CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher introduces the Background of the Problem, Statement of Problems, Research Purposes, Research Significances, and Definition of Key Terms.

1.1 Research Background

One culture that is quite popular among society is film as modern literature. Film is a form of literary work in the 21st century apart from prose, poetry and drama. According to Klarer in Juanda (2019) films were born from a script that tells a story that is textually similar to a drama script. Because the dialogue in the film comes from a script that is then performed by the actors or characters in the film. Therefore, the film script looks similar to a drama script in a theater because they both bring a story through dialogue and actors. It's just that the way it is presented is different. If the drama in the theater is presented live in a performance with the audience present in a certain location without editing, then the film is made by relying on cinematography, editing, visual effects, and sound design techniques. Movies can be watched repeatedly while plays in theater are only once in a performance.

In this modern era, the development of popular culture is experiencing rapid movement. This is one of the factors of technological progress such as media which is increasingly sophisticated and can be reached by many people. Popular literature is an example of culture that has experienced rapid movement from the beginning of the 20th century until now. According to Nurgiyanto, "Popular literature is literature that is categorized as entertainment literature and commercial literature." (Nurgiyantoro, 1998). Apart from aiming to entertain, popular literature also has a high selling value because the story can fulfill the wishes of the reader or audience. Or simply, like mass media knowing market needs and target audience. One form of literary work that is popular and much liked by the public is a movie or film (Kartika et al., 2022).

A film is a visual work resulting from imagination that is displayed in a special way using screen media. Film shows are able to create and display expressions, this is

because films not only display visual forms but also sounds that come from both dialogue and background sound in a scene. Then things that can be seen with the eyes and heard by the ears will be easier and faster for the audience to listen to. This is one of the reasons that films with their audio and visual displays are media that are easier to understand than reading (Alda, 2020). And this is also one of the factors why films have become part of popular culture. Because most people also prefer watching than reading.

One genre that is much in demand in popular culture is the fantasy genre. In its development, fantasy films have had their own fans because they can provide different sensations of watching films that cannot be found in the real world (Oktaviani, 2019). Fantasy films have become popular culture among society for several specific reasons that reflect human desires and needs for creativity, escape from reality, and exploration of imaginative worlds.

Genre in film refers to a particular category or type that describes the style, themes and distinctive elements in a film. Genres help audiences understand what to expect from a film and simplify the film marketing and distribution process. There are many genres in films. The following are several examples of genres in films that can be categorized into a characteristic of the film, namely action films, namely films that emphasize fast-moving scenes, accidents and fights. Then adventure usually involves travel or exploration, often with elements of fantasy or science fiction. There is comedy, the aim is to entertain and make the audience laugh. Then Horror, namely films designed to cause fear and anxiety in the audience, often through supernatural or thriller elements. Next, the Romance genre focuses on romantic relationships and romantic feelings between the main characters. The science fiction genre, which combines elements of science fiction, advanced technology, or life in outer space. Then thrillers which have elements of high tension and suspense, often with complex plots. And genre fantasy, which involves impossible or fantastic elements, such as mythical creatures or magical worlds. This fantasy genre is the focus of this research.

Some of the reasons why films in the fantasy genre are so popular are because fantasy films allow audiences to enter a completely new and unexpected world. This provides space for imaginative exploration, activates the mind, and provides enjoyable

experiences. Then as an escape from life, in a world often filled with challenges and stress, fantasy films provide the necessary escape. The audience can escape for a moment. Fantasy films also present iconic characters. Iconic figures in fantasy films, such as wizards, heroes and fantastic creatures, often become the envy of fantasy itself. They can build strong fan communities and become part of popular culture. This magical creature is one of the characteristics of fantasy films which is different from films of other genres. Because these magical creatures are presented in stories from the imaginative work of their creators who are far from human reason.

Fantasy is a genre that uses magic and other supernatural phenomena as major elements of plot, theme, and setting. Fantasy can be called creative imagination. It can also be something like an invention, which is a creation of fantasy. Fantasy as a product of the imagination of literary creators is the main part of literary works and the main part of children's development. Fantasy usually depicts stories that could not happen in real life, which are known as fantasies. These stories involve magic, or the struggle between good and evil (2019). Fantasy is imagination or imagination about something that really does not exist and has not happened based on experiences that already exist or have been experienced. Fantasy in films refers to the nature of films, namely how filmmakers imagine creating new worlds beyond human reason (Oktaviani, 2019).

Formula refers to a special characteristic related to the structure of a literary work. In the development of popular literature, there is one very important term, namely formula. Formula is part of a genre that many people are familiar with. Within the genre, there are certain formulas that will determine the genre of the story. This genre concept has also been adapted in the film industry. Genre allows filmmakers to produce films using certain elements. Some say, sometimes a formula concept is not a good way for a story. However, in the name of audience tastes and market needs, this concept is widely used by filmmakers if the main goal is to attract audiences (Astika Made I, 2014).

Magical creatures refer to fictional or mythical creatures that have magical or supernatural abilities. These creatures often appear in fairy tales, mythology, fantasy literature, and other works of art. They are characterized by extraordinary abilities that can include the ability to cast magic, shapeshift, fly, or possess other uncommon powers.

Magical creatures (mythical creatures) are legendary creatures that are believed to be real creatures, but there are also those that originally had a form of exploration in literary myths (Rosydah & Ariyanti, 2015). Fantasy creatures are imaginary or imaginative creatures, usually for telling stories. Be it novels, films, art, or oral folklore, fantasy creatures are present in any culture that has fantasy stories. Like ancient civilizations, every continent, every subcategory of places and people all have fantasy creatures (Kidder, 2023).

There are several types of magical creatures in the fantasy genre. In this article magical creatures are categorized based on good or bad (evil). Many mythical creatures have supernatural powers (some good, some evil). Often legendary creatures symbolize vice or virtue, or forces of good or evil. In this case their existence can be interpreted as a representation that exists in real life based on characteristics and phenomena that look familiar.

The Rings of Power is a fantasy film that tells the story of the beginning of the appearance of the magic ring which is an important part of *The Lord of The Rings* trilogy. This series is set in the era of Middle Earth, when the kingdoms of humans, dwarves and hobbits were at the peak of their glory. It is said that at that time there were 19 magic rings owned by each race, namely 7 and 9 belonging to humans, 3 rings belonging to dwarves, 7 rings belonging to hobbits and one ring belonging to the dark lord named Sauron. The rise of the dark lord Sauron makes peaceful life chaotic and dark. Prince Sauron wants to control and dominate Middle Earth by using the ring of power. The condition of Middle Earth became even more chaotic when the island of Númenor fell. This film has been released in 2022 on Amazon Prime and is a prequel to the stories *The Hobbit* and *Lord of The Rings* by JRR Tolkien. This film is the first season which consists of 8 episodes. It could be said that this series is set thousands of years ago before *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of The Rings* were told. *The Lord of The Rings: The Rings of Power* is produced by Amazon Studios in association with Harper Collins and New Line Cinema, and in consultation with the Tolkien Estate. The series was directed by J.A. Bayona, Wayne Che Yip, and Charlotte Brandstrom.

The writing of this research was inspired by previous research. Among them, the first, Alma Sativa *"Fantasy Formula in The Movie Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016)"*. In this research, the researcher discusses the fantasy genre formula in the movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (2016)", and the significance of magical creatures in the movie. The primary theory in this study is formulaic theory from Saricks (2009) and Cawelti (1977). The findings of this study suggest that fantasy movie typically follow a similar pattern.

The next study is the thesis by Elvira R. Mangantar's thesis entitled *"Fantasy Formula Reflected in the Film Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire (2005)"*. The focus of this research is the Fantasy Formula in films. The problem of this research focuses on what is meant by fantasy formulation and how it reflects the fantasy formulation reflected in the film *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire (2005)*. The author uses theories from Cawelti (1976) and Snyder (2011) to analyze the fantasy formula. The research results show that the Fantasy Formula is as Reflected in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005)*. In research from Elvira which discusses the Fantasy Formula Reflected in *the Film Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire (2005)*. In her research, Elvira focuses her research on the Fantasy Formula with the Cawelty Formula theory.

The last study is thesis by Anggi Sagita entitled *"Riordan's Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief"*. In this study, the researcher focuses on discussing the formula for the fantasy genre and the characteristics of the heroes found in the novel Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief. This study uses genre theory as the main theory. The researcher focuses this research on elements of the fantasy genre with theories from several experts such as Saricks, Gates, Howard, and several other experts. The fantasy genre is one of the genres in popular literature, with magical and supernatural phenomena as the main elements of the theme, plot, and setting. In addition, this study uses the theory of the Cawelti formula.

Based on previous research, the author found that the three studies focused on the formulation of fantasy and fantasy elements in the object of study. These include discussing the formula for the fantasy genre in the films studied and also determining the fantasy genre. Then the importance of magical creatures in fantasy film stories. And in

their research, the three of them took theories from Cawelty and Saricks as a source of direction in their research writing. In his findings examining the fantasy formula in fantasy films as the object of study, it was found that fantasy films use the same patterns in their stories so that the genre can be determined as a fantasy genre. Therefore, the author chose these studies because they are closely related to this research. In this research the author focuses more on fantasy elements, especially magical creatures as one of the elements in fantasy films.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the statement of problem can be formulated into the research question as follows:

1. How does the significance of the magical creatures construct the fantasy formula in "*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (2022)*" movie?
2. How does the magical creature function represent *"The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (2022)"* movie?

1.3 Research Purpose

Based on the statement of the above, the aim of this research is:

1. To find out how the significance of the magical creatures construct the fantasy formula in "*The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (2022)*" movie.
2. To find out how the magical creature function represent *"The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (2022)"* movie.

1.4 Research Significance

This research aims to provide theoretical and practical contributions. The findings of this research are expected to have theoretical and practical implications. Theoretically, this research is expected to provide input, especially in the field of literary research. Researchers seek to provide further knowledge and data regarding magical creatures in fantasy films. Especially the magical creatures found in the fantasy film entitled *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power (2022).* Practically, researchers hope that the findings

of this analysis can become a reference and source of knowledge for other parties, especially those conducting research in similar fields.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Fantasy:** According to Saricks (2009, p. 265) fantasy is perhaps the most common genre, as there are elements of fantasy in most fiction, regardless of how realistic the story is. in it there are genres of myths and legends, as well as fairy tales and childhood stories and there is a world of the supernatural, and magic, magic and enchantment all come to life in fantasy.

2. **Formula:** According to Astika Made (2014) formula is part of a genre that many people are familiar with. Within the genre, there are certain formulas that will determine the genre of the story.

3. **Magical creature:** Magical creatures are creatures created by fantasy writers based on their imaginations who live in fantasy genre stories whose existence is not real.

4. **Movie:** According to Klarer in (Juanda, 2019) film is modern literature which is quite popular among the public. The film was born from a script that tells a story that is textually similar to a drama script.

5. *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*: A fantasy movie that tells the story of the beginning of the appearance of the magic ring which is an important part of The Lord of The Rings trilogy. This series is set in the era of Middle Earth, when the kingdoms of humans, dwarves and hobbits were at the peak of their glory. It is said that at that time there were 19 magic rings owned by each race, namely 7 and 9 belonging to humans, 3 rings belonging to dwarves, 7 rings belonging to hobbits and one ring belonging to the Dark Lord named Sauron.