

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Humans are social beings, which means that they need other people to survive in this world. Humans cannot live by themselves; they live together with each other and construct a society. In a society, humans will also interact with each other, and this kind of human interaction can be a simple thing such as talking with each other. However, this social interaction may also affect the behavior of each individual. Human interactions can influence an individual's personality and behavior; perhaps this interaction also causes psychological problems, depending on the condition of the social interaction a human is involved.

Humans diagnosed with a psychological problem may act differently from those who have a normal psychological condition. They can be emotionally unstable, causing them to have the tendency to blame other people, perhaps harming others in their process. There are also some exceptions for people with a psychological condition that can cause them to hide their true personality. A hidden personality condition may be much more dangerous because they seem to act normal, but their true nature could endanger them to the level that they can hurt and kill someone without remorse (Hervey, 1988: 16). Humans cannot be judged just from their appearance because appearance can be deceiving.

According to American Psychological Association, these psychological conditions can be categorized into how the subject acts. This includes antisocial personality disorder, which can be diagnosed by a subject, pattern of violating the rights of others (2013: 659). This personality disorder can also be referred to as

psychopathy, sociopathy, and dissocial personality disorder. In this research, sociopaths will be the main interest that be explained further.

According to Coleman, sociopaths are known to be intelligent, spontaneous, and well-liked during the first acquaintance. However, they disregard the happiness of others, thus making their actions reasonable to themselves (1986: 362). This statement defines the characteristics of a person diagnosed as a sociopath. A sociopath will try to be sociable and intelligent, show attention to others, and be well-likable in front of others. However, this act of kindness is to justify their true actions to achieve their own goals.

The issues that have been mentioned above are also found in *The Irishman*. *The Irishman* is a 2019 epic crime film directed by Martin Scorsese and written by Steven Zaillian. *The Irishman* is the story of Frank Sheeran, an ex-US Army soldier and a meat truck driver who turns into a hitman of the Bufalino crime family. The topic focuses on the sociopathic behavior developed by Frank Sheeran as he joins the Bufalino crime family. The movie is a journey of how Frank started as he stole his truck cargo and was accused of theft by his company, eventually saved by lawyer, Bill Bufalino, the brother of Russell Bufalino, an Italian-American crime family boss. Frank's joining the mob family made him choose a distorted way of life and develop sociopathic behavior, as his actions are being controlled by his crime family.

In this analysis, this study describes Frank Sheeran's Sociopathic personality disorder by analysing his actions in the movie that correlate to the Sociopathic

personality disorder criteria. The study also focuses on the effect of his Sociopathic personality disorder, which is shown in *The Irishman* movie.

1.2. Research Problems

The research problem that is discussed in the analysis of *The Irishman* movie consists of two problems:

1. What are the characteristics of Frank Sheeran's sociopathic behavior?
2. What is the effect of the sociopathic behavior of Frank Sheeran?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study of this movie *The Irishman* will be focusing on two purposes that consist of:

1. Analyzing the characteristics of Frank Sheeran's sociopathic behavior.
2. Analyzing the effects of Frank Sheeran's sociopathic behavior.

1.4. Previous Study

There have been several research that has been done with *The Irishman* (2019). There are five studies using *The Irishman* as their object of study. The first previous study is a thesis by Muhammad Ulul Albab, Entitled *Power Relation and Negative Politeness in The Irishman Movie*. This thesis discusses the negative politeness strategies of the main characters using a theory of politeness strategies by Brown and Levinson.

The second study is a thesis by Putri Isnaini Afifa entitled *An Analysis of Taboo Words and Translation Technique used in The Irishman*. This thesis explains the translation technique of profanity used in *The Irishman* movie and how it correlates with the character's emotions in the movie.

The third study is an essay by Patrick McGee entitled *Killing History: On Scorsese's The Irishman*. This article focuses on Martin Scorsese as the director of *The Irishman* and explains cinematographic elements used in the productions of *Irishman*. There are also some mentions of the ideology of Martin Scorsese in creating the characteristics that appear in *The Irishman* portrayed by actors.

The fourth study is an essay by Theo Zenou entitled *And Unto Dust We Shall Return: On Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman"*. This essay focuses on the mortality aspect of the character Frank Sheeran. This essay views Frank's journey in life as a journey towards an empty goal.

The fifth study is an article that uses *The Irishman* as their object of study. The article discusses the value of the film *The Irishman*. Colin Fitzgerald in February 2021 conducted research entitled *The Irishman* and the gangster's reimagined soul. In the study, he describes the gangster element representation in *The Irishman*.

The studies mentioned above do have a contrast from the analysis of *The Irishman* in this thesis. This study focuses on the psychological aspect of sociopathic behavior by using the theory of sociopathic personality disorder by the American Psychiatric Association to discover Frank Sheeran's sociopath characteristics and effects in Martin Scorsese's film *The Irishman*. Therefore, it can be concluded that the analysis has no similar topics to the previous studies mentioned above.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the movie. The intrinsic aspects of the study consist of character, setting, and conflict, which will be correlated to the cinematographic elements such as camera angles and sound based on the theory of Brodwell and Thompson. This study also focuses on the Sociopathic personality disorder theory by the American Psychological Association. The result of this study determines the characteristics of a sociopath and the effect of this personality behavior.

1.6. Organization of the Study

The organization of the study of this analysis will be categorized into four chapters.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on several sub-chapters they are the background of the study, research problems, objective of the study, previous study, scope of the study, and organization of the study.

CHAPTER 2 THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter explains the type of theories and methods used for the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements aspects of the movie.

CHAPTER 3 DISCUSSION

This chapter describes the analysis of narrative elements. This intrinsic and extrinsic elements analysis uses the theories and methods described in Chapter 2. This chapter will focus on the sociopath characteristics of Frank Sheeran and the effect of his sociopathic personality.

CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION

This chapter is a summary of the previous chapters discussed in this analysis.