

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents a brief introduction about the whole research that is divided into the explanation of literature in general, literature as mimesis, popular literature, the definition of films, film as literature, the research objects, how literature can be analyzed using other discipline science, a summary of Freud's psychoanalysis theory, and psychoanalysis in literature.

### **1.1 Background**

Literature is commonly perceived in general as a beautifully written text from its author when literature contains more meaning than just papers with words. Literature is one of man's tools to express their ideology, experience, opinion, and even feeling, whether it is sad, joyful, scary, disgusting, or more into aesthetic written passages and symbols that can be enjoyed and related to the readers. Damono (1984) also stated that "literature was created by its author to be enjoyed, understood, and be made as lessons for society in their daily life."

A long time ago, literature could not be enjoyed by everyone for it had complex language, contained heavy philosophy, and was considered as highly esthetical, thus literature can only be read by those the bourgeois. This literature is categorized as canon or classic literature. According to Ismakova et al., (2020), "Classical literature refers to certain the most valuable ancient literature works in the category of its artistic sense that is inspired by the current idea of its time, receive national recognition, being the treasure of world culture, and considered as a benchmark of their era." This means that a work is considered classic when it is still relevant today although it was made centuries ago, consisting of high moral value, reflecting the main word ideology of that time, and making a big contribution to the development of some literature style. Thus, classic often becomes the object of literature analysis.

Literature has thrived into popular literature and can be enjoyed by everyone, no matter how old or how rich a person is, they can read literary works everywhere. According to Trisna, et al (2021), “Popular literature is a literary work that is loved by readers for it tends to amuse and give positive stimulus to society by its light dramatic topic that successfully makes the reader stay to read the works”. Popular literature is intended to be accessible to everyone at any time as it contains the opposite of classic literature; daily language, mild conflict, repeated plot formula that makes the reader curious about the ending, and can be finished in one read. The reason popular literature such as novels and short stories is made is to entertain the reader for just a short amount of time.

Yet, throughout time, the form of literary works itself is not only limited to written text like novels, short stories, or poems but also developing into film. According to Demillah (2019), “Film or life picture is a group of images that are moving fast alternately within a frame that is mechanically projected on projector lens to give the continual visual impression that is lively.” A film cannot be separated from the parts of literary work since it has the same function of delivering messages, feelings, and expressions of its producer about society to the society itself, but in this case, using film visual elements instead of written words to be understood by viewers.

Yunita and Nurhasanah in Wicaksono (2018) remarked that, “films can be seen like a fully presented modern drama stage that delivered the requirement of fiction important elements, such as plot, setting, PoV, language style, characters, and the messages that wanted to be spread by the filmmaker through audio-visual.” In line with it, Narudin (2017) in Klarer also explained that, “film is categorized as kind of literature for every presentation mode of film are correspondence with elements in literature and can also be interpreted in textual framework.”

Films are based on a script that has narrative, dialogues, plot, characters, theme, messages, and settings that are made as scenes for the film later. Reading scripts is not much different from reading a novel, it just has more dialogues and direct descriptions of what the character does because actors must realize the script and

film elements can realize the narrative, while novels need to be beautifully written for each event for it stays in paper and that the only way the writer can transfer what they imagine to the reader.

According to what has been stated, it means that film can be categorized as literature. Thus, it can also be analyzed like novels and other literary works. Yet, the difference lies where novels are analyzed by what is written there, while the film can be analyzed both by the script or what is visualized on the screen that is added with other film elements such as tone colors, camera angle, sound effects, and more. Thus, with the film being categorized as a literary work, this research will use Leigh Whannel's *SAW (2004)* and Shusuke Kaneko's *DEATH NOTE (2006)* as their objects.

*SAW (2004)* is a movie that starts with a simple concept about appreciating life yet ironically kills every character in the film. Leigh Whannell as the script writer had successfully combined this idea into a thriller and horror gore movie while also delivering moral value to its viewers. For a film that came in 2004, Saw has great cinematic elements that became a distinguishing feature for its various sequels, one of them being the greenish color grading, chaotic camera movements in capturing the victims, and of course the ending soundtrack.

*SAW (2004)* also has pleasing torturing scenes for gore enjoyers. The traps seem complicated and have a clever concept that is related much to the lesson of appreciating life and its relation to the victim's mistake. The gore scenes that are served are not exaggerated nor less, but perfect to give thrill to the viewers. Although some scenes look scripted and make them less realistic, it can be tolerated for the film just made within two weeks with less budget.

Another thing about *SAW (2004)* that must be mentioned is its plot and the relationship between characters that is built slowly so that the suspense and drama can hit the viewers within just two hours of watching. The hate-love relationship between Lawrence and his family, Detective Tapp and Detective Singh, Jigsaw's illness, and the friendship between Adam and Lawrence. Adam is a juvenile who gives sarcasm in conversation a lot, meanwhile, Lawrence is a doctor who is trying

to be calm and wise to face Adam's behavior for they are trapped together in the bathroom and must work together to survive without having to kill each other. Both are strangers who are forced to understand each other just in half a day. Even though *SAW (2004)* is a horror gore movie, Adam and Lawrence's interaction throughout the movie has given it the spice of comedy to watch how two opposite personalities face each other. Adam is acted by Leigh Whannell himself and his acting suits Adam's characterization.

Meanwhile, the plot of *SAW (2004)* is neatly in order even though the sequence moves forward and backward several times, it still delivers the timeline. The built-up hints about who Jigsaw is can never lead the viewers to the plot twist that is coming, for it is out of mind and becomes the reason *SAW* is one of the greatest gore movies forever.

The second object of this research is *Death Note* has the thriller genre as *SAW (2004)* but without hard gore that shows blood or torturing humans with disturbing devices, rather *Death Note* kills everyone with supernatural forces that are called *Death Note*, thus it became the title of the movie. The concept of *Death Note* is killing every criminal in this world, therefore there will only be good people remaining.

As an anime adaptation, *Death Note* is not capable enough to deliver the plot and character development that was served in the original anime, the acting also seems rigid, and many cast are not suitable for the role. On the other side, although that are many plots that are changed and scenes that are skipped, *Death Note's* one success is it makes Light desire of wanting to kill the criminals clearer than in the anime plot by making him a high-achievement student in Law course in school and having great trust in written books about law. His narcissistic sociopath is also more highlighted by the fact that the plot twist in this movie is Light being the one that killed his girlfriend just to make it a reason to join the police team, whilst throughout the movie it is shown that Light was deeply in love with his girlfriend. This did not exist in the original anime.

The CGI of Shinigami Ryuk was also the best compared to other versions of Death Note's live-action adaptation, considering that this movie came in 2006, in which movie technology was not as advanced as today. It successfully captures the scariness and detailed costume of Ryuk according to the original anime, although it failed to deliver the scene of Light's fear towards Ryuk in their first meeting. To understand how both objects can be analyzed through the theory of Freud's psychoanalysis aspect, this research must explain about mimesis theory first and its relation to the psychoanalysis theory.

“Literary work is literature that discusses about various matters that happened in life, which formed in the form of oral or written (Lusy, 2021)”. The object of literature is humans, whether it is their interaction, their activity, or the complexity of humans that exist as a living creature. Even when the object is changed to animals, they are still depicted as having abilities, feelings, and thoughts like human does.

For having humans as its object, literature also functions as mimesis or the reflection of what is occurring in society since the author of the literature works also a human who saw the change in politics, economy, society, and more, that happened because of interaction between individual towards other individuals or groups that also parts of society. “Author often got ideas from real life, whether it is their own life or others’ life. Those ideas are wrapped corresponding to the development of the environment’s state that is available to give colors in the story that was written now (Buana, 2016).”

The mimesis of literature is what makes literature work as a tangible form of literature and becomes a medium for the writer to deliver messages to their reader about the society around them implicitly. The depiction of society in one literature work is commonly taken from what generally occurs in the world and the society itself, for example: a romance novel reflecting the beauty of human love and its conflict, a satire novel representing problems in society system through irony and comedy, fiction novel representing the huge imagination of humans wishes that are out of their capability.

Literary works as a mimesis of the real world also means that every other applied science can relate to literature theory, such as sociology of literature, anthropology literature, Semiotics criticism, and more. Semi (1988) said that “in a good literature, there will be found other elements of applied science such as philosophy, psychology, science, ecology and much more.” This mimesis can be presented through any elements in literature, whether it is the setting, plot, analogical, or characters.

In real life, a human with their motive is sometimes confronted by the reality or external factors that either make it easier or harder for them to achieve their desire. The steps that they took to resolve their problem or the path they took in their life will change their fate and how they live. Similarly, the literature also represents how the interaction between external reality and internal conflict influences where the storyline goes. Therefore, the appropriate theory for discussing this topic is to use Freud’s psychoanalysis.

Then, it can be concluded that literature is not only an aesthetic written word of an author but also a mimesis or a reflection of the real world. This means every character in literary works is a representation of humans in real life, the conflict in literary works is the representation of conflict in the real world, and the setting of literary works is the representation of the real world’s society, and so forth. Based on this statement, conveys that literary works can be analyzed with other applied science outside the basic literary criticism. In this case, Freud’s psychoanalysis theory about the structure of the human mind, personality, and Ego defense mechanism is used to analyze the literary work, for it represents the psychic activity of humans in real life. Throughout the years, literary works have been not only limited to novels, short stories, and poems, but also film, as it can be categorized as modern drama, in which the film script contains similar elements to written literary works, such as character, PoV, setting, and more, but the narrative is realized by using visual elements rather than sentences. Thus, the topic of this research will be focused on comparing the similarity of psychoanalysis in Leigh Whannel’s *SAW*

(2004) and Shusuke Kaneko's *DEATH NOTE* (2006) as its object. The theory of comparative literature theory will be detailed more in the second section.

As a basic reference in writing this thesis, the writer has been inspired by some from several previous studies from various resources that reflect similar object or topic. The first previous study entitled "The Psychopathic Disorder In Saw (2004) Movie Script Written By James Wan And Leigh Whannell" Written by Sintisari Lilis as graduation thesis for UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung in 2019. Her thesis is focused in researching about psychopathic behavior of John Kramer using Freud's theory about psychopath disorder and using the SAW's (2004) script as the resource data of her research. The similarity between her thesis and this thesis is the use of John Kramer as the object research. While Sintisari's thesis was solely focused in John Kramer's mental as a character and used Freud's , in this thesis John Kramer is only one of the objects as the representation of author's ego.

The second previous study is a journal titled "Analisis Perkembangan Karakter Yagami Light Dalam Serial Animasi Death Note Karya Tsugumi Ohba" written by Julio Kalangie, Helena M. L. Pandi, and Sandra Rakian that was published in *Kompetensi: Jurnal Bahasa dan Seni*. In that thesis, they also used Freud's psychoanalysis theory to understand Light Yagami characterization development. Other similarity between their journal and this thesis is the use of Light Yagami as the object research. While their journal is purely focused on the development of Light Yagami from the beginning to the ending as Death Note character and using Death Note animation series as its source data, this thesis only did research on Light Yagami as one of the representations of author's ego in Death Note, this thesis also using Death Note adaptation movie.

Other previous study that is used for this research is written by Shaila Rahma Anggraini and Heny Subandiyah entitled "Representasi Kepribadian Introvert Pada Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Introver Karya Mf.Hazim (Tinjauan Psikoanalisis Carl Gustav Jung)" that is published on E-journal Bapala in 2022. The similarity that exists between their thesis and this thesis is the concept of finding the representation of human personality and psychic activity in literature. Yet, the different lies on the

theory that is used and the research's topic. Subandiyah and Aggraini's thesis used Carl Jung's psychoanalysis theory while this thesis used Freud's psychoanalysis theory. They also focused on the topic of introvert representation in novel, while this thesis focused on the topic of psychoanalysis aspect representation in movies, and then compare it both.

The fourth previous study is a graduation journal that is published in UPI e-Journal site, written by Septiani Dewi in 2014 entitled "Representasi Oedipus Kompleks Dalam Novel Cerita Cinta Enrico Karya Ayu Utami (Kajian Psikoanalisis)". Similar as this thesis, Dewi's journal also used Freud's psychoanalysis theory and focused on finding one of the psychosexual aspect representations that is Oedipus complex in literature. The difference is this thesis uses movies as its object, and rather focused in finding the psychoanalysis aspect representation such as id, ego, superego, defense mechanism and more.

The last previous study for this research is entitled "The Anxiety of Main Character Winston Smith in George Orwell's 1984" written by Tika Kartika as a graduation thesis for UIN SUNAN GUNUNG DJATI Bandung in 2022. Her thesis focused in analyzing one of the human psychoanalysis aspects that is anxiety using Freud's psychoanalysis theory and using the novel main character as its object. In her way to analyzing, she also used the theory of how psychoanalysis in literature is the mimesis or representation of how psychoanalysis in actual human works, such as the main character is actually the representation of author's ego.



## **1.2 Statements of Problems**

Seeing the significant change between the beginning and the ending as the result of complex conflict in both films, makes the writer want to explore more about the representation of psychoanalysis aspects that happened within the films using psychoanalysis theory. Although the data comes from different objects, the two films have a meeting point in their similar patterns, yet also have a distinction in their cause of the internal conflict, defense mechanism, and external reality problem that distinguish one film from the other. These matters can be formulated into research questions as follows:

1. What are the representations of psychoanalysis aspects in both films?
2. What are the comparisons of psychoanalysis aspects in both films?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

Based on the questions mentioned above the purpose of this research is:

1. To identify the representations of psychoanalysis aspects within both films
2. To compare the comparisons of psychoanalysis aspects and representations in both films and the differences within their similarities.

## **1.4 Research Significances**

The significances of this research are the knowledge implementation of the writer from studying an English Literature major, this research also gives more reference for psychoanalysis study that uses literature as its object. Even though the topic of psychoanalysis has often been discussed, comparing two objects, and combining psychoanalysis theory with comparative literature is still rare. Therefore, this research is hoped to help those who are intrigued and want to explore more about this topic.

This research is also important to give the reader more comprehension of Freud's psychoanalysis and its concepts through Shusuke Kaneko's *DEATH NOTE* (2006) and Leigh Whannell's *SAW* (2004) a familiar film as the objects. This research also depicts the complexity and beauty of human life, where even fictional films that are also human-made need to be properly explored to understand their causality. Thus, our fate, which is written by God can be more complex than those fictional films. This research is hoped to successfully deliver the knowledge of understanding ourselves through the example of discussed objects that are being researched by the Freudian psychoanalysis theory.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

These definitions of key terms are written to avoid misunderstanding and misperception of the terms that are used in this research.

**Comparative Literature:** A method of analyzing literature work by comparing it with other literary works or anything else, in which the two works have a similarity to be compared.

**Psychoanalysis:** a branch study of Psychology created by Sigmund Freud that focuses on studying human behavior, mental processes, and how the personality of an individual is formed. The main contents of psychoanalysis are human consciousness level (conscious, unconscious, preconscious), personality structure (id, Ego, Superego), defense mechanism, instinct, psychosexual, and the interaction that happens between all those aspects that form human personality and action as it is.

**Instinct:** a part of the three factors that develop an individual personality dynamic. It is divided into death and life instinct.

**Conflict:** the instinct only wants to satisfy Id opposing the norm of the Superego, Ego common sense, and external events from another individual/environment. This interaction causes inner conflict in the individual, and their change/personality depends on the ways they choose to resolve this conflict.

**Anxiety:** The inner conflict that occurs makes an individual feel anxiety, to resolve this the Ego needs to work to reduce this anxiety using a defense mechanism.

**Defense Mechanism:** one of the Ego functions that got triggered by the anxiety that happened during individual inner conflicts.

