

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Literary work has been developed as time goes on. Nowadays, literary work can be consumed by all classes of society, from the common people to the elite. Then, popular literature emerged because literary works became popular in society. Popular literature refers to literary works that are produced and consumed by individuals from all social classes. Popular literature has several characteristics. Popular literature is typically written in an approachable, easy-to-read style that appeals to a broad readership. Nowadays, popular literature is an important field to study. Interest in studying popular literature has increased. There are many studies that analyze popular literature because of its importance in society.

In a literary work, specific elements, such as theme, style, and writing pattern, contribute to its construction. Hence, substantiated by these constituent elements, the concept of "genre" is present in scholarly literature. A genre is made up of several elements that have the same characteristics. As literary work continues to develop, genres are also experiencing development, and then various genres emerge in literary work. Etimologically, the word genre comes from the French, which means "kind" or "class". According to Lukens, genre is a type of literature that has a common set of characteristics (Nurgiantoro, 2004, p.110).

One of the various examples of is crime. The crime genre, also called crime fiction, is one of the most popular genres in literary work. There were two major subgenres in the crime genre, as identified by Cawelti (1976, p.59), i.e., the hard-boiled detective and the urban gangster. The urban gangster image gained popularity during the prohibition era in the United States and became commonplace at that time, especially in New York and

Chicago, which happened from 1920 until 1933. At that time, the U.S. government banned liquor production. These prohibitions make the gangs battle each other to control the illegal distribution and manufacture of liquor. In their activities, gangsters usually establish criminal organizations and make money from criminal activities such as narcotic trafficking, prostitution, loan-sharking, labor racketeering, gambling racketeering, and industrial extortion. In their work, gangsters are carefully prepared and use sophisticated techniques for stealing, murdering, and disguising. Gangsters are rarely identified, less often prosecuted, and almost never convicted due to their influence over local political leaders and police officers through bribery.

According to Cawelti (1976, p.61), gangster formula began with the main character come from poverty or lower-class and solely motivated by the ambition to achieve wealth and power. In the other hand, these desires are infinite and could overreached then the main character fall to destruction at the hands of the authorities or slain in the of story. The setting of Classic Crime genre formula identic with the corrupt and violent city that ruled by the rich, businessmen, politicians, and criminals.

On the other hand, each story in a literary work consists of various characters who have different roles as important elements of the story; one of them is the main character. The main character is one of the most important characters in a story. Each character has various characteristics and backgrounds, which form the character's characterization.

In general, the main character also has a role as a hero in a story. Etimologically, The term "hero" originates from the Greek language, derived from a root that signifies "to safeguard and to provide assist". According to Vogler (2007, p.29), the hero is the main character in a story; his main purpose is to separate from his ordinary to travel to the unknown world where he will face ordeals to become a fully-progressed hero because a hero must comprehend a capable ability to overcome the border and its illusions of the ego to gain self-esteem after realizing he is part of something bigger and be able to sacrifice a

need of his own needs in the name of others because the word of "hero" is interrelated with self-sacrifice.

In psychological terms, Vogler (2007, p.29) stated that hero archetype can represents the ego which manifested into a part of the personality that part away from the root of mother and considers itself in a dissimilar part of the human race as a whole. The term archetype was first introduced by Carl G. Jung. He described Archetype consists a personality included in an ancient patterns of those shared inheritance inside human race. According to Abrams (1999, p.12), archetypes indicates an iterative designs of narrative, actions pattern, categorization of character, images concurrently inherit a wide arrangement of literary works, and themes in general.

Conceptual design of archetypes produces an important story, in which a materialized forms that written or served on a stage or even manifested throughout the screen. Similar towards any other kind of archetypes, the hero is a lenient idea of archetypes in which it defines vast types of energy. Heroes conceive a combination of arrangement that align towards other archetype, in a way it can temporarily worn another archetypal mask. With this flexible concept, it enables heroes to have various archetypes that have their own uniqueness. Although heroes are often portrayed as positive figures, heroes had a possibility to concurrently manifest a dark or negatives sides of the ego because, the apparent types of hero's archetype represents the spirit of a human being led into a positive action but inhibit a little evidence of the consequences of its weaknesses and reluctances towards act. This main thing of archetypes is shown in one variety known as the anti-hero.

Terminological term of the anti-hero often stir a lot of perplexity. Some of a people appointed towards the anti-hero in which it is the same kind of hero but more into a specialized kind of a hero, while others stated that an anti-hero is someone who is considered an outlaw or a villain from the point of view of society. According to Abrams (1999, p.11), the anti-hero is the chief character in a literary work whose character is widely dissimilar from the traditional protagonist or hero. Usually, heroes manifest positive traits

such as dignity, power, honesty, justice, and heroism while anti-heroes possessed traits that contrasted with heroes, such as being petty, ignominious, passive, ineffectual, and dishonest.

On the other hand, Vogler (2007, p.35) says that the anti-hero is similarly resemble to the ideas of classical events in which it displays the tragic of a hero itself because anti-heroes are considered to be a defective kind of heroes take an advantages of their flaws to show their strength. They might possess a charm and a laudable qualities inheritance in a different manner that their flaws win out at the end of the story. Anti-heroes also correspond to have a massive audience`s sympathies at the entire times through it. However, from the society's point of view, the types of anti-hero are considered as an castaway separated like mischievous pirates or scoundrel heroes.

Anti-hero characters often choose self-destructive paths that result in isolation or death. Their acts are more concerned with their own affairs and do not have the intention to become heroes because anti-heroes are still ordinary humans who are imperfect and have a dark side and flaws. Anti-heroes also do justice or the truth as heroes in different ways. They do justice in a more violent, aggressive, and brutal manner. This makes anti-heroes completely different from villains or antagonists. According to Comerford (2016, p.3), anti-hero characters can make the audience rethink what justice and law are, and these two elements are related to the elements of heroism.

Many people are rooting for the anti-hero because sometimes the audience can feel the same way about what happened to that character and feel better. On the other hand, Vogler (2007, p.35) says that people root for anti-heroes to watch their downfall with fascination and learn to avoid the same pitfalls that anti-heroes do.

Then, there are various form of literary work, one of them is film. According to Effendy (1989, p.134), film is a medium that has the function of conveying a message to a group of people gathered in one place. On the other hand, According to Petrie and Bogs (2008, p.3), film as the variety of literary work has its own uniqueness that can represent any form of

literary work then can be perceived and imagined by a sense of humanity. Film can exploit the subtle interplay of light and shadow like painting and photography, manipulate three-dimensional space like sculpture, communicate through imagery, metaphor, and symbol like poetry, expand or compress time and space, then travel forth or back freely with a wide border to tell a story like a novel, and communicate visually and verbally like drama. There is several meaning, value, and lessons that can be found in film that can be analyze. Moreover, nowadays film has become an important field of study, especially in the literature approach because analyzing film can sharpens critical judgments and opens up new depths of the understanding of literature. Therefore, this also make the researcher chooses film as the object of analysis because film is a flexible literary work that can represent and duplicate several elements from other literary work such as novel and poetry.

In this study, the researcher will explore the crime genre formula and the portrayal of the anti-hero in the film entitled *Scarface*. *Scarface* is an American crime film that was released on December 9, 1983 directed by Brian De Palma and the script is written by Oliver Stone. *Scarface* has a similar connection with the classic crime formula, such as Tony, who comes from a lower-class background as a refugee and then achieves money and power by working for drug lord Fank Lopez. Later, Tony becomes a drug lord in Miami, and Miami City becomes the setting of the classic crime formula. On the other hand, Tony has anti-hero traits. These traits contrast with hero traits such as being hypersensitive, violent, remorseless, cynical, etc. Although Tony becomes a drug lord and does immoral things, he has motivation to get his family out of poverty. He also cares for his sister and has a principle, i.e., not kill women and children. This action is represented by Tony as the portrayal of an anti-hero. On that basis, the researcher chooses *Scarface* as the object of his research because it is interesting and feels that these topics are rarely discussed. Therefore, the researcher is interested in discussing the crime genre formula and the concept of an anti-hero.

To emphasize this study, there were several previous studies that make the writer inspired and helped to make this research related to the research topic as a reference for

completing this research. First, there is a study by Sieta (2017) entitled "*The concept of the anti-hero represented by Wade Wilson in Deadpool film*". His study focuses on discussing the changing American values of the macho hero from cowboy hero to anti-hero of the main character in the object by using the Dark Triad theory. Second, there is a study by Michaels (2018) entitled "*Netflix & Kill: An Examination of the Anti-hero Through the Lens of Abnormal Psychology*". Her study focuses on discussing the depiction of anti-hero characters in two television series i.e. *House of Cards* and *Dexter* by using Affective Disposition Theory and Dark Triad Theory. Third, there is a study by Kahrić (2020) entitled "*The Dark Triad of Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy in Shakespeare's Richard III, Othello, King Lear, Hamlet, Twelfth Night, and Much Ado About Nothing*". His study focuses on the analysis of Shakespeare's playwrights and discusses the representation of villain and anti-hero in several Shakespearean characters by using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytical approach and Dark Triad theory.

Though there are similarities where the previous studies focused on the concept of the anti-hero using various theories, this study is different from those three previous studies because the researcher will analyze the concept of the anti-hero and the crime genre formula.

## **1.2 Research questions**

The topic of this research is the classic crime formula and how the concept of an anti-hero is portrayed. Thus, the question would be summarized as:

1. How is crime formula constructed in *Scarface*?
2. How is the portrayal of anti-hero represented by Tony Montana in *Scarface*?

### 1.3 Research objective

The objectives to be achieved in this research are:

1. To find out the construction of crime formula in *Scarface* film.
2. To analyze the anti-hero character represented by Tony Montana in *Scarface* film.

### 1.4 Research significance

From this study, there are several benefits that were expected by the writer, i.e., theoretically and practically. The benefits that were expected are:

1. Theoretically

The researcher is expected that this study will be helpful as a reference for those who choose similar research topics, especially English literature students, and as information for other people. The researcher also expected this study to be a new contribution to the study of literature.

2. Practically

From this research, the researcher is expected to be able to make a contribution to academic readers and other writers to provide them with knowledge and increase their understanding of the crime formula and concept of the anti-hero in popular literature. It is also expected that this research can be used as reference material and as a new thing that can be contributed to by the public readers.

## 1.5 Definiton of key terms

- Popular literature: Any literary work that intended to be read or consumed by a mass audience.
- Film: A series of moving images that shown on a screen by using light in rapid succession and displayed in various media such as television and theater.
- Crime fiction: The genre of fiction that focused on criminal acts such as the deal with crime, investigation, detection, and a murder.
- Gangster: The one of crime subgenre. Gangster itself is the organization consisted of a criminal inhabitant which gain their wealth from a criminal jobs such as gambling, prostitution, trafficking, and racketeering.
- Hero: The main character of a story. Generally, hero is someone who fights for good cause and distinguished by exceptional courage, nobility, and strength.
- Anti-hero: One of the hero archetypes. Anti-hero itself is the protagonist of a literary work who is lacking in heroic qualities.