

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the general description of the paper. It consists of the research background, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

According to Northrop Frye (1990), Literature has been always recognized to be a marketable product, its producers being the creative writers and its consumers the cultivated readers, with the critics at their head. As a form of human creation, literature is divided into imaginative and non-imaginative. In imaginative literature, it is divided into poetry and prose, while in non-imaginative literature there are essays, criticism, biographies, history, and others.

Film is an imaginative literary work. Film is a set of moving images, which showcase scenes that depict a plot or storyline. As a part of literary works, the film is an imitation of social reality adapted through the use of scripts, plots, and scenes. According to Santosa and Wahyuningtyas (2011), literary works are unique because they combine the author's imagination with the complexities of social life. Film serves multiple purposes; apart from being a source of entertainment, film also functions as a means of conveying messages or a communication medium. According to Effendy (1986: 134), film is an audiovisual communication tool intended to deliver a message to a group of people gathered in a specific location. It is said that a series is part of a film that has a longer duration, thus production houses divide it into several consecutive episodes. It is not uncommon for a series to have further continuations divided into multiple seasons.

There are two important elements in the formation of a film, those are the narrative element and the cinematic element. According to Pratista, the narrative feature refers to the material that will be processed (Pratista, 2017).

The narrative part includes themes, story, plot, and characters. On the other hand, the cinematic element refers to the technical aspects involved in the production of a film (Pratista, 2017). The cinematic element includes mise en scene or everything in front of the camera, cinematography, editing and sound within the film. This research focuses on discussing the narrative element in the series *The Walking Dead*.

The study focuses on discussing the psychological condition of the character. The researcher uses a literary psychology approach, psychology is the scientific study of mind and behavior. The word "psychology" comes from the Greek words "psyche," meaning life, and "logos," meaning explanation. Literary psychology is a study that examines the psychological reflections of the characters presented in such a way by the author so that the reader feels lulled by the psychological problems contained in literary works (Minderop, 2010:55). This research uses psychoanalysis theory, psychoanalysis is a psychological theory and therapeutic approach developed by Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis. Freud's ideas revolutionized the field of psychology and continue to have a significant impact on modern psychology and psychotherapy.

In order to analyze the personality transformation of the character Carol Peletier, it is necessary to know the meaning of the personality transformation. Transformation according to the Oxford Dictionary means a complete change in somebody or something. This means changing which has the meaning of making it different from what it was before, and it can be concluded that change is the same as transformation. Personality is a person's characteristics that cause the emergence of consistency of feelings, thoughts, and behaviors (Pervin and Cervone, 2010). It can be concluded that personality transformation means changes in attitudes, feelings, and also the thoughts of an individual where the causal factors can vary, both internal and external factors.

The research subject is an American series "The Walking Dead." This series is directed by Frank Darabont and is based on the comic book series by Robert Kirkman, Tony Moore, and Charlie Adlard. It depicts a group of people striving to

survive amid a zombie apocalypse that has spread worldwide. Their efforts are marked by various events. The depiction of the problems in this series is quite realistic with the existence of conflicts among humans or between groups because even though the chaotic world situation does not make humans behave kindly and cooperate, it actually puts people in a state of stress so they use all means to survive.

The research focuses on a woman named Carol Peletier, even though she is not the main character in the story, her life story is interesting to discuss, which is in this series Carol undergoes a significant personality transformation. The change of this character is caused by many factors, there are internal factors and external factors. One of the interesting about this character is her determination, patience and unyielding attitude. Another factor that caused Carol's character to change was her husband's harsh treatment. Ed, who is Carol's husband, is described as a man who is abusive both verbally and in action. He is also an arrogant man who likes to rule over Carol to do many things, while he only spends his time on insignificant things like smoking, sitting and watching Carol's work.

Carol experienced many problems, in addition to the zombie virus that is spreading, Carol must be patient with her husband's abusive attitude. This is what makes Carol interesting to discuss. Even though at first she looked weak and always obedient to her abusive husband, over time and after her husband's death Carol chose to keep going and strengthen her heart for her child, Sophia. Carol's personality transformation was shown when Carol, who initially had a gentle, shy, submissive, empathetic, compassionate personality, turned into tough, confident, able to make decisions, firm, and brave, but also Carol became a person with a big heart. Carol also became a very wary person and there is a scene where she made a pretty fatal mistake. Apart from that, Carol is also become a loner, she often travels and leaves the group.

Many people experience domestic violence and most of the victims are women and children. The perception that women are weak and tend to be considered inferior, while men are seen as superior, is one of the causes of

domestic violence and the impact of domestic violence one of which is a change in personality, the person can be better or worse depending on the individual themselves and also the environment in which they are. In the 13th century a deadly plague known as the black death plague spread and caused millions of lives to be lost in the European region, then the spread of the virus also affects a person's mental condition, as has been experienced by people all over the world, the presence of the corona virus which has spread to various parts of the world has had a considerable impact, not a few people have experienced anxiety, stress and even depression as a result of this virus outbreak.

Those problems are similar to the conditions experienced by the character Carol Peletier in this research titled "**Carol's Personality Transformation in Series *The Walking Dead Season 1-5***." This study analyzed psychological aspects such as Carol's personality before and after undergoing a personality transformation along with the factors that influence it. This research is also proof that the existence of a literary work cannot be separated from the conditions of society, therefore literature is referred to as a reflection of society.

Furthermore, the researcher has found several previous studies that have similarities with the topic discussed in this study. The first is entitled *Multiple Personality Disorder of The Main Character In Split Film (Psychoanalysis Approach)* by Muhammad Akhir Ramadhan, a student majoring in English literature at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, in 2022. In this study, Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory is used as the main theory. There is an explanation of the area of the mind, personality structure, personality dynamics, etc. In addition, this research also seeks to find out what factors that cause the main character to suffer from multiple personalities. However, this research also has quite a big difference, namely in the previous study it discussed films from a cinematic perspective and also focused on discussing multiple personalities.

The second research is on *Character In The Film 28 Days Later by Danny Boyle* by Amalia Yuniar. This research is the result of one of the students majoring in English literature at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung in 2021. In

this research she discusses the intrinsic elements, plot, characterization, setting and themes in the film, apart from that this research also discusses the psychological condition of the main character who lives amid the zombie virus pandemic, this research has similarities in terms of film themes, namely zombies, using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, also discussing the psychological state of the characters in the film, but this research also has differences such as research subjects and research focus.

The third is *Feminism Shown by Carol Peletier in The Walking Dead Season 1 to Season 3* by Roswita Putri Briantika. This research is the result of students majoring in English education from Sanata Dharma University in 2017. In this research, she discusses the character of Carol Peletier using feminism theory. This study has similarities in terms of research subjects and also research objects, the character Carol Peletier, but has differences in terms of theory where the researcher use psychoanalytic theory and focuses on discussing Carol's personality transformation, besides that the researcher analyses *The Walking Dead* series from season 1 to season 5.

The fourth is *THE TRANSFORMATION OF CHARACTERS AND PLOT IN NOVEL IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK (1974) BY JAMES BALDWIN TO FILM IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK (2018) BY BARRY JENKINS* by Nanda Amelia Handaeni, a student of UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung with major English Literature in year 2022. This study has similarities in terms of the focus of discussion, about the transformation of characters in literary works but this study has differences. It analyzes the transformation of characters and plots from novels to films or *ekranisasi* used comparative literature to compare the two works and also analyzes their changes in literature work, while this research analyzes the personality transformation of the character in the series *The Walking Dead*.

1.2 Statement of Problem

To find out how Carol Peletier's personality changes in *The Walking Dead* series, it is necessary to know beforehand the differences in Carol's personality before and after transforming, in addition to the factors that caused Carol's

personality to change, both internal and external factors. This observation leads to the following two research questions:

1. What is Carol Peletier's personality in *The Walking Dead* before and after her personality transformation?
2. How do internal and external factors influence Carol Peletier's personality in *The Walking Dead* series seasons 1-5?

1.3 Research Objective

In this research, the analysis of *The Walking Dead* series has several objectives, there are:

1. To find out the personality of Carol Peletier in *The Walking Dead* series before and after experiencing a personality transformation.
2. To analyze how internal and external factors influence Carol Peletier's personality in *The Walking Dead* series seasons 1-5.

1.4 Research Significance

Here is an explanation of the research's significance, both theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 Theoretically

This research is expected to contribute to the references on literary psychology, particularly psychoanalysis according to Sigmund Freud. The results of this research are expected to provide added value and new knowledge about psychoanalysis, which is used in this study to understand the changes in character within a literary work. Furthermore, this research is also expected to broaden the researcher's knowledge of the theory of psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud.

1.4.2 Practically

As empirical research, this study is expected to contribute to and assist academics researching literary psychology, particularly psychoanalysis. The results of this research are also expected to serve as a reference for academics who share similarities in terms of theory and research subjects.

In addition to benefiting academics, this research is also expected to be useful for general readers to gain some understanding of the psychological conditions of individuals experiencing domestic violence or living amidst conflict. This understanding may motivate readers to comprehend or help to the best of their abilities and, if possible, contribute to preventing similar incidents from occurring. The impact experienced by victims of domestic violence is not trivial, as many of them suffer from mental health disorders that have long-term consequences on their future.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Personality Transformation: According to B. F Skinner (1953), personality transformation is the result of reinforcement and punishment in the environment where behavior change is a response to action or stimulus.

Carol Peletier: A character in *The Walking Dead* who is portrayed as an ordinary housewife who is often abused by her husband who then undergoes a significant personality transformation.

Character: According to E.M. Forster in Marcus (2021) Forster defined character as the most difficult thing in the world to portray. It has to be studied, pondered, understood, sympathized with, and portrayed by someone with an unusual warmth and feeling for fellow beings.

Internal: According to Oxford Dictionary, internal means connected with the inside of something or connected with the inside of your body.

External: According to Oxford Dictionary, external means connected with or located on the outside of something or somebody.