

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Bullying is an aggressive action that repeatedly against a group to individual or individual against individuals that can result in physical injury or psychological trauma. According to Smith (2016), bullying may be a rather broad concept, which may be understood as a selected variety of aggressive social relationships, designed to harm another the intentional kind of aggression during which people typically and for an extended time behave sharply with alternative persons, consistently injure and harass them. Bullying could occur anywhere, anytime and everyone. It had various negative effects on the victim. Bullying could be caused by a change in the personality and behavior of the victim that caused both physical and mental pain. Bullying not only happened to children, teenagers but even to adults. Bullying can be physical or non-physical. Nonphysical bullying can be divided into two they are verbal and nonverbal.

Bullying is not only a concern of psychologists, human rights enforcers but also a concern for Todd Phillips, a *Joker* movie director. Bullying in *Joker* movie delivered by Arthur Fleck as Joker, who has a brain disorder. The violence that he gets is what makes a change in his character. Joker also describes how bad the impact can be on someone who feels a lack of love, appreciation, acceptance, and affection from his environment.

Bullying this movie started from a gaggle of children stool Arthur's sign, and Arthur ran those children. When Arthur got them, they broke Arthur's. Then when Arthur was the talker at the event hosted by the popular host there, Murray Franklin, but the event hosted by Arthur went very badly. Arthur suddenly laughed uncontrollably and had a hard time conveying his conversation. But the host showed the video live and Arthur got a bad reaction from the audience like mocked. From several bad cases he received, Joker being a vile figure.

This movie told the story concerned Arthur Fleck as a Joker who had *pseudobulbar affect* (PBA) that caused him to teased the incorrect time and place. Arthur is an employed clown. One day, a group of children stools Arthur's sign, and Arthur ran those children. Arthur got them, then they broke Arthur's sign. Then, wherever his

company is located, Arthur returned to the building, and his colleague, Randall, offered him a weapon to protect himself from people who threaten him wherever. They were not supposed to carry weapons, Arthur says, but Randall pressured him. Then Arthur went to the hospital to entertain some children, and suddenly his gun fell to the ground. That day, when the incident was announced, his employer fired him. Arthur gets harassed on the way home by Wayne Enterprise businessmen inside the train. Then they attacked Arthur, and he fights back quickly and shoots him. Arthur did not expect that the murder would initiate a demonstration against the city's rich wearing a clown mask. A few days earlier, Thomas Wayne had run for mayor because he was unsettled by the chaos in the city that had not subsided. Arthur was the talker at the event hosted by the popular host there, Murray Franklin, but the event hosted by Arthur went very badly. Arthur suddenly laughed uncontrollably and had a hard time conveying his conversation. But the host showed the video live and Arthur got a bad reaction from the audience like mocked. Arthur stole a letter written by his mother to Thomas Wayne, one of the most respected people in the city, who is shocked to find out that he is the illegitimate son of Wayne. Then he immediately cursed at his mother because her mother kept this from him and not long after that. The mockery and ribbing from the people seemed to make Arthur very disappointed. From the many bad treatments he received, he became a murderer.

The responses of Joker Movie viewers are very diverse. The response from the *Joker* film audience is mostly about the after-effects of watching the film. Even so, the audience considered that Joaquin's performance was extraordinary and seemed to hypnotize the audience as if they were carried away by the atmosphere. The audience also thought that the Joker is the Best Hollywood Film 2019.

Many of the audience's comments appreciated this film and said they did not overthink this film that can hold a political message and how some people think we need to empathize with the madness of Arthur. So, the impact is big after watching this movie. That is one example of the response from the many responses of this film. From a psychologist's point of view, even viewers whose souls are in an unstable state are very dangerous to watch this film without assistance. The effect that occurred mostly after they finish watching this film is that the mood and emotions become more unstable.

The audience praise was given to Joaquin Phoenix as Arthur or the Joker. According to the audience, Arthur's acting was so mesmerizing with his gestures, expressions, and laugh which was a mental disorder. Then, some viewers felt that the director, Todd Phillips, presented beautiful pictures and stories that made the audience guess and it was difficult to predict the storyline and the end of the film. The audience responds that the Joker could not be equated with other villain films or heroes.

In this study, the researcher is interested in discussing the *Joker* movie because several reasons. Then, the reasons are classified into four. There are characterization, plot, theme, and nomination or achievement that are achieved by this film. The first reason is about *Joker* as the main character that has a brain disorder but he loved his mother very much who lived with him. Joker's mom, penny fleck has a narcissistic personality disorder.

The second reason is about the plot of this movie. The researcher is interested in the plot of this movie. This movie arrangers to use a forward flow. The sequence of events of the movie is to use a forward flow. Begin by telling the character of Arthur as Joker that loved his mother but when Arthur knew that he is not the real son of his mother, he killed the mother.

The third reason is about the theme of this *Joker* movie, the implications of bullying on character building in the main character. The development of good character makes this film provided a plausible reason why a Joker could be born from within Arthur Fleck. This film gave the reason why this madness can occur through the depiction of Arthur's life, which is constantly plagued by problems and sadness.

The fourth reason is *Joker* movie got many nominations and achievements. The *Joker* movie included a list of nominees for this year like Academy Awards or Oscars has been announced and the Joker film leads the way with 11 nominations. The movie was tailored from the DC comic, was nominated for the most effective Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor classes for Joaquin Phoenix. Awards for Best Dramatic Film, Best Dramatic Actor (Joaquin Phoenix), Best Director (Todd Phillips), and Best Film Music Arrangement (Hildur Guðnadóttir) were nominated for the Joker film. The Joker story written by Todd Phillips is made related to human life. The figure who is mentally challenged is degraded by the surrounding environment, which makes us reflect on

ourselves. Sometimes we are Arthur who is facing the lowest point and sometimes becomes a community that takes part in making someone creepy. This film also seems to tell a real picture of life. This film is neatly packaged through acting, setting the place, choosing the right characters. This film is also closely related to a psychological perspective because it depicts character-building due to the environmental treatment of Arthur. This study raises the character-building due to the treatment of the people around Arthur as the Joker. In the film, it is illustrated that Arthur's bullying resulted in trauma to him so that his character was formed from the thoughts and trauma he received. By doing so, the researcher raised the title: *Bullying and Its Implication to Character Building in Todd Phillips' Joker Movie (2019): A Psychological Perspective*.

B. Problem Statement

1. What are the indicators of bullying in the *Joker* movie?
2. How is the implication of bullying on character building in the *Joker* movie?
3. Why did *Joker* as the main character in the movie does some aggression?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the indicators of bullying in the *Joker* movie.
2. To explain how is the implication of bullying on character building in the *Joker* movie.
3. To reveal the reason for Joker as the main character in the movie does aggression.

D. Significance of the Study

1. Theoretical Significance

The study is expected to develop the body of knowledge to give a contribution, particularly for the literary studies on *Joker* movie by Todd Phillips.

2. Practical Significance

The study enriches the writer's understanding of the impacts of bullying on character building in Todd Phillips' *Joker* movie.