

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents six points related to this study. It consists of background of the study, formulation of research problem, the purpose of the study, significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is one of the easiest means to convey the knowledge, messages, culture, artistic, values of life, even languages to the world. Long (2016) stated that literature is the beauty and art that attracts human attention as the reflection of life in the world. In a narrow sense, literature is an artistic record of life. It is the result of imaginative thought, ideas, creativity, expression, emotion, even histories and sciences that poured into works then enjoyed by society. As stated by Krystal (2014) that literary works are not only what is written but also about what is expressed, created, and articulated in whatever form that able to bring sensitivity and harmony to the human soul. Literary works could be universal and permanent so it will be memorized even learned by people from various civilizations. If the works are popular, it also could become something legendary.

Literary works are divided into two types; they are fiction and nonfiction. Fiction work means an imaginative story of the author or narrative work that does not contains historical truth or true stories. Meanwhile, nonfiction is the work that made from the

results of scientific studies and experiences. Prose, poem, novel, and drama or plays are including the kinds of fiction works. While, nonfiction works consist of essays, autobiography, biography, literary criticism, etc. Long (1999: 3) stated that literary work could open the readers' intelligence to know the essence of cultural, moral, political, artistic, and education field. Literature adequate to unify these aspects and could be part of various fields in human life, including education. In educational frame,

literature help students in improving their critical thinking, social attitude and impression, universal cultures, also their personal growth (Janssen, 2016). In fact, one of the literary works that commonly found and easy to be learned by students and society is a movie, because it is the most familiar literary work in human everyday life.

The movie is one of fiction works in oral form that commonly played around two hours on television or cinemas. Voice recording and photography are main mixtures of various technology that form the movie. Rabiger (2009) defines that movie is a medium in a form of videos that are started or produced in a real idea, then it must contain entertainment and meaning elements inside it. It is a storytelling work delivered by actors and actresses to portray every character in it (Kennedy et. al., 1995). Through the movie people could get more than one artistic element; they are visual and sound or audio. Indirectly these elements brought a lot of knowledge that could be gain from people, especially students to help their learning process. Audio or sound of the movie would help their listening skill improved, also if there is a subtitle inside people could increase their reading skill. Through visual elements, people who watch the movie

would take the lesson from the content of the movie that is delivered by characters, because the movie is a reflection of human life.

Moreover, Aristotle (n.d.) stated there are some basic elements of fiction work including movie; they are setting, theme, point of view, character, and plot. In a fiction work plot is the one that causes the conflict appear because it revealed every event that happens in a movie. Conflict itself means instability between one person against another person or group that raises the disagreement in a relationship, especially in terms of opinion and circumstances (Kenney, 1966). The conflict has three parts of action structure; starting from rising action, climax, and falling action that could be called denouement (Aristotle, n.d.). The quality of these structures would determine spectators' reactions. If the conflict full of twists, they would be interested. Meanwhile, if the conflict is flat spectators would be bored.

Here, conflict consists of several kinds. According to Perrine (1988: 42), conflicts are divided into three types; there are the main character who is competing against another man called physical conflict, man against environment means social conflict, and man against their internal element or man against himself called psychological conflict. These kinds of conflicts would categorize which one that faced by the characters in a movie, only one or could be all of them. Through the conflict, the run of a story in a movie would be built. A movie is not movie without conflict inside it.

Basically human could enjoy the entertainment but the value will never forgotten. As stated by Andriamella (n.d) that the movie makers are create films not just to be enjoyed by society, but they would like to deliver something to be learned such as

psychological, conflict, experience, moral lesson, educational values, etc. It means that after spectators watch the movie until the end, they are wishes to be able to take the values from the story. In this case, the researcher focus on educational values that could be taken from conflicts faced by the main character, because educational values are easily understood from various ages from children to adults, and they also could imitate and apply the value of education conveyed by the character, both through the character's dialogues and deeds in their real life. Experiencing conflict then able to solve it is the best teacher to take a precious messages that could be learned by people in the future.

Educational value is human process to learn anything not only from school but also from the environment around, such as organizations, social life, another man, mediums, also another sources (Andriamella, n.d.). Formed by two words, '*education*' and '*value*', values could be concluded after people read or watch the fiction work until finish. R.K. Mukerjee (1949) state that value is the situation where people rank something related to goodness and badness, or lightness and darkness that portrayed by everything in the world. In this case, the one who holds a big role to make the conflict runs well is character, especially the main character because he or she is the most often appear in the movie and become a clarity of the story. Furthermore, after spectators watch the movie until the end and found conflicts faced by the main character, they would be able to take values from the story.

The main character is involved in the story, interacts with secondary characters, and personally impacted by the plot's main conflict. He/she serve the different functions

in the movie. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995), main character is the most priority figure in a story contained in novels or other related stories. The main character is a figure most often told and highlighted in a story, whether in terms of actors and in terms of perpetrators who were subject of events in a story. Main character classified in major character, which is divided into two types, they are protagonist and antagonist. Protagonist is the lead character of the story, while antagonist is the one who against protagonist.

Here, the researcher choose Little Women movie to be analyzed. The first reason is this movie was adapted from the novel based on true story written by Louissa May Alcott published twice in 1868 and 1869 that tell about live story of four young women who lived simply in Concord, Massachusetts during American Civil War era. This movie not only telling about love, family, and dream, but also about these young women who must facing gender stereotype in socio-cultural construction and social class in their environment and society. This movie contains a lot of lesson related to women fight to have the same right as men (gender equality) in social life especially in order to reach the dream, to get knowledge and find a job; both for men and women. The second, Little Women movie directed by Greta Gerwig also included in six nominations in OSCARS Prize on February 10, 2020, and one of them won in the Best Costume Design category. The third, Little Women movie directed by Greta Gerwig is the seventh adaptation of Little Women novel. The fourth, this is an inspiring movie which not only provide fictional entertainment but also deliver the story that relevant to the real life of society; which is in fact racism toward women is still exist until today.

This movie also inserts several educational message that can be implemented into social environment. From these reason, it could be seen that the quality of this story and movie could not be hesitated.

Briefly, *Little Women* tells about four sibling girls (the beautiful: Meg March, the boyish: Josephine March, an artistic girl: Amy March, a shy girl: Beth March) who live on American Civil War era in Massachusetts around 1861-1868. They have a father who works as a soldier and join a war for a long time. These four '*Little Women*' live in their simple house with Marmee (their mother) only. In their period, women must be obey the rules that made by men. In their culture, a young women must always looks beautiful, graceful, gentle, also must often join the party to looking for a rich man and marry him so their life will be guaranteed. Or the girls were allowed to spend their entire life without married if they had been rich since they were child (because of having inheritance). But, these four "*Little Women*" has the different mindset, and the most prominent is the second daughter named *Josephine March*.

Josephine March is a boyish girl and can be said as a young feminist at that time. Instead of being a housewife (as culture in her era), Josephine March choose to set her own life-path to reach her dream, to be a career women; to be a writer of best-seller book. She was inspired by her mother, who was able to care of four children alone without the help of their father. Starting from here, Josephine thought that women also have the strength to stand on their own feet without relying on men; including deserve to get an equal right in social life because women in her era were prohibited to go to school, to find a job, to make money, etc. Josephine March feels that women always

become a victim of racism and discrimination in their entire life. She hates to be unfree just because of constrained by rules and norms prevailing. In this movie, Josephine attempt to break the patriarchal culture that restrained at that time by struggling to achieve her ambition to be a writer (career women) while being a part time teacher. Unfortunately, that ambition always underestimated and rejected by her surrounding people because it's opposing their social culture, so it causing upheavals of conflicts appear in Josephine March's life.

There are several things that distinguish this study from previous research, the first is a thesis by Sundari (2015) entitled "*A Study of R.A. Kartini's Conflicts in Letters of Javanese Princess translated by Agnes Louis Symmers*". This thesis talks about social and psychological conflict of R.A. Kartini's booked letter. It also reveal about R.A. Kartini's contribution regarding education especially for Indonesian women. The second is a thesis by Kusmayati (2017) entitled "*Educational Values found in the '3 IDIOTS' Movie Directed by Rajkumar Hirani*". Here, the researcher talks about educational values that analyzed based on KEMENDIKNAS (18 values) and she classified values that found into Intelligent Quotients (IQ), Emotional Quotients (EQ), and Spiritual Quotients (SQ). These two previous study would led the researcher to conduct this research about conflict and educational values.

Therefore, the researcher chooses the title "***A Study of the Main Character's Conflict and Its Educational Values in 'Little Women' Movie***" because through conflicts faced by the main character, there were found a lot of struggle messages

especially educational values conveyed by Josephine March that can be used as learning life by people in true life. She is a unique and inspiring character who dare to boost human civilization in her era and never give up to reach her dreams, equalize women's rights, also voice out that racism and discrimination toward women must be stopped even though the world against her. Her modern thought causes conflicts appear in her life, and conflicts here influence the whole story also deliver several educational values so that it is interesting to be analyzed.

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher could identify the following research problems:

1. What are reasons of conflict experienced by the main character?
2. What are kinds of conflicts faced by the main character?
3. How are the conflicts solved by the main character?
4. What are educational values portrayed by conflicts faced by the main character?

C. The Purpose of the Study

Based on the problems mentioned previously, this research has objectives as stated below:

1. To investigate reasons of conflict experienced by the main character.
2. To describe what kinds of conflicts faced by the main character.
3. To explain how conflicts solved by the main character.

4. To reveal educational values portrayed by conflicts faced by the main character.

D. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution toward the improvement of knowledge related to literary work, especially in analyzing movie. Through watching movie spectators will be easy to reflect from the main character's survive to solve her problems so they are expected to be able to practice it in real life if they faced the similar problem.

The researcher hopes that the study will enrich a collection of literary study in IAIN Tulungagung's library. She also hopes it will encourage the students of English Department in IAIN Tulungagung to study or analyze literary work deeply and realize that the works of literature are also important in education so they can relate with human life.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is limited to the study or analysis of the movie entitle "*Little Women*". While the limitation of the study is the main character's conflict in "*Little Women*" movie.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of some words in this research, it is important to give some explanations or definitions as follows:

1. Conflict

Conflict means an event where there was a fight or a problem that faced by individual or a group of people. Perrine (1988:42) stated that there are three kinds of conflicts; they are social conflict, physical conflict, and psychological conflict.

2. Main Character

The main character is the point of view or the one who take a biggest role to build the story. Main character include in major character, and usually the character is protagonist.

3. Movie

Movie means a literary work in the form of moving picture series that is played to produce a story aims to entertain viewers. Movie or film is including nonfiction literary works in oral form.

4. Little Women

Little Women is a movie adapted by a novel with the same title wrote by Louisa May Alcott in 1968-1869 at Concord, Massachusetts. This movie was directed by Greta Gerwig and produced by Amy Pascal, Denise Di Novi, Robin Swicord in United States. It was released twice, the first is on December 7, 2019 at MoMA (Museum of Modern Art) and the second is on December 25, 2019 (United States).