CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Dasgupta and Agarwal in their article stated that cinema or movie can be defined as moving images that narrate an idea and tell a story to the audience (Dasgupta & Agarwal, 2020). Thus, the movie is also included as one of the types of art, just like music, sculpture, and others. On the other hand, the movie also can be considered literature because it can be interpreted and analyzed just like written works of literature (Reeder, 2021). As a part of art and literature, the movie often portrayed the real issues and events that happen in the real world.

Many experts agreed that movie is the media or tool to reflect reality. An article that was published in 2015 believed that since the 19th century, the movie has contributed to enacting the construction of reality (Abbatescianni, 2015). The movie itself can be defined as the visual aids containing a series of moving pictures recorded with a sound that tells a story (Seftiatini, 2016). With moving images, a movie can reach greater audiences and convey the message easier (Kiranamita & Samanik, 2021). Hence, researching the issue that is conveyed by movies seems important. This research can be a tool for society to understand the possibility of a movie portraying real issues in the real world. The perception of society towards certain issues can easily be shaped through the movie, thus acknowledging society about the portrayal of certain issues in a movie is seen as an important activity to do (Ally & Kasih, 2021).

The development of movies in portraying reality has affected the variety of issues that are portrayed in the movie (Afif & Amelia, 2021). The movie has expanded its reach in portraying and presenting the issues, such as social issues, psychological issues, political issues, and many others (Tirtaningtias & Setiawan, 2021). However, the writer believes that it is important to understand other humans because we live together in society. There are many ways to understand other humans and communicate better with them as social human beings, but understanding their psychology seems like one of the best ways to do that.

The writer believes that it is important to understand other people who suffer from certain psychological issues. By understanding them, we can treat them better and give them a better place in society (Ramadhani & Setiawan, 2021).

As one of the biggest issues in movies, the psychological issue always has a close relationship with the mental or mind's condition of humans. When a human suffers from certain psychological issues, it means that they have a problem with their mind and mental. Ryff & Singer (1998) stated that mentally healthy is a concept where an individual has a sense of purpose, is engaged in quality relationships with others, and possesses self-respect and mastery (Ryff & Singer, 1998). In other words, those who do not obtain stability in social relationships and with themselves may indicate that they have a problem, or are not mentally healthy. Psychological issues themselves can be referred to as psychological problems. In an article, it is explained that a psychological problem is a condition characterized by abnormal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors (Weiser, 2016). There are types of psychological issues, such as mental illness, disorder, and syndrome. The main discussion within the paper is the means that she or he suffers the illness.

Dissociative disorders. Dissociative Disorder means a syndrome characterized by a significant disturbance in a person's cognition, emotion, and behavior that is reflected in dysfunction in their body, both psychological and biological (Thyer, 2015). Pal from Indira Gandhi National Open University stated that dissociation, or dissociative disorders, can be defined as a disconnection between a person's thoughts, memories, feelings, actions, or sense of who he is or she is (Pal, 2020). Essentially, the dissociative disorder is a condition where a person's thoughts, memories, feelings, and actions are not matched. The disturbance caused the sufferer to be disconnected from others, either from the world or from themselves (Pal, 2020). There are four types of dissociative disorder, which are dissociative identity disorder, dissociative amnesia, and depersonalization or derealization disorder (Kihlstrom, 2005). Among the types of dissociative disorders, the writer decided to focus on one of them, which is dissociative amnesia.

A report conducted by David Spiegel revealed that dissociative amnesia is probably undetected and approximately 1.8% people in the United States are diagnosed with dissociative amnesia

within 12 months (Spiegel, 2021). The undetectable issue of dissociative amnesia urged the writer to conduct this research to give better understanding and knowledge to society. National Alliance on Mental Illness stated that there is up to 75% of people who ever experienced dissociative amnesia and 2% of people experienced chronic episodes (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2021). Since the number of dissociative amnesia is rising, the literary work as the representative of real life in society. so that, there are many literary work that discussed this case, one of them is *Memento* movie. However, there is lack of research that discussed the issue of dissociative amnesia, which urged the writer to bring the issue up.

In this research, the writer focuses on the portrayal of dissociative amnesia in the movie. The writer wants to reveal its existence in the movie. Though dissociative amnesia is not common, several movies bring this issue as well. By considering that, the writer decided to bring the issue of dissociative amnesia to give society additional knowledge and insight about that, so society can have a better awareness of the issue of dissociative amnesia. To reveal the existence of dissociative amnesia, the writer uses the movie entitled *Memento* as the object of analysis. It is chosen because the writer assumed that the movie contains the material and portrayal of dissociative amnesia.

The movie entitled *Memento* is an American mystery-thriller movie that was released in 2000 at the Venetia Film Festival and in 2001 in the United States of America. This movie is directed by Christopher Nolan and produced by Jennifer Todd and Suzanne Todd. By using the script written by Christopher Nolan, the movie *Memento* is based on the short story by Jonathan Nolan with the same title. The story offered by this movie to the audience shows that probably there is a disturbance in the main character named Leonardo Shelby. Thus, from the plot, the writer assumed that the movie contained the material of dissociative amnesia. With a duration of 113 minutes, the movie *Memento* uses English as the original language.

To reveal the existence of dissociative amnesia, the writer will focus on the main character of the movie, Leonardo Shelby. In that movie, the main character, Leonard Shelby, arranges the plot wisely because of his condition, which is dissociative amnesia.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, which has been written by the writer, the writer formulates a research question, which is: how is the portrayal of dissociative amnesia as seen in *Memento* (2000)?

1.3 Research Objective

To answer the research questions, the writer sets the research objectives as well. This research aims to fulfill the research objectives which is to identify the portrayal of dissociative amnesia described in *Memento* movie through the Leonard as the main character.

1.4. Use of the Study

In this research, the writer divides the use of study into two, as written below.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Meanwhile, the theory used in this study about the psychological problem and dissociative amnesia can be used by other future researchers who want to conduct a deeper analysis of the same issue.

1.4.2 Practical Use

This research can increase public awareness about the sufferer of dissociative amnesia. By understanding the symptoms, society can get better knowledge about that disorder and treat the sufferer better. The information written in this research also can be used by further researchers who want to analyze the same movie, topic, or issue.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To limit the discussion and avoid broader discussion, the writer sets the scope of the study. This research focuses on how *Memento* (2000) portrayed dissociative amnesia in the main character, Leonard Shelby who is suffering dissociative amnesia throughout the movie.