

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on analysis a literary work that explains the elements of science fiction on marvel's comic. The researcher analyzes science fiction formula marvel's comic *The Amazing Spiderman* #521, #522, #523. As a general introduction, this chapter describes background research, statement of problem, research object, research significance, conceptual framework, previous study, and definition of key term.

A. Background of Research

In literary work, comics have their own uniqueness because they can connect visuals with narrative stories. Of course, with the images that make the audience interested in reading comics. The emergence of comics in the literary world has become very existent and popular. Fans are not only among children, the boundaries of comic fans cover almost all ages, from children, adolescents, to adults. One of the uniqueness of comics that can captivate readers is found in the pictures shown in comics, especially for children.

Comics are generally in the form of a series of pictures and are made in panels that all have a coherent story. Images in comics are usually in the form of cartoons and have a storyline that contains a message but is presented concisely, so that it is easily understood by the reader.

In addition, comics do not only present stories, but comics are also able to express certain ideas, thoughts, and intentions that the cartoonist wants to express. Of course, with a different style depending on the cartoonist and the ideas they expresses. Like other literary works, the cartoonist convey messages through comic as the media, for example for entertainment, fiction, animal stories, factual stories, and even satire. Comics have the specialty of being able to convey messages well because they can be depicted

directly through the visuals displayed. Of course, it will make it easier for readers to interpret what the cartoonist wants to convey through narrative text.

Comics are included in popular literature. People also call it a work of entertainment literature because of its entertaining nature. However, popular literature are categorized as not serious literature because some are not in accordance with most literary principles. Popular literature is also included in public literature because at that time people from various classes could enjoy literary works easily. Literature with heavy discussion is only favored by a handful of groups and usually from the upper middle class. At that time, comics, which at that time became a form of entertainment for the public and was very popular in the market, made comic companies turn it into commercial literature, because the increasing number of readers of popular literary writers often forgot about literary principles, namely beauty in terms of words and meanings. Popular literature is also referred to as contemporary literature or which deviates from prevailing literary conventions.

Before becoming the comics that they are now, comics also had developments in their history. In fact, comics have existed since prehistoric times. In ancient times, humans always drew 'something' on cave walls, their function could also be various, it could be a symbol of danger or their way of communicating. In simple terms, ancient humans made the embryo of modern comics that exist today starting from cave painting. Furthermore, in ancient time where hieroglyphics were found in the era of ancient Egypt. At that time, Egypt became one of the centers of ancient civilizations with historical remains called hieroglyphs. Experts found this hieroglyphic writing developed between 3300 BC and 3100 BC. The hieroglyphics combined logographic and alphabetic elements and became one of the oldest writing systems in the world. The hieroglyphs of ancient Egypt consisted of drawings carved into the walls of monuments and tombs, as well as inscribed on papyrus and wood. The figures on the hieroglyphs are arranged to represent ancient Egyptian letters.

When the world had begun to modernize, sophisticated tools such as computers and printing machines had been invented, Richard Felton became pioneer of modern comics in the form of comic strips in 1895 entitled "*The Yellow Kid*." With its appearance, Richard's comics became the starting point for modern comics in the world.

Entering the years 1930-1950 became a golden era for cartoonist and fans. In this era, comics with the theme of '*super hero*' began to emerge, where the aim of the cartoonist was to raise the spirit of the soldiers when the World War II broke out at that time. Superman is the first superhero comic character in the world. The Superman character was created by Jerome Siegal and Joseph Shuster in 1938. Furthermore, from the same company as Superman, DC Comic released a new superhero, namely Batman in 1939. Marvel Comic company also did not want to be outdone, they released their first superhero, Captain America in 1941. created by Joe Simon and Jack Kirby. Furthermore, they released several other superheroes, such as Hulk, Iron Man, Thor, Black Widow, Captain Marvel, Spider Man, etc.

At this time the World War II was taking place and it was one of the advantages for comic companies. In this era, they conveyed the spirit of war through patriotism depicted in hero stories. In fact, because of the patriotism that stuck to that era, the DC Comic and Marvel Comic companies included a symbol of patriotism from the SuperMan and Captain America clothes, the costumes of these two heroes were red, blue, and white which symbolized America's Flag.

Although both are comic companies, DC Comic and Marvel Comic have their own characteristics. DC Comic stressed a common interest in public welfare and a strong government. Meanwhile, Marvel Comic stressed patriotism. Another significant difference between DC Comic and Marvel Comic is in the locations where they occur. The differences indicate fictitious and real locations. DC Comics usually features fictional locations such as Gotham City or Central City, while Marvel Comics features real locations such as superheroes' protection of Washington DC or New York City.

The next difference between DC Comics and Marvels Comics in the 'how' to get its strength. In a superhero story, strength is very important in the storyline. Their DC Comic production super hero got his strength as a blessing, so that the character is required to act and do the best with his strength, for example Aquaman. Unlike Marvel Comics, its strength is usually obtained from a 'curse' or an accident or accident, for example what happened to Spider Man who got strength due to a spider bite. Another differences between them are in the way that power develops. In DC Comics, a superhero who is born with power is a gift, which then they develop that power from a young age. This is in accordance with the journey of life and is part of their identity, for example, Superman and Wonder Woman. In Marvel Comics, when that power is finally 'forced' into a superhero, usually the superhero will experience strange events before becoming a superhero. The characters are based more on realistic settings, so the story and their strengths are more grounded and make sense.

The next significant differences in the flow and content. Of course fans of DC Comic and Marvel must have realized this. From a story point of view, DC Comic tends to be more serious and rarely displays humor, its conflicts are complex, and rarely has a sequel. As for Marvel, the story must be peppered with humor, for example in the stories of The Avengers, Spiderman, or Deadpool. In terms of plot, stories from Marvel Comic are lighter so that many children also love Marvel Comic works, and production from Marvel Comic has many sequels, this is because Marvel Comic believes that in the future, storylines will be connected.

Of the many superheroes made by Marvel Comic, the researcher chooses the Spider Man hero to be analyzed in this thesis and focuses on the Science Fiction genre, Spiderman is also one of the characteristics of science fiction literature because the Spiderman character is caused by a mixture of science and technology. When Peter turns into a superhero with spider-like powers, Peter becomes a mutant human who is a product of science and technology. In addition, spiderman comics also have several characteristics of science

fiction, for example presenting technology and science, in *The Spiderman comic #521, #522, #523* shown when Edgar Lascombe has a large laboratory to produce poison, rockets, and several other sophisticated technological equipment. Besides that, the plot has a flashback section where Peter is reminded of the time when he received lessons about geography at school which would later be linked to the Edgar Lascombe case. and what most distinguishes science fiction from other genres is the setting. in the comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523* the setting is futuristic and urban. the setting in science fiction must be in the middle of the city surrounded by many multi-storey buildings. The setting pictured is located in the middle of New York City.

In examining this research, the researcher used the genre theory from Joyce G. Saricks (2009).¹ In the science fiction genre, there are several characteristics that are unique and different from other literary works, one of which is the setting and plot. In order to express the special characteristics of the science fiction genre, therefore, the author feels the need to conduct a more in-depth study related to "*Science Fiction Formula in Marvel's Comic The Amazing Spider Man #521, #522, #523.*"

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background above, this research is taking the problem tells the story about science fiction formula in Spiderman comic by J. Michael Straczynski. This research focuses on the topic of the such as the characterization of the science fiction formula, and plot and setting support science fiction formula which are presented in the comic. Therefore, the researcher must focus on the following questions:

1. How is the characterization of science fiction in the comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523*?

¹ (Saricks, 2009)

2. How is the plot and setting presented in the comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523* support science fiction formula?

C. Research Object

Based on the research question above, the purpose of this study is as follows:

1. To find out the characterization of science fiction formula in the comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523*.
2. To find out the plot and setting which support the Science Fiction formula in the comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523*.

D. Research Significance

This research must be done both theoretically and practically. There were two benefits expected in this study both theoretical practical significance.

1. Theoretical significance

The research is expected to give a scientific contribution to research about analyzing Science Fiction formula in literary work such as comic *The Amazing Spiderman #521, #522, #523*. This study is supposed to be a previous finding for the next researchers who want to conduct the same field about Science Fiction formula and comic. The research is also expected to be one of the information sources to enrich our knowledge about the Science Fiction formula.

2. Practical significance

- a. To the student, this research is expected to a new reference in analyzing a literary work.
- b. To the researcher can add knowledge and sight, in identifying the Science Fiction formula in literary works.
- c. To the reader, the research can provide extensive knowledge to analyze the Science Fiction formula in literary works.

E. Conceptual Framework

As the time evolved, literary studies also progressed in their fields. Popular literature has become a benchmark in the literary world that significant changes have occurred in the scope of literature. Things that previously did not exist in the study of popular literature became available and even disseminated. In this case, popular literature can also be referred to as contemporary literature which has different conventions from literary norms in general.

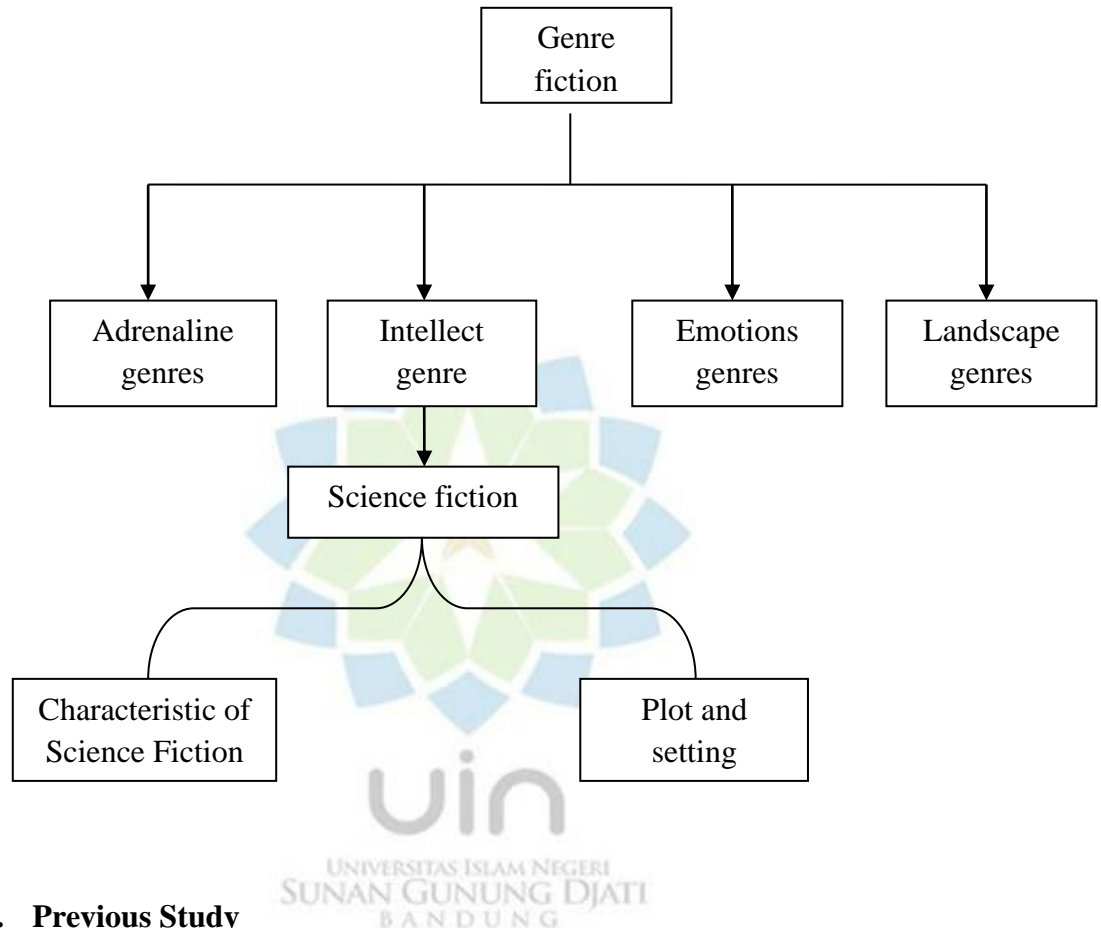
Comics, including popular literature. In the beginning, comics were presented as entertaining literary works for the lower middle class. Because the demand in society is too high, eventually entrepreneurs turn comics into money fields and heed the aesthetic elements in literary works. For the comic community, it is very necessary as a medium of entertainment, but for some writers, according to him, popular literature is not part of literature because there is no parallel literary rule.

In this framework, the researcher will look at comics from the science fiction genre. In popular literature, literature is further divided into several genres. Grouping of genres based on the characteristics of their literary works. To see and explore genres in popular literature, the researcher uses the theory of Joyce G. Saricks (2009). In his book, Saricks divides the genre into 4 parts. The first is adrenaline genres which includes adventure, romantic suspense, suspense, thriller. The second is emotional genres which include gentle reads, horror, romance, and women's lives. The third is landscape genres including fantasy, historical fiction, and westerns. The fourth, the intellect genre includes fiction, mysteries, psychological suspense, and science fiction.

To see and explore the characteristics of science fiction comic, the *The Amazing Spiderman* #521, #522, #523 the researcher used the science fiction genre theory in Saricks' book.

Tabel 1 Conceptual Framework.

The following is a chart of the framework that will be discussed in this study.



F. Previous Study

There are few previous studies that are related to this research. The first study is Syifa Hanifa Alawiyah (2019) in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, entitle *Thriller Formula in Dan Brown's Angels and Demons*. The thesis focuses on identify thriller formula as popular literature, the tension in thriller formula, and the conflict and climax in the thriller formula as popular culture. Using qualitative research to explain in more detail the thriller formula in the popular literature and using literary criticism as the method to judge a literary work itself. The similarities is both discussing formulas in the popular literary genre. The difference lies in the genres

being discussed. The contribution that researcher get from the thesis is popular literature theory as part of literature.

The second is Dwiki Anggara Putra (2019) in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, entitle *The Plot Time Travel in Predestination (2014)*. The thesis focuses on the time travel was created in the Predestination movie. As the genre, science fiction reveals how technology and science work together to create something new, that is time travel. Using qualitative research to explain how time travel itself works and to explain the time plots shown in the Predestination, and also to enrich the literary study about science fiction, especially time travel. The similarities between this thesis and the research that the writer will do are discussing the science fiction genre together, and the difference lies in the object of the research. The contribution that researcher get from this journal is the theory of the science fiction genre.

The third is Mariatul Qibtiyah (2019) in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, entitle *The Comparison Study of Fantasy Genre's Formulation Spider-Man (2002) and Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017)*. The thesis focuses on identify fantasy's formula as popular literature. Using qualitative research to explain the formula for the fantasy genre and the differences in fantasy characteristics in the films Spider-Man (2002) and Spider-Man: Homecoming (2017). The differences from the object of the literary work. The literary works used in this thesis use films, while the literary works used in the research are comics. The similarities between this thesis study and the research that the author is doing are both discussing the object of the Spider Man hero character. And the contribution that the researcher gets from this thesis in the research conducted is the characteristic of the Spider Man hero.

The fourth is Nadya Betany (2019), in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, entitle *Classical Detective Formula in Agatha Christie's They Do It With Mirrors*. The thesis focuses on identify detective's formula as popular literature. Using qualitative research to explain the formula of the

classical detective context through Christie's novel, and using Cawelti's structuralism as the method. The similarities between this thesis and the research that the writer will do are discussing formulas in the genre of popular literature together and the difference lies in the object of the research. The contribution that researcher get from this thesis is a methodological approach, and a framework for deepening the discussion of the problems found.

The fifth is Aisyah, Zakiyah, Farida, and Ramdhani (2017), in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati, entitled *Learning Crude Oil by Using Scientific Literacy Comics*. The journal article focuses on identifying scientific issues, scientific knowledge, explaining a phenomenon scientifically through scientific literacy comic. And using design based as the research method. The similarities between this journal and the research that the author will do are discussing science fiction comics together, and the difference lies in the object of the research. Contributions that researcher get from this journal are science fiction theory and a framework for deepening the problems found.

G. Definition of Key Term

This section the researcher provides the explanation that related to the key terms used in this research:

a. Science fiction

Science fiction posits worlds and technologies which could exist. Science rather than magic, drives these speculative tales, and the science must be accurate and true to key axioms of Newtonian (classical) and relativistic physics. Science fiction is a fertile ground for the discussion of challenging and often controversial issues and ideas, and authors use it expressly for that purpose.²

b. Comic

² (Saricks, 2009)

Comic is juxtaposed pictorial and other images in deliberate sequence, intended to convey information and/or to produce an aesthetic response in the viewer.³

c. Formula of science fiction

This genre has its characteristics or identifying marks to differentiate between one another. Some of which have science fiction characteristics namely aliens, robots, space travel, etc. The setting commonly used futuristic.

d. Setting

Setting refers both to the physical location of the events and to the time in which they happen. Setting then is the environment that surrounds the characters and influences them and their action. Setting is the time and places in which the events of the story occur.⁴

e. Plot

Plot is how the author arranges events to develop his basic idea. It is the sequence of events in a short or play. The plot is a planned, logical series of events having a beginning, middle, and end. Plot has strong connection with the character.⁵

f. Technology

The application of scientific knowledge to the practical aims of human life or, as it sometimes phrased, to the change and manipulation of the human environment.

³ (McCloud, 1993)

⁴ (Birkets, 1993)

⁵ (Birkets, 1993)