

I Want To Be Famous: A Screenplay About How Change And Chance Can Impact People's Career

Fredi Setyawan¹, Ribut Basuki²

English Department, Faculty of Humanities and Creative Industries, Petra Christian University,
Siwalankerto 121-131, Surabaya 60236, INDONESIA

E-mail: a11200001@john.petra.ac.id¹, rbasuki@petra.ac.id²

ABSTRACT

This thesis and screenplay aim to illustrate how change and chance can significantly impact people's careers, particularly for those actively pursuing their careers. The main character, Catherine, a public figure striving for greater fame, takes extreme measures to gain popularity. Initially, Catherine admires her idol, but she eventually begins copying her idol's content. Her underestimation for pivotal moments of change and chance, as highlighted by the Chaos Theory in Careers, leads her to seize fake opportunities while missing genuine positive ones. The story focuses on Catherine and her surroundings as she faces the consequences of underestimating change and chance in her career and her journey to recover from these mistakes. Through Catherine's story, the screenplay demonstrates the importance of effectively managing change and chance for career advancement and long-term success.

Keywords: careers, chance, change

INTRODUCTION

Change and chance are inevitable aspects of life, often significantly impacting careers. People frequently underestimate these moments, leading to regrets later on. This casual attitude, especially towards career-related changes, underscores the need for a more thoughtful approach. Radhakrishnan (2019) emphasized the critical role of decisions in shaping success or failure, stressing the importance of taking change and chance seriously.

In the context of careers, Sindt (2003), based on John Krumboltz (1999), asserts that chance or unplanned events have a place in the career-planning process, indicating that chance can affect people's careers. Regarding changes, Perrine (2023) claims that changes permeate all aspects of life, from mundane activities to significant life events. This suggests that change has a considerable impact on people's careers. Additionally, overconfidence in decision-making is a factor that can influence the outcomes of change or chance in one's career. Tsipursky (2023) warned against overconfidence, which can lead to adverse consequences, underscoring the importance of recognizing the significance of these moments, particularly in career advancement.

Decisions made during change and chance moments can significantly impact people's career. Radhakrishnan (2019) highlighted the direct link between personal decisions and life outcomes. Overconfidence, as noted by Tsipursky (2023), often hinders effective decision-making, resulting in adverse effects. Besides personal factors, external factors can also affect people's careers. According to Assenga (2019), cited from Najar et al. (2018), careers are influenced by multiple factors, including personality, interests, self-concept, cultural identity, globalization, socialization, role models, social support, and available resources such as information and finances. These factors can create opportunities for positive career changes, depending on how individuals navigate them.

**Setyawan; Basuki: I Want To Be Famous: A Screenplay About
How Change And Chance Can Impact People's Career**

Williams (2021) offered hope by suggesting that while some decisions cannot be reversed, recovery is possible through adaptability and resilience. Accepting and learning from mistakes, as advocated by Bright and Pryor (2011), serves as a crucial step in this process. By acknowledging mistakes and striving for improvement, individuals can recover from negative changes. Thus, it is essential to understand the potential impact of underestimating 'change and chance' moments in career development. Through adaptability and resilience, individuals can navigate challenges and emerge stronger from setbacks.

For my creative work, I decided to use a female character as the protagonist. Women, especially as public figures on social media, often gain fame more easily than men due to their expressiveness and ability to attract diverse audiences (Aleksandra, 2016). The story revolves around Catherine, a public figure trying to advance her career in the entertainment industry. Catherine wants to build a career as an influencer by creating content. Initially successful, she begins to mimic her idol's path, leading to copying content and underestimating the risks, ultimately jeopardizing her career.

For the statement of the problem of my creative work, I aim to explore how underestimating change and chance can impact someone's career and how to handle the consequences of those decisions. Specifically, this creative work investigates the causes of Catherine's career downfall and the methods she employs to rebuild her career. The creative work seeks to demonstrate that underestimating change and chance can dramatically impact one's career and to show how someone can recover by being adaptable and resilient.

The purpose of my creative work is to illustrate how underestimating change and chance can significantly affect someone's career and to depict the recovery process from such impacts. Through the creative work, I intend to show that Catherine ruins her career by taking wrong chances on her career journey and later rebuilds it by adapting to changes and demonstrating resilience. By highlighting Catherine's journey, the work emphasizes the importance of thoughtful decision-making and the potential for growth despite facing setbacks.

This creative work aims to empower individuals with foresight to navigate their choices, handle consequences, and ideally prevent future regrets. Additionally, it offers pathways for recovery after missteps and serves as an inspirational guide for adaptability and resilience.

Theory and Methodology

The theory that I am going to use for my creative work is chaos theory in the field of careers. Summarized from Amazon (n.d.), Robert Pryor is one of the co-founders of the chaos theory of careers, along with Jim Bright. The chaos theory of careers is a theory that recognizes that change and chance influence our lives and career development as much as stable factors like our ability and personality do. It argues against the set principles of traditional career guidance and looks for a new way of tackling the subject that is more in line with the society we live in. According to Career Counseling (n.d.), traditional career guidance means that careers are linear, predictable, and stable. According to Pryor and Bright (2003), the only certainty in a world of chaos is uncertainty, and the theory emphasizes the importance of being adaptable and resilient and living on what they call the "edge of chaos." From this sentence, it shows that even though there will always be an unpredictable outcome in our careers, there will always be ways to get it through by being adaptable and resilient with the situation. Being adaptable and resilient itself is by facing the consequences and keeping moving on by making a new decision for a new path in their life. Talking about edge of chaos, Pryor and Bright (2003) says that edge of chaos refers to the state where individuals are on the boundary between order and chaos,

where things are neither too stable nor too unpredictable. At the edge of chaos, people experience challenges that promote learning, creativity, and adaptation, allowing them to navigate and thrive in complex and uncertain environments. Pryor and Bright (2003) also say that learning from mistakes and accepting changes are also ways to face the consequences. From that, it can be said that there will always be ways to get through it.

Underestimating change and chance can have profound and unpredictable impacts on one's career is the concept I learnt from chaos theory in the fields of careers, and I intend to make it the base principle of my creative work. According to Pryor and Bright (2011), this understanding of chaos theory is frequently associated with the principle that perturbations in a complex system can lead to significant career consequences, or it can be also said that small changes can affect people's career significantly. While chaos theory refrains from passing judgment on the significance of these changes, it remains a central theme within the context of careers. GÜN (2021) claimed that in nonlinear systems such as career behavior, events that are considered minor or insignificant and unplanned can have significant effects on career development. This shows that the idea that minor decisions or actions in change and chance, can trigger transformative and unexpected career developments vividly illustrates how sensitivity to initial conditions can result in significant changes within career trajectories. This core concept has found its way into various contexts, including literature, films, and discussions exploring the interconnectedness of events and choices in the realm of careers and the broader world.

Talking about change and chance itself specifically, Sindt (2003) based on John Krumboltz (1999), claims that chance or unplanned events do have a place in the career-planning process. Sindt (2003) also claims that she has had a moment where a chance influenced her career as she now currently becomes a writer for Next Wave. She says that the moment was when she took the chance to attend a Next Wave gathering a number of years ago and that little adventure of her sparked a series of events that led to her writing this column. Her curiosity about the initial event spurred her to take the risk and attend, even though She was uncertain how the evening would turn out. She was optimistic that it might be fun; little did she know where it would lead. For change itself, Sahu (2019) claims that by embracing change, we open the door to opportunity and with opportunity comes success. Not only that, maybe when people are stuck in a rut, or a situation where it feels as if they are going nowhere, they need to embrace negative change and welcome new beginnings. From the quotation of Sahu and the story of Sindt, It can be concluded that no matter how small that chance is, taking a chance and embracing changes, for better or worse, could significantly affect people's lives , especially when it comes to career aspects.

I am going to use this theory from the point of view of the main character, Catherine, to answer how underestimating change and chance impact her career's life, which is her not thinking and not taking the risk of her action seriously which turns out to make her career turn upside down. This theory will also answer how she is going to get through the consequences by facing the reality and keep moving on, which is to fix and recover from her mistake. Not only that, I also want to use this theory to show that change and chance could show a positive way through the story and the dialogue between the main character and the other character..

I conducted secondary research for this thesis, gathering information from articles and journals about chaos theory and the impact of underestimating change and chance on careers. This research ensures the accuracy of the information and solutions presented in my screenplay. The steps I followed in creating the screenplay include deciding on the topic, selecting the genre, choosing the creative work form, developing the entire storyline, and finally writing the screenplay.

**Setyawan; Basuki: I Want To Be Famous: A Screenplay About
How Change And Chance Can Impact People's Career**

This creative thesis aims to demonstrate how underestimating change and chance can significantly impact careers and how individuals can recover from these impacts through adaptability and resilience. Through this screenplay, I hope to raise awareness about the potential consequences of underestimating change and chance in one's career and inspire those who have made missteps to persevere and create new paths in their careers.

CONCEPT OF THE CREATIVE WORK

The screenplay for my creative work is in the drama genre, which often portrays characters dealing with everyday struggles, such as relationship, family, and financial issues (Hellerman, 2019). This genre allows for a deep exploration of real-life situations and human emotions. My screenplay centers on decision-making, specifically focusing on the tendency to underestimate change and chance, particularly in career aspects. This theme is less commonly explored in Indonesian drama films, which typically emphasize friendship, family, or romantic problems.

Inspired by "*Milea: Suara dari Dilan*" (2020) by Pidi Baiq, which depicts the complexities of relationships and unexpected plot twists, my screenplay also aims to capture the intricate dynamics of human motivations and conflicts. The pivotal moment in "*Milea: Suara dari Dilan*" where Dilan ignores Milea's advice, leading to significant consequences, highlights how pivotal decisions can impact one's life, an idea that strongly influences my work.

In terms of genre codes and conventions, characters in drama screenplays are often depicted with deep psychological conflicts and choices (McConnell, 2021). My protagonist, Catherine, is a public figure aspiring for fame, whose life spirals into chaos due to her underestimation of critical moments. Her story is enriched by the supporting characters of her family and friends. The screenplay is set in West Jakarta, Indonesia, with scenes occurring in malls, studios, and homes. The story unfolds in March 2024 during the rainy season, a period marked by the significant influence of social media on careers. Catherine's journey is shaped by the consequences of her careless decisions, facing rumors and betrayal from her friend, which mirrors real-life challenges faced by individuals today.

Theme

The theme of this creative work is that even if change and chance can drastically impact people's career lives, there are still ways to overcome these challenges. The creative work demonstrates how unexpected shifts and opportunities, while potentially disruptive, do not have to determine one's ultimate success or failure. Through thoughtful decision-making, adaptability, and resilience, individuals can navigate these pivotal moments effectively. The screenplay component vividly illustrates how characters face and surmount career obstacles, emphasizing the possibility of recovery and growth despite adverse circumstances. This work aims to show that while change and chance are powerful forces, they can be managed and even harnessed to create positive career outcomes.

Plot

The premise of my creative work is that Catherine, a public figure striving for fame, learns that underestimating moments of change and chance can significantly impact her career, compelling her to adapt and recover from her mistakes. The design principle of my creative work is that I will show how underestimating change and chance could make a big impact on someone's career by letting the main character experience it herself and show how she is going

to recover from it.. The logline of my creative work is Catherine, a public figure, wanting to be famous, is learning how underestimating chance could turn her life into chaos and what to do to recover from it.

For the flow of the story, I will put the pitch paragraph below.

a. Catherine is a public figure who wants to be more famous like her idol, Claire, by creating content on social media.

b. However, life is not going like Catherine's expectation, instead, she faces a big problem that ruins her career because she underestimates the moments of change and chance when she decides to continue to just copy and paste her idol's content while she already knew the consequences.

c. Catherine learns a lot of things during this moment of her life, mostly from her own experience with her friends and by the mistakes she made, but with that, Catherine also learns how to handle the consequences of the situation and that experience makes her stronger and better as a person.

In summary, Catherine, a public figure in the entertainment industry, strives to achieve fame like her idol by copying content. Her ignorance and underestimation leads to a career crisis, forcing her to confront the consequences and find a way to recover and rebuild her career. Through her journey, Catherine learns the significance of making thoughtful decisions and handling the consequences with resilience.

Characters

Main Character:

Catherine Wijaya, a 23 years old Chinese woman with long, dark-black hair and wears glasses. Her hairstyle is a Japanese style ponytail. She is really creative and energetic and her creativity in creating content makes her popular in social media. As she becomes more popular, she sometimes ignores things she thinks are not important because she is confident in her abilities and just keeps going doing everything that she can do to achieve her goals.

Side Character:

Junfui, a 24 years old Chinese man with short dark hair and wears glasses. He is an introverted person but has a good attitude and is wise. He is not an energetic type of person but still a hardworking person. He is a man who has been acknowledged by Catherine in terms of his skills in editing and managing social media and he always can give best solutions whenever there are problems. He always works hard to help Catherine achieve her dreams.

Mona Saraswati, a 23 years old Chinese girl who has a luxurious lifestyle. She has long black hair. She is an extroverted person who likes to get attention from people. She is also a talkative person and very girly. She has been a friend of Catherine since Catherine became popular and always tries to get into Catherine's Instagram story or feeds in order to make her own account popular. When she befriended Catherine, she always wanted to surpass Catherine and become more famous than her.

Claire Eleanor, a 48 years old famous actress who is also a content creator and a selebgram. She is tall and has long blonde hair. She is also kind and humble. In the past, she played a pirate movie, becoming the main character, Catherine idolizing her until the present day. Despite her popularity, Claire is a person with a very good attitude and likes to care for other people. She also has a calm voice and positive vibes.

**Setyawan; Basuki: I Want To Be Famous: A Screenplay About
How Change And Chance Can Impact People's Career**

Jaya Wijaya, a 54 years old Chinese man with spiky hair. He is Catherine's father. He is calm and friendly. As a father, he loves Catherine as much as he loves his wife. He is also a hard worker but also a funny man. He loves to spend time with his family even though he is still busy since his family is his first priority.

Risa Valencia, a 50 years old Chinese woman with medium black hair. She is Catherine's mother. She is an introverted type of person. Even though she is an introverted kind of person, when it comes to her family, she becomes a very caring person and even talkative. She loves Catherine as much as she loves her husband. She sometimes likes to do random things to make the situation not tense.

Mr. Randall, a 52 years old man. He is a CEO from a big entertainment company. He's a calm and open minded person. He is ambitious but also reasonable. Even when Catherine is facing a scandal, he does not care about what people say and does his own research to find the truth. He is also a man who appreciates skill and talent without looking at the status of that person.

Mr. Clint, a 45 years old man. He's the one who offers Catherine a photoshoot. He has a unique kind of fashion and uses glasses. He is a chill and funny guy but acts kinda like a girl. Despite his girly attitude, he has a very good taste in terms of design and fashion. He also has the talent to do modeling.

Mrs. Sandra, a 42 years old woman. She's the one who interviews Catherine on a talk show about scandals. She is a woman with medium hair and gives out mocking vibes. She's a woman who loves gossip and likes to talk a lot. When it comes to gossip, she really loves to dig more and even heat things up just to satisfy her curiosity about the gossip.

Conflict

The type of conflict that happens in my creative work is Man vs. Man. According to Thompson (2018), Man vs Man is a conflict that often plays out between a protagonist and his or her antagonist although it can also appear between friends or acquaintances as well. I do think that my creative work will perfectly suit with this type of conflict since I want to focus on Catherine's life especially her interactions with other where it will also triggers to show how Catherine's underestimation of change and chance could make a great impact on her life, especially her career and how Catherine is going to handle the consequences of her own mistakes. Specifically said, this story is about Catherine vs her friends and people in social media in order to fix and recover from the mistakes she made.

CONCLUSION

In summary, change and chance play pivotal roles in career development, often underestimated and leading to significant consequences. Thoughtful decision-making during these moments is crucial for shaping success and preventing failure. Overconfidence and a lack of careful navigation can result in negative outcomes. Factors such as personality, social support, and available resources significantly influence career trajectories. Understanding these influences enables individuals to better manage their careers. Adaptability and resilience are key for overcoming setbacks and turning challenges into growth opportunities.

This thesis highlights the importance of recognizing and thoughtfully engaging with moments of change and chance in career development. The screenplay serves as a narrative tool to explore these themes, using the slice-of-life drama genre to realistically depict the impact of underestimating critical moments. Through this thesis and screenplay, I aim to emphasize the importance of being aware of these moments in life, particularly in one's career, and to demonstrate that recovery from mistakes is always possible.

During my thesis journey, I gained valuable insights into both my theoretical framework and practical applications. This process broadened my understanding, allowing me to refine my conclusions and view my topic from different perspectives. Additionally, I learned new screenplay writing techniques, such as structuring narratives, developing characters, and effectively conveying messages through dialogue and visual storytelling. These skills have enriched my thesis and enhanced my ability to create compelling screenplays, providing a profound educational and transformative experience.

Regarding my future plans, I intend to share my screenplay with industry connections to gather feedback and refine my work. Their insights will be crucial for identifying strengths and areas for improvement. If the feedback is positive, I will explore opportunities for publication or production, aiming to bring my screenplay to life through traditional publishing routes or collaborations with producers. With dedication, I hope to see my creative vision realized on screen.

For those interested in exploring chaos theory in careers further, I recommend using my thesis and creative work as references to understand the practical applications of chaos theory and its impact on career development. These resources provide a deeper understanding of the unpredictable and interconnected nature of careers, offering a solid foundation for personal growth and academic research. Those pursuing their dreams or researching chaos theory can benefit from my thesis, guiding further studies and expanding the theoretical framework.

REFERENCES

- Aleksandra. (2016, October 25). Gender and social media. *Social Media Psychology*.
<https://socialmediapsychology.eu/2016/10/22/gender-and-social-media/>
- Amazon. (n.d.). Jim bright: Books, biography, latest update. (n.d.). Amazon.co.uk.
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/author/B0034Q8YTG/about>
- Amazon. (n.d.). Robert Pryor: Books, biography, latest update. (n.d.). Amazon.co.uk.
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/author/B003Y1LH7W/about>
- Assenga, S. J. (2019). Social Perspective Factors Influencing Career Decision Of Post Graduate Students At The Open University Of Tanzania.
<https://repository.out.ac.tz/3003/1/STEVEN%20JEROME%20ASSENGA%20tyr.pdf>
- Career Counseling (2023, September 29). What are the differences between traditional and modern career development models? LinkedIn.
<https://www.linkedin.com/advice/3/what-differences-between-traditional-modern-career#:~:text=Traditional%20career%20development%20models%20are,sequence%20of%20stages%20or%20steps>
- GÜN, G. (2021). A study of the chaos theory for careers. *Journal of International Social Research*, 14((76-6)), 633-641. <https://doi.org/10.17719/jisr.11496>
- Hellerman, J. (2019, October 7). Explore the drama genre in film and television. No Film School. <https://nofilmschool.com/drama-genre-film-and-television>
- McConnell, S. (2021, April 9). How to write a drama screenplay. Medium.
<https://medium.com/@scottm100/how-to-write-a-drama-screenplay-781043480efe>

Setyawan; Basuki: I Want To Be Famous: A Screenplay About
How Change And Chance Can Impact People's Career

- Radhakrishnan, T. R. (2019, November 21). Importance of decision making in life. LinkedIn.
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/importance-decision-making-life-radhakrishnan-ramac-handran/>
- Pryor, R. G., & Bright, J. (2003). The chaos theory of careers. *Australian Journal of Career Development*, 12(3), 12-20. <https://doi.org/10.1177/103841620301200304>
- Pryor, R., & Bright, J. (2011). *The chaos theory of careers: A new perspective on working in the twenty-first century*. Taylor & Francis.
- Sahu, S. (2019, October 5). Choices, chances, and changes – THREE ‘C’s that can change your life !!! Unsophisticated Articles.
<https://unsophisticatedonline.wordpress.com/2019/10/05/choices-chances-and-changes-t-hree-cs-that-can-change-your-life/>
- Sindt, K. (2003, January 3). Career Choices: The Importance of Chance.
<https://www.science.org/content/article/career-choices-importance-chance>
- Thompson, T. (2018, August 23). Decoding the six conflicts in literature (With examples). ServiceScape.
<https://www.servicescape.com/blog/decoding-the-six-conflicts-in-literature-with-examples>
- Tsipursky, G. (2023, March 16). How Effective Decision Making Can Make Or Break Your Career. Forbes.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/glebtsipursky/2023/03/16/how-effective-decision-making-can-make-or-break-your-career/?sh=420408985b12>
- Williams, L. (2021, April 13). How to recover from a bad decision. LinkedIn.
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/how-recover-from-bad-decision-olamide-williams/>