

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter is an introduction. In this chapter, there contains research background, statement of problem, research objectives, research significances, and last is definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Film is an audio-visual communication medium to convey a story and message to the audience (Asri, 2020). Film becomes one of the most popular literary genres loved by many people in the world. It cannot be denied because film has an audio-visual technology with a various type of stories that bring a lot of film enthusiast. Different from other textual literary form such as poetry, novel, nonfiction that need the reader's imagination, this film presents an interesting visual, and sound textures with technology that has advanced nowadays. Moreover, film has a unique way to present the work with the camera angle, montage, editing, slow and fast motion.

Still related to film, Klarer (2004: 56) includes film into the literary genres and all kinds of film presentation elements in accordance with the features of literary texts and can be explained in a textual framework. It means that Films can be analyzed with the same approach as other textual literary works because films have narrative elements such as themes, plot, setting, conflict, and character.

Character is as one of the important parts in a literary work, film, or other media. Gordon and Kuehner (1999) argue that Character is a person who plays a role in the story. In addition, character is the main key in the course of the story. However, character is not only the driving factor of the story but also the reflection of society. In narrative studies, characters are often studied in terms of nature, role, and dynamics that form interactions in the storyline. Understanding character can help in analyzing the narrative that is formed and what message the author wants to convey to the reader. In the story, character is divided into two parts, main character and minor character. However, from all the many types of characters that appear in the story, the main character is the character who has the most significant role.

According to Nurgiyanto (2005), the main character is a character who is the main focus in the story of a novel and the character who is told the most, either as the perpetrator of the incident or the one affected by the incident. The main character serves as the center of the narrative, in which the main conflict develops, and as a medium of profit that connects the audience to the story emotionally. The existence of the main character will determine the success of a work, one of which is in a film. The main character has a deep and complex characterization, this type of character usually has a long journey in the story. Therefore, the main character often has character development throughout the story.

Based on Hartman (2000), character development is a process of change or growth of a character's personality that represents certain attributes. Character development can be in both negative and positive directions, such as the transformation of a good character into a bad character or a bad character into a good character. The transformation of a character's personality can be caused by several factors, such as by psychological, external and inner conflict, time and age, social structure and status, motivation and ambition, social changes such as war or social movements, and last is by social environment.

The social environment as one of the important factors in character development is a setting or atmosphere where a group of people feel like they are part of it (Tamara, 2016). In this case, character development is not only about fictional elements, but also about relation with social reality. Reflections on the actions, behavior, consequences or decisions of a character can reveal morals, values, culture, and norms that exist in society and play an important role in human life. Through the character's journey, readers or viewers will see how the character interacts with the social environment, faces social challenges, and develops their identity and morality. Thus, not only learning about characters in literary studies, especially films, but also understanding broader social phenomena is important. This is the trigger in this study the researcher chooses the topic about social environment that influences character development with a film entitled *Descendants* (2015) as the research object.

Descendant is a film with fantasy genre released in 2015. It tells about the children of a famous disney villains, who are given the opportunity to attend Auradon Prep, a prestigious school for heroes. *Descendant* (2015) is an american musical fantasy television film produced by Disney Channel Original Productions and directed by Kenny Ortega. According to IMDb (2017), Kenny Ortega won Outstanding Directional Achievement in children's program in *Directors Guild of America Standing* in 2016 in his movie, *Descendant*. *Descendant* (2015) also won an award in Writers Guild of America as Children's Longform program category in 2016.

Based on Guinness World Record (2016), *Descendants* (2015) is the most watched cable TV movie in 2015 with 12.2 milion viewers which aired in Disney Channel on July 31, 2015. *Descendants* (2015) is a quite populer movie, but rarely used as an object of research. This is the reason why the researcher chooses *Descendants* (2015) as the main object. The researcher focuses to analyze on the main characters who grew up surrounded by villains, especially their parents. Then, they had to adapt to a place that had a different culture and background from where they came from. This analysis will explore how the social environment will affect their identity, personality formation, values, and how they adjust to a new environment that contradicts their past.

The studies related to the topic of character development have been done by many researchers. Some of the them are: the first was conducted by Asmawati (2015), entitled "*Maleficent's Character Development as seen in Maleficent Movie.*" This study used struktural theory by Kenny (1966) and the research proved love could influence the character development.

The second was employed by Zarawaki, Saehu, Nurholis, and Listiani (2022), entitled "*Character Development of Estella/Cruella in Cruella (2021) Movie.*" The theory used was from Petrie and Boggs (2008) and the findings stated that character development in Cruella was caused by some problems.

The third was done by Sari (2023), entitled "*An Analysis of Character Development in Ticket to Paradise Movie.*" and used the theory from Sanders

(2016). The result of character development in *Ticket to Paradise* was due to conflict, emotional experiences, self-reflection, and new situations.

The last was performed by Ramadhan, Zamrudin, and Tawakkal (2023), entitled “*The Main Character Development in the King of Staten Island Film.*” The theory used was from Roberts and Zweig (2011) and the findings stated that Scott's character development was due to survivability in new condition.

Based on the the previous studies above, there are the similarities and the differences with this study. The similarities are that this study analysis the main character development and the method used is descriptive qualitative one. Meanwhile, the differences are that this research uses the theory of cultural identity by Stuart Hall (1996) specifically to analyze the social environment that influences the main character development and the research object used is the film entitled *Descendants* (2015). Thus, this ressearch is entitled “*Social Environment and Their Influences to the Main Character Development in Descendants (2015) Directed by Kenny Ortega.*”

1.2 Statements of Problem

This research exists due to the following questions which will be answered through this study. The following questions constitute the central focus of this study.

1. How is social environment portrayed in *Descendants* (2015)?
2. How does the social environment influence the main character development in *Descendants* (2015)?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions mentioned above, the main purposes of this study are:

1. To describe how the social environment portrayed in *Descendants* (2015).
2. To analyze how social environment influences the main character developement in *Decendants* (2015).

1.4 Research Significances

This research aims to give examples to readers who want to analyze characters in a film, especially in character development. This research can also serve as a reference for scholars or individuals interested in using the film of descendants (2015) as an object of the study.

Furthermore, analyzing the main characters in *Descendants* (2015) will make the readers aware that character development can be formed due to the social environment. In other words, a person's identity can change depending on the environment around them and everything that happens in people's life can affect a person's character whether it concerns people, places, or events.

1.5 Definition of the Key Terms

The definition of the keywords below will narrow the scope of this research. The key terms below will also clarify the meaning of important terms and will help readers understand the specific or technical terms used in the research.

1.5.1 Movie

Movie is a collection of moving images that have sound recorded to show a story that is shown in various places such as cinemas (Hornby, 2006). Movies consist of various images put together and arranged sequentially so as to create the illusion of movement when shown.

1.5.2 Character

According to Kuehner (1999) a Character is a person who plays a role in a story. Characters also have the potential to grow, develop, change, or stay the same as the narrative changes, depending on the purpose of the composition and how the character fits into the narrative.

1.5.3 Main Characters

The main character is a part of the narrative in a film. The main character plays an important role in building a story in a film. The main character is a character who is the main focus in the story of a novel and the character who is told the most, either as the perpetrator of the incident or the one affected by the incident Nurgiyanto (2005).

1.5.4 Social Environment

Based to Tamara (2016), the social environment is a setting or ambiance where a group of people feel like they belong. The social environment is made up of all other people who have an indirect or direct impact on other people, both in good and bad depending on the state of the environment itself.

1.5.5 Descendants

Descendants is a fantasy genre film directed by Kenny Ortega. *Descendants* is an American musical fantasy television film produced by Disney Channel Original Productions in 2015. *Descendants* movie tells about the journey of Mal, Evie, Jay and Carlos in Auradon which is very different from their previous environment, the Isle of the Lost. They are given a mission to steal the fairy godmother's wand in Auradon. But things change when they try to enjoy their new life in Auradon.

