

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of research, statement of the problem, research question, purposes and significances of research, the definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Literary works can always attract attention, especially with various genres. This genre continues to develop following the readers' preferences, and one of the most favourite genres by the reader or audience is the thriller genre. The Thriller genre becomes one of the most popular genres because it manages to attract the attention of the reader/audience through the tension in it. moreover, now the work is presented through moving graphics like films, and through film, the sensations come alive with tense sounds and moving images.

Popular literature in this study is also called popular fiction whose stories are easily understood by the readers. According to Pujiharto (2012:2), popular fiction can be easily understood with one reading. The name of popular literature began to spread after the 70s. Popular literature has a function as more entertainment, literature is still referred to as popular literature. Popular literature is a type of literature that is categorized as entertainment literature.

The term literature in any current encyclopedia and you will be struck by the vagueness of its usage as well as an inevitable lack of substance in the attempts to define it. In most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word.

The definitions, therefore, usually include additional adjectives such as "*aesthetic*" or "*artistic*" to distinguish literary works from texts of everyday use such as telephone books, newspapers, legal documents, and scholarly writings

(Klarer, 1962:10). Etymologically, the Latin word "*litteratura*" is derived from "*littera*" (letter), which is the smallest element of alphabetical writing. The word text is related to "textile" and can be translated as "*fabric*": just as single threads form a fabric, so words and sentences form a meaningful and coherent text. The origins of the two central terms are, therefore, not of great help in defining literature or text. It is more enlightening to look at literature or text as cultural and historical phenomena and to investigate the conditions of their production and reception.

The title was taken based on research object *perfume : the story of murderer* movie. The author include a qualitative study in this research, The readers can find out this research using qualitative literary methode. Beside, the topic is based on what is equally well know in these works. It is psychological thriller formula.

The researcher chose this object because the researcher wanted to research the genre of thriller. Which means psychological thriller a sub genre thriller and when we are watch *Perfume : The Story of Murderer* feel unsatisfied. Author plan to analysing this movie *Perfume : The Story of Murderer* as object. Author chosen psychological as topic, because althought many people are using these object as research materials, but no one has revealed the formula for the film. Also author chosen *Perfume : The Story of Murderer* as research object. This movie have six award. The award given to this film, 1. German film award for best direction, 2. European choice award for best actor, 3. Peoples choice award for best European film, 4. German film award for best score, 5. European film award for best composer, 6. Gopo for best European film.

The author interested in researching thriller formulas in this film because at the beginning of the story the main character had special advantages but the advantages made him a psychopath. In this film, some scenes are unexpected and also gripping to make the audience who saw this film carried a tense situation.

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer is a 147-minute film directed by Tom Tykwer. The film was released on December 27 in the United States. the film is adapted from the *Perfume* novel by Patrick Suskind this genre psychological

thriller. This film takes place in the 1800s in the ancient city of Paris. By telling the life of Jean-Baptiste Grenouille the genius who has an olfactory ability that is different from other humans. And he is ambitious to collect the fragrance of a new perfume base.

The film begins with the narrative narration of the narrator who narrates the sentence Jean-Baptiste Grenouille, which in the perspective of thriller formulas is usually plot told through narration. Narrated Jean-Baptiste Grenouille who was born in a fish market in France. His mother gave birth to him while cutting fish in the market. He was then left just like that by his mother under the table where his mother was cutting fish. Because it was known by people around that her mother intended to kill her baby, then her mother was hanged for this action. Grenouille grew into a human being with an extraordinary sense of smell. At the age of growing up, the smell is increasingly extraordinary, told because the smell of Baptiste can find out from a distance fragrant water, stones, toads, frog eggs, tadpole. The storyline above has proven that there are psychological thriller elements in the film because one of the elements is that the main character usually has natural advantages given by God/magic. And in the storyline, he always gets help when he is having trouble. Element which proves that in this film is a psychological thriller because the main character is a psychopath. Baptiste has killed virgins to be made into perfume.

As we know thriller genre films are tense action films. Thriller films focus on anxiety and fear. Usually, the storyline of the thriller prioritizes the story that the hero is a race against time, full of challenging actions, and always gets much-needed help that must thwart the cruel plans of a more powerful villain and more complete weaponry. The goal is to make the audience happy when the story is watched.

As stated by Sarick (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 mood giving them a high level of anticipation, uncertainty, surprise, anxiety, and terror.

The Thriller genre itself is divided into several sections, and among them is a psychological thriller. The psychological thriller is a narrative thriller that emphasizes the unstable or delusional psychological states of its characters. In terms of context and convention, it is a subgenre of the broader ranging thriller narrative structure, with similarities to Gothic and detective fiction in the sense of sometimes having a "dissolving sense of reality". It is often told through the viewpoint of psychologically stressed characters, revealing their distorted mental perceptions and focusing on the complex and often tortured relationships between obsessive and pathological characters.

States that films that have been labeled psychological thrillers usually refer to "narratives with domestic settings where actions are suppressed and where sensations are given instead through psychological investigations of the main characters. The hallmark of a psychological thriller is that it emphasizes the character's mental state: perception, thoughts, distortions, and general struggles to understand reality.

Psychological thrillers focus on stories, character development, choices, and moral conflict; fear and anxiety encourage psychological tension in unexpected ways. Psychological thrillers are full of tension by exploiting the uncertainty of character motives, honesty, and how they see the world.

However, according to James N. Frey "psychological thriller as a force, not a subgenre. according to him good thrillers focus on their antagonistic psychology and build tension slowly through ambiguity". Creators and / or film distributors or publishers who try to distance themselves from the negative connotations of horror often categorize their work as psychological thrillers. The same situation can occur when critics call a work a psychological thriller to increase the literary value it feels.

What distinguishes psychological thriller from thriller is a stressful psychological thriller, full of mystery, and often infrequently full of bloodshed. In

this film genre, there is the main role that plays a psychological element to build the thriller atmosphere itself.

This research was initially inspired by several previous research that interests. This research was initially inspired by several previous research that interests. The first study found is Alawiyah, Syifa Hanifa (2019) Thriller formula in Dan Brown's Angels and Demons. Diploma thesis, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This research focuses on analysing a literary work that explains the elements of thriller formula in a novel. The researcher analyzed thriller formula in novel Angels and Demons

The Second study is Reni Hapsari Thesis (2011) in Universitas Airlangga, entitle Genre Film Thriller Indonesia dalam Film Pintu Terlarang. The thesis focus on identify the characteristics of Indonesian thriller genre / type, namely Pintu Terlarang film through genre elements or called repertoires of elements, namely narration, character, setting, iconography, and style. Pintu Terlarang film was chosen because in their official website they mentioned that this film was a thriller genre. Seeing some of the awards obtained by this film, researchers are interested in identifying repertoires of elements, which include narration, character, settings, iconography, and style (film) in the film Pintu Terlarang.

The third study is Evi Amalia from Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, she has done explain well regarding The Movie Parfume: The Story Of Murderer she analyze not only the evidence of the movie itself but also mention on the society the results of this study as characterization of the main character outward character: a man who is ugly, small and stooped, he is dressed in filth and torn, social characteristics: hard workers and like to learn perfume making techniques, He does not have good social relations, behavior the main character has a habit of sniffing and fantasizing, He has difficulty speaking in everyday language, thoughts and feelings: firmly determined to create an imitation of human scent, namely the aroma of a virgin girl.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows :

1. What are the characteristics of the psychological thriller formulas constructed in Perfume: The Story of a Murderer movie?
2. How is conflict in the film "Parfume: The story of a murderer" support psychological thriller formulas?

1.3 Research Objective

Then based on the problem above, the researcher sees several things that are the objectives of the study discussed below:

1. To explain the psychological thriller in the film "Parfume: The story of a murderer" by Tom Tykwer constructed in psychological thriller formulas.
2. To explain the characters in the film "Parfume: The story of a murderer " by Tom Tykwer contracted psychological thriller formulas.
3. To explain the conflict and climax in thrillers Formulas construct in the film " Parfume: The Story of Murderer " by Tom Tykwer.

1.4 Research Significance

This research aims to provide knowledge about the genre of psychological. The research significances are divided into two foundations, such as:

1. Theoretically, this research will be useful and raise or give a contribution to students in Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung especially for students of the English Literature, who wants to learn about Understanding Psychological Thriller.
2. Practically, this research can be reference other researches which interested to analyze psychological Thiller in literary work.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- a. **Formula:** the formula is a combination or synthesis of a number of specific cultural. Conventions with a more universal story form or archetype. It is also similar in many ways to the traditional literary conception.
- b. **Genre:** There are several types of genres in the film, for example, Action, Thriller, Horror, Comedy, Romance, etc.
- c. **Thriller:** Thriller is a genre of literature. The main purpose of the thriller is to create a tense atmosphere among the audience and have a subtype.
- d. **Psychological Thriller:** Thrillers that focus on characters that have extreme psychological disorders, such as psychopaths and people with split personalities.
- e. **Film:** Film is part of the genre in literature.

1.6 Paper Organization

Researchers will divide this paper into five chapters with the following organizations are below:

1. Chapter I as an introduction.

In this chapter, researchers will include research background, problem statements, research objectives and significance, definitions of key terms, and organization of the paper.

2. Chapter II as a theoretical foundation.

In this chapter, the researcher will write down the theory used in this study. and will also explain the definition of literature, Popular Literature, Formula Thiller.

3. Chapter III as a research method. In this chapter, researchers will write down research designs such as research types, data, data samples, and data analysis techniques.

4. Chapter IV as Data Analysis.

In this chapter, the researcher will write an analysis and explanation of the psychological thriller in the novel.

5. Chapter V as a Conclusion and Suggestion.

In this chapter, the researcher will write the conclusions of this paper and advice for other researchers.

