

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It consists of background of research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, conceptual framework and previous studies.

1.1. Research Background

The topic of the research focuses on social conflict for character development of main character in the series film Wednesday which is directed by Tim Burton and will be released in 2022. The object of this research is analyzed using the theory of social conflict and structuralism from Robert Stanton regarding the theory of fiction. Theory of that Stanton in his book, there are some aspects for building the story and character is an important aspect of the story. Because character development is one of the most important studies to be studied using structuralism theory.

Almost everyone talks about film, especially those related to intrinsic and extrinsic aspects. Both directly and indirectly, it always has implications for discussions about the setting, the social system that gave birth to it, and the creator and creator as the creator. Each work talks about events at a certain time, in a certain society, and with itself in its own way of interacting. Likewise, according to Mursil Esten, literary works are expressions of artistic and imaginative facts as an embodiment or manifestation of human life and society. In literary works, the delivery usually uses language and has a positive influence on human life.

The definition of a character in a film is generally the same as the definition of a character in a literary work, namely having narrative elements and visual depictions of the character. According to Abrams, a character is a person who is presented in a narrative or drama work. Readers will interpret the moral qualities and tendencies of the character through their speech and actions. The main character is the character who appears most often or is told and is continuous with each other in the story.

In the world of film, according to Jones in Burhan, a character is a clear depiction of a person who is presented in a story. Burhan emphasized that characters in stories occupy a strategic position as bearers and conveyors of messages (morals, morals) or something that is deliberately conveyed to the audience (Burhan, 2006:17). Therefore, a literary analysis can also be applied to film as Boggs explains film perspective analysis builds on the elements used in literary analysis and if we apply what we have learned in the study of literature to our film analysis, we are way ahead of them who are not (1978:20). In other words, the utilization of a literary analysis approach in film analysis can yield a distinct advantage and a deeper understanding of the film work. By employing the tools and techniques of literary analysis, researchers can unveil the underlying themes, symbolism, character development, and narrative structure present in the film series.

The definition of a character in a film is generally the same as the definition of a character in a literary work, because it contains narrative elements and visual depictions of the characters. The name of the main character is needed as the main character in the *Wednesday Addams (2022)* film series, Wednesday, played by Jena Ortega, has a characterization that is inherent in her in this film. Therefore, these two things are very closely related, because the definition of characterization itself is related to the creation and depiction of characters in literary works. This includes describing the physical characteristics of the main character and what his personality is like, as well as the actions, thoughts, and words of the main character.

This statement is in accordance with the statement from (Brereton, 2008, p. 26) "characterization is the depiction of characters through gestures, actions, dialogues, and some subtle things about motivation or feelings". Therefore, the appearance of characters in a film will help the audience understand the development of the character as the main character throughout the film based on social conflict. The topic of this research focuses on social conflict for the development of the main character in Wednesday Addams, Wednesday is an

American series adapted from the cartoon character *The Addams Family* by Charles Addams in 1938.

As social beings, humans often experience social conflict. This can be a major factor in a person's personality response, because a person usually influences the problems that can be experienced in dealing with problems in their social environment. Therefore, in this study, this was experienced by the main character in the Wednesday 2022 film series airing on Netflix by Tim Burton. Wednesday is the main character in this film series, and she is depicted as a 16 year old girl who comes from the strange and loving Addams family, consisting of her parents, Gomez and Morticia, and her younger brother, Pugsley. Since childhood, Wednesday has had an unusual interest in scary, dark, and strange things such as ghosts, monsters, death, and natural science. These interests separate her from her friends. Despite coming from a strange family, Wednesday often feels awkward and has difficulty fitting in. This causes various social conflicts experienced by Wednesday as the main character (Alfred & Miles, 2022).

The Wednesday film series is a unique blend of genres, featuring a distinctive visual style and dark comedy. The series centers on supernatural elements, such as magic and magical creatures, that shape the lives of the Addams family. In terms of storyline, this film is a mystery thriller film that tells the story of the main character, Wednesday Addams, trying to uncover the mystery at her newest school. By combining teen drama with the nuances of her life as a new student at Nevermore Academy (Alfred & Miles, 2022).

Previous research is a collection of studies found by researchers and used as a benchmark for this study. Researchers have found several previous studies that can be used as comparative materials in this study to analyze the impact of social conflict that affects personality development in the Wednesday Addams film series.

The previous studies were used as references for this research. The first research was conducted by Naufal Darwis Ardan (2024) entitled "*The Main Character's Social Conflict In Burton's Wednesday Film Series*" The difference

between previous research and this study lies in the analysis of the causes of the impact of social conflict on the main character.

Furthermore, previous research by Ayu Syifa Zadifa (2023) entitled ***“Character Development of The Main Character Under Social Conflict in The Film Black Panther”*** This previous research was chosen because it has the same theory in analyzing objects. This previous research analyzes objects with structuralism theory and character analysis. The difference is in terms of previous research with this research is that it has different objects of analysis.

Last, previous research came from Setia Cipta Pratama (2023) entitled ***“Social conflict of the main character in George Lucas's Star Wars prequel trilogy movie”*** This previous research was chosen because it has characteristics of causes of social conflict that have an impact on object analysis. This previous research analyzes objects with social conflict theory and character analysis. The difference between previous research and this research is that it has different objects of analysis.

The difference between the three previous studies lies in the object of analysis, although there are similarities, especially in terms of discussion topics and research questions. First, the previous studies used the same film series, namely Wednesday Addams as the object of research, and this study also uses it. Second, the previous studies used the theory of structuralism theory and character analysis, and this study also tries to explore it using the same theory. Third, the previous studies used the theory of the impact of social conflict by Pruitt, and this study also tries to explore it using the same theory. The three previous studies were conducted using film scenes, film scripts, main characters in the film, and novels. While in this study, the author uses film as the object of research. Thus, the title of this study is ***“The Influence of Social Conflict On the Development of the Main Character in Film Series Wednesday Addams (2022)”***.

1.2. Reasearch Problems

This study focuses on the analysis of the influence of social conflict on the development of the main character in the Wednesday Addams film series, the problems that will be identified in the study are:

1. How is the development of main character in the film series

Wednesday Addams?

2. How does the social conflict affect the main character development in the film series *Wednesday Addams?*

1.3. Reasearch Objectives

An analysis of character development about the main character in the film series *Wednesday Addams?*

1. To explore the character development constructed in the film series

Wednesday Addams

2. To describe social conflicts that cause changes in the main character in the film series *Wednesday Addams*

1.4. Research Significances

This research is expected to contribute to the field of social studies. In addition, the researcher divides this research into two objects of study, namely theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, this research by offering novel perspectives on Robert Stanton's theory of structural social conflict regarding the theory of fiction in the Wednesday film series (2022). A close examination of the narrative reveals that the primary character, Wednesday, is confronted with four distinct forms of social conflict: antagonistic conflict, legal conflict, conflict of interest, and conflict in intimate relationships. As a social being, Wednesday frequently encounters discord between personal and social interests, which, when interacting in her environment, can precipitate conflicts. Despite her foreign background, she employs three distinct methods to resolve interpersonal conflicts: victory, compromise, and reconciliation. By elucidating the forms of

social conflict experienced by the primary subject, Wednesday, and the methods by which these conflicts are resolved, this research offers a comprehensive understanding of social conflict in society as depicted through the medium of film.

Practically, this research is anticipated that this study will serve as a model for future analyses that employ social conflict theory, thereby contributing innovations or ideas that address the study's limitations.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

Terms As for this study, the researcher would analyze character development of the main character under social conflict in the film Series *Wednesday Addams 2022*. The researcher also used some of terms that had definition, to avoid some misunderstanding for the reader. The words and its definition would be displayed below:

1. **Characterization:** Characterization a guide for writers to know the personality of the characters by paying attention to behavior, speech, and thoughts.
2. **Character Development:** Character development is the process of creating fictional characters with the same depth and complexity as real-life human beings. Character development is the process of creating fictional characters with the same depth and complexity as real-life human beings.
3. **Social Conflict:** Social conflict is a conflict that occurs as a result of human social contact with other humans. Among the causes of social conflict are economic, cultural, and psychological factors.
4. **Film:** Film is a development of visualization techniques derived from the language of theater which is known as dramaturgi (dramatic convention).