

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 5.1 Conclusion

The uniqueness of German Expressionist Cinema, which is based on the subjectivity of the maker, made this film a place to accommodate anxiety and expressed criticism of the world of reality. The German expressionist movement featured themes such as exaggerated camera angles and hyper-expression to show the inner turmoil, madness, fear, and conflict of desires of the times. As a result, the feel of horror, lethargy, and disappointment with social, political, and economic unrest is present in this film.

The plot of *Joker* (Phillip, 2019) was twisted, dark, and unexpected. The whole film was made up as a commentary on real-world issues that showed the social gap between crazy rich and poor people of Gotham City.

The elements of German Expressionism are strongly depicted in the film with the modernization of the influence of the American Cinema technique such as close-up, highly detailed, and realistic set design. As mentioned in the early German Expressionism era, Robert Wiene and F.W. Murnau pioneered the German Expressionism techniques such as extreme use of angles, non-naturalistic set designs, and dark story themes. However, the set design of American Cinema such as *Joker* (Phillip, 2019) is described as realistic enough to be influenced by the German Expressionist Film in as much as the majority of the set designs in this film are

depicted in real, natural, and relate to the current issues such as low-class people in slums and depression. Furthermore, in analyzing the cinematography of this film, the writer found that low-key, high-contrast lighting, color lighting, and the canted angle were prominent in German Expressionism films, as did the *Joker* (Phillip, 2019). In addition, close-up shots were found to be able to effectively convey the emotions of actors and draw people's attention to important objects and details in the scene to maximize the message in the film.

The delivery of a complex and impressive character by Joaquin Phoenix as an actor makes *Joker* a more famous worldwide icon. Moreover, the creativeness of Phoenix in bridging the gap between facial expression and body movements made it easier for the spectator to understand the storyline. Analyzing the character and setting of the film, this research found that from the beginning to the end of the story, the character itself was complex and distressful. Furthermore, the development of the characters and the storyline was gradual, but the consistency to create and explore the storyline made the spectators could not stop being tense.

The writer argued that *Joker* (Phillip, 2019) was a unique fascinating cinematic film. *Joker* or Arthur Fleck, as the diegetic characters in the film, did not approach the film in the template of a comic book adaptation. Rather, Todd Phillip as director and screenwriter tried to present the new original narrative story as a psychological study of a heartwarming human drama about a mentally ill character and the visual style from the way the camera brought the inner life and emotions of the character depicted to the screen. It was a different story through a visual language

that prioritized the true expression of the conflict and the desires of its protagonist thereby creating a rich level of emotion. Furthermore, Todd Philip paid attention to details such as the selection of narrative and visual styles that strengthen the position of *Joker* (Phillip, 2019) as a modern American film that is influenced by several elements of the German Expressionism Movement.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

Through this research, the writer hopes that *Joker* (Phillip, 2019) can be analyzed using other concepts than German Expressionism. Moreover, analysis of character development from different perspectives than the protagonist analysis *a la* German Expressionism is also possible to conduct. In addition, further researchers are expected to be able to continue this research to map the focus of the research to be more conical and organized.