

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Many people enjoy fictional stories whether in the form of films or novels. A film creates an illusion that what occurs on the screen is an objective recording of events. A film has become part of that extensive cultural system of constructions that represent social reality (Klarer, 2004). A film describes characters who are considered as one of the psychological aspects in the story. Characters give the important roles to make the story in a film more alive (Pope, 2005). They give the story a purpose, a reason for the audience to care what happens in the film. Especially for the main characters, they have an important role in films. They have big influence to represent the important thing that a film wants to deliver to the audience. Character and personality have a close relationship. In any drama, personality plays a vital role in character's behaviors and actions to protect personal entity and psyche (Charters, 2011).

To All the Boys I've Loved Before is a 2018 American teen romantic comedy film directed by Susan Johnson and written by Sofia Alvarez. This is a story about Lara Jean Covey played by Lana Condor a teenage girl that never has her first love. Lara Jean writes a love letter to every guy that she has a crush on. Until one day, her love letter was sent by her sister to all the men in the letter, one of whom is Peter Kavinsky, played by Noah Centineo. There is a conflict between both of them until they agreed to do a fake relationship that will benefit both sides. On this

occasion, the researcher wants to write about the pure love of Lara Jean towards Peter Kavinsky. Love is a natural feeling that every human has towards another human. According to Fisher (1992), love is a very powerful emotion that can be a positive influence in many areas of life. For example, Aron, Paris, and Aron (1995) report that falling in love leads to higher self-esteem and self-efficacy. Also, mutual love is a vital prerequisite for selecting a mate (Buss, 1988; Hill, 1945; Hudson & Henze, 1969; McGinnis, 1958). Love is also complex and exists in different forms. One type of love is passion about love. This form of love causes an individual to erotically idealize another individual with the idea that this feeling will not end (Jankowiak & Paladino, 2008; Fisher, 2004).

The meaning of love is found and portrayed in various ways. The researcher used several definition of love above because the researcher wants to show how the moviemaker creates a character that has never been in a relationship before finally meets her first love and is in a relationship. Lara Jean shows her love through the act. Lara Jean manages to show her love to Peter Kavinsky that creates spectacular feedback from the audiences. Whereas, the theories and explanations from the experts can help the readers also the researcher to explain the definition of love reflected by Lara Jean in the movie.

This movie is used by the researcher to find out Lara Jean's characterization that is reflected in the movie. The researcher wants to focus on the characterization from the movie. She finds out that the *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* is interesting to analyze. This film shows a unique teenager's love life in this modern

era and there are lots of experiences, behavior, and love meaning which are rarely understood by many people.

This research focuses on characterization and the most dominant characteristic of the main character in the film reflected by the main character, with the help from *mise-en-scène* theory and characterization theory. Characterization in literature is the process of authors used to develop characters and create images of the characters for the audience. On the other hand, it is a way in which the author revealed his character in a work of fiction or in other words, the characterization method of character portrayal (Bennett and Royle, 2004). In addition, it is very helpful to analyze the main character's development. There are two different approaches of characterization that are used by the researcher in this research, including direct characterization and indirect characterization.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

There are two questions that the researcher discusses in this study. They are:

1. How is Lara Jean characterized in the movie?
2. How does the implementation of the *mise-en-Scène* in the movie present Lara Jean as the main character?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

By the end of doing this research, the following goals are expected to be achieved:

3. Identifying how Lara Jean is characterized in the movie *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* movie.
4. Figuring out the implementation of *mise-en-scène* in the movie in presenting Lara Jean as the main character in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* movie.

1.4 Originality of the Study

This paper is the researcher's original work and made with her best knowledge. Through the library and internet research done by the writer, it has been confirmed that the discussion of Lara Jean's characterization in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* and how the implementation of *mise-en-Scène* in the movie present Lara Jean as the main character has not been conducted by any other researchers so far. one example, the researcher uses one thesis also with the same movie entitled *The Meaning of Love Reflected by Lara Jean in To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, written by Widyawati (2020). Widyawati focuses her study on the love meaning that reflected in the movie which means that Widyawati and the researcher study is different although both of us use the same movie. This research's main problem is to answer how is Lara Jean characterized in the movie and how *mise-en-Scène* theory helps the moviemaker in presenting Lara Jean as the main character. In addition, acknowledgments have been presented to every party assisting the researcher in completing this paper.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is to answer the questions asked by the researcher above. As follow, the researcher thinks that this study might help others researchers who are going to conduct a research on a similar topic. She wants to emphasize the characterization of the main character in the movie. Particularly, this study presents how characterization in a movie can be revealed by considering the movie's setting, lighting, costume, hair, makeup, and figure behavior analysis.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to equalize the understanding of the entire content of this research, there are several key terms that need to be explained. There are characterization, character, and *mise-en-Scène*.

1. Characterization

Characterization is a literary device that is used step-by-step in literature to highlight and explain the details about a character in a story. Characterization is also a technique in analyzing the main character's development and personality which deals with the process of creating an image of a person in fiction complete with the person's traits, features, and motivations (Aquino, 1978).

2. Character

A character is a figure that appears in a literary work such as novel, poetry and drama (Barnet, 1988).

3. *Mise-en-Scène*

Any elements in a movie that the audience can perceive, which hold the significant role to impart particular mood to the story or deliver certain characteristics of narrative implied by the movie's director (Sreekumar, 2015).

4. Film

Movie means a series of moving picture recorded with sound that tells a story, shown at cinema/movie (Hornby, 2006). Movie or film is a term that encompassed individual motion pictures, the field of movie as an art form, and the motion pictures industry.