trail, Christ meets and interacts for a while with a couple of tramps Railey and Jan who treat him as their son. Picture 4.28 is taken in using

extreme long shot and straight on angle in order to depict the whole area where Christ met his new friend.

As Christ's journey continues, he eventually comes to the place. In this place he meets someone name Wayne, a farmer to whom Christ work for a while before he continue his journey. The man and his way of life impressed Christ as he call him 'a great man'. One thing he feel sorry for the man is that Wayne has been arrested by the FBI for one reason. In one moment, Christ recalls him as a wild man in a cage. Picture 4.29 is taken in using extreme long shot and straight on angle in order to depict the whole area where Christ met his new friend too, named Wayne and then Christ works for him.

#### **4.1.4. Setting of Time**

The setting of time of the movie in which the action takes place is in 1990 to 1992. The year 1990 is when Christ graduated from Emory University at Atlanta, and the year 1992 is when Christ arrives at Alaska and lives in the wild then found dead.

#### **4.1.5. Plot**

Plot of the film *Into the Wild* is *flashback*, back and forth intermittenly and sometimes with the narration spoken by Carine in the backsound. For many audiences, the storytelling style of the movie may be a little confusing. The sudden changes of the story from present action into past action bring the

audiences jump from one time-setting to another without transition and it makes the audiences confused and hard to follow.

In essence, *flashback* constitute someone remembering in the present something which happened in the past. Dwight V. Swain, a senior movie scriptwriter well-known in film industry, suggests that wherever possible, it is wise to avoid flashbacks simply because they brings the story's forward movement to a halt. Too much flashbacks will either bore or confuse the viewer (Swain, 1979).

#### **4.1.5. Conflict**

##### **4.1.5.1. Internal Conflict**

The internal conflict in the movie occurs mostly in the mind of the main character, Christ McCandles. The conflict first come from the revealing of the real truth of his family, how his father has cheat his mother by having another wife and a son out there. He realizes that the life of hhis family is a failure. He loves his family, especially his sister Carine, but his frustration andanger made him in a discomfort state of mind. Finally he choose to leave his family and society, even though he is constantly debating with his inner feeling about wether he should go home and reunite with his family or keep stay in the wild alone.

In the very early, starting in 00.14.33 to 00.15.33 running time, along with the moving picture, Christ's monologue in the backsound shows the way Christ sees his parents, his anger and sorrows, and his frustration of having such parents like them.

*Christ : I see them standing in the front of gate of their colleges. I see my father's showing up under the ugly sand stones arch, red tiles sparkling like blood plates curved in the back of his head. I see my mother with a few light books at her hip, standing in a small brick pillars with wrought iron gates still open behind her, showing the black sharp ends pointing in the May air. They are about to graduate. They are about to get married. They are kids, they are dumb. All they knew is they are innocent. They would never hurt anybody. I wanna go up to them and say "Stop, don't do it. She is a wrong woman. He is a wrong man. You are going to do anything you cannot imagine you would ever to do. You are going to do bad things to children. You are going to suffer in ways you'd never heard of. You are going to wanna die".*



(Picture 4.31-00.50.29)



(Picture 4.32-00.50.53)



(Picture 4.33-00.54.08)

In the 00.50.29 running time and a few second follows, the audiences are given information, a new facts about the life or Christ's parents. The information will be the reason, rational explanation of Christ's anger and frustration for he finally find out that he and Corine are bastard children.

The scenes run from the way Christ leave Wayne's farm, his journey after then, with a flashback when Christ buy a car when he is still in The Senior High School. The backsound is Corine'n narration.

*Corine : ... He discover that the story of our parents of having falling in love, got married, was calculated lies masking an ugly truth. When they met, dad was already married. And even after Christ's born, dad had another son with his first wife, Marcia, to whom he was still legally married. This fact suddenly redefine Christ and me as bastard children...*

#### **4.1.5.2. External Conflict**

External conflict in the movie is minor, rather than internal conflict as the major conflict in the movie. The external conflict in thie movie is merely a conflict between Christ and his parents. Everything comes from his parents will be rejected by Christ out of the substance of the things. What Christ resists is the dominance of his parents, especially his father. He does not want his parents interfere his own plans of life. Another minor external conflict reflect Christ's extraordinary efforts to keep his journey forward even there are many

spectacles and dangers he should face which come either from nature or from another people.

#### **4.1.5.3 Symbol**

There are many Symbols in *Into the Wild* movie such as :

1. Deserts

Like mountains, deserts in *Into the Wild* function primarily as means for Christopher McCandless to challenge himself, and as such, they illustrate his hubris. Not only does he fear the desert insufficiently; he behaves as though it has been put there purely in order to test his competence.

2. Magic Bus

Presumably named by McCandless after a song by British rock band The Who, the bus stands for the good fortune he repeatedly encounters in his odyssey through the American West. After all, what are the odds when McCandless forges into the bush that an abandoned bus will be waiting there for him to live inside? Of course, McCandless dies inside the bus, too, indicating that his luck has run out.

3. Moose

The moose that McCandless shoots and then, heartbreakingly, fails to preserve stands for his relationship to the wild in general. Moose meat could prevent McCandless from starving to death. Because of his hubris, however,

he has not prepared adequately for the enormous task of curing the flesh and ultimately fails at it. The consequences are fatal.

4. Mountains

In *Into the Wild*, mountains function not as scenery, nor are they especially significant geologically or historically. Instead, a mountain is an obstacle to be conquered, a way of testing one's capability and character, especially in the chapters of the book where author Krakauer recalls his own youth.

5. Rivers

Many rivers run through *Into the Wild*. Like deserts and mountains, they test Christopher McCandless's survival skills. Unlike other natural formations, it is a river that defeats McCandless and kills him. Because he has not predicted that the river separating the "Magic Bus" from civilization will swell with snow-melt, he cannot cross it in late summer, when he intends to leave the woods. And because he (intentionally) lacks a map, McCandless is unaware of options for fording the raging waters.

6. Yellow Datsun

The yellow Datsun is emblematic of Christopher McCandless's genuine disinterest in material things. Americans value their cars. McCandless leaves his in the desert.

## **4.2. Extrinsic Aspect**

### **4.2.1. Civil Disobedience Reflected by the Character Christ McCandles**

Thoreau states that “Government is best which govern least”. This means that the least government rule the society, the better. This is because rules and law are made by and in the hand of majority people. In all cases, the government in which the majority rule cannot be based on justice. When the majority rule, the rule are permitted not because they are most likely to be in the right, but because they are physically the strongest. There are two kind of citizens by the way they serve government like this. First, the good citizens who serve the states and the rules without critical thinking. They obey the state and the rules without judgments, whatever the rules are out of moral senses, they act as machines and put themselves on a level with woods and stones and earth, in which they can be manufactured that will serve the purpose as well. The second, the very few are heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense who serve the state with their consciences and necessarily resist and disobey the most part of the rules which are not make sense. They are commonly treated as enemies by the state.

Christ McCandles in the film is the second type of citizen. He serve the state with conscience which makes him reject most of the rules set in modern society. He realizes that the society where he live in and interact with is a sick



society, the people are dumb and blind, live much longer within the society will makes him sick too. He urges to set himself free, away from the sick society, and life alone in the wild nature. Christ's view about the society is reflected in a scene when he is involved in a conversation with another character in the film, Wayne.



(Picture 4.34-00.43.45)



(Picture 4.35.00-44.46)



(Picture 4.36-00:44:46)

The scene is in the 00.43.45, where Christ and Wayne and many others take dinner in Cabaret Cafe after full day hardwork. Christ says that he want to go to Alaska, live alone in the wild nature for a while, and to get out of the sick society. He addresses the sick society as the parents, politicians, hypocrites, who always intimidate others by judgement, control, and rules.

Christ's behavior which shows his resistance to the rules and judgment are shown repeatedly as the movie goes forward. His first action is when he jumps upstairs at stage in his graduation day, while the others just walk. He want to show that he is different, he is free to choose how he will come to the stage, and he choose to jump as his specific way. And he demonstrates it in the eyes of his parents, the ones to whom he mostly adressess his resistance.



(Picture 4.37-00.13.59)



(Picture 4.38-00.14.45)



(Picture 4.39-00.14.52)

The second is when he allows his sister Corine to drive him to the cafeteria to meet their parents after the graduation ceremony (00.16.08). The third is when he decides to go kayaking in the river even though he does not have permit to do that. He resists to obey the rule for his common sense protests

that the rule does not make sense anyway. Christ knows that most of the rules and judgements made by sick society are big falses and as a sane human, he choose to resist and to refuse allegiance to them.

The dialogue between Christ and a River Scout (00.52.35) which shows how weird rules are made by law are as follows.

*Officer : Can I help you?*

*Christ : Yeah... if I wanna go paddle in the river, where is the best place to launch canoe?*

*Officer : What is your experience level? Do you have permit?*

*Christ : Permit? Permit for what?*

*Officer : You are not allowed to paddle in the river without permit. If you want, you can register here to get little experience. And I will put you in the waiting list.*

*Christ : Is there a waiting list to paddle in the river?*

*Officer : That's right*

*Christ : How long do I have to wait?*

*Officer : (consulting the list) Next refer to the list is 17 Mei 2003*

*Christ : (calculating) Twelve years? Twelve years to paddle in the river?*

Of course, Christ would never register. And he choose to paddle in the river without permit.



(Picture 4.40-00.53.53)



(Picture 4.41-00.56.30)



(Picture 4.42-00.56.42)

The way Christ behave against rules and common judgement does not arise at a sudden. His behavior of criticizing the rules of authority and contradicting the common judgement surely through a series of long process. He witnessess and observates inequallity in the society, he sees with his own eyes how hard the live of disadvantage people in the underdevelopped area of town, and his caring persona drives him to do many actions which shows his empathy to them. At the same time, he develops an attitude of antipathy and rejection to the status quo. Leo Tolstoy, Henry David Thoreau, Jack London, and other celebrated writers have made a simpler and more elegant life in the

wilderness into a dream to be pursued by the adventuresome and the courageous. Isolated places offers solitude, a chance to see what people made of, and a way to uncover the truth of who they really are. For these seekers, going into the wild is a spiritual journey.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

*Into The Wild* movie has content of civil disobedience that divided into two: There are behaviorism and humanistic. In humanistic, first, the good citizens who serve the states and the rules without critical thinking. They obey the state and the rules without judgments, whatever the rules are out of moral senses, they act as machines and put themselves on a level with woods and stones and earth, in which they can be manufactured that will serve the purpose as well. The second, the very few are heroes, patriots, martyrs, reformers in the great sense who serve the state with their consciences and necessarily resist and disobey the most part of the rules which are not make sense. They are commonly treated as enemies by the state.

The behaviorism shows the birth of the new Christ, or which shows Christ's maturity, as well as the meaning of manhood in and what wisdom is achieved by Christ. For the journey he has done, as his behaviorism concluded into three behaviorism : First, his confidence grows stronger for he could manage every dangers and spectacles insofar. Second, he thinks he will survive and be fine in the end. Third, His successfulness in dealing the difficulties and the fact that he is still survive for so long is a form of reinforcement for his behavior. Civil disobedience is regarded as a chaotic thing as it often involves a desire. People should know that civil disobedience not always deals with negative things

as we can choose the way of humanistic and behaviorism to conduct civil disobedience. Civil disobedience do not always deal with negative things, but what humans should be going to do is diverting the civil disobedience into humanistic by doing the good thing that has been commanded by God in His commandments.

Having safety and satisfaction to take civil disobedience is something human but people should be able to control it. Basically, human is created to love each other, not to hurt and not to do evil things. Civil disobedience without doing good things is just like a shadow of happiness. Perhaps, they feel satisfied because their disobedience have been completed but actually they cannot feel the true happiness.

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