

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

As humans, we live our lives facing various challenges and dilemmas that often lead to internal conflict. In literature, characters frequently encounter moral dilemmas that force them to confront their identity and the choices they make. The confrontation between society and personal desires creates profound internal conflict, becoming a central theme in many narratives. This is especially evident in films that portray the tension between good and evil. As a form of literary work, film can convey human thoughts on various perspectives. According to Ramrao, T. N. (2016) Through the use of words, literature expresses human perceptions of events, opinions, and feelings that reflect reality or facts. (Putri & Hakim, 2024).

Traditionally, films often classify their characters into two distinct categories: heroes and villains. They play an important role in the development of society because literature portrays characters and emotions. As stated in the research by Irawanti and Agustiani (2020) the function that literature plays in the evolution of society is becoming increasingly significant as feelings of happiness, success, joy, love, and self-respect are fostered by literature. (Mukhlis, Asyari, Hidayah, Kirom, & Pratama, 2023). However, in recent years, many films have started to blur the boundaries between good and evil characters, offering a more complex portrayal of morality and identity. For instance, films like "Joker" (2019) and "Breaking Bad" (2008-2013) challenge traditional notions of heroism and villainy, inviting audiences to empathize with characters who embody both light and darkness.

Character is crucial to any film because it depicts behavior by demonstrating the importance of good and bad, right and wrong. Since the audience couldn't comprehend the plot without a character, the character is the most important component of a film. Character analysis also requires characterization. (Gamelita, 2023). As stated by Monner and Rausch (1998:33) A narrative's development also benefits from great characterization because the characters' personalities have a big impact on the events that take place. (Gamelita, 2023)

One of the essential elements in understanding characters in a film is the movie script, which comprises the dialogue, actions, and developments within the storyline. The script serves as the foundation for character development, providing insights into their motivations, conflicts, and transformations throughout the narrative. Through movie scripts, films show how the main characters interact and face complex dilemmas and conflicts. The script not only presents a visual narrative but also the psychological nuances of characters that develop through their words and interactions. The use of language and diction plays a significant role in shaping the stigma produced in a film. Language is the main tool of communication. It connects people through words that can show people's feelings and ideas. (Yolanda & Bram, 2021)

Despite the growing complexity in character depiction, there remains a noticeable gap in the analysis of how this evolving representation influences audience perception and social norms. Characters are an essential element in films as they depict behaviors that emphasize the importance of morality, distinguishing between good and bad, right and wrong. Strong characters are crucial for enabling the audience to fully understand the storyline of the film. A film like *The Wicked* presents a tension between power, morality, and identity. Many studies still focus on films with more straightforward narratives of good versus evil. Meanwhile, script *The Wicked* introduces characters who face not only external conflicts but also more complex and ambiguous internal struggles. By featuring characters who are not entirely good or evil, this film challenges traditional moral perspectives and creates space for the audience to reflect on their own moral frameworks.

Addressing this gap, it is essential to understand the use of characters in the script of *The Wicked* (2024) to reveal the dynamics of morality and identity within a social context. Characters are shaped not only by internal conflicts but also by the social responsibilities surrounding them. In *The Wicked*, the identities and behaviors of the characters in *The Wicked* reflect the interaction between individuals and social pressures, where societal norms and values play a significant role in shaping who they are and how they act. Using Kohlberg's theory of moral development, this study examines how societal norms and values influence the characters' moral reasoning and identity formation. Thus, this research provides

insights not only into the dynamics of the characters in *The Wicked* but also into the broader relationship between individuals and society, highlighting how social responsibilities and moral dilemmas shape human morality and identity.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background, I identified the main problem as the presence of internal and external conflicts that influence the morality and identity of individual characters. In the script of *The Wicked* (2024), the main characters, Elphaba and Glinda, struggle with their values and sense of self. The script portrays Elphaba experiencing internal conflicts due to social rejection and being faced with difficult moral choices, which shape her identity as the “Wicked Witch.”. Meanwhile Glinda is depicted as a character more aligned with societal expectations and norms, creating emotional tension between the two. This study aims to explore how morality and identity are shaped by intrinsic factors such as personal values and psychological conflicts, as well as extrinsic influences like societal pressure and cultural expectations.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Refers to identification of the problem, I limit the problem in this research as follows:

1. Through an intrinsic approach: The analysis focuses on characterization, plot, theme and setting, to explore how internal and external conflicts shape the moral and personal identities of the characters in *The Wicked* (2024) movie script.
2. Through an extrinsic approach: The analysis applies psychological particularly using Kohlberg’s theory of moral development, to examine the moral dilemmas and identity formation of the main characters, Elphaba and Glinda.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

The formulation of the problem in this research is as follows:

1. How do characterization and plot in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script illustrate the internal and external conflicts shaping the moral and personal identities of the main characters?
2. How do setting and theme in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script illustrate the internal and external conflicts shaping the moral and personal identities of the main characters?
3. How do external conflicts in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script reflect the moral development of the main characters based on Kohlberg's theory?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this research are:

1. To explain how characterization and plot in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script illustrate the internal and external conflicts shaping the moral and personal identities of the main characters..
2. To explain how setting and theme in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script illustrate the internal and external conflicts shaping the moral and personal identities of the main characters.
3. To analyze how external conflicts in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script reflect the moral development of the main characters based on Kohlberg's theory.

1.6. Benefit of the Research

The benefits of this research are:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research aims to analyze the dynamics of morality and identity depicted in *The Wicked (2024)* movie script using psychological theories, particularly Kohlberg's theory of moral development. It provides insights into how characters navigate societal expectations and personal dilemmas, enriching the discourse on character analysis in literature and film. Furthermore, this study contributes to filling the gap in existing research on how moral and identity conflicts are portrayed in modern adaptations of classic narratives, particularly in the context of film scripts.

2. Practical Benefits

The results of this research have practical implications for understanding the complexity of identity and morality in contemporary society. By exploring the struggles of Elphaba and Glinda, this research fosters a deeper awareness of the social pressures affecting individuals. It encourages audiences to reflect on their own moral dilemmas and identity formation, promoting discussions about acceptance, diversity, and the importance of personal agency.

1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research

The frame framework of this term paper organization. The researcher organizes it into five parts that consists five chapters, as follows:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objectives of the research, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter presents the theories that form the foundation of the analysis. Consists of the theoretical approaches used, both intrinsic and extrinsic, to analyze the themes of morality and identity in the Wicked script.

CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter consist the time and location of the research, research approach and method, research object and data, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

CHAPTER 4 :AN ANALYSIS OF MORALITY AND IDENTITY IN THE WICKED (2024) MOVIE SCRIPT

In this chapter, the researcher analyzes the characters Elphaba and Glinda, focusing on their moral and identity dynamics. The analysis incorporates intrinsic elements such as characterization, plot, setting, and theme, as well as extrinsic psychological perspectives, particularly Kohlberg's theory of moral development.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

This chapter provides a summary of the research findings, discusses the implications of the analysis, offers suggestions for future research, and includes references and relevant appendices.

