

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the researcher explains the introduction. It consists of the research background, research problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Research Background**

Character development is experienced by every human being. Generally, character development is a process where a person's attitude, character, and personality undergo change or development. A person who experiences character development or change can be influenced by the emergence of an event that has a big impact, and the person will unconsciously lose their former identity. In addition to events, another factor that can trigger the development or change of a person's character is the closest people who around them. This applies to both family and friends. The phenomenon of developing or changing one's character also often occurs in literary works. One of them is a movie.

In a movie, character development for one of the characters is necessary. In addition to making the storyline more exciting, character development can also make the character seem more alive and real. According to Nurgiyantoro (1995), a character in a story is considered reasonable and relevant if it reflects and resembles real human life (lifelike). Character development in a movie can also make the audience interested and curious about the outcome of the character's development process in the movie.

According to Stanton, the use of the term character in various english literature suggests two different meanings, namely, as the characters in the story and as the attitudes, interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles possessed by those characters (Nurgiyantoro, 1995, pp. 165). From the quote, it can be seen that the use of the word character can be interpreted as figures or attitudes according to function and purpose.

Movie is one of the literary works that is popular among all age groups. Movie is considered a literary work because it includes elements such as theme, characters, plot, setting, conflict, dialogue, and narration. According to Desrianti et al, movie is an audiovisual media used to provide information and promote in detail by presenting a story that has meaning or significance, packaged using beautiful and engaging cinematographic techniques for its audience (Fitzpatrick & Senoprabowo, 2024, pp. 15).

Speaking of character development in a movie, sometimes there are some characters who change in a positive direction and some who change in a negative direction. Depending on which side of the attitude and decisions taken by the character for the events experienced. The change can be of any type but is significant to the total makeup of the individual undergoing the change. Dynamic characters become sadder or wiser, or happier and more self-confident. They might gain some new awareness of life, become more mature or more responsible, or become more moral or less so. They may become simply more aware and knowing and less innocent or naive (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, pp. 56).

One of the films that has a theme about character development is the animated movie titled *Turning Red*, which was released in 2022 and directed by Domee Shi. *Turning Red* is an animated teen fantasy film produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Pixar Animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. Researcher found that this movie has an interesting story, with a family background that is a descendant of an ancestor named Sun Yee.

*Turning Red* tells the story of a thirteen-year-old girl named Meilin Lee. Since childhood, she has been expected to always respect her parents as a return for all the aspects that her father and mother have provided. At first, Meilin was known as a confident, diligent, intelligent, and accomplished student, as well as an obedient daughter to her parents, especially her mother. In addition, her homeroom teacher and schoolmates considered Meilin to be an annoying and strange child. However, Meilin still has three best friends who are always by her side.

But now, everything has change since Meilin transformed into a panda-human. The change occurred due to genetic factors from her mother's family lineage. Besides her physical changes, Meilin also became an emotional person and she began to exhibit negative behaviors, such as lying to her parents. From the brief explanation above, it can be seen that Meilin, as the main character, undergoes changes that happen beyond her control, which can affect her life. And the focus of this research is the development of Meilin Lee's character and its impact on her social life.

In the film *Turning Red*, Meilin Lee, as the main character, attracts the attention of researcher to become the subject of the study. The reason for choosing the film *Turning Red* is the emergence of a new side of Meilin Lee due to the presence of the red panda. In addition, the process of character development that Meilin experiences is not without the influence of the people around her, especially her mother. Thus, it can be seen that the relationships between characters in the film *Turning Red* have a strong influence on the character development of Meilin Lee.

Based on the explanation of the above issue, the researcher is interested in analyzing the characterization of Meilin Lee and other characters, as well as the impact of Meilin Lee's character development process on herself and other characters. The researcher made the title **Meilin Lee's Character Development in *Turning Red* Movie (2022)**.

To facilitate this research, the researcher will present several previous studies from various sources in the form of thesis and journal articles. The first previous study is a thesis titled Development Phases of Nina Sayer's Personality in Black Swan's Movie Script (2013) by Pipit Fitria from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This thesis has similarities in the topic to be analyzed, that is, the development of the character of Nina Sayer's personality, but with different objects. This thesis applies The Registers Three approaches to the study of Lacanian Psychoanalysis and also supports the theory of Jungian Archetypes. The result of this research is that the development of Nina Sayer's personality cannot be separated from the influence of others. In addition, this thesis also found the self

archetypes, the sage archetypes, the mother archetypes, and the shadow archetypes. The four archetypes are very influential in the development phases of Nina Sayer's personality.

The second previous study is a thesis titled *Maleficent's Character Development As Seen in Maleficent Movie (2015)* by Nur Asmawati from UIN Sunan Kalijaga. This thesis has similarities in the topic to be analyzed, namely the character development of the main character, but with different objects. This thesis applies structuralism theory, especially the theory of character development by William Kenney. The conclusion from this thesis is that the influence factors character development in a good character becoming a bad character because from holding leadership and friendship to having revenge and from having love and mercy to anger and hate. Although, influential factors in the development of a bad character become bad characters because they go from having hate and anger to love and compassion.

The third previous study is a journal article titled *Character Development of Agatha Prenderghast in Cody Kimmel's Paranorman Novel (2018)* by Anisah Nur Hasanah, Muhammad Natsir, and Setya Ariani from Mulawarman University. This paper has similarities in the selected topic, which is character development of the main character, but with different object, which is novel. This research also used two theories: Kenan's Characterization Theory and Chatman's Structuralism Theory. The result of the research showed five characteristics of Agatha's character: violent, strange, hot-tempered, innocent, and loving. In this paper also found the influence of intrinsic elements on Agatha's character development. First is the plot that showed her character development process, second is the setting that showed her background, and last is the point of view that showed her character development through the perspective of two characters, which gave bad and good impacts toward her character development.

The fourth previous study is a thesis titled *Character Development in the films World War Z and Train to Busan (2021)* by Nadia Futhry Syailana from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This thesis also has similarities to the main topic to

be analyzed, but with different objects. The theory used is Allport & Skinner's character. Therefore, the purpose of this research are to analyze how the characters correlate to each other in the "World War Z and Train to Busan" films, and describe the character building of the "Dad" character and his way to solve the problem in World War Z and Train to Busan films. The result of the research is the correlation between character's in World War Z who have good social relations with the surrounding environment, while the film Train to Busan shows social inequality with characters that are correlated with each other between individuals who show sympathy and mutual sympathy help. Then, the development of the "Dad" characters in both films is built to show a father's never-ending love for his family.

The fifth previous study is a thesis titled Illocutionary act in Children Utterance in Turning Red Movie by Dome Shee (2022) by Hanifa Rumaisha Nurhan Satibi (2023) from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This thesis has similarities in object but with different topic and theory. The theory used is Searle's theory (1979) to identify the types of illocutionary speech acts and Leech's theory (1983) is used to classify the functions of illocutionary speech acts. Therefore, the purpose of this research to find out the types and functions of illocutionary acts used by children in the movie *Turning Red*.

The last previous study is a thesis titled Cultural Hegemony in the film Turning Red through Characterization by Amalia Nur Sabbila (2023) from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This research has similarities in object, but with different topic and theory. The theory used is Antonio Gramsci's theory of Hegemony and Cultural Hegemony. The purpose of this research is focuses on finding the types of hegemony and the cultural impact of hegemony formed in the film *Turning Red* through characterizations.

The difference between this research and previous research is the theory and results of the research. In this study, researchers will discuss the types of characterization and the impact of character development between characters in the film *Turning Red* (2022).

## 1.2 Research Problem

As already explained in the research background, the main issue of this study is the character development of Meilin Lee in the movie *Turning Red*. Therefore, the problems that will be identified in this study are:

1. What characterizations are found in the main character and other characters in *Turning Red* (2022)?
2. How does the impact of Meilin Lee's character development process affect her and other characters in *Turning Red* (2022)?

## 1.3 Research Objective

1. To find the characterization of the main character and other characters in the film *Turning Red* (2022).
2. To explore the impact of Meilin Lee's character development process on herself and other characters in the film *Turning Red* (2022).

## 1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this research explains characterization and character development theory from Petrie and Boggs in the book *The Art of Watching Films Eighth Edition* (2012), the impact of character development theory from Nurgiyantoro in the book *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* (1995), is expected to add insight into the theory of character, characterization, character development, and the impact of developing a character in a movie. And practically, this research is expected to be used as a comparison and reference material for other research with the same topic and theory in the future in the field of film studies.

## 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- a. Film: Petrie and Boggs recognize that film is a unique and powerful form of art, comparable to painting, sculpture, music, and drama (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 3).
- b. Character: According to Abrams, character refers to the actors or people featured in a narrative work, who express traits or moral qualities through their speech and actions (Nurgiyantoro, 1995, p. 165).

- c. **Characterization:** Characterization refers to the traits, attitudes, or emotions possessed by a character in a literary work, which reveal the character's quality (Nurgiyantoro, 1995, p. 165).
- d. **Development of Character:** Character development is heavily influenced by both internal and external events, with significant changes in traits resulting from the actions of the story. The character will be permanently changed (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 57).

