

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Released in the year 2014, *Maleficent*, a film produced by Disney, is a breakthrough film as it chooses Maleficent, the villain in *Sleeping Beauty*, as the main character. As a villain, Maleficent is described as a powerful evil fairy and also she is the sworn protector of the Moors and ruthlessly guards her land against human invaders. She has black wings, horns, and a magic staff.

The story of the film is that Maleficent (Angelina Jolie) is a kind-hearted fairy who becomes a peace guard in the mystical forest of Moors. Since childhood, she was friends with an orphan named Stefan (Sharlto Copley). Over time it turns into love. However, Maleficent's clean heart turned dark because she was betrayed by Stefan who wanted to become a king. The chance to take revenge on Stefan came when the king had a beautiful daughter named Aurora (Elle Fanning). On the day of her baptism, Maleficent cursed Aurora that at the age of 16 years, Aurora's finger is pricked by the needle of spin work and that she sleeps like a dead person forever until there is a true love that cured and woke her up.

The reason I chose *Maleficent* as the material for my research is because this film has the meaning of true love. It is different from other films which only convey the evil side but do not contain the meaning in the scene in the film. I also like this film which defines the meaning of "true love". Besides, the characters of

Maleficent are very attractive. There is a chain of her character. She is a helpful girl who becomes a woman who is wicked as she has been betrayed by a man who she has helped.

Some studies of *Maleficent* have been done. Irawati (2015) explores the deconstructive analysis in the film focusing on the concept of motherhood, heroism, and the concept of a witch. Another study that uses *Maleficent* as the material is conducted by Kurniawan (2017). He analyses the changing personality of *Maleficent* caused by depression. Believing and being betrayed by someone can change someone's personality. Meanwhile, Elnahla & Disney (2015) study how Disney alters the actions of major and minor characters and the construction of aging female characters. The key characteristics they exhibit during their fight for eternal youth, beauty, and social and political power were analyzed. Further, Hollywoodized or Disneyfied versions of fairy tales were the only versions that many children ever experience, providing them with role models that are crucial to the development of their own identities.

This study discusses the characterization of *Maleficent* in *Maleficent* film. This research sees the changes in the characters of *Maleficent* from her young age until she finds her true love who is the daughter of the man that has made her broken heart.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this study is literature, which focuses on film analysis

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study is an in-depth character analysis of *Maleficent* film. It sees how the characters of Maleficent change through time.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the question that the researcher needs to address in this study is: “What are the characters of Maleficent?”

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study is “to discuss the characters of Maleficent.”

1.6 Significance of the Study

By doing this research, hopefully, the researcher hopes that the readers will have a better understanding of the character of *Maleficent*. The writer also hopes that after the readers read and understand this research, they will learn something new as the writer believes that a story (fiction or not) and its characters are capable to give lessons to its readers.

1.7 Definition of Term

In order not to create confusion for the readers, the writer briefly explains the terms used in this paper.

1. Character

According to Harpham & Abram (2012), characters are persons who lived in narrative works that possess morals, intellect and feeling like a human. Those qualities can be inferred from their dialogues and actions. There are two meanings of character: the mental states of a person and a person in a story.