

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People are interested in adapted film, whether in producing or watching. Moreover, recently there have been many adapted films received success in awards and finance. Here are the examples of the adapted films: *Gone With The Wind* (received 8 Oscars and box office), *Romeo and Juliet* (box office), *Doctor Zhivago* (received 5 Golden Globe awards), *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *Sense And Sensibility* (1996 Academy Award winner for best adapted screenplay), and *The Count of Monte Cristo* (nominated for Oscar).

There is a challenge in producing and making movie. In adapted movie making and production, the level of difficulty increases especially when the original story of the book is famous. The readers already have perceptions toward the work. "Artistic form is best thought of relation to a perceiver, the human being who watches the play, reads the novel, listen to the piece of music, or views the film" (Bordwell and Thompson, 1979: 30).

The challenge for the film making team will be how to make the work in visual. Any adjustments of the work will essentially influence the audiences. It invites applauses and critiques. However, any adjustment taken by the film making team will have had deep considerations. The main reasons

are: finance, audiences' taste, and directors' taste and interpretation of the work. Then the film will be called a freely adapted film.

The Count of Monte Cristo is one of the examples of a freely adapted film. Kevin Reynolds directed it, while the producer is Roger Birnbaum. It was firstly released in United States in March 2002. The movie is made based on the novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*, which was written by Alexander Dumas. This film is the second of Dumas' works, which was made into film. The first is *The Three Musketeers* (the original title is *Les Trois Mousquetaires*, 1844), which was written together with a historian August Maquet. Novel *The Count of Monte Cristo* was written in 1844. It took two years to finish the novel, and finally it was published in 1846 under the title *Le Comte de Monte Cristo*. The novel was introduced to Indonesia through Dutch imperialism. Entering Indonesia, in a translation form, it was entitled *Graaf de Monte Cristo*. The novel is listed to be the most successful

Although *The Count of Monte Cristo* is listed to be Dumas' best novel, Alexander Dumas is famous because of his play scripts not the novels. Similar to his novels, his play scripts have the sense of history. He was inspired by Shakespeare; his most successful plays are among other: *Henry III*, *Anthony* and *Kean*. Although the name written in his birth certificate was Dumas Davy de la Pailleterie, Alexander Dumas is often called Alexander Dumas pere (senior). It is because his son is also an author, and called Alexander Dumas fils (junior).

Alexander Dumas is the grand son of a marquis, Antoine-Alexander Davy de la Pailleterie, while his grandmother is a black slave of Jérémie, Saint-Domingue (now part of Haiti). His father, Thomas-Alexander Davy de la Pailleterie was one of Napoleon's general. Since the marquis did not approve Thomas registered the name Davy de la Pailleterie in the army, he was enlisted as Thomas-Alexander Dumas. Unfortunately he died young. After his father died, young Alexander Dumas was taken care by his grand father. The marquis supported his education. Unfortunately he was more interested to outdoors activities. Impressed by Shakespeare's play, he started to write a play. Soon after his play script *Anthony* was played, he became a famous playwright. Unsatisfied with his achievement, he started his exploration on essays and novels.

Novel is a work of art, which is enjoyed through reading, while film is enjoyed by watching. By reading the novel, any readers will be able to create a world of their own imagination by the novel's guide. While in film, it is the obligation of the filmmaker team to create an imaginary real looking world based on the novel. Since film is a rather simplified form of the work (summarized), there are many aspects that is usually omitted or adjusted. However it is impossible to create the same world as the author had created it. It is simply because -for some cases, the author and the filmmaker team do not work together. As it happens to *The Count of Monte Cristo*, the novel is published in 1844, while the film is produced in 2002. It is impossible to the filmmaker team to work together with the author, since he already died. The

very far length of time between the publication of the work and film production influences the interpretation of the director, since human is a product of a period too.

The basic relation of the two works is the narration. But once again, the film is an adjusted work; it does change some parts of the original narration. It is very interesting to find out how the changes that are intended adjust the narration, audiences, director, finance, and many other aspects. The changes differ the film from the original work, the novel of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

B. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is what are the similarities and the differences of the structural elements of the novel and the movie version of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

C. Limitation of the Study

Structural analysis of a work is a very wide subject to be explained. The writer limits the study on the comparative analysis of the intrinsic structure of the two works, the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The structural elements compared are characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, and theme.

D. Literature Review

So far as the writer does her research there are some theses related to this object had done in Muhammadiyah university of Surakarta. The first thesis is *The Struggle for Justice in The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexander Dumas: A Marxist Approach* and it is written by Maya Nurini. The title of the second thesis is *Revenge and Its influence on the Major Character's Personality in Alexander Dumas' The Count of Monte Cristo: Individual Psychological Approach* written by Yustin Fernaningtyas. However, the same object, the novel of *The Count of Monte Cristo* has not been raised yet in the Sebelas Maret University, as the topic of research. The writer puts focus on a different subject from the previous thesis. She takes structural analysis in comparing the novel of *The Count of Monte Cristo* to the movie version.

E. Objective of the Study

In proposing the study, the objectives are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.
2. To find out the similarities and differences of the structural elements between the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Practical Benefit:

The practical benefit of conducting the study is to get a better understanding of the similarities and differences of the two works, the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*, in the sense of intrinsic elements.

2. Theoretical Benefit:

The study gives contribution to the development of knowledge, particularly the literary study on Alexander Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, an example in proposing a comparative analysis of structural elements in literary world.

G. Research Method

In conducting her research, the writer uses the most appropriate research method that is qualitative method, in which the writer generates the relation between variables inductively, based on the scientific paradigm.

1. Object of the Study.

The objects of the study are both, the novel and the movie of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

2. Data and Data Sources

The forms of the data used are text and pictures. The text is taken from both, the novel and the movie script of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

The picture is in the form of moving image in the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

There are two kinds of data sources used by the writer in conducting her research, the primary data and the secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data

The primary data sources of the research are the novel and the script of the movie of *The Count of Monte Cristo*

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are any articles and books related to the novel and the movie, which is taken from many sources.

3. Data Collecting Method

The method used to collect the data of the analysis is documentation. The writer follows this procedure in documenting the data:

- a. Reading the novel several times, and making notes of the data required.
- b. Watching the film several times, transcribing and collecting the data required.
- c. Documenting the data needed.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

The techniques of data analysis are as follows:

a. Descriptive Qualitative Analysis

The writer analyzes the elements of the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. The elements analyzed in the novel are the

structural elements. The structural elements analyzed are: characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view and theme. The technical elements are mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound.

b. Comparative Analysis

The structural elements of both the novel and the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo* are compared. The comparison is needed to get the clear picture of similarities and differences of the two versions of the works.

H. Paper Organization

The writing comprises six chapters. The first is introduction, which is contained of: title, 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. The second chapter reveals the underlying theory. The third chapter discusses the structural elements of novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*, while chapter four is the structural elements of the film of *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Chapter fifth deals with the comparison of the structural elements of the two works. And the last, chapter sixth deals with conclusion and suggestion.