

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Problem

Literary work exists because of society. Literature and society are like two sides of a coin, they cannot be separated. Through literature, we could see how the author depicts the society and their social circumstances. Literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society (Wellek and Warren, 1949, p. 89). Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life and also contains the stratification which indicates that literature and society is closely related because literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society. As such, literary works also used as primary documents for investigating national histories, world events, the individual psyche, race, class, gender, science, economics, religion, the natural world, leisure and the other arts. Through literature, the mindset of a person or group of people can be influenced since literature is a culture, while one of the elements of culture is a value system. To summarize, in a literary work, of course, there will be images which constitute a value system. The values that exist are then considered as principles that are believed to be true, so that the people's mindset can be formed through literary works.

Literary works does exhibit many forms of literature, but in order to analyze the society, sociology literature is the appropriate approach to use. The meaning of sociology literature focused as a method that can interface crafted by people with the existence that exists in the society. By utilizing various speculations and exploration strategies however on a fundamental level they have numerous similitudes in them (Faruk, 2012). Hence, sociology literature defined as an approach that concentrates on human direction to the real-life situation thus the object of study created by writers and perusers can confront the real factors that happen within the environment.

As in for discrimination, it could be interpreted as an inappropriate treatment that occurs in society against a group of people due to the tendency of human to discriminate another or it could be when someone is treated unfairly because of ethnic differences, economy status, gender, race, religion, belief and therefore this behavior is not creating a sense of justice for every human being (Fulthoni, 2009, p. 4). Compelling definition of discrimination is stated as below:

“behaviour directed towards category members that is consequential for their outcomes and that is directed towards them not because of any particular deservingness or reciprocity, but simply because they happen to be members of that category” (Correll, 2010, p. 46).

Illustrated through these definitions regarding discrimination theory, it can denote that discrimination is an unjust behavior towards one's certain identity and torturing the rational viewings due to the historical and present-day inequality within social norms. Literary works which are seen as sociological phenomena will display the social aspects through characters if by chance the literature shown in a form of drama, prose, novel, poetry, and movie. Through the literary works, there is an element of discrimination experienced by the character as a part of their social identity. Therefore, I use the discrimination theory as the appropriate source through the sociology literature.

Likewise, I use the movie script of “Knives Out” as the data source for this term paper. Movie is a term that encompassed the field of an art form in motion pictures industry. The usages of this type of art are frequently shown through visual storytelling. The coherent definition of this medium is elaborated through the quotation below:

“Movies are produced by recording image from the world with cameras, or by creating images using animation techniques or special effect” (Hornby; 2006, p. 950).

Movie is good object for literature research since movie provides the phenomena that exists in society within its dialogues, scenes, characters, setting, plot. In addition, Merriam-Webster stated that script is the written text of a stage play, screenplay, or broadcast that is specifically the one used in production or performance. Based on the definition above, it can be concluded that movie script and its audiovisual form has usage to be a primary data that can be used as the source for any kinds of analysis for literature study, including this research.

Regarding the intercourse between literature and discrimination within the movie script, I analyzed the discrimination experienced by Marta character in “Knives Out” (2019) By Rian Johnson to understand the situation and the contents from the movie script. Although discrimination is not a direct part of the sociology literature theory, it still involves the society and the social background of literature that imposes sociology literature as the approach for this term paper.

“Knives Out” itself is a 2019 American mystery thriller drama film directed by Rian Johnson and produced by Rian Johnson, Ram Bergman, Jonathan Golfman, Bryce Adler. The screenplay was written by Rian Johnson. This film tells the circumstances surrounding the death of a wealthy crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) are mysterious, but there is one thing that renowned Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) knows for sure—everyone in the wildly dysfunctional Thrombey family is a suspect. Throughout the film, Blanc must sift through a web of lies and red herrings to uncover the truth. In the midst of the family's endeavors to divert from their own culpability, Harlan's young private Latina nurse, Marta Cabrera (Ana de Armas) is proven as the only person that cares for Harlan emerging her role as she is, turns out, not just another bystander of this investigation. Harlan hired Marta directly to be his personal nurse while also paid more fee so that she could stick around longer. She is from a working-class immigrant family consists of three people which are her mother whose immigration status is undocumented, her younger sister named Alice Cabrera. However due to her status that is not actually part of the Thrombey family, I found several discrimination acts that occurred against her, whether in direct and indirect ways throughout the movie script.

Therefore, I am interested in analyzing this movie script within the scope of discrimination that is experienced by Marta, as she is the only non-white main character of the story. The discrimination acts that are committed against her due to her differences such as her socio-economy status from the rest of Thrombey family is thought-provoking as it aligns with discrimination theory that also encapsulating its types and the responds against it.

## **1.2. Identification of The Problem**

Based on background of the problem above, I identify the problem within the story is discrimination due to different aspects such as race, gender, ethnicity, class that is experienced by Marta character. Marta Cabrera, played by Ana de Armas, is the main protagonist who is a young Latina nurse and also the closest one to Harlan Thrombey (the wealthy crime novelist and the patriarch of the Thrombey family), whose mysterious death sets the plot in motion as he secretly makes her the sole inheritor of his estate. They (Marta and Harlan) developed a tight friendship, all because she treated him with genuine kindness, which something the whole Thrombey family lacks of. Marta seems to have a good friendship with Meg, one of Harlan's grandchildren, at the beginning of the story and tried to be tolerant with the rest of the family but then it does get complicated as turns out the whole family were just trying to be nice and acted as if she is also part of the family, solely because they see her as someone that is not equal for them. After the will, they were all started to treat Marta differently, even some of them tried to threaten and blackmail her when she got Harlan's inheritance. Therefore, I assume about the issue of this movie script as seen throughout the story is discrimination that can be analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

## **1.3. The Limitation of The Problem**

Based on identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of this research regarding the movie script of "Knives Out" by Rian Jonhson to the discrimination experienced by Marta character. In analyzing this term paper, I will present the evidence about the issues to be discussed. Through intrinsic approaches, I used the components which consists of characterization, setting and plot. In addition, for the extrinsic approaches, I use sociology literature approach which circulated on the discrimination aspect within its types which experienced by the character Marta on "Knives Out" movie script and the reactions against discrimination itself that character Marta does throughout the story. which expectantly helpful as a way to raising people awareness regarding this issue that still frequently occurs within the society.

#### **1.4. The Formulation of The Problem**

Based on the explanation above, the problem is identified according to the discrimination theory. I formulated the problems as follows:

1. How is the concept of discrimination experienced by Marta character on the Knives Out movie script through the characterization, plot, and setting?
2. What are the types of discrimination that is depicted in the Knives Out movie script experienced by Marta character?
3. What are the types of responses against discrimination that Marta character does from the Knives Out movie script?

#### **1.5. The Objectives of The Research**

Based on the explanation of the problem, the aim of this research to prove the assumption on discrimination through the Marta character in “Knives Out” movie transcript. Therefore, implicatures this study is aimed to:

1. To identify the discrimination that is experienced by Marta character on the Knives Out movie script through the characterization, plot, and setting.
2. To determine the types of discrimination that is depicted in the Knives Out movie script experienced by Marta character.
3. To determine the types of responses against discrimination that character Marta does from the Knives Out movie script.

#### **1.6. Benefit of The Research**

This research is expected could help those who have the same analysis or need the same references about discrimination, especially the acts that occurred against POC (People of Color), mainly for immigrant women workers in America, whether it is discriminatory due to race, economy class, gender, and other aspects. Theories of discrimination that experienced by Marta character are proven in this research. This research is useful for those who are interested in understanding about “Knives Out” movie that is directed by Rian Johnson within the movie script as it enriches on discrimination theory and its types and the reaction against it.

## **1.7. The Systemic Organization of The Research**

According to the title of the research above, the presentation order within this term paper is written as follows:

### **CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION**

It consists of The Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, The Limitation of the Problem, The Formulation of the Problem, The Objectives of the Research, The Benefit of the Research, The Systematic Organization of the Research.

### **CHAPTER 2 : FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES**

It consists of the previous studies review as related to the material and the framework of the theories, which cover the applied extrinsic approach that is sociology literature approach on the discrimination.

### **CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter will explain the research method that I use in this study with the data collecting technique that is appropriate for this research.

### **CHAPTER 4 : DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED BY MARTA CHARACTER IN KNIVES OUT (2019) MOVIE SCRIPT BY RIAN JOHNSON**

Consists of a concise explanation of the intrinsic and extrinsic analysis of the “Knives Out” movie script. The concepts above materialize in the number of sub-chapters.

### **CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION**

Consists of an evaluation from the previous chapters and emulates the assessed result with references, scheme of the research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachments.