

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The American dream has long been a fascinating ideology in America. American writer and historian, James Adams Truslow came up with the idea for the first time in the 1931 book *Epic of America*. Broadly speaking the American dream is an idea in which every American has the right to realize their aspirations regardless of individual privileges. The American dream itself includes many dream concepts such as economic prosperity, social equality, personal happiness and fulfillment, and entrepreneurship and innovation. (Adams, 1931; Steinbeck, 1939; Luther Jr, 1963).

Unfortunately, until now the American dream is still seen as an ideology that is very difficult to realize in America. This is proven by the many cases in America where many people have difficulty realizing their dreams, especially with social issues such as racism, discrimination, and social caste differences. (Cullen, 2003:148). Therefore, the American Dream is an interesting issue that is still often discussed about its existence in several fields. One of the fields that sometimes even makes the American Dream one of the topics discussed is film art.

Film has attempted to convey complex issues as a popular representation of social culture's development (Curran and Morley, 2005:23). This work of art is

shaped by cultural and social adaptation, and it learns more about what people like. Last but not least, films are regarded as effective means of communicating social and cultural issues to society. One of movie art which reflects the American Dream ideology is *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*.

The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) is a one of thread by Sony Pictures starred by Andrew Garfield as a Peter Parker. Peter Parker who is abandoned boy by his parents got treatment from uncle Ben and aunt May. Peter grows becoming a genius boy in high school but on the other hand he is considered as weird boy and getting bullied by his schoolmate. His life totally changes when he has to be bitten by a super spider. Even though it is superhero, action movie, but *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* brings up the American Dream in their movie as a implicit theme in how Peter Parker brings into reality about his big dreams either as Spiderman or Peter Parker himself.

Even though it is not visible, the writer believes that the American Dream is one of the issues discussed in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* although it is implicitly. The American Dream in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* appears in several scenes of Peter Parker's life when he realizes his dream even though this is something that is not easy to achieve. So, in this article the writer tries to prove the reflection of American Dream's existence that occurs in this movie. In this research, the writer tries to find and analyze the reflection of American Dreams that portray in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* especially on the main character's perspective that is Peter Parker.

1.2. Research Problems

There are several problems in this research such as:

1. How are the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects depicted in the movie?
2. What reflections of the American Dreams are depicted in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*?
3. How does Peter Parker try to bring his American Dreams into reality in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*?

1.3. Objectives of The Study

Objectives of the study on this research are:

1. Finding out the intrinsic and extrinsic elements that play a major role in the development of the American Dream in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*;
2. Analyzing and explaining American Dream reflected in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*;
3. Analyzing how does Peter Parker brings his American Dreams into reality.

The writer also aims to give a contribution in the form of knowledge of American dream and how it is portrayed in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*.

1.4. Previous Studies

There are several previous studies gathered from many journal articles and having a relation about Superhero, Spider-Man, and American Dream. The previous study as following:

Miles Orwell (1994) with *Documentary Film and the Power of Interrogation: "American Dream" & "Roger and Me"* discuss the existence and the role of American Dream on documentary film by Barbara Kopple. He argues that the American dream in a film is built in such a way as to get comfortable and interesting impressions from the audience, all sympathizing film maker, expectations that have been part of the documentary mode since its inception in the late 19th century. But it should also be noted that there is no "happy ending" in the American dream

Callahan, John F. (1996) in *F. Scott Fitzgerald's Evolving American Dream: The "Pursuit of Happiness" in Gatsby, Tender Is the Night, and The Last Tycoon* discusses the American Dream in terms of life independence. He said that Fitzgerald does for the American dream what every serious novel, according to Ralph Ellison, does for the art of writing fiction. The work broadens the range of concepts and phenomena associated with the dream, even as a fragment. Fitzgerald told his version of a dream that was both hauntingly personal and national. The novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald serve as reminders that things are not always as simple as people believe.

Michael Ahmed (2012) on *Captain America, Watergate, and the Falcon: Rediscovering the American Dream?* argues that Captain America is felt to be an important figure as one of the characters who has succeeded in reflecting the meaning of the American dream with his relationship with Falcon as a superhero who has an African-American background. He embodied freedom, liberty and the forces of good, as defined by the American dream. The character and traits

addressed to Falcon are an important step in recognizing black figures in America as important figures during political crises and social upheavals.

From previous researches that relate to the reflection of American Dream in movie, the author expects the presence of this article is able to become new insight for readers in interpreting the reflection of American dream that depicted in the super-hero character that is Peter Parker as himself and Spider-Man in *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*.

1.5. Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer restricts the analysis of specific intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)*. The intrinsic elements deal with narrative elements like theme, character, and plot, as well as cinematic elements. While the analysis and explanation of Peter Parker's hopes and struggles to realize them from the perspective of the American Dream will be included in the extrinsic elements.

1.6. Research Method

1.6.1. Method of Data Collection

The scripts, dialogues, scenes, and symbols in *The Amazing Spider-Man* are used as data in this research. *The Amazing Spider-Man* is a main source to analyze the data mentioned in this research. The data in this research is collected by using library research. Finding and recognizing sources that provide personal/expert opinions or factual information about researchers is an essential part of library research (George, 2018:6). The Library Research method is carried

out by reading, studying, and analyzing various existing literature. In this research, the application of library research is used in watching, understanding, analyzing, and reading several literary sources related to film, especially *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* and American dream's perspective.

1.6.2. Method of Approach

The objective approach is used to analyze intrinsic aspects. An objective approach is a technique that analyzes a literary work genuinely as literary work. It can be concluded that the objective approach has no relation to the author's point of view. The intrinsic aspects consist of theme, character, conflict, plot, and setting according to Abram's theories. Meanwhile, to analyze the extrinsic element that consists of the reflection of American Dream in *The Amazing Spider-Man* and How does Peter Parker achieve it, the author uses American Dream's concepts that have been explained in the next chapter.

1.7. Writing Organization

Chapter I Introduction

The Introduction has six sub-chapters. Background of the study, research questions, objective of the study, previous studies, study scope, and writing structure are all included.

Chapter II Theoretical Framework

This chapter explain theories used to inspect *The Amazing Spider-Man (2012)* in this research.

Chapter III **Discussion**

This research's main topic is discussion. The analysis and explanation of The Amazing Spider-Man's intrinsic and extrinsic elements are provided in this chapter.

Chapter IV **Conclusion**

The study's conclusion and the discussion chapter's summary are included in this section.

References