CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with six components, such as background of the research, statements of problem, research objective, research significance, previous studies, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Masculinity is an aspect that exist in a man. In literary works, masculinity is something written by the author to describe the characterization of the character, especially the manhood and habits of a man which created in a story. In literary work, the author will give a portrayal of the masculinity of male characters with the aim to strengthen the role of the characters. The aspects of masculinity in literary works itself are always dynamic. Hakala as cited in Feasey (2008, p. 2) said that masculinity itself must be understood as fluid, time-related and variable across culture and eras as well as subject to change over the course of a person's life, and within any given society at any one time. It means, as time goes by aspects of masculinity in popular culture always change according to the culture that existed in that time and at the popular fiction we have often encountered in.

In fact, the representation of masculinity in popular fiction and film, had been bound up since the end of World War II. This means, masculinity in popular fiction have been popular since the 1900s century. Since then, many theories have emerged about masculinity and also the methods for analyzing masculinity in popular fiction. The emergence of these theories has had a great influence on writers in writing popular literature which has a close relationship with cultural elements. Moreover, Anthony Easthope in Storey (2018, p. 178) argues that the proposition of masculinity is a cultural construct. That caused popular fiction became easily enjoyed by many people. Because, the ideas contained in popular fiction are manifestations of popular culture that is adjusted to trends in time.

Since the aspects of masculinity became popular in every literary works, many popular fiction applied the aspects of masculinity into it, both in literary works in the form of text, or film. As we know that popular fiction consists of two types, namely popular fiction in the form of text and in the form of film. Gallagher said that formative form on masculinity in film and cultural studies has sought both to establish the patterns involved in cinematic representation of men (usually adult men, and often with classical Hollywood cinema as the area of study) and also to disentangle cultural categories of masculinity and femininity from biological categories of male and female.

In the world of film, masculinity is not uncommon term in popular literature with hard-boiled genre. In general, the genre of popular literature divided into several types, such as adventure, mystery and romance. Meanwhile, mystery have two subgenres, such as; classical detective and hard-boiled detective. Though different, both are developed by the role of the main character. Since their inception, detective fiction have been the one of a wildly successful genre of American fiction. The formula that makes hard-boiled detective story popular is the depiction of hero's characterization in the film.

Hard-boiled detective story tells about the adventures of men who are seeking truth and justice. The main character in hard-boiled detective story usually a man or a group of men who pass each obstacles together. From that, masculinity traits can be identified from the situations where a man is crossing obstacles. It can be concluded that hard-boiled detective story is exactly consist of masculinity aspects. Accord with that, Cawelti (1976, p. 140) also said that hard-boiled fiction is made with the masculine formats. Therefore, masculinity is still a type of part of hard-boiled detective fiction.

Hard-boiled detective film is known as one of genre that always present very rich representations of masculinity both in men or women. Because in 1941 to 1958, when this film cycle developed, there was a period of shifting of gender roles as a response to the changing social context of American society. The impact caused by World War II resulted in considerable changes to the economic and social fabric in the United States. The adoption of men into the military on a large scale resulted

in a power vacuum in the workplace and in the family. In addition, women have succeeded in filling the vacancies for men who are absent. Thus, when millions of men returned from the battlefield, the role of women became more prominent than before. This change in social order raises fundamental questions about gender roles and their functions in American society. The identity of the American man and his masculinity appear to be on the verge of worry.

Commonly, masculinity refers to a man and the world he is living. Masculinity is related to how a man in dealing with a problem in his life by displaying the risks he takes. Masculinity also describes men in the true sense, how should the man is and the symbol of authority of a man. But, after some problems that have been revealed before, woman also have the urges to become masculine in many ways. If men are confirmed to have masculine characteristics in themselves, women are still considered 'possible' when it comes to possessing masculine traits. The masculine character that shown can vary depending on the context of the film being carried. However, it can be ascertained that women can also get their rights to be masculine.

As the expert say, the portrayal of masculinity in hard-boiled detective story fiction did not always static. Graham Dawson's study confirms how this British 'soldier hero' of the nineteenth century 'has proved to be one of the most durable and powerful forms of idealized masculinity'. And then Tracy and Holohan said that it means in this context, we can say that aspects of masculinity in nineteenth century related to strength, violence, and aggression. But now the ideal features of masculinity in hard-boiled detective fiction are also can be seen through the character's intelligence even though there is certainly an element of violence. In the detective story, masculinity must be proven by how the main character solves the problem and the struggles which faced by the hero. In film, the masculinity portrayal system that appear in hard-boiled detective film certainly related to the myth of masculinity itself that always evolves over time.

The myth of masculinity in American fiction came from the frontier. Gates (2006, p. 31) also said the myth of a tough and uncompromising masculinity in American detective fiction is the urban evolution of the version of masculinity

represented by the heroes of the frontier literature of the first half, and the dime novels of the second half. Currently in Hollywood, most of famous films including detective genre, portray masculinity tends to focus on lone, white, male heroes who perform heroism successfully.

From the nineteenth century to the twentieth century, the presence of detective films has always paid a lot of attention to literary connoisseurs. Especially hard-boiled detective films, which have a strong depiction of the masculinity of the characters, it is because hard-boiled fiction is always associated with masculine aspects in it. This fact is also the reason why hard-boiled fiction is always in great demand by many people. This is because the depiction of masculinity in it is always associated with the construction of popular culture on aspects of masculinity at that time.

In all of popular literature works from 1900s until 2000s, there are several famous a hard-boiled detective film which is known to have quite complex depiction of masculinity, such as *Chinatown* (1974) and *The Da Vinci Code* (2006). Both of these films are hard-boiled detective films that were quite well-known in their time because the presentation of the characters was so firm and intense. So, through these two films, writer analyzed the changes in the representation of masculinity in American films from the 1900s to the 2000s. Writer also analyzed the myth of masculinity that portrayed in hard-boiled film *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code*. Both films are one of the famous films of that time, *Chinatown* is one of famous hard-boiled detective film in 1974. While *The Da Vinci Code* is a famous film in 2006 with the same genre. This is the reason why writer was very interested in analyzing these films.

In this study, writer would like to reveal how masculinity traits was presented in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film, and also how the myth of masculinity was constructed in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film. The reasons why the author chose this topic is to reveal why the popular literature genre hard-boiled detective has always been one of the favorite popular genres that always been chosen by societies.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Because hard-boiled detective fiction has always been one of the mystery subgenres that favored by many people, besides, the masculinity aspects is also part of the reason for the popularity of this subgenre, writer will try to reveal the construction of the masculinity traits and the myth of masculinity itself in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film. From that, we can find out why popular literature hard-boiled detective fiction has always been one of the popular fiction that always represent masculine traits along with its myths.

Based on the research background above, writer limits the analysis on *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film into two research question as follows:

1. How are masculinity constructed in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code*?
2. What myth of masculinity are represented in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code*?

1.3 Research Objective

According to research question above, this study has two objectives gained by writer as follows:

1. To analyze the masculinity aspects constructed in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film.
2. To find out the myth of masculinity represented in *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film.

1.4 Research Significance

Based on the objectives of the above research, this research is expected to benefit readers, both theoretically and practically. The significance expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to be an example of literary research using a comparative method, with the aim of knowing the comparison of a literary work, which in this study is focused on the similarities aspect between *Chinatown* and *The Da Vinci Code* film.
2. Practically, this research is expected to be a tool to increase knowledge and understanding for anyone who wants to conduct research with the same

theme and is also expected to be used as a comparison with other research in analyzing comparative literary studies. Then this research also expected to provide the knowledge to the reader in understanding the masculinity in hard-boiled detective as an important aspect in popular literature.

1.5 Previous Studies

To simplify the research process, the author will present several previous studies that have been previously conducted by several writers from several sources. These sources are in the form of theses and journals that discuss the application of theory and ideas. As writer, I try my best to include some research sources that discuss the same research object as this research.

The first research is *Masculinity in Hard-Boiled Detective Formula: An Analysis of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code* by Diny Siti Hardianty (2016), this is a paper comes from University of Sunan Gunung Djati. The research by Hardianty has a similar theme, but the differences are Hardianty analyzes a novel and does not use a comparative method. Hardianty analyzed the aspects of masculinity in novel through the hard-boiled detective formula contained in the story.

She focused on masculinity aspects that constructed in hard-boiled detective movie. Almost the same with mine, but the research methods and the source used are different. This study focuses on the masculinity built into the hardboiled detective formula. The background of this research is based on the fact, because currently popular fiction is more preferred than nonfiction. This means that there is a role in popular fiction that can grab the reader's attention. Thus, this study aims to find the reasons behind the popularity of the novel *The Da Vinci Code*.

In analyzing this novel, the writer asked two research questions, such as: 1). How was the action detective formula built into the novel *The Da Vinci Code*?; and 2). How is masculinity built in the novel *The Da Vinci Code*? The two research questions were examined through an interdisciplinary approach, namely by using genre approach and gender approach. In order for this research to be accounted for, the writer used the formula for genre and masculinity as the theoretical basis. In the end, the writer found two reasons that made this novel popular, namely 1). *The Da*

Vinci Code presents an action detective formula to attract readers' attention through a setting in a modern city, men as heroes, suspense and threats, the role of women, and changes in meaning in the story; and 2). Masculinity is also the key to the novel's popularity because readers love stories that present the adventures of men in facing obstacles to find the truth. Images of masculinity that can attract the attention of readers are bachelors, intelligence, hedonism, wealth, violence, fighting, protection, guidance, sacrifice for others, emotionlessness, and middle-aged men.

The second research is *Hard-Boiled Detective Formula in A Game of Shadows Film* by Rohmat (2018), this paper comes from University of Sunan Gunung Djati. The research by Rohmat analyzes a film by revealing how the hard-boiled detective formula is applied in the film.

 He focused on the hard-boiled detective formula built into the film. The background of this research is based on the high interest in popular literature, especially in the form of films. This shows that there is a role in popular literature that has succeeded in attracting the attention of the audience. Thus, this study aims to find the reasons behind the popularity of the film *A Game of Shadows*.

In analyzing this film, the writer asked two research questions, such as: how the role of the main character is applied to the film *A Game of Shadows* and how the action patterns are built in the film *A Game of Shadows*. The two research questions were examined through an interdisciplinary approach, namely by using a genre approach. In order for this research to be accounted for, the writer uses the genre formula as a theoretical basis. In the end, writer found two reasons that made this film popular. 1). *A Game of Shadows* applies the specific roles of each main character such as detective, criminal, victim and people involved in crime to produce an interesting story in the film. 2). Action patterns are key to the popularity of this film because it presents an action detective formula filled with adventures and obstacles to find the truth. The formula is built through detective as a hero, suspense and threat, setting in a modern setting, the role of a female character, and a change in meaning in the story.

The third research is *Detective Elements in Dan Brown's Novel "The Da Vinci Code"* by Gustiawan Syahputra (2009), this paper come from University of Sumatra Utara. The research by Syahputra analyzes a novel by revealing the detective element described in Dan Brown's Novel "*The Da Vinci Code*".

The writer is focused on researching the elements that show the detective nature of the novel *The Da Vinci Code*. *The Da Vinci Code* is a novel that tells the story of a detective who can solve the murder case of a curator of the Louvre Museum in Paris, using secret codes created by the curator before he was killed. However, the detective becomes a suspect in the murder case, because his name is written in a secret message left by the curator. In solving this case, he must always hide from the police who are always looking for him. However, he was accompanied by the curator's grandson in investigating this case.

The writer focuses his research on how the detective is doing in solving this case. The theory used by the writer is a theory about traditional elements of the detective story. The writer also uses a descriptive method in his research, in the sense that he describes the characters and the story line.

The fourth research is *Comparative Study on The Plot of Percy Jackson and The Olympians The Lightning Thief's Novel and Film* by Dea Herawati (2016), this paper comes from University of Sunan Gunung Djati. The research by Herawati analyzed the differences and similarities of plot between *Percy Jackson* and *The Olympians The Lightning Thief's* Novel and Film. This research used comparative method, which is same with this research. In analyzing the research, the writer used descriptive methods.

The fifth research is Construction of Masculinity in "*The Little Rascals (1994)*" by Ani Mulyani (2018). This paper come from Indonesia University of Education. In this study, Mulyani analyzed the masculinity constructs contained in the film The Little Rascal (1994) directed by Penelope Spheeris.

By using qualitative methods, this study uses masculinity theory (Connell, 2005), film theory (Heintz & Stracey, 2006), and characterization theory (Boggs & Petrie, 2008). The research findings show that masculinity is constructed through

dialogue and shots. There are two types of masculinity that stand out the most, namely, the hegemonic masculinity adopted by Spanky and his group and the complex masculinity adopted by Alfalfa. However, both Spanky and his group and Alfalfa moved from one type of masculinity to another; hence this matter strengthens the argument that masculinity construction in this film is not fixed.

From the previous studies above, it can be seen that these studies and my research have some significance differences that will be discussed here.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To suppress misinterpretation between writer and reader, this study provides several specific definitions of the main terms:

− Myth

Myth always described as a traditional and legendary story of ostensibly historical events, which usually concerning some hero and explains some practice, rite or phenomenon of nature.

Meanwhile in this research, myth is described as a characteristic that exists in the aspect of masculinity.

− Masculinity

Masculinity can be defined as the behaviors, characteristics, and roles associated with boys and men. Masculinity can also be called masculinity or maturity. Masculinity is not a characteristic of the sexes that distinguishes women and men. Masculinity is a behavior that characterizes courage, independence and assertiveness. Masculinity aspects of course can not only be found in men, but also in women.

− Hard-Boiled Detective

Hard-boiled detective is one of popular genre that still famous among society. According to Cawelti hard-boiled detective genre categorized as branch of

mystery genre. Hard-boiled detective can also be called action detective, because the action of solving the problem is always accompanied by violence and aspects of masculinity.

– *Mise en scéne*

Mise en scéne is an important aspect of forming a scene in a film. *Mise en scéne* itself is an aspect related to visualization. In other words, *mise en scéne* are every elements that can be seen in a frame. Among these elements are setting, lighting, costume, make up, hair, and figure behavior.

– Cinematography

Cinematography is the art of visual storytelling. Anyone can record any events using the camera on a tripod. However, cinematography is a science that plays a role in controlling camera angles. Cinematography controls what the viewer sees or doesn't see.