

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Literature represents life which deals with internal and external factors of human life. A literary work is a relate part of human experiences, civilizations and evolution. It will by interest to criticize it, because we will get a lot of knowledge by the criticism. Analyzing literature means analyzing human life as experience, ideas, motivations, emotions which are expressed into the words. By analyzing literary work people can get a better view of things that happen in people's character.

Nowadays many people love watching films. This phenomenon can be seen from the number of people coming to the cinema. This is due to the fact that watching film is enjoyable and entertaining. 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, 2004:76).

A film describes a character who considered as one of the psychological aspects in the story, because character considered as one of the fundamental component of fiction. A character gives the important role to makes the story in a film more alive (Pope, 2005:86). Characters give the story a purpose, a reason for

the audience to care what happens in the film. Especially for the main character, 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, 2011:34).

While many people can understand the whole story of a film just by watching it once, but understanding even one character needs considerable skill. So, characterization is the method to analyze the main character's development and personality. Characterization deals with the process of creating an image of person in fiction complete with the person's traits, features and motivations (Aquino, 1976:112). Characterization broadly refers to the description and development of character. There are two different approaches to characterization, including direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization uses when the author tells the audience what the personality of the character is. Direct characterization usually uses in novel. And indirect characterization uses when the author shows things that reveal the personality of the character. Indirect characterization usually uses in film. There are four different methods of indirect characterization: 1) speech, 2) thoughts, 3) action, and 4) looks (Burroway, 2000:52).

There have been some studies that related to the characterization of the main character in literary works. Gnanasekaran (2014) discussed about the characterization of character *Stranger* novel. He focused on the main character

and revealed the behavior of the main character Meursault who is psychologically sick with phobias, anxiety personality disorders and lacks emotional intelligence quotient.

While almost similar with Gnanasekaran, Fierro (2014) studied characterization in the characters of Edgar Allan's poems and the novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. She examined this through the protagonist characters. She revealed they as antisocial are self-centered individuals who pursue their plans with calculation and lack of empathy only to undergo a sort of death after their wicked plans have been accomplished.

Almost similar to two previous studies above, Faisal (2011) analyzed characterization through personality traits of main character on *Bruce Almighty* movie. He found that conscientiousness of Bruce Nolan as main character characteristic are ambitious and neuroticism of Bruce is irritable or anger, complaining person, blaming person, selfish, and jealous. It's all happened when on one particularly bad day, in which he loses his job, is beaten up by gang of hoods and crashes his car.

From those previous studies, this research was different. This research focused on characterization of the main character in film and describing the moral values that reflected by the main character. The writer chooses *Gone Girl* film because it portrays the actual and the symbolic occupied the same slice of reality. This film is about the couple of "Fight Club" who hurt each other, but the character who has the dominant roles is Amy Elliot Dunne as the main character

of this film. As a woman, Amy has been forced to embody a succession of tedious female stereotypes, but she twists this oppressive force in order to get her own way. She does some manipulation, forgery, and identity change to trap her cheated husband, Nick Dunne. She made her own murder to push her husband go to the jail. It is so interesting to discuss about the characterization of Amy and how she interacts with other characters in the film.

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

Based on the background above, the focus issues to discuss in this study were formulated as follows:

1. What are the characterizations of Amy's characteristics as the main character in *Gone Girl* film based on indirect characterization method?
2. What is the most dominant characteristic of Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* film?

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

In relation to previous problem of study, the objectives of the study were formulated as follows:

1. To describe the characterizations of Amy's characteristics in *Gone Girl* film based on indirect characterization method.
2. To find out the most dominant characteristic of Amy as the main character in *Gone Girl* film.

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

In this study, the writer limited the analysis to the Amy Elliot Dunne as the main character in *Gone Girl* film, because she was the characters who get the dominant roles over the whole story of the film.

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

In accordance with the objectives of the research, this research was expected to give contributions, both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, it was expected that the results of this study can enrich the knowledge in the findings are expected to the students or literature learners, to use the findings as their references to learn about literature especially about characterization of character in literary works.
2. Practically, the findings of the study were expected to be useful and relevant for the researchers who are interested in doing research about characterization of character in film or any other literary work as a basis for further study. And this research can be used to develop or give inspiration for further research with similar ideas.