

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are many ways to deliver a story to listeners or viewers. The ways vary from book to film. Film itself is one of the popular ways. It is shown by the number of people who enjoy a story through films.

Film is popular because people can see visually the details portrayal of a story. The detail can be in the forms of the face expression of the character, the details of the set, and the sound effect. Watching all of those things in film gives its viewers the feeling of 'being' on the set.

When people are watching films, actually there are some aspects of the story that unite to form a good film. They are setting, plot, and characters (Fog, K; Budtz, C; Yakabylu, B, 2001). According to Kaliszewski (2012), setting deals with the location of the scene. Second is the plot. It is about the time framing between one scene to another scene. It can be linearly forward or the combination between both forward and backward. Third is the characters. It is about the actor and actresses who become the characters in the film. If the three things can unite well, then the film will be a good one.

There are many genres of films. They can be horror, romance, science-fiction or thriller. However, although there are different genres of films, generally, a film follows five stages as proposed by Todorov in his Narrative Theory (Todorov, T;

Weinstein, A, 1969). The stages are equilibrium, disruption, realisation, restored order and equilibrium again.

Todorov (1969) explains that the equilibrium stage shows that the characters have peaceful life and everything runs normal. The disruption stage shows that there is a problem which annoys the characters' life. Realisation is the stage when everyone realises a problem and there will be a chaos. Restored order explain that the characters try to fix the and solve the problems. The last stage is equilibrium. It shows that the problem has been solved and everyone can live normal again.

To see the application of Todorov's narrative theory, the writer would use a film titled *Avatar* as the subject of discussion. It is interesting to analyze *Avatar* movie using the Narrative Theory proposed by Todorov to find out whether the movie actually follows the plot proposed by Todorov or not. For this study, the writer used *Avatar* movie because it is a world record movie for the highest ticket sold which then can be assumed that so many people liked it. The film was directed by James Cameron and was released on 18 December 2009. *Avatar* is a film which has the combination of great story, and wonderful graphic. The story focuses on a soldier Jake Sully who is paraplegic. He is given the opportunity to infiltrate the native race of the distant moon Pandora. In order to do this, his mind is transported into an alien body, an *Avatar*. However, once he arrived on the planet and is introduced to its spiritual culture by the beautiful Neytiri, he faces a decision: allow his military unit to decimate the planet in search of renewable sources or stay and defend it with the Na'vi race.

1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY

This study is in the field of literature especially film.

1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study focus on the application of Todorov's Narrative Theory in *Avatar* film.

1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION

In this research, the writer formulates a problem that needs to be answered. The problem is how is Todorov's Narrative Theory applied in *Avatar* film?

1.5.OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Based on the problems formulated above, the writer had a main goal for this study that is to apply Todorov's Narrative Theory in *Avatar* film.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The writer hopes that the findings of the study will be helpful for the readers to give a better understanding about the plot of the *Avatar* movie as proposed by Todorov in his Narrative Theory.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. The Narrative Theory

Theory about plot proposed by Todorov explains that in every narrative movie, basically it has general plot.

