

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The American Psychological Association (APA) defines psychology as the study of mind and behavior, covering all aspects of human experience, from brain function to the actions of a country, and child development to elder care. Currently, the main issue related to psychological problems according to the APA (American Psychological Association) is the mental health crisis, especially in young people with an increase in cases of anxiety and depression. Psychology and literature are connected because literature can be seen as a manifestation of the human psyche, and literary psychology allows us to understand literary works from a psychological point of view, for example through characters and conflicts. According to Endraswara (in Minderop, 2016: 2) Literary psychology research has an important role in understanding literary works because of several advantages such as: first, the importance of literary psychology to analyze more deeply the characterization aspects; second, this approach can provide feedback to researchers about characterization problems developed; and finally, this kind of research is very helpful for analyzing literary works that are strong with psychological problems. The principles of literary psychology are to comprehend the motivations, states of mind, and behaviors of the characters portrayed in literary works. This includes understanding the psychological state of the characters, such as their tendencies, internal conflicts, emotions, and motivations that are reflected in the stories the author writes. This method enables us to consider and understand fictional characters in a more in-depth way, as well as gain a wider understanding of human life as a whole.

Grief is the emotional numbness, disbelief, anxiety about separation, hopelessness, sorrow, and loneliness that comes with losing someone we love (Santrock, 2010). This statement means the feeling of numbness, disbelief, and hopeless when we lose someone we love. Those feelings are shown when we lose someone both emotionally and behaviorally, as expressed in the quote, “Emphasis

is on both internally (thoughts and feelings) and externally (behavior) responses" (Jeffreys, 2005). According to Stroebe and Schut (1998), Grief is the primary emotional response to the loss of a loved one through death, which includes a wide range of psychological and physical symptoms and is sometimes related to adverse health consequences." This means that most terms lose someone in their statements because of death. One of the relevant movies to represent about the 5 Stages of Grief, is *The King of Staten Island* (2020). Therefore, this research was chosen related to literary psychology contained in literary works. *The King of Staten Island* is a movie that focuses on the grieving journey experienced by Scott who is the protagonist in this movie.

The King of Staten Island is a 2020 drama-comedy film directed by Judd Apatow and starring by Pete Davidson, who also wrote the script. The movie follows the life of Scott Carlin, an emotionally immature 24-year-old who still lives with his mother in Staten Island after the death of his father, a firefighter, when Scott was a child. The trauma of losing his father makes Scott grow up as a figure who tends to be apathetic, often consumes marijuana, and has no clear life goals, he aspires to become a tattoo artist. His life begins to change when his mother starts dating Ray, a fireman who indirectly forces him to face the pain he has been harboring and start connecting with the real world. Through conflict, rejection, and eventual acceptance of Ray and his fellow fireman, Scott begins to understand the value of family, hard work, and comes to terms with his past. The film blends dark humor and emotional drama to explore themes of loss, personal growth, and the healing process, while presenting an honest portrait of the journey to adulthood amidst the unhealed wounds of the past.

Scott himself is a reflection of the younger generation of Staten Islanders who feel trapped, not only physically in a closed and monotonous environment, but also emotionally in trauma and uncertainty of the future. He grew up in a close-knit but stressful community, where ideals and hopes often clashed with the realities of daily life. This consequently made Scott a person who did not fully evolve.

So, in this research, I conduct Scott Carlin as the subject to be analyzed. This is because he is the main character who drives the story in the movie which shows deep sadness over the death of his father. According to Jeffreys (2005), “Everyone has a different way of grieving. They have unique relationships with those closest to them that influence how they grieve when their father dies.” Scott as a child had fond memories with his father. Therefore, the death of Scott's father changed his son's life and Scott's grief had a devastating impact on his future, from his love life to his dreams that still look blurry. I analyzed the film *The King of Staten Island* using the psychological approach of Elisabeth Kübler-Ross' Stages of Grief theory. The stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance.

In general, a person experiences these stages, but does not have to go through all stages sequentially as said in the quote “the responses do not always occur in the same order, and you may visit stages more than once” (Kübler-Ross & Kessler, 2000: 113). I used Elisabeth Kübler-Ross' Stages of Grief theory to analyze the film *The King of Staten Island* because I wanted to analyze what stages Scott went through while grieving the loss of his father. With this approach, I hope to find the stages of grief.

The purpose of this research is to analyze how a young man's deep grief due to the death of a father can change the young man's life psychologically. Therefore, this study is expected to inform that grieving is very crucial for a young man, because grieving is one of the emotional processes to ease the pain and keep them alive. In addition, this research also aims for people to understand a young man's grief and deal with their grieving process through analyzing literary works using Elisabeth Kübler-Ross' Stages of Grief theory.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, I identified the problem in this research as that of the main character, Scott Carlin. Although time has passed, Scott is completely stuck emotionally, unable to move forward in his life due to unresolved grief. His sadness manifests in self-destructive behavior, anger displacement, and emotional stagnation.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of problem above, I limit the problem in this research as the problem from the main character Scott with grief following the loss of his father in *The King of Staten Island* (2020) by using Kübler-Ross's theory to show Five Stages of Grief.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the formulations of the problems in this research are as follows:

1. How are the character and characterization, plot, and setting portrayed in *The King of Staten Island* (2020) Movie Script?
2. What types Stages of Grief are portrayed in Scott Carlin's character in *The King of Staten Island*? (2020) Movie Script?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of problem above, the following are the focuses of this research:

1. To identify character and characterization, plot, and setting in *The King of Staten Island* Movie Script.
2. To identify types of 5 Stages of Grief are portrayed in Scott Carlin's character in *The King of Staten Island* Movie Script.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

This research provides academic and practical benefits by contributing to literary analysis of grief representation, particularly through Kübler-Ross's Five Stages of Grief. It enhances discussions on character development and psychological depth in film narratives, helping scholars, students, and audiences understand how grief can be depicted. Additionally, the findings may be helpful with individuals experiencing grief, allowing them to relate to Scott Carlin's journey. By addressing these aspects, this research aims to contribute meaningful perspectives on grief and healing.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

The framework of the research writing titled “Healing Leads to Happiness: Scott Carlin's Journey Through the Five Stages of Grief in *The King of Staten Island* Movie Script (2020)” is as follows:

CHAPTER I

: INTRODUCTION

This chapter lists 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 objective of the research, the benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER II

: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of the experts' theories study which I use in accordance with the title of the research and to analyze the research data, which are as follows: “Characterization”, “Plot”, “Setting”, “Psychology of Literature”, and “5 Stages of Grief”

CHAPTER III

: RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter includes time and location, research approach and method, data sources, and data analysis technique.

CHAPTER IV

: HEALING LEADS TO HAPPINESS: SCOTT CARLIN'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF IN THE KING OF STATEN ISLAND MOVIE SCRIPT (2020)

This chapter is an analysis of the research results. This chapter consists of analysis to prove the objectives of the research.

CHAPTER V

: CONCLUSION

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

