

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The portrayal of mental illness is often depicted in movies through characters' characterization. Portrayals of mental illness in film are often superficial, stigmatizing, and inaccurate. Many overemphasize stereotypical negative attributes such as violence, aggression, and bizarre behavior, as well as, rely on demeaning slang terms to refer to mentally ill individuals (Stacy L Smith, 2019). According to an American voluntary health organization, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, out of 4598 characters in movies, 1.7% experience a mental health condition (Stacy L Smith, 2019). According to National Alliance on Mental Illness, up to 75% people experience at least one depersonalization episode in their lives, and women are more likely than men to be diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder (Illness, 2022). As literary work's purpose focuses on the words and on a conscious and consider arrangement of the words to produce a pleasing or enhancing effect, it can be concluded that movie is one of the best literary work as the tools for portraying the phenomenon of life. Thus, the researcher chooses Black Swan movie as the media to be analyzed based on some criteria.

According to (iMDb, 2010) Black Swan movie is a thriller drama which was directed by Darren Aronofsky. This story focuses on the main character named Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), a dancer at New York ballet studio, who prepares for a performance titled Swan Lake Tchaikovsky. Nina tries her best to get both Black and White swan roles in one person. The director of the performance is Leroy. He searches for both roles by conducting an audition. Nina Sayers, who has dedicated her life as a dancer, tries to do her best to get those important roles.

However, Leroy considers that Nina is able to master only one character which is White Swan. She is not suitable to be a Black Swan. After the audition, Nina tries to convince Leroy, but Leroy said that Nina is not as sensual as Black Swan, she is pure and kind just like White Swan. Then Nina chose to visit Leroy and change her appearance into a sensual woman by using red lipstick. Leroy forced a kiss on her lips. Nina got shocked and try to push him away after biting his lips. Surprisingly, after that moment Leroy chose her as the main character of his performance which are Black and White Swan. Leroy said that Nina treats him unexpectedly, she treats him as a sensual woman with class, just like Black Swan.

That psychological disorder reveals a new problem in Nina's life. As a soft, kind, and pure woman, she has to master an evil and sensual role. Nina has to accept that ballet is an art that does not tolerate improvisation, so being perfect is the only way to portray those 2 roles. The White Swan is a character of conventional classical ballet and music whose measure of success is classical control over perfection, and Nina has become accustomed to it. Black Swan then becomes a mystical challenge for Nina because she is required to go beyond that perfection. Black Swan is about Perfection, and Perfection is not just about control, it's also about letting go. He must dare to destroy the perfection to interpret Black Swan perfectly.

Leroy's perfectionist personality makes Nina feel depressed until she showed some indications of hallucinations. She also having delusions all the time. Her personalities are easy to switch over in a short time and she also become a temperament woman. It makes Erica (Barbara Hershey, Nina's mother) became too protective. Nina can't avoid that psychological disorder until she is haunted by an evil thought that demands her to be perfect in exploring the dual roles as Black and White Swan.

The problems faced by Nina cause symptoms of one of mental disorder which is Dissociative Identity Disorder. By only understand the beginning of the movie which is about an audition of getting those different roles, the researcher conclude that Black and White Swan are the example of having multiple disorder. According to (Philip Wang, 2018), Dissociative Identity Disorder (previously known as multiple disorder) involve problems with memory, identity, emotion, perception, behavior and sense of self. Dissociative Identity Disorder symptoms can potentially disrupt every area of mental functioning (David Spiegel, 2020). Examples of dissociative symptoms include the experience of detachment or feeling as if one is outside one's body, and loss of memory or amnesia (Jack Drescher, 2022). Dissociative disorders are frequently associated with previous experience of trauma.

The symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder that appear in the movie showed the main problems of how the researcher interested in conducting this research. The screening of the sufferer's symptoms will appear from that the main character of the movie is indeed suffer from Dissociative Identity Disorder (America, 2022).

The researcher tries to portray how Dissociative Identity Disorder symptoms portrayed through the main character and also tries to reveal out the impacts obtained by Dissociative Identity Disorder sufferer as portrayed through Nina Sayers character of Black Swan movie. The researcher also wants to prove that suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder will give many impacts toward someone's personality development in their whole life.

By conducting this research, the researcher hopes that it will be useful for next research related to Black Swan movie or the issue inside this paper which is about mental disorder, specifically Dissociative Identity Disorder.

## **1.2 Research Question**

According to the background, the researcher formulates research questions that consists of 2 formulations, which are:

1. How does the movie portray Dissociative Identity Disorder symptoms?
2. What impacts obtained by the sufferer of Dissociative Identity Disorder to their personality development as portrayed through Nina Sayers character in Black Swan movie?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the formulation of the research questions, the researcher shapes research objectives to answer it. Thus, this research will describe the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder and the impacts obtained by the sufferer of Dissociative Identity Disorder to their personality development as portrayed through Nina Sayers character in Black Swan movie.

## **1.4 Use of the Study**

This research will be useful for the readers and the future researchers. Moreover, the researcher uses 2 uses of the study, which are:

### **1.4.1 Practical Use**

By conducting this research, the researcher believes that this research will give some important awareness for society in Psychological aspect which is Dissociative Identity Disorder through Nina Sayers character in Black Swan movie.

The symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder suffered by Nina through Black Swan movie will indirectly give some new sight of mental illness which will make the society never underestimate the sufferer anymore.

The significance of Nina's personality development found, the symptoms depicted through Nina's character, and the theory used in this research will be used as some useful information for the future research and researchers.

#### **1.4.2 Theoretical Use**

The theory applied within this research can be used for the future researchers who want to conduct a similar research that discusses about a mental illness. By knowing what exactly Dissociative Identity Disorder is, and using personality theory by expert, the symptoms of that mental disorder will be found by the researcher throughout the movie and can help the researcher to reveal out the significance of Dissociative Identity Disorder towards Nina Sayer's personality development. The collected data from the movie and the script also will add some relevant references for the future researchers.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

In conducting this research, the researcher focuses on how Dissociative Identity Disorder exists in the Black Swan movie. The genre of the movie is the reason why the researcher chose Black Swan movie, which is about an American Psychological thriller movie (IMDb, 2010). The purpose of this research is to portray the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder and to reveal out the impacts obtained by the sufferer of Dissociative Identity Disorder to their personality development as portrayed through Nina Sayers character in Black Swan movie. To achieve those purposes, the researcher analyzes the main character of Black Swan movie and also another character that supports her throughout the movie. Moreover, other characters that will make the researcher easier to analyze the main character are Lily, her competitor in Ballet Studio which has black swan energy, her mother who exerts a suffocating control over her to be a perfect ballerina as she was, and Leroy as her mentor who tries to motivate her in improving both white and black swan roles in a person (Pictures, 2010). Thus, this research will portray the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder and the impacts obtained by the sufferer of Dissociative Identity Disorder to their personality development as portrayed through Nina Sayers character in Black Swan movie.