

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Some researchers in the literature field frequently use literary works as study subjects in their research. This is possible because literary work represents our everyday lives in one of its functions. According to Wellek and Warren (1963), literature is an artistic creation of the human imagination. Moreover, literature is also a collection of real-world details compressed into a form that makes sense to read. By utilizing the author's imaginative abilities, literature can also build its universe (Wellek and Warren, 1963). In the other way, because of the connection between literary works and the outside world, literature can be seen as one of the study's objectives in this context. According to Bright Hub Education (2010), there are five main literature genres, such as poetry, prose, drama, non-fiction, and media.

Media is the newest literary genre. Examples of media include television shows, radio programs, websites, movies, etc. Any type of media can be used to inform, amuse, advertise, or convince the audience. For instance, a movie, like a literary work, has a conflict that is crucial to the overall plot. Conflict is a literary device used to depict a struggle between two opposing forces in literature. Kenney (1966: 19) states that conflict in fiction has many kinds. External conflicts can happen between men, a conflict between man and society, and a conflict between man and nature.

*Marriage Story* (2019) by Noah Baumbach is an example of a movie that has many conflicts. In general, this movie is about a married couple, Charlie Barber

as the husband and Nicole Barber as the wife, who have some problems during their relationship. The problem between them appears from the beginning of the story until the end of the movie. Charlie and Nicole have their inner conflict and external conflicts come from each other. Their problems make a serious impact on their relationship, moreover their one and only son, Henry Barber. This movie is very emotional and dramatic which relates to common problems in relationships.

This study is interested in analyzing the married couple's conflicts, as the main character of the movie, and how the human motivation theory by Karl S. Bernhardt is depicted throughout the movie. The focus of this analysis will be on how their conflicts can be analyzed with the human motivation theory. This thesis also conducts an analysis of the causes of the married couple's behavior can affect the conflict. The writer also analyzed how their conflict affect Henry, their son, also for themselves. Additionally, the analysis will explore the inherent components of the narrative to support the thesis, including characters and characterization, setting, and conflicts, to gain a comprehensive understanding of the overall narrative structure.

### **1.1 Research Problems**

- a. What are the conflicts of the married couple, Nicole Barber and Charlie Barber, in the *Marriage Story* (2019) movie?
- b. What is the cause of the conflict in the *Marriage Story* (2019)?
- c. How does human motivation affect the married couple and their son in the *Marriage Story* (2019) movie?

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

- a. To analyze the internal and external conflicts in the *Marriage Story* (2019) movie.
- b. To analyze the cause of the conflict in the *Marriage Story* (2019) movie.
- c. To analyze the *human motivation* affecting the married couple and their son in the *Marriage Story* (2019) movie.

## **1.3 Previous Studies**

In this part, this study compares the similarities and differences between the past research and this research. Besides that, this part is also used to avoid plagiarism for this thesis. The writer found several related studies which will be discussed below.

The first previous study is from a thesis entitled “*The Struggle of Nicole Barber to Get Happiness in Marriage Story (2019) directed by Noah Baumbach: an Individual Psychology Approach*” written by Dion Tri Agustin (2019). It explains Nicole’s life as a single fighter mother that is trying to find her happiness also for her son, Henry Barber.

The second previous study takes from The New York Times article entitled “‘Marriage Story’ Review: Dance Me to the End of Love,” written by A.O. Scott in 2019. In this article, the writer starts by giving the reader a summary of the movie. Then, the writer tells the reader about his opinion of how the director works for the movie, such as being fair to both main characters when they are in conflict but sometimes making it seem romantic at certain moments.

In The Jakarta Post (2019) article entitled “Marriage Story: a Heartbreaking Depiction of Divorce”, the writer, Reyzando Nawara, tells about the summary from the movie with the detail of expression and what the audience will feel when they are watching the movie. Besides that, he also gives the reader an analysis of the movie from his side. He said “Heartbreaking but never resorts to sentimentalism, *Marriage Story* will perforate your heart and leave you with an uneasy feeling of devastation when it ends. You will cry, you will laugh, and you will cry some more.”

In 2019, there is an interview held by The Atlantic with a couple of therapists about the “*Marriage Story*” movie. Ashley Fetters, the writer of the article told the reader about the result of the interview. Ian Kerner, one source, said that the movie was complex but also funny because it wanted to go to work, he had worked with.

Dian Fahlenafitri (2020) in her thesis entitled “*A Conversation Analysis of Turn-Taking Strategies Used in Marriage Story Movie*” focused on the linguistic aspects. She talks about the kinds of turn-taking strategies in the movie. She also mentions the functions of conversational turn-taking strategies. The subjects she used are the two main characters in the movie, the married couple. The project’s writer will focus on the intrinsic aspects, especially those aspects that did not appear in Fitri’s thesis.

From an article as the result of a film discussion online seminar held by FISIPOL UGM (2020) entitled “Analyzing Youth’s Struggle to Maintain Relationship through ‘Marriage Story’ Movie”, it was said that the movie is a

modern young couple love journey. The dynamics of the marriage respond to anxieties and experiences about failed relationships.

Recently, Yosephina Swecandari Wake (2021) posts a journal article entitled “Psychological Analysis of Nicole Barber in Dealing with Conflict in ‘*Marriage Story*’ Movie”, which seems similar to this thesis. Fortunately, the writer of this thesis can find some stronger parts of the analysis. For example, Wake’s journal only analyses Nicole Barber’s psychology, meanwhile, the writer will analyze both from the married couple. Besides, the writer will include a shot from the movie to make the analysis better from Wake’s recent article.

A thesis from mid-year 2021 comes from Anggia Aviariana entitled “*A Study of Illocutionary Acts in ‘Marriage Story’ Movie Script*”. From the title, it can be concluded that Anggia uses the script from the “*Marriage Story*” movie. Her focus is based on linguistics, which is the acts of speech.

The next one is an essay analysis, cited from Ivy Panda (2022). This essay is about a movie summary and tells the reader about the main topic. They said that *Marriage Story* (2019) stands out for its skill and bravery in avoiding cheap playacting in favour of a more painful truth about most divorces: The dissolution of a relationship, and the ongoing emotional trauma can be just as horrific as a breakup itself.

The latest is a thesis that the writer found from Nurafni Jainuri Hayati, entitled “*The Reflection of Defence Mechanism on Nicole’s Character in ‘Marriage Story’ Movie Script by Noah Baumbach*” (2022). Nurafni focuses on linguistics, which uses the defense mechanism theory. Meanwhile, the writer of this thesis is

focusing on literature, not related to linguistics, and that is what differentiates between the writer's thesis and Nurafni's thesis.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The object that will be taken is a movie entitled *Marriage Story* by Noah Baumbach. The scope of this study is to analyze the internal conflict and external conflict which happens between the main male character and the main female character. To complete the intrinsic aspect, this study analyzes each character to support the main topic using William Kenney's book "*How to Analyze Fiction*" for the conflict theory, while for supporting the conflict analysis, the writer using human motivation theory from Karl S. Bernhardt, from his book entitled "*Practical Psychology*" (1953).

#### **1.6 Writing Organization**

CHAPTER I	INTRODUCTION
	The first chapter consists of the study's background, research problems, objective of the study, previous studies, the scope of the study, and writing organization.
CHAPTER II	THEORY AND METHOD
	The second chapter explains the theory and method that are used to analyze the movie.
CHAPTER III	DATA ANALYSIS
	The third chapter is a discussion based on the second chapter. It contains the analysis of two main aspects, the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the movie.
CHAPTER IV	CONCLUSION

The fourth chapter contains the summary of the whole analysis in the previous chapter.

## REFERENCES