

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a brief explanation about background of the study, research questions, aim of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Films are now considered as a literary genre since it belongs to the inquiry fields of literary studies. It is because the features in literary works such as plot, character, setting, narrative perspective, and theme also emerge in film (Klarer, 1998). In relation with other literary genre, Jahn (2003) considers film as a literary genre that has close relation with drama because both of them “mainly realized in the framework of performance” and related to a textual form.

Film is closely related to drama in terms of text and the connection between text and performance. It is in line with Klarer (1998) who states that text, transformation, and performance are central aspects that cannot only be applied to theater production but also to the medium of film. In film, text is manifested in the form of script, defined by Jahn (2003) as a text containing film’s action narrative and dialogue. Film script also contains some elements such as plot, character, setting, narrative perspective, and theme which form the story. Therefore, analyzing a film script is similar to textual analysis of literary works in which the readers can gain deeper understanding of the story through the elements of the works.

According to Walsh (n.d), in doing a textual analysis, identifying the major theme is the general purpose to understand the story. One of the themes which is often raised in many films is friendship, such as in *Mary and Max* (2009). *Mary and Max* is an animated film tells about a 20-years-penpal friendship between Mary, a lonely 8 years old girl who lives in a suburb of Melbourne and has a dysfunctional family, and Max, a 44 years old man who suffers Asperger syndrome and lives in New York. For 20 years, Max becomes a true friend for Mary. He always responds to all of Mary's letters well, answers her questions about everything she wants to know and give solutions to all her problems. Their penpal friendship lasts until Mary grows up and becomes a famous writer who is well-known from her book about Asperger syndrome research that uses Max as her case study.

The present research analyzes *Mary and Max* as a script, not as a film, within the scope of narratology. The researcher uses Genette's (1980) theory of focalization since *Mary and Max* film script uses a unique combination of focalization in the text. Focusing on the use of focalization in the story, this film script develops an interesting story about the friendship between Mary and Max. Both the narrator and the main characters in the story play important roles in the film script as they take part in establishing the themes of the story.

1.2 Research Question

The present research is guided by the following question:

1. How does the focalization affect the theme of friendship in *Mary and Max* film script?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The present study is aimed to answer the research question above, that is to seek how the theme of friendship is constructed through the focalization.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The present study is limited to analyzing how the theme of friendship is constructed through the focalization using Genette's (1972,1980) theory.

1.5 Significance of the Research

Since the present research uses film script as its research object and uses theory of narratology, it is expected that the research could enrich literary research collection especially in film script analysis and narratology.

1.6 Research Methodology

In conducting the present research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method since the forms of data in the film script are words, phrases and sentences. Those forms are relevant to discover how the focalization affect

the theme of friendship in the film script. In general, the steps of analysis can be seen as follow:

1. Reading the film script carefully and repeatedly in order to discover the major theme in it.
2. Highlighting and classifying the textual evidences based on theoretical framework.
3. Analyzing the textual evidences as well as presenting and interpreting the data in order to answer the research question.
4. Discussing the finding of the research and drawing the conclusion.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

A. Film Script

A text containing film's action narrative and dialogue (Jahn, 2003)

B. Focalization

The point of view from which the story is told (Barry, 2002)

C. Narratology

A study of how narratives make meaning. Narratology is the attempt to study the nature of the story, as a concept and a cultural practice (Barry, 2002)

D. Narrator

A voice who tells the story. There are two kinds of narrator: one kind which may be registered as an intelligent, recording consciousness, a ‘telling medium’ strives for neutrality and transparency and another kind who is identified as a character in the story (Barry, 2002)

E. Narrative

A series of events meaningfully connected in a temporal and causal way (Onega and Landa, as cited in Herman and Vaerveck, 2001)

1.8 Organization of Paper

The present research is organized into five chapters:

CHAPTER I : Introduction

This chapter consists of background of the study, research questions, aim of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II: Literature Review

This chapter covers a brief introduction of film script, narratology, focalization, and also the synopsis of *Mary and Max* film script.

CHAPTER III: Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the methodology of the present study. It deals with object of the study, research questions, research design, research procedure, and data presentation.

CHAPTER IV: Findings and Discussions

This chapter explains the findings of the present study by elaborating the textual evidences to answer the research question.

CHAPTER V: Conclusion

This chapter presents the conclusions of the present research and the suggestion for further study.