

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The literature and artistic world produce various things such as poems, novels, short stories, songs, and films. Each artwork has important aspects that make people like the work. In the making of the literary and artwork, the authors should understand the aspects before examining their work. However, the aspects are divided into two, the literary aspects and the artwork aspects. The literary aspect has plot, character and characterization, setting, theme, and moral value. Meanwhile, the external aspects such as psychology, biography, history, and so on. The authors' objective in the making of the literary and artwork is to influence people towards the work where they are interested in learning more about the work. Besides, the authors want the audience to experience themselves as the characters of the story by learning the work. The audience will experience the mood and adrenaline from the plot created by the authors when they have already placed themselves in the role of the character in the work.

Asides from the aspects of the work, the genres of the work are also significant. As people have different preferences of what they want to read, listen to, or watch, the authors should categorize their work to specify their scope. The categorizing of the work is known as the genre of the work. The definition of genre in literature is known as every writing is under the general category (Samanidou, Swengley, & Hilie, 2012). Not only in literature but the genre in the film is also known as a category that defined the movie based on the narrative's elements. It

means that the work's scope is limited, causing it to focus on only a few categories related to the authors' chosen topic or theme. According to Follow (2018), the genre in the movie has more than 50 genres but 20 of them are Action, Adventure, Animation, Biography, Comedy, Crime, Drama, Family, Fantasy, History, Horror, Music, Musical, Mystery, Romance, Sci-Fi, Sport, Thriller, War, and Western.

Although the film industry has various genres, drama is one of the most popular among young people. Nevertheless, many successful movies get appreciation and awards from the media and people in the film industry with genres other than drama. One of the most successful movies of 2018 in the genre of drama is *Love, Simon*. *Love, Simon* was released on March 16, 2018, in the USA (Guillaume, 2018). This movie is about the main character, Simon, who is questioning his sexuality. At first, he denies that he is gay because he grew up in a happy and supportive environment. After that, he enters a high school where things begin to change little by little. Until one morning, he finds out on his school's social media that an anonymous has come out as gay. He decides to tell this anonymous person about his biggest secret since he could relate to the story of this anonymous person. Unfortunately, one of his friends knows his biggest secret and decides to tell everyone about Simon's sexual orientation on their school's social media. Ever since that, Simon feels desperate and afraid that everyone will walk out of his life after knowing he is gay. He is torn decide between denying if he is gay and admitting the truth about his sexual orientation. He spends most of his time trying to make a decision that will affect his future. In the end, he chooses to come out about his sexual preference to his family and friends. From the decision making he

made, it is a good choice because he can live his life freely with his family and friends' support.

Since *Love, Simon* raised the topic of sexual orientation, it becomes an opening eye for the public. Sexual orientation refers to the type of sexual, romantic, physical, and spiritual attraction that a person has for other people, and it is often classified depending on the gender connection between the person and the other to whom they are attracted (Stein, 2012). Not only that, according to Dembroff (2016) sexual orientation refers to a personality trait that determines whether the individuals are attracted to people of the same gender as themselves (homosexual or lesbian), people of the opposite gender (heterosexual or straight), or people of both genders (bisexual). Despite the freedom each individual has to choose their sexual orientation, there are still people who judge others based on their sexual orientation. This judgment impacts the individual's personality and eventually, the decision-making regarding one's sexual orientation (Bernard, 2020).

The movie talks about Simon who is having trouble deciding whether he has to come out as gay or deny the truth if he is gay. Since people tend to see him as a straight boy who has supportive family and friends, and who lives his best life. He also knows that one of his friends at school who comes out as gay gets bullied because of his sexual orientation. This situation correlates with his psychic apparatus (Freudian personality structure) and the decision-making he made. Along with the conflicts and peer pressure, Simon has to face moments where he eventually makes a major decision, which is opening up about his sexual orientation. This inner dynamics of Simon and decision-making becomes the writer's interest in writing this research.

1.2 Problem Statements

Based on the writer's explanation of the study background, the writer composed two research questions to be analyzed further, i.e. .:

- a. What is Simon's coming out decisions in the movie?
- b. What is the interrelation between Simon's coming out decisions and his psychic apparatus interaction?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

From the research the writer does, this writer has goals that are expected to be achieved at the end of the research, i.e.:

- a. Identifying Simon's coming out decisions in the movie.
- b. Identifying the interrelation between Simon's coming out decision and his psychic apparatus interaction.

1.4 Originality and Significance

This paper is the writer's authentic work and made with her knowledge through the library and internet sources. It has been confirmed that the discussion of Simon's major decisions and the interrelation between Simon's major decisions and his id, ego, and superego in *Love, Simon* have not been conducted by other researchers so far. As for the significance, this study contributes to a new discussion about the major decision and its interrelation to the psychic apparatus interaction of the main character of a literary work. Future researchers can develop this discussion by adapting their own research using different literature or characters.

1.5 Limitations of the Study

The scope of this study will be limited to the psychoanalysis of Simon decision-making. The writer will analyze the character's major decisions and the interrelation between the major decisions and his id, ego, and superego that is done by the character with the supported studies and related literature. In this thesis, the writer does not consult with an expert in the field of psychology but instead relies on the available journal article and related literature.

The writer will use the psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud and related journal articles that use Sigmund Freud's theories. The theories that will be used are limited to the Freudian personality structure composed of id, ego, superego; and decision making which based on the triangulation process.

As in literary theory, the writer will discuss character, characterization, plot, theme, and *mise-en-scene*. These theories will be used in this study as supporting tools to analyze the intrinsic elements of the movie before finally analyze based on the psychoanalytic approach to precisely answer the problems stated in the previous subchapter.

1.6 Operational Definition of Key Terms

To make a better understanding for the readers, several key terms need to be explained.

- a. Psychoanalysis theory is about the development of human personality as the result of the three different yet fundamental structures such as id, ego, and superego (Hossain, 2017).

- b. *Mise-en-scene* is everything in front of the camera, including, the set design, actors, and lighting that can be analyzed (Studiobinder, 2020).
- c. Personality structure is the personality composed of three elements known as the id, the ego, and the superego (McLeod, 2021).
- d. Psychic Apparatus is the id, ego, and superego (McLeod, 2018).
- e. Decision-making is the act of deciding to choose one option over another (Brogaard, Marlow, & Rice, 2014).
- f. Coming out is a way to express a conscious rejection of heteronormativity and build connection among homosexual people (Cover & Prosser, 2013).