CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The *Harry Potter* series is unequivocally one of the most notable and widely-recognized series in contemporary literature; for its fame shone brightly that almost everyone knows of the iconic lightning-scarred wizard who struggled both in growing up into a whole new world and fighting the evil forces. The series started off as books written by the famed J.K. Rowling, and in 2001, Harry Potter and his two best friends, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley came to life as Warner Bros. Pictures released their live-action films. The story starts with Harry, an orphan living a pitiful and pathetic life, who suddenly gets his world turned upside down on its axis when he finds the truth that he is a legendary wizard; one that survived a killing curse when he was a baby and is supposed to defeat the oncoming Dark Lord as his equal match. Straying not far from the books, the story continues to grow as Harry attempts to adapt to the newfound wizard life with his new friends as well as understanding the intriguing, vibrant magic that he has never seen before while also learning that the evil forces are looming on his way as the Chosen One.

Despite being born from England, the *Harry Potter* series made itself known until the other side of the world, and this being enormously famous in America. Having infiltrated the radar to its American readers,

Harry Potter quickly shot off into one of the most prominent popular cultures that affects not only people from the UK but also its west counterpart; Slawson (2006:72) claims that the events in the fictional story aligns with how Americans perceive some of their conflicting ideologies and such becomes what Slawson describes as an index of American culture. In line with Slawson, Zirkle (2015:45) agrees that the popularity of *Harry Potter* in America stems from its effort in reflecting issues that some may overlook and uses metaphors as a way to convey those issues.

Being such a marvelous story with huge world-building and endless lore, *Harry Potter* is brimming with various different characters with their each unique personality. Harry is a brave and curious young boy who is told to be the closest with Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley as they share the same House, Gryffindor. The House, Gryffindor, is a group of students who are deemed to have traits of courage, chivalry, and strong loyalty. While there are three other houses, Gryffindor is a home to many other characters, one of which is Neville Longbottom. From the beginning, he was introduced to be a meek and unconfident kid who was also clumsy. In the first few films, he was shown to be blundering and shy despite showing some of bravado in some parts of the films. Either way, he is conventionally painted as the kid who stands up for what he believes to be right despite the freight he often displays.

It is unquestionable that there are stark and distinct differences between Neville's personality and the way he presents himself in the first

movie and the last few movies. Consequently, the writer is intrigued by how Neville grows from a bumbling and bashful kid into a brave hero who saves the day. His growth in character would mainly come when he is coming of age. He was raised by his grandmother alone and then adapted to a new environment in Hogwarts by observing his housemates, especially Harry and Ron, who exhibit the valor that the Gryffindors usually possess. Along these lines, the writer will explore the characterization of Neville Longbottom and how his personality developed throughout the series. The writer will utilize Elizabeth Hurlock's personality development to conduct a thorough analysis of Neville Longbottom's character development as he progresses and grows up through the series.

Hurlock's personality development tells how several external factors may lead into a personality change either for the better or worse, and Neville shows some of personality change throughout his growing-up phase. His character arc may reflect themes that resonate deeply with American readers and audiences; Thus, the writer will analyze how Neville's personality growth might be a cultural reception as well in America.

1.2. Research Problem

J.K. Rowling wrote Neville Longbottom in *Harry Potter* as a humble and noble character, but it seems like his sole purpose is to be the clumsy and foolish guy. As the series goes on, Neville starts to lean into the

better version of himself. In this research, the writer is compelled to understand on these several topics:

1. What kind of personality does Neville Longbottom possess?

2. How does Neville Longbottom's personality change over time?

3. How do the environmental, social, and psychological factors contribute to Neville Longbottom's personality development?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The study aims to find out the answers to the research problems. The objectives of the problem specifically aim to answer the three research problem's questions.

1. To identify what kind of personality Neville Longbottom possesses.

2. To determine how Neville Longbottom's personality has changed over time.

3. To uncover the environmental, social, and psychological influences contributing to Neville Longbottom's personality development.

1.4. Previous Studies

This section discusses several topics similar to this study, which some other researchers have already conducted in the past. The similarity that the writer counts include the focus, theory, topic, and the different parts of this study.

In the first previous studies that have been conducted, the writer chose a thesis written by Irsha Karisha Puspitasari, an English literature

student from Yogyakarta State University, titled "*Esperanza's Personality Development as Reflected in Sandra Cisneros' The House on Mango Street*" (2012). This study observes the personality development of Esperanza, the main character in the novel, using Hurlock's theory of personality. This research uses a qualitative approach, focusing on the background and individuality holistically and using analysis research.

The second study was also a thesis entitled "*Personality Development of Edmund Pevensie as Seen in C.S Lewis's The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*" written by Antonia Rosa Gravita (2016) from the Department of English Language Education of University of Sanata Dharma. This thesis aims to know the personality development and the factors that influenced the personality development of Edmund Pevensie; with that, the writer used personality development theory to analyze Edmund Pevensie's personality development.

Next was also a thesis that used the *Harry Potter* series as its topic. "*A Study of Harry's Personality Development in Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince and Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*" was written by an English literature student from Sanata Dharma University named Arinda Febriana Dewi in 2016. This study describes the development of personality experienced by Harry as the main character while using Hurlock's theory of personality development. The writer applied library study in analyzing the novel, gathering references and data from books, journals, and some online references.

Moving on onto the next one, Debbie Ekni Novanda (2020), an English literature department student from the Islamic State University of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, in her thesis titled "*The Influence of Environment on Tris's Personality Development in Veronica Roth's Divergent,"* used the theory of personality development by Hurlock to analyze Tris' personality and personality development in Veronica Roth's Divergent. In this thesis, Debbie Ekni Novanda takes some notes from chapter to chapter to gather data on Tris' personality in the old faction (Abnegation) and her new faction (Dauntless).

The fifth previous study that has been conducted regarding this topic and theory was a journal written by students from the Islamic State University of Raden Mas Said Surakarta, Rista Fathika Anggrela, Faya Fadella Jasmine Budiman, and Salsabila Dwi Febriyanti, titled "*Arisu's Personality Development Across the Death Games in Alice in Borderland"* (2021). This thesis used Hurlock's personality development theory to study the development of Arisu's personality while also discussing several conditions that are responsible for Arisu's personality change.

"*The Character Development of Neville Longbottom in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Novel Series"* (2021) is a thesis written by Emmi Nieminen from the Faculty of Information Technology and Communication Sciences of Tampere University. This thesis studies Neville Longbottom's character in the *Harry Potter* novel series. Neville's character is analyzed through the development of his personality undergoes during the seven

novels. Jungian archetypes and positive education theories are used to examine the development.

Despite the previous studies conducted regarding Neville, *Harry Potter* or utilizing Hurlock's theory to analyze a character, none of those studies have brought up Neville's personality growth and how it could be analyzed using Hurlock's personality theory. Most of the studies would circle over the main characters in *Harry Potter* or the analysis of its narrative. Thus, the writer intends to fill the academic gap by highlighting Neville, a side character in the *Harry Potter* series, whose personality development is often overlooked.

1.5. Scope of Study

The writer will only focus on Neville Longbottom as a character from the *Harry Potter* series while investigating how Neville Longbottom is described by the author and how Neville Longbottom's personality is developed through the *Harry Potter* series. Despite the various characters appearing the series, the writer will only solely concentrate on Neville Longbottom and ignore other characters' growth in personality lest they have impacts in Neville's personality growth. In order to prevent an ambiguous and similar analysis, the writer will limit the study to discussing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements that are exclusively focus on Neville Longbottom.

1.6. Writing Organization

This study is formed into five chapters, each of which will then be further divided into sub-chapters, in the following order:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the study's background, problem statement, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, the scope of the study, and the writing organization.

CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains the theories that the writer will use. The approach will later be divided into two theories: intrinsic values and extrinsic values.

CHAPTER III: DATA ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of types of methods this research carries out to explain the method by collecting data.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter sums up the findings and the analysis while highlighting the character development acquired from the study.