

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter present the introduction of the research. It covers the background of the study, the statements of research problems, the objective of the research, the significance of the study, the scope of limitation, the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Literature has been and will always be a part of human life. It allows society to understand different values because “literature is the product of humans’ imagination, thought, emotions, feeling, idea and expression” (Boas as cited in Irene, 2013, p.74). The impact that literature has in modern society is undeniable. “Literature acts as a form of expression for each individual author” (Austin, 2021). Most of literary works mirror the society of the author’ era which leads to better understanding about the values of different society. As an educative source, literature can provide beyond just pleasure and entertainment, it helps students of literature to understand how the world is made and re-made over time throughout history and the shift of the issues of right and wrong (Rainsford, 2014, p.6). Literature works come in many forms and types, one of which is plays and films. Plays and films are categorized as forms of drama in which literary or artistic works are realized through performance or acting (Rainsford, 2014, p.57). Like other forms of literary works, plays and films is a way for an author to tell stories with

series of events in a specific order with beginning, a middle and an end (Bennett and Royle, 2014, p. 53). In today's society, film industry is one of the most influential sectors of modern society. Every film depends on the genre can reflect society and transform opinions. Among many reasons, film can entertain, educate and inspire viewers in many ways. In addition, unlike play and drama, film can reach many people from different background and cultures, making it an extremely powerful source of entertainment.

In general, literary work is a work that is formed from an author's imagination. It is also an expression of the images and events of daily activity directly or indirectly. Literary works have function to entertain or teach something to the readers. The function of this literature can be found in any kind of literary works. Authors appreciate the problem and then pour it into a work of literary fiction. As the work of literature has function to entertain, it can also be a movie. Through movies, humans can learn positive things that will be useful for their future lives. Humans certainly have different goals when watching movies, for example, such as studying foreign languages, understanding foreign cultures, getting information and perspective, and most importantly someone watching a movie for refreshing when they are free. Whatever the reason someone is watching, it is the price for entertainment. Plus at this time that has technological advances along with the internet and also smartphones, humans can watch movies wherever and whenever. According to the Cambridge Dictionary that the movie is a series of moving pictures, often telling a story, usually shown in a theater or on television.

The movie depicts or visualizes a story or conversation on the screen. The movie is a cover story or fantasy, which is included in the relationship related to literature. Wellek and Warren (2014) “Literature is a creative activity, a work of art”, from this statement it can be known and understood that literature and human life are closely related. The development of literature in movies can be seen from the fact that many movies are made based on the story in literature work. There are literary types of elements of fiction, drama and short Story: plot, character, setting, theme, structure, point of view, conflict, diction and foreshadowing of the story (Henderson, 2006). Many approaches to analyzing literature, one of which is analyzing characters; learn how to analyze the characters in the movie. As is known the character is one of the important elements in the movie because without the character of a movie it will not be created. Apart from character, there are two other elements in a work of art that are no less important than character. First, the genre that will be in a writer’s artwork. In movies, the genre is the first thing the audience will look for when watching their favorite movie. There are many types of genres in movies (Burns, 2009). Commonly known genres such as melodrama, horror, comedies, action-adventure, war, romance, history, musicals and the genre of science-fiction (Mariani, 2019). Second, the plot which is the root of the story which will be developed into the movie itself. The plot may be seen by people as the backbone of the story, but we can also question: Who is being told that? Who does something and is subjected to something. “Something” in the plot is called an event, who is the maker of the conflict, etc. Is a matter of character and characterization. The term “character” refers to the person, the actor of the story while the characterization,

refers to the nature and attitude of the characters, more to the personal qualities of a character (Nurgiyantoro, 2013).

The characters in a fiction story can be divided into several types of naming based on the points of view where the naming is done. Based on different points of view, a character can be categorized into several types of naming at once, for example as a main character-protagonist-developing character-typical character. The main focus is on the characters belonging to the “main character”. Nurgiyantoro argues that the main character is the person who tells the story in the story concerned. It is the most widely told character, both as the perpetrators of events and those subject to events. Even in certain stories, the main character is always present in every incident and can be found in each story in question. In a movie one of the important elements is a character. Characters in the movie are a form of depiction of a person or object in a story. In other words, character can be interpreted as a painting or description of a person or object that is displayed in a story. Without characters there would be no Story, without characters there would be no plot. Characters are very capable of capturing the attention and emotions of the viewers so that the emotions of the viewers are involved. The characters make the movie look interesting and alive. A character can be person, animal, or an inanimate. Character and characterization are two things that are related. Characters are a person or object in the story, while characterization is the way to describe or depict the characters in the story. In this case the writer is interested in conducting the

study which is the characterization of the main characters becomes the topic of this study.

The “Joker” movie directed by Todd Phillips is a psychological thriller and character study released in October 2019. It serves as a standalone origin story for the iconic DC Comics supervillain, the Joker. The film explores the transformation of Arthur Fleck, a mentally unstable and marginalized stand-up comedian, into the infamous criminal mastermind known as the Joker. Set in Gotham City during the early 1980s, the movie delves into the gritty and bleak atmosphere of a decaying urban environment. Arthur Fleck, portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix, is a socially awkward and emotionally disturbed individual who faces constant rejection and mistreatment from society. As he grapples with his own mental health struggles and societal pressures, Arthur begins to descend into a downward spiral of violence and chaos. The film draws inspiration from classic character studies and psychological dramas, portraying Arthur’s gradual descent into madness and his transformation into the Joker as a reflection of the societal neglect and mistreatment he has endured. It explores themes of alienation, identity, and the consequences of a society’s failure to address mental health issues and social inequality.

This movie is intriguing to be the target of this research because of certain reasons. “Joker” presents a detailed and thought-provoking character analysis of the legendary supervillain Joker. By diving into the origins of the Joker, the film sheds light on the complexity of human nature, touching on identity, mental health, and social influences. It allows viewers to interact with a complicated and morally ambiguous character while also questioning the line between good and bad. After

seeing this movie, there are various characterizations of the main character and knowledge that may be obtained. The writer knows that most of people watches movie and they can't get the knowledge easily by watching movie without analyzing deeply.

Regarding the analysis of characterization of the main characters, There are some studies that this research employs as the references. Wulansari (2016) "Characterization Analysis of the Main Character of Secret Garden (A Comparative Study of Characterization in The Movie and Novel". The writer use descriptive qualitative research with comparative study to analyze the characterization of Mary Lennox in novel and movie. It is found that, there are some differences ccharacterization Between the novel and the movie. In the novel his body appearance is thin, angry people, and she was shy girl. But in the movie her voice so softly, Friendly, and brave girl.

The second, Asminda (2018) "The Analysis of Maleficent's Characterization as the Main Character in Maleficent Movie by Robert Thromberg". The writer use qualitative and descriptive method. The writer had found Maleficent's characterization, they are : good girl, grumpy, trouble maker, guardian angels, and also a good witch. And also the conflicts as seen in the maleficent movie : Internal conflicts, Maleficent's love was rejected by Stefan. Eternal Conflicts : Conflicts Maleficent with stefan, and conflicts Maleficents with King Henry.

The third, Nurlatifasari (2018) "Characterization Analysis of Main character in Frozen Movie and its Subtitling Strategy". The method in this research is

documentation and also uses the strategy method. The writer had found that, Anna is a lonely and brave girl. Elsa is a strong and introverted girl.

Kristoff is a caring and kind man. Olaf is a funny, naive, and kind creature. There are three translation strategies used in the data in this study, namely transfer (36%), deletion (28 %%), add (12%), paraphrase (8%), decimation (8%), dislocation (4%), and imitation (4%) unlike the previous research, this study aims to analyze the characterization of the main character in the Joker film. The focus on the analysis is on Arthur Fleck or known as Joker. This research analyzes how the character of Arthur Fleck is portrayed in the film through his dialogue and interaction with other characters. The character of Arthur Fleck in the film represents how the treatment someone received growing up will shape the personality of that person and how the interaction with different people can change someone's personality. Understanding a work of literature can expose learners to authentic works. It can also help learners to develop the ability to think critically about different topics and different theoretical perspectives.

This study is going to have the character analysis of the movie "Joker" directed by Todd Phillips. The movie that was published on August 11, 1995. In this research, the researcher focus on analyzing the main character in the "Joker" movie. In this study the researcher using the different movie from the three Previous studies. The researcher is interested to analyze the characterization of Arthur Fleck as the main Characters in "Joker" Movie because a character is much more complex, variable, and ambiguous. So the researcher conduct the research under the title, "An Analysis of Main Character and Characterization in"

Joker” Movie by Todd Phillips”.

B. Statements of Research Problems

In this study, the research questions are made mainly based on the background of the study above. The research questions are as follows :

1. How are the type of the main characters in the “Joker” movie?
2. How are the characterization of the main characters presented in the “Joker” movie?

B. Objectives of Research

Based on the formulation of research problem, the purpose of this study are:

1. To know how are the type of the main characters’ represented in “Joker” movie.
2. To know how are the characterization of the main character in “Joker” movie

D. Significance of the Study

This study will give significance for:

1. Students

The character of Arthur Fleck reflects and critiques various social issues, such as inequality, alienation, and societal marginalization. Through the study of his character, students can develop a deeper understanding of these social issues and their impact on individuals’ mental well-being. This awareness can

inspire students to engage in discussions about social justice, inequality, and the importance of mental health support systems in society.

This analysis can enhance students' skills in media literacy, as they examine cinematic techniques, narrative structure, and character development. It encourages students to think critically about the messages conveyed by the film and how they relate to broader societal issues.

2. Further Researchers

Conducting research on Arthur Fleck's character can contribute to the advancement of knowledge in various fields. Researchers can expand the understanding of mental health, social issues, narrative construction, and audience reception by examining the complexities of the main character. This research can lead to new insights, theories, and perspectives that can be beneficial as a reference for further study about the characters' characterization in the movie.

E. Scope of Limitation of the Study

This study is only taken about the characters' characterization in the movie. In order to make discussion more specific, that is why the writer wants to limit the problems to the main characters' characterization in the "Joker" Movie.

F. Definition of Key Terms

a. Character

A character is a painting or description of a person or object that is displayed in a story. A character can be any person, a figure, an inanimate object, or animal. According to Abrams (1981, as cited in Nurgiyantoro, 2013) characters are people who are displayed in a narrative work, or drama, which the reader interprets as having certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action.

b. Characterization

Characterization is the way the author describes the story of the characters. There are two methods of characterization, dramatic and analytic. The term character refers to the person, the actor of the story while the “characterization”, refers to the nature and attitude of the characters, more to the personal qualities of a character (Nurgiyantoro, 2013).

c. Joker Movie

“Joker” is a 2019 American psychological thriller film directed by Todd Phillips. It is a standalone origin story based on the iconic DC Comics character, the Joker, portrayed by Joaquin Phoenix. The film delves into the backstory of Arthur Fleck, a mentally troubled and socially marginalized individual who transforms into the Joker, a notorious and anarchic supervillain. Set in the gritty and decaying Gotham City of the 1980s, the movie explores Arthur’s descent into madness and his transformation into the Joker. It delves into his struggles with mental illness, his experiences of societal neglect and mistreatment, and the factors that drive him to embrace chaos and violence as a form of rebellion.

against a society he perceives as oppressive. “Joker” is known for its dark and gritty tone, its exploration of sociopolitical themes, and its psychological depth. It received critical acclaim for its direction, cinematography, and Joaquin Phoenix’s mesmerizing performance, which earned him an Academy Award for Best Actor. The film offers a unique and character-driven take on the Joker, emphasizing his humanity and presenting him as a product of societal failings. “Joker” is recognized for its cultural impact, sparking debates and discussions about its portrayal of violence, mental health, and the societal issues it addresses. It is seen as a departure from conventional superhero narratives, exploring darker and more complex themes while providing an origin story for one of the most iconic villains in comic book history.