

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the general introduction of the study. It includes research background, statement of problem, research purposes, research significances, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1. Research Background

Popular literature is growing quite rapidly, especially now that many people enjoy literary works: film. One of the films in great demand by the public is the thriller genre film. The rapid development of literary works impacts the variety of genres, and thrillers are also part of literary works, especially films. The reason is that people will indeed prefer films or stories that are suspenseful and curious. The Thriller genre is also a genre that brings tension and curiosity to the audience. Usually, this genre has an unexpected ending, not to mention the dangerous actions, satisfying the audience. Usually, the thriller genre will make the audience always curious about the continuation of the story.

Nowadays, it is not easy to find something original even in literary works due to the proliferation of genres that are continuously reused. The entertainment industry also played a role in making this happen, which was caused by the division of several genres. However, literary connoisseurs can finally enjoy the various genre formulations that exist. The genre itself can be interpreted in various ways; even then it will be different depending on what

objects are related. According to Chandler (1997, p. 1) the genre generally comes from French and Latin words that can be interpreted as "kind" or "class". However, in his book, Chandler also gives various meanings of genre and mentions there is debate about how the genre should be interpreted properly.

By interpreting a genre as a class or a type, it is natural that there will be so many types within the genre itself. For example, horror or thriller genres are often found in literary works such as novels or films. This genre is the preferred genre for the audience or readers because many of the thriller concepts are easy to follow, in the sense that the plot is quite predictable; this is also the reason why thrillers as a formula in popular literature can compete with other genres.

In alluding to the forms of literary works, the film can also be said to be a literary work. Klarer (2004) states that a film can be said as a literary work because it has the same stage concept (there are actors and visualizing-action), which is the same as a drama but in recorded form and has some of the same features as a novel, namely plot, narrative techniques and settings. Thus, the film is like a literary work that is recorded and can be watched again.

The researcher chose the object of the film *Split* (2016). *Split* is a film that has a psychological thriller genre. *Split* tells the story of a man named Kevin who has a bad past, which causes him to have 23 personalities. Kevin is a good character, but there are the personalities inside Kevin named Dennis and Patricia who have ambitions to create the 24th personality in Kevin's body, namely the Beast, a monster. One day, Kevin kidnaps three women, one of whom is Casey,

a gloomy woman who also has a bad past; it turns out that the three women were kidnapped as ritual bait to welcome the 24th character or the Beast.

*Split* is a thriller genre because the main characters or heroes (Kevin and Casey) face something very dangerous because they have to face three villains at once, namely Dennis, Patricia, and The Beasts. Of course, in this film, several scenes show when Casey is faced with risky situations, for example, when Casey is threatened with being killed by the Beasts or when he tries several times to get out of Kevin's basement. So, this *Split* film can be categorized as a thriller.

The reason for choosing this object is that *Split* is a film released in 2016; this film tells the story of a man named Kevin who has 26 personalities inside him. This film is unique because the genre is a psychological thriller, where good and bad characters can be seen clearly. However, this film is unique compared to other thriller films because the main good and bad characters are in the same character, namely Kevin. Although there are many personalities, some are good characters, but some are bad. So, this object is interesting to discuss because it has a thriller formula like in general, but with unique hero and villain characters, which are in the same body.

In this research, the researcher focuses on analyzing the thriller formula genre in the film *Split* (2016) because this *Split* film is a film that many people have analyzed, but the discussion discusses psychological conditions. Besides the main character's psychological condition, one of the most important things is the genre and the formula. In addition, many viewers still miscategorize horror

and thriller films. Of course, the two genres are different. This *Split* film is often a horror because it triggers the audience's adrenaline. Besides that, it also contains mysteries in it. However, if analyzed in-depth, it turns out that this film has more formulas as a thriller genre. So, this topic will show how a film is said to be a thriller genre, especially in *Split* films.

To support this research, the researcher has also found several previous studies to form the basis of this research. Here are the previous studies that researchers have collected. The first previous study was conducted by Alawiyah (2019) entitled *Thriller formula in Dan Brown's Angels and Demons*. In this study, the thriller genre was analyzed through the role of the hero, the element of tension, and the conflict/climax. The theory used is the theory of Frey which contains the role of heroes in the thriller genre, or especially in the work of *Angels and Demons*. Then, the theory from Joyce Saricks (2009) analyzed the elements of suspense in the novel, and finally, the theory from Fitzgerald and Stanton to analyzes the conflict and climax in the novel *Angels and Demons*. The result of this research is that the portrayal of Robert Langdon as the main character as a hero is one of the important elements of the thriller genre in the novel *Angels and Demons*. Then the description of suspense, an element of the thriller genre, can be displayed in the novel *Angels*.

The second study was to Salsabila (2019) entitled *The thriller formula of plot in Don't Breathe film by Fede Alvarez*. This study analyzes how the thriller formula can be analyzed through the plot in the film *Don't Breathe* by Fede Alvarez. The researcher uses the structuralism method in her study. In her

research, it was found that the formula for the thriller genre, which was analyzed through the plot, contained several aspects such as a complex collection of stories, frequent plot twists, violence, condensation of stories in action and conflict, the protagonist against crime and survival and suspense. The results of his research found 40 data contained in the plot.

Finally, the third study was taken from Adawiyah's undergraduate thesis (2020) entitled *Psychological thriller in the perfume: The story of Murderer movie (2006)*. This research focuses on analyzing the thriller formula through the characters, conflict and climax in *The Story of Murderer (2006)*. The researcher focuses more on the sub-genre of the thriller formula, namely psychological thriller. The results found thriller formulations, especially psychological thrillers, in the objects studied, such as short storylines, dark tones and informal language, which are some of the data found in these objects.

Based on the three previous studies, the researcher is sure that the research to be studied will be different because no one discusses the researcher's object with the analysis that the researcher will take. Plus, when looking for an analysis related to the object that the researcher chose, namely *Split (2016)*, no one has analyzed the thriller formula and Suspense yet.

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

The main problem in this research is related to the formula of the thriller genre in *Split's* movie. The reason is the thriller genre is often equated with the horror or mystery genre. The thriller genre has a formula that distinguishes it

from other genres. In this research, *Split's* movie has a formula usually present in the thriller genre. From the explanation of the previous research background, the researcher reduces the problems in this study into two questions that will focus on this research. The question is:

1. How is the thriller genre formula described in *Split* (2016)?
2. How is the thriller genre formula supported by the suspense in *Split* (2016)?

### **1.3. Research Purposes**

In this research, there are two objectives to be achieved through the analysis of formulas in the thriller genre, including:

1. To find out formula of thriller genre described in *Split* (2016).
2. To analyze suspensions which are presented and depicted in *Split* (2016).

### **1.4. Research Significances**

In this research, there are two significances, namely theoretical and practical significance. Two things are expected in this research.

1. Theoretical Significances

This research is expected to make readers understand the thriller genre in a movie, especially from the formula present in the movie. Readers are expected to develop Joyce Saricks' theory for further research with several updates made.

## 2. Practically

This research is expected to reference readers or academic actors who will research the same topic or theme. Hopefully, this research will also help further study that analyzes the thriller genre in the movie.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

#### 1. Film

The Enormous Indonesian Lexicon characterizes film as having two implications. To start, film may be a celluloid reflect that can be utilized to form a negative or positive picture (which is able to be appeared in theaters). Moment, the film is classified as a live-action play (film).

#### 2. Genre

Agreeing to Rock (2004) in (Saricks, 2009), film class is one way to classify movies. Class too shows the arrangement of a inclination system. This empowers gatherings of people to stay to their favorite film class

#### 3. Thriller

The thriller film class is all around thrills and tension. Regularly, classes are characterized by the feelings experienced whereas observing them: fervor, expectation, and uneasiness (Hellerman, 2020).

#### 4. Suspense

The term "tense" to describe the various titles and classes as the basis for obtaining them. When a book is labeled as "Anticipate" or when works in that category are sought after, distributors, analysts, readers, and curators never fully doubt what is the star.