

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This section discusses background of the research, statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is a medium that describes the expression of human thought, and this medium can be used as an access to gain skills in literary analysis (Nurhayati, 2014). Literary works are divided into two types, namely instructive literature and creative literature. Instructive literature (non-fiction) describes facts, history, explanations, reality, and beautiful figures of life, while imaginative literature (fiction) is fantasy using connotative language, the art of imagination, and aesthetic art.

Branche (2017) stated that written literature and movie have a close and complex relationship. Movies are often adapted from literary works, be it novels, poems, or plays. However, the relationship between the two is not only unidirectional. Some movies create their own literary style by focusing on the lives of famous authors or by adopting certain cinematography, direction, dialog, or editing to create a aesthetic literary or poetic. Thus, literature and movie inspire each other and open up infinite imaginary worlds for their audiences.

Klarer (in Narudin, 2017) states that movies are included in the type of literary works because all kinds of movie presentation modes correspond to the features of literary texts and can also be explained in a textual framework. Regarding character development, Emeliya (2017) asserted that learning through literature became essential in Education. Because of literature, learning about the past, expanding knowledge, and comprehending the world are possible. Similar to the other literary works, films are divided into various genres. In fact, there are more film genres than the written ones. Movies not only show uniqueness in terms of the story, but also through the way it is delivered using motion pictures. Movies can not only be used as a means of entertainment, it can also be used as a means of criticism, propaganda, advertising something and even for political purposes depending on what message they want to convey. Intriguing methods of motivating language learners and teachers can also be inspired by the movie's plot (Nurhayati, 2016).

When it comes to the plot, the same narrative can be told in a variety of various ways through both written literature and play. In works of written literature, the writer will utilize language to illustrate the internal workings of the characters, whereas in dramatic performances, the characters will be shown by their actions. In works of fiction, narration is almost always done in the third person, whereas in dramatic works, it is almost always done in a linear form. Because of this, the plots of stories told in play and written literature might diverge even when they originate from the same source. On the other hand, these distinctions have the potential to provide the audience and the readers fresh and fascinating points of view (Styan, 2023). When we talk about the plot of a movie, of course, we also study the

complete story line, including things like cause and effect, as well as the ways in which events might be connected to each other so that the story and characters evolve in such a way (Frisella, 2017).

Studying the plot of a play or other work of literature may always be quite beneficial. The issue has been observed by numerous researchers in previous studies. A significant instance that illustrates this concept is the academic contribution made by Aryom Ertriary (2021) in the field of research. The present study titled "Plot Analysis in Spongebob Movie: Spongebob on the Run" employs a qualitative descriptive approach to examine the narrative structure of an animated film within the genre. Based upon Gustav Freytag's theoretical framework, the researcher identifies and characterizes five distinct plot elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Irma Yuliana (2014) conducted a study entitled "The Analysis of Plot of Murder Revelation in Sandra Brown's Novel *Low Pressure*", that is another example of research on plot analysis. The study revealed findings where the researcher identified and described five distinct stages of the story, employing Freytag's theoretical framework for analysis and description. Afterwards, the following fifteen details are presented, explaining the story path of the murder reveal within the literary work entitled "*Low Pressure*" written by Sandra Brown.

Certainly, the plot also determines the chronological order of events in a story. According to the academic research conducted by Iga Putri A. and R.R Dyah W. P. (2022), which was published in a journal titled "*Analisis Plot dalam Film Lola*

Rennt (1998) Karya Tom Tykwer”. This study aims to describe the staging of the plot. In analyzing and describing the data, they applied Tasrif's theory. So that it revealed the results of the analysis of plot staging based on the time criteria, there are five, namely: 1). Situation, 2). Generating circumstances, 3). Rising action, 4). Climax, 5). and Denouement. And also, the results of the study in the discussion, the researcher stated that the movie has a straight or progressive plot with a plot scheme that forms a sequential series of events from the beginning to the end of the story.

The plot of a play or written work can be analyzed with various theoretical studies. According to Frisella (2017), there are several theoretical studies that are often used, such as Freytag's Pyramid, Booker's Meta-Plot (Booker's seven basic plots), or you can also use Campbell's Hero's Journey theory, which was later simplified by Christopher Vogler, and there are still several other theoretical studies. And from some of the previous studies above, along with information about some of the theories used to analyze the plot of a literary work, the writer finds several reasons why this research is worth doing. First, the writer has not found a scientific work that analyzes the plot of the movie *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. The writer also discovered differences between this study and three studies cited previously, specifically in terms of the use of theoretical frameworks. In this analysis of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* movie plot, the writer employs the hero's journey theory, which differs from the previous two studies that utilized Freytag's pyramid theory. And the third study used Tasrif's theory. Additionally, it should be noted that the three previously mentioned studies only present a description of the various plot structures employed within the story. In the following

section, the writer not only provides an identification and description of the plot, but also shows that the elements in the analyzed plot have an influence on the heroic transformation of Evelyn Quan Wang (played by Michelle Yeoh) as the lead of the story.

Everything Everywhere All at Once was chosen by the writer as a research subject because of its interesting plot and combines elements from various movie genres including absurdist fiction, drama-comedy, science fiction, fantasy, immigrant narrative, martial arts, and a little bit of animation. The 2023 Oscar-winning Best Original Screenplay, written by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert and co-produced by Jonathan Wang, Anthony, and Joe Russo, is a film capturing the life of Chinese-American immigrant Michelle Yeoh, who, while being audited by the US IRS, discovers that she must connect with a parallel universe version of herself in order to stop a powerful being from destroying the multiverse. As the story grows, audiences are exposed to a wide range of absurdities, as well as the uniqueness of the portrayal of the parallel universe, which absolutely deserves more analysis.

An observer film critic, Mark Kermode (2022), wrote his personal review and opinion on The Guardian website about the movie and stated that the movie has crazy innovation and insane visual intelligence, combined with a real emotional slap, which blockbuster franchises often fail to deliver. The level of satisfaction gained from a movie is positively correlated with its level of interest. This is due to

the developing function of movies, which are now not only regarded as sources of entertainment but also as educational tools.

The movie “Everything, Everywhere, All at Once” was chosen for the study due to its high quality and Michelle Yeoh’s impressive performance. It’s relevant to the Hero’s Journey Theory as it depicts Evelyn’s journey through the "multiverse," providing rich context for analysis. The complex plot offers ample material for analysis and serves as an effective English learning tool, aiding in understanding language usage. Therefore, the writer intends to compile a study entitled "*A Multidimensional Hero’s Journey: Exploring the Plot of Everything Everywhere All at Once Movie*".

B. Statement of the Research Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the research problems can be formulated as follows:

1. What are the plot stages of the movie "*Everything Everywhere All at Once*"?
2. How is the multidimensional hero’s journey presented in the plot of the movie "*Everything Everywhere All at Once*"?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research problem, the purpose of the research are:

1. To find out the plot stages of the movie “*Everything Everywhere All at Once*”.
2. To analyze the multidimensional hero’s journey presented in the plot of the movie "*Everything Everywhere All at Once*".

D. Significances of the Research

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research is beneficial for helping readers comprehend the plot of the film *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. Furthermore, this study has the potential to improve knowledge in the field of literature through the offering of benchmarks and guidelines. These resources can serve as valuable references for researchers conducting similar studies.

2. For the Readers and Teachers

The writer expresses the hope that this study will contribute to enhancing the readers' and teachers' appreciation of literature, including plot development and its various aspects. It is expected to be valuable in the context of increasing learning the English language.

3. For the Students

In particular, the writer believes that this analysis will provide insight into the film's plot and its various phases. This is also meant to inspire students to come up with new ideas so that they can be more creative in the future.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In order to avoid the deviation from the purpose of this study, this study focuses only to analyze the plot that contained in the movie *Everything Everywhere All at Once* by the Daniels.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

1. Plot

A plot is the sequence of interconnected events within a story, such as a play, novel, film, or other narrative literary work. More than simply an account of what happened, the plot reveals the cause-and-effect relationships between the events that occur. The plot of a story explains not just what happens, but how and why the major events of the story take place. Plot is a key element of novels, plays, most works of nonfiction, and many poems. One way to understand what a plot is would be to compare it to a story. A story is a series of events; it tells us what happened. A plot, on the other hand, tells us how the events are connected to one another and why the story unfolded in the way that it did. For example, “The king died, and then the queen died” is a story. “The king died, and then the queen died of grief” is a plot. The time-sequence is preserved, but the sense of causality overshadows it.

2. Movie

A movie, also known as a film, is a work of visual art that simulates experiences and communicates ideas, stories, perceptions, feelings, beauty, or atmosphere through the use of moving images. Sound and, less frequently, other sensory stimulations typically accompany these images. The history of film chronicles the development of a visual art form created using film technologies that began in the late 19th century. Movies can be placed into different genres based on their setting, characters, plot, mood, tone, and theme. A film’s main genre category will be based on where the majority of the content lands. A sub-genre is a smaller category that fits within a particular genre. Movies can play a leading role in

education when used appropriately. They can help break down barriers, bring people together, and deliver important messages. So it's important to consider how we can place movies at the heart of young people's learning experiences (Swain, 2013).

3. Hero's Journey

The Hero's Journey is a narrative pattern identified by Joseph Campbell in his book "The Hero with a Thousand Faces". Christopher Vogler, a Hollywood film producer and writer, adapted Campbell's work into a practical guide for screenwriters called "The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers". Vogler's Hero's Journey theory has been widely used in Hollywood movies and has influenced many successful films, including Star Wars, The Lion King, and Harry Potter. It provides a useful framework for writers to structure their stories and create compelling character arcs.

4. Everything Everywhere All at Once

Everything Everywhere All at Once is an American comedy drama film that aired in June 2022. The movie tells the story of a Chinese-American woman named Evelyn Quan Wang. Together with her husband, Waymond, Evelyn runs a laundry business. The business they run is having problems until they are visited by IRS (Internal Revenue Service) agents. In this bad situation, Waymond even tried to divorce Evelyn. The IRS contacted them due to ongoing issues with their laundry business. This triggers Evelyn's ability to access her alternate selves in parallel worlds, leading to a series of verse-jumping events. The movie is split into three parts, mirroring its title: Everything, Everywhere, and All at Once.