

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter of this entire thesis, it will be presented about 5 topics including background of the research, statements of the problem, objectives of the research, significances of the research, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of Research

Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD), also known as Dissociative Identity Disorder, is a condition in which a person possesses two or more personalities. This is usually caused by many factors that attack the sufferer's psychology, one of which is the trauma factor but that is not the only cause of someone suffering from MPD, hard pressures in life are often the cause of someone suffering from this mental illness. By having more than one personality, of course people who suffer from this will be confused with their identity because each of these personalities has their own identity, they have different characteristics, thoughts, feelings, behavior, memories and even names. According to Pratama (2016) "It can be seen that dissociative disorder is a disorder characterized by a change in consciousness. Individual with this disorder find a difficulty to remember important events that ever happened, forget the identity and form a new identity". Having more than one personality is different from an artist who appears cheerful in front of the camera but is depressed when he is alone, this is more complicated and complex when viewed from a psychological perspective because it involves mental disorders that attack a person's personality. Someone suffering from MPD will find it difficult to recognize that he has two personalities living within him, and that these two personalities are sometimes brought together in real events, such as in the case of an imaginary friend. MPD sufferers will still believe that their other self is someone else because this occurs unconsciously by the sufferer. The researcher is interested in discussing how the characters in literary work who live with two personalities as a result of the MPD they suffer from deal with this as in the film *Fight Club* by David Fincher.

Literature is an imaginative work that describes human life in society that can be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by the community as well. As Wellek and Warren (1990) stated that literature is an art that is a form of expression of the human mind. Literature is an expression of feelings, thoughts, experiences as well as human social life. Literary works often present a picture of the problems that exist in the real world but are told through imaginative writing which makes it have its own aesthetic value and gives a different emotional impression. Literary works often bring problems in human life, both those that are outside and problems that come from within humans, one of which is mental disorders. Mental disorders displayed in literary works are not new or strange. Not a few novels, short stories and films feature characters who have mental disorders in themselves, but usually stories that feature this will give an extraordinary emotional impression and memorable characters to the audience. As in the book *A Beautiful Mind* (1998) by Silvy Nasar where the main character suffers from schizophrenia, or as in the film *Psycho* (1960) by Alfred Hitchcock where the protagonist Norman Bates shows symptoms of Dissociative identity disorder, and also like in the film that researcher choose *Fight Club* (1999) by David Fincher where the main character has Multiple Personality Disorder, a mental disorder with more than one personality shown in this film with two personalities owned by the main character.

Film and literature are both things that come from the imagination or thought of the author. As Totawad Ramran (2016) stated, "Film and literature are the artistic expressions of the human mind". Mario Klarer in his book *An Introduction to Literary Studies* (2005) classifies the forms of literary works which he calls the Major Textual Genres, including Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Film as the latest forms of literary works. Because of that, there is no need to doubt that film is a product of literature. Films study literature not only from a textual perspective but also from a visual perspective. Especially when it has entered the modern era like now where technological advances can no longer be ignored. Through literature, the audience is given the story of life through text and the depiction of the story is free to the imagination of the audience, while through the film the audience is given a direct visual description of the story in detail. As a literary work, The film presents

a story about life that is more detail and interesting because it is not only presented from a textual perspective but also displays a visual aspect that makes the film make the audience feel closer to reality, this also supports researcher to choose films as their research studies. Film and literature both have similar intrinsic elements, one of which is the character and characterization. The character itself has a definition as someone who appears in a narrative story, within the character itself there is a main character, namely an important character who drives the course of the story in the narrative, and characterization is the attitude or trait displayed by the character. In this study, the researcher will explore more about the main characters with Multiple Personality Disorder in the movie entitled *Fight Club*. *Fight Club* itself is actually an adaptation of a novel with the same title by Chuck Palahniuk, but researcher prefer films as objects rather than novels for the reasons previously mentioned, films provide a more in-depth picture of the story.

The film *Fight Club* was released on October 15, 1999, made by David Fincher who also directed other famous films such as *Se7en* and *Gone Girl*, also this film stars Oscar-nominated actors such as Brad Pitt and Edward Norton. In short, this film tells the story of an office worker who has difficulty dealing with a disorder that attacks his soul called insomnia, not only that the high pressure he receives from his work and environment also affects his mental health. The main character has a difficult life with a mental disorder that attacks him which makes him insomnia. Until one day when he was trying to find a way out to heal himself from his life that made him suffer, a man named Tyler Durden appeared, a perfect figure who is the opposite of the main character who is actually another form of the main character, Tyler Durden's presence will bring him from his old life to a new life. *Fight club* describes how much a person suffers from a life that locks him up and makes him suffer so that his mental health is disturbed, as well as mental disorders that constantly attack him, such as depression, stress, anxiety, and so on. The mental disorder he suffers from is very complex and severe, causing the main character to develop MPD, which he unconsciously demonstrates by creating another personality. Throughout the film, the story will be told from the perspective of each personality, where each personality has its own identity. In This Study, researcher

will reveal how the multiple personality disorder of main character are explained in this *Fight Club* film.

Multiple Personality Disorder as explained before is a condition where a person has two or more personalities, people who have this mental disorder will have difficulty with their memories because their personalities have each memory. This is also the reason why people who suffer from MPD are confused about their identity because it is difficult to distinguish between the identities of their personalities. And in this research, the researcher will explain how the main character who has Multiple Personality Disorder is shown in the story in the movie *Fight Club*. The researcher believes that the topic of multiple personality disorder of the main character, who has more than one personality, is rarely discussed, and that knowledge about MPD is very important, especially since we live in an era when young people frequently experience pressure in their lives. As a result, it disrupts their mental health, and mental disorders will be more vulnerable to attack young people, MPD is one of them. Therefore, researcher are interested in discussing multiple personality disorder of main character in this research and this research will be new and interesting and also useful for many people.

Previously, there were several studies that helped and encouraged researcher to carry out this research, which had relevance to the research topic as a reference and assistant in completing this research, including:

First, there is a study by Annisa (2021) entitled "*Multiple personality disorder of the main characters in Split film by M. Night Shyamalan.*". This study focuses on discussing multiple personalities of the main character on the object, This study has three objectives: The first one to describe the intrinsic elements of M. Night Shyamalan's film Split, the second to describe the symptoms and causes of multiple personality disorder (MPD) experienced by Kevin Wendell Crumb's character by M. Night Shyamalan, and the last objective to describes the personality structure of Kevin Wendell Crumb and his alter-ego as sufferers of personality disorders in the film Split by M. Night Shyamalan. This research was conducted

using the psychoanalytic approach of Sigmund Freud's perspective. A similar discussion but using a different theoretical approach and also a different object.

Second, there is a study by Pratama (2016) with the title "*Dissociative Identity Disorder of Main Character In Sybil Novel By Flora R.S Based On Psychological Perspective*". This study intends to find out the characterization of the sixteen personalities and psychological problems in that novel, in this case, dissociative identity disorder. With this study the writer wants to know about the symptom, the causes, and the treatment of dissociative identity disorder that found in Sybil novel This study uses the same theory, similar discussion but different objects

Third, There is a study by Rini (2019) "*Dissociative Identity Disorder of The Major Character in Shyamalan's Split*" This study focuses on discussing the dissociative identity disorder experienced by the main character in Split. The main purpose of this study is to describe the DID of Kevin Wendell Crumb as the main character in the film. This research uses a psychology literature approach and focuses on the intrinsic elements of objects. The same approach but with a different object.

For the last previous study, there is study by Nurani (2015) with the title "*Personality Disorder of The Main character in Waking Madison Film*". The objective of this study is to know and understand about character of Madison as the main character in this film and how her multiple personality disorder appeared based on the psychoanalytic theory approach by Siegmund Freud. This study focuses more on the causes that make the main character suffer from multiple personality disorder. This study has the same topic but with a different approach and object.

Based on the previous study previously mentioned, the researcher emphasizes conducting research by choosing this topic, after making an understanding of the previous study. and maybe there are some similarities to the discussion about multiple personality disorder but no one uses this discussion for

the object that the researcher chose, even though there are similarities in the object but not the discussion. This is what makes the researcher sure to choose the topic Multiple personality of main character in David Fincher's *Fight Club*.

### **1.2 Statement of Problem**

To explore more about multiple personality disorder of main character in *Fight Club*, the researcher has several main problems that will be the focus of this research, including::

1. How are those multiple personality disorder described in the film *Fight Club*?
2. What are symptoms of multiple personality disorder in the film *Fight Club*?
3. How does the main character handle his multiple personality disorder in the film *Fight Club*?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

As the main objective of this research, according to what is stated in the problem statement, the following focus is on this research::

1. To describe how multiple personality disorder of main character are described in the film *Fight Club*
2. To find out what are symptoms of multiple personality disorder of main character in the film *Fight Club*
3. To describe how the main character handles his multiple personality disorder in the film *Fight Club*

### **1.4 Research Significances**

Theoretically, this research will discuss multiple personality disorder of main character further as a new and unique form which is expected to be able to provide an explanation and increase understanding of the multiple personality disorder of main character in film.

Practically, this research can be a new thing that can contribute as learning to the general public, can be used as teaching material, and can be used as reference material.

### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms**

#### **1. Literature**

Literature is a work of human imagination that reflects a social reality, as an expression of the author's feelings towards situations and conditions of a reality.

#### **2. Film**

Film is a narrative story that is displayed through visuals in the form of moving images or videos which are recordings of the people who made them.

#### **3. Main Character**

The main character is someone who is shown in a narrative story who plays an important role as the main driver of the progress of a story.

#### **4. Personality**

Personality is a set of characteristics that exist in a person such as thoughts, habits, feelings and behavior.

#### **5. Personality Disorder**

Personality disorder is conditions in which a person's mental disorder results in his personality such as thoughts, habits, feelings, behavior and memory not working normally.

#### **6. Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD)**

Multiple Personality Disorder or MPD is a personality disorder in a person that makes him or her have two or more personalities and each of these personalities has its own identity such as traits, behavior or other things that make people with this disorder confused with their real identity.

