

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of research background that contains information about research topic genre, comparison of writer's topic with others possibly topic candidates, as well as reason why the writer choose this topic. There are also problems that lead to research questions of the topic described. Then here are research objectives and research significances that provide the objectives and benefits of this research. As well as previous studies which serve to find material for comparison and find inspiration for this research.

1.1 Background

When people want to buy a car, undoubtedly they will be shown a list of cars. It is the same when people want to enjoy movies in a cinema, they will see different movies with different kind of genres that they want to enjoy. Genre itself is a category list of a particular style, form and content. Conventional definitions of genre tend to be based on the notion that they constitute particular conventions of content (such as themes or settings) and/or form (including structure and style) which are shared by the texts which are regarded as belonging to them (Chandler, 1997:2). It is a general and common thing in many field. Starting from literature, music, games, to films, all of them cannot be separated from genre. Although in many field they have different genre lists, genre in film and literature have a little similarity. One thing that they have in common is both film and literature have drama as their genre. The world of cinema has drama as one of their biggest genre, while on literature side is a little different from drama genre in movie field. Unlike drama movie genre, drama in literature is a literary work.

Originally, drama is a part of literature as it refers to the performed of written scripts of story, dialogue, and stage action in front of an audience. Drama as literary works is a result of imaginative works through performance, which is why Robert Di Yanni describes it as "staged art" (Dukore, 1974). Iwuchukwu also

states that Drama is an adaptation, recreation and reflection of reality on stage. Generally, the word *dramatist* is used for any artist who is involved in any dramatic composition either in writing or in performance (Iwuchukwu, 2008:3). As a literary works, it is designed for the theatre because characters are assigned roles and they act out their roles as the action is enacted on stage. These characters can be human beings, dead or spiritual beings, animals, or abstract qualities. Aristotle's definitions sum up these and other numerous definitions of drama by different scholars. He defines drama simply as an imitation of an action. He links it to the mimetic impulse in human beings like children playing with their father and mother in a childhood play. This means that imitation is part of life. Human beings have the desire to imitate others, situations or events.

Not only drama count as literary works, but it also included as a genre. Drama as a genre is one of the popular genres, especially in cinema/movie world. Robert Lado states that the video movie or motion picture is in theory at least the most powerful of visual aids; it combines picture with movement, color and sound (Lado, 1974:201). Drama genre focuses on human interest wrapped in dramatic elements, shows us humans at their best and their worst. It usually include a strong moral stance or view of the world around them. But most people still have a struggle to know what genre a film have and how to categorize it. Robert Stam refers to common ways of categorizing films,

“While some genres are based on story content (the war film), other are borrowed from literature (comedy, melodrama) or from other media (the musical). Some are performer-based (the Astaire-Rogers films) or budget-based (blockbusters), while others are based on artistic status (the art film), racial identity (Black cinema), location (the Western) or sexual orientation (Queer cinema).” (Stam, 2000:14).

This statement is responded by Bordwell that concludes one could argue that no set of necessary and sufficient conditions can mark off genres from other sorts of groupings in ways that all experts or ordinary film-goers would find

acceptable (Bordwell, 1989:147). Although drama genre is a whole different thing with drama as literary work, but both still have similarity and relation on each other. As described above that drama as literary works recreation and reflection of reality on stage, drama as a genre focus on human interest of their best and worst condition. Dr. Totawad Nagnath states that Film and literature inspire and enrich each other. They also ennoble human mind through action, images, words and replicating life of human beings (Ramrao, 2016:2). In this study, the writer focuses on researching the drama genre and its aspects, with film as the object of the research.

The object of this research is going to be a film by Italian film director Gabriele Muccino entitled *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006). There are some phases that the writer went through before finally stipulating *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) as the object of this research. When the writer thinks of drama movie genre, the first thing that the writer thought of is drama-romance movie. But the writer realized that drama-romance movie mostly focuses on the romance side and the writer does not want a romance formula that is more dominant than a drama formula. The writer finally decided to use a drama-dominant movie like *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) for the object of the research. *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) is a drama/biographical film created on December 15th, 2006, which tells a story about a man, a salesman, and a father who is struggling in his life. Wanadilok says that film is an authentic medium which carries true impressions and concepts with animation (Kosum, 1981). *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) tells the audience a story of a man named Chris Gardner who must face the reality about the hard time in his life with his son named Christopher. They both strive together to survive and overcome an economic crisis in their life. The movie shows the struggle of Chris Gardner who works really hard to get a better job and achieve happiness.

There are some reasons that the writer decided to choose this movie for the research idea. If the writer compared to other movies that are similar to this movie, *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) is still significant to choose because it has many aspects to analyze. First is from the genre, the combination of biographical and drama genre in this film is balanced. *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) is not drama-

romance movie that lead the romance formulas become more dominant, like *Brooklyn* (2015) directed by John Crowley or *Me Before You* (2016) directed by Thea Sharrock. There are also popular ones such as drama-comedy like *Fatherhood* (2021) directed by Paul Weitz or *The Edge of Seventeen* (2016) directed by Kelly Fremon Craig. But *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) has perfect yet unique combination of genre that make this movie is worth to be the writer's research object. Second is from the story itself, *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) as described above is a biographical-drama film, the formula of both genre are not dominant at one sided. The uniqueness of this film is that this film is based on true story. It is a biographical movie that tells a story about a man named Chris Gardner, which the movie itself is true story and it suitable to be delivered with dramatic storytelling. In reality, Chris Gardner himself is still alive up till this moment.

People know that *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) is a biographical film by telling a story of life of Chris Gardner. But how about the drama genre? As one of the biggest genre in movie genre, how people describe drama genre in general? What makes a film categorized as a drama genre? According to Steve Neale in his *Genre Theory*, it is easy to underplay the differences within a genre. Steve Neale declares that 'genres are instances of repetition and difference' (Neale 1980:48). He thinks that genre is often made up of things that are repeated those conventional elements that we are really familiar with. But in this case, the writer uses Formula and genre from John G. Cawelti. Cawelti thought on genre that not only literary works or movie that have genre, but almost everything has its own genre. Although almost all things have genre, but their formula is different.

According to John G. Cawelti, a formula is a combination or synthesis of a number of specific cultural conventions with a more universal story form or archetype. The definition formula in the popular literature is the same with the term genre in the discussion of classical literature. It is also similar in many ways to the traditional literary conception of a genre (Cawelti, 2001:5). By using this theory, the research can limit the range of theoretical analysis in certain parts to avoid overly broad analysis. After the writer validated the genre of *The Pursuit of*

Happyness (2006) by Gabriele Muccino is a true drama movie, the writer is going to analyze dramatic elements that are in the film as the supporting theory. In this case of research, the writer is analyzed the dramatic elements in the movie through cinematography. As the cinematography have many elements, the writer only focuses on the lighting and camera technique.

Based on the research background that has described, this research analyze the drama genre and the drama formulas in *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) movie by Gabriele Muccino. As it has explained before, Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) categorized as a drama film although it is not having romance aspect in it. Some people still also know the movie genre of what they want to watch from the genre section that usually have their genre information for the viewers. Therefore, the writer decided to make this research and hopes it can find the solutions and solve the problems in drama genre and drama formulas in *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) by Gabriele Muccino.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Build upon the research background that has been described above, people can know a genre in a movie just by looking at basic characteristics of the genre, but that is only for grouping the genre to make people know what kind of movie that they watch. In Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) most people know it is a biographical movie as it tells a life story of a person, and they know it is a drama movie because it tells the story dramatically or the movie makes them cry. But most people do not know which specific terms and conditions that makes *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) categorize as drama movie. Therefore, the problems that are be identified in this research are:

1. What formulas of drama are in Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006)?

2. How are Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) categorized as a drama genre?

1.3 Research Objectives

As viewers, most people usually know the genre in basic terms just to find out what kind of movie they going to watch. Therefore, it is necessary to know more details about categorize genre, especially in the drama formulas. The main objectives of this research are:

1. Analyze how Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) is categorized as a drama genre.
2. Analyze what are the drama formulas in Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006).

1.4 Research Significances

In gist of this research, the writer conducted this research to obtain a significancy. The writer hopes this research can expected to provide practically and theoretically benefits. Theoretically, in this Gabriele Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) research is expected to increase knowledge about analytical studies of English literature, especially on film studies field. This research also hopes to add more analytical concept and strengthen existing theory of genre analytical of a movie.

Practically, it is hoped that this research can be used as a comparison material with previous studies, especially regarding in genre and cinematography analysis. It is also hoped that this research can help readers to understand how the *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006) by Gabriele Muccino can categorized as drama film and what are the drama formulas in the movie. Finally, this research can also be considered by students to give birth to new ideas and can also provide knowledge about the world of film and literature.

1.5 Previous Researches

Here are some previous research to support theory of this research. One of the previous research that discuss and break down about formulas was *The classical detective formula in Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express*. in 2021 by Nurazni. In this research, she analyze the classical detective elements in the novel, whilst the writer focuses on drama formulas in the movie. The writer of this research were uses many theory, which two of them including structuralism by Saussure and formula aspect by Cawelty. In her concepts, Saussure's structuralism is a way to uncover the meaning contained in a text, it analyze a structure of the text in detail to discover the elements that builds a story. The other theory that she use is from Cawelty's formula. She spell out that formula characterized story patterns, and it can determine the genre of a story.

Another research similar is by Eviliana from her research in 2019 entitled *Romance formula in Jhon M Chu Crazy Rich Asian movie (2018)*. Her research uses John G Cawelti's (1976) theory as her grand theory in analyzing the romance formula. Her grand theory also reinforced by Radway's (1991) theory and Frye's (1971) theory as supporting theory in analyzing the myth. Her research focus in analyzed and discussed the romance formula in a crazy rich Asian film directed by Jhon M Chu.

The last previous research that writer uses is *Westren formula in "Jane got a gun" 2015* by Munawaroh in 2019. In this research, she use *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture* by John G Cawelti (1976) for the theory of formula. She also use another Cawelti's theory from *The Six-Gun Mistique* by Cawelti (1999) for the characteristics of the formula.