

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter represents the introduction to the research. This chapter is divided into four parts. The first part is the background of the study, the second part is the problem statement, the third part is the objectives of the study, and the fourth part is the significances of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Humans express themselves in a variety of ways, one of which is through literature. Humans are eager to share their thoughts and feelings with others, and literature is the best way to do so (Hudson, 2015). Literature can take many genres, including fiction, drama, poetry, and non-fiction (Turco, 2020). However, the classification of the literary genre can easily overlap because genre study is not an exact science in which literature genres can be combined to create subgenres or mixed genres (Salter, 2014). As a result, there is frequently a shift in the genre of literature after a certain time.

Movies can be viewed as a more modernized version of dramas. Movies are expected to use technological tools to create more exciting special effects than dramas (Ibrahim, 2018). The audience is given a different experience through movies than through other genres of literature. Movies satisfy the audience's imaginative needs by presenting fictional stories, recording actual events, animating images, and experimenting with art (Bordwell et al., 2020).

Movies, as one of the embodiments of literature, also reflect human life. One of the themes that appear frequently in the movie is friendship. Friendship is valued in social skills due to its contribution to happiness. According to Demir et al. (2012), people with good social skills are more likely to have close friendships, which predict happiness. Furthermore, friendship is important from a sociological standpoint because it can help someone develop a more stable identity by cultivating a trusting and reciprocal relationship (Greco et al., 2015). Adolescence is a time when friendship is at its peak. According to Hafner (2009), Johnson

(2004), & Larson (2001) as cited in Bagwell et al. (2015), teenagers spend the majority of their time with friends, such as meeting face-to-face, talking on the phone, and communicating via text message.

Human friendship has inspired several writers to create literary works, both novels and movies. J.K. Rowling, for example, depicts the characters' close friendship in the *Harry Potter* series of novels. This can be seen in Harry's and his friends' efforts to collect the seven Horcruxes and defeat Voldemort. If Harry had done it alone, he might have died at the hands of Voldemort sooner.

Several directors, on the other hand, have shown strong friendships through their work. One of them is John Lasseter's *Toy Story* (1995). The friendship between Woody and Andy's other toys is the central theme of this animated movie. Some of the issues, such as Woody's jealousy of Buzz Lightyear's arrival and Andy's doubts about his devotion to his toys, become pivotal points in this movie, which teaches children to accept new friends while remembering old ones.

Stephen Chbosky belongs among the many writers whose work fosters friendships. Stephen Chbosky is a writer, screenwriter, and director. He was born in 1970 and is a citizen of the United States. He has two novels out, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (1999) and *Imaginary Friend* (2019). He directed *The Four Corners of Nowhere* (1995), *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012), *Wonder* (2017), and *Dear Evan Hansen* (2021). He has been nominated for 22 movie awards and won nine of them.

Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* has received widespread praise. His work has piqued the public's interest since the publication of his novel in 1999 and the movie adaptation in 2012. Chbosky addresses several issues concerning teenagers in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, including anxiety disorders, depression, friendships, romance, bullying, and homosexuality. As a result, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* has its place, particularly among teenagers and adults who can relate to the work's themes.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is a movie released in 2012 based on Stephen Chbosky's novel of the same title, published in 1999. Interestingly, this movie was directed by the novel's author, Stephen Chbosky, directly. The actors and actresses

who appear in this movie are famous stars, among them are Logan Lerman who plays the main character—Charlie, Emma Watson who plays Sam, and Ezra Miller who plays Patrick.

This movie tells the story of a young man named Charlie who is about to begin his high school education. He was concerned because he believed he would be bullied by the seniors at his high school. Fortunately, he met two seniors (Sam and Patrick) in his high school days and became close friends with them. He improved his social skills as a result of his friendship with them.

The issue, however, resurfaced after the two seniors graduated. Charlie is unable to find a peer who is a match for him. As a result, he re-experienced a period in which his trauma recurred to require him to stay in a mental hospital.

The general public enjoyed *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012) movie. The IMDb website's 8/10 rating for *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012) movie demonstrates this. Critics also have given this movie both positive and negative reviews.

Some reviewers gave their praise to this movie. Ebert (2012) praised the movie for its excellent adaptation of the novel version and nearly-perfect casts. Fung (2020) praised the movie for Logan Lerman's outstanding performance as Charlie, a shy and introverted character who portrays PTSD symptoms and panic attacks convincingly.

On the other hand, this movie also received various criticisms. Jenkins (2012) criticized this movie for inappropriately using the term "wallflower," because the wallflower himself becomes a member of a group who is brave enough to stand on himself. Lucca (2012) criticized this movie for the effort put in to make the movie "believable" which reduced the emotional impact that the original plot should have provided.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* premiered to a standing ovation on September 8, 2012, at the 2012 Toronto International Movie Festival. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012) movie grossed \$33.4 million worldwide on a \$13 million production budget. From 2012 to 2013, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012) movie received numerous movie award nominations and won 19 of the 50.

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is an excellent movie. Several reasons motivate the writer to examine this movie. One of them is the movie's characterization, which is depicted uniquely. Even though each of the characters comes from a different background, they can all be friends. Like Charlie, who is quiet but befriended and at ease with those who are socially active.

Aside from the characterization, the movie has a distinct point of view. Throughout the movie, Charlie's first-person perspective is used. With this point of view, viewers can see the story through Charlie's eyes and imagine themselves as Charlie.

Furthermore, the movie's theme of friendship is extremely relevant to today's teenagers and social lives. This movie beautifully highlights the friendship between the main character and the supporting characters. The movie's attempt to depict friendship is also intertwined with several social issues, which makes it even more intriguing to investigate.

Based on these considerations, the writer wishes to examine the friendship between the main character and the supporting characters in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012) movie using sociological approaches. Therefore, the writer took the title **FRIENDSHIP AS REFLECTED IN *THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER* (2012) MOVIE: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**.

## **B. Problem Statement**

The major problem of the study is how friendship is reflected in the movie. The problem of the study is dissected further into the following research questions:

1. What are the types of friendship as reflected in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie?
2. How is friendship as depicted in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of friendship in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie.

2. To describe how friendship is depicted in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie.

#### **D. Significances of the Study**

##### **1. Theoretical Significance**

The study contributes to the body of knowledge, especially the literary study on *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie.

##### **2. Practical Significance**

The study enriches the present writer's understanding of the friendship between the main character and the supporting characters in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* movie.