

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the research background, research questions, research objective, research significance, scope and limitations, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

In this modern era, movie is a form of literature and considered as a literary genre. It also can certainly be considered a type of popular literature. Movies are often based on literary works, such as novels or plays. As with any literary work, movies can be analysed and interpreted for their themes, characters, and symbolism. It can be studied as reflections of the social and cultural contexts in which they were produced, and they can offer insights into the human experience and the human condition. Movies can be classified into various genres based on their narrative style, subject matter, and tone. There are numerous genres represented in the movie, such as thriller, romance, fantasy, horror, science-fiction, action, and comedy.

Comedy is one of genres that are still popular until now. Comedy is a genre of entertainment that is intended to be humorous or amusing. The purpose of comedy itself is to entertain and provoke joy enjoyment on the part of the viewer (Briandana & Dwityas, 2018, p. 108). Aristotle in Nurrachman (2014) defined

comedy as an imitation of men worse or one of the phenomena that closely related to something that does not have any value in it. Based on Aristotle point of view, comedy is also closely related with something ridiculous. Ridiculous here means anything like mistakes or abnormality that does not cause pain or harm to others, which may later cause laughter.

Comedy often explores everyday situations and human interactions in a way that highlights the absurdity or irony of life. Absurdity is one of the important formulas in a comedy film. As King (2002) stated in his book that absurd behavior is expected to happen in comedy film. Absurd can be a formula and an important element in a comedy film, since it involves unexpected or irrational states that go against our typical perception of reality which can create humor. Thus, absurdity can be funny. This in line with Kierkegaard (cited in Kramer, 2021) who claims, all humors as all species of contradiction and errors are comical. When we run upon something absurd, it defies logic and goes against what we've come to expect. This element of shock and dissonance frequently causes laughing or amusement.

Mr. Bean is categorized as comedy film. It is one of the most popular comedy series worldwide. The British television sitcom Mr. Bean was created by Rowan Atkinson and Richard Curtis. In Mr. Bean series there is main character named Mr. Bean played by Rowan. The series were originally aired from 1990 to 1995, and consisted of 15 episodes. The show is about the adventures of Mr. Bean, a bumbling and eccentric man who always manages to get himself into hilarious situations. Each episode follows Mr. Bean as he goes about his daily life, often

interacting with other characters in unusual ways. The show has become a cult classic, and is known for its slapstick humor and timeless appeal.

Mr. Bean is main the character from *Mr. Bean Tv series*. He is known for his absurd and surreal humor. He is an absurd character who frequently finds himself in humorous situations. He frequently finds himself in absurd and awkward situations, which he approaches with a combination of innocent childishness and unusual problem-solving techniques. Many of the situations he finds himself in are highly unlikely or impossible in real life, and his reactions to these situations are often over-the-top and exaggerated. Mr. Bean's absurd humour relies heavily on physical comedy and visual gags, with very little dialogue. This unique style of humour has made the character a beloved and enduring figure in popular culture.

This study uses movie series *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5* because Absurdism characteristics that can create comedy might be found in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*. There are still many basic logical errors in this Mr. Bean series for example, Mr. Bean often interacts with Teddy, his doll. Mr. Bean pretends that Teddy is alive, even though he knows that Teddy is just a doll. Mr. Bean characters are doing stupid nonsense actions, which is characteristic of absurdism. That nonsense action also can create comedy because it defies our expectations and contradicts the logical or rational norms we typically associate with action sequences.

According to the absurdism theory, which contends that life has no purpose, *Mr. Bean* series also contains certain absurdist fiction characteristics elements particularly in the episode *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*. In his

essay, James Saunders (cited in Pangestu, 2018), argued that whereas absurdist plays frequently feature hardly any recognizably human characters and show entirely unmotivated behaviours, the characters are rarely persuasively motivated. The story in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5* has similar characters compared to the statement above.

The researcher has studied some studies about the topic discussed in this research. The first research came from Bayu Bagus Pangestu (2018), the title is *Absurdism in Spongebob Squarepants episode club Spongebob*. He used the theory of absurdism as his main theory and examined the elements of absurdity that existed in movie *Spongebob Squarepants episode club Spongebob*. This research found that The Club Spongebob narrative has elements of absurdism reflecting known as "absurdities". Those absurdities are purposeless, sceptical and illogical. Then, through the intrinsic components of the work that match with the style of absurdism work, they are thoroughly described. The setting, storyline, and characterization of the piece are the components being examined. This research also found that absurdism could not be concluded as simply as the word „funny“ or „strange“. Absurdism style in literature cannot be represented by the word 'ridiculous' too, as common people used the term to indicate absurd things.

The second research came from Soriano (2009), with the title “The Idea of Absurdity Reflected in the Characterization of Characters in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*”. This research tries to find the idea of absurdity reflected in the characterization of Characters in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* and the way it reflected the idea of absurdity. This study used theory from Albert Camus, the idea

of absurdity. This research discovered that the characters *Endgame*, Hamm and Clov are aware about the fact that life will reach an end. Their awareness of the end resulted in their purposeless and meaningless activity. They found that there is no meaning for their existence.

The third research came from Tambunan (2017) with the title “Absurd Elements in My Stupid Boss Movie”. This research focused on analyzing the elements used in “My Stupid Boss Movie” and how absurd elements exist. This research also used film comedy as its object. This study discovered that the fictional storyline of the film *My Stupid Boss* contains an absurd aspect. This means that the ludicrous bossman's story is told scene by scene. The Bossman Is Always Right. This implies that the Bossman will complete anything he desires. This research found that there are 15 scenes that contained absurd elements in “My Stupid Boss Movie”. Each scene was analyzed through utterance by utterance of the characters. Absurd elements found in *My Stupid Boss* movie is the nonsense action of the bossman.

There are many absurd actions that can be studied from this series, but the author has not found a single study that examines Mr. Bean from the comedy and absurdity aspect. Therefore, based on the reasons above, the researcher is interested to analyze the characteristics of absurd fiction which appears as a humor to create comedy in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5?*

1. 2 Research Question

Based on the background of the problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What are characteristics of absurdist fiction used in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*?
2. How those characteristics of absurdist fiction create comedy in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*?

1.3 Research Objective

1. To find out the characteristic of absurdist fiction in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*.
2. To elaborate on the way the characteristic of absurdist fiction creates comedy in *Mr. Bean Movie Series Episodes 1,2,3,4 and 5*.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The research is expected to contribute both theoretical and practical contribution.

1. Theoretically, this research is explained about characteristics of absurd fiction and how those characteristics of absurd fiction can create comedy. This research gives theoretical insight regarding the relation of absurdism and comedy in film.
2. Practically this research is expected to be able to provide knowledge the readers and also as reference for future study in order to explore about comedy and absurdism.

1.6 Definitions of Key Terms

In order to prevent misunderstandings regarding its use, several key terms are put below.

1. Comedy genre

Comedy is a genre of entertainment that is intended to be humorous or amusing. The purpose of comedy itself is to entertain and provoke joy enjoyment on the part of the viewer (Briandana & Dwityas, 2018, p. 108)

2. Absurdism

Absurdism is a philosophical concept that emphasizes the meaningless and irrational nature of human existence. Absurdism is a literary genre that is characterized by unique and strange marks.

3. Absurdity

Absurdity refers to the quality of being illogical, irrational, or nonsensical.

4. Humor

Humour is a substance of comedy. It is an element that is expected to existing a joyful and laughter to the people who enjoy the works.

