

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Aside from its function as entertainment purposes, movie could more be seen as a medium to convey authors' certain messages or critiques towards its audience (Abrams, 2016). It is due to one of the characteristics of movie – consisting of extrinsic aspects. It depends on the author's original purposes. This characteristic could be seen inside David Fincher's *Fight Club* (1999) movie which shows psychological problems as its extrinsic aspect.

Fight Club (1999) tells The narrator's story about his journey of finding true identity within himself. Starring Brad Pitt, Edward Norton and Helena Bonham Carter, The narrator (Norton) experiences struggles in defining which true identity that he wants to be. Fighting over Tyler Durden (Pitt) and Marla Singer (Helena) throughout the scenes, he eventually gets enlightenment in finding his true self.

Related to the problems faced by the main character, the writer sees that psychological problems, including multiple personality disorder and dissociative identity disorder, are being depicted throughout the movie. Aside from that, the writer also argues that The narrator's psychological problems could be elaborated and explained more with theory of literature hence the writer wants to analyze The narrator's psychological problems inside David Fincher's *Fight Club* (1999) movie.

1.2 Research Problems

Considering the subject matter and context of the study, The research topic and background revealed certain problems. Researchers will analyze these problems. The problems appear as research questions; they are:

1. What are the intrinsic elements of *Fight Club* movie?
2. What are the forms of those psychological problems shown by the narrator as the main character in terms of multiple personality disorder?
3. How is multiple personality disorder portrayed by the narrator within the movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

As for the objective of this study, the study conducted by the writer is intended to examine the relation between the extrinsic aspects of the movie and the issues faced by the main character of the movie. The objectives are as follows:

1. To analyze the intrinsic elements of *Fight Club* movie
2. To find out and explain the form of Multiple Personality Disorder experienced by the narrator
3. To understand and explain on how multiple personality disorder is portrayed by the narrator in *Fight Club* movie

1.4 Scope of the Study

In order to make the discussion even clear, the writer limits its discussion by analyzing the intrinsic elements which consist of narrative elements and cinematography elements. Aside from that, the writer only applies psychological issues for its extrinsic elements. The psychological issues consist of multiple personality disorder and dissociative identity disorder. In this case, the author discusses the *Fight Club* (1999) movie, directed by David Fincher and produced by 20th Century Fox, which is directly adapted from the 1996 novel by Chuck Palahniuk in which both the novel and the movie explore themes of satire, science fiction, and psychological thriller.

1.5 Previous Studies

There's thesis regarding multiple personalities similar as “An Analysis on *Malcolm River's* Dissociative Identity Disorder in *Identity* Movie Directed by James Mangold” by Abdul Rohim Indra Wibowo (2017) in which the author analyzes the character Malcolm River in *Identity* movie and discussing the cause of split personality and also the forms of personalities in *Identity* movie.

There's also “Multiple Personalities of The Main Character in Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams*” by Fradita Kasturi R(2019). in which the author also analyzes the multiple personalities of the main character in Sidney Sheldon's novel entitled *Tell Me Your Dreams*. The study centers on the multiple personalities of the lead character, the reason for the emergence of the multiple

personalities, their uses, and the connection between dissociative identity disorder and the development of multiple personalities.

A thesis entitled “The Main Character’s Multiple Personality in Daniel Keyes *“The Minds of Billy Milligan”* by Faiqotul Lathifah (2008) is also used. The writer focuses the analysis on several aspects including multiple personality disorder (MPD) as its main content. Aside from that, she also combines it with Jung’s hypothesis of personality.

As for the fourth previous study, the writer also uses Regita Nurul Fitriani’s thesis entitled “Dissociative Identity Disorder of Maria in *Look Down Film*” (2019). The author focuses its analysis by applying several theories and combining it. Some of the theories cover psychoanalysis, psychosexual development, dissociative identity, and defense mechanism theories in analyzing Maria as the main object of the study.

The last previous study takes a look at Aditya Surya Primatama’s thesis entitled “Dissociative Identity Disorder in the Mini-Series *Moon Knight* ”(2022). Instead of choosing one specific movie, the author uses the whole series as the object of the study. Aditya focuses on the dissociative identity disorder (DID)’s cerebral theory to examine the cerebral problems felt by the characters of the movie.

Though the topics covered are nearly similar to this research, the author has not seen the aforementioned analysis on *Fight Club* particularly. Still, the above hypothesis helps the author to examine and clearly communicate the

external characteristics across a great number of sources on this subject approach. Cinematographic techniques help us to investigate both intrinsic and external factors.

1.6 Research Method

Research methods are techniques or processes used to collect data or evidence for analysis, aimed at uncovering information and gaining a deeper understanding of a topic. In this case, the writer employs contextual and descriptive qualitative research methods to analyze the data.

1.6.1 Sources of Data

Data involves information that is created, observed, collected, and generated to validate research findings into two, primary and secondary data. The primary data used in this research is *Fight Club* (1999) movie. In addition, secondary data is in the form of books, journals and articles that follow the topics discussed.

1.6.2 Method of Collecting Data

The writer gathers sources and data for the analysis in this study using library research. "Since most students typically rely on library resources, familiarity with major libraries, catalog systems, and various reference materials is, in many respects, an essential tool for nearly every literature student. (Wellek and Warren, *Theory of Literature* 1984:58)."

Research in a library included data from books, e-books, periodicals, and websites as well as digital and printed media. The writer directly benefited from those reliable and linked sources for his research greatly.

1.6.3 Methods of Analyzing data

Regarding the background of this thesis, the author uses psychological method to examine the dissociative identities disorder of "The narrator" as the principal character of Fight Club. Harsono claims that psychological method is defined as one that psychologically examines human behavior and life events. The technique employs literature as a research item, he notes. (1999:63). A psychological approach, grounded in the theory of dissociative identity disorder, is employed to explore the extrinsic elements, whereas cinematographic techniques are used to analyze both intrinsic and extrinsic dimensions.

1.7 Organization of the Writing

There are five chapters in this study along with certain sub-chapters, which are:

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION.

This chapter comprises six sub-sections, namely: the research background, research problems, objectives, review of related literature, scope of the study, and the structural outline of the thesis..

Chapter 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In the theoretical framework, the author explains the theory utilized including extrinsic and intrinsic components. Intrinsic elements include setting,

subject, conflict, character, and cinematic features. Regarding the external factors, the author investigates the psychological component of the protagonist who has multiple personality disorder (MPD).

Chapter 3: DISCUSSION

This chapter provides a comprehensive analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the work as reflected in *Fight Club* by David Fincher.

Chapter 4: CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of the conclusion of the analysis and makes it into a simple answer of the research problems.