

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As one of the develop countries, USA is a continent with a lot of culture. The writer sees that the film industry, especially in America, is one of the interesting topics to be discussed in this discussion. Along with the development of time, film industry in America is now considered by the world as one of the largest film industries in the world. Based on statistics taken in 2020, the global box office revenue from 2005 to 2020 shows a significant development of box office revenue in America every year except 2020. In 2019, box office revenue was recorded at least 42.3 billion dollars (Statista, 2020) . In addition, based on other sources obtained by the author, the United States ranks first in box office revenue with a total revenue of around 600 billion dollars (The Numbers, 2021). As a country with the highest number of box office revenues and movies compared to other countries, the author is interested in observing one American movie with the title *Gran Turismo (2023)*.

Gran Turismo (2023) is movie directed by Neil Blomkamp, a biographical film that tells about Jann Marden borough's journey through life as a retail employee in Cardiff, Wales. He has expertise in the video game Gran Turismo and wants to be a professional car racer. However, his Steve didn't support his ideals because Jann has too much playing video game which useless for him. One day Jann found out that he was eligible to take part in the GT Academy qualifications, which is a program aimed

at recruiting talented Gran Turismo players and training them to become professional car racer who are ready to compete on real racing tracks. Jann succeeded win the tournament and becoming one of the players invited to take part in training to become a professional car racer. This where Jann's struggle to realize his dream of becoming a professional racer began.

From what the writer observed regarding Gran Turismo (2023) movie, the writer sees that this movie has potential to be studied in depth. In the process of the writer making this film as the object of study of this research the writer find a link between the movie and literary works. When viewed from the definition, a movie is a collection of images that have sound and move. A collection of images that sound and move is able to describe or describe a story (Hornby, 1995: 774)

In connection with the description of the definition of the movie above, the writer sees that American Dream is a problem topic that can be studied from Gran Turismo (2023). The American dream is an ideology in the United States. This concept reflects the belief that individuals have equal opportunities to achieve success and upward mobility, regardless of their social status or background, in the book *The Epic of America*, the term "American Dream" was introduced by historian James Truslow Adams. He described it as the vision of a country where every individual can lead a more prosperous and fulfilling life, with opportunities aligned with their abilities and accomplishments (Adams,1931:404).

The writer aims to examine the movie Gran Turismo directed by Neil Blomkamp, which is based on real events. The film begins with a presentation by Danny Moore,

Nissan's Marketing Director, who proposed an innovative program which was then developed by the Nissan motorsport division team by establishing the GT Academy. Danny recruited Jack Salter, a former racer who turned mechanic to join the GT Academy. Jann Mardenborough, who passed the GT Academy selection, had to undergo a series of tests supervised by Jack Salter. After passing the tests, only five participants will be selected by Nissan in the tournament. Many people doubt the GT Academy program because it is impossible for a gamer becoming a professional racer. Jann's talent and skills are really tested in this test and he must be a winner if he wants to become a professional racer. Based on the description above, the writer, in this discussion try to analyses the reflection of the American dream depicted in the movie.

1.2 Research Problem

According to the previous paragraphs, the writer has made several research problem as follows:

1. What is the characteristics of American Dream reflected in *Gran Turismo* (2023) movie?
2. What is the form of American dream reflected in *Gran Turismo* (2023) movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the characteristics of American Dream reflected in *Gran Turismo* (2023) movie.
2. To describe the form of the American dream reflected in *Gran Turismo* (2023) movie.

1.4 Previous Study

First, study is a journal article by Roger L. Pearson entitled *Gatsby: False Prophet of the American Dream* (1970). Inside his journal article, Pearson discusses the American dream topic which is experienced by the main character of the novel named Jay Gatsby. Instead of discussing both intrinsic and extrinsic elements, Pearson limits its discussion by only examining the American dream as the extrinsic elements of the novel.

Second, the writer uses a final project by Novia Sitorus entitled *The Pursuit of Property : A Reflection of American Dream in Nicholasa Mohr's a Very Special Pet* (2019). Instead of discussing more than one intrinsic elements of the literary work, Novia Sitorus discusses only one element of the intrinsic aspects namely setting. As for the extrinsic aspect, she applies American dream theory.

Third, *The Reflection of Successful American Dream through the Character of Michael Corleone in Mark Winegardner's The godSteve returns* by Dodi Rasyid Saputra (Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2008). Michael, who lives in the mafia world as an American born son and one of the most powerful mafia kingpins, wants to realize his dream of legalizing his business and spreading his influence to gain more power and wealth. Michael's characteristics and hardships are highlighted in this thesis as a representation of the American Dream.

Fourth, Bramanti (2011) in his thesis, — *Paradox American Dream in character Tony Montana in Scarface movie*. He found that there is the correlation between the main characters interactions with the other characters with criminal behaviour he takes,

especially in his pursuit of the American Dream. Moreover, his narrow premises on American Dream lead him to a tragic ending.

Fifth, The last related study is “American Dream as a Tool to exploit the Working Class as Portrayed in the Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2023) by Christi. The analysis focuses on how the American working class survives in the capitalist class division system with their belief in the American Dream. The aim of this study is to discover how the American Dream plays an important role in environment. This analysis used subjective method and focuses on the elements outside the movie storyline. Afterward, those aspects were analysed using a Marxist perspective, particularly on how the American Dream can motivate Walter to take a dangerous yet astonishing journey in order to avoid being fired so as to be able to fulfil the needs of his family. This study concludes that the working class is exploited and they cannot do anything about it except keep doing their job. If they revolt against the ruling class, then they will get fired. Thus, the American Dream a role in conditioning the working class, as the hegemony, the American Dream suppresses the working class voice under the exploitative working circumstance.

While these studies share a focus on the American Dream, this research differs in its approach. Unlike previous studies that focus primarily on literature or a socio-political perspective, this study analyses both the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of *Gran Turismo (2023)*. It examines characterization, setting, conflict, and cinematographic techniques, integrating them with the American Dream theory. Additionally, this study explores a contemporary real-life adaptation, providing a

modern perspective on the American Dream through the journey of Jan Mardenborough in professional motorsports.

1.5 Scope of the Study

For a more complete explanation, the writer limits the research to how Jan Mardenborough as the main character in the *Gran Turismo* 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, includes the study of intrinsic aspects such as character, conflict, and setting will be the fundamental aspects that will be dissected in the following discussion by the writer. The writer explains the characteristics of American Dream reflected in *Gran Turismo* and the way Jan achieves their dream based on form of American Dream in the movie.

1.6 Method of the Study

1.6.1 Data Source

In this research, the author took the data from *Gran Turismo* movie. The duration of the movie is about two hours and fourteen minutes which is directed by Neil Blomkamp.

1.6.2 Research Approach

The objective approach is used to analyse intrinsic aspects and to support the researcher in finding the representation of the American Dream in the film. The objective theory is one of the critical approaches introduced by Robert Stanton in his study of literature. Stanton explains that literature should be analysed based on its

internal elements, such as plot, character, setting, and theme, without relying on external contexts like the author's background or historical conditions (Stanton, 1965: 16). In this approach, the work is treated as an independent creation, and meaning is drawn from the text itself. From the previous statement, the objective approach can be applied to the intrinsic aspects, such as **setting, character, and conflict**. This theory emphasizes how crucial intrinsic elements are in defining a literary work's meaning. As a result, the researcher employs the objective approach to demonstrate how the character's aspirations, struggles, and development represent the spirit of the American Dream.

On the other hand, to analyse the **extrinsic aspect**, particularly how the American Dream is reflected in Jan Mardenborough's characteristics as the protagonist, and how he strives to achieve his version of the dream in *Gran Turismo* (2023)—the researcher uses the **concept of the American Dream** as discussed by James Truslow Adams, which will be elaborated further in the next chapter.

1.6.3 Method of Collection Data

The method of data collection data used in this research is **non-participant observation**, where the researcher does not interfere with the subject but instead observes and analyses it objectively. The data collection process involves the following steps:

1. Downloading the movie *Gran Turismo* (2023) from Netflix.

2. Watching the movie multiple times for a deeper understanding.
3. Identifying and analysing key scenes and dialogues.
4. Selecting significant scenes, underlining important dialogues, and interpreting their meaning.
5. Presenting and explaining the collected data, such as dialogues or screenshots, based on the research objectives, using the theoretical framework of James Truslow Adam's concept of American Dream for extrinsic analysis and objective approach for intrinsic analysis by Robert Stanton

1.6.4 Method of Analyzing Data

This research employs a qualitative method, which generates descriptive data in the form of images and words from observable behaviours (Creswell, 2014: 4). Qualitative research is typically used to examine aspects of human life, including history, behaviour, organizations, and culture.

The researcher applies a descriptive-qualitative method, which aims to understand a phenomenon within its natural social context by emphasizing deep communication and interaction between the researcher and the studied subject (Moleong, 2005: 6). This approach allows for a detailed analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements in *Gran Turismo (2023)*, particularly how Jan Mardenborough's journey reflects the American Dream.

1.7 Writing Organization

In this thesis, the study will be arranged in chapter and sub-chapter as follows:

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter one consists of the background of the study, the research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, method of study and the writing organization.

CHAPTER 2 THEORY AND METHOD

The second chapter discusses the theoretical framework.

CHAPTER 3 DISCUSSION

Chapter three contains a brief explanation of the movie. The brief explanation of the movie contains that are previously mentioned in the second paragraph. It is related to the theories which cover both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie.

CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION

The last chapter contains a summary of the conducted study of the movie.