

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Family is a small group consisting of a father, mother, and one or more children (Edwards, McCarthy, & Gillies, 2012). U.S Census Bureau defines family as a group of people with a relatively permanent relationship in which two or more people are related by marriage, blood relationship, or adoption who live under the same roof. According by Lee (in Sukma, 2017), said that family is a place where most of people raised and generally grow to be a part of communities and society, learn systems of belief, and the worst possibility is abuse.

In family, educating children is the main task of parents. Mother and father have significant roles in a family, starting from nurturing the chores, to caring for and educating children. According by Lee, in a traditional marriage, husbands take role as a head of household who earn a living and responsible in family, meanwhile mothers have the main responsibilities of house work and taking care of the children (Sukma, 2017). Although those role are parents responsibility, but in practically, mothers have a natural action for educating children. Women are usually expected to be mothers who take primary responsibility for the nurturing of children (Lee in Sukma, 2017).

Motherhood is subject to representations that are often idealized by social beliefs (Woodward, 2003). The pressure from the good mother ideology, society beliefs mainly give hope and images towards women who are mothers of how they should take care and raise their children, they will be seen as 'a good mother'

(Zhou, 2017). It could be said that if a child gives a good attitude, then the mother will be labeled as a successful mother in raising her child. And also if the child shows a negative side like being rebellious, have a downgrade in their school etc., the mother will be labeled as a bad mother and cannot educate her child properly. Social pressure to be a perfect mother is especially focused on how high parenting standards influence women's emotions so that they can give rise to negative emotions, such as increased stress and feelings of guilt (Borelli et al., 2017). These concepts offer ways to get how standardizing desires and taken-for-granted presumptions concerning what occupations certain bunches ought to or ought to not lock in, are molded by sociocultural strengths that amplify past an individual's control (Farias, 2020).

This research was inspired by previous research which discussed motherhood for her thesis entitled *The Representation Of Motherhood Through The Main Character In Bad Moms Film* by Sukma, 2017. In this research, she analyzed Amy Mitchell as the main character in *Bad Moms* film. The character in this film describes a good mother who turns into a bad mother because she feels tired of being a perfect mother. Her research uses the concept of representation by Stuart Hall and the concept of motherhood from Theresa Arendell.

In this case, *Turning Red* is an interesting animated film for the writer to discuss in this research. This animation was produced by Pixar Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures on March 11, 2022, on Disney+. *Turning Red* film is the story of relationship between Ming and Mei as a dynamic mother-daughter relationships. The mother character in this film is overprotective and

arrogant but she is also a good mother who cares and always give the best for her daughter.



Picture 1.1 scene on duration (12:33)

Ming also shows her attitude as a strict parent who indirectly sets several rules that must be followed by her daughter, Meilin Lee. Even though Ming tries to give her best, her excessive attitude creates distance with her daughter who feels tired of Ming's attitude. Ming Lee's character looks like an evil mother who doesn't think about what her child feels about her action.

Based on the explanation, Ming's character as a mother is interesting for the writer because she's between a good and bad mother. For this research, the writer uses representation theory by Hall (2003) using a constructionist approach and a concept of motherhood by Johnston and Swanson (2003) in examining Ming Lee's character as a mother in the Turning Red film.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the background and the focus of the above research, this research has two problem by following the questions:

1. What kind of a mother does Ming Lee's character in Turning Red?
2. How is the mother character shaped in the film Turning Red?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objective of the study are followings:

1. To find out what kind of a mother does Ming Lee's character in Turning Red film.
2. To describe how the mother character shaped in the film Turning Red.

D. Scope of the Study

This study analyzes Ming Lee's character as a mother in "Turning Red" and examines how the film portrays motherhood through her character. It employs a representation constructionist approach based on Hall (2003) and the concept of motherhood as discussed by Johnston and Swanson (2003), focusing on Ming Lee scenes from the film.

E. Significance of the Study

This research offers valuable insights into motherhood and serves as a helpful resource for future studies. It educates readers about the portrayal of mothers in various literary works and helps them gain a deeper understanding of the concept of motherhood.