CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the basic information of this research. It expresses things that become the background of this research, including the selection of research topics. This chapter is divided into headings such as the background, the research question, the Scope of Research, the significance of research, and the scope and limitations of research.

1.1 Background of study

There are many literary works about childhood trauma. Most of them are nuanced or inspired by real life. One is a scholarly work, like a film.

Film is a type of art that encompasses all media features. Films, as audiovisual aids, express human feelings that want to fulfill the needs and pleasures of life. In addition, films play an essential role in developing language and literature. According to Gerlach and Ely (in Mudhoffir, 1980), film is a broadly understood medium that includes any person, material, or event and creates an environment that allows students to acquire attitudes, knowledge, and skills. In addition, Palapah and Syamsudin (1986) also state that film is one type of mass media that stands out because it combines film images and words. The researcher concludes that a film is a film picture and tells the human experience in a way of life developed through sound or visuals to provide the public with entertainment and education about life, even more so about the life of someone who has been traumatized.

A traumatic event is a past event that causes injury to the person affected and has unpleasant consequences as a result of the event. A traumatic experience is a distressing event that can damage minds. Maryadi (in Tangkilisan, 2022). Traumatic events are unusual because they always cause overwhelmed feelings when dealing with them. In addition, trauma can also result in feelings of intense fear, helplessness, loss of control, and threat. When someone experiences a traumatic event, extreme behavioral and emotional reactions are triggered. Styono said that trauma can lead to abnormal behavior in the

environment because memories of unpleasant events persist into adulthood.

Numerous scholarly works and films are created by journalists, particularly those related to the injury of the characters within the story. One could be a film called Split (2016), composed and directed by M. Night Shyamalan. This film tells the story of the main character, a boy named Kevin Wendell Piece. He has 23 diverse personalities inside himself, counting Kevin Wendell Crumb, Barry S., Dennis, Patricia, Hedwig, Jade, Orwell, Heinrich, Samuel, Mary Reynolds, Ian, Norma, Mr. Pritchard, Luke, Goddard, Bernice, Polly, Rakel, Felida, Ansel, Jalin, Kat, B.T. Each character has its claim characteristics, behavior, and phonetic designs. Haverkamp & Hoeltje (in Amalia & Laili, 2023)

Based on 23 different identities that reside within Kevin, not all identities are clearly visible in the film; only some of Kevin identities are depicted in detail. Including Kevin Wendell Crumb, Dennis, Patricia, Hedwig, The Beast, and Barry, the differences between these six identities are very striking, both in terms of speech intonation and the language they use. This is because during his childhood Kevin repeatedly experienced severe trauma at the hands of his mother, which caused Kevin to suffer from dissociative identity disorder (DID).

The environment in which a person spends their childhood is essential for developing that person personality. Therefore, parents are responsible for providing their children with a good, honest, loving education. Taking responsibility as a parent is a challenging thing. One of the responsibilities of parents is to discipline their children. The problem is that many parents need to be more careful with their children. Over-discipline arises from feelings of being out of control. Parents may make their children angry for other reasons. Factors that influence child abuse include extreme frustration, lack of power, and limited parental knowledge.

Based on the background above, the researcher uses Judith Lewis Herman trauma research to formulate a trauma analysis of the main character of the film "Split" by M. Night Shyamalan. This theory argues that the trauma experienced by a person results from learning from the environment. Trauma theory contends that the good and bad of a human being depend on the child experience, which is

learned from the beginning. Parents, family, and environment are the most critical factors determining whether a person behavior changes for the better or worse.

1.2 Problem Statement

Based on the foundation over, the analyst defines the taking after investigating questions:

1. What symptoms of trauma experienced by the main character?
2. How are the traumatic events experienced by the main character in the split film?

1.3 Objective of Research

This research focuses on

1. What symptoms of trauma experienced by the main character
2. How the traumatic events experienced by the main character in the "Split" film.

1.4 Scope of Research

The scope of this study is that the researcher focuses on analyzing the main character in the Split film (2016), especially the symptoms of trauma experienced by the main character and the traumatic events experienced by the main character. Furthermore, the researcher employs the trauma theory by Judith Lewis Herman.

1.5 Significance of Research

The importance of this research was carried out with two main objectives, namely its theoretical and practical objectives:

1. Theoretical

This theoretical aims to expand knowledge about literature and psychological science in film. Researcher also hope that this research can be a valuable reference for further researcher in this field. With the theories and analysis contained in this research.

2. Practical

The purpose of the practical is to increase knowledge for future researcher to produce better research. The second purpose of this practical is to make

researcher and readers more knowledgeable in studying literary works, especially in film and those related to mental health.