

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

Experiencing loss is something that people will never “get rid of”, “avoid of” and so the grief is. If you think about grief in the sense of really erasing it, like you really mean it, then it is a beyond-of-possibility thing that most ordinary people can do. Meanwhile, you might want to start to build your new perspective that grief is a part of living your new life after experiencing loss while you slowly get used to it, you recover from it, someday. The fact that says, “*Someday you will be fine*” could be considered as the “painkillers” for all the grieving people. However, still, the remaining pain, the sense of loss, haunts you sometimes, and that is completely common because it is a natural response that demonstrates the fact that grief is cyclical. Therefore, grief not only affects the mind and emotions, but it also physically changes the brain. According to Mary-Frances O'Connor, the brain's prefrontal cortex and amygdala, the area that is responsible for memory, decision-making, and emotional processing, show significant changes in activity during grieving, especially in the early stages. This explains why grieving people often experience the 'brain fog', difficulty concentrating, and elevated emotional responses, proving that grief is not just an emotional response, but an instinctive process (O'Connor, 2022:68).

Several movie scripts highlight the theme of grief such as one of Ari Aster's folk horror movies, *Midsommar* (2019), the most popular Disney animated movie, *Coco* (2017), and *Eternal Sunshine of The Spotless Mind* (2004) are some of the truly emotional stories about love in its time, which deals with the intense grief of permanently erasing someone from your memory. Many movies highlight the theme of grief above, one of which I would discuss in my research is the script of the movie “Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness” (2022) as the object of my research. The movie script features Doctor Stephen Strange and Wanda Maximoff, who was previously a member of the Avengers. Strange is haunted by a dream where he encounters another version of himself from a different universe.

He starts on a dangerous journey with America Chavez, a girl teenager with the ability to open interdimensional portals. Strange seeks out Wanda, who has isolated herself following the events of “WandaVision” (2021), where she created an alternate reality in Westview after losing her family. Strange soon discovers that Wanda has been using dark magic from the Dark Hold and plans to take America Chavez's power to reunite with her children in another universe. Realizing the threat Wanda poses, Strange attempts to protect America by traveling across different universes to escape Wanda, who has been consumed by grief and anger.

I assumed that this movie script most likely highlights the theme of grief. As stated in Elisabeth Kübler-Ross's *On Grief & Grieving*, Grief is defined as one's emotional response to loss, particularly the death of a beloved person. Grief is a natural process that entails distinct emotional stages as people attempt to cope with their sense of loss. The main reason why I decided to analyze this research is none other than to educate readers who are interested in my research that grief is a process of finding a new self after a loss, as these stages of grief are emphasized as tools to help us navigate and identify what we are feeling (Kessler, David and Kübler-Ross, 2005:20). Furthermore, I formulated the problem that my research is to explore Wanda Maximoff's emotional journey in “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness”, focusing on how her character represents Kübler-Ross' five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Referring to the background of the problem above, I identified the problem in my research is Wanda's intense grief over losing her children, previously shown in “WandaVision” (2021), builds throughout this movie script, leading her to take increasingly extreme and outrageous actions as she struggles to deal with the great pain. Therefore, this movie script highlights the representation of the cyclical stages of grief as Wanda Maximoff's grief journey throughout this movie script showed a regress rather than progress. Wanda Maximoff's emotional journey in “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness” (2022), shows how Wanda Maximoff represents five stages of grief for the second time. Thus, I assumed that grief is cyclical according to what happened in Wanda's emotional journey, and the theme

of the movie script in this research is Five Stages of Grief in Wanda Maximoff's "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" Movie Script (2022) which can be analyzed through the intrinsic elements of literature and extrinsic elements in the form of the theory that underlined my study.

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limited the research problem by focusing on my assumption in this movie script, which highlights the theme of grief. Theories and concepts used are through literary approaches such as point of view, characterization, plot, setting, and theme. Through the theoretical approach, Kübler-Ross's theory discusses the five stages of the grieving process is being used. Considering the wide range of problems, I limited this research to the character of Wanda Maximoff as she represents the cyclical stage of grief and how Wanda's character evolved from her emotional journey, denial to acceptance according to Kübler-Ross's theory.

### **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

Referring to the limitation of the problem above, the formulation of the research problem is followed by the assumption of the theme in "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness (2022)" movie script that I analyzed is about Five Stages of Grief in Wanda Maximoff's "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" Movie Script (2022). To resolve this hypothesis, the next problems formulation is:

1. How are the characterization methods used to elaborate the five stages of grief in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022)?
2. How are the plot elements used to elaborate the five stages of grief in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022)?
3. How are the setting elements used to elaborate the five stages of grief in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022)?

### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

Referring to the formulation of the problem above, the objectives of my study are:

1. To analyze and explain how the five stages of grief reflected on Wanda Maximoff by using characterization methods in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022).
2. To analyze and explain how the five stages of grief reflected on Wanda Maximoff through the plot elements in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022).
3. To analyze and explain how the five stages of grief reflected on Wanda Maximoff through the setting elements in the "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" movie script (2022).

### **1.6. Benefits of the Research**

Referring to the objectives of the study above, I sincerely hope that this research will someday be beneficial to readers who are interested and want to know more about the concept of grief. I conducted this research purely to educate all readers who might be unfamiliar with the concept of grief that someone is bound to experience when they lose a loved one permanently. Moreover, this research is beneficial because I present this research from a new perspective, and I believe I have done something new. I hope that this research can be open to further analysis.

### **1.7. Systematic Organizations of the Research**

Based on the information above, the systematic organization of my research Five Stages of Grief in Wanda Maximoff's "Doctor Strange in The Multiverse of Madness" Movie Script (2022)" is as follows:

## **CHAPTER 1**

## **: INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout, such as the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation

of the problem, the objectives of the research, the benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consists of the experts' theories, which the researcher analyzes using the research data: characterization, plot, setting, literary psychology, and five stages of grief.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **: RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter includes time and location, research approach and method, research objects and data, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **: FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF IN WANDA IN WANDA MAXIMOFF'S "DOCTOR STRANGE IN THE MULTIVERSE OF MADNESS" MOVIE SCRIPT (2022)**

This chapter is the core of the whole result. This chapter consists of analysis to prove my research objectives.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **: CONCLUSION**

This chapter consists of the conclusion of the research and suggestions for future research.