

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter is an introduction that explains a general description of the research. This chapter contains the introduction to the research. It contains the background of the research, the statement of problem, research purposes, the significance of the research, previous studies, and the definition of key terms.

1.1. Background of Research

Literary works play an important role in the lives of people because they provide a reflection of the social conditions in the world. Therefore, literary works are typically created as a result of the anxiety of the artist with regard to what is taking place around him. Semi (Endraswara, 2008) argues that literary works are the result of mental states. As a result of getting an unambiguous form, the author's thoughts become semi-conscious, which are then poured into certain forms conscious in the form of literary works. However, not all literary works are based on reality or follow real life events. Although the real world inspires literary works, they must be processed by the author through his imagination, therefore the reality of literary works cannot be anticipated to be the same as the reality of real-world existence. (Noor, 2009:11).

Humans require media to communicate their messages, information, and feelings to other humans. Language is the medium that is always used; thus, language is a fundamental aspect of human life. Literature is a product of language that is an essential component of human life, and literary works, in consequently, become an important medium to convey messages to others. Literary works are also the product of language's a lot transformations, such as poetry becoming musical poetry, poetry becoming a type of dance, a short story becoming a short film, and a novel becoming a movie script. There are many existing literary works, including short tales, novels, poetry, poems, romances, rhymes, tragedies, and others. Drama is a literary work that constantly conveys its point through movement and conversation. (Endraswara, 2013).

One of the literary works also includes drama in the form of movie. A movie is an audio-visual communication medium that is used to deliver a message to an audience. In general, movies convey a variety of messages, which can be educational, entertaining, or informative. (Effendy, 1986:134)

The structure of literary works, according to Abraham, can be interpreted as an affirmation, arrangement and description of all elements and parts that are components together to create a beautiful circle. Film, like novels, short tales, and dramas, is a literary work made of themes, settings, plots and characterizations. It's just that the film employs visual media to convey it, but its structure is similar to that of other literary works. Some literary works in the form of novels are even turned into films, creating a new literary work in the form of a film. (Nurgiyantoro, 1998).

The researcher will go further into the movie from among the many literary sources presented. The researcher prefers movies over dramas because, while both are very suitable media for conveying messages of social criticism, movies have a much wider reach than dramas, so the effect on society is more significant, which is why researchers are more interested in exploring movies.

A movie has the capacity to affect many people, and it is an artistic medium that allows artists and movie makers to communicate their thoughts and story concepts. The movie is also one of the audio-visual communication media that people from all walks of life enjoyed. Besides from age and background, the many messages in the movie have a significant impact on society. Through a media story, a movie conveys many messages to the audience. (Wibowo, 2009). As previously explained, literary works reflect community conditions. As a result, there are many movies that feature social criticism because society's environmental conditions are not good.

Social criticism is a method of communication that serves as a form of control inside a social system and social process. Literature as a reflection of the society around the work's time is more properly referred to as social criticism. (Endraswara, 2013). This setting suggests that critics must firmly hold the sociology of literature because literature is a means for delivering social criticism.

As a result, literary criticism exists. Because social criticism exists, the community is always aware of the problems that must be resolved quickly in the community. That is the role of social criticism as a control mechanism over the course of a social system and social process.

Critical literature has created containing critical messages and is typically presented as a literary work such as a poetry, drama, novel or short story. Critical literature usually develops during a period in society when there are problems or happenings that some people can at least feel. Writers of critical literature definitely present from community members, which means that the researcher writes critical literature based on his anxieties as a community in the environment, at least in terms of this can be felt by some people as well as writers of critical literature who have a sense of sensitiveness, who can feel social problems in people's lives. With the capacity of imagination, this author can be described as having a sixth sense. (Nurgiyantoro, 1998)

Literary works are naturally used as a platform for communicating social criticism because the elements contained in literary works are often social. This is in accordance with the opinions of Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, or those who are familiar with the names Wellek and Warren, who believe that literary works constitute an institution. Language functions as a medium for society, while language itself is a product of society. As a result, the majority of elements in literary works are social, in the form of norms that can develop in society. Furthermore, literature, according to Marxists, is a social institution with a specific ideological purpose based on the author's background and ideology. Literary works also represents life, and life is a social reality in which a writer might become the object of literary work creation. (Noor, 2009).

The researcher discussed social criticism because it is necessary for controlling a societal system; also, studying social criticism might make us more aware to what is going on in society. Based on Wellek and Warren's theory, the researcher chose *The Greatest Showman* as the topic of study as the movie has various social criticism topics that deserve further study and discussion. The researcher chose *The Greatest Showman* as the object of study because interested

in studying various messages of social criticism that are currently occurring in real life, such as discrimination against different races, shapes, and colours. And there are more significant messages in *The Greatest Showman* film that require further investigation. *The Greatest Showman* is a 2017 American biographical musical drama film written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon and directed by Michael Gracey on his directorial debut. It stars Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, and Zendaya. The film is based on the stories and life of P.T. Barnum, the famous showman and entertainer, and his founding of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, as well as the lives of its main attractions, and has nine original songs by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul.

In November 2016, principal photography commenced in New York City. The film premiered on the RMS Queen Mary 2 on December 8, 2017. It was released in the United States by 20th Century Fox on December 20, 2017, seven months after Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus ended operations. The film grossed \$435 million worldwide, ranking it fifth among live-action musical films.

The film's performances, soundtrack, visuals, and production qualities were commended, while its artistic licence was criticised. At the 75th Golden Globe Awards, it got nominations for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy and Best Actor - Musical or Comedy for Jackman. The film received the Golden Globe Award for the Best Original Song nomination for the song "This Is Me," received a nomination for Best Original Song at the 90th Academy Awards, and won the 61st Annual Grammy Awards for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media.

The story of young P.T. Barnum's rise from nothing to world-famous circus director was told in *The Greatest Showman*. With his lack of money, family troubles, and the drama that comes with fame, he encounters many obstacles on his path to achievement. P.T. Barnum shows a natural knack for publicity and promotion as a child, selling lottery tickets at the age of 12. P.T. turns to show business to explore his infinite creativity after trying his hand at several jobs, rising from nothing to build the Barnum & Bailey circus. Barnum's hypnotic extravaganza quickly takes the world by storm, becoming the greatest show on the planet, with

catchy musical pieces, exotic performers, and daring acrobatic feats.

1.2. Significances of Research

This research has two research implications, the first of which is theoretical and the second of which is practical, as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research can provide several benefits for readers in analyzing literary works, especially films. Through this research, the researcher analysis social criticism in this film. To strengthen the argument, the theory of social criticism is used in this research because there is a problem of social criticism in this film, one of which is social inequality. Thus, This research can be used as a model for other studies that analyze films using only one theory or combining multiple theories, particularly in the context of social criticism.

2. Practical Significance

The researcher expects that this research will expand people's understanding of the connection between literary works and current conditions of society. The researcher will examine the connection between *The Greatest Showman* movie and today's society using the object of this research and Karl Marx's theory, which has been briefly discussed.

1.3. Statements of Problem

Based on the research background, this research comprises of two research questions:

1. What types of social criticism are contained in the *The Greatest Showman* movie?
2. How is the social criticism effect characterization in the *The Greatest Showman* movie?

1.4. Research Purposes

By the construction of the stated problems above. This research automatically deployed the objective goals as follows:

1. To find out the types of social criticism in *The Greatest Showman* movie.
2. To find out the social criticism effect characterization in *The Greatest Showman* movie.

1.5. Previous Study

The researcher should go further than expected to support this research. This step involves reviewing social criticism examined in films other than *The Greatest Showman*, as well as past research relevant to the topic and object of the current study. To establish research conceptions, the goal is to emphasize research, research perspectives, and a supporting theory. Several works on the examination of social criticism in film have expanded the research process.

The researcher was motivated and learned a lot from various earlier studies to accomplish this research, specifically Delvi Faisal Arfi (Arfi, 2016) under the title "social criticism in the Kuldesak Movie." Delvi Faisal Arfi analyses and examines social criticism in the film Kuldesak in this research. Through social criticism, Delvi attempts to explain the meaning of the relationship among social aspects through social criticism.

The researcher's second previous study was research from Novita Lestari (Lestari, 2022), which was previously referenced in this research. The title of this research is "Social Criticism in the Movie Di Timur Matahari." Novita Lestari attempts to analyse the social criticism in the movie and connections it with the actual issues experienced by the community surrounding education in this research.

The final research is by Ridwan Dhiyaurrahman (2022) entitled "Analysis Of Social Criticism in The Avatar Movie" of this research, Ridwan Dhiyaurrahman tries to analyze there was various social criticism in the Avatar movie.

Previous research assisted the researcher in analysing the thesis named

"Social Criticism in *The Greatest Showman* Movie." In contrast to the preceding, the researcher will examine and discuss social criticism and the representation of social criticism in the film *The Greatest Showman* using Karl Marx's theory.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

Social Criticism: Social criticism is a method of communication that serves as a form of control inside a social system and social process. Literature as a reflection of the society around the work's time is more properly referred to as social criticism (Endraswara, 2013).

Critical Literature: Critical literature conveys critical messages through literary works such as poetry, drama, novel, and short story. Critical literature is frequently born in a troubled society.

Sociology Of Literature: Sociology of literature is a literary study approach that analyses and examines literary works by taking into consideration social or societal factors. (Damono in Wiyatmi 2013).

***The Greatest Showman* Movie:** *The Greatest Showman* is a 2017 American biographical musical drama film written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon and directed by Michael Gracey on his directorial debut. It stars Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, and Zendaya. The film is based on the background story and life of P.T. Barnum, a prominent showman and entertainer, and his founding of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, as well as the lives of its main attractions, and has nine original songs by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul.