

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The words *American Dream* firstly introduced by James Truslow Adams in 1931 in his book entitled "Epic of America". The American Dream was also included in Declaration of Independence, which declares that "all men are created equal" with the right of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". In 1931, Adams tried to understand of the crisis of the Great Depression, which was both an economic and political crisis. Because of the authoritarianism in the Europe has been arise, many Americans were concerned that similar ruthless energies and wants to support with spirit of American Dreams. Adams thought that America had lost its way with respecting the success above all other values. He said that not only it had started to treat money as a value, but also as a tool to produce and even measure value.

According to Adams (1931:404), American Dream is the belief that anyone, no matter where they were born or what classes they were in, can achieve their own success in society. Each man and woman can achieve their own freedom and objectives in life no matter who they are and where they live. American Dream is the kind of patriotism of the United States of America. All people have their opportunity to be successful in their life, as well as develop the social mobility for the family and the children through hard work in society with amounts of barriers. The spirit of American Dream was also

reflected in the Declaration of Independent. The spirit of American Dream encourages people to achieve their glory especially in the terms of individual context. One of the spirits of American Dream is more or less reflected in the *Top Gun: Maverick*. In the film, Maverick is eager to complete his and his team's mission to protect the world from the attack of one of the biggest countries who is planting a nuclear and it could be launched to the calm blue sky. That nuclear might be exploded up there and harm people and everything. Therefore, the writer wants to research about American Dream aspect in the *Top Gun: Maverick*.

*Top Gun: Maverick* is a movie sequel to its prequel *Top Gun (1986)*. It released on May 27 2022, directed by John Kasinski. *Top Gun: Maverick* is the story about Maverick after 30 years since the story of the first movie. In this sequel, Maverick is sent back to United States Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program (a.k.a U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School – TOP GUN), where he must confront his past to trains amounts of best pilot in the world, included the son of Maverick's late best friend Goose, called Rooster. At some points after testing the supersonic jet's Mach 10, Rear Admiral said that Maverick will be send back to *TOP GUN* to trains the young best pilots in the world to take a very dangerous mission (also called the suicide mission), even the best pilot has never been or seen the kind of mission. The mission is a bombing mission of the foreign country's unsanctioned uranium enrichment plant. This plant is against the NATO agreement and it will be dangerous for them. They have to bombing the plant that is hidden in the middle of the icy mountain which is dangerous for the pilots. The writer wants to study the American Study aspect in this movie is

because the writer interested in the American Dreams in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

Based on the background of the study, the writer decided to answer the following questions:

1. How are the intrinsic aspects in *Top Gun: Maverick* depicted in the terms of American Dream?
2. What American dream characteristics portrayed in Maverick as the main character?
3. How does Maverick achieve the American dream in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie?

## **1.3 Aims of the Study**

The focus of the study is describing the aspects of American Dreams portrayed in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie. By studying the focus of the study, the writer hopes this study to help the reader to:

1. To describe how intrinsic aspects in the terms of American dream are depicted in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie
2. To describe the characteristics of American Dreams portrayed in Maverick as the main character.
3. To describe how Maverick achieves the American dream in the movie.

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

This writer focuses on how intrinsic aspects are depicted in the terms of American Dreams in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie, what characteristics of American dream portrayed in Maverick as the main character, and how Maverick achieves it in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie. This research is using the American Dream theory by James Truslow Adams in his book *Epic of America* to analyze the problems which is studied in this research. The writer explains the intrinsic aspects in *Top Gun: Maverick* depicted in the terms of American dream, the American Dream characteristics portrayed in Maverick as the main character, and the way Maverick achieves it in the movie.

#### **1.5 Previous Studies**

The writer has searched some previous study in the repository pages and the internet. Because of this movie is a newcomer, so there are not so many previous studies of this movie. The writer found four journal articles about the movie *Top Gun: Maverick*, two articles about American Dream, and the two others are theses about American Dream. The first journal article comes with the title “The Nostalgia of Copyright: How Performers Make Movies, and Other Sounds of Authorship” from Queen Mary Journal of Intellectual Property which published in 2022. This study discusses about how the character’s actors in the franchise films make it perfect to be called a franchise film. The second is entitled “Maverick and Skunk Works: Representing Aerospace in Popular Culture” written by James M. Walton and Patrick LeBeau both from Lockheed Martin Corp published in 2023.

This journal article discusses about the partnership of Lockheed Martin Skunk Works and Paramount Studios Production Team in developing the *Darkstar* concept to be appeared in the movie as a full-scale test-aircraft. The third is entitled “The Empire Cannot Die: Propaganda and Immortality in *Top Gun: Maverick*” written by Donato Loia, the author from The University of Texas at Austin published in 2022, which discusses about the American propaganda in the movie. The last journal article that the writer found is the “Psyche and Psyched Up: Marketing Maverick” from *Creative Industries Journal*, published in 2022 which discusses about the marketing of *Top Gun: Maverick* movie.

The first article is entitled ”Paths to Prosperity: African Americans in Search of the American Dream” written by Barbara A. Sasso, an English Language Arts teacher at Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, Connecticut, published in 2019 which discusses about how her African American students reach their American Dream by providing the economic data to help them to be used as a tool to step into their futures. The second article is from Suleman Bouti with the title “American Dream in F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby*”, which discusses about the aspects of American Dream is revealed in Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby*. Unfortunately, the writer does not mention the year he wrote the article.

The first thesis that the writer found is from Niklas Lipponen, from Åbo Akademi University – The Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology which is entitled “From American Dream to American Reality – An Analysis of Working-Class Isolation in Bruce Springsteen’s *Nebraska*” published in 2022. This study

analyzes the working-class isolation in Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska* song. The second thesis is entitled "An Analysis of American Dream in Chang-Rae Lee's Dystopian Novel *on Such A Full Sea*", published in 2016 which discusses about the idea of American Dreams and how it manifests in the text of the novel. This thesis is written by Gitami Ayuningdiah from English Language and Literature Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia.

The writer has read all of the previous studies found on the repository pages and from the internet, and none of the study has discuss the American dream characteristics portrayed in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie. Therefore, the writer wants to discuss about the American Dream aspects depicted in *Top Gun: Maverick* by using the main character's conflicts.

## **1.6 Research Methods**

### **1.6.1 Method of Data Collection**

The writer uses library research to find the information and evidence of the problems in this research from any sources. Library research is describing the factual information and expert's opinion for the problem in the research (George 2008:6). While collecting the data, the writer uses two types of data collecting, the primary and secondary data. The primary data is the dialogues that occurred in *Top Gun: Maverick* movie. Meanwhile, the secondary data are books, journal, and articles that are related to the movie and American Dream theory.

### **1.6.2 Methods of Approach**

The writer uses the qualitative-descriptive method to analyze the research. Qualitative method focuses on the social phenomena that occurs in the story and explains it descriptively. This research focuses on the American dream in the character of Maverick as the main character in *Top Gun: Maverick*. Therefore, the writer uses the socio-psychology to studies the American dream in the character of Maverick. The writer also uses the narrative approach to studies the topic.

According to Hogg and Vaughan (2010:6), socio-psychological approach is a method for studying nature of human social behavior. Meanwhile, Cherry (2022) said that socio-phycology method allows the writers to get a better point-of-view in the causes of how people coping with the certain behaviors in social situations. In some occasions, this method is used in the study of human behaviors in social group. In addition, socio-psychology method is used to understand and explain how people's thoughts, feelings, emotion, and behavior are formed between a human being and another.

### **1.7 Organization of the Writing**

**CHAPTER I** The writer explains the background of the study, research problems, scopes of the study, aims of the study, previous studies, research methods, and organization of the writing.

**CHAPTER II** The writer explains the theoretical frameworks used in this research. The theoretical frameworks include of two elements, they are the theory of the material object and the theory of formal object. The theory of material object consists the intrinsic elements of the film. Otherwise, the theory of formal object is the theory that researcher used to study the research which is American Dreams.

**CHAPTER III** The writer analyses the research problems of this research. This chapter contains the data that will be analyzed by the researcher. This chapter describes the intrinsic elements of the film, the American Dreams theory, and the way Maverick achieves the American Dreams in the *Top Gun: Maverick* movie.

**CHAPTER IV** The writer concludes the research in general from the analysis of the intrinsic elements, extrinsic elements, and the problems that is discussed in this research.