

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Literature is a work that has a particular meaning of beauty. Literature is a unique human activity born from the eternal desire to understand, express, and share experiences (Pickering & Hooper, 1981). In literature, we can find creative ideas when reading a literary work. According to Sumardjo & Saini (1997), literature is an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passions, and beliefs in the form of concrete images that evoke charm with language tools. Therefore, we can understand that the close relationship between the soul and literary works will provide comfort for oneself in expressing ideas, thoughts, and experiences in a literary work. Literature, as a product of human culture, contains values that live and apply in society. Literary works are done with full appreciation and are packaged in the form of the authors' imagination about the reality of life around them.

These literary works can be created in various forms such as poetry, novels, song lyrics, prose, short stories, and films (Famuka, 2017). Literary works that are easy to understand and enjoy more lively are film media. The strength of the film is in the audio-visual where the filmmaker tells the story directly to the audience by showing some of the communication and actions of the characters in the film. It can be concluded that the film is a literary work that involves technology and has a complex

aesthetic value and unique creativity. This is a support to make it easier for literary authors to apply their work to the community within a certain period of time.

Literary works become a tool to express the phenomena of life. One of the phenomena of life is magical or an extraordinary miracle. Magical things coexist with the reality of life, especially in the traditional beliefs of society. Therefore, magic appears together with realism called magical realism. In literature, magical realism is a term used to describe a situation or event which is a combination of everyday reality and supernatural elements that are seamlessly woven into a single story (Barton, 1999).

Magical realism is a blend of real and fantasy. In literary works, magical realism can be seen in the characters and characterizations, settings, storylines and language styles. Thus, stories made based on these intrinsic elements are described in accordance with real life and on the other hand there will be obstacles that should not exist in the real world. Magical realism literary works are literary works that present magical, mystical, or irrational elements derived from traditional heritage that are represented in modern literary works (Faris, 2004). Magical realism focuses on the collision between the magical and the realist as an attempt to deconstruct the Western logic of third world intimacy (Setiawan, 2018). Magical realism involves historical continuity and change, especially in Western civilization. This makes the writer want to describe the magic realism issue as a part of fantasy issues which are believed in society.

Magical realism can also appear in animated films by depicting phenomena and supernatural figures such as ghosts, gods, witches, and myths in real life settings. One of the animated films that presents magical realism in the story is *Encanto*. *Encanto* is an American musical animated fantasy film produced in 2021 and directed by Byron Howard. It is a film that brings out magical realism in its dialogues and scenes. This film tells about the mystery and supernatural experiences of the Madrigal family which is full of magic. They live in a magical house located in *Encanto*, Colombian mountains. Some of the mysteries told are a character named Julieta who is able to heal from the food she prepares, Isabela can grow plants, Luisa has super powers, Pepa is able to control the weather with her emotions, Antonio is able to talk to animals, Camilo is able to change his form into anyone, Dolores who has extraordinary sensitive hearing, Bruno is able to see the future, and a different character from other characters named Mirabel who does not have magical powers.

Byron Howard's *Encanto* film was chosen, of course there are characters and phenomena of events that have magical realism where there are magical elements that break through to the real world. This is the center of this research. The author wants to analyze how the elements of magical realism are realized according to the theory of magical realism by Wendy B. Faris. This detailed explanation of the elements of magical realism is expected to be able to help the author to find and analyze magical realism and can provide a clear picture of magical realism in the *Encanto* film. Based on the description above, the writer will conduct a research with the title "Magic Realism in *Encanto* Film (2021)".

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates research question:

How is magical realism portrayed in the *Encanto* film by Byron Howard?

1.3 Research Objective

The research objectives describe what the research is trying to achieve and explain why I am pursuing it. I summarize the approach and purpose of the project and help to focus the research. The objective of this research is to portray magical realism in *Encanto* film.

1.4 Use of the Study

This research is expected to be successful and achieve the research objectives optimally, so as to be able to produce a systematic and useful report in general. The main purpose of this research is to provide further understanding and information that can be applied by the community. Therefore, this study discusses two research uses, namely theoretical use and practical use.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research can provide more understanding and contribution to the development of literary studies, especially on the magical realism. This research can be of interest to other researchers as a reference who wants to discuss and apply

a similar theory. Therefore, the writer hopes that this research can provide a significant increase in knowledge to the academic world about the topics discussed in this research which is about magical realism studies.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the writer hopes to be able to increase the reader's understanding of literary works in analyzing films. The writer hopes that this research can provide insight and understanding, especially in the field of magical realism studies. Through literary analysis, readers can also gain more knowledge about magical realism, especially for students who are interested in this research topic.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In order to limit the discussion, the writer only focuses on magic realism issues in the film *Encanto* by Byron Howard. The writer only focuses on providing an overview and explanation of the elements of magical realism depicted through the characters, settings, dialogues and scenes in the film *Encanto* by director Byron Howard. This thesis applies the theory of magic realism from Faris. This research also applied film theories *mise-en-scene*.