

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Yes Man is a film tells a story about the banker named Carl Allen, which is a lonely man with low self-esteem after his divorce with Stephanie, for whom he still yearns. He avoids his best friend Peter. He has a boring job, stalled in a bureaucratic position in the loan department of a bank; and he spends his spare time watching DVDs. When he meets by chance his former high school mate Nick, he is convinced to participate of a self-help program called “Yes Man” leaded by the guru Terrence Bundley. The basic principle of the program is to say “yes” to new situations, leaving the negativism aside. Carl misunderstands the concept and says “yes” to every question. While leaving the encounter, he helps a homeless man and in the end of the night he meets the gorgeous Allison that helps him with her scooter. His life completely changes with his new attitude.

Message of a story is related to theme that is served through characters in the literary works. In a story, character is an important element in conveying a message of the writer to the reader. Abrams (23-24) states:

“Characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities that are expressed in what they say-the dialogue-and by what they do-the action. The grounds in the characters’ temperament, desires, and moral nature for their speech and actions are called **motivation**. A character may remain essentially “stable,” or unchanged in outlook and disposition. Whether a character remains stable or changes, the reader of a traditional and realistic work expects “consistency”-the character should not suddenly break off and act in a way not plausibly grounded in his or her temperament”

The writer may use a character for purposes other than characterization. A character may do 'uncharacteristic' things in order to enlarge the plot: for the writer a character may be associated with actions or objects for a purpose connected with the theme of the novel; a character may say things just so that the reader can be informed something. Characterization is creative image about characters which try to show *realitiness* to reader, so that the story is not felt so imaginative. Actually character is built through a combination of mind, impression, and acts, together with willingness shapes principals.

Therefore, the characterizations of Carl Allen can be described that the character has moral message to the readers. Based on Kenny, moral in literary generally reflects point of view about truth-values, or a suggestion of moral-teaching (Kenny in Nurgiantoro, 89). Moral contains reappraisal of a moral or view-lives either through direct and also indirectly (Stanton in Nurgiantoro, 4,9). Concerning moral in literature, Cuddon in his *A Dictionary of Literary Terms* writes that moral is the lesson to be learnt from a story, poem, fable, play, or indeed any work which purposes to teach anything either directly or obliquely. Hence, in Carl Allen's characterizations, good or bad moral can be described as clear as possible, in other word explicitly.

In addition, the writer also is interested to the story of this Film script. The writer chooses Script as a part of literary genre, it is drama, to find out the Carl Allen story of life; especially its character. Script has the same function with drama; both are equally staged or performed by the actors in a real manner. According to Hornby (765), "script is short for manuscript or typescript about an

actor's part in a play, talk, discussion, drama, to be broadcast, ect". Based on the explanation of the Carl Allen character, which is presented in this *Yes Man* script, the writer makes analysis about Moral understanding in literature.

This story is very interesting not only it has a good story, but also has a lot of characters that we can explore to explain moral understanding; especially of Carl Allen the main character of this script. This comedy drama makes the writer trying to understand a lot of meanings which are presented. According to Palmer that "to know what we learn from literature, we must know what the literature can contribute to our education first (education is concerning with what is good) and what literature can contribute to our moral education (all education has a moral dimension)" (181).

In Philippa Foot's article about 'Moral Beliefs', she maintains that disputes about human harm can be settled by pointing to the facts: for not just objectivity, however, relies too heavily upon the alleged similarity between harm and injury (in Palmer, 74). By showing facts happened to character's behavior in *Yes Man*, hence we will know morale messages generated by Carl Allen. The writer chooses the moral messages of the film to this research because the characterizations of Carl Allen has something to be learned.

The value of importance in literary has an educative function. That is why the writer is interested to analyze the moral messages of Carl Allen's *characterization*; it is to know what Carl Allen character can show us the moral education. Therefore, the title of this research is **"Moral Messages of Carl Allen's Characterization in Nicholas Stoller's *Yes Man* Film Script"**.

1.2. Statement of Problem

The problem that will be formulated on the next discussion is moral messages in *Carl Allen's* characterization in **Nicholas Stoller's** film script *Yes Man*. There are some facts of the rule's life, which is represented by Carl Allen a lonely man with low self-esteem, have the simple thought of something. Supported by the moral value that he got, he can influence some other characters understanding the moral. These moral messages can be perceived from *Carl Allen's* attitude, personality, or words in this film script.

For those reasons, in this research paper, the writer tries to identify, analyze and categorize the moral message based on the theory of the moral understanding by Frank Palmer. Palmer believes that literary contributed us the knowledge especially the moral messages. The literature can contribute to our education first (education is concerning with what is good) and what literature can contribute to our moral education (all education has a moral dimension).

1.3. Research Questions

Thus, the problem analyzed in this research concerns the searching of moral message in Carl Allen's characterizations, representing and interpreting the moral understanding that constructed by Frank Palmer and also the effect of Moral in Carl Allen's characterization to the others characters. The problems in previous are formulated into questions:

1. What are the characterizations of Carl Allen presenting moral

messages in *Yes Man* film script?

2. What is the effect of moral messages of Carl Allen's characterization to the other characters in *Yes Man* film script?

1.4. Purpose and Significance of the Research

1.4.1. Purpose of the Research

The purposes of this research are to answers the two research questions that become the main problems. The purposes of this research are:

1. to explore the characterizations of Carl Allen presenting mora in *Yes Man* film script.
2. to find out the effect of moral messages of Carl Allen's characterization to the other characters in *Yes Man* film script.

1.4.2. Significance of Research

The significances of this research are presented academically practically, and personally:

1. Academically, this research is provided to students whose study in English Department to be reference about research in the same problem.
2. Practically, this research is provided to the literary society and other people as a unity who want to understand and explore the film script content and who are interested in this research, especially about moral messages in film.

3. Personally, this research is provided to the writer to add the literary knowledge, especially about moral messages in film script.

