

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the general description of the paper. It consists of research background, research questions, research objectives, research significances, previous study, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Research Background

*Cruella (2021)* is a movie where the problem of character development becomes the highlight in the movie, because the character development in *Cruella* is quite obvious during the movie. In this movie, Cruella is the main character, Cruella develops her character so that it gives rise to other characterizations in her, or also known as Estella. In the *Cruella (2021)* movie, this character development occurs since the beginning of the movie until the movie is finished. So that character development can be said to be the main aspect in this movie, because character development is also the main element for developing the *Cruella* movie.

There are many movies that have character development aspects in their movies, but *Cruella's* movie is unique compared to other movies, for example *Black Swan (2010)* and *Split (2016)* movie. These two movies clearly show the character development, how the characters go from good to bad or bad to good. In the *Black Swan*, the main character develops from innocent to arrogant because of his ambition. In the *Split* movie, the main character develops from good to very bad due to family problems. While in *Cruella* movie, character development occurs in a jump or non-linear plot. At first, Cruella is shown as a brave and arrogant character. She transformed herself into the innocent and kind Estella. After that, suddenly, she became Cruella again with increasing rude and sadism. This character development becomes a plot twist because the character development occurs unexpectedly.

The development of characters in *Cruella's* movie, of course, did not happen suddenly, but there are causes that did trigger the development of these

characters. The main cause of character development in this movie is conflict. Because basically, Cruella, as the main character, faces many conflicts and problems which eventually makes Cruella develop her character. Because of course Cruella will try to survive and fight the conflict. Cruella's way to fight the conflict is develop her character, so that she is able to self-defense. Thus, the process of character development in this movie is happened because it is triggered by a conflict or problem that attacks the main character.

*Cruella* (2021) is a movie tells the story of a girl named Estella who was raised by her mother alone, without a father. Estella is a brave girl and often causes trouble, but her mother always manages to control Estella's attitude to be a good girl. As of her great love for her mother, Estella often obeyed her mother's orders. However, there was one incident in which her mother died due to falling into a ravine while visiting the party of a designer named Baroness. Since then, Estella has lived alone. She then met two of her male friends, whom they ended up living together into adulthood. Estella had ambitions to become a fashion designer, but due to her limitations, Estella buried her dream. Until finally, one of her male friends helped Estella work in a large boutique.

The conflict started when Estella ended up working as a fashion designer with the Baroness. After working with the Baroness for a long time, Estella learned a secret that it was the Baroness who killed her mother by dropping her into the abyss. Since then, there has been a development in the character of Estella's character. She, who has initially been kind and calm, turned arrogant, rude, and evil. She also changed her name to Cruella, and she had a desire for revenge against the Baroness.

The conflict in the movie story usually supports the growth and development of this character. The spectators will usually focus on the presence of characters and categorize good characters and bad characters or heroes and villains. The common thing is that the spectators often feel annoyed and think bad when a good character turns into a bad one.

In fact, in movies or stories, this development of characters becomes something natural because character development triggers the development of the

story itself. If the characters do not develop, the story tends not to develop. Each character in the story certainly has reasons why it turns into a bad character or vice versa. So, character, characterization, and character development in the movie are the main points for a developing storyline. The presence of characterization and character development is also triggered by conflict because characterization and character development are impossible if there are no problems or conflicts that attack the character.

Conflict is an inevitable interaction in every human's life. The presence of conflict is often seen as something terrible and unpleasant. Whereas, on the other hand, the presence of conflict can be a trigger in human development. This phenomenon also happens in literary works, especially in movies. Conflict usually appears in movies, and it usually becomes a significant factor because the conflict in a movie is a component that enlivens the movie and leaves remarks in the story. Conflict may evoke the spectator's emotions, be it sad, happy emotions, or everything in between. One of the essential points in conflict is obstacles or hurdles, which usually is experienced by a character in a movie.

Therefore, conflict can be considered an aspect of literary work, especially conflict in movies, similar to other literary works, and it got conflict stages for each of the characters involved. Thus, movies are categorized as literary works because movies have similarities with drama (visual or performing drama). Dramas and movies are often categorized in performing arts because they use actors as their primary expression, but they use different mediums (Klarer, 2004, p. 56). Thus, the movie can also categorize as literary works. In addition, movies can also be categorized as literary works because the movie has narrative elements. This narrative element is also included in literary works. The narrative element is contained in the movie script as a written narrative, as a means of telling stories through the characters' dialogues (Sudarisman, 2019).

Movies are usually equipped with a movie script because the movie is a visual or performing production, while the movie script is a written form that is the forerunner to the development of the story in the movie. According to Aristo, a movie script is a unique literary work and with aesthetic aspect. However, this

movie script is different from novels or prose because it focuses on the visual depiction of a story (Aristo, 2019, p. 54). Thus, a movie script is a written script that is performable through its actions.

The movie is the results from creative process, which contains elements related to human behavior, norms, value systems, and ideas (Trianton, 2013, p. x). Depictions of human behavior in movies are usually constructed through conflicts and problems. It is then also supported by character creation, in which the characters are equipped with their respective characterizations. The story's character is in a strategic position as the bearer and deliverer of messages, mandates, morals, or something that deliberately wants to be conveyed to the reader, and through that character, the author will put some conflicts and problems. In literary works, characters are usually used to represent the content of the work through their actions. Characters are 'people' portrayed in books or shows, and these 'people' often imitate humans through their actions (Chatman, 1978, p. 107). Thus, the appearance of the characters in the movie is quite essential to build a story.

Stories that are presented in literary works usually develop with conflict. In the end, the relationship between these different figures then causes problems and conflicts. Meredith & Fitzgerald (in Nurgiyantoro, 1995, p. 122) explain that conflict also usually occurs against a character in the story who experiences an event, and if he can choose, maybe the character will not choose to experience the event. Conflict is the primary source of a story, both in writing and on stage in layers, and it often creates tension for the audience (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 47). Conflict, in general, has an influence on the development of a character's characterization and subsequently can also affect changes in a characterization's development.

Thus, the important reason for this study that the development of character caused by conflict is that character, character, and conflict is, in a sense, the critical component in the passage of a story. In stories, it is often a character development, from good to bad, bad good, etc. The character development from good to bad usually leads to audience resentment, and sometimes it is viewed as

undesirable. In this study, the researcher will elaborate on how character development can occur, and the underlying cause is conflict. The character will never be the same person when they enter the plot in the movie. Thus, it becomes natural when character development occurs in a story.

Moreover, when there is conflict, character development will always be caused by conflict, and conflict often occurs because of changes in character. These two are developing and affecting developments in a story as well. Thus, it needs to be explained in detail to find out how the story's development grows due to character development and conflict.

The character of Cruella attracted the researcher's attention to be the object of research by revealing the character development represented by the main character, Estella. In the *Cruella* movie, each character development is portrayed as caused by the earlier conflict. Moreover, character development has led to new conflicts. Thus, in this movie, the story's development progresses nicely, for conflict and its character are constantly enhanced, evolving, and changing. The reason for choosing *Cruella's* movie is because the character development in the movie is very striking and becomes the main point in this movie, but there are several causes for the change in the main character's characterizations that are not clearly explained. In addition, the characterizations and conflicts in this movie are interrelated and bound. The characterizations cause conflicts, but the conflicts also cause characterization development. Thus, the story's development in *Cruella's* movie is indeed focused on changing characterizations and conflicts.

In this regard, the researcher tries to analyze the narrative aspects associated with the characterizations of the characters in *Cruella's* movie, which are Estella's or *Cruella's* character development. The researcher found a development in Estella's character, and Estella's conflict with other characters influenced it. Apart from conflicts between characters, there are other conflicts such as conflicts between Cruella and the environment, or even with herself. Thus, these conflicts contributed significantly to the development of Estella's character, which turned her into Cruella.

These facts became the researcher's idea to dig deeper into Estella's characterizations and the characterizations of other characters, and the conflicts that occurred as sources in revealing Estella's character development. Based on what the researcher has described, the researcher makes the title “**The Impact of Conflicts Towards Character Development in *Cruella* (2021)**” to find out how conflict affects character development in this movie.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

The main issue in this research is the impact of conflicts on the character development of the main character in *Cruella*'s movie. Character development in movies is often a matter of concern for moviegoers. This development is because many movies make character development from good to bad or evil, such as in the *Cruella* movie, which changes the innocent Estella character into the arrogant Cruella character. In literary works, as mentioned by Petrie & Boggs, character development is natural because characters will never be the same character when entering a story. However, what is rarely known is the process of character development itself. The leading cause of character development is conflict. Sometimes, conflict is only considered a 'seasoning' in the story, but it turns out that this conflict is the main foundation for character development or the development of the story itself.

Therefore, the researcher will elaborate in detail on how the process of conflicts can cause the development in the character's characterization, especially the main character, and how a character will never become the same character when he enters the storyline. Thus, the question can be summarized into three questions. The research questions are:

1. What characterizations of the main character and other characters found in *Cruella* (2021)?
2. How are conflicts between the main characters and others revealed in *Cruella* (2021)?
3. How do conflicts impact the character development of the main character in *Cruella* (2021)?

### 1.3 Research Objective

In this research, analysis of the impact of conflicts towards character development of the main character in *Cruella*'s movie has several purposes, namely:

1. To find the characterizations of the main character and other characters that appear in *Cruella* (2021).
2. To reveal what conflicts arise between the main character and others in *Cruella* (2021).
3. To find out how the impact of conflicts towards character development of the main character in *Cruella* (2021)

### 1.4 Research Significance

#### a. Theoretically

This research is expected to be useful for readers who will study narrative elements in movies, especially characters, characterization, conflict, and character development. This research is also likely to be a reference for similar research. Combining those literary devices theories in this research will signify further studies. This research is also expected to inspire researchers who will conduct research related to narrative elements in movies. Then, they can apply several similar theories in researching their research.

#### b. Practically

This research is expected to provide a new feature or contribution. This research is expected to provide much knowledge and information regarding how a conflict in movies becomes a significant influence, even a significant influence in the story's development and character development of the characters in the movie. Hence, a reader will find several combinations of theories necessary to analyze the movie, particularly on the character of the character, conflict, and development of characterization or character.

Many people know that character and conflict are the main elements of building a story in a literary work, but most people only apply it to writing, such

as poetry, novels, and stories. This research proved that even in movies, characterizations and conflicts could be analyzed in detail and depth, and it also turns out that characterizations and conflicts can be linked to the character issues of a movie character.

### **1.5 Previous Studies**

To facilitate the research process in this research, the researcher has also laid out some previous studies from several sources. This previous research was used to help the researcher understand what will be studied because there are many theories related to this research. These previous studies have different problems and research questions to compare and adjust which studies are related to this research. The sources included thesis and article journals. Earlier studies referred to by researchers were studies with topics similar to this research.

The first previous study is a journal article titled *Changing Behavior as A Mean to Achieve Perfection Shown by Nina Sayers in The Black Swan Movie* by Darren Aronofsky (2013) by Indra Pratama Sugihara and Endang Ernawati from Binus University. This article has similarities in the selected topic: the character development or changes of the main character, but with a different object. The theory used is a theory of striving for perfection by Adler and the unconscious mind by Sigmund Freud. This study discusses the behavior changes of the main character or Nina Sayers, in pursuit of perfection, and the psychological condition of anxiety disorder also causes this behavior change. This anxiety disorder also encourages Nina to achieve perfection, which begins to plague her subconscious mind, and she begins to change behavior due to three leading causes: perfection, anxiety, and the subconscious mind.

The second previous study is *An Analysis of Gru's Personality Changes In "Despicable Me" Movie* (2014) by Vanny P. Melati from Muhammadiyah University of Malang. This paper has similarities in the selected topic, which is the character development of the main character in a movie but in a different object. The theory used is the personality change theory by Hjelle and Ziegler. The research design used is descriptive qualitative research. The object of his

research is Gru in the *Despicable Me* movie. This study focuses on changing the character of Gru (main character), who is evil and turns into a good person because he loves his adopted children, namely Agnes, Edith, and Margo. This study raises two things about the change in Gru's character, namely the effects and factors of Gru's personality change. Gru's personality change affects him because he is called a mysterious hero, the girls turn him into a better person, and his mother is very proud of him. The factor influencing Gru's personality change is the environmental change factor.

The third previous study is a thesis entitled *The Characterization and conflict of John Nash in A Beautiful Mind movie script by Akiva Goldsman (2020)* by Winda S. Putri from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This paper has similarities in the selected topic: characterization and conflict in the movie, but with a different object. The theory used is the personality theory of Heymans. This thesis focuses on the characterization and conflicts of the main character, as the character intended is to know the character of the main character. Furthermore, the conflict discussed is the internal conflict of mental disorders of the main character.

The similarity of this research with previous research is on the selection of topics related to the development or changes in the main character's characterization. The difference between this study with the previous research is on the chosen object, and none discussed *Cruella* since this *Cruella* is a new movie. In addition, the difference between this study and previous research is in theory chosen because previous research used psychoanalytic theory, while this study focuses more on narrative elements, thus using and combining characterization, conflict, and character development theories. This research discusses changes in the characterization of the main character and discusses the process that focuses on narrative elements (conflict and characterization). The topics discussed in previous studies are character development, conflict, and character development in the main character. In this research, the researcher will focus more on the influence of the conflict in *Cruella's* movie since the character development in the main character is so apparent, and the existing conflicts trigger

this. Thus, the researcher chose this object, which no one had ever studied before, especially when it came to the effects of conflict on the development character of the main character. In addition, the researcher will more focus on discussing the narrative element, not the psychological element as in previous studies.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

- a. **Character:** According to Chatman, characters are people who are in the movie, where their nature and character imitate human behavior in the real world through their actions. (Chatman, 1978, p. 108). Characters are presented in the story to make the plot or storyline more lively, because the character will still exist without a storyline or plot, but the storyline tends to not exist if there are no characters (Kenney, 1966, p. 24).
- b. **Characterization:** Characterization is the nature, behavior, desires, and instincts that exist in a character (Chatman, 1978, p. 107). Characterization is a means for the author to show directly how the nature or character of a character is. According to Petrie and Boggs, this characterization is presented in the story to make the characters look more real or look more like humans in the real world through their actions (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 50).
- c. **Conflict:** According to Cambridge Dictionary, conflict is a form of disagreement between two people that includes opposing opinions. According to Petrie & Boggs, conflict is the main point in the movie, because this conflict can make the story develop and play with the emotions of the audience (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 48). Conflicts in literary works are not only characters with characters, but can also be characters with the environment, or characters with themselves.
- d. **Development of Character:** Character development in a movie is the cause of conflicts and plots in the story, characters will not be the same person when entering a story (Petrie & Boggs, 2012, p. 57). This development is because the characters will experience many conflicts and face the plot, so the characterization will continue to develop.