

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The *Game of Thrones* is an adaptation of a novel entitled *Song of Ice and Fire* by Martin (1996). The book was then adapted into a TV series by Benioff and Weiss (2011). Sansa Stark is not the protagonist of the series, but she is one of the main characters in the series. She appears in every episode of the *Game of Thrones*. Nevertheless, Sansa Stark is worth studying because her naive disposition causes her to encounter complications throughout the episodes. In addition, such a disposition of Sansa further characterizes her as being weaker and more indecisive than the disposition of her little sister, Arya Stark. Sansa grows with feminine qualities where women have to do women's activities such as sewing (Yoninho, 2020). It shown when Sansa and other girls in Winterfell do embroidery with Septa Mordane.

Sansa's mindset, formed from being raised as a princess, makes her think her life will be happy when she meets a prince who can protect her. One day, the circumstances of her life do not go according to what she has dreamed on. Those circumstances make Sansa survive on her own feet, which is very difficult because she has always been protected by those closest to her.

From the reasons above, the researcher chooses to analyze the character development of Sansa Stark. In *Game of Thrones*, Sansa is depicted as a beautiful, gentle, and innocent girl. She is a noble family daughter and always obeys all the

rules without much protest due to her gender (Varga, 2015). Sansa believes she will marry a prince or king and live happily ever after. One day, Robert, the King of Seven Kingdoms, comes to Winterfell to ask Ned Stark, Sansa's father, to be the king's right hand. He also plans to marry Sansa to Prince Joffrey (the crown prince of the Seven Kingdoms).

Sansa is excited to hear the news because the life she has dreamed of will come true. Sansa even asks Catelyn Stark, her mother, to persuade her father to accept the king's proposal because his father had intended to refuse. If her father agrees to become the king's right-hand man, his father will take Sansa and her younger sister Arya to King's Landing. Thus, they will quickly realize Sansa's dream of marrying a crown prince.

The day when Sansa leaves Winterfell is when she starts some circumstances that will lead her to a developed character. However, Sansa's life is far from what she always dreamed of. Starting from the accusation of treason against her father, Sansa is forced to admit that her father had betrayed the kingdom and took full responsibility for the king's death. This situation makes Sansa a captive in King's Landing, labeled as the traitor's daughter, and pressured by Queen Cersei and Prince Joffrey during her time in King's Landing. In hiding as a fugitive, Sansa is betrayed by Petyr Baelish, someone she considers like her uncle who 'sold' her to The Boltons, who are taking over the north (Zaidi & Sahibzada, 2020).

After experiencing those circumstances, step by step, Sansa begins to learn how the game of thrones is played. She slowly transforms into a different type of

person. The character development experienced by Sansa Stark is interesting to identify.

Sansa Stark is a character that undergoes drastic development. Throughout the series, Sansa develops from a sheltered high-born girl to a young woman who learns to take advantage of her role by restricting her time and class (Alesi, 2017). Sansa has a very long and tortuous journey after her father is executed. She sees a lot of violence, war, and injustice. Sansa herself experiences the betrayal of Queen Cersei and Prince Joffrey, who at first promised to protect her however instead of turning to humiliate her. The bitter experiences that Sansa goes through slowly change her gentle and innocent character into a strong and more thoughtful person. Therefore, Sansa has been included as one of several influential women characters in the story (Kawale, 2019). This study will focus on the character development experienced by Sansa Stark based on Pearson's (1998) archetypal patterns.

Sansa's character development in the *Game of Thrones* film series is the objective of the study. The researcher will analyze the development experienced by Sansa Stark using Pearson's (1998) theory about the archetypal patterns in human development. In her book, Pearson (1998, p.20) mentioned “many archetypal plots but only six that are most influential in the development of a person's life”. Pearson also describes the flow of these six patterns. They are Innocent to Orphans, Wanderers, Warriors, Altruist, Innocent Return, and the last is Magician.

The researcher chooses this topic because the researcher intends to analyze the archetypal pattern experienced by Sansa Stark, causing her character to develop. The author uses a study belonging to Ekarasmi M. (2018) which also uses Pearson's

theory of archetypal patterns as a reference in this research. However, what makes this study unique from the previous one is that the researcher uses the Pearson's (1998) theory to analyze the archetypal patterns experienced by Sansa Stark in the *Game of Thrones* TV series.

The researcher chooses Pearson's (1998) theory about archetypal pattern because the theory is related to the journey experienced by Sansa Stark in the *Game of Thrones* TV series. Sansa's life at the beginning of the series is a perfect life where she is surrounded by people who love and protect her. Then Sansa experienced a turning point where next she had to try to protect herself. This is the same as the initial pattern (Innocent to Orphan) from Pearson's (1998) where this pattern is when someone who is enjoying their comfort zone suddenly experiences a 'fall' and they have to protect themselves to survive.

The researcher chose to use TV series instead of film because TV series have In its development, the TV series has more complex plots and levels of character development (Barker & Zagalo, 2006) which gives the researcher a more detailed storyline and character development process than in the film so that the research can be carried out in depth.

## **1.2 Field of the Study**

The field of study is literature, especially film series.

## **1.3 Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study is the character development experienced by Sansa Stark in the *Game of Thrones* TV series.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

How does Sansa Stark experience character development based on Pearson's theory about archetypal patterns?

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to find out the character development of Sansa Stark based on Pearson's archetypal patterns.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes this study will help readers to understand Sansa Stark's character development in the *Game of Thrones* film series. This study also aims to help the readers learn more about archetypes by Pearson (1998) that can affect their lives and help them find their goals in life. Readers can also apply this archetypal theory to analyze the development of characters from other films or stories.

#### **1.7 Definition of Term**

Some terms need to be defined to provide a better understanding of the ideas discussed in this study, such as:

1. Archetype Pattern

“Archetype is nothing more than a deep structure of the spiritual and social system.

It can be thought of as an inner personality, ally, or guidepost that is always available to all human beings as the key to personal transformation” (Pearson, 1998 p.19).

2. Character Development

“Character development is the process of personality transformation from bad to good and vice versa through personality under the influence of psychological factors and essential factors” (Hasanah et al., 2018 p.217).

