

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter explains about the general description of the paper. It consists of research background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Film as a literary work used as a representation of cultural activity that is shown by the form of visual media (Wahyudi, 2017). The story presented in a literary work usually highlights the conflict, culture, character, characterization, and plot. Film can be analyze by narrative element and cinematography element. One of the narrative elements that can be studied in film is about the character development. Furthermore, narrative elements also explain the series of interconnected and bound by elements of cause and effect (causality) that occur in space and time. (Fikri, 2018). From that elements, the researcher describes the development of the characters due to a conflict that occurs in the film. Conflicts that occur in a film are usually caused by social problems that are trying to be shown to expose the stupidity that at that time. In the film, there are also socio-cultural messages conveyed in a narrative (Sudarisman, 2016). Aside from that, in the film there are also cinematic elements which are technical aspects in a film. Cinematic elements divided into four component including *mise-en-*

scene, cinematography, editing, and sound (Fikri, 2018). These two elements are connect each other in presenting a film as a whole.

In the appearance of a film, there is always a culture displayed. One of the cultures that is often shown up by films is about patriarchy. Those things happen because the patriarchal culture seems to always occur in almost every country. The patriarchal culture can be found in almost every central aspect, such as culture, economy, education, politics, and others. Those things impact various social problems that impede women's freedom and violate women's rights (Ade Irma Sakina, 2017). That case is because women are considered inferior to men and stereotyped that women are weak. From this explanation, it can be seen that films often raise social problems that occur in some place or country.

Other elements that appear in the film are character and characterization. Character refers to the individuals who appear in the story, while characterization refers to the mixture of interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles of these individuals (Anggraini). The main character is the person who builds the story in a film. This main character is usually referred to as a hero or heroine. Hero depicts the main character in general or can be a male main character.

Meanwhile, heroin is a depiction of the main female character. Heroin the film is usually shown as a good person and defends the truth. In addition, the other main characters in a film are also shown through villain

characters. The villain in a film is usually someone who has a different character from the hero and against the hero.

A problem usually causes the character that builds the hero and villain in the film. A villain is a character who creates a problem that the hero needs to solve. Male characters usually represent heroes and villains in a film. Through these two main characters, the story is told in the film. However, not a few of the hero and villain characters in a film are shown by women, which becomes the main attraction in a film.

One of the films that highlight the characterization of heroes and villains who are also influenced by the social problem that occurs is the film *Mulan* (2020). *Mulan* is a 2020 American fantasy adventure drama film produced by Walt Disney Pictures. This film is a live-action adaptation of Disney's 1998 animated film under the title *Mulan*. The researcher saw this film has quite a complex story, with the Chinese imperial background in this film shows about two women that have different characters with the other and their struggle in trying to bring honor to their families and also shows the position of women in community life still very minimal involvement because of the social problem at that time, the society is still structured around that relationship between father and son is very important.

Mulan, with her high loyalty to her family and territory, makes her become a brave person. She joined the war to replace his father, who was too old and weak, and changed her identity into man. *Mulan* has a strong

character that makes her become quite an influential person among the male soldier. During the training process, no one realized Mulan's real identity.

However, when the war occurred, Mulan met Xian Ling, who was her enemy. At that time, Mulan lost to Xian Ling, and Xian Ling realized Mulan's true identity, so she asked Mulan to be honest about her true identity. From that incident, Mulan began to open up by showing her identity to other soldiers, but the commander rejected this, so Mulan was expelled from the war troop. Xian Ling's character begins to change when Mulan leaves, and she approaches her by asking Mulan to unite and break stereotypes about women.

What distinguishes the film *Mulan* (2020) from other "social problem" films, namely, lies in the "social problem" which is shown in the film "implicitly". However, the impact of these problems can be seen clearly in the depiction of the characterization of the main characters, Mulan as the hero and Xian Ling as the villain. In addition, this film has also won awards at *People's Choice Award 2020* in nominate *The Action Movie of 2020*.

Mulan (2020) seems interesting to be the research object for researcher by revealing the impact of social problems that occur on the main character, Mulan, and the villain character, Xian Ling. The reason for choosing *Mulan* is that the social problems and the role of hero and villain in the film become the main points in this film. Thus, the development of the story in the film *Mulan* is focused on social problems that impact the characterization of hero and villain.

From those things, this research will try to analyze the individual aspects related to the characterization of hero and villain in the film *Mulan*, which are influenced by the social problems that occurred at that time. Thus, this conflict seems to have significantly contributed to the characterization of heroes and villains that make them look like rebels.

This fact became the researcher idea to analyze the characterization of the hero and villain and the conflict behind it. Based on what the researcher have described, the researcher made the title **The Characterization and The Impact of Social Problem to Characterization of Hero and Villain Characters in *Mulan* (2020) By Niki Caro** to find out how social problem does affect to the personality of hero and villain.

In this thesis, researcher stated several previous studies to facilitate the research process in this research. The sources used include thesis and journal. Researcher referred to earlier studies that had similar topics to this research.

The first previous is a thesis titled *Liberal Feminism Values of The Main Character In *Suffragette* (2015) Film by Ika Puspitasari* from State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah. This previous research was taken because it relates to the research topics about the impact of social problems in characterizing the main female character. Puspita took the female main character, Watts, and analyzed the liberal feminism values reflected in *Suffragette*.

The second previous study is entitled *Racial Conflict in Lagravenese's Freedom Writers: A Sociological Perspective* by Devi Fitriani from the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. This paper has similarities in the selected topic, which is the conflict or problem in society. The theory used is the sociological perspective. This thesis focused on racial conflict in Freedom Writers. Furthermore, the conflict that is discussed is reflected the condition of American society.

The third previous study is a thesis titled *Aktualisasi Diri Tokoh Utama Dalam Film Mulan: Rise of Warrior* by Hervina Br Sinulingga from Universitas Sumatera Utara. This thesis has similarities in the selected object, which is Mulan movie. This thesis focused on personality Mulan through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of id, ego, superego, and Abraham Maslow's humanistic theory, which describes Mulan's personality and its correlation with self-actualization such as problems, creativity, social awareness, and independence.

As for the difference in this study with the previous research on the chosen topics, none discussed the impact of social problems in chosen object film Mulan (2020). The topics discussed in previous studies are social problems, conflict, and characterization. In this research, the researcher will focus more on the impact of social problems that affect the main character of Hero and Villain in Mulan since the similarities of characterization of hero and villain that apparent, and the existing social problem trigger this.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The problem that occurs in this film it comes from the stereotype that men are superior than women that are inferior. This causes social problems that develop in society and have an impact on women who do not have freedom, which is then depicted through the two main characters in this film, Mulan as a hero, and the character villain Xian Ling. These problems make the two main characters become figures who seem to be dissidents and try to become inferior like men. So it can be concluded that the main problem in this study is about the impact or contribution of social problems in revealing the characters in the hero and villain in the film *Mulan*. So, the problem can be summarized into two questions, namely:

1. What characterizations are found on hero and villain's character in *Mulan* (2020) do?
2. How do social problems impact to characterization of hero and villain's character in *Mulan* (2021)?

1.3 Research Objective

In this research, analysis of the impact of social problem in characterization of hero and villain have several purposes, namely:

1. To find out the characterization of hero and villain's character in *Mulan* (2020).
2. To find out the impact of social problems on the characterization of Hero and Villain's character in *Mulan* (2020).

1.4 Research Significance

1.4.1 Theoretically

The combination of those literary devices theories in this research will give a significant. Here are a significance:

Theoretically, this research can provide benefits or new things in analyzing literary works, especially films. In fact, films can be analyzed using more than one theory that discussion. In this case, the researcher analyzes the narrative elements such as the plot namely 'social problem' that occurs through analysis by strong storyline, enduring characters, cinematography, and so on. Then in this study, apart from discussing the 'social problem', the 'characterization' of the two main characters will also be analyzed through theory of characterization Through Appearance that discussed about facial features, clothing, physical form, behavior, and the way they move and also the theory through costume and make up design considering that in the film the visual element is more dominant. So, through this research, it can provide benefits to be used as a reference for future research, that in analyzing films, one can combine more than one theory or discussion, especially using social problem and characterization theory.

1.4.2 Practically

a. Academic Reader

This research is expected can provide new insights and knowledge, especially for researcher and generally for readers. With this research, we can find out how the social problems shown in a film can

significantly impact the characters in the film. Thus, readers will find several combinations of theories needed to analyze a film, especially regarding theories about social problems, characterization, hero, and villain.

b. Public Readers

In a literary work, many people think that social problems and characterization of characters are the most important things that build elements; however, most of it only applies to written literary works such as novels, poetry, or short stories. The researcher wants to understand that literary works, especially in the realm of film, can also analyze social problems that affect the characterization of heroes and villains in a film.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Social problem : social problem in film according to Dennis W. Petrie and Joseph M. Boggs is concern with the special functions of human beings as social animals and with the social institutions and traditions they have created

Characterization : characterization in film according to Dennis W. Petrie and Joseph M. Boggs is relate with the cast also revealed visually and instantaneously.

Hero : hero in film according to Ffion Lindsay is protagonist character(s) that must be friendly and also relatable

Villain : villain in film according to Ffion Lindsay is character(s) that struggles against the hero

