

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature plays in the term of mirror occurred in the society whenever it is. In most cases, literature referred to as the entirely written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the most exact sense of the world (Klarer, 1999:1).

Literature is the presentation of human life. Literature work is the process of reflection of the author's imagination which shows the phenomenon in his life. It means that when the authors make their literary works, they express the problem related to the author's point of view, of course it gives influence in every works of an author. Literary works deal with human life, it is appropriate to use psychology as an approach in understanding human being from psychological point of view. With such social interaction, an understanding of literary work also has conspiracy with human being. "Since literature is the exposition of man's mental life, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology. Literature in psychology have the same objects of research that is human being". Meanwhile, literature and psychology have close relationship. Both of them depict the human's behavior and their life experience. The psychology learns the human's behavior that is influenced by their life experience. The experience of life can give inspiration for an author to produce a literary work (Wellek and Warren, 1984:91).

The movie as part of literary works reflects some realities that happen in the human's life and influence the behavior of the character in the movie. The knowledge of the psychology helps the play director to create characters in plays and movie more real as well as situation and plot.

One of the play directors is D.J. Carusso who is born in Norwalk, Connecticut (January 17, 1965), a graduate of Pepperdine University with a B.A. in film and television. Caruso spent several years working on the small screen, directing episodes of *Martial Law*, *The Strip*, *Dark Angel*, *Smallville*, and *The Shield*. He returned to the big screen with his first feature film director's credit in *The Salton Sea* (2002) starring Val Kilmer, followed by *Taking Lives* (2004) starring Angelina Jolie, *Disturbia* (2007) and *Eagle Eye* (2008), both starring Shia LaBeouf. His most recent movie, the thriller *I am Number Four* (2011), stars British actor Alex Pettyfer. Caruso and his wife, Holly, have four children.

I am Number Four is a 2011 American teen action movie, one of D.J. Carusso's works. The movie is based on the novel *I am Number Four*, written by Jobie Hughes and James Frey, with an adapted screenplay by Alfred Gough, Miles Millar, and Marti Noxon.

I am Number Four movie released in February 18, 2011 tells about a young man, John Smith (Alex Pettyfer), an alien from planet Lorien who was sent to Earth as a child alongside eight others to escape an invading race, the Mogadorians, which destroyed their home planet. He is protected by a Guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), and has developed superpowers due to

his extraterrestrial nature, such as telekinesis, Lumen (to produce heat and light from his hands and resistance to heat and fire from his hands), and animal telepathy.

The Mogadorians, led by the Commander (Kevin Durand) eventually discover about the nine toddlers and come to Earth in search of them. These Loriens can only be killed in a particular sequence, with three of them having already been slain. John is Number Four. Knowing this, he and Henri move from Florida to Paradise, Ohio, where John befriends conspiracy theorist Sam Goode (Callan McAuliffe) and falls in love with amateur photographer Sarah Hart (Dianna Agron), whose ex-boyfriend, school athlete Mark James (Jake Abel) is a bully who often torments both John and Sam.

During the spring carnival, Mark and his friends capture John and Sarah, whom they believe are in a relationship, and drag them to a cave, where they attempt to beat John up. However, he uses his powers to fend them off and rescue Sarah. Sam witnesses the events, and John tells him his true origin. Shortly thereafter, Mark's father, the local sheriff, interrogates Henri on John's whereabouts when his son and his friends were attacked, and notices that he has a high-tech surveillance system.

Henri tells John that too many people are suspicious of them, in addition to John's random displays of power, caused by his difficulty in controlling them, and that they must leave. However, John tells him he can't because he's in love with Sarah. When a Lorien falls in love, it only happens once, and the two lovers become connected forever.

The Mogadorians start searching for John as well as another Lorien, Number Six (Teresa Palmer), who decided to go after the Mogadorians instead of running away from them after her Guardian was murdered. The Magadorians eventually locate John and manipulate two conspiracy theorists into capturing Henri. When John and Sam go to rescue him, they are attacked but manage to fend Mogadorians off. However, Henri is mortally wounded and dies after John and Sam escape with some Lorien artifacts, including a blue rock that acts as a tracking device to locate other Loriens. Sam's father, a conspiracy theorist who disappeared while hunting aliens in Mexico, has another. While Sam searches for it, John tries to say goodbye to Sarah at a party, only to discover that the Mogadorians have framed him and Henri for the murders of the conspiracy theorists, as well as being terrorists due to their cutting-edge technology. Mark sees John and calls his father, who corners John and Sarah. He saves her from a fall, revealing his powers in the process, and they escape to their school.

Meanwhile, The Commander also arrives at Paradise, blocking the exits with trucks. He is confronted by Mark and his father, and, after injuring the latter, he forces the former to show him where John is hiding, Mark then takes him to the school, which he knows is Sarah's hideout.

There, John, Sarah, and Sam are attacked by the Commander and his soldiers, who have brought two giant monsters to hunt the trio. They are saved by Number Six and a Chimera sent by John's parents to protect him, which can shapeshift and was disguised as his dog. John and Number Six, who can

teleport, block energy-based attacks and fight the Mogadorians. They eventually defeat them all, including the Commander, whose energy grenades are overheated by John and explode, destroying his body.

On the following day, John, Number Six, Sam, and the Chimera unite their blue rocks and discover the location of the other four surviving Loriens. They set to find them and rally them together to protect Earth from the Mogadorians, leaving Sarah and a repentant Mark, who has redeemed himself by lying to his father about John's whereabouts and returning to John a box belonging to his father.

The movie ends as John narrates that Paradise is the first town he left without Henri, but it is also the first one where he has a reason to come back to.

Carusso creates John Smith as a major character in this movie. Carusso wants to show that major character can make a decision to his life. Decision is a choice between numbers of possible answers to a question. Decision is the act of coming to a conclusive point in order to solve a problem, choose a best route, or just about any type of choice. It involves the selection of a course of action from among two or more possible alternatives in order to arrive at a solution for a given problem. Decision's process are identifying and selecting a course of action to solve specific problem.

I am Number Four movie directed by D.J. Caruso is an interesting movie. The researcher discovers three reasons why choosing this movie. First, the

researcher is interested in observing John Smith as a major character that decides to make a better life and solves his problem.

Second, *I am Number Four* is science fiction movie and endearing character is of course present. The researcher felt like the darkroom scene where John uses his hand to light Sarah's face was very cool.

Third, the theme of movie. It informs the researcher about how the movie should be looked, sounded and felt. The effect and action should move the story and theme forward.

Based on the reason the writer will observe *I am Number Four* movie by using an individual psychological approach. So the writer constructs the title **“John Smith's Decision to Make A Better Life in D.J. Caruso's *I am Number Four* Movie (2011): an Individual Psychological Approach”**.

B. Previous Study

As far as the writer's knowledge, there is no research that *I am Number Four* movie is the object of the research. But there are some researches that used an individual psychological approach.

First, Struggle for love in Anthony Minghella's *Cold Mountain* movie: an Individual Psychological Approach (2010) by Alfi Nurdin Arahman, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. In his research, he focuses on the struggle for love of Inman to Ada Manroe as one of the major character in Anthony Minghella's *Cold Mountain* movie.

Second, Struggle for love of Bella Swan in *Twilight* films: an Individual Psychological Approach (2010) by Supriyadi, Muhammadiyah University of

Surakarta. In his research, the study shows how Bella Swan struggles for love in *Twilight* film viewed from the individual psychological perspective.

Third, The Coping Behavior in Booth Tarkington's *The Magnificent Ambersons*: an Individual Psychological Approach (2006) by Partini, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. In her research, she focused to analyze George Amberson Minafer as one of the major character in *The Magnificent Ambersons* based on the individual approach.

Fourth, Struggle for Achieving Happiness in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*: an Individual Psychological Approach (2006) by Kartina, University Muhammadiyah of Surakarta. In her research, she focused on the analysis of the major character (Ivanhoe) from the aspect of Individual Psychological Approach.

Based on those researchers, the researcher finds some similarities and differences both from the first until the fourth researcher. The similarities are same with the previous study above. The researcher uses an individual psychological approach to analyze data as all the researchers above, and uses a movie as an object likes Supriyadi and Arahman's research. The other similarity in this research is the researcher focuses on the major character in the movie like all the researchers above.

The difference of this research, the researcher uses decision of the major character in this research, but the researcher above uses struggle of the major character in their research.

In this occasion, the researcher wants to analyze the movie using an individual psychological approach, the title is “John Smith’s Decision to Make a Better Life in D.J. Caruso’s *I am Number Four* movie (2011) : an Individual Psychological Approach”.

C. Problem of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the decision to make a better life of John Smith in *I am Number Four* movie directed by D.J. Caruso.

D. Limitation of the Study

In order to reach the expected goal, the writer focuses on the analysis of the major character (John Smith) in the *I am Number Four* movie based on the psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the decision of John Smith based on the individual psychological approach by Alfred Adler.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the result of this study are follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contribution to many people about knowledge or the development of knowledge, particularly studies on *I am Number Four* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. To enrich the researcher's understanding on *I am Number Four* movie from a psychological approach.
- b. To be a reference to the other researcher in analyzing this movie particularly the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

Type of the study which is used in this study is qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is John Smith as the major character in *I am Number Four* movie directed by D.J. Caruso and published in 2011. It is analyzed by using a psychological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

In this research, the researcher takes two kinds of data:

a. Primary Data Sources

Primary data in this research consist of movie itself and data collected from the movie. The data are taken from John Smith as the major character in *I am Number Four* that was published in 2011.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are script the movie and other references which are related to the study.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

Technique of the collecting data used in the study is library research by collecting and selecting both the primary and secondary data. Some steps of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the movie several times.
- b. Reading the movie script.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking note of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and Alfred Adler's theory of psychological approach.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of "John Smith's Decision to make a better life in D.J. Caruso's *I am Number Four* movie (2011): An Individual Psychological Approach" is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction consisting of Background of the study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; namely explaining about principle theory of individual psychology. Chapter III is structural analysis; the researcher explains the structural elements of the story and

discussion. Chapter IV is data analysis; it presents six basic principles of an individual psychological approach. This chapter represents the application of the underlying theory in which the movie is analyzed by means of Adler's individual psychology. Finally, the last chapter integrates the overall discussion and brings to the conclusion of the study.