

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Wellek and Warren (1963: 22), literature is produced by the imagination of the author. Literature is more than just a collection of facts, it is also much more than a collection of true events which might or might not occur in real life and can build its world as a result of its limitless imagination. A film is also a fictional story, which is a writing-related literature. Aside from that, literature also refers to the story's intrinsic elements, such as storyline, characters, settings, and theme. Character is one of the most vital aspects of a film; without it, there would be no film. The character can also be interpreted as having a character and personality. Characters can be divided into two, major characters and minor characters. Diyanni (2004: 54) said a major character is a character who has an impact, on the story's development and progression. Without this character, the story would unfold differently. In contrast, minor characters play a role by assisting the character.

This study examines the science fiction film *Pacific Rim* from 2013, which was directed by Guillermo del Toro. The story takes place in the distant future when Earth is at war with *Kaiju*, an enormous sea monster that emerged from an inter- dimensional portal at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Humanity joins together to develop the *Jaeger*, a massive humanoid mecha piloted by two pilots linked by a mental link. The plot follows Raleigh Becket, a retired *Jaeger* pilot

who is summoned out of retirement to once again become a *Jaeger* pilot and kill the monster forever after devastatingly losing his brother in a mission which leaves catastrophic trauma for Raleigh. In this study, Raleigh Becket is the main character who must deal with the death of Yancy Becket, his older brother. Through Raleigh's experience, the writer intends to show how Raleigh manages to cope with the loss of a loved one and how the trauma heals.

1.2 Problems of Study

The research problems of this study are as follows:

1. What are the causes and effects of the trauma the main character experiences in Guillermo del Toro's *Pacific Rim*?
2. How does the main character experience the stages of grief in accepting his brother's death in *Pacific Rim*?
3. How does the main character's trauma heal in *Pacific Rim*?

1.3 Objectives of Study

Based on the research questions, the writer determines the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain the cause and effect of the trauma experienced by the main character in Guillermo del Toro's *Pacific Rim*.
2. To analyze how the main character experiences his stages of grief in accepting his brother's death in Guillermo del Toro's *Pacific Rim*
3. To explain how the trauma of the main character is healed in Guillermo del Toro's *Pacific Rim*.

1.4 Previous Study

Numerous studies have been conducted regarding the *Pacific Rim* movie. The writer has identified seven earlier studies that discuss the *Pacific Rim* movie as the subject of their research.

The first is a 2013 article by Anderson titled *Drift Compatibility: "Pacific Rim" and the global hit*. The premise of *drift*, which appears in the movie, is that the two pilots form a psychic relationship that gives them access to each other's memories in addition to allowing them to manage the machine. It helped the film acquire worldwide recognition, make its number-one premiere in China, and rank as the sixth biggest ever for a Hollywood film.

The second is an article journal by Hood titled *Mako Mori and the Gender Politics of Pacific Rim* (2014). The article journal concentrated on the Japanese female character named Mako Mori and how she gave viewers something extraordinary in popular superhero movies: an action heroine who proves that a female character can balance romantic feelings while pursuing completely unrelated goals.

The third is a thesis by Putra titled *The Portrayal of Imperialism in Pacific Rim Movie* (2017), concentrating on how the idea of imperialism is represented in the film based on Johan Galtung's imperialism theory by identifying various frames of scenes. This study discovered that the film exhibits Johan Galtung-style

imperialism, specifically pacification and dominance, in the areas of economy, politics, the military, communication, and culture.

The fourth is a review by Newman (2018), spotlighting how Guillermo del Toro as the *Pacific Rim* director delivers the awesomeness of large-scale 3D devastation of *Kaiju*, the monsters in the movie that also resembles the earlier design of the monsters in *Attack of The Monsters* movie (1969). Newman also explains the diversity of the characters in the *Pacific Rim* movie.

The fifth is an article journal by Uy and William Brown titled *Canceling the Apocalypse: Pacific Rim as Cthulhucinema* (2020), focusing on how *Pacific Rim* can be interpreted as a case study of cthulhucinema. This article discusses how humans desire to stop alien invaders from coming. Uy and Brown depict this as a drift away from mankind as a fixed species and into new, cthulhucenic, and changeable identities and dimensions.

The sixth is a thesis by Khasanah and Dyah Nugrahani titled *Analysis of Subtitle Translation Method in Pacific Rim Movie from English to Indonesian and Its Contribution to Teach Translation* (2021), focusing on examining each utterance in the subtitle in their thesis before categorizing each one based on one of Gottlieb's ten subtitle translation techniques. They later concluded that the dominant subtitle translation method employed in the *Pacific Rim* movie is paraphrasing.

The seventh is a thesis by Pangestu titled *An Analysis of Directive Speech Acts Used by Raleigh as a*

Main Character in Pacific Rim (2021). The point raised regarding Raleigh's directive speech acts emphasizes the quality of dialogue rather than its quantity and portrays Raleigh's speech as a main character in the film. According to the thesis' findings, there are six different categories of directive speech actions used in the *Pacific Rim* film.

The writer discovered a gap in the previous studies that shows there are still few articles that discuss this movie from a psychological perspective, particularly from the standpoint of the main character. The writer therefore researched "*Trauma and Grief of The Male Main Character in Guillermo del Toro's Pacific Rim (2013) Movie Script.*" This study will differ from previous studies in that it uses a different theory. This study will discuss how Raleigh, the main character, deals with his trauma and manages to cope with the loss of a loved one based on the trauma theory by Cathy Caruth and the Five Stages of Grief theory by Elisabeth Kübler-Ross.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing the cause and effect of the trauma of the main character and analyzes how the main character experiences his stages of grief in accepting his brother's death in *Pacific Rim*. The intrinsic elements analyzed include character, characterization, and conflict. While for the extrinsic elements, the writer uses Caruth's theory of trauma to find out the cause and effect of the trauma of the main character, and how the main character copes with his trauma. The writer also uses Kübler-Ross's five stages of grief to analyze how the

main character experiences his stages of grief in accepting his brother's death in the *Pacific Rim*.

1.6 Organization of the Writing

This paper is organized into four chapters as follows:

1. CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the Background of the Study, Research Problems, Objectives of the Study, Previous Studies, Scope of the Study, and Organization of the Writing.

2. CHAPTER II THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter contains the intrinsic theory to describe the main character, and extrinsic theories to explain the trauma experienced by main character, to explain the five stages of grief of the main character, and to explain how the trauma heals.

3. CHAPTER III DISCUSSION

This chapter analyzes the main object of the research. The explanation correlates to both the intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

4. CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter explains the conclusions of the previous chapters above.

BIBLIOGRAPHY