CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the study's background, research problems, research objectives, previous studies, study scope, study significance, and writing organization.

1.1 Background of the Study

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (2022) is a film directed by Sam Raimi, as part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), which is a highly anticipated Marvel Studios film that has received a lot of attention. A thrilling ride across the multiverse, the film stars Doctor Strange, his trusted partner Wong, Wanda Maximoff as the Scarlet Witch, and America Chavez. The film features Doctor Strange, who crosses dangers through America's power to the other multiverse, which is another version of interconnected different universes filled with multiple versions of the same person. Here, Wanda Maximoff plays an important role, presenting a compelling question about the transformation of her character.

The primary female villain in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* is Wanda Maximoff, who fights to stay alive despite the difficult situations she faces while hoping for her fictional family (Jiwa & Winarta, 2023). As a villain, Wanda has amazing powers and is unbeatable. She will use clever offers, trickery, and even murder another person to bring down everyone who stands in the way of achieving her goals (Ermawati, 2023). In the film, Wanda

always justifies these dangerous actions by stating who she is. Here, Wanda's utterances show the way she views herself as a loving mother suffering with grief, yet other characters see her to be a dangerous, unstable force known as the Scarlet Witch. This conflict happens when she tries to tell her story using her own motivations and emotional truths, while others reject or decline that story. As a result, while Wanda repeatedly claims her identity, other characters commonly reject her claim.

Characters such as Doctor Strange, Wong, and America Chavez challenge her with real facts about her choices, showing that her children do not exist in her universe and that her efforts to reach them result in the loss of innocent people. It shows that Wanda's formed self-identity is mistaken since it supports morally damaging actions under the cover of maternal love. This is how the study found the film intriguing due to Wanda Maximoff's compelling character; she always stands out by claiming behind her actions was her presence as a mother of her children, Tommy and Billy. As a result, these points show how the character views themselves and how they would like to be seen by others.

In addition, some researchers have analyzed Wanda Maximoff's character, such as Wanda's darker aspects as the Scarlet Witch (Fitrania, 2024), Wanda's portrayal through psychological analysis (Jiwa & Winarta, 2023), analysis of Wanda's utterances through illocutionary and perlocutionary acts (Ermawati, 2023), and other studies. However, no studies discuss Wanda's character through a transitivity framework, especially in analyzing the self-identity of her character in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022). The use of

transitivity analysis is to identify the gap in the study of Wanda's self-identity representation, shown by the selection of her utterances in this film. Additionally, the study focused on the type of process to figure out the way Wanda constructs her self-identity through her utterances. This transitivity analysis shows such positions not just in what she says but also in the way she uses language to define perception. Therefore, the study gives additional insight into how she formed her identity by identifying the language choices that influence this self-identity. Moreover, this study will present Wanda's personality in terms of her desires, feelings, and what she wants.

1.2 Research Problems

The research problem of this study is the way Wanda Maximoff constructed self-identity through her utterances in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022). The research questions raised in this study are as follows:

1. How can Wanda Maximoff's self-identity character be described using transitivity analysis through her utterances in the film?

2. What are the factors influencing Wanda Maximoff to construct her self-identity character in the film?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are to show the kinds of self-identity that are constructed by Wanda Maximoff's character through various types of transitivity processes found in her utterances in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of*

Madness (2022). The study also shows the factors that influence Wanda's character to construct her self-identity reflected throughout the film.

1.4   Previous Studies

Several previous studies have been used by researchers related to the current study. The study found three previous studies related to the focus on Wanda Maximoff's character. The study conducted by Jiwa & Winarta (2023) analyzed Wanda's psychological aspects as the film's primary female villain character in *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*. The findings show that Wanda is portrayed as the female villain, but despite her amazing powers as the Scarlet Witch, she still has basic human needs and desires. The study used Benhardt's theory (1953) to show how Wanda's personality reflects her psychological need for connection, love, and fulfillment from her children. Furthermore, the Darkhold impact brings complexity to her character, showing between power and responsibilities of a mother with the depths she is willing to go for happiness and belonging. Also, Fitrania's (2024) study focused on Wanda's darker aspects as the Scarlet Witch to analyze her shadow archetype in the *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* film script. The study found that Wanda's shadow is formed by her inner desires and need for justice, as well as the effect of a dark spell book called Darkhold that amplifies her self-focused desire through nightmares. The result shows that these nightmares caused Wanda's shadow archetype and have a big influence on Wanda's surroundings, where she murders a lot of people, and takes her own life in the end, as her evil side takes control. Another previous study by Fauziah and Mustofa (2022) that focused on Wanda's

character concentrated on her mental state after losing her beloved Vision and her children in the *WandaVision* series. The study used Elisabeth Kubler-Ross's five stages of grief, such as denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance, to explore Wanda's grieving process. Furthermore, Wanda's creation of the imagined world of Westview was considered the expression of her unconscious wants using Lacan's theory, particularly the mirror stage and the idea of the imaginary. The study found that Wanda's deep sorrow caused her to reject Vision's death and create a perfect future in which she could live with him and her imagined kids. Although these three previous studies gave insight into Wanda's character, none of them focused on her self-identity as the current study's focus.

In contrast to their focus on Wanda's character, the earlier researchers also took a different method to the analysis of the character's utterances. For example, using Grice's cooperation principle, Aviaty (2021) analyzed the main character's utterances in the novel "The Adventure of Huckleberry Finn." According to the study, violations were the most common type of main character, with quality maxims in the second. Similarly, Fardani and Nirmala (2021) analyzed the directive speech acts used in Jennifer Niven's novel "All the Bright Places" by concentrating on its characterization of the main character (Theodore Finch). According to the study's findings, the speech acts used by the character show brave, adventurous, and kind characteristics. These previous studies share a similar focus in their analysis of the character using utterances, but the current study differs in its focus on the type of transitivity process used to explore Wanda's character.

Additionally, there have been previous studies that applied the role of the transitivity type of process in exploring characters. The study conducted by Nugraha and Mahdi (2020) applied the transitivity system of the Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) to analyze the character, Mr. Summers, in Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery." The study found verbal process to be the most common approach, as the important verbiage of his character. Using this type of process, the study looks at the character of Mr. Summers as a complex character who raises social and cultural concerns. Also, Rauf (2021) used Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) of transitivity to analyze the character Mariam in the novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns". The study found that most of her mental processes showed Mariam's rational thinking and mental capacities had been impaired. The study also highlights Mariam's transformation from a helpless individual to a strong and independent one. Using material and verbal processes, the study concluded that the main character's murder of Rasheed is the outcome of rational thought, motivated by her wish to escape the lifetime afflictions of patriarchy. Similarly, Amjad & Hashmi (2023) studied the character development of Mr. Bhutto in the first chapter of the book "The Mercurial Mr. Bhutto and Other Stories" using transitivity. Halliday's transitivity is used to identify the characterization of Mr. Bhutto from his actions and performative characteristics using material processes. The study found that Mr. Bhutto is an authoritative character and connects his personality to social elements, particularly politics. Moreover, Shahzadi, Sultana, and Bhatti (2022) applied transitivity to analyze the protagonist's identity change in the short story "Bingo," which is set in Dhaka Fall

in 1971. Using Halliday's transitivity theory (1986), the study finds how the shift changed because of his experiences during the conflict in 1971 through the material process. Through mental rather than material and relational processes, the study concluded that the conflict had significant effects on his shifted character. Likewise, Nurhayati (2018) applied the transitivity theory for the study's analysis of "I Stand Here Ironing" to figure out the characters. The study found that they constructed the main character's actions using material processes, showed the character's emotions and attitudes using mental processes, and defined the characters using relational processes. The study's analysis concluded that such characterization aims to criticize patriarchal dominance in America at the time.

In different ways, these previous studies show their analysis of characterization from a narrative point of view. However, the current study fills that gap by analyzing characterization from the character's point of view to construct self-identity through the selection of the character's utterances using transitivity. The current study focuses on how Wanda Maximoff's character constructed her self-identity, especially in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022).

1.5   Scope of the Study

The study focuses on Wanda Maximoff's character in the film *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022) using a transitivity analysis. The research looks at the dialogue in the film, concentrating on how Wanda's utterances reflect deeper aspects of self-identity. These utterances are analyzed to uncover her self-identity, which shows psychological problems as well as her

responsibilities. In addition, the research offers insights into how character and identity are linguistically represented in the film.

1.6   Significance of the Study

The study gives a deeper understanding of how transitivity analysis can be used as a linguistic tool in exploring the construction of self-identity in the characters of the film, with a specific focus on Wanda Maximoff's character in *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* (2022). It can be used as a reference by scholars, students, and film analysts who use transitivity analysis to explore characters in the film. Furthermore, the study offers an understanding of how utterances might be analyzed to show and create character identities.

1.7   Writing Organization

The following writing structure was used to divide this study into four chapters:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter will cover the study's background, research questions, research objectives, previous studies, study scope, study significance, and writing structure.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND METHOD

The chapter covers the theoretical framework for analysis, such as transitivity theory and research methods, including data, data sources, population,

sample, methods of collection and analyzing the data.

CHAPTER III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter will go over the findings from the analysis that was fulfilled.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter covers the study's conclusion and summary.