CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study


Season of the Witch is a 2011 American supernatural action film starring Nicolas Cage and directed by Dominic Sena. Cage stars with Ron Perlman as Teutonic Knights, who return from the Crusades to find their fatherland ruined by the Black Death. Two church elders accuse a girl (Claire Foy) of being a witch and being responsible for the destruction and command the knights to transport the girl to a monastery so the monks there can lift her curse from the land. Development on the film began in 2000 when the spec script by screenwriter Bragi F. Schut was purchased by MGM. The project moved from MGM to Columbia Pictures to Relativity Media, where the film was finally produced by Charles Roven and Alex Gartner. Filming took place primarily in Austria, Hungary and Croatia. Season of the Witch was released on January 7, 2011 in the United States, Canada and several other territories. The film received negative reviews but was a moderate box office success.
Season of the Witch movie is directed by Dominic Sena. Dominic Sena (born April 26, 1949) is an American film director. Sena was born in Niles, Ohio. He is of Italian-American heritage. His family hails from the town of Bagnoli Irpino, Avellino, Italy. As one of the founders of Propaganda Films, Sena worked primarily in music videos early in his career. Sena directed several of Janet Jackson's image re-defining music videos from her Rhythm Nation 1814 album. In 1993, Sena directed his first film, Kalifornia, which starred future Hollywood stars Brad Pitt and David Duchovny. While the film garnered good reviews, it would be seven more years before Sena stepped behind the camera again. In 2000, Sena reappeared with the film Gone in 60 Seconds featuring Nicolas Cage, Angelina Jolie, and Robert Duvall.

Season of the Witch in January 2010 had been rated PG-13 (parental guidance for children 13 and under) by the Motion Picture Association of America, citing "thematic elements, violence, and disturbing content". The studio edited the film and re-submitted it to the MPAA in November 2010 for a new rating. The MPAA gave the film the same rating and reason for it as before.

The film had its world premiere in New York City on January 4, 2011. The film was released commercially on January 7, 2011 in several territories. Pre-release polling had indicated young men were the core demographic for the film, though more women than expected expressed interest in the film. Experts anticipated that the film would gross US$10-12
million on its opening weekend in the United States and Canada. The film was released in 2,816 theaters in the two territories. It grossed $10.6 million, ranking third at the box office after *True Grit* and *Little Fockers*, which were both released at the end of 2010. Relativity Media's exit polling showed that the audience was 52% male and that 61% were 25 years old and up. *Los Angeles Times* reported that an "unusually high" 69% of the audience was nonwhite. *Entertainment Weekly* reported that the racial diversity of *Season of the Witch*'s audiences was common for supernatural thrillers; the breakdown was 36% Hispanic, 31% Caucasian, 14% Asian, 10% African-American, and 9% "other". According to Cinema Score, audiences gave the film a C+ grade. The film was the second release by Relativity and performed better than its first release, *The Warrior's Way* (2010). The opening weekend was not the lowest of Nicolas Cage's career; it was better than *The Wicker Man* (2006), *Next* (2007) and *Bangkok Dangerous* (2008). *Season of the Witch* grossed $24.8 million in the United States and Canada and $66.8 million in other territories for a worldwide total of $91.6 million.

Set in the 14th century, three women accused of witchcraft are hanged by a priest. The priest performs a ritual to prevent the bodies from coming back to life. While successfully completing the ritual for the first two of the bodies, the third takes on a demonic appearance and kills the priest. Meanwhile, Teutonic Knights Behmen von Bleibruck (Nicolas Cage) and Felson (Ron Perlman) are engaged in a crusade, taking part in several different battles throughout the 1330s and eventually taking part in
the Smyrniote crusades. After witnessing the massacre of civilians during the 1344 capture of Smyrna, the two knights choose to desert the Order and the crusade and return to Germany.

While traveling through Styria, they encounter the grotesque sight of people infected with the Black Death and soon discover that the Holy Roman Empire has been swept by the plague. Behmen and Felson enter the medieval town of Marburg, the German name for Maribor (once part of Styria, now in Slovenia). The two try to conceal their identity as deserters, but are revealed as knights by the crest on Behmen's sword. He and Felson are then arrested.

They are taken to Cardinal D'Ambroise (Christopher Lee), who is infected with the plague. The Cardinal asks the knights to escort an alleged witch suspected of causing the plague to a remote monastery where an elite group of monks reside. These monks are capable of determining if the girl is truly a witch. If she is found guilty, the monks know a sacred ritual that can cancel her powers and stop the plague that is devastating Europe. The two knights agree under the condition that she will be given a fair trial and that the charges of desertion against them are dropped. The Cardinal agrees and they set out accompanied by a priest Debelzeq (Stephen Campbell Moore); Kay von Wollenbarth (Robert Sheehan), a young altar boy who wants to become a knight like his deceased father; Eckhart (Ulrich Thomsen), a knight whose family were killed by the plague; and the well-traveled swindler Hagamar (Stephen Graham) who is serving as their guide to the monastery in return for
a pardon. The witch, a young girl later identified as Anna (Claire Foy), shows hatred towards Debelzeq and forms a bond with Behmen.

Shortly after setting off, the group camp for the night. Eckhart volunteers to watch the witch for the first night. After a while, Debelzeq comes to relieve Eckhart, who decides to remain with him. He tells Debelzeq about his daughter Mila, who resembled Anna. When Eckhart gets up to leave, Anna becomes hysterical at the prospect of being left alone with the priest. She attacks him and grabs his key to the cage. She escapes and flees toward a nearby village. The search for her leads the group to a mass grave, where Eckhart has visions of his dead daughter. Running after the visions, he impales himself on Kay's sword and dies. When they recapture her, the tearful Anna explains that she only ran away for fear of Debelzeq. However the group becomes less trusting of Anna. The group manages to cross a rickety rope bridge, during which Anna saves Kay from falling to his death by grabbing him with one hand, showing an unnatural strength. The group enters the dark forest called Wormwood, where Hagamar attempts to kill Anna so the group can go home, only to be stopped by the others. Anna appears to summon wolves, who chase the group and kill Hagamar. An enraged Behmen tries to kill Anna, but is stopped by Debelzeq and Felson, who point out that the monastery is in sight.

Arriving at the monastery, the men find all of the monks have been killed by the plague but locate the Key of Solomon, an ancient book filled with holy rituals used to defeat evil. The men confront Anna, with Debelzeq
beginning to perform a ritual used on witches. However, as Anna begins precisely recounting stories from Behmen’s past, Debelzeq comes to the realization that she is not a witch, and begins frantically performing an exorcism. However, the demon that is possessing Anna reveals itself and melts the metal. The demon effortlessly fights off the knights, but when Debelzeq throws a vial of holy water on it, it flies out of sight. As the men search for the demon, they come to the realization that it isn’t trying to escape, but trying to destroy the book so that nothing can stop it. When they find a room where the monks were writing copies of the book, the demon appears, destroys the copies and possesses the dead monks’ bodies to use as weapons. The three men fight the possessed monks while Debelzeq continues the exorcism ritual. During the fight, the demon kills Debelzeq, then proceeds to kill Felson. Kay picks up the book and continues the ritual, while Behmen continues fighting the demon. Behmen is mortally wounded during the fight, but Kay is able to finish the ritual and the demon is obliterated, freeing Anna. Behmen asks Kay to keep Anna safe and then dies of his wounds. Kay and Anna bury their fallen friends. Anna requests that Kay tell her about the men who saved her. They depart from the monastery with the book in hand.

Season of the Witch is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is because Season of the Witch has the uncommon story. The movie tells the story of a group of people who fight the evil that is Nicolas Cage as Behman von Bleibruck, Ron Perlman as Felson, Stephen Campbell Moore as Debelzaq, Robert Sheehan as Kay von
Wollenbarth, Ulrich Thomsen as Johann Eckhardt, Stephen Graham as Hagamar, Christopher Lee as Cardinal D'Ambroise. They are fighting evil for saving the world to secure the world.

The second aspect is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Dominic Sena makes audience feel enthusiastic with the epic drama movie, even when the movie shows about the crimes and war conducting in physical crimes. The casts of this film also have a valuable part. In this film, Nicolas Cage who was play as Behman von Bleibruck is really life. His acting is successfully representing the man as the group of people that travelling to Severac church to deliver Anna to fair a punishment.

The third is the message from the film. Dominic Sena makes the audience feel enthusiastic about the stories presented in this movie. Moreover, this story gives a good moral message and enviable, that the compactness always brings good luck and the emotion it brings destruction in the compactness.

The last of fighting of plague for fate of the world of which reflected in Season of the Witch Movie. That the one of the appealing aspects interesting to be studied. Dominic Sena, the director wants the audience to underline. The black plague is very dangerous that swept from the world. The society is drawn in the life of Behmen and Felson. The effect can be studied in sociological terms of which studies the social life.

Based on reasons the writer observes Season of the Witch Movie using sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurenson. So the writer constructs
the title Fighting the Plague for Fate of the World in Dominic Sena’s Season of the Witch Movie (2011): A Sociological Approach.

B. Literature Review

Before analyzing, the researcher has read other paper that is relevant with the analysis, especially about the approach and the object. The first research was conducted by Wijayanto (2009), a Student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, entitled “An Analysis of Politeness Principle in the Expressive Act in the Movie of Pearl Harbor”. In his research, he uses the expressive acts used by the characters of Pearl Harbor (2001) movie as the data. Then, he uses politeness principle in analyzing the data. The objectives of his research are to describe the types of expressive utterances, the intentions of the utterances and the politeness principle patterns. The results are there are five expressive acts used in the film, 24 speakers intention used in the film and there are the application and also the violation of politeness principle.

The second research was conducted by Agung Budi Santoso (UMS,2008), entitled “The Origin of Social Media to The world Communication in the Social Network Movie”. In his research, he uses descriptive analysis which focuses on analyzing the data. The result of this study states that the structural elements the movie presents a unity inyo a good quality movie. It appears in the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view, theme, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing. The sociological analysis, there is a close relationship between the
movie story and the reality of American life that America takes the origin of social communication in the world.

The differences between the writer and the two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Wijayanto writes Expressive Acts in *Pearl Harbor* movie (2001) by using politeness principle in pragmatics perspective. While, Agung Budi Santoso writes The Origin of Social Media to the World Communication in the *Social Network* movie (2010) by using descriptive analysis in term literature perspective. The writer analyzes Fighting the Plague for Fate of the World in *Season of the Witch* movie (2011) by using descriptive analysis in term literature perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Knowing that the problem is the important part of research, the writer proposed the problem as follows: “How is fighting the plague for fate of the world reflected in “*Season of the Witch* movie”?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing fighting the plague for fate of the world in *Season of the Witch* Movie Directed by Dominic Sena based on Sociological Approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze *Season of the Witch* (2011) movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe the fighting plague of the world in the *Season of the Witch* (2011) movie based on the sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

There are some benefits expected from this study, such as:

1. **Theoretical Benefit**

   The study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Season of the Witch Movie*.

2. **Practical Benefit**

   The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from Sociological Approach.

G. Research Method

1. **Type of the Study**

   The research of this study is qualitative research, which takes the sources data from words and other written text.

2. **Object of the Study**

   The object of the study is *Season of the Witch* Movie directed by Dominic Sena. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. **Types of the Data and the Data Source**

   There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.
a. Primary Data Source of the study is the movie itself: *Season of the Witch* Movie by Dominic Sena.

b. Secondary Data Source is taken from other sources such as internet, article, book, author’s biography, essay, comments, criticism, and other relevant information.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The data collecting techniques used in the study is documentation, the steps are as follows:

   a. Watching the movie for the several times,

   b. Reading the script of movie,

   c. Determining the character that will be analyzed,

   d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary sources,

   e. Classifying and determining the relevant data, and

   f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

   The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It involves with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.
II. Research Paper Organization

In order to make the research is easier to follows; the research paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction covering background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and the research paper organization. Chapter II presents Underlying Theory. It deals with notion of sociology of literature, major principles sociology of literature, structural elements of the movie, and theoretical application. Then, Chapter III is Structural Analysis of Season of the Witch movie; (1) The structural Elements of Season of the Witch movie; it consists of narrative elements of Season of the witch movie including character and characterization, plot, style, theme, point of view, and technical elements of the movie including casting, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing; (2) Discussion. Chapter IV presents Sociological Analysis of Season of the Witch movie, which deals with the analysis of the story movie that is related with the theory. There is also discussion in this chapter. Chapter V includes Conclusion and Suggestion.