

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Introduction

This chapter concerns on background of the study, problems statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, and paper organization.

1.1. Background of the study

Art as outlined in writing is called literary work. Literary works makes to enjoy the readers. This is an absolute connection between literary work and readers, because these two things are never separate from our lives. According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, "reader is a person who reads" (p. 366). The role of the reader is to direct the author to convey his works. The birth of literary works is inseparable from the expertise of an author in exploring his idea. The author is the starting point in the existence of the work. This work is accepted by readers or connoisseurs of literature. The position of the reader in literary works is a king, because readers has the freedom to analyze, interpret, comment and even judge the literary works. Each reader has a different understanding and interpretation, because the literary text is a study of interpretation. The reader of literary works, in essence, has acted as a *critic*, because the reader can judge whether the literature that has been read is interesting or not. In addition, the reader is a *judge* in evaluating a work. Imagine, if no one reads a literary work, the function of literature has no role in the work. Literary works not only enjoyed by adults, but also by children. Children generally like literature; those who like when listening to fables or fairy tales. Children prefer to choose stories that can showing the way to see the world on their own.

Children's response to literature is an area of literacy research that has attracted a great deal of attention. In this research, the present researcher want to discussing a variety of perspectives that can be taken on children's response. One of literary works that the present researcher used as material for children's response is *The Greatest Showman* movie. *The Greatest Showman* movie directed

by Michael Gracey. In 2009, Gracey was announced his first project as a director in *The Greatest Showman* movie. He is the first Australian filmmaker who making a name in Hollywood. Gracey was born in Melbourne, he started working as a animators and visual effects compositor in *Animal Logic* (1994-1996) before his directional debut.

The Greatest Showman movie is a musical drama based on the life of P. T. Barnum. The movie released on December 20, 2017 has been nominated in several categories, namely Best Grownup Love Story, Big Budget - Comedy, Best Original Song - Motion Picture, Outstanding Achievement in Sound Editing - Musical, and Truly Moving Picture Award. Gracey succeeded presenting unusual biographies with the musical drama concept. Making a biographical film feels like a big challenge, moreover it make children enjoy and easy to understand. In addition to retelling someone's life story, biography must also have innovation, so that it does not seem monotonous. *The Greatest Showman* movie can be watch by all ages, because it is polite spectacle for children. Carrying a slightly different genre of film, the modern musical drama with cheerful songs in it.

The Greatest Showman movie tells the story of P. T. Barnum, the son of a poor tailor, and a creator of the Barnum & Bailey Circus. At the beginning, Barnum lay off from his company that will go bankrupt. Barnum also thought of borrowing money from the bank to buy a museum where the museum displayed various kinds of wax statues. Unfortunately, the museum ticket sales are very low. In the midst of quiet museum visitors, Barnum's daughters also gave an idea to show something *alive* for the museum. Then, he began to founded a performance venue and then invited people with unique appearances to join. The unique people are asked to appear with their respective talents. Barum performance dubbed as circus. The presence of the circus is able to make peope curious and watch it. Barnum Circus was a huge success, but behind every success, there are problems that come over. Some people consider the circus strange and hold protests. Barnum also gets another temptation through the music show bussiness with singer Jenny Lind. His side bussine often make him leave the circus and hand over responsibility to his colleague Phillip Caryle.

Gracey actually conveyed the story of Barnum who was already successful but there are many problems that faced by him. However, many emotion messages were deliver in each conflict that unfortunately were too easily resolved. Therefore, *The Greatest Showman* is not much different with other biographies, but *The Greatest Showman* presents a story in a musical drama, from the beginning to the end, the contents are singing. *The Greatest Showman* movie is not just a story of Barnum's struggle and popularity. It is about how someone achieve his/her dream even though the world looks one eye. Throughout his life, the original figure of Barnum considered a fraudster through his circus. Even so, what considered a hoax actually brought laughter to many people.

As a debut work, Gracey proved that he is one of the new names in the film industry that deserves to take into account through *The Greatest Showman* movie. *The Greatest Showman* movie is interesting, so there are several reasons that present researcher use *The Greatest Showman* as the object of this research. First reason, the movie have a great story. *The Greatest Showman* movie is very attractive to the audience, without having to attach to history that could potentially make it too flat or melodramatic. Second reason, *The Greatest Showman* that is accompany by songs that can make the readers stomping. Not only spoil the ears, but the songs also act as a substitute for its dialogues to make the story of *The Greatest Showman* movie flows smoothly even though it is in the musical segment. It is impossible to discuss *The Greatest Showman* movie without discussing the music. Then, these songs are easy for everyone to enjoy. Third reason, in *Common Sense Media*, it is website that show responses from parents and childrens. Tthe present researcher focused to take the data from children responses. The present researcher used 73 data as the children reader's response. The present researcher was quite surprised could find the response of the children to a literary work in a movie, which was not a children's film that told fables or fairy tales. Based on the background above, the present researcher proposes to conduct a research entitled **“CHILDREN'S RESPONSES TO *THE GREATEST SHOWMAN* (2017): READERS' RESPONSE ANALYSIS”**.

1.2. Limitation of the study

This research only focuses on 73 children with age from 8 until 17 years old. These participants taken from website *Common Sense Media* as a source of data from December 9th 2017 until December 30th 2018.

1.3. Problem Statement

This research conducted in order to answer the question, as follows:

1. What are issues that arised by the reviewers in *The Greatest Showman* movie?
2. What are reader response theory that applied in responded *The Greatest Showman* movie?
3. Why cultural response strategy is not applied by the reviewers in *The Greatest Showman* movie?

1.4. Objective of the study

Based on the problem statements above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To know the domminant issue in *The Greatest Showman* movie.
2. To identify which theories applied in *The Greatest Showman* movie.
3. To know the reason why cultural response strategy did not applied by the reviewers.

1.5. Benefit of the study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1) Theoretical Benefit

The result of this research is expect to be able to give more information about conducting readers' response analysis or evaluation through literary work and can be a good contribution for academic references to the other present researchers especially in UMS or other Universities.

2) Practical Benefit

This research is expect to increase knowledge or understanding to the other present researchers that choose readers' response theory and give more information about the movie to appreciate a literary work.

1.6. Paper Organization

The present researcher organized this paper into three chapters in order to make it easier to understand. This research starts by *Chapter I* about introduction consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study and paper organization. The next is *Chapter II* about literature review that involve underlying theory of reader response theory, the types & children's responses, and last the previous studies that are useful for conducting the analysis of the data. *Chapter III* is research method consists of type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data source that divided into two discussion that is primary data and secondary data, method of collecting data, and the last is technique of analyzing data. In the *Chapter IV*, the present researcher shows the research finding from the data sources then explain the data into a part discussion. *Chapter V* is the last chapter in this research that explain the conclusion from explanation in finding & discussion, and suggestion if this research can be used as next research or reference for those who need it.