

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The work of a fiction is often times transformed into a film. Possibly, the film version is different from the novel version in some extends. The differences between these two works are affected by the different medium used to share the story, one is written and the other is shown. The process of transforming is known as adaptation. Adaptation is defined as “the transformation of printed works to another medium” (Kranz and Mellerski, 2008:1). Adaptation is changing the existing work into another medium. In the case of film adaptation, the change can be seen in the written text of the story into film which mostly consist of dialogue between characters and less narration, it is also added with some other elements like the angle of the camera, the sound that is put into the film adaptation to make a real picture of the story which totally different with the written form like novel that only focus on text and rely with the imagination of the reader.

Moreover, the works that have been adapted into another medium could bring the new sensation of the story because there are some things that has been added or omitted by the directors while transform the works into a film. Desmond and Hawkes state that “Film companies know that literary text are good candidates for filmmaking because their stories have already proven to be enjoyable to many people”(2006:16). This means that work that has been published before and spread into society will leave a mark in the society and will attract society anyway because they already know the work before.

Furthermore, in film adaptation the transformation could be diverse because there are several modifications given as added value of the work that can make the film adaptation be more fascinating. According to Stam (2005) “a filmic adaptation gets caught up in the ongoing whirl of intertextual references and transformations, of text generating other texts in an endless process of recycling, transformation, and transmutation, which no clear point of origin”. This says that somehow the content of film adaptation could be exactly the same with the source work or in the other hand the film adaptation could be far from the source work.

The works of a novel and the film adaptation have a lot in common, they stand correlated to each other. In addition, both works have their own strength and weakness. In one hand, the written text, which in this case is novel, allows the reader construct their own portrayal based on their life experience, based on their imagination towards the text that they read. In another hand, film, though it gives visual representation it limits the audience imagination. While in a film, the sounds effect, moving pictures and other elements are becoming the power of that work but it limits the imagination of the viewer toward its work. According to Monaco (2000; 44) “film and novel stand closed in that they share the same narrative capacities and tell stories from narrator’s perspective”. It shows that novel and film have the same things that are shared to its reader or viewers they share a narrative which has a structure like setting, character, plot, themes and it happens to *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel and *Split* film.

The Minds of Billy Milligan novel was published in 1982 by Daniel Keyes, bringing the real life story as the basis of the work. It is about the story of a man named William Stanley Milligan who suffers Dissociative Identity Disorder, a

mental illness that makes the sufferer has two or more distinct personalities in one body. In the story that is portrayed in *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel, Billy, as the main character has 24 distinct personalities, the story is also told by conflict of his personalities who became the suspect of kidnap and rape of three college girls. The story of Billy Milligan was becoming the huge discussion in America because he was the very first man who was found not guilty after doing several criminal acts. By this case, the author, Daniel Keyes decided to create his story in a book. In 2016, there was a film entitled *Split* directed by M. Night Symalan, a film with a psychological issue suffered by a character named Kevin Wendell Crumb, played by James McAvoy, he is suffering Dissociative Identity Disorder which makes him has 23 personalities. In this film, it is also shown that the character, the other personalities in Kevin's body kidnaped three girls for the ritual to resurrect the 24th personalities in his body which has the same portrayal as the previous work *The Minds of Billy Milligan*. After this movie was released it got nomination in best thriller movie category and gets many good reviews from the viewers. Looking at the same portrayal in the works of *The Minds of Billy Milligan* and *Split* film make these two works correlate each other. Further, in 2017 a statement published by The Strait Times that the *Split* film was created based on the previous work which is *The Minds of Billy Milligan*. This statement is also strengthened from the interview of M. Night Syamalan about *Split* film. It is written that he heard that Titanic director, James Cameron was trying to make movie about Billy Milligan but the movie never been made and the project was abandoned. Looking at this fact Syamalan said in his interview that he loved the subject of this psychological portrayal and decided to make the movie which

based on *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel later. So now, Syamalan created the work namely *Split*. Even though these two works have the different title and created by different author and using different medium but the core idea, portrayal of issue and characters are the same, it has been also confirmed by the director of the film himself that it is based on *The Minds of Billy Milligan* as the previous work.

Therefore, the writer conducts the comparative analysis to reveal the similarities and the differences between *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel by Daniel Keyes and *Split* film by M. Night Syamalan. According to Azarian in Adiyia and Ashton (2011), “conventionally comparative analysis emphasized on the “explanation of differences, and the explanation of similarities”(p.2). It means that in comparative study, the thing that will be analyzed is about the sameness and differences between works that are compared. Moreover, there are many researchers who already conducted the comparative research between film and its film adaptation, so it makes this analysis valid to be conducted by the writer.

In particular, the writer would like to analyze the narrative structure between two works and see the stages of narrative structure that are presented in those works. The writer chooses the *Split* (2016) film and *The Minds of Billy Milligan* (1977) novel by Daniel Keyes as the objects of analysis. The reason why the writer chooses these works as the object, because both work are describing the same issue about psychological illness that is suffered by a character which become the interest of the writer. Moreover, these works also become the most talked issue at the times it was published and gain a lot of attraction of society. Further, this analysis also aims to argue the perspective that exist in society that says the film

adaptation will always be the same with the previous work that has been published. That is why, in this analysis the writer would like to see the narrative structures that are presented in both works and will be focusing on the basic construction of narrative that is presented in the works by looking the intrinsic elements of both works.

1.2 Research Question

Looking at the idea in the background of the study, the writer formulates the problem into: how are the narratives structures presented in *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel and *Split* film?

1.3 Research Objective

From the problem formulated above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To reveal the narrative structure of *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel.
2. To reveal the narrative structure of *Split* film.
3. To find the differences and similarities in *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel and *Split* film.

1.4 Uses of the Study

By doing this research the writer hopes that this study can give some benefits theoretically and practically for the other researchers who need this analysis.

There are two benefits, those are:

1.4.1 Theoretical use

Theoretically, this research gives information and gain knowledge about the narrative structure adaptation from novel to film, or it can be used by the others researcher as supporting sources for their research in doing an analysis about comparative study and narrative structures. Finally, whole significances hopefully can be additional reference, especially for people who are studying literature.

1.4.2 Practical use

Practically, this research can be used as reference for the student who are interested to analyze adaptation in novel and the comparison of the work , or it can be used by the others researcher as a supporting sources for research. This research can also become the foundation for other researchers who want to do the other part of analysis toward the works that are analyzed in this paper. Finally, the whole significances hopefully can be additional reference, especially for people who are studying literature.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this analysis the writer focuses on the narrative structure that exists in the work of *The Minds of Billy Milligan* novel and *Split* film by looking at the narration of both works.