

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Shawshank Redemption is an American movie directed by Frank Darabont in 1994. This movie is adapted from a short story entitled *Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption* by Stephen King. According to IMDb (2019) *The Shawshank Redemption* is the top ranked movie that receives 9.3 out of 10 points from more than two million people from all around the world.

The movie is about a banker named Andy Dufresne who is played by Tim Robbins. In this movie, Andy was in the wrong time and the wrong place when his wife and her lover were murdered. He was accused of murdering his wife and her lover because he was in the murder scene. Andy is prisoned twice. First for the case of murdering his wife, and second for murdering his wife's lover.

In Shawshank prison, Andy experiences several incidents. He is a victim of abuse by other prisoners, but on the other hand he is the person who establishes a library inside the Shawshank. Andy's role in establishing a library not only changes the prison's environment but also changes the prisoners' lives. Many prisoners enjoy the luxuries of coming to the library to read books and listen to music. Andy changes Shawshank's condition to be a better place. Unfortunately, Andy's life is changing again when a new prisoner comes and tells Andy that he meets another prisoner in his previous prison who declares that he is the one who murders Andy's wife and her

lover. Because of that, Andy has to take another journey to escape from Shawshank by making a tunnel from his cell.

The writer is interested in analyzing *The Shawshank Redemption* because the main character, Andy Dufresne, is always able to find a good side in every condition in his life. He is aware of all of the opportunities around him even though he is in a difficult situation. In the writer's opinion, *The Shawshank Redemption* can be analyzed using the theory of Hero's Journey proposed by Carol S. Pearson because Andy in some ways is considered a hero when he gives comfort to the prisoners in several occasions such as making a library. Although he is successful with the library, he has to escape the prison to finish his journey.

Pearson has released several books and one of them is entitled *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By* (1986). In her book, Pearson mentions that human beings usually experience a condition when they feel loved or suffer. When people are experiencing a certain condition, they usually will react to that condition. For example, when people have to accept the new condition of their lives, they will try to adapt in that new place in order to stay alive. By experiencing some different conditions, people will dig deeper about themselves. These experiences make people understand who they really are in this world and why they take a journey every time in their life.

In order to recognize one's own soul and help them to be true to themselves, there is a theory from Pearson, which deals the hero's journey, called the *Three Turns Around The Hero's Wheel* (1986, p. 14) In Pearson's idea, the one who takes a journey is a hero. The hero is taking a journey in order to get the treasure of one's

true self and then coming back home to give the treasure to help changing the world and one's own life. When a hero accept a "call to adventure", he will start a new journey. When the hero is taking a journey, he will experience so many conditions that may be different from his previous condition and finds a treasure in the form of love, experience, or wisdom.

As the writer mentioned earlier, Pearson has several books. The writer will use the book entitled *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By* (1986) as the main source and her second book entitled *Awakening The Hero's Within* (1990) as the supporting source. In her first book, *The Hero Within*, Pearson describes that the hero's journey has six archetypes: The Innocent, The Orphan, The Wanderer, The Warrior, The Martyr, and The Magician. Pearson (1986) also divides the hero's journey into six stages: from Innocent to Orphan, Wanderer, Warrior, Martyr, Magician, and Return.

In her thesis, the writer applies Pearson's hero's journey by using her six stages to map out the journey experienced by Andy Dufresne as the main character in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. A study on *The Shawshank Redemption* movie has been done by Sullivan (2001). The title of the study is *Representations of Prison in Nineties Hollywood Cinema : From Con Air to The Shawshank Redemption*. In his study, Sullivan analyzes the way prison is being representated in American cinema but not going through the archetypal pattern of a hero.

The writer also found another similar research about the use of archetypal pattern in a movie which has been done by Citrabakti (2017). She did a research entitled *The Archetypal Pattern of the Main Characters in the Movie The Chronicles*

of *Narnia: Prince Caspian*. Citrabakti's study shows that Peter and Prince Caspian undergo five out of six stages mentioned by Pearson. The only stage Citrabakti does not discuss is the return stage which she claims cannot be found in her object of study. Using Pearson's six archetypes, Citrabakti also discusses the hero's journey undergone by Peter and Prince Caspian as one cycle hero's journey, rather than Pearson's idea that a hero's journey is spiral.

A research about a hero that has been done by Chusna & Susana (2015) are analyzing the image of female American hero in *The Hunger Games* movie using feminist criticism theory. This is similar to Desimasari's (2017) thesis entitled *The Archetypal Journey of Katnis Everdeen in The Hunger Games Novel Trilogy*. In her study, Desimasari are analysing the archetypal pattern of Katnis Everdeen in *The Hunger Games Trilogy* using Joseph Campbell's theory.

Based on previous research, it is clear that no one has tried to interpret and analyze *The Shawshank Redemption* by focusing on the six stages from Pearson. In this study, the writer also proves Pearson's theory that the stages of hero's journey (Innocent to Orphan, Wanderer, Warrior, Martyr, Magician, and Return) are cycling or spiral because it happens more than once. Therefore, the writer believes that her thesis will be worthy of doing.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this study is literature, especially movie.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on the six stages of the hero's journey experienced by the main character, Andy Dufresne, in the movie entitled *The Shawshank Redemption*. The writer uses the theory of hero's journey by Carol S. Pearson because this theory has similarity with Andy Dufresne's journey in the Shawshank Prison and the writer sees that this theory is suitable to be implemented to analyze *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. The writer will use archetypal approach to analyze the stages.

1.4 Problem Formulation

The writer formulates the problem of the study as follows: "What are the stages of hero's journey experienced by Andy Dufresne in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie?"

1.5 Objectives of the Study

With regards to the problem mentioned, this research is conducted to achieve the objective of knowing the stages of hero's journey experienced by Andy Dufresne in the *The Shawshank Redemption* movie.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research is significant to do because it shows to other researchers how to apply the theory of a hero's journey in analysing a movie's main character, which was learnt in Narratology class.

1.7 Definition of Term

1. Archetype

Jung as cited in Pearson (1986, p. xxv) says that archetypes are "powerful patterns which is deep and also persisting in human soul.". The term of archetype is also defined as "a character, an action, or situation which makes a general pattern of human nature" (LiteraryDevices Editor, 2019). In his book, Cuddon (1977) defines archetype as an "atavistic and universal, the product of 'the collective unconscious' and inherited from our ancestors" (p. 53).

2. Hero

In *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By* book, Pearson says that the hero usually "takes a journey and faces obstacles in order to find a treasure in their true selves". However, *The Shawshank Redemption* is an American movie, so the hero must be an American citizen. Chusna & Susana (2015) mention that American heroes are "not represented as aristocrats because they are usually from a common place and affianced in everyday activities" (p. 119).

3. Hero Journey

Pearson (1986) explains that a hero journey is the journey of individuation which consists of six stages: innocent to orphan, wanderer, warrior, martyr, magician and the return. Monteiro & Mustaro (2012) also add that a hero's journey is a process of psychological which reflecting transitions because of encountering obstacles and challenges

4. Journey

An act of travelling from one place to another (Lea, Diana, 2019)

5. Stage

A period of state that something/somebody passes through while developing or making progress (Lea, Diana, 2019)

