

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. The introduction of the research consists of several subtopics which are the researcher's overview, the statement of the issue, the question of the study, its importance, the theoretical foundation, and relevant research.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every individual is different. What distinguishes them is their personality. Their personality makes them unique and helps us to know their traits. It works as a tool for interacting with people as well. This is in line with the statement from (Spielman, Jenkins, & Lovett, 2020) that personalities are what make people different. They have unique ways of interacting with people and the world around them. This way of interacting is based on the person's enduring, long-term qualities. A person's personality also works as an indicator of the behavior they are showing in the environment where they live. This is following the statement from (Bhoite & Shinde, 2019) that personalities as the sum total of individual physiology and psychological system that is considered a determinant of an individual's behavior in a given environment. In short, personalities have a role to help individuals in adapting and interact with their surroundings. It has become a determinant of individuals' behavior as well as where they belong, which means the environment they live in.

However, the personality of an individual can develop as a result of the environment they live. The development of an individual's personality is influenced by personality determinants. As mentioned by (Hurlock, Personality Development, 1974, p. 141) through personality determinants which are divided into eight determinants is to know what factors in an

individual's life either hereditary or environmental are responsible for influencing his or her self-concept and his characteristics pattern of adjusting to life. These eight determinants are what influence personality development of an individual. In this research, the personality development happened to one of the main characters named Tom after she got caught by the police, ranger, and social worker along with her father at the forest park. Her personality began to develop as she left the forest park acknowledged what the outside world was like and found out about her father's PTSD.

As a character, Tom has characterization attached to her. This is why both of these are closely related. The meaning of characterization itself pertains to the creation and description of characters in literature. This includes depictions of the physical characteristics of a character and personality, along with the character's actions, thoughts, and speech. This is following the statement from (Brereton, 2008, p. 26) characterization is a description of a character through gesture, actions, dialogue, and a few subtleties about motivation or feeling. Therefore, the moment when the character appears in a film will help audiences understand the character's growth throughout the film and also help them to acknowledge the character's personality.

Tom is a 13-year-old girl. Tom's age range is categorized as adolescence. Adolescence is a period in an individual's age range years 13-19. This is under the statement of (L'Abate, 1994, p. 57), on his table of *The Normative Individual Life Cycle*, he categorizes individuals who are 13-19 years old as adolescence. Adolescence here is explained as the state in which an individual develops individuality, meaning needed more time and is spaced apart from their family to function in society, for instance, spending time with peers and making contributions. It is also said to be a distinct and important period of life (Kang, Skinner, Sancu, & Sawyer, 2013, p. 6). In a word, adolescence is a period of an individual's life where

they develop individuality as their physical and cognitive determined the process of their contribution in functioning as an individual in social, economic, political, and cultural contexts.

There are conflicts found in the film. All conflict between the characters, most of them, is caused by Will's mental health condition. In a story, conflict works as the element for capturing audiences' interest. The statement is following (Boggs & Petrie, 1978, p. 57) that conflict captures readers or audiences' attention, intensifies their experience, quickens their pulse, and challenges their minds. Conflict itself refers to a clash between at least two incompatible sides. As has been mentioned by (Cuddon, 1998, p. 175) that conflict occurs when characters are in tension, or characters are actually opposing each other. It may occur between characters, or between society and the environment.

As a family, Tom and Will are going through conflicts. This is following the statement from (Saxbe, Rodriguez, & Margolin, 2012) that to be in a family is to experience conflict. This means, it is an inevitable feature of family life. There will be times when family members argue with each other, agreement-disagreement on things, etc. Tom is at an age where she wanted to make friends and socialize. However, it seems Will wanted to gatekeep Tom from the outside world.

There is one scene where she finds a rabbit on the side of the road, she tried to find the owner of the rabbit, and she was finally met with the owner. The owner's name is Isaiah. They were talking for hours until the sun goes down. At the cottage, Will searched for her because it was already dark outside, but Tom was not home yet. He was worried about her. Finally, Tom arrived home safe and sound. She apologized to Will for making him worried about her and also told him she met a new friend and talked about rabbits as time passed. Then, she mentioned about having a phone would be easier for both of them in communicating. She would

have called Will to tell him she will be home late. Will said that they had always been able to communicate with each other without it. Then, Tom replied to his words by saying she thinks it might be easier on them if they try to adapt.

When usually, the parents are the ones who convince their children and tell their children to try to adapt well to the new surroundings they moved in, in this film, it's the opposite which makes the film interesting. Tom is only 13 years old but she can adapt well to her new surroundings unlike her father that keeps wanting to run away and live freely in the forest. This is where the major conflicts between the main characters occurred, leading to Tom's personality development. Tom becomes a person who is collected, independent, disobedient, aware, and outspoken.

Another uniqueness that the writer found which makes this film stands out is, that in this modern era where technology is attached to us, the usage of smartphones and the internet are quite high. However, in this film, there is no technology used throughout the story. Tom, who was spending most of her life in the forest park, made her not know much about what the outside world looks like as she has been living without technology, for instance, smartphones, the internet, and the television. She had none of them as Will does not let her have or use them. It is found in the film when Jane, the woman from the social worker, wants to give Will and Tom smartphones. However, Will refuses them. This is quite rare to be found in everyday life which makes this film stands out and unique.

Leave No Trace has given those who are watching it life lessons and moral values to be grateful for every aspect of life Allah has given us. For instance, being healthy physically and mentally, having your father and mother around you, having friends, having a house to live in, and having a job to earn money. The writer chose a film entitled *Leave No Trace* as the object of the research, considering film as a media not only

for entertaining people but also give moral value makes it is very beneficial to watch. This is in line with the statement from (Ross, 1987) film is more believable, engrossing, emotionally affecting. A film identical with having characters in it. Using characters will help to deliver the imaginative needs to the audience, such as moral value. They work as a tool for delivering the imaginative needs to the audiences. This is following the statement from (Ross, 1987) film has the way in meeting the imaginative needs of their audience by using the same elements, characters that move through space, and actions occurring across time.

Tom was homeless. Homelessness is one of the social problems that still can be found in society. As mentioned previously, Tom and Will were living in the forest park, they were sleeping under a tent. If we look at society, there are public places or structures built such as streets, parks, and under bridges, that are often chosen as an option for the homeless as the place to live. This condition is associated with a worse state of health because of the difficulty of maintaining health while trying to provide basic necessities such as meals, housing, and security. The following condition is perfectly portrayed in a film entitled *Leave No Trace*. Seeing the film can give a perfect portrayal of what homelessness is like, making it attractive to be chosen as the object of this research.

Leave No Trace (2018) is a film that the writer has chosen to be the object of the research. Debra Granik is the name of a person that directed this film. The genre of the film is drama. This film has achieved to become one of the most extraordinary most moving dramas of the year in 2018 and it is also earned 100% on Rotten Tomatoes after receiving 200 reviews, knowing its achievements has shown it is a great film. The drama film is a genre based on the emotional and relational development of real-life characters. This is in line with the statement from (Buffam, 2011) dramatic themes are often taken from intense issues from real life. Whether the

heroes or heroines face a struggle on the outside or a struggle within themselves, the drama aims to tell an honest story of human struggles.

However, there is similar statement from (Scholes, Klaus, & Silverman, 1978, p. 1298) that the images in most films represent objects and people as we might recognize them in everyday life. In a word, drama film is a genre with emotional and relational development of characters that we can find in real life which aiming to tell an honest story about the struggle of human. Added the statement from (O'Malley, 2018) that Granik emphasizes individuals in her work, so it has a real social and political critique. Another reason is Tom and Will are categorized as single-parent families as there is only one parent in the family. The writer find it quite rare, since single mothers are more often found and represented, this is in line with (Sider & Currie, 2013, p. 66) that single father families are under-represented in educational research. Within the research on single parent families, there has been more extensive attention given to single mothers than to fathers. This becomes a problem, since single fathers as the representation of unique group. Regarding their statement, single father deserve to be more represented on educational research as well, since they are representing as a unique group. *Leave No Trace*, is represented the story of a single father.

1.2 Statement of Problem

As explained in the introduction, this present study is focused on the Tom's character development in *Leave No Trace* film. Therefore, the problem is formulated in the following questions:

1. How does Tom portrayed in *Leave No Trace* a film by Debra Granik before and after getting caught by the police, ranger, and social worker?
2. What are aspects that influence Tom's personality development and how do those aspects influence Tom's personality development in Debra Granik's *Leave No Trace*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the formulation of the research questions above, this present research objective is:

1. To analyze how does Tom portrayed in *Leave No Trace* film by Debra Granik before and after getting caught by the police, ranger, and social worker.
2. To analyze what are the aspects that influence Tom's personality development and to describe how do those aspects influence Tom's personality development in Debra Granik's *Leave No Trace*.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

From a theoretical perspective, it can be used as a helpful reference to understand the content of the film. Hopefully, it will give a contribution to the development of knowledge. Especially, for other researchers who want to analyse the same subject or same theory as the writer did about personality development.

Practically, this is dedicated to the development of literary study in the State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung's English Literature Department. The writer hopes this can give understanding in the literary field as the reference for the next researchers in analyzing this film with a different perspective.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

This part will be explaining about the conceptual framework of the present research. This will be set as a foundation to show how the research goes and it works as a guide as well to analyze the object of this present research, a film entitled *Leave No Trace* (2018) directed by Debra Granik. It will describe and analyze how has Tom portrayed in *Leave No Trace* film before and after getting caught by the police, ranger, and social worker, what are the aspects that influence Tom's personality development and how do those aspects influence Tom's personality development. To

answer those research problems, it will be done by analyzing and classifying them by using five theories, character and characterization theory, personality development theory, PTSD theory, conflict theory, and family conflict theory. The use of theories mentioned is considering the five of those are found in the *Leave No Trace* film.

In analyzing personality of a character, theory of character and characterization is the key because a character is born with it. These also work to help the reader or audience determine the characteristics of a character and also as a guide for the writer to know the personality of the character by paying attention to the character's behavior, speech, and thought. This is in line with the statement from (Stanton, 1965) that the knowledge audiences have of the characters makes them understand their actions, and through it audiences understand the characters.

Characterization can be made in two ways. It has been mentioned by (Abrams & Harpham, 2009, p. 43) to present a characterization of a character is through showing and telling methods. In showing, by merely presenting the characters' actions and talking, the author leaves it up to the reader to interpret the meaning behind what they say and do. It is the opposite of what the telling method will do. The author describes and evaluates the characters' motives and dispositions authoritatively.

To understand the meaning of personality development, it is needed to know the definition of "Personality" and "Development" itself. The Latin term *persona* is where the word personality comes from. Discussing the history of *persona*, according to (Spielman, Jenkins, & Lovett, 2020) in the ancient world, a *persona* was actually a mask that an actor wore at the time. Personality is related to how an individual behaves. This is under the statement from (Black, 2019, p. 8) personality is said to be the way an individual behaves, how they use their cognitions, and also their emotional patterns which emerge from someone's characteristics in

terms of their biological and environmental factors which leads to the motivation of their psychological interactions with the environment they live in. People have personality as its characteristics. According to (Hurlock, 1974, p. 19) personality of an individual is shown through their thought and behavior. The next definition will be development. From what was written in the dictionary of Cambridge, in the work of literature, development is said to be the movement from one event to another or changing in characters' understanding. In short, from the explanation above, personality development is the changing of an individual's personality which can determine their behavior when adapting to the environment they live in.

As mentioned in the background of the study, a mental health problem, PTSD was found. Therefore, the use of the theory is needed. PTSD is a mental health problem with a chronic impairment disorder that occurs after there's exposure to traumatic events. Exposure here, according to American Psychiatric Association in (Lancaster, Teeters, Gros, & Back, 2016, p. 1 & 2) is described as when a person who is suffering from this is immediately either experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event or learning a trauma that happened on their close relatives or a friend.

The next theory is conflict theory. According to (Cuddon, 1998, p. 175), "conflict is the tension in a situation between characters, or the actual opposition of characters and it may occur between a character and society or environment". In short, it is a clash between two incompatible sides.

The final theory is the family conflict theory. Family known as people closely related to each other. It has been mentioned by (Hughes Jr, 2004, p. 6) Family itself is a condition where there are more than two individuals who are either bond of affinity, genetic, or emotional linkage or think of themselves as related to each other. According to (Riggs &

Tweedell, 2006, pp. 9-12), there are 9 types of family and in the film, Will and Tom are categorized as the single-parent families type of family.

1.6 Previous Studies

There are many researchers already that have been conducted on analyzing personality development in films. The first research was conducted by Setyawan (2018) under the title *“Personality Development of The Main Character as Influenced by Family Conflict in Sean Penn’s Into The Wild Movie Script”*. Setyawan uses a script from Sean Penn's movie *Into The Wild*. The plot revolves around a man named Christopher Mccandless. He is a unique and smart guy. He lives in a rich family where he can get everything he wants but he is not living a happy life. He grew up under circumstances where his father and mother are always fighting and this is what made him away from his parents. All of these make Christopher’s personality develop. He chooses to leave his house to travel to Alaska and live his life there. Therefore, he lived there for more than 100 days. But tragically, he died because of mistakenly eating a poisonous fruit. Setyawan focuses on the development of Christopher’s personality and the conflict with his family. Setyawan found that Christopher’s personality is undergo a change after going through conflicts within his family.

Other research was conducted by Nisa (2015) entitled *“Poppy Moore’s Personality Development As Seen In Wild Child Movie”*. The movie is a story of a character named Poppy Moore who lives in California. She was sent by her father to a boarding school in England. Before she went there, she is a wild, disrespectful, arrogant, and undisciplined girl but then after she moved to the boarding school, her personality begins to change. Nisa focuses on Poppy Moore’s personality development. Nisa found out that Poppy’s personality is changing after she moved to the new school and realized that it was where her mother was supposed to learn too in her school days.

Last but not least, this present research takes a review from the journal “*The Influence of Psychological Conflict Towards Elsa’s Character Development In Frozen Film*”. Which was conducted by Nor Rahmah, S. D. (2017). In their research, Nor Rohmah, S. D., used a famous animated movie entitled *Frozen* by Walt Disney Animated Studio. The movie is telling about the story of two princesses named Anna and Elsa. After the death of the King and Queen of Arendelle which is their parents, Elsa as the older daughter is decided to be the Queen of Arendelle. Elsa has icy powers that make her isolate herself from everyone including her sister because she is afraid that she might hurt everyone near her. Nor Rohmah, S. D., focuses on Elsa’s psychological conflict that leads her to have character development. Nor Rohmah, S. D., has found there are three types of psychological conflict that has influenced Elsa’s character development. Then, they combined the psychological conflict theory with the personality development theory by Hurlock. They found that out of eight determinants, five of them have influenced the development of Elsa’s character.

After reading other research, found out that this present research has a similarity with Setyawan’s undergraduate thesis because of has the same focus on family conflict. However, even though this present research concerns the same issue but the object is different because of the use of *Leave No Trace* film, while Setyawan’s object is *Into The Wild* movie script. Also, the existence of mental health issues, PTSD (*Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*) proves that this present research compared to Setyawan’s different due to the clear distinction in the object of study.