

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of paper.

### **1.1 Research Background**

In this modern era, many literary works have been adapted into films and the films are still considered a form of literary work. Boggs (1978:20), states literature and film have many elements in common, and although they are different media, they communicate many things in the same way.

Therefore, a literary analysis can also be applied to film as Boggs explains film perspective analysis builds on the elements used in literary analysis and if we apply what we have learned in the study of literature to our film analysis, we are way ahead of them who are not (1978:20). In other words, the utilization of a literary analysis approach in film analysis can yield a distinct advantage and a deeper understanding of the film work. By employing the tools and techniques of literary analysis, researchers can unveil the underlying themes, symbolism, character development, and narrative structure present in the film.

The plot in a film plays a key role in providing a deep and engaging cinematic experience. It is the primary element in shaping the film's narrative and creating an emotional connection between the audience and the story being told. Conflict is what propels the story forward. It can be external conflicts within characters, conflicts between characters, or conflicts with circumstances or nature.

Furthermore, the plot in a literary work is often used to reflect or represent social conflicts within society. The plot can depict issues such as inequality, racism, social class, politics, and other social concerns. The plot helps organize the story

and guides the audience or readers through the development and resolution of the social conflicts faced by the characters in the narrative. Social conflict is a struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflict groups are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralize, injure, or eliminate rivals (Cosser, 1958).

The social conflict in the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy is the result of a combination of various political and power factors, inter-racial conflicts, social and political changes, as well as the complex character changes resulting from social conflict. All of these factors together create the complexity of the story and the conflicts that form the foundation of the *Star Wars* prequel narrative.

In the *Star Wars* Prequel Trilogy, the connection between social conflict and the character of Anakin Skywalker is very close. The trilogy portrays Anakin Skywalker's journey from a young and idealistic individual to becoming Darth Vader, a powerful Sith Lord. Anakin's journey from a young idealist to becoming Darth Vader reflects the complexity of the relationship between individuals and their social environment in creating conflict and altering one's destiny. The Prequel Trilogy illustrates how powerful social and political influences are in shaping characters and guiding them towards significant decisions that have a profound impact on the *Star Wars* galaxy.

*The Star Wars prequel trilogy* was released in 1999 with the first episode entitled *The Phantom Menace*, the second episode entitled *The Attack of the Clones* was released in 2002, and the second episode was released in 2005 entitled *Revenge of the Sith* (Barson, 2023). This prequel trilogy tells the story of the corruption of the Galactic Republic, the destruction of the Jedi Order, and the rise of the Empire under the secret Sith Lord and Galactic Emperor Palpatine.

The previous studies were used as references for this research. The first research was conducted by Korkiakoski (2017) entitled "*Yoda the Powerful Jedi Master: Perception of the character of Yoda in five of the first six Star Wars films*". This study examined Yoda's perception of others and himself and other characters'

perception of him in two of the three original trilogy films and all three of the prequel films.

The second one was employed by Pratama (2019) entitled “*Social Conflict Reflected in Linda Castillo's Sworn to Silence*”. This research examined the types and effects of social conflicts in the novel *Sworn to Silence*. This social conflict focuses on social class which can affect the main character.

The third research was conducted by Basri (2019) entitled “*Social Conflicts Portrayed in John Michaelson's Novel Annisa*”. This research examined the types of social conflict. These social conflicts had significant impacts on Annisa, the main character of the novel.

The difference between the three previous research lies in the object of analysis, although there are similarities, especially in terms of the topic of discussion and research questions. First, those previous researches utilized the Star Wars film as the research object, and this research also employs it. Second, those previous researches used the theory of types of social conflict by Lewis Coser, and this research also tries to explore it using the same theory. Third, those previous researches utilize Pruitt's social conflict effect theory, and this research also tries to explore it using the same theory. Three of the previous studies were conducted using film scenes, film scripts, main character on the film, and the novels. While in this research, writer employs movie as an object. Thus, the title of this research is “*Social Conflict of the Main Character in George Lucas Star Wars Prequel Trilogy*”.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

This research focuses on analyzing the social conflict of the main character in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy*. Therefore, the problems to be identified in this study are:

1. What social conflicts are portrayed in the main character in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy* Directed by George Lucas?
2. How does the social conflict affect the main character in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy* Directed by George Lucas?

### 1.3 Research Purposes

In analyzing the main character's social conflicts in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy*. The main objectives of this research are:

1. To find out what social conflicts are portrayed in the main character in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy* Directed by George Lucas.
2. To identify the social conflict that affects the main character in the *Star Wars prequel trilogy* Directed by George Lucas.

### 1.4 Research Significance

This research was conducted to get benefits. It is hoped that this research can provide benefits both theoretically and practically.

- a. Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the academic and literary fields regarding literary works and also aims to provide understanding to readers so they can understand the social conflicts that occur in films and their effects on the main character. The research results are also expected to contribute to readers' understanding of the film itself from a structural approach.
- b. Practically, this research is expected to be able to contribute to the academic field of English Literature. Furthermore, the findings of this study are expected to broaden the scope of knowledge in terms of film as a literary work, proving that film is not just entertainment material, but can also deliver new literary values. Due to the limited number of researchers who have studied this topic, this research is expected to assist other researchers

in future studies in determining how to analyze literary works using the theory of social conflict and its effects.

## **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

This research intends to analyze social conflict and the effects of social conflict on the main characters in the Star Wars trilogy prequel films. To avoid reader misunderstanding, the researchers is also using several terms with their definitions. This chapter is based on the following key meanings and definitions from this study:

### **1.5.1 Structuralism**

Structuralism is the understanding that cultures and societies have an equal and fixed structure. The structure, firmness, and depiction of all elements and materials which create a unity may be regarded as the structure of a literary work (Abrams, 1981: 68). To create a whole story, an element requires the other elements to understand how these elements work together to create meaning in literary works.

### **1.5.2 Social Conflict**

Social conflict occurs when the main character is engaged in a conflict with society, social structures, or norms within their environment. Coser (1958: 8), expresses that social conflict entails a contest involving values or assertions related to position, authority, and limited assets. In this conflict, the objectives of the competing parties extend beyond acquiring their sought-after values; they also encompass diminishing, harming, or eradicating their adversaries.

### **1.5.3 Main Character**

The author also employs characters to convey lifestyle and moral values via their dialogues within the narrative (Abrams, 1981: 32). There are two types of characters in literary works, the first major character and the minor character.

This character has a large portion of the story and becomes the center of the story.

#### 1.5.4 Star Wars Prequel Trilogy Movie

The Star Wars prequel trilogy is a film directed by George Lucas. This film tells the story of Anakin from childhood to adulthood who is entrusted with balancing the forces, but in the end, he falls into the dark side.

- ***Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace***

*Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* was released in 1999 and directed by George Lucas. It is the first part of the Star Wars prequel trilogy movies.

- ***Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones***

*Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* was released in 2002 and directed by George Lucas. It is the second part of the Star Wars prequel trilogy movies.

- ***Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith***

*Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* was released in 2005 and directed by George Lucas. It is the last part of the Star Wars prequel trilogy movies.

#### 1.6 Organization of Writing

In this section, the researcher wants to discuss several terms in chapters 1 to chapter 5 as follows;

Chapter I : This chapter discusses the research background, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of paper.

- Chapter II : This chapter examines some theories related to this study to help the research progress.
- Chapter III : This chapter presents the research methodology of this research. It begins with the research design, the source of data, the technique of collecting data, and the last is technique of analyzing data.
- Chapter IV : This chapter contains the answers to the statement of the problem. The subject of this research is the social conflict portrayed in the main character in the *Star Wars* prequel trilogy, and the effect of the social conflict on the main character.
- Chapter V : This is the last chapter of this research. There are two parts to be presented in this chapter are conclusions and suggestions. This conclusion is present the results of the analysis in the previous chapter and also as an answer to the questions in this study.