CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presented Background of the Study, Research Question, Research Objective, Scope and Limitation of Study, Significance of Study, Definition of Key Terms, and Last is Organization of The Study.

A. Background of The Study

Film is an audiovisual medium that presents stories through the combination of visual images, dialogue, sound, and movement. Besides functioning as entertainment, film also portrays human experiences, emotions, and social realities through its narrative. According to Klarer (2004), contemporary literary studies are not limited to written texts but also examine other media, including film.[2] Therefore, films can be analyzed using literary approaches, particularly when the research focuses on narrative aspects such as characters, conflict, and plot rather than technical cinematic elements. Based on this perspective, this study analyzes the Disney Pixar film Inside Out 2015 by focusing on Riley's conflicts and their contribution to her character development.

One of the most interesting aspects to explore is character development because it reveals the changes experienced by a character throughout a story.

[2] Mario Klarer, *An Introduction Literary Studies*, first Edit (New York: Routledge, 1999).56.

Character development refers to the transformation of a character's attitudes, thoughts, behaviors, and perspectives as a result of various experiences encountered during the narrative. According to E. M. Forster, characters may display different levels of complexity, and some characters undergo significant development as the story progresses.[3] Through character development, readers or audiences can observe how a character responds to challenges, learns from experiences, and gradually changes over time. As a result, the analysis of character development helps readers gain a deeper understanding of a character's growth and the meaning conveyed through the story. However, character development does not occur without cause. The changes experienced by a character are often influenced by certain factors that shape their actions, decisions, and perspectives. One of the most significant factors that contributes to character development is conflict, as conflicts frequently become the driving force behind a character's growth and transformation throughout the narrative.

In literary studies, conflict is generally classified into two main types: internal conflict and external conflict. According to William Kenney, conflict is an essential element in a literary work because it creates tension and drives the development of the story.[4] Internal conflict occurs within a character and involves emotional or psychological struggles, such as Fear, doubt, Sadness, confusion, anxiety, or inner dilemmas. Meanwhile, external conflict occurs when a character faces opposition from external forces, including other

[3] Rebecca Beasley, *Aspects of the Novel*, *Russomania*, First edit (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, Inc, 2020), https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780198802129.003.0004.73

[4] William Kenney, *How to Analyze Fiction*, First edit (New York: Monarch Press, 1966).74

characters, society, the environment, or particular situations. Both internal and external conflicts play a significant role in shaping a character's experiences because they place the character in challenging circumstances that require adaptation, decision-making, and problem-solving. As a result, conflict often becomes one of the major factors contributing to character development. Through various conflicts, characters gain experiences that influence their attitudes, behaviors, perspectives, and emotional responses toward certain situations. The challenges encountered during the narrative frequently encourage characters to learn from their experiences, reassess their beliefs, and develop new ways of understanding themselves and the world around them. Consequently, conflict serves not only as a driving force of the plot but also as a catalyst for character growth and transformation throughout the story.[5]

The relationship between conflict and character development is an interesting aspect to analyze because the changes experienced by a character are often influenced by the conflicts they encounter throughout the story. When facing various challenges and difficulties, characters are required to make decisions, adapt to new situations, and respond to circumstances that may affect their emotions and behavior. These experiences gradually shape the way they think and view the world around them. As a result, a character who initially possesses certain traits may develop different attitudes and perspectives after going through a series of conflicts. Character development therefore reflects a process of growth that occurs through the experiences encountered by a

[5] Beasley, *Aspects of the Novel*.88

character during the narrative. Recent studies have also highlighted that character development plays an important role in helping audiences understand a character's transformation and personal journey throughout a story.[6] Therefore, analyzing the contribution of conflict to character development can provide a deeper understanding of how a character changes and develops within a literary work.

One of the films that portrays the relationship between conflict and character development is *Inside Out*, an animated film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures in 2015. Directed by Pete Docter and Ronnie Del Carmen, the film explores the emotional experiences of a young girl named Riley Andersen, whose life changes significantly after her family moves from Minnesota to San Francisco.[7] In the film *Inside Out*, Riley Andersen is portrayed as a cheerful, energetic, and optimistic little girl who has close bonds with her family and friends. However, her life begins to change when her family moves from Minnesota to San Francisco, forcing her to leave behind the surroundings and experiences that have been an integral part of her childhood. This transition presents various challenges as Riley struggles to adjust to her new environment, cope with a sense of loss, and adapt to a situation that is unfamiliar to her. As a result, she experiences a range of

[6] Merel van Ommen and Addy Weijers Mariska Kleemans, Allison Eden, Serena Daalmans, "Explaining the Role of Character Development in the Evaluation of Morally Ambiguous Characters in Entertainment Media," *Poetics* 64 (2017): 95–107, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2016.10.003.

[7] Jelita Dewanty Hendarsyah, "Character and Characterization in the Film Inside Out By Peter Hans Doctor," *Apollo Project: Jurnal Ilmiah Program Studi Sastra Inggris* 9, no. 1 (2020): 23, https://doi.org/10.34010/apollo.v9i1.5335.

internal conflicts, including Sadness, confusion, disappointment, and a deep longing for her old life. Additionally, Riley also faces external conflicts through her interactions with her parents, her school environment, and the new circumstances she encounters after moving. These conflicts are a crucial part of the narrative as they influence Riley's emotional responses and behavior throughout the film. As the story unfolds, Riley gradually transforms from a child who always viewed life positively into someone who must learn to cope with complex emotions and difficult situations. Through her experiences, Riley begins to understand her feelings more deeply, accept the changes occurring in her life, and communicate her emotions more openly.

In *Inside Out* movie, Riley is portrayed as a cheerful, active, and optimistic young girl who has a close relationship with her family and friends. However, after moving to a new environment, Riley begins to face various difficulties that affect her emotional and social life. She feels the loss of the comfort and familiarity she once enjoyed in Minnesota, misses her friends, and struggles to adapt to unfamiliar surroundings. These circumstances lead to experience several internal conflicts, including Sadness, disappointment, confusion, and a strong desire to return to her previous life. According to Kenney, internal conflict emerges when a character experiences psychological struggles or opposing feelings within themselves, creating tension that influences their thoughts and actions.[8] In addition to her internal struggles, Riley also encounters external conflicts through her interactions with her parents, her new

[8] Kenney, *How to Analyze Fiction*.174

school environment, and the challenges brought about by the changes in her life. These conflicts arise from her efforts to adjust to new situations while coping with expectations from the people around her. As a result, Riley's experiences reflect both internal and external forms of conflict that become central to her journey throughout the film.

The conflicts experienced by Riley not only create challenges that she must face but also contribute to the development of her character. At the beginning of the story, Riley is presented as a child who approaches life with enthusiasm and optimism. Nevertheless, the difficulties she encounters gradually affect her attitudes, emotions, and behavior. She begins to express feelings of anger and frustration, becomes emotionally withdrawn, and finds it difficult to communicate her true feelings to those around her. As the story progresses, Riley learns to recognize and accept the emotions she has been struggling with, particularly Sadness, which she initially tries to avoid. This process reflects what several studies on character development in films have shown that characters often undergo significant changes as a result of the experiences and challenges they encounter throughout the story.[9] Through the conflicts she faces, Riley gradually develops a deeper understanding of herself and her circumstances, showing changes in the way she responds to problems and expresses her emotions. Therefore, the experiences depicted in the film

[9] Gerdi Kafi Lole Sardiana, Ni Made Verayanti Utami, and Ni Nyoman Deni Ariyaningsih, "A Study on Development of Main Character and Characterization in 'Bohemian Rhapsody' Movie," *ELYSIAN JOURNAL : English Literature, Linguistics and Translation Studies* 4, no. 1 (2024): 93–103, https://doi.org/10.36733/elysian.v4i1.8633.

illustrate how conflict can contribute to character development by influencing a character's perspective, behavior, and emotional growth.

Several researchers have previously conducted studies on the movie *Inside Out.* The study conducted by Ika Trisnantasari focused on analyzing the five emotional characters within Riley's mind: Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. The study emphasized the role and function of each emotion in influencing Riley's behavior as she faced various situations throughout the story.[10] Additionally, another study titled *"An Analysis of the Main Character's Conflict in the Movie Acts of Vengeance"* examines the conflicts experienced by the main character in the movie both internal and external as well as how these conflicts influence the character's actions and decisions when facing the problems that arise.[11] Meanwhile, the study *"Character Development of Estella/Cruella in the 2021 Film Cruella"* examines the character development of the main character, who undergoes changes in personality and attitude due to experiences and events occurring within the plot.[12]

Based on these studies, it is evident that research on film characters has extensively explored aspects of emotion, conflict, and character development from various perspectives. Previous research indicates that emotions play a role

[10]Ika Trisnantasari, "ANALYSIS THE EMOTIONAL CHARACTERS IN Riley'S BRAIN IN INSIDEOUT MOVIE" 7, no. 1 (2018): 1–4.

[11]I Gusti Agung, Sri Rwa, and I Wayan Juniartha, "An Analysis of the Main Character's Conflict in the Movie" 8, no. 2 (2022): 106–15.

[12]Nisa Meisa Zarawaki et al., "Character Development of Estella/Cruella in Cruella (2021) Movie," *J-Lalite: Journal of English Studies* 3, no. 2 (2022): 99, https://doi.org/10.20884/1.jes.2022.3.2.5966.

in influencing a character's behavior, conflict emerges as a crucial element of the narrative, and character development occurs through the various experiences the character undergoes within the plot. This demonstrates that these aspects are interrelated in the analysis of film characters.

Previous studies on Inside Out have largely focused on emotional aspects, such as emotions, emotional intelligence, emotion regulation, and personality development. These studies provide valuable insights into Riley's psychological state and emotional experiences. However, attention to the role of conflict as a driver of Riley's character development remains limited. Although conflict is a fundamental element in shaping character growth, few studies have specifically examined how the conflicts Riley experiences contribute to her character changes throughout the film. Therefore, this study fills this gap by analyzing the conflicts Riley experiences and explaining how these conflicts influence her character development.

Consequently, this study aims to analyze the conflicts Riley experiences in the film Inside Out and explain how these conflicts contribute to her character development. By focusing on conflict as a catalyst for character development, this study is expected to offer a different perspective on analyzing the main character in Inside Out and to enrich literary studies regarding the relationship between conflict and character development.

B. Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the problems of this research are:

1. What types of conflicts are experienced by Riley in Disney Pixar's Inside Out?
2. How do these conflicts contribute to her character development throughout the film?

C. Research Objective

Based on the existing research question, this study was conducted:

1. to analyze the internal and external conflicts experienced by Riley
2. to explain how these conflicts contribute to Riley's character development in the film Inside Out.

D. Scope and Limitation of Study

This study focuses on an analysis of the conflicts experienced by Riley Andersen in the film Inside Out 2015. The analysis focuses on two types of conflict, namely internal and external conflicts experienced by Riley throughout the story. Additionally, this study examines how these conflicts contribute to Riley's character development, as reflected in the changes in her attitudes, behaviors, and perspectives over the course of the film.

To ensure a more focused discussion, this study is limited to the analysis of Riley's conflicts and character development as the main character. Therefore, this study does not examine the symbolic representation of the emotions Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust, cinematographic elements, audience

responses, or the character development of other characters. The research data are limited to dialogues, actions, and scenes.

E. Significance of the Research

In this study, the researcher expect that this research will provide the following benefits:

1. Theoretically

   This study aims to contribute to the study of conflict and character development in film. It is expected to provide a better understanding of how internal and external conflicts influence the development of a character throughout a story.

2. Practical Benefit

   This study is beneficial for movie audiences as well as readers of this research.

   a. For Audience

      This study is hoped to help readers gain a deeper understanding of the conflicts Riley faces in the Disney Pixar movie *Inside Out* and how these conflicts contribute to her character development. Through this study, readers are expected to better understand the relationship between conflict and personal growth as depicted in the movie.

   b. For Teachers

      This study is expected to serve as a guide for English teachers in utilizing films as a medium for teaching narrative elements and this study can also help teachers create more engaging learning activities,

particularly for students with visual and audiovisual learning styles. methods.

F. Definiton of Key Terms

1. Conflict

   Conflict refers to the struggle or opposition experienced by a character throughout a story. Conflict may occur within a character (internal conflict) or between a character and external forces such as other characters, society, or particular situations. In this study, conflict refers to the internal and external conflicts experienced by Riley in Disney Pixar's Inside Out.

2. Character Development

   Character development refers to the changes in a character's attitudes, behavior, thoughts, and perspectives throughout a story. In this study, character development refers to the changes experienced by Riley as a result of the conflicts she encounters in the film.

3. Animated Film

   An animated film is a motion picture created through animation techniques that bring characters and stories to life through moving images. In this study, the term animated film refers to Inside Out 2015, which serves as the primary source of data for analyzing conflict and character development.

G. Organization of The Study

This study is organized into five chapters.

1. Chapter I

   Presents the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Research Questions, Research Objectives, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Significance of the study, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of the Study.

2. Chapter II

   Discusses the Review of Related Literature, including the theories and previous studies related to conflict, character development, and film analysis.

3. Chapter III

   Describes the Research Method, which covers Research Design, Data and Data source, Data Collection Technique, Data Verification and data analysis used in this study.

4. Chapter IV

   Presents the findings of the research, focusing on the conflicts experienced by Riley and their contribution to her character development in the movie Inside Out.

5. Chapter V

   Provides the Discussion based on the findings of the study.

6. Chapter VI

   Present Conclusion and Suggestion of the study.