

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Alcoholism can frequently be seen in Hollywood movies. This can lead to the stigma that drinking alcohol is a common habit in American culture. Even so, men are more often shown as having alcohol addictions than women in the majority of movies with alcohol-related issues. Even in today's sophisticated world, however, women who develop alcohol addictions are still stigmatized. (Lansky, 1998: 2). Given the prevalence of alcoholism, it is clear that alcohol has a wide range of damaging consequences, particularly those that affect American culture. This is further backed by Rush and his associates' assertion that alcohol use can result in psychological and behavioral abnormalities (Levine, 1978: 143). Also, because they feel pressured, "social drinkers" will struggle to handle the issues that arise. It occurred in the movie "When a Man Loves a Woman" (1994), since it dealt with the upbringing of an alcoholic woman.

However, The Luis Mandoki movie "When a Man Loves a Woman" (1994), starring Andy Garcia and Meg Ryan, was released on April 29. The whole movie, which has a duration of 126 minutes, entered in second place in American theaters. Also has a worldwide gross income of up to \$119 million. Alice Green, Michael Green (Alice's husband), Alice's daughters (Casey and Jess Green), Amy, and other characters all appear in this movie.

In the movie “When a Man Loves a Woman” (1994), Alice is shown as an alcoholic working woman due to her unstable psychological state. In this movie, the culture of drinking liquor as a method of escape from real-world problems is extremely clearly depicted. In fact, America recognizes this and does not regard it as a taboo subject. The persistence of this culture, on the other hand, has an effect on those who surround the survivors, particularly those who surround Alice, such as her family and friends. However, Alice's friends and family attempted to assist her in breaking her unhealthy habit. Due to her excessive drinking, Alice's role as a wife and mother gradually vanishes. Therefore, big changes occur in the lives of those around them because they have to adapt to a new life. The effects of alcoholism have had a significant impact on Alice's relationship with her environment, especially her husband, Michael Green.

In this study, the writer wants to analyze alcoholism in the film *When A Man Loves A Woman* (1994) because the film depicts the main female character as an alcoholic. On the other hand, the film also clearly shows the effects of alcoholism itself on both the perpetrator and the people around him. The writer is interested in analyzing the topic because cases of alcoholism are one of the problems that cannot be resolved in America. The writer will use one of the theories related to alcoholism by Dr. Benjamin Rush, but to support this, the writer will use an additional theory, namely The Looking-Glass Self theory, which will later be used to examine the influence of people around Alice on her alcohol addiction in the movie “*When A Man*

Loves A Woman” (1994). Therefore, this will help the writer learn more about the impact of alcoholism as one of the "*cultures*" that American society still values.

1.2. Research Problems

There are a few interesting features of the movie “When a Man Loves a Woman” (1994) that could be utilized as research problems. The problems that will be discussed are primarily focused on people around Alice, the main character. The following are the research problems:

1. How are the intrinsic aspects of the movie depicted?
2. How does drinking become a culture where people escape from problems in the context of American society as seen in the movie “When a Man Loves a Woman” (1994)?
3. What are the impacts of Alice’s alcoholism on the people around her in the movie “When a Man Loves a Woman” (1994)?

1.3. Scope of the Study

Limitations in discussion are required so the scope of the problem being discussed does not become extremely broad, making it much easier for others to comprehend. To understand the issues presented, the writer examines the intrinsic elements that are themes, character and characterizations, conflict, and settings. A limitation will be placed by the writer regarding the alcoholism discussion in "When a Man Loves a Woman" (1994). The first one discusses Alice's portrayal as the main character and her alcoholism. The second is that it will analyze how Alice's alcoholism

may impact the people around her. This research avoids a psychological examination of Alice by use two theories, alcoholism from Dr. Benjamin Rush and The Looking-Glass Self theory by Charles Horton Cooley, as a supporting theory.

1.4. Aims of the Study

To finish this research, the writer will conduct some purposes that have to be completed. These are the purposes that will be identified:

1. To analyze how the intrinsic aspects of the movie depicted.
2. To analyze how drinking become a culture where people escape from problems in the context of American society as seen in the movie *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994)
3. To analyze the impact of Alice's alcoholism on the people around her in the movie *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994).

1.5. Previous Studies

In order to support the theory used by the writer, the writer attaches several previous studies that have the same discussion or topic as the writer's. It aims to see an update in the research conducted by the writer, especially on the topic of alcoholism in the character Alice Green in the movie "*When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994)."

The first one is Janet Maslin in her essay "*Review/Film: When a Man Loves a Woman; A Woman Under the Influence*" (1994) writes that while this film is helpful in understanding different cultures in America, it is still not "realistic" for an alcoholic like Alice's character. It could be seen in Alice's

numerous behaviors, particularly during her crisis. Furthermore, she believes that the film "*Clean and Sober*" is still the best picture that addresses the issue of alcoholism. "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" is intriguing to her, but it is insufficient to express to the audience. She also stated that dealing with the effects of alcoholism is difficult.

The next essay, "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" (1994), was written by Peter Travers, who considered this movie to be quite enjoyable to watch. The framing of the two main characters' love tale, combined with the melodrama genre, is quite fascinating. According to him, the two main characters' appearances are deserving of praise. He also claimed that the director of "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" was very insightful in omitting unnecessary scenes that appeared in other movies such as "*The Lost Weekend*" and "*Clean and Sober*." Peter was quick to compliment the scriptwriter for avoiding revealing the source of Alice's addiction.

In her essay "*VIDEO REVIEW: When a Man Loves a Woman*" (2014), Pamella K. Metz stated that this film "breaks the notion that an alcoholic is usually a man, old, and desperately poor." She observed that Meg Ryan's character, Alice, was initially a "social drinker," but eventually became an alcoholic. Her concerns are suppressed, and she becomes an addict as a result. "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" presents viewers with new knowledge regarding alcoholism. She also stated that the film provides an image that the child of an alcoholic may not be okay because it causes deep wounds.

Katharine Sperandio said in her thesis entitled "*When a Man Loves a Woman: The Live Experiences of Male Sober Partners in Romantic Relationships with Women Who Struggle with Addiction*" (2019) that relationship vulnerability is linked to the partner's addiction. This can refer to the loss of trust that occurs between them as a result of the addiction habits that their partner has. In addition, the course of a relationship also often occurs in this case. This is due to a change in roles in the relationship when addiction begins to take over their partners' lives, and men have to adjust their ways of communicating with their partners to match the partner's rhythm. Reconstruction of the relationship will also occur simultaneously with the recovery of the partner. On the other hand, a sober man usually finds comfort from other people, such as his family, friends, members of Al-Anon, etc. Social support is certainly very useful for individuals who have addicted partners because, indirectly, their partners cannot provide full emotional support. Lastly, men who are aware of this tend to suffer some consequences because of their partner's addiction. The problems they encounter are usually mental health, finances, and work. These issues are certainly not easy to go through because they see the couple's circumstances, which are sometimes unexpected, so individuals have to be extra patient in dealing with them.

"*There's not much to love*" (2020), Jonah Koslofsky said that Michael's character, played by Andy Garcia, is a monster and acts as a hero. This can certainly be seen from Michael's behavior, who

can't accept the reality that Alice is an alcoholic. The writer felt that Gary's character, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman, was more attractive and praised him openly. As for the two main characters, he criticized the second character quite a lot, especially Michael's character. They also said that the film "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" was not very good and their expectations for the film were disappointed.

The study differs from the other studies due to several aspects. Another study focuses on the psychological and feminist aspects of the main character in the movie "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" (1994). Meanwhile, none of the studies examined "*When a Man Loves a Woman*" (1994) in depth from a social psychological perspective on the people around Alice, including her husband and the people who looked after her two daughters. This undoubtedly has several impacts on Alice's surroundings, and the writer is interested in further exploring this issue. Therefore, by conducting this research, the writer is able to provide the latest information on the subject of alcoholism.

1.6. Research Methods

1.6.1. Data Collection

The writer will use a qualitative method to analyze the data that the writer obtained through library research. The qualitative method is one that is developed through interaction and conversation, allowing for the individual study of knowledge. It occurs as a result of the fact that qualitative approaches investigate not only particular elements, such as

numerical data, but also human behavior and knowledge production; this idea is known as the social construction of reality (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009: 163).

Meanwhile, library research is a very important thing, and it took part in research on the film "When a Man Loves a Woman" (1994) by Luis Mandoki. This is due to the fact that library research will reveal variations in the topics the writer will examine, such as the development of alcoholism, which requires a thorough investigation into the history of alcohol in America. In order to ensure the theory or understanding acquired can be used to issue analysis, the writer will interpret these things by studying them in journals, books, and even articles (Alexander, 1934: 92).

1.6.2. Method of Approach

Based on the background of the study, which demonstrates that there are cases with elements of alcoholism in "When a Man Loves a Woman," directed by Luis Mandoki," the writer uses a social psychology approach to find the impact that alcoholism has on the people around the alcoholic, and the drinking culture is very closely related to American culture as a whole (Cooley, 1964: 184). Therefore, the writer will be used alcoholism by Dr. Benjamin Rush as the main theory, while The Looking-Glass Self theory by Charles Horton Cooley, as a supporting theory. It would be used to analyze the social aspects that appear in the movie.

1.7. Organization of Writing

There are several chapters in this study as the following:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of Background of The Study, Study Problems, Scope of The Study, Aims of The Study, Previous Studies, and Research Methods.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter will explain theories used throughout the study to reach conclusions. The theories are Intrinsic and Extrinsic aspects of literature. Intrinsic aspects including Characteristics, Conflict, Settings, etc. Extrinsic aspects including Alcoholism in America, American Social Norm, and The Looking-Glass Self.

CHAPTER 3: DISCUSSION

The analysis using theories mentioned earlier are discussed in this chapter.

CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer will conclude the analysis that have been conducted in the research.