

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Character is a basic element possessed by a person that can shape a person's psychological traits and make them behave according to themselves and the values that are appropriate for them in different situations. In everyday life, character is an inherent attitude in a person. Character can be used as a benchmark between good and bad. Burroway (2000) claims that character in fiction has an important role in shaping the narrative and giving life to the story. Burroway (2000) argues that character in literature is the main elements that bind all elements of a story together, form the core of the narrative and convey a deep message and meaning to the reader. Character and literature both influence each other because complex and realistic character can deepen the story, whereas literature can provide a broad platform for the exploration of character in literary works. The complex relationship between character and literature makes literature a powerful tool for describing and analyzing human beings in various aspects of life.

Klarer (2004) defines literature as the expression of a written work, but some written works cannot always be considered literature, literary works have deeper meanings than just words. There are several types of literary works, one of which is film. Klarer (2004) says that film has deep artistic potential and is able to

convey story, meaning, and emotion in a unique way. Sikov (1998) argues that film is the art of space and time, that is, film is a combination of how everything looks (space) and how everything develops as the story progresses (time). Cavell (1979) adds that film is the art of events, movement and expression. Cavell (1979) also claims that through movement and expression in film, we can think about the meaning of human existence and how morality is applied to a person. He emphasized that the dialogue and interaction between character that occur in the film is a means to seek understanding of oneself and social relationships. Film and popular literature are closely related because they are considered to be used to convey messages about cultural and social issues in society in a community work. (Kasih & Fitratullah, 2018). Literary works now entertain readers and are believed to be able to teach and educate them through the extrinsic and intrinsic values they contain.

In the process of filming, character is one of the important roles to bring the story to life. Burroway (2003) argues that character can evolve and change because they face challenges and situations that force them to change their outlook on life. Burroway (2000) argues that in the real world, character also have an important role. People shape their character through life experiences, education, and values. A person's character can influence the way they interact with others, overcome challenges, and live life as a whole. Good character development in literary or real- life works often involves conflict, growth, and change that make a story or life's journey interesting and meaningful.

In forming a character in a story or narrative generally requires characterization to give depth, complexity, and authenticity to the character. In forming character in a story or narrative, characterization is generally needed to provide depth, complexity and authenticity to the character. There are several character concepts that are commonly used in character analysis in literary works, two of them are big character and small character. The main character is a character who has a central role in the story and is often the main focus. In contrast to the main character, a minor character is a character who has a smaller role in the story and often provides support to the main character. Character can be characterized through action, dialogue, visuals, background, monologues and relationships between other character. To characterize the character, it can be through actions, dialogue, visuals, backgrounds, monologues, and relationships between other character.

This character and characterization also appear in the film *The Black Phone*. *The Black Phone* is an American film that was released in 2021 with the supernatural horror genre. The film is an adaptation of a short story that appeared in 2004 under the title *The Black Phone* by writer Joe Hill. This film tells the story of a mysterious kidnapper who loves to kidnap children to be tortured and killed. This kidnapper always wear masks with different expressions. The kidnapper used a trick by using several black balloons to attract the attention of the children. One of the kidnapping victims survived because of mystical things that happened to him while locked up. And unexpectedly, it was precisely this mystical thing that helped him escape.

The film contains striking and interesting character and characterization to analyze. The importance of this research is to gain insight and knowledge for the community and students in the field of art, especially film art. This insight and knowledge are important when it comes to characterization of a character in a film. In addition, this research is expected to be an additional collection of film studies and as a reference for future research. By analyzing the character in the film, we can better appreciate and understand the story as a whole. It provides a deeper emotional and intellectual dimension, which makes the viewing experience more satisfying and meaningful. Analysis of the character in the film can provide insight into their motivation, growth, and significance in the narrative. The author conducted research using character theory from Janet Burroway.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the description that has been written, the formulation of the problem in this study is:

How is the character and characterization portrayed in *The Black Phone* movie by Scott Derrickson?

1.3 Research Objective

This study aims to portray the character and characterization of the main character depicted in the film. It is hoped that this research can produce research related to

character and characterization of a person in life. Researcher used this study based on theory from Janet Burroway.

1.4 Use of Study

This research is expected to provide the following benefits:

1.4.1. Theoretical of Study

Researchers hope that this research can provide new contributions and information to a larger body of knowledge, especially the literary study of character and characterization in Scott Derrickson's film *The Black Phone*.

1.4.2. Practical of Study

This study is expected to provide a deeper understanding and enrich this knowledge and experience especially for researcher and can also be used as a reference by other university students studying literature and research on character and characterization.

1.5 Scope of The Study

This study focuses on characterization and characterization using Janet Burroway's characterization theory in a film entitled *The Black Phone*. The writer will analyze the character and characterization of the main character that is reflected in the film.