

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to present the general description about this paper, and the subs of this chapter are background of research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, previous study, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1. Background of research**

The novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) is the second edition of 16 series of its novels. The novel consist of 223 pages and written by the author and cartoonist Jeff Kinney and published on 2008 by Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS in New York, 115 West 18th Street. The novel is suitable for all ages because it contains the relatable hilarious humor from daily life, especially for kids because it contains of hand written notes and easy drawings of Greg's daily life which Greg is the first point of view. The novel presented in very modern layout and inevitably bring laugh out loud that came out from the events during high school students. While, the story is about Greg's problems in his family, particularly with his siblings, others with friends and school (Mentari, 2018). This second book highlighting the Greg's relationship with his older brother Rodrick, the program of Mom Bucks, the high school party, the Town Talent Show, and all the troubles faced by the main character Greg Heffley. As the second child of three siblings on the puberty age, Greg seems the one who get blamed by the troubles that arouse, it could be from his older brother Rodrick, his younger brother Manny, his mom and dad, also when he started to make fun with his closer friends Rowley. The novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* nicely written by the author in the form of diary. Therefore, this novel is enjoyable to be read. Even today, Diary of a Wimpy Kid novels had hits their achievements for over 250 million copies have been sold around the world (Inc., Wimpy Kid Inc., 2022)

Thus, the readers particularly children got attracted to surf in to the books, the readers will be feeling attached even more to the books, because it feels like the

readers actually read the Greg's diary of his life story. This novel filled with comical and considered as comedy genre because it contains lot of elements of irony in it that later provides the sense of humor that depicted through the ironic situations, characters, dramatic and others. The writer found the existence of irony that expected to bring wit and joke in this novel is really tick and become the main element or one of the identity of *Diary of a Wimpy Kids* book's. The writer assumed, if there is no existence of irony in it this novel will be lack of wit and humor. The irony that appear is mostly from all the involvement of the development of the dramatic situational and the characters in it, particularly the relationship of main character The Wimpy Kid Greg Heffley with his family and his friends.

Examples of irony that bring humor is when the character of Greg Heffley had been forced by his Dad to joined the swimming team almost on every summer time as his Dad out of nowhere claimed Greg has destined to be a great swimmer. Greg as the character of a wimpy kid here does not even interested to join the team, he spent most of his time playing video games or playing around over his friend Rowley but there is no way for Greg to refuse Dad's wishes upon him to at least would be join the swimming team. Unexpectedly, right at the end of the summer at the awards banquet Greg ended up winning the "Most Improved" awards (Kinney, 2008, p. 4). This event considered as irony of situation because the result is contradictory with character's intention. On this case, Greg ended up winning the awards despite the fact that Greg winning the awards only because there was a ten-minute difference between the first race and the last one and definitely made his Dad's to be more patiently waiting for Greg's potential to live up in the future.

Another irony that arouse is when Greg had decided that he was done with the swim team practices until Greg felt freezing cold at the swimming pool. He used to start the practices by 7.30 every morning. So, he came up with a trick to get out of practice and asked the coach if Greg could use the bathroom. Whereas Greg actually hiding himself in that bathroom until the practice was over. Unfortunately, he didn't know the fact that the bathroom he used to be hide in there was set on forty degrees, which it even colder in there that it was in the pool. Hence, Greg had wrap himself up and looked like an Egyptian Mummies in the toilet paper to

prevented him get hypothermia (Kinney, 2008, p. 9). This event is also considered as irony of situation because again the result is opposite with character's intention and definitely bring the atmosphere of pathetic and humor.

Meanwhile, in 2011, David Bowers become the director of the film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* as the adaptation work from its novel. The film is the second edition of fourth sequels of The Diary of a Wimpy Kid movies series. The film released on March 25, 2011 in United States, and distributed by 20th Century Fox. The film is running in 100 minutes. The film costs of a \$21 Million budget and earned about \$72.4 Million. The Rodrick Rules series can be counted as one of the most popular and most liked by the viewers. This film is also providing the same vibes like its novel. The writer found that this film also contains the same element of irony that constantly appear to bring the same ambience and stick with the similar sense of humor. However, there are several adjustments in film production such as addition, reduction, or even modification due to the different medium and duration compactness. Yet, the director quiet done their best to stick with the primary soul of Diary of a Wimpy Kid's genre that is comedy to attract audiences especially for comedy-family movie fans. The element of irony that bring humor it even started from the beginning of the film. As it illustrated on the first scene that is welcoming party for the new year of Junior High School students in minutes of 00:05:09. In this scene, there are Greg Heffley, Rowley Jefferson, and Chirag Gupta who have been standing near the dancing floor while admiring and talking about the most popular and beautiful girl in school named Holly Hills. When Greg was imagined Holly to become his girlfriend, Holly was accidentally move to Greg and distracted Greg's imagination in a second. On this scene, Greg's friend Chirag Gupta had created the very awkward situation by saying something ridiculous until Holly Hills feel inconvenient about it and she left them soon.

Holly : "You block the exit."

Greg : (Got surprised) "Oh, Sorry!"

Holly : "That's okay."

Chirag : "I'm Chirag Gupta. And I'm single." (while blinked his eyes)

Holly : (little bit surprised) "...wow, well, my name is..."

Chirag : “We know exactly who you are. Holly Hills of 432 Embury Lane.”

Greg : (Directly cut Chirag’s speak) “No, we don’t know exactly who you are. We have no idea who you are.” (Greg, Rowley, and Chirag smiles nervously)

Holly : “Okay, well... I think I’m gonna go to skating now.”(leave them and go skating)

Chirag : (Shout to Holly) “Please congratulate your father on his promotion from me!”

Greg : “We know exactly who you are? You trying to scared her?”

The dialogue above is categorized as the irony of situation, whereas Chirag Gupta had ruined Holly Hills first impression on them. Greg felt ashamed with Chirag Gupta’s statements, and Holly Hills felt extremely strange about it and so the situation became awkward. Instead of giving a good impression on Holly, Greg and his friend Rowley looks silly and weird because of what just Chirag said to Holly. This scene did not appear in the novel, therefore, this scene categorized as the process of the adaptation from novel to film of addition. Another scene that contains irony in it is on the scene of 00:26:49 when Greg could not stand his anger towards Rodrick until Greg punched Rodrick and they were both having the most embarrassing fight in the church.

This is irony since Church is one of the sacred place for the Christian to do their religious activity. But then the character of the older brother Rodrick who make fun with Greg by deliberately putting a chocolate to be sat by Greg until it sticks on Greg’s pant and made everyone who saw it directly claimed it as a poop. It is totally shameful for Greg because Rodrick continued his mischievous act toward Greg by unveiling the jacket that covering Greg’s pant from the muck until everyone in the church saw it and look at Greg on disgustingly gazes. After that, the disgraceful fight between Greg and Rodrick could not be avoided. This scene categorized as the irony of setting because the characters had just fight in the church, the sacred place where it functions supposed to be far away from any violence. This scene also brings humor and manifested the tittle of ‘a wimpy kid’ on the main character Greg in Rodrick Rules series that being adapted by its novel with the same tittle *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*. Yet, this humiliating

church scene does not appear in the novel. Therefore, this scene categorized as addition because the director must be created this scene to show sort of punchline of how crazy the siblings relationship of Rodrick when it comes to torturing on Greg.

The director considered well about the expectation of the viewers that perhaps as a Wimpy Kid Lovers would love to see. Therefore, the director is consistent in creating the same atmosphere and feeling of laugh out loud through this adaptation work. Additionally, the process of the adjustment itself become one of the other intriguing things to be analyze it deeper. Therefore, the writer will analyze more what is the other types of irony that appear in both literary works that later can be categorized which of irony that provides humor in it by add the techniques of humor to support which of irony that interpreted as humor (funny), and to analyze the result of the process of adaptation in three stages such as what is the types of the ironic humor that increasing, decreasing or even changing in variation way.

The novel and film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* provide the same atmosphere and the core of the story line that not far away from making effect of laughter and amusement for the readers also the viewers. Both novel and film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* depicted ironic humor in it. However, although the novel and film has the similarities over the story line that appear, there must be something differences between them regarding of different devices such as rules of the film that cannot run in longer duration of displays and the public who enjoy the works, yet the film is still contain the core of the story of the novel. Thus, the writer searching many articles and journals to make sure what is the factor about this second edition of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* film that adapted from the novel of the same tittle become eminent and popular in Wimpy Kids lovers. Hence, the writer found the very typical element that the director David Bowers is trying to keep, which is the element of irony and the substance of humor in irony through the situational and all of the character that involved in the film that considered as the most identity of Wimpy Kids series.

These factors become the writer's idea to dig deeper into what are the types of irony that appear in the novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in the movie of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011), what are the ironic humor and the adaptation process that appear in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in the movie of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011). Based on the writer has described, the writer makes this research entitled “**The Adaptation of Ironic Humor: From Novel to Film *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*”** to find out the adaptation of ironic humor from novel into the film with the same title.

### **1. 2. Statement of Problem**

As the discussion that has been stated by the writer about investigating irony, and the adaptation of irony that also arisen the circumstance of ironic humor in both novel and film *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*. Therefore, here are the following questions which support the statement of problem below:

1. What are the types of irony that appear in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011)?
2. What are the ironic humor and the adaptation process that appear in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011)?

### **1.3. Research Objective**

In this research, analysis of the adaptation of ironic humor from novel to film *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* has several purposes, specifically:

1. To find the types of irony that appear in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011).
2. To find the ironic humor and the adaptation process that appear in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2008) and in film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* (2011).

## 1.4. Research Significances

### 1.4.1. Theoretically

As there are various of literary theories that will be conducted in this research. The writer will provide the significant in following:

This research applied the theory of irony by Petrie and Boggs that consists of 6 types of ironies those are: dramatic irony, irony of situation, irony of character, irony of setting, irony of tone, and cosmic irony (Dennis W.Petrie, *The Art of Watching Films*, 2012). Additionally, because not every irony would bring humor in it or considered as not funny, thus the writer used the theory of humor by Salvatore Attardo to categorized which of type of irony that become ironic humor. It dealt with 8 types of techniques that can brings humor in follows: without jab lines (not funny), with jab lines (humorous), ending on punch line, having a humorous central narrative compilation, using coincidences, hyper determined humor, using diffuse disjunction, and coincidences. Hence, the writer will identify which technique used above that bring humor through the irony in novel and film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules*. The last, the writer used the theory of adaptation from novel to film by Pamusuk Eneste, he conducted three stages of adaptation that happen from novel to film which is addition, subtraction or reduction and modification (various changes).

### 1.4.2. Practically

#### a. Academic Readers

This research is expected to present a new feature, contribution and become an addition of references for other researcher in conducting the same research. This research also expected to enrich knowledge and information regarding of the types of irony that appear in both literary products which is novel and film, then the insight of techniques of humor to support which of type of irony that become ironic humor, the last is the significant result of the adaptation of ironic humor from novel to film. Thus, the readers will find several combinations of theories necessary to conduct the analyses of two literary products as the object

research which is novel and film adaptation, particularly in the scope of analyzing the adaptation of ironic humor.

#### b. Public Reader

Many readers consider comedy genre as something that only provide a jokes, and make funny of it, and people use to ignore what is the other thing that makes people can laugh over the story. Also, when it comes to an adaptation works from novel to film. People can compare the intrinsic element that appeared in glance of eyes, something that can be seen explicitly by the viewers. However, there must be some of the implicit element that the reader forgotten and rarely realize about it. This research proved that an adaptation approach is not only in intrinsic element, but also in any other element in detail and depth, and it also revealed the techniques humor that makes irony became ironic humor in both novel and film.

### 1.5. Previous Studies

In purpose of conducting this research, the writer looking through several sources and some previous studies that are similar with the topic being discussed. The sources included thesis and journals..

In 2017, Nida Fikyatul Jannah from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung conducted the research entitled '*The Humour in Irony Through The Character of Johnny English in Johnny English Movie*'. This research has the similarities with selected topic. The paper aims to discover the humors that appear through irony in the movie of Johnny English (2003). The problems are the ironies in Johnny English (2003) movie through the character of Johnny English and how the irony show humors content in the movie. The data required are the scene, dialogue, and scene description of the movie. The theory that is used is the theory about irony by M.H Abrams and humor by Salvatore Attardo. The result of the research shows that irony found in the movie are Verbal Irony, Structural Irony, Dramatic Irony, Cosmic Irony, and Romantic Irony. The ironies appear into humour trough the dialogue, motive, act, and situation of the movie of Johnny English (2003).



In 2016, Shella Ningtias from Universitas Negeri Jakarta conducted the research entitled '*The Adaptation of Plot and Characters in The Diary of Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules' Novel into it's Film Script*' (Ningtias, 2016). This research has the similarities with selected topic. The paper aims to discovered the adjustment of plot and character from novel of *The Diary of Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules* that being adapted into its film script. She used the adaptation theory of Thomas Leitch (2007) to analyze the two object of literary product which is the novel and the movie script . The result of her research is divided onto 2 chapters those are plot and character. She found that in plot there was 5 compression, 6 expansion, 1 correction, and 1 updating. While in character, there are 1 compression, 4 expansion, 1 correction, and 1 updating. The most process that mostly occurs is expansion.

In 2016, Muh. Kayyis. BA from UIN Alauddin Makassar conducted the research entitled '*Comparison Between Novel and Film 'Divergent' (Ecranisation Theory)*' (Kayyis M. , 2016). This research has the similarities with selected topic. The paper aims to find out the reduction, addition and modification of novel into film Divergent. He used the theory of Pamusuk Eneste to analyse the reduction, addition and modification in ecranisation study. The result of his research is there were some of reduction, addition and modification that have occurred as a consequence of ecranisation in some of intrinsic elements of ecranisation. He also found that there were no reduction, addition, and modification that occurred on the theme, setting of time, and point of view. He detected the reduction, addition and modification in some of events, character, setting of place and style.

This study is rather different in term of the topic discussed, although there were some of the same object research above but the topic that being discussed is different. The research here uses the combination of three theory, those are the theory of irony, the techniques of humor and the adaptation theory. Meanwhile, the previous studies only provide several theories one by one among the theories, not the combination of the three theories. Meanwhile, the similar of this study between previous relevant studies are this study is also involved the analysis of irony and the result of the adaptation process of addition, reduction and modification between the novel and the film as research object. According to the previous studies, the

writer believes that it will help the readers understand the existence of irony in both literary works of novel and film, the techniques of humor used in both novel and film that later support irony became ironic humor and the result of the adaptation of ironic humor in novel of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2008)* and the film of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules. (2011)*. In addition, this study may contribute to literary analysis for those who are interested in the topic which is discussed in this study.

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

- a) Irony: a general sense, a literary, dramatic yet cinematic technique that also involving the juxtaposition or linking of opposites, irony enhance the element of intellectual dimension and later could achieves the circumstance of both comic and tragic affects at the same time (Dennis W.Petrie, 2012).
- b) Humor: an element that is expected to existing a joyful and laughter to the people who enjoy the works.
- c) Adaptation: a process of transition, modification or conversion from one medium to other medium (Ardianto D. T., 2014).
- d) Ironic humor: a mildly sarcastic words to convey something opposites from its literal meaning in which it leads an effect of laughter (funny and humorous) to another people who heard it (Gharpure, 2022).
- e) Novel: one of the literary product written by an author in term of prose to express their thoughts, feelings, ideas, or even experiences from their life to make such an attractive and interesting story to be read.
- f) Film: a sequence of moving pictures that have been recorded with the addition of sound that tells a story, it could be also a shown on cinema/film or at the television (Kayyis M. , 2016).