

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background, statement of problem, research objective and research significance, conceptual framework, and previous studies.

1.1 Background of the Research

Literary works are a reflection of real life, usually containing things that happen in the community. Literature is the author's imagination, but it is never separated from reality (Teewu, 1984: 249). An author makes literary works inspired by real life, resulting in an essay that is not much different from the social situation in society. There are many social issues raised in literature such as social inequality, crime, genre discrimination, and many more. Literary works are indeed raised from real life in society, but there are many differences presented due to the processing of authors who make a literary work more unique and interesting.

Literary works play an important role as a medium of communication and entertainment that conveys messages or advice for the community delivered in different ways. Literary works are more concerned with language aesthetics and emphasize interesting stories to attract fans. In literary works, it is very important to pay attention to the elements in it, such as language styles, themes, characters and characterizations, and so on. There are many types of literary works such as novels, poems, short stories, and so on.

Literary works as a medium of communication that can convey information that is more commonly found through writing than oral. Along with the times, not only through writing and oral literary works are conveyed but in an advanced era like today, many literary works are conveyed with audio visuals known as films or film.

Film is one of the audio-visual communication media that convey messages made by filmmakers to the audience (Klarer, 2004: 56). Film is an

audio-visual communication medium that displays a direct picture of a literary work. Films are made by taking a drama script or film script to be visualized so that the audience can directly see one scene and another virtually. Even so, we can still find messages from literary works that are elevated into films. Film have a very effective communication function compared to other media because the audience will be directly given a picture so that it is more interesting.

Drama/film scripts are literary works written to be performed. Film is one of the means of entertainment and communication media that adapts a reading story into a spectacle. A film script is a drama script that contains a series of more complex stories. It usually starts with the introduction of the main character, then goes into the conflict experienced by the characters, the development of the story conflict until the resolution of the story conflict. The conflict in a drama usually expands and develops, but always has a theme that is highlighted. The theme in a drama script is a conclusion of the main conflict that is raised into a film.

Film shape and present a reality based on the conventions, codes, and ideologies of a culture. Meanwhile, representation is an action that describes something, be it an event, person, or object, through something else outside of itself, usually in the form of a symbol or sign. Many film with various themes have been released and provide a message to the audience. The message can have a bad or good influence on how we react to it. Not everyone can understand the message of a film easily, even when someone has an understanding of the message conveyed in the film, it does not necessarily affect that person.

Many people think that films are mere entertainment so they ignore the messages contained in them, they think that watching a film while thinking about the meaning/message in a film makes them unable to enjoy the spectacle. Even so, everyone has the right to determine the film is only for entertainment alone or analyzed to get the message contained in it. The message contained in a film is a representation of reality that gives us valuable lessons that can help us live our daily lives.

Film also have a role as entertainment which certainly displays a variety of events similar to reality, even so not all film scripts are representations of real life there are also film scripts that are fiction. For example, the film *Harry Potter* is an adaptation of novel *Harry Potter* by J.K Rowling which contains magic and nonsensical events that do not exist in real life, even so there are still messages that can be taken because every literary work must have a message in it. The message contained can contain various aspects, be it social, cultural, or even religious.

Not only novels but film scripts also have intrinsic and extrinsic elements in order for a story to become a perfect unity, so of course the writer can make an interesting plot. In addition, the presence of conflict in a work of literature is mandatory because conflict is what makes the plot of literary works interesting. Many conflicts are found in real life as well as in literary works, so there are many social issues raised in literary works that are represented in films, such as discrimination.

Discrimination is one of the social conditions that exist in real life. According to Uli Parulian Sihombing (Fulthoni, 2009: 8), discrimination is differential treatment. Differences in treatment can be due to skin color, class or ethnicity, and can also be due to differences in gender, economy, religion, and so on. Discrimination is an attitude that seeks to distinguish intentionally against groups related to certain interests. The difference in attitude is due to differences in skin color, group or tribe, gender, economy, religion and so on. Someone who discriminates will get retaliation from the victim because both parties have egos.

Differences are common especially in the country of Indonesia which has a variety of ethnicities, cultures, languages and religions. These differences can occur due to the location of an area and the culture passed down from ancestors in an area. These differences make us respect each other when we are in the same country. Even so, there are still people who do not understand the beauty of mutual respect so that discrimination occurs.

Acts of discrimination are often found in everyday life, not only racial or religious differences, even social status is often differentiated so that the rich sometimes don't want to be friends with the poor and instead bully them. Not only in real life, this act of discrimination has been included in many works as a representation of real life with the aim that society can change for the better and can respect each other.

Based on the explanation above, researchers are interested in analyzing a film entitled *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) by Bill Condon. *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film is a musical fantasy film released in 2017 directed by Bill Condon from a scenario written by Stephen Chbosky and Evan Spiliotopoulos. The film is based on the 1991 Disney animated film of the same name which is an adaptation of a fairy tale by Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont. *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) tells the story of a prince who is cursed to become an beast because of his pride. He was cursed by a witch who disguised herself as an old woman who asked him for help. But the prince insulted the old woman until finally the old woman turned into a witch and cursed the prince. Not only the prince who was cursed but the servants in the castle were also cursed to become items in the house such as teapots, glasses, chairs, clocks, and others. After the prince got the curse, the castle was closed and no one dared to enter the area. To break the curse, the prince must find true love who can accept him.

The researcher found acts of discrimination in the film. Discrimination in *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) is not an explicitly central theme, but is presented through the characters and dynamics of the story. The film uses story elements to show how discrimination can occur through judgments based on appearance and norms in the story. Like as, first, the prince's discrimination against an old woman who begged. At the beginning of the scene, it is shown that there is a party. At that time, suddenly an old woman came asking for help in the form of donations to the prince. However, the prince did not immediately give the donation but instead insulted the old woman. Secondly, there is an act of discrimination by the prince who has been cursed at Belle who is a prisoner in his castle. Belle who is a

woman is forced to obey all the words of the Beast. Beast did not hesitate to jerk or injure her. Finally, there is discrimination committed by the community against the cursed prince. This discrimination is done because of the difference between the beast who is cursed to be beast and the people who are real humans. In this case, society tries to kill the beast, and it is clear that this is an act of discrimination. Thus it can be seen that in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film there are various acts of discrimination ranging from social status, race, and gender.

The acts of discrimination experienced by the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film certainly cause reactions and changes that occur. Like the old woman who was insulted by the prince showed her anger so that the old woman revealed her true form which was a beautiful woman. Because of the discrimination committed by the prince, the beautiful woman took revenge by cursing the Prince into a beast. Then, the discrimination that the Beast did to Belle caused Belle to rebel and hate the Beast. Because she did not like the Beast's actions, Belle continued to attack the Beast by doing things that made the Beast emotional. After Belle found out about Beast's past, Belle finally tried hard to make Beast comfortable when she was with him. Then, society's discrimination against Beast made Beast angry and planned to kill everyone who discriminated against him. However, because of Belle's persuasion, Beast changed his mind and did not hurt the community.

Beauty and The Beast (2017) can be categorized as a musical romantic fantasy film because the film contains elements of the genres mentioned. *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) has fantasy elements where the film takes a background full of magic that does not exist in the real world such as magic that turns humans into objects (such as animals or household items), unusual creatures, and unusual settings such as a large and mysterious castle. *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) also has romance elements where the film focuses on telling the romantic relationship between Belle and Beast. The film has a plot that shows the development of their relationship from a conflicted beginning to a loving end. In addition to fantasy and romantic elements, *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) also has musical elements in it

because the film relies heavily on songs and musical performances as an important part of the story that aims to express emotions, deepen characters, and some scenes are performed in musical form. Thus, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) not only has fantasy and romantic elements, but also uses musical elements, making this film classified as a musical romantic fantasy film.

Beauty and The Beast (2017) film directed by Bill Condon is set in France in the late 18th century. Although the film incorporates elements of fantasy and fairy tales, the time and place setting refers to a historical period known for its distinctive Rococo-era architecture and fashion that reflects the style of late 18th century Europe. Rococo designs were conceived as total works of art with elegant furnishings, ornate small statues, ornamental mirrors, tapestries complementing the architecture, reliefs, and frescoes (Tungka et al., 2023: 104). The film features castles and rooms that depict highly detailed designs with carved walls, ornate ceilings, and luxurious furniture that reflect the style of the Rococo period. In addition, the costumes of the characters utilize the Rococo style as shown by the layered dresses, wide skirts, and elaborate accessories. This style of dress creates a sense of glamor and elegance in keeping with the era depicted. The period reflects the period of transition to the French Revolution that took place in the late 18th century and features the social life of the people such as the castle and the lifestyle of Belle's family. The film contains themes of social class and change presented in the context of a fairy tale. In addition, *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) shows cinematography using soft lighting, a rich color palette, and a magnificent set design that shows a nostalgic feel and visual beauty typical of the period. From these characteristics, it can be concluded that *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) is set in the late 18th century.

Beauty and The Beast (2017) film raises many social issue themes that can be used as research, but in this study researchers focus on discrimination. Researchers want to know how the representation of discrimination in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film so that researchers can determine the type of discrimination, causes of discrimination and the impact of discrimination. Thus, to

find out the type of discrimination and its impact in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film, researchers used the perception of Uli Parulian Sihombing. Where according to him, discrimination occurs because of differences in race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or others. For this reason, because there are many acts of discrimination depicted in the film, researchers are more interested in the depiction of discrimination in the film to determine the type, causes and impact of acts of discrimination in the film.

In this study, researchers used literary criticism as a research design because literary criticism is a process of observation that must be done carefully, then interpret and evaluate literary works. Literary criticism has various approaches. According to Abrams there are 4 basic approaches, which determine the method of literature criticism, by which emerged as a form of the total situation of the work (in Nurrachman, 2017: 6), namely mimetic, pragmatic, expressive, and objective.

This research was previously inspired by several previous studies, including scientific research conducted by Ulva Pratiwi and Riana Permatasari (2022) entitled *The Relationship Between Slavery and Racial Discrimination Illustrated in The Birth of a Nation (2016) movie*. In this study, Ulva and Riana analyzed the relationship between slavery and racial discrimination illustrated in the film *The Birth of Nation* directed by Nat Parker. Where slavery occurs in all black characters and racial discrimination also occurs in black characters. This research proves that all black characters are enslaved as planters, carpenters, workers and servants. Not only are they enslaved, but they also receive acts of racial discrimination such as being hurt, tortured and even killed and raped. The acts of discrimination that happened to them were indicated as the effects of slavery or the consequences of them being slaves (Pratiwi & Permatasari, 2022: 25).

Second, research conducted by Igaratu Noerrofia and Syaiful Bahri (2019) entitled *The Analysis of Social Deixis in The Movie Beauty and The Beast*. In this study, Igaratu and Syaiful analyzed pragmatics which focuses on the kinds of

social deixis in *Beauty and The Beast* film. The research used Levinson's theory. This research found 34 utterances containing social deixis in *Beauty and The Beast* film and there are 2 kinds found in the film which are relational social deixis and absolute social deixis. This study also found that the use of social deixis types in *Beauty and The Beast* is useful to clarify social status, social identity, and social intimacy. For example, the sentence "*Papa, do you think I'm odd?*" The phrase is an utterance made by Belle to Maurice. The word "*Papa*" in this expression is included in the type of social deixis, namely relational social deixis and aims to express intimacy (Noerrofi'a & Bahri, 2019: 12).

Finally, research conducted by Muhammad Ridwan and Citra Aslinda (2022) entitled *Analisis Semiotika Diskriminasi Pada Film "The Hate U Give"*. In this study, Ridwan and Citra analyzed racial discrimination in the film *The Hate U Give*. This research uses John Fiske's semiotic theory. The authors found that the film *The Hate U Give* shows how discrimination is done to the black race and illustrates the risks of victims of injustice that cause mental disorders, stress, anxiety, and depression. The researcher explained that the discrimination contained in the film provides a lesson that every human being has the right to live and has the right to freedom and equality without discriminating physically or racially (Ridwan & Aslinda, 2022: 1).

Based on the explanation that the researcher has conveyed above, the researcher chose the title *Representation of in Beauty and The Beast (2017) Film by Bill Condon* as a research that will be studied by the researcher. In this study, researchers will focus on the acts of discrimination represented in the film by analyzing the storyline in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the research background described above, the researcher tries to analyze social problems that focus on the main topic, namely discrimination contained in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon through scenes

and dialogues displayed from each scene found. Therefore, the researcher took the following research questions:

1. What types of discrimination experienced by the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon?
2. What are the causes of discrimination committed by the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon?
3. What is the impact of the discrimination against the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon?

1.3 Research Objective

In relation to the formulation of the problem, this research has two objectives to be achieved:

1. To determine the type of discrimination perpetrated by the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film directed by Bill Condon.
2. To find out the causes of discrimination committed by the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film directed by Bill Condon.
3. To find out the impact of discrimination against the characters in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film directed by Bill Condon.

1.4 Research Significance

The results of this study can add benefits for provide theoretical and valuable contributions to both academic and social fields. Theoretically, this research is expected to expand and enrich the understanding of discrimination shown in a film, especially in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon.

Practically, this research is expected to provide and add to the information and knowledge needed for readers and future researchers who want to conduct a more in-depth study of the types and impacts of discrimination depicted in *Beauty and The Beast* (2017) film by Bill Condon.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward.

1. Film Studies

Film studies is a science that examines various approaches such as historical, theoretical, and critical approaches to cinema as an art form and medium. In the search for social-ideological values, film studies takes a series of critical approaches to production analysis, theoretical frameworks, contexts, and creations.

2. Mimesis

Mimesis is explained as the concept of imitation or representation of the real world in works of art. It encompasses the idea that works of art attempt to imitate, reflect, or depict physical or emotional reality in different forms such as literature, painting, or theater.

3. Discrimination

Discrimination is an act or behavior that is different to a group or a person so that it can harm the victim. Discrimination usually happens to minorities and groups based on their characteristics such as gender, race, religion, and so on.

4. Mise-en-Scene

Mise-en-scene is a stage setting in the context of film or theater that refers to everything visible on stage, such as sets, props, costumes, makeup, lighting, and actor placement.

5. Cinematography

Cinematography is the art and technique of creating motion pictures for film or other visual productions. It involves the arrangement of lighting, framing, camera settings, and the use of color to create mood, atmosphere, and an immersive visual narrative in a film work.