

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Problems

Joker is a character released by DC Comics back then in 1940. Joker's first appearance debuted in Batman #1 series as a villain character. This character was made originally by three persons, that are Bill Finger, Jerry Robinson, and Bob Kane. Joker's appearance in Batman comic is simultaneous with Catwoman. In the original comic, Joker becomes a villain after he is splashed by some chemical that makes his hair turn green. It is a different story compared with the Joker movie in 2019. In 2019 Joker is emerged out of a horrible neighborhood. He becomes a villain because of the treatment he gets from the neighborhood he is in. His psychological condition gets worse day by day until he becomes someone who is no longer has conscientiousness.

Morality undoubtedly is the most universal value hold by a human being. Through morality, man can distinguish good and evil, right and wrong. At the same time, morality can be a veil to hide one's desire and will (Nietzsche, 1969 p.70). When a human being has lost his morality value, people would think that he would do anything as he wants to. That is what happened to Arthur. Arthur was losing his sense of morality due to his dark past time childhood. He hasn't been treated well in his lifetime and his life full of misery. Those things made him unable to empathize with people. His acts reflect his moral state. He is not able to make his decision based on morality. His act is mostly done based on his own will. According to Nietzsche, the morality of human being is divided into, the first one is the herd and the higher human (*Urbmensch*). The higher human, according to Nietzsche is one who lives without being controlled by any belief (Murtagh, 1969, p.7)

I assume that this movie contains the issue of morality which can be seen as shown in the movie dialogues. Morality is not inherently built in every people; according to Nietzsche morality is acquired through *ressentiment*. Ressentiment

according to Nietzsche is a psychological state of suppressed feeling of envy and hatred in which can not be acted upon. Often times, resentment could result in self-abasement (Murtagh, 1969, p.17). According to Nietzsche (2006) the definition of morally good is rather a veil for one's act. Weakness is always linked to wisdom, while powerful linked to evil. Weak doesn't always mean wisdom, so does strength. In the case of Arthur, he turns from weak to strong from helpless to ruling. Power has become the aim of Arthur. The will to power is what Nietzsche called Master morality, while slave morality is embedded into the weak.

In the situation where Arthur lives, there is a lot of injustice accompanying his everyday life. Treatment like bullies occurred not only once, even several times which is shown in the movies. It is to say that the bullies in the movie don't consider morality as their first priority before treating other people in a certain way. Arthur himself has a dilemma whether or not to fight back in order to save his own life. Nietzsche put on a perspective on this type of situation. He said in his book *Beyond Good and Evil* that he condemn the morality of Christian people which reflected a weakness. He gives an example of people with religious morality as slave morality for not being able to fight back and gaining power. On the other hand, the morality which Nietzsche promotes has been regarded as lust, brutality, and cruelty by other philosophers which Nietzsche himself doesn't sanction that types of acts. In some worldly situations where one should act against life-negating experience, Nietzsche promotes a way that is controversial, that is to fight back against what one would consider a life-negating situation. He also gives critics on every moral value which he considers as decadence. He says that morals must be criticized in order to create something new that previously hasn't yet been found. Arthur which is transformed into Joker is exactly the same concept that Nietzsche proposes. His transformation which lead to a new character with different morality is what Nietzsche hopes to emerge out of morality changes.

Nowadays, morality is taken as something relative, According to Gavronsky (2012) morality is the necessity for one to act. the main cause of this is a post-modern culture that sets religion aside in the name of humanism. The belief system

is now changed into a more positivistic system that seeks only into the physical world. This occurs in the movie I will analyze. When Arthur feels his mental condition appears, he sought for medication, which was meant to cure his body, but not his mental. Arthur's condition has become a precursor of his morality, because of his condition, Arthur has been harrassed several times, which makes him rebel and transform his morality.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background I have written above, I identified that Arthur does morally problematic act like killing people because he is, what I assumes as slave morality for not having an innate moral value within his character. His controversial acts which leads to mass riots in his hometown are believed to be the effect of his act of killing which I believe is a moral dilemma.

1.3 Limitation of the Problems

This research focuses on the issue of morality which needs to be assessed based on the situation in which Arthur has to face. The movie *Joker* will be analyzed as an object in this term paper. To understand the underlying moral issue, this research will use two different theories from two different studies; that is Nietzsche's theory of morality and Searle's theory of speech acts which has several types, that are Representatives, Commissives, Directives, Declarations, and Expressives. Each of these types will explain about Arthur's use of speech acts and it's implication of his acts based on his utterance.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

The formulation of the problems are formulated in question consisting of two questions, as follows:

1. What type of morality reflected in Arthur's character according to Nietzsche's moral theory?
2. What conditions influence Arthur's morality?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

In order to be able to achieve the result of the analysis, the analysis will be done based on these steps.

1. To investigate the morality reflected in Arthur's character from Joker movie according to Nietzsche's moral theory.
2. To investigate the conditions that influence Arthur's morality.

1.6 Methods of the Research

This research will be conducted based on *qualitative approach*. The first step I will do is to collect the data, which is Arthur's utterances from the movie Joker. After I collect the data, I will first analyze the data qualitatively with speech acts theory from John Searle in order to get the implicit meaning of Arthur's utterances. Once I get the meaning of Arthur's utterance, I use moral theory from Friedrich Nietzsche which is meant to assess Arthur's morality and put the morality into two categories. First category is *Slave morality*, and *Master Morality*. The outcome of this analysis will be concluded in the last chapter.

1.7 Benefit of the Research

The research outcome will participate in linguistics study, which then can be beneficial for the reader, because this research contains, not only linguistics aspect but also psychology and philosophy. Through discourse analysis, all of the outcomes of this research will give a new point of view about morality. This paper is dedicated to readers who love the study of speech acts.

1.8 The Systematic Organization of the Research

I will put the chapters consisting of the previous writing in accordance with the aforementioned problems that will be written as follows:

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of: the background of the problems, identification of the problems, the limitation of the problems, the formulation of the problems, the objectives of the research, the methods of the research, the systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER II: FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES

This chapter consists of moral theory from Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche and Speech Acts Theory from John Searle.

CHAPTER III: MORALITY AS AN ISSUE IN ARTHUR'S CHARACTER FROM JOKER MOVIE

This chapter consists of Arthur's morality explanation using Nietzsche's theory about morality that will explain Arthur's act. Second is the theory of speech acts from John Searle that will be analyzed Arthur's speech acts.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of an evaluation of all previous chapters and the implication of the research result.