

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter elaborates the introduction of the research in which consists of the background of the study, research question, objectives of the study, scope of the study, and the significance of the study. This chapter also gives a short explanation regarding the clarification of key terms as well as the organization of the paper.

1.1. Background of the Study

Adaptation is a process of transforming one text to another in which mostly happens from a novel to a film. Adaptation is a phenomenon that has been widely practiced. Adapting a novel that initially has hundreds of pages into a film that only has duration of around two hours requires many changes. The changes that happen will also be varied, depending on the purpose of the adaptation, the directors, or the writers of the adaptation. The changes that happen in adaptation might include changes in setting, plot and characterization. Characterization is the most frequent aspect that undergoes changes.

The changes in characterization are caused by many factors and may affect the flow of the adapted story. One of the examples is *Little Women* adaptation. *Little Women* is a story about the lives of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—and their journey from childhood to womanhood. There are six different versions of *Little Women* film adaptation. Each adaptation was interpreted with different perspectives and nuances so that the characterization in the film adaptation might seem different from the one in the novel. Many people who have both read the novel and watched the film adaptation of *Little Women* have claimed that the characterizations of the four sisters in the film adaptation is different from the one that they had read in the novel. The characterization of the characters in the film adaptation might have been adapted to the needs of the market or even political interests of the producers or the directors. In her article, Acocella (2020) mentions that Alcott's *Little Women* is different from *Little Women*'s film adaptation

directed by Gerwig in 2019 because the novel inclined to be conventional about the role of women while the film adaptation questions the role of women. She referred to the fact that Alcott, at the time of her writing *Little Women*, is assumed not to voice feminism although the book does imply the characters' desire to be independent. Similar to Acocella's opinion, Gerwig's adaptation of *Little Women* emphasized Alcott's inclination towards women's independence in the characterization of the four sisters. Gerwig transformed the ending of the film adaptation by indicating that Jo pursued her dream as a writer and left the idea of marriage in her book that she wrote. Nicolaou (2020) states that Gerwig puts forward the idea that a woman's life can still be worth celebrating even without a marriage. By reworking the ending of *Little Women*, Gerwig underlines that there is more than one way for a woman's life to be satisfying; in this case, becoming independent seems to be more satisfying than a marriage.

Another example of changes in characterization is the adaptation of *The Hunger Games* series. Despite the great acting of the actress, the adaptation of *The Hunger Games* series is often considered to be lacking in portraying the depth of powerless feeling which is a significant characterization of Katniss, the main character, in the novel. For example, Katniss drew her arrow to defend herself from Peeta, the supporting character in the novel, but there is no scene like this in the film adaptation. This means that there might have been fewer conflicts in Katniss' characterization in the film adaptation. Legel (2012) suggests that fewer conflicts had made Katniss a less complex character. In addition, Bricken (2015) believes that even romantic conflicts between the main character and two other characters have not been successfully portrayed in the film adaptation. The two examples indicate that the adaptation has made changes that have affected the characterization of the characters in the novel.

This means that changes in adaptation is inevitable and might result in different interpretations of the story. By looking at this, adaptation becomes interesting to study, especially since people's tendency to watch a film is higher than to read a novel. Studies on film adaptations will help explain the changes that have taken place and outline the possible new meanings from the film adaptations. Furthermore, from an educational perspective, analyzing and comparing a novel

with its film adaptation will make people more aware of the different messages in the film adaptation. For these reasons, it is safe to say that learning about changes that occur in film adaptations might broaden knowledge and make viewers more understand that meanings are made and not given. Therefore, learning about changes in film adaptation is something that needs to be disseminated.

The two examples of changes in film adaptation above also show that changes might determine the success of an adaptation. Some film adaptations are considered successful in adapting the story and some others are considered unsuccessful. Successful adaptation means acceptance from the public for the changes that happened while being unsuccessful might means the opposite. Being unsuccessful in adapting the story might means that the changes that happened were unacceptable by the viewers. The reasons for not accepting the changes in the adaptation can be diverse; from how it changes the flow of the story, the characters is not developed well, the message was too far different from the original, or because of many other unsaid reasons. The different reasons as to why an adaptation is seen as unsuccessful makes the researcher intrigued to learn more about changes in adaptation from the unsuccessful adaptation instead from the successful one.

One of the film adaptations that is considered as unsuccessful is titled *I Am Number Four*. *I Am Number Four* is a 440 pages novel written by Pittacus Lore published in 2010 while the film adaptation is a 110 minutes film that is directed by Daniel John Caruso in 2011. *I Am Number Four* is chosen as the object of the research because the film adaptation received a lot of criticism for the changes in the characterization that happened to the main character, John Smith. These changes then led to the cancellation of the film adaptation's sequel. This case has made the researcher interested in learning how the changes affect the characterization of John Smith which has not been studied before. Thus, the researcher conducted a research on *I Am Number Four* novel and its film adaptation. This research attempted to find out the changes in characterization of John Smith from the novel to its film adaptation through conflicts exist in both sets of data and how these conflicts affect John Smith in the film adaptation.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the explanation above, the writer formulates the question to be analyzed as the following:

How do conflicts affect the characterization of John Smith in the novel and in the film adaptation?

1.3. Objective of the Study

This research aims to investigate how conflicts affect the characterization of John Smith in the novel and in the film adaptation. Thus, the objective of this study is to find out how conflicts affect the characterization of John Smith in the novel and in the film adaptation.

1.4. Scope of the Study

In line with this research, the researcher focused only on identifying the characterization of John Smith through conflicts in a novel titled “I Am Number Four” (Lore, 2010) and its film adaptation with the same title directed by Daniel John Caruso in 2011 using theory of adaptation by Linda Hutcheon. The researcher also focused on finding out how the changes affect the characterization of John Smith in *I am Number Four* film adaptation.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to have benefits such as:

1. Add knowledge related to the adaptation of a novel into a film, specifically about how the changes in film adaptation affect the characterization of the characters.
2. Use as a reference by English Language students who use the same theory and have the same concern as this research.
3. Influence the readers and motivate them to explore a topic related to adaptation in the field of literature.

1.6. Clarification of Key Terms

1. Adaptation

Adaptation is an act of transforming one form of literary work to another. In this case, the literary work is transformed from written text that is novel to an audio visual known as film. According to Hutcheon (2006), adaptation is an extended intertextual engagement and creative process of transpositioning other's work(s) that is known to the public.

2. Characterization

Characterization is a method to build a character through their appearances, dialogues, actions and so on. According to DiYanni (2006, p. 56), characterization is the mean by which writers present and reveal character, a tool to expose the characteristics of a character the author created. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character's inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events (Abrams, 1999, p. 33).

3. Conflict

Conflict is a literary element that occurs between characters as a complication to promote the climax and resolution of the narrative. Conflict occurs among characters; between a character and his or her environment, or among the thoughts, needs, and emotions of a single character (Trimmer & Jennings, 1985).

1.7. Organization of the Paper

This research is organized in the following structure:

1. CHAPTER I: Introduction

This chapter provides the introduction of the research, which consists of the background of the study and the research questions. After the two sections mentioned, the introduction of the research is followed by the objectives of the study, scope and limitation of the study and the significance of the study. This

chapter also gives a short explanation regarding the clarification of key terms as well as the organization of the paper.

2. CHAPTER II: Literature Review

Several researchers before have studied the topic of this research. Therefore, this chapter provides the same concepts and theoretical framework to study the object of the research. It consists of theory of adaptation proposed by Hutcheon (2006), the definition of novel, film, character, characterization and conflict. It is then followed by the related previous studies.

3. CHAPTER III: Methodology

This chapter clarifies methodology conducted in the research. It elaborates the design of the research, data source, data collection and data analysis.

4. CHAPTER IV: Findings and Discussion

This chapter provides the answer to the formulated research question in the study in which is how conflicts affect the characterization of John Smith in the novel and in the film adaptation. This chapter consists of findings from the collected data that further elaborated in the discussion section, which answers the research questions.

5. CHAPTER V: Conclusion and Suggestion

This last chapter provides the conclusion of the research based on the findings and discussion provided in the previous chapter. This chapter also consists of suggestions to make this study better.