

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with four components such as background, in the background of research, explain about the thriller formula in the film, the object of this research, characterization, and plot of thriller formula and previous studies. The statement of the problem explains about analyzing thriller formula through characterization and thriller formula through the plot. Besides that there are research objective and research significance. Then, the definition of the key term is explained about what is film, intrinsic elements of film, thriller, thriller formula through characterization and thriller formula through the plot.

1.1 Background of the Research

There are several ways to express ideas, especially in literature. Through literature, we can feel as if in a dream world and take us away from reality. Ideas expressed in literary works are images in the reality of life mixed with the imagination of the writer or director. Literature is the expression of personal feelings including experience, ideas, motivation, confidences in the concrete descriptions using language. A person can express feelings, thoughts, ideas or arguments in the form of literature. In its development, there is literature created using everyday language such as popular literature.

Popular literature is a literary work that is like by the audience because popular literature is easier to watch and enjoy. Popular literature prioritised the tastes of the reader and audience rather than prioritised the aesthetic value of literature. According to Tudor in Adi (2011, p.197) that the flexibility of popular fiction has caused this fiction genre to be determined by the audience or reader. Popular literature in this study is also called popular fiction whose story is easily understood by the audience. Popular literature has a function as mere entertainment, literature is still referred to as popular literature. Popular literature is a type of literature that is categorized as entertainment literature. Literary works are regarded

as canons which are realized as a result and a great narrative in modern thought. This entertainment category is related to market demand that continues to soar because popular literary works have become famous. This comes from the works of society that present their ideas through modern media.

The film is a part of popular literature. According to Adi (2016, p. 19), the type of popular literature consists of various kinds, which is in the form of novels or films. It is one of the popular literature that can be accepted as a useful media to express people's feelings. A film is a form of entertainment that enacts a story. The existence of the film has been created as one of the media is preferred even now. According to Adi (2016, p. 54) film is a work of literature and film history is also influenced massively by the history of literary works. With the existence of narration or more commonly referred to as a story, then where there is a story, a literature review can be applied there. Film present action, images, and words replicating life. The film has some genres such as western, science fiction, horror, detective, mystery, adventure, romance, and thriller.

Thriller is a type of film thrilling action and usually, the type of storyline prioritised stories that the hero race against time, is full of challenging actions and get the assistance that happens to be badly needed which has to thwart the cruel plans of stronger criminals and more complete weaponry. Thriller film has a purpose to make the audience thrilling when the story is watched. Thriller's film focuses on fear and anxiety story. According to Saricks (2009, p. 72), although characters may not be in life-and-death situations, they always face the danger of some kind, certainly from a conspiracy if not a physical antagonist. In general, thrillers tell ordinary people who are trapped in an extraordinary or precarious situation that is not desired as a mystery, acts of terror to murder. Thrillers heavily stimulate the viewer's moods giving them a high level of anticipation, uncertainty, surprise, anxiety, and terror.

Don't Breathe is a thriller genre film, wherein a thriller genre film has a thriller aspect. *Don't Breathe* film is one of the films directed by Fede Alvarez. Fede Alvarez is a director and writer from Uruguay. There are several films other than *Don't Breathe* which have been directed and written by Fede Alvarez. In 2009 Fede

Alvarez released his short film *Buenos Aires Rojo Sangre* on Youtube. After that, Fede Alvarez made a deal with Ghost House Pictures to direct science fiction films. Fede Alvarez's first project with Ghost House Pictures directed and wrote the film *Evil Dead* which was released in 2013. Also, Fede Alvarez helmed re-release of the English language *The girl with the Dragon Tattoo* series, with the film being based on *The Girl in the Spider's Web* this film was released in 2008.

Don't Breathe film was directed by Fede Alvarez, and written by Alvarez and Rodo Sayagues and it was first released in 2016. This film has a great thriller because it has an interesting story, how the protagonist quickly and unexpectedly becomes an antagonist and even a merciless monster. The story starts with three members of the thief's group. The three of them namely Rocky, Alex, and Money had a hobby of entering an uninhabited house and then taking valuables inside. It's just that they make the hobby a job. But they still have a code of ethics, do not take cash and the nominal amount of goods taken is not more than 10 thousand dollars. They did not seem to get the opportunity to complete a college education. To achieve dreams, practical actions, such as robbery, are the only choices. Until finally Alex, Rocky, and Money found a new target, a blind the veteran living in his house with only a guard dog. There was news that there were 300 thousand dollars in his house, this became a target that was easily conquered. But behind the blindness experienced by the veteran actually, he unexpectedly has an unexpected ability that is used as a trigger for the thriller.

In this research, the researcher chooses to analyze the film because it has many styles and many things that the researcher can take from this film. Watching films have a lot of advantages because the researcher can learn from many aspects, especially from intrinsic elements. Forster (2005, p. 16) stated that the important elements in prose are characterization, theme, plot, setting, and point of view. Those are called as an intrinsic elements. A literary work without intrinsic elements cannot stand because these elements are related to each other.

The plot and characterization will be the focus of this research. As already known, characterization and plot are intrinsic elements of making a literary work. Literary works, in this case, the film certainly experiences development, especially

in the characterization and plot, if the film has an interesting characterization and plot, the film will be able to get the audience carried away in the story of the film. films have various genres, one of the film genres that makes interesting films is the thriller genre.

In this research, the writer tries to focus to analyze the film in thriller genre which analyzes the thriller through characterization and thriller through the plot in a film. Plot and characterization without genre in a plot and characterization, the story cannot live. Thriller makes the audience curious to know what is going to happen next. Therefore, the writer chose the thriller through characterization and thriller through the plot because the writer has passion and interest in analyzing the thriller based on the film.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The film has experienced many developments. The film is one of the literary works that are much in demand by the audience. In this case, the film must have an interesting story to increase the attractiveness of the audience. One of them is a film that has a thriller genre. *Don't Breathe* is a thriller genre film, in this case, the researcher formulates two formulations of the problems. The questions in the research are:

1. How is the thriller formula explain through characterization in *Don't Breathe* film?
2. How is the thriller formula explain through plot in *Don't Breathe* film?

1.3 Research Objective

In this research, to identify and analyze the characterization and plot in *Don't Breathe* has the following objectives:

1. To find out the thriller formula through characterization in *Don't Breathe* film.
2. To find out the thriller formula through plot in *Don't Breathe* film.

1.4 Research Significance

This research has theoretically and practically significance.

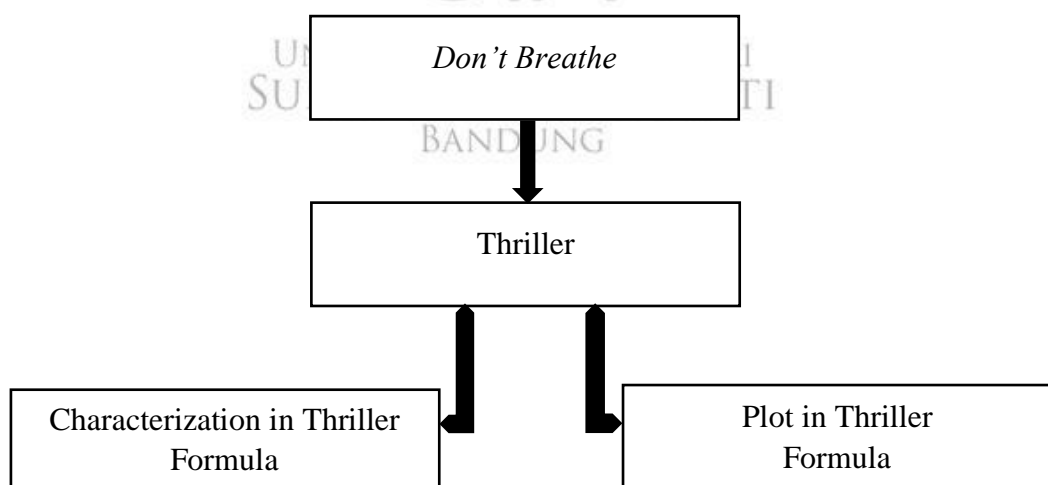
1. Theoretically

This research can help improve understanding of the thriller genre in films seen through characterizations and plots, readers can understand the theories used by researchers and apply to everyday phenomena. The readers can be an appreciation of this research, either by reading or making criticism in the form of other papers from this research that is building and providing the learning process.

2. Practically

The results of the research could be useful and provide thought for solving problems related to this topic and this research is expected to be useful as an alternative development in helping further analysis studies. The results of this research can add insight and reference to the reader to research in the field of film from the discussion of the thriller.

1.5 Conceptual Framework



Don't Breathe is a film directed by Fede Alvarez. The film tells of three thieves, they are look money in the house of the veteran who is blind and only lives alone accompanied by his pet dog. At first they thought after they were inside the house, something unexpected happened that turned out that the blind veteran had unexpected abilities and carried out very unexpected actions. The veteran has a sense of hearing and smell that is almost on par with his dog. He can find out the whereabouts of someone in his house, veterans fight the actions of the three thieves by trying to kill them. It was very difficult for the three thieves to get out of the veteran's house. Actions taken by the veteran to thieves build thriller.

Thriller is a genre that has characteristics that can trigger the emotions of the audience, a feeling that can trigger such tension, anxiety, shock, and anticipation. Thrillers are more psychological, usually, thrillers contain mystery stories that are not easily guessed by the main actors having to solve a complicated problem. To analyze thrillers in *Don't Breathe*, researchers used the theory of Joyce G. Saricks. Saricks said the characteristic of a thriller can be seen pacing, frame/setting, plot, characterization, tone/mode and style/language. In this research, the writer will identify the characteristic of thriller in two aspects, characterization and plot.

Thriller tells about the conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist. The characterization is shown in their actions. The antagonist commits evil actions to the protagonist to achieve what he wants, the protagonist will certainly fight antagonists to survive his crime. According to Saricks characterization in thrillers can be seen and showed through actions taken by protagonists and antagonists such as, operate which may be at odds with the law, the hero away from the police or anyone, strong female protagonist, dangerously flawed and amoral heroes.

The plot in thriller tends to be complicated, with frequent plot twists that surprise the protagonist and audience. The evil committed by the antagonist to the protagonist certainly makes the protagonist do a way to defeat him. In this case, the protagonist can defend himself from bad and critical conditions and hopes things will get better and get past him or her. Then, in this case, the plot in a thriller can be seen from several actions taken by the protagonist to the antagonist, besides that

the story in the thriller is usually unpredictable and surprising. According to Saricks plot in the thriller can be seen and showed from plot twist, the antagonist plots to gain power for his ends, the hero is out to stop antagonist, violence was carried out many times and never knows to trust.

1.6 Research Problem.

The film *Don't Breathe* has significant points to be analyzed. The thriller genre is the main problem which is needed to be discussed. First, the researcher is interested in the application of thriller in the *Don't Breathe* characters' characterization. Second, the researcher is interested in how the plot of the film could explain thriller formulas. Therefore, those two points become the question of the research as written in the Statement of Problem.

1.7 The Result of Previous Studies

In this research two types of literature need to be reviewed as reference and comparison: first, the literature relating to the material object of this research and second the literature relating to the application of thriller theory in characterization and plot. Research on the same topic as this research, especially the research of thriller inaccessible film has not been found. However, research that uses different perspectives relating to film and thriller analysis is mostly done. The researcher was inspired by several previous studies.

First, "A Variety of Thrills (Thrillers and different ways of approaching them)" by J.S. Hurley, K.A. Kamphuis, 2013. In this research, the writer analyzes about Thriller genre. Thriller is a broad genre. This genre is constructed by the use of different people involved in the movie process; the producers and advertisers, critics and consumers. They all have different reasons to call a thriller a thriller. The writer did a discourse analysis of three movies to see whether the use of the term "thriller" is used by all these parties in the same way and how this will construct the genre. The three movies that are analyzed are *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011), *Black Swan* (2010) and *Hide and Seek* (2005). The difference between researcher and J.S. Hurley is in the topic, he analyzed thriller in general while the

researcher analyzed thriller through characterization and storyline/plot in the film. The equation that can support this research is the theory used is thriller theory and film.

Second, Analisis Genre Thriller Dalam Film Pintu Terlarang by Reni Hapsari, Universitas Airlangga Surabaya, 2011. This research analyzes the thriller genre in Indonesian films entitled the film Pintu Terlarang. Researchers interested in conducting this research are because there are still seldom researching Indonesian film genres. The genre study is a study to categorize a film text into a particular genre based on the pattern/structure of the film. So that the genre can be accepted by the audience and identified according to the genre desired by the filmmaker. Each genre itself has special patterns which are repetitions of the previous pattern. Through this research, researchers want to identify the genre/type characteristics of Indonesian thriller, namely Pintu Terlarang movie through elements of the genre or called repertoire of elements, namely narration, characters, settings, iconography, and style (format). The film Pintu Terlarang was chosen because on their official website they mentioned that the film is a thriller genre. Seeing some of the awards obtained by this film, researchers are interested in identifying the repertoire of elements, which include narration, characters, settings, iconography, and style (format) in the film Pintu Terlarang. This study shows that the characteristics of the Indonesian thriller genre, the film Pintu Terlarang, have a connection with the characteristics of other genres. They usually have basic stories related to murder and crime. The main character is a figure who is involved in a murder case or a person who murders for a certain reason, such as because he wants to defend himself. The female figure is described as having a high position. And has a considerable influence on the main character. Blood and sharp weapons are the main icons. Low lighting technique or low key is one of the styles in this film. The difference between researcher and Reni Hapsari is in the topic, she analyzed thriller in narration, character, setting, iconography, and style while the researcher analyzed thriller through characterization and storyline/plot in the film. The equation that can support this research is the theory used is thriller theory and film.

Third, *Film Genre And Its Vicissitudes: The Case Of The Psychothriller* by Virginia Luzon Aguado, Universidad de Zaragoza. This research is the result of an exploration into the contemporary psychothriller and its matrix genre, the thriller. It was inspired by the lack of critical attention devoted to this type of film, so popular with the audience yet apparently a thorn in the critics' side. The main aim of this paper is, therefore, to contribute a small piece of criticism to fill this noticeable gap in film genre theory. It begins with a brief overview of contemporary film genre theory, which provides the background for a vindication of the thriller as a genre and specifically of the psychothriller as a borderline sub-generic category borrowing features from both the thriller and the horror film. The difference between this research and the research in the method, this study analyzed thriller and horror as its theory while the researcher analyzed thriller. Besides, this study analyzed psycho-thriller while the researcher analyzed thriller through characterization and plot. The similarity of this research is filmed as an object and a thriller as a theory.

Fourth, *East meets west: the reader-response theory in thrillers fictions* by Mohd Nazri Latiff Azmi, 2014. In this research, the writer analyzes about comparative literature study focuses on the elements of Reader Response Theory (RRT) in thriller fictions between two outstanding American and Malaysian novelists, Sidney Sheldon, and Ramlee Awang Murshid. Sheldon, one of the most famous American authors who wrote a lot of magnificent novels, whereas Ramlee is an established thriller fiction novelist in Malaysia. According to International Thriller Writers, a thriller is characterized by "the sudden rush of emotions, the excitement, and sense of thriller, apprehension, and exhilaration that drive the narrative, sometimes subtly with peaks and lulls, sometimes at a constant, breakneck pace." Therefore, this qualitative study aims to find the similarities and differences of both popular novelists from the view of Reader Response Theory and how they managed to attract readers. From other points of view, the study also stresses the elements of the concepts of "meaning" and "truth" in their literary works, which are the main attractions to their avid readers and followers. Based on the findings, it is obvious that both authors implement different styles and figurative

language to capture the reader's thriller mood, in which it is extremely successful. The difference between this research and the research in the method, the object was analyzed, this study analyzed the novel as its object while the researcher analyzed the film. Also, this study analyzed implement different styles and figurative language to capture the reader's thriller mood, while the researcher analyzed thriller through characterization and plot. The similarity of this research is in the thriller.

Fifth, "Mal'akh Psychopathic Guilt As Seen In Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol" by Vita Tri Cahyani, English Literature, Faculty Of Adab And Culture Sciences, States Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga 2017. In this research, the writer analyzes the psychopath. Psychopath, one of the personality disorders, in modern literature, some novelists attempt to bring psychopath theme on their imaginary world. One of the novelists who take this theme is Dan Brown in The Lost Symbol, Mal'akh. As depicted in the novel, Mal'akh has done violence that tends to be psychopathic. This research aims to figure out how Mal'akh is portrayed in The Lost Symbol in terms of psychopathic guilt, as narrated in the novel. This graduating paper is qualitative research, specifically done by library research. The research is done by reading the novel repeatedly to analyze the characteristic of Mal'akh. The main source of data is the text of The Lost Symbol novel itself. The primary object of the research is the main antagonist, Mal'akh, and his tendency to psychopath which is analyzed from his action in the novel. To answer the problem statements the writer applies the Theory of Guilt by Kalu Singh, which particularly focuses on guilt, seen by "Father-son fighting" as the residue of Oedipus Complex. From this research, it is comprehended that there are thirteen incidents of father-son fighting by showing action, one incident of father-son fighting seen by telling actions, one incident of father-son fighting seen by sign and lack of remorse or guilt of Mal'akh. According to the theory, Mal'akh has lack remorse or guilt which is why he is categorized as a psychopath. The difference between researcher and Cahyani is in the topic, she only analyzed character thriller while the researcher analyzed thriller characterization and storyline/plot and object in this research analyzed novel and researcher analyzed the film. The equation that can support this research is the theory used is the thriller genre.

Sixth, Penyutradaraan Dalam Pembuatan Film Fiksi Bergenre Psycho Thriller Berjudul "Delusi" by Kevin Arya Iswara, Faculty Teknologi dan Informatika STIKOM, Surabaya. 2018. In this research, the writer analyzes about thriller genre fiction film titled "Delusi". The purpose to be achieved in this Final Project is to produce psycho-thriller genre fiction film titled "Delusi". This is in the background because this fiction film adopts a disease that is rarely known by the surrounding community and even rarely heard in the ears of the community. Then This Final Project is made to show that someone is affected schizophrenia is very dangerous for the community. In this Final Project report, the author uses qualitative methods using data collection techniques in the form of interviews, literature studies and observation so that it can receive valid information for delivery the character of the characterization of the film does not cause Sara and is easily understood by the audience. With the existence of the psycho-thriller genre fiction film entitled "Delusion" It is expected that all people can find out the characteristics of the people affected schizophrenia. The difference between researcher and Kevin is in the topic, she only analyzed characterization thriller while the researcher analyzed thriller characterization and plot. The equation that can support this research is the theory used is a thriller.