

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discussed the introduction of the research, including the background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, scope of the study, and the significance of the study.

### A. Background of the Study

Literature was always a part of human life. Literature was any piece of writing that was valued as a work of art. Literature was also called a body of written work. According to Wellek & Warren (1971), literature allowed society to understand different values because 'literature was the product of humans' imagination, thought, emotions, feelings, ideas, and expressions.' On the other hand, literary works was creations that explained, described, or narrated a particular subject, theme, or idea through the use of narrative, descriptive, or explanatory text, rather than dialogue or dramatic action. Literature was divided into three main genres: Poetry, Drama, and Prose. Poetry was a form of literature that employed of the rhythmic qualities of language, including phonesthetics, sound symbolism, and meter to convey meaning. Drama was a representation of fiction that involved dialogue and performance. Prose was the ordinary language people used in speaking or writing.

Literary works are created in various forms. One of them was a movie. A movie was a part of drama. A movie was a story or event captured by a camera as

a set of moving images and shown in a theatre or on television; a motion picture. Movies were one of the most popular forms of entertainment, accessible at any time and location. According to Boggs and Dennis (2018:2) movie was unique art form that profoundly impacts audiences by combining visual art, technology, music, literature, and drama into an engaging medium. They convey information both visually and vocally through action, gestures, and language. Good movies had the potential to capture a trifecta of meaning. Meaningful movie experiences could be enjoyable, engaging, and empowering. In other words, we experienced pleasure, focused attention and concentration, and were inspired toward the good or offered new insights into ourselves, others, or the human condition (Niemi, 2020:2).

The movie told stories or narrated through character interactions. The better the character was played, the more satisfying the results of the movie were. The actions of the characters that caused changes in events could be considered to determine the causal relationship in a movie. Character was described as a causal agent. (Bardwell & Thompson, 1997).

There were many kinds of movie genres, like action, adventures, comedy, science fiction, horror, romantic, and many more. Science fiction, in literature, movies, television, and other media, had gained widespread popularity and influence globally. Shortened to SF or sci-fi, it was a genre of speculative fiction that often explored imaginative and futuristic themes such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life. Science fiction had ancient roots in mythology and shares

connections with fantasy, horror, and superhero fiction, encompassing various subgenres. It was precise definition had been a subject of ongoing debate among authors, critics, scholars, and readers.

Many entertaining and educational science fiction movies were created in recent years. Everyone from children to adults could enjoy science fiction movies to help reduce boredom while learning. Avatar: The Way of Water 2022 was turned into a popular movie, and the story of the movie was interesting to debate and watch. This movie was the bestselling and the most popular movie released on December 14, 2022, and received a box office (Gross US) of \$2.32 billion. The author was tempted to analyzed science fiction movies, especially the science fiction movie entitled Avatar: The Way of Water. The writer employed the 'Big Five' theory of personality traits, as analyzed by Paul Costa and Robert McCrae, to delve into the main character in the movie. The author focused on examining the main character's traits using this personality theory.

The movie narrated a story of a family, the family of Jake Sully and Neytiri who had built a happy life with their four children in the beautiful land of Pandora. However, their happiness began to be disturbed by the arrival of the enemy's colony, namely the earth's people. Jake Sully and his family had to fight very hard to defend their homeland and defend their happiness from the human colonization of the earth. The story of Avatar: The Way of Water was very interesting to analyze about its characters and characterization, played by animals that resembled humans. There were various methods to examine literary works, one of which involved analyzing characters and understanding how to analyze

characters in films. Characters were connected to individuals, actors, and narratives. Characterization referred to the kind and attitude of the characters, specifically their personal attributes. ( Nurgiyantoro, 2013).

While watching the movie and reading the movie script, the researcher immediately found examples of utterances that could be used to determine the personality of the main character in the movie.

Neytiri : “My Father gave me the bow here when he was dying. He told me to protect the people. You are Toruk Makto!”.

Jake Sully : **“This will protect the people.** Quaritch has Spider and he knows everything. He can lead them right here. If the people hide us, they will be killed. Do you understand that? I have nothing. I don’t have any plan. **But I can protect our family. One thing I know”.**

This was the example of the dialog between Neytiri and Jake Sully. The dialog above indicated that Jake Sully was an optimistic person; he was optimistic about protecting his family and was willing to do anything to ensure their safety.

Optimism was a component of Extraversion

The data was basically from the dialogues or utterances of the main characters from the script of the movie Avatar: The Way of Water. This conversation occurred during the scene where Earth's humans had just attacked Pandora's Island. Neytiri and Jake Sully, who were the main characters in the movie, gave each other an argument about whether they would leave Pandora Island or stay there. Neytiri believed that they had been entrusted by their father to

guard the island, so they must be there and always protected the island. But Jake Sully, her husband, said that what their enemies wanted was only their family. So, if they wanted to save the people and the island of Pandora, they and their entire family must leave the island. Jake Sully had no plans to fight the Earth nation, but to protect his family, he would do anything.

From the dialogues between Neytiri and Jake Sully as the main characters from the movie, their personalities could be observed. Neytiri and Jake Sully both exhibited a strong sense of responsibility towards their people. Jake Sully, as a father, was depicted as a figure who could be relied upon and who always ensured the safety of his family.

Based on the previous explanation, it was fascinating to examine how the characters in the movie *Avatar: The Way of Water* and their development were interpreted through the lens of Costa and McCrae's personality traits theory. This theory, known as the five-factor model, describes personality traits as "dimensions of individual differences in tendencies to show consistent patterns of thought, feelings, and actions" (McCrae & Costa, 1990, p. 23). The five dimensions were Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Emotional Stability (also known as Neuroticism when viewed inversely), and Openness to Experience (Ha, 2015). The characters had both positive and negative traits. This movie illustrated happiness, courage, struggle, cruelty, and acceptance of fate.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

The problems in this study could be stated as follows:

1. What kind of characters were presented in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie?
2. How were the personalities of the main characters presented in the movie Avatar: The Way of Water viewed from the theory of personality traits by Costa and McCrae?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem, the objectives of the study were as follows:

1. To find out the kind characters in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie.
2. To describe the personality of the main characters presented in the movie Avatar: The Way of Water viewed from the theory of personality traits by Costa and McCrae.

### **D. Scope of The Study**

*Avatar: The Way of Water* was an epic science fiction film directed and produced by James Cameron. This movie was made using CGI (Computer Generated Image) technology, which is a computer technology used to add certain effects to a movie or other moving images. This movie was the sequel to *Avatar* (2009) and the second installment in the *Avatar* movie series. It was released in 2022 with a duration of 3 hours and 12 minutes. This research focused on analyzing the personalities of the four main characters in the movie: Jake Sully, Neytiri, Lo'ak, and Quaritch. The analysis utilized Costa and McCrae's theory of personality traits.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

The studies were intended to be useful to readers, whether theoretically or practically.

1. Theoretically, the results of the study were expected to enrich knowledge and be helpful for readers to learn and understand about personality traits in movies. This understanding could be beneficial and relevant to further studies in the field.
2. Practically, this research would have been useful for those interested in conducting research about personality traits in movies, novels, and other literary works. It could have served as a basis for further study or research with similar ideas.

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