

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter of introduction, the researcher provides information regarding background of the research, statements of problem, research purposes, research significances, conceptual framework, some previous research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

Movie is a medium that uses a series of creatively arranged moving images to convey stories, ideas, and experiences to an audience (David Bordwell & Kristin Thompson, 2001, p. 34). Movie is one of the media that is very influential in shaping people's perceptions of the social reality around us. The reality of the objects displayed in the movie can be interpreted by observing the presence of symbols or characters in each particular scene based on the subjectivity of each individual.

A movie is the creation of a work of art with artistic elements that complement spiritual needs. During the making process, it must go through a thinking process and a technical process in the form of brainstorming and searching for story ideas. While the technical process is in the form of artistic skills to implement ideas or stories that will later become a movie that is ready to be watched.

A movie is a form of popular fiction that is favored by the public. Movies, like popular novels, also have a variety of genres. There are many genres in popular fiction, including romance, mystery, drama, detective, adventure, comedy, and many more. One genre is certainly different from other genres.

Movies also considered as literary works, and it becomes an important object of literary research in the teaching and learning of literary works at university level. In other words, movies have changed from merely a media of entertainment into a media of literary understanding. In literary works, research is conducted by examining the elements of a fiction, such as characters and characterizations, plot, setting, and theme. This is what is called the formula. According to Cawelti (1976,

p. 5) formula is a structure of narrative or dramatic conventions employed in a great number of individual works.

The object of this research is going to be a short movie by Rachel Shenton entitled *The Silent Child* (2017). The movie tells about a child with disabilities, hearing impairment or hearing loss. The movie was released in 2017 and has won the Academy Award for *Best Short Film of 2018* and Oscar-Winning Short Film (as a drama featuring a child). *The Silent Child* (2017) was written by Rachel Shenton, who also plays Joanne as a social worker and directed by her partner, Chris Overton. The story of the movie is actually based on a true story not far from Shenton's life. When she was twelve years old, her father fell ill and had to undergo chemotherapy. Her father lost his hearing and died two years later.

Aristotle (in Selbo, 2015, p. 71) defined drama as the enactment of any story on stage. Originally drama divided into two parts, comedies and tragedies. Comedies resolving around characters that faced obstacles that were not ultimately destructive. While tragedies, a serious drama with serious consequences. Both were meant to be "mimesis" or imitations of life. In tragedies, it must contain a certain magnitude of consequences, basically a change of status of the main character that fell from high status to low status, e.g. King to Peasant, Family to Man Alone, Worker to Jobless, or from Friend to Friendless.

After watching *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie, the researcher see that the movie is a drama genre movie. *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie contains a tragedy that happened to the main character, Libby. From the beginning, Libby starts to interact more with her surroundings because Joanne come and taught her everyday about the sign language and making her enjoy with her surroundings. In the end, unfortunately, Libby's parent had to stop Libby from learning sign language with Joanne. She said that she worried that Libby learning the sign language, but the at the outside, at the school, which is the sign language has not implanted. And at home, no one knows about the sign language. This action from Libby's parent, make her feel lonely and difficult to get along with those around her. However, there is character dynamics or changes that happen to the main character in the story. The change of status of the main character is from Family to

Man Alone.

There are some reasons that the researcher decided to take the chosen movie for the object of this research. Previously, the researcher has compared to others movie that similar with this movie, such as *New Boy* (2007), *Sign* (2016), *Stutterer* (2015). In *New Boy* short movie, even though the movie is categorized as a drama, this movie shifts its focus to theme of cultural isolation and acceptance rather than disability or communication. In *Sign* short movie, it also explores communication between a hearing man and a deaf man, but within a romantic context. *The Silent Child* (2017) was chosen because it has many aspects to analyze. *First*, is from the genre. *The Silent Child* (2017) is the combination of documentary and drama genre movie. *Second*, is from the story itself. Unlike any other similar movie, this short movie was chosen because the storyline is easy to follow, the development of character can be seen in obvious, and there is no formula that dominant at one sided. *Third*, it focuses on a specific theme. *The Silent Child* (2017) delves deeply into the theme of communication barriers and the experience of a deaf child navigating a hearing world. *Fourth*, *The Silent Child* (2017) has received widespread acclaim, including winning several awards. *Fifth*, the issues raised in *The Silent Child* (2017) regarding deafness, communication, and inclusion are socially relevant and it can be meaningful discussions.

With analyzing how the drama elements depicted in the story, it can be provided valuable insights into the power of short movies to address social issues. *Last*, is the narrative structure. The narrative structure in this movie is indeed limited and will influence all aspects of the movie. The short runtime of *The Silent Child* (2017) necessitates efficient storytelling and impactful narrative choices. Examining how the movie structures its story and characters within a limited timeframe, can offer valuable lessons for making effective drama in form of short movies.

Related to the roles of movies in literary research and previous studies, this research aims to fill the gap in elements of drama genre movies and formula analysis, especially in the drama genre of literary works and the short movie as an object in this research. Then, the use of short movie as an object in this research has

advantages and disadvantages. Although the plot is easier to analyze, but the narrative structure are limited.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The main problem which is the focus of this research is how drama elements and drama formulas are formed in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie. Therefore, the researcher formulates the following research questions:

1. What elements of drama genre are depicted in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie?
2. How are the formula of drama built in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie?

1.3 Research Purposes

1. To find out the elements of drama genre depicted in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie.
2. To analyze how the formula of drama built in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie.

1.4 Research Significance

This research has two significances of research. The first one is theoretical significance and the second one is practical significance.

Theoretically, this research can provide several benefits for readers in analyzing literary works, especially movies. Through this research, the researcher provides a knowledge which become study material, and insight to readers starting from what are the elements of drama genre and how the formula of drama built in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie. To strengthen the argument, the theory of elements in drama writing and theory of formula is used in this research. Thus, this research can be used as a reference in other studies that analyze movies using the same theory, one theory, or combining several theories.

This research will provide readers with an understanding of elements of drama genre movies and formula aspects in literary works especially in a drama movie. As well as increasing readers awareness in investigating the elements and

the formula of a drama movie. This research can be used as reference or comparison for students or other parties who will conduct similar research.

1.5 Previous Studies

In order to differentiate this research from previous studies and strengthen the theoretical foundation, the researcher will provide several previous studies, including the following. By referring to the previous studies, the researcher was able to show the relevance of the topic research in a broader context. Furthermore, Examining previous studies allows the researcher to gather relevant insights, identify existing patterns and gaps, and gain a new and different perspective than previous researchers.

The researcher found several previous studies to be a point of reference in this topic. First, is a research conducted by Rufaida Muslimah, along with Dini Hidayati and Lenny Solo titled *An Analysis of Social Values in The Silent Child Film and Its Relevance to Characteristics of a Teacher's Social Competence* (Muslimah et al., 2024). In this research, the author analyzes the social values portrayed in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie and explores how these values are relevant to the social competence required for teachers. Specifically, it examines values such as affection, loyalty, responsibility, and empathy, and their connection to key aspects of teacher social competence. The author using Zubaedi's theory of social values, which includes the sub-values of affection (such as kinship and loyalty), responsibility (including discipline and empathy), and harmony in life (justice and cooperation). It also discusses social competence for teachers based on various educational and sociological perspectives. The method used in the research is a qualitative and descriptive approach, focusing on library research. The data is gathered from watching *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie and analyzing scenes and dialogues to identify social values. The authors compare these values to the characteristics of social competence for teachers. The findings of the research reveal that the movie *The Silent Child* (2017) emphasizes social values of affection, such as kinship and loyalty, as well as social values of responsibility, such as empathy and discipline. These values are then linked to key teacher competencies,

such as empathetic communication, knowledge of human relationships, and mastery of social psychology. These competencies are crucial for teachers to effectively engage with students, parents, and the wider community.

The second previous studies is a study by Fury Intan Noor Almi and Ervina CM Simatupang titled *Analysis of Moral Value in 'The Silent Child' Short Movie by Rachel Shenton (2017): Literary Study* (Almi & Simatupang, 2022). The study analyzes the moral values present in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie. It focuses on identifying different types of moral values such as bravery, peaceability, confidence, wisdom, cooperation, friendliness, and kindness. The study also investigates which of these values is the most dominant throughout the movie. The theoretical framework used in the study is based on moral value theory, particularly focusing on how values such as courage, kindness, and respect are portrayed through movie as a medium of education. The study relies on the works of scholars like Hurlock, who defines moral values as principles of good and bad that shape human behavior. Qualitative method is used with descriptive approach in this study. Data collection was performed by watching *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie, reading its subtitles, and identifying scenes that reflected moral values. The data were then analyzed by categorizing the moral values and concluding the dominant themes. The findings indicate that *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie contains several moral values, with the dominant theme being the importance of focusing on what is good for a child while navigating challenges. The study found values such as bravery, kindness, respect, and peaceability throughout the movie. The key takeaway is the emphasis on balancing what is best for a child's development despite obstacles such as disabilities.

The third previous studies taken by the researcher about drama formula is from an undergraduate thesis by Sulthan Bonang Hendrajat entitled "*Drama Genre In Gabriele Muccino's 'The Pursuit of Happiness' (2006)*" (Hendrajat, 2022). The researcher using formula of drama genre by John G. Cawelti. In the discussion, *The Pursuit of Happiness* (2006) movie contains four formulas that the drama genre had. It includes: strong moral stance, the improvement of the main character as the story progress, main character of the story had big goal, and the development

characters after the obstacles. For examples: from this research, moral stance formula has been found in the movie. It divided into three parts which is many lies said by the character named Chris Gardner, Chris Gardner never give up and keep forward, and Chris Gardner always try to find any solutions.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Drama

One of the genres from movies is drama. Drama is defined as movies who follow real characters and their conflicts with themselves, the world or those around them. A dramatic movie shows us human beings at their best, their worst, and everything in-between. Each of the types of subject-matter themes have various kinds of dramatic plots. Dramas typically lean on current events and social and political issues for thematic reference.

2. The Elements of Drama Genre

Lajos Egri is a drama theorist known for his work "*The Art of Dramatic Writing*." According to Egri (1946), a strong piece of dramatic fiction consists of three main elements: premise, character, and conflict. These three elements must work together harmoniously to create a strong and memorable piece of dramatic fiction. The premise provides direction, the characters provide life, and the conflict provides the dynamics and tension necessary to make the story engaging. Egri also emphasizes that writers must thoroughly understand their characters and ensure that every action and decision made by the characters is consistent with their personalities and motivations.

3. The Drama Genre Formula

The Formula of Drama that build and represented in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie is the object to be analyzed. In this research, the researcher used the theory from Gustav Freytag about the formula of drama. This research focus on how the formula of drama build the drama formula in *The Silent Child* (2017) short movie. According to Freytag (1895, p. 115) there are five parts of the drama;

Introduction, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, and Catastrophe/Denotation.

4. Premise

According to Lajos Egri, a writer and drama theorist, (1946, p. 6) a premise is the fundamental statement or main idea that guides the development of the story in a work of fiction, particularly in drama and screenplays. The premise encompasses the basic elements of the theme and plot, and serves as the foundation of the entire narrative. Egri argues that a strong and clear premise is essential for creating a coherent and impactful story. Egri explains that a premise consists of three main components:

1. Character. Who undergoes change or who is the focus of the story
2. Conflict. The situation or challenge faced by the character
3. Resolution. How the conflict is resolved or what the outcome is.

5. Character

Then, Character according to Lajos Egri (1946, p. 33) is a central element in a narrative. In-depth, character development is a key to create a strong and convincing story. Egri emphasizes that characters must be complex and have three-dimensional, with clear backgrounds, motivations, and evolution throughout the story.

1. Physiological. The physical aspects of character, including appearance, age, gender, health, and other physical attributes. This will help the form of the visual and physical image of the character.
2. Sociological. The social aspects of the character, such as family background, education, occupation, social status, religion, and interpersonal relationships. This provides the social context that influences the character's behavior and worldview.
3. Psychological. The mental and emotional aspects of the character, including personality, beliefs, values, fears, ambitions, and internal conflicts. This is the core of the character and affects how they react to situations and evolve throughout the story.

6. Conflict

Conflict is an essential element in a story that drives the development of the plot and characters. Conflict is the situation or challenge faced by the main character, forcing them to act and make decisions that move the story forward. Egri said that conflict must be clear and strong to drive the story forward and develop the characters. Conflict is not just about tension or disagreements. It must involve real confrontations that have the potential to change the character's life direction. Thus, conflict serves as a mechanism that not only propels the plot but also deepens the understanding of the characters and the story's theme.

7. Formula

Formula is defined as a structure of narrative or dramatic conventions employed in a large number of individual works. It is a synthesis of specific cultural conventions with more universal story forms or archetypes. According to John G. Cawelti (1976, p. 7) formulas are a means of generalizing the characteristics of large groups of individual works by combining cultural materials and archetypal story patterns. This allows for historical and cultural inferences about the collective fantasies shared by large groups of people and helps identify differences in these fantasies across cultures or periods.