

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nowadays, a story can be delivered not only the word of mouth, but also through media. A media that is used to deliver a story is film. Film is one of creative and common ways to deliver a story, a message, an insight, etc.

Film becomes a common way to develop a story because it is easy to catch, especially for those who enjoy watching film, rather than reading a story from a book or novel. Watching film is visually entertaining and amusing. Through film, a character of a cast can be developed. Film watchers can understand easily the story of a film through the visual that a film provides, for example the editing, the setting, the sound effect, and etc.

People enjoy watching film mostly because film can get them away from everything for a while (Magpie). Through watching film, people can express their emotion, whether it is a happy feeling, sad feeling, or laughter.

For people who like to watch film, there are many aspects or elements in film that make a good film. Basic elements that make a film good film are simple plot, good characters, theme, attention to details and good ending (Flores, 2016).

According to Flores (2016), good characters are needed in a film. A film needs characters because they are the most important part of story-telling. People like a film because they like the characters, and they can relate to those characters. The central character is very important because from them, a story begins. Without a good character, a film will not do well (Flores, 2016).

One of the basic elements that a good film needs is a simple plot. People will like or hate a film because of the plot. A film that has too many characters in it will confuse people

who watch it (Flores, 2016). A good movie should have a clear message to tell to the audiences. A theme is what the audiences get after watching the movie. That is why it is important for film makers to weave the theme of a story (Flores, 2016). The fourth element is attention to details. Film makers should pay attention to details of the film, from the beginning when the film is about to make. For example the casting, shots, etc. That is what makes the audience appreciate a film (Flores, 2016). The fifth element that makes a film worth watching is ending. According to Flores (2016), the ending of a story is very important for a film. A good ending should wrap up the story well. But, long ending can ruin the story.

There are many genres of film. They can be drama, fantasy, biography, science-fiction, etc. Eventhough film can be vary in genres, good films should follow five stages as proposed by Todorov in his narrative theory (Todorov, T; Weinstein, A, 1969). The five stages are equilibrium, disruption, realisation, restored order, and new equilibrium.

Todorov (1969) explained that in equilibrium stage the characters have a peaceful life and everything is normal. In disruption stage, the problem shows up. The characters are annoyed of the problem. Restored order stage shows that the characters attempt to solve the problems. After restored order, there is equilibrium stage again. Equilibrium is the last stage. In equilibrium stage, it is explained that the problem is solved and the characters can live normally again.

To see the application of Todorov's narrative theory, the writer would like to use a film titled *Jennifer's Body* as the subject of discussion. The writer is interested in analysing the movie using Todorov's narrative theory to find out whether it actually follows Todorov's narrative theory or not. For this study, the writer would like to use *Jennifer's Body* because the story is unique from other horror movies that the writer has watched. Jennifer, is not antagonist in the entire story, she is protagonist at first, but when there is a problem, she becomes an antagonist. The change makes the plot to change, because the main character,

Needy wants to stop Jennifer, but she realizes later that she has to avenge the real antagonists and pursue them. That makes the story has two times Restored-Order stage. The story makes us think that Jennifer becomes evil for no reason, but actually she becomes evil after she is killed. Until now, the story is still relatable among teenagers and young-adults. The movie never gets old to watch, especially for those who like to watch horror movies. It was very popular when it was first released in 2009. The movie itself was released in September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (IMDB).

The heart of the story is two close-friends. These two girls have very different character. They are Anita “Needy” and Jennifer. They are Senior High School students. Jennifer is sexy a girl, that is why she is popular among boys in their school. While Needy is a nerd girl, she never says swear words, rarely wear clothes that show her own cleavage. But, they are two close-friend. One night, they see a band in a cafe. They both make friends with the member of the band. Jennifer likes one of the boys. After the band’s show, Jennifer is invited to go with the band to a place. After that, tragic events keep coming in their city. Starting from tragic death of their friends and classmates. At first, the local police assume that there is a cannibal who eats their friends. But Needy has feelings and sights every time someone is going to die, and she accuses her bestfriend, Jennifer who eats their friends. No one trusts her, not even her boyfriend, Chip, until one night he experiences himself what his girlfriend tells him.

## **1.2 FIELD OF THE STUDY**

The study is in the field of literature, especially film.

## **1.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The study focuses on the application on Todorov's Narrative Theory in *Jennifer's Body* film.

#### **1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION**

In this study, the writer formulates a problem that needs to be answered. The problem is formulated as "How is Todorov's Narrative Theory applied in *Jennifer's Body* film?"

#### **1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

Based on the problem shown above, the writer aims to answer how Todorov's Narrative Theory applied in *Jennifer's Body* film.

#### **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The writer hopes that the findings of this study will be helpful for the readers to give a better understanding about the plot of *Jennifer's Body* film as proposed by Todorov in his narrative theory.

#### **1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

##### **1. The Narrative Theory**

Theory about plot that is proposed by Todorov. It explains that every narrative movie generally has its own plot.

