

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Novel has caught the world's attention since the 16th century as one of literary works. The story inside a novel can take the readers into a new dimension of their own imagination. Moreover, novel is not only entertain the readers but also inspire them in many ways because the author of the novel always give a message through the work.

In the 19th century, filmmakers are interested in adapting a novel into film. This opportunity comes from the readers who wish their favourite book to be produced into a film. The readers are often curious about the visualization of the characters and settings of the novel in a film because they know that some authors of the book get involved in the film-making process when their novel is adapted. Also, film is more attractive than novel. Film catches people's attention through the visualization of the story and the sound effects. Film also can deliver the message to the viewers more easily. Furthermore, people need less effort to watch a movie than to read a novel because they only need one or two hours to watch it.

Nowadays, film adaptation has been a big issue of the film industry because there are so many films based on novels released and have made their successful debut in the 'big screen'. This phenomenon catches people's attention around the world. Some of well-known novels which have been adapted into films are *Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling, *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, and *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.

The process of a novel into a film in literature is known as ecranisation, derived from the French word '*ecran*' that means screen. This term has been used in Indonesia since Eneste introduced it through his book "Novel dan Film"

in 1991. Some of the ecranisation studies that have been done in Indonesia are *Perbedaan Makna Novel dan Film Ayat-Ayat Cinta* by Karkono (2009), *Transformasi Novel ke Film Kajian Ekranisasi terhadap The Scarlet Letter karya Nathaniel Hawthorne* by Arida Widyastuti (2012), and *Ketika Cinta Bertasbih Tranformasi Novel ke Film* by Siti Isnainah (2015).

Ecranisation explains the differences between novel and its film adaptation. There are so many perspectives to judge the adaptation from its original work. People who have read the novel beforehand often think that the film adaptation is different from the original work, whether it is good or bad mark. Usually, the differences lay on the characters, story line, and settings because a filmmaker has different ideology from the author of the book to represent the story into film. Sometimes, it makes the film adaptation deliver different message from the original book.

Nicholas Sparks is one of famous American novelists who has published eighteen romance novels and two non-fiction books since 1990 until present. Almost all of his romance novels have been best-selling novel in *New York Times* list after its release. Eleven of his novels have been adapted into film such as *A Walk to Remember* (2002), *The Notebook* (2004), *Dear John* (2010), and *The Last Song* (2010). Sparks' latest novel adapted into film is *The Choice* which released in cinemas in February 2016. Meanwhile, his recent novel is *Two by Two* which was published in October 2016.

The Notebook tells about an old man called Duke who reads a story from a notebook to an old woman in a nursing home. He reads the notebook every day in order to recall the woman's memory about her life before. The story inside the notebook is about a young boy who works at lumberyard named Noah. He falls in love with a girl from rich family named Allie, who comes to the town for summer vacation. Allie's parents forbid her to have relationship with Noah because they are from different class society. The remaining story tells about how Noah fights for his love, Allie. Apparently, it

turns out that the old woman, who can't remember anything is Allie and the old man, who reads for her is Noah. The story continues about Noah trying to make his wife, Allie remember their memories again.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher discussed about the comparison between the novel *The Notebook* and its film adaptation with the same title. The researcher explained the changing process from novel into film using Ecranisation theory. In addition, the researcher also used structural approach to help her answer the research questions.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

- a. What is the general description of Noah Calhoun as the main character in novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and its film adaptation?
- b. What plot changes occurred in novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and its film adaptation?
- c. What are the conflicts experienced by the main character in novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and its film adaptation?
- d. What are the settings described in novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and its film adaptation?
- e. What are the differences between novel *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks and its film adaptation through the ecranisation process?

1.3. Scope of the Study

In the scope of the study, the researcher limited the analysis on the differences between Sparks' novel *The Notebook* and its film adaptation released in 2004. To compare both novel and film, the researcher specified the general description of the main character (Noah Calhoun), intrinsic and extrinsic conflicts experienced by the main character, plots, and setting of time and place. The researcher also used Ecranisation theory to explain the differences between novel and film.

1.4. Objective of the Study

- a. To describe the general description of Noah Calhoun as the main character from both novel and film
- b. To explain plot changes occurred in the story from both novel and film
- c. To explain conflicts experienced by Noah Calhoun as the main character from both novel and film
- d. To describe the settings in the story from both novel and film
- e. To explain ecranisation process from novel into film

1.5. Significance of the Study

- a. For the researcher

The researcher get knowledge and meaningful experience from this study. The study also encourage the researcher to be more creative in developing idea in literary studies.

- b. For the reader

From this study, hopefully the reader get information to study novel and film as literary works and get better understanding about the content of the story. The reader also get the message which the author or the director wants to deliver from the novel and film.

- c. For the university

The university get contribution from this study in Self Access Center by keeping this study as a model. So, the students can read this study as a reference and get more information about literary works.

1.6. Thesis Organisation

This thesis is organized into five chapters. They are introduction, review of related literature, method, analysis, and conclusion.

The first chapter, is Introduction. It consisted of background of the study, statements of problems, scope of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and thesis organization.

The second chapter, is Review of Related Literature. In this chapter, the researcher presented previous research and the theory of structural approach which consists of character, conflict, plot, and setting. Also, the theory of Ecranisation.

The third chapter, belongs to the Research Method. It consisted of research design, source of data, unit of analysis, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

The fourth chapter, is Discussion. The researcher discussed the data and explained it as well. By using the structural approach and Ecranisation theory, the researcher presented the analysis of character, plot, conflicts, settings, and the differences between novel and its film adaptation which are queried in the statements of the problems above.

The last chapter, the fifth chapter, is the Conclusion and Suggestion. It consisted of the summary of the discussion and suggestion.