

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the paper. Consist of research background, previous studies, research questions, research purposes, research significance, and definitions of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Movie is one of the popular forms of fiction. In addition to being entertainment movies also often feature the same problems as real life. In the movie there are many genres that are displayed one of the genres that are still very popular among many, namely the romance genre. The romance genre began in anglophone countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia (Romance Writers, 2006). In this modern era the romance genre has expanded to various other countries with different popular literary forms such as movies that can be accessed online and can be enjoyed anywhere. Including in Indonesia who can access romance genre movies from The United States.

The romance genre is indeed one of the most popular genres, but in the context of popular literary works Regis (2003: 1) defines the genre *le plus populaire et le moins respecte* 'the most popular and least appreciated genre'. The main reason is because the story is easy to guess and always ends happily. In the romance genre of course presents the romance of a woman and a man who strive to be together and unite the love of both despite many conflicts and problems that must be faced such as problems in a disharmonious family, friendship problems

and misunderstandings between the two. The romance genre cannot be separated from the formula that forms the romance genre itself. This romance genre formula is delivered with several characteristics that build the story into a category of romance genres.

The film chosen in this study is *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2018). The process of finding for movies starts with searching for some romantic genre films on the internet and Netflix channels. After trying to find and watch several films, the researcher finally chose the film *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2018) to be the object of this research.

The reason for choosing this film is because *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2018) is one of the most popular romance genre films, as evidenced by the approval rating reaching 96%. In addition, the popularity of this film is also evidenced by the appearance of a sequel, namely *To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You* and *To All the Boys: Always and Forever*. This film also contains several aspects of the romance formula, ranging from tone, characterization, storyline, setting, pacing, and style. These aspects are able to develop the plot in this film to become a complete romance genre.

This aspect has a close relationship with the topic that will be chosen in this study, because this research will focus on the analysis of romance formulas in literary works, or especially films. This film contains intrinsic elements that can support the romance formula. This film also focuses on the two main characters who are lovers, so the whole story is based on the romance formula.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before (2018) is a movie that tells the main female character, Lara Jean, a smart, beautiful and quiet girl who likes to fantasize about feelings of love for some of her male friends. She poured in the love letter and she only kept his love letter in his secret box without having any intention of sending it because she was afraid about the relationship. However, once her sister Kitty learned of her sister's habit of writing love letters without sending them, without her sister's knowledge she sent all the letters. Love for the men her sister likes, from there Lara Jean's life changes, the delusion of her feelings of love is now true and all the men she has. Write a love letter knowing his feeling. One of the men was Peter, a man of large stature, white and handsome-faced. He is his friend's lover and after being sent the letter they both pretend to be dating to make Peter's ex-girlfriend jealous. A relationship that initially only pretends to foster true feelings for both of them after the conflict that occurs. The conflict in this movie stems from the conflict of romance movies in general which more often raise social conflicts such as the class differences of the second caste of female families and Man, the conflict between the two families is like there is no blessing from the family. In this movie, it shows a unique conflict that comes from the female main character and from the male character who can still be a spice in the romance movie.

Based on the characters and conflicts that occur in this movie, the author chooses the object of the movie as research to be examined in detail what formulas are presented to make this movie it becomes a romance genre. In addition, the author has read some of the same research in the form of romance

genres with different literary objects as supporters of this research. And the author also has not found a researcher who uses the object of this movie. The author will focus this research by describing the romance genre formula in this movie from the romance genre formula displayed through the character and conflicts in this movie. Joyce G. Saricks.

There are some studies or research that discussed the same topic. First, the related research is a thesis written by Wilda Eviliana entitled *Romance Formula In Jhon M CHU CRAZY RICH ASIAN MOVIE (2018)*. The discussion about conflict that represents the romance formula in M CHU CRAZY RICH ASIAN MOVIE uses the Cawelti-suported Radway theory.

The second study is an article written by Tania Intan and Vincentia Tri Handayani entitled *Romance Formulation in Chicklit 'Beauty Case' By: Icha Rahmawati Feminist Literature study*. This research explores aspects of the romance formulation that presents the storyline of the novel Beauty Case and its characterization. Although the novel Beauty Case is included in the romance subgenre, the plot does not meet the romance formula because of its changing plots. From her characterization the female main character in the novel not only struggles for her love story but struggles to find her true self. Likewise with the male character depicted does not have an exemplary character. However, the novel Beauty Case still meets the romance formula that has a happy ending and also the storyteller in this novel is a single first person, the female main character, the nature of the story. The storyteller is intimately subjective and limited then it

becomes a formula that is fulfilled. Researchers used the theories of Radway, Modlesky, Gill and Herdierckerhoff.

The third previous study is from Yunita Setiani Aisyah thesis entitled *Romantic Formulas in a Novel Notebook by Nicholas Sparks*. This study discusses the romance formula built in the novel *The Notebook* Novel by Nicholas Spark. This study uses the theory of Cawelti (1976) in analyzing the romance formula which is reinforced by the theory of Radway (1991) and the theory of Frye (1971). The *Notebook* novel implements a certain plot that builds a formula for romance such as, the first between Noah and Allie, they love each other, fight against obstacles and face them, and they are happy forever. Character is the main key to make this novel into the romance genre, because it presents the characteristics of the romance formula through the characters of Noah and Allie. The myth of the seasons is one of the important elements that build a romance formula. The formula contained in this novel is built through the season, namely summertime.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The main problem in this research is related to the romance formula in the film *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2018). Of course, the romance formula in a film needs to be built by several elements, ranging from tone, characterization, storyline, setting, pacing, to style. This needs to be analyzed and explored in depth, to prove that this film does contain a romance formula, thus making this film a complete romantic film with a structured plot. These elements

are also able to make the plot of this film grow. Based on the background and statement of the problems, it can be formulated into research question as follows:

1. How is romance formula constructed in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*?
2. How does conflict support romance formula in the movie *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*?

1.3 Research Purposes

The research objectives to be achieved are:

1. To find out the forms of the romance formula in the movie *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* (2018).
2. To analyze the conflict in the movie *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* (2018) which shows a support romance formula.

1.4 Research Significances

The significances the writer expects from this research is divided into some part, those are:

The author hopes this research can provide knowledge to readers about the romance genre formula is not only in popular literary works in the form of writing but there are also in the form of movies. Also as a reference to his subsequent research that has the same topic in popular literature.

The results of this study are expected to provide knowledge about the romance genre formula in popular literary works, especially literary works

with movies that also increase knowledge about the form of the romance genre formula by Joyce G. Saricks for later research that uses similar theories.

1.5 Definitions of Key Term

- a. Structuralism as literary criticism: According to Tyson (2015: 207) Literature is a verbal art which consists of language. According to Jonathan Culler the structure of literary interpretation is a form of rules and codes that have not consciously internalized or given meaning to readers when reading literary works. (Tyson, 2015: 217).
- b. Movie as Literature: Movie is cinema or moving images, is a series of images projected on a screen that aims to create the illusion (description) of the motion of living things. (Weston, 2003).
- c. Structure of film: Nurgiyantoro (2007) said that in literary works there are always constructive elements, namely extrinsic elements and intrinsic elements, both of which are very important in a literary work. According to Eagleton (1996) the intrinsic elements consist of themes, plots, characters and settings.
- d. Genre of popular literature: According to the Advisory Service in the public library the definition of genre is any sizeable. Joyce G. Saricks said that the fiction genre is not limited to romantic, traditional mysteries but is expanded specially to include: adventure, thrillers, horror and many more.
- e. Romance formula in popular fiction: According to Ristin Ramsdell defines Romance as “a love story in which the main focus is on the development and satisfying resolution of the love relationship between the two main

characters, written in such a way as to give the reader some level of emotional participation. (Saricks, 2009: 132).

- f. Conflict: Conflict in the romance formula is a romantic story in which there is a misunderstanding between the two main male characters called heroes and the female main characters called heroin. (Saricks, 2009: 133).

