

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a kind of imaginative artwork and is a creative works especially those considered to have artistic merit or lasting value that depicts human existence in society and can be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by the society. The literature has its own definition, taken from different quotations from several journals. (Kardiansyah, 2017, p. 64) in his journal entitled *English Drama in the Late of Victoria Period (1880-1901): Realism in Drama Genre Revival*, explains that literature is used to portray a realistic life and to guide people toward an ideal way of life by expanding people's understanding by nurturing the sympathy that is depicted upon all in the power to feel the fair humanity working in the simple modes of life, small aspirations, and thwarted desires. In such conditions, literature is directed to the perspective of "realism" which is such an important term in the discussion of literature and is often used as a response to imaginative descriptions. Literature is powerful and moral value is one of the important elements in a literary work (Mahendra & Amelia, 2020, p. 55).

Movies are one form of creative literary work as well as mass communication, which is a scientific study of mass media and the role it plays, what the audience wants to achieve and its effect on them, because movies are seen as more realistic,

emotionally impactful, and mostly connected to someone's memory (E. Ngestirosa. E.W.K, 2018, p. 9). It means that movie as a type of mass media which becomes a channel in the various kinds of ideas, concepts and give various effects from its broadcasts which ultimately leads to the direction to the community. Thus, as a part of mass media, in the study of modern mass communication, movie is considered to have an influence of the audience. Although it has been through the process of dramatization, it is still a reflection of the real world. Therefore, the movies in which the story is about the mental illness are affected by mental illness in real life. Moreover, almost every aspect of literary work, regardless of all of the problems, is related to human beings. Through the movie, the existence and behavior of the characters invite the audience to see life from different perspectives. Apart from being a mass communication medium for entertainment, according to the research conducted by Nunung Kurniasih, Edwin Rizal, Yunus Winoto, Sukaesih, Nanik Kurniawati, Sujito, Arifin Sudirman, Abdurrozzaq Hasibuan, Achmad Daeng GS, Kundharu Saddhono (2018), movies are a dynamic medium to express universal things, which presents a scene, event, or narration in the form of moving images, and they provide entertainment, information, knowledge, education, inspiration, hope, trauma, and also bring the viewers to the places they have never visited before. Thus, movies are quite important in conveying messages to the audiences, and movies have certain impacts on the audiences. It can have psychological or even social impacts.

In this study, the writer chooses a romantic-thriller genre movie entitled *The Perfect Guy*. It is an American romantic thriller in which the story is told through a combination of romantic storylines with thriller elements. Mostly, thrillers have a plot that is arranged in such a way as to arouse curiosity and tension in the audiences. Consequently, genre has a great influence on the value,

because genre is considered as the commercial aspect of the movie, its formula is consistently repeated to create similar expectations and tastes to reach the target audience (Fithratullah, 2021, p. 66). Value is the paradigm of people about something good or bad, right or wrong, so it can influence the meaning or aims of the action, because people who are from the same culture will share the same values and assumptions and interpret them in a common way (Setiawan & Lina, 2017, p. 17). This movie has a psychological aspect in it, as well as a deep and compelling story with outstanding acting and cinematography. The relationship between the movie and psychological aspects makes the writer interested in analyzing it. (Nurshafarina, 2017) stated that presently, most of movies are starting to depict the personalities and behaviors of characters, which refers to psychological movies and these kinds of movies are usually presented in the form of thrillers. This movie also does a fantastic job and is very interesting because it can build a suspense atmosphere for people who watch it, although the plot of this movie is quite unpredictable. The main discussion of this study is to identify Carter's obsession with Leah by using obsessive love theory.

Every literary work has its own uniqueness in describing certain social phenomena, and it can be seen from the creation of a literary work that has a correlation with the social phenomenon through the elements inside the literary work. Because basically, the essence of a literary work is basically where the literary work is used as a medium of depiction to describe certain phenomena in society in which every phenomenon has its own story and it becomes the uniqueness of the literary work (Samanik A. N., 2018, p. 432). In *The Perfect Guy* movie, one of the main characters named Carter is portrayed as a person who has a psychiatric disorder. He suffers from Obsessive Love Disorder (OLD). Obsessive Love Disorder is a neurotic disorder. Although Obsessive Love Disorder (OLD)

is not listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), it is believed to exist as a comorbidity with other mental illnesses in some individuals. The illness describes him, who wants to be Leah's boyfriend. Obsessive is grouped into neurotic disorders, somatoform disorders, and stress related disorders. It is a common anxiety disorder characterized by obsession and compulsion by intrusive thoughts that produce fear or worry, repetitive, uneasiness, apprehension, undesirable, and disturbing thoughts in the form of memory experiences, images or urges. However, the symptoms of OLD which include obsession and compulsion are often not recognized by others. Mental illness and the sufferers of mental illness are often portrayed in movies to identify the antagonist characters as bad or evil (Bullins, 2016). According to the research conducted by (Damjanovic & Jovanovic, 2009), entitled "Psychiatry and Movies", depicting mental illness and psychiatrists in movies is not a recent phenomenon. Hollywood has a long history of an "emotional" relationship with psychiatry. Almost 500 films have dealt with and addressed mental disorder since the first psychiatric film (Sanitarium, 1906) stated Movies are often portrayed people with mental illness as dangerous criminals. Mental illness is a kind of disorder that can be found in human beings. The increasing tendency of mental disorders is increasingly caused by stressful life events such as losing a loved one, having a bad past, being a victim of bullying, or being too obsessed with something or someone excessively, as depicted in *The Perfect Guy* movie.

Obsessive Love Disorder (OLD) is one type of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) which refers to a condition in which someone becomes obsessed with a person they love. They do not accept a rejection of love or failure in their love affairs and feel that they have to protect the person who they love the most, as if the loved one already belongs to them, and they can become very possessive. The illness occurs because of the anxiety of being rejected by a love partner. Possessive

highlights the actions that are often shown as romantic acts in films, but actually they are part of violence, ranging from coercion and threats to their behavior like stalkers. Obsession is a state in which someone thinks about someone or something constantly or frequently, especially in a way that is not normal, and they will follow their obsession without considering the consequences to get the things they are obsessed with (Hanggarjito, 2018). Obsessive thoughts frequently lead to compulsive behaviors as the person tries to prevent or change some dreaded event.

The basic needs that every human has to fulfill in their life are food, water, and oxygen. Apart from these basic needs, the other needs can be referred to as non-physical needs that include love and belongingness, because every human needs the companionship from other people, especially the one they love. Companionship does not have to come from their beloved or romantic relationship; it can also come in the form of a family relationship, friendship, and so on. These friendships are a source of support, affection, intimacy, and acceptance (Dimitria, 2016). Love has actually been a widely discussed topic in literature and art for centuries. It has also become an interesting theme in psychology as it is considered as an important emotion in the lives of human beings. It is a feeling that is especially expressed by those involved in romantic relationship and also considered along with several factors such as intimacy, commitment, and also affection (Raffagnino, Puddu, & Luisa, 2018). But sometimes, if people have entered into the realm of love, it can be very difficult to distinguish between which one is a real or healthy relationship and which one is an unhealthy relationship. An unhealthy love or relationship is commonly referred to as toxic and tends to be obsessive.

In this study, the writer uses *The Perfect Guy* movie as the object or the main material of this study, in which obsessive love can be said to be the main theme or topic of the movie. *The Perfect Guy*

was released on September 2nd, 2015. This movie is directed by David M. Rosenthal, produced by Tommy Oliver and written by Alan B. McElroy and Tiger Williams. Sanaa Lathan, Morris Chestnut and Michael Ealy star in the lead roles. The Perfect Guy (2015) won the top of the Box Office on the weekend of September 2015 and also received for 3 major nominations and winning 2 awards.

Firstly, the reason why the writer chooses the topic about the obsessions of men's characters is that there are some cases related to obsessions in social life that very often constantly happen in society and are mostly common to men. Nowadays, this kind of case can easily be found on social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok, and other platforms. So, all these platforms are like tools for spreading the news quickly. It just happens to the character of Carter Duncan, who tries to show his perfect life, perfect looks, and also perfect personality. Whereas behind it, he has very opposite characteristics, such as an abusive, temperament, he has no manners, and he even looks like a psychopath. For years, Carter hides his true character from Leah, the people around him, and even society, and he becomes a charismatic man, dignified and with positive vibes. This is done by him as a trick to entrap the attention of the woman he likes and also make a good first impression. Then the writer finds the obsession with Carter in loving Leah, whereas Leah is actually uninterested in continuing the relationship with him anymore. However, Carter is willing hard to do anything to get Leah. As a result, therefore, it is very important to choose the topic to find out the problems about the obsession that happened towards Carter in this movie. The analysis of the main character in this movie can also be used to gain a through understanding of the causes of human psychology problems that occur all around us. Secondly,

the writer chooses this movie because it presents a good plot, it flows well throughout, and it has nice well-done pacing to it. The ending sequences are very thrilling.

1.2 Research Questions

By looking at the background of the study, the writer formulates the research questions of the problems:

1. How are the characteristics of Obsessive-Love Disorder (OLD) portrayed on the main character in *The Perfect Guy* movie?
2. What are the causes of Obsessive-Love Disorder (OLD) portrayed on the main character in *The Perfect Guy* movie?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the questions or problem statement above, the writer formulates research objectives to answers the research questions, which aims:

- 1 To find out how Obsessive-Love Disorder characteristics portrayed on the main character in *The Perfect Guy* movie
- 2 To find out the causes of Obsessive-Love Disorder portrayed on the main character in *The Perfect Guy* movie.

1.4 Uses of the Study

Every writer must contribute to the academic world by doing a study. Thus, they not only provide benefits for themselves but also give benefits to the wider society. Therefore, the main purposes of this study are to provide knowledge and more information that may not be widely known by the public and can be implemented in everyday life, so this study will be very important and beneficial

for society and also future writers. Thus, the uses of the study in this study are divided into two, as stated below:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

After finishing this study, the writer hopes that this study can be used to help other future writers as their references, especially to conduct a deeper analysis of the same movie, issues, topic or discussion that is focused on the characteristics of Obsessive-Love Disorder such as stalking, terrorizing, extremely jealous, the resentment of Carter as one of the leading character in the movie, and also the cause of Obsessive Love Disorder, which is ego and grudge portrayed on the one of leading characters. Indeed, with different perspectives, and also providing an overview. The writer hopes that this study will be very useful for future researchers to criticize a literary work by using the same theory, and hopefully, by using that theory, it will help future researchers find out what happens in society. Then this study aims to enrich the theoretical base of literary studies, especially those which are related to analyzing the psychological issue of the leading character's personality.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, this study can raise awareness for couples who are in relationships, because there are so many devastating effects. Based on the characteristics, causes and the effects which the writer analyze, expected can give the society a deeper insight, knowledge and also can distinguish between which one is the healthy relationship and the obsessive love. As well as for the readers or societies who can develop a better understanding to recognize the symptoms and signs of obsessive. In this case, the writer reveals the issue through analyzing OLD, which depicted towards the leading character in *The Perfect Guy* movie. Furthermore, the writer hopes that this study will provide an additional way of interpreting literary works in the psychology fields, and that it will be useful for other writers who are conducting similar studies, particularly the psychological

analyses. Thus, the result of this study is expected to be both a reference and alternative information.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In order to make the analysis focus on the topic of the discussion, the writer should limit the discussion of this study. Because conducting a study on one literary work may contain many issues with different views, to hone the study, the writer focuses on analyzing the cause of Obsessive Love Disorder, as portrayed on Carter Duncan, the movie's main character, by using the OLD theory and a psychological approach