

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Shape of Water (2017) movie script tells the story of a woman named Elisa who had been unable to speak since she was a baby. Elisa usually interacted with her friends, Giles and Zelda. She communicated using sign language daily, so it was difficult for Elisa to convey what she wanted to say. Elisa was delighted when she met a mysterious sea creature that was being detained at her workplace, and it could understand her. Therefore, she tried hard to free the sea creature by using sign language to explain the situation to the people around her that the creature should not be detained. Unfortunately, Elisa's journey to free the sea creature was not easy. Elisa's inability to speak frustrated her in convincing people with her sign language.

I chose *The Shape of Water* movie script as the research object because Elisa's character in this story is interesting to discuss. Elisa conveys her words with her eyes, hand movements, and body gestures. The narration plays an important role because Elisa's personality can be seen through the narration and the dialogue of other characters towards Elisa. Everything that Elisa did was explained through how the clauses described Elisa's actions and thoughts as well as the actions, words, and thoughts of other characters towards Elisa. Therefore, this study examined Elisa's characterization in *The Shape of Water* movie script

with transitivity system because characterization can be analyzed using transitivity system developed by Halliday and Matthiessen (2004).

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background that has been described, several thoughts were found that can lead to research questions as mentioned below:

1. What are the transitivity processes presented that refer to Elisa's characterization in *The Shape of Water* movie script??
2. How can the clauses that appear help characterize Elisa in *The Shape of Water* movie script based on the transitivity system?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study aims to determine the types of transitivity processes presented that refer to Elisa's characterization in *The Shape of Water* movie script. The second objective is to examine how the clauses that appear can help characterize Elisa in *The Shape of Water* movie script using the transitivity system.

1.4 Previous Studies

In this study, I have found several previous studies. Four studies that I found related to the first research question in this study, namely focusing on the analysis of transitivity processes that appear to reveal characterization. The studies also used movie and movie script as the objects of the research. The first study is *Transitivity Analysis: Circumstantial Elements Uttered by Main Character in Malcolm X Movie Script* (Madya, 2021). The author found that the most dominant

circumstantial in this movie script is circumstantial location, while the type of process most commonly found in the circumstantial is a material process. Sihura (2019) in *Transitivity Process in Frozen Movie: A Study of Systemic Functional Grammar*, also focused on the processes originating from utterances in the dialogue text between characters in the film transcript. Nurhayati (2016) in *A Transitivity Analysis on the Animation Movie Dialogue of Big Hero 6 Directed by Don Hall and Chris Williams*, discussed the type of processes in the movie, the most dominant participant and circumstances. I also found a study namely, *A Self-Characterization of Beatrice Prior in Divergent: A Study of Transitivity Using Corpus Linguistics*, (Elsa, 2019). This study focused on Beatrice's character as an active and passive participant and discussed the most dominant process using corpus linguistics method.

I also found several previous studies related to the second research question in this study, which reveals how clauses are used to characterize. The studies used movie script, movie, novel, and fables as the objects of the research. The first study is *A Transitivity Study of Utterances and Narratives Revealing Tai Lung's Characterization in Kung Fu Panda I (2008) Movie Script*. Lubabah (2023) discussed the clauses to study character's characterization, relationship and the influence on the other characters using transitivity system. Then, *A Systemic Functional Analysis on the Generic Structure in The King's Speech Movie Script* (Pramono et al., 2013) focused on using clauses in the dialogue text to find the relationship between language and its meaning using transitivity processes that appeared. *Transitivity Analysis in Jonathan Murray Chu's Movie Crazy Rich*

Asians (Istriningsih & Ekawati, 2021) elaborated on the use of transitivity processes and their effectiveness in explaining the words used by the characters in the movie. Dilla (2022) in *Comparing Mary and Colin Characters in The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett Using Transitivity Analysis*, focused on the characterization of the two characters and the factors behind their different characters based on transitivity process that appeared. The last study is *Identifying the Characters of Lion and Fox in the Aesop's Fables Using Transitivity System* (Kusuma Putri & Nirmala, 2021). This research focused on analyzing the types of transitivity processes that is used to identify the characters of the Lion and Fox in the fable.

Then, I found three previous studies that used the same object as this study, namely *The Shape of Water* movie, but those studies used different approaches. The first study is *An Analysis of Sign Language Features Used by Eliza in The Shape of Water Film* (Surahman et al., 2023). This study found that Eliza uses features of American Sign Language (ASL) and non-manual features such as facial expressions to emphasize her feelings, whether happy, sad, or angry, which can be used to find out how Eliza's characterization is. *Figurative Language in The Shape of Water movie* (Fadilah & Nurhayati, 2024) described the various figurative languages used to convey the meanings in *The Shape of Water* movie. Then, a study on the *Psychological Condition of Richard Strickland in The Shape of Water* (Adji & Bilbargoya, 2018). This study referred to the discovery of factors that cause Strickland to become a bad person full of hatred. *The Shape of Water* has been studied by previous researchers, but none of them

focused on characterization using transitivity. Based on the previous studies that I have mentioned, I found a gap in this study, namely that transitivity analysis has never been applied to study Elisa in *The Shape of Water*. That is also one of the reasons that prompted me to have research on Elisa's characterization using transitivity system in *The Shape of Water* movie script.

1.5 Scope of the Study

As mentioned above, this study analyzed how Elisa's characterization is in *The Shape of Water* movie. There are many characters in this movie, but in this study, I only discussed Elisa's characterization as the main character in *The Shape of Water*. Then, the scope of data in *The Shape of Water* movie used in this study will be limited only to the clauses that refer to Elisa's characterization.

1.6 Writing Organization

This study is divided into four chapters with a breakdown of the explanation as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, purpose of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter explains about transitivity system in Systemic Functional Linguistics and narrative stylistics. It also explains the type of research, data, population,

sample, sampling technique, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter contains the analysis results presented in table form, an explanation of the types of transitivity processes presented that refer to Elisa's characterization, and an explanation of how did the clauses that appear can help characterize Elisa in *The Shape of Water* movie script based on the transitivity system.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the conclusions from the results of the analysis and discussion.