

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the Research

A movie is a popular form that conveys moral values, lessons, and something to take into one's life. Regardless of the circumstances that occur in our society, one of the quotations by Ridwana et al., (2022) states that a person's character and self-image depicted in the movie have values of life that a person learns and chooses to live by, determining their character and self-image; these values are universal and consistent with the basic standards that society has accepted. As we know, besides providing moral value, films or movies can also be tools to entertain audiences wherever and whenever. According to Anggraeni et al., (2019) Film has become the most popular literary product because it is easily accessible, inexpensive, offers moral lessons, is created in a variety of genres, is engaging with a lot of vivid animation and spectacular effects, and frequently incorporates language and cultural content.

Movies as literary works get a lot of attention. It is common for a film to be liked by many people from various circles. As it evolves, the film has the power to influence the desires, change the way people think, and alter their behavior. As stated by Kubrak (2020) films influence audiences in various ways, impacting their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. Additional benefits include their emotional engagement, shaping perceptions, changing perspectives on social issues,

behavioral influence, and many more. Besides that, in its development, movies have always brought remarkable power, carried us, provided us with fresh perspectives, and also influenced society through existing mass media. Important movies have influenced our perception of everything around us (Khan, 2023).

Specific issues can be effectively depicted through movies. According to Aurier (2015) as a form of mass communication, movies can provide shadows and dynamics because they involve the audience's emotions, visuals, and body language. This allows the audience to become aware through empathy and sensitivity. Additionally, films can affect relationships, interactions, and ways of thinking and behaving in some way. All stories in film can evoke emotions and transmit meanings to their audience (Michel, 2018). The feelings conveyed can hone a person's ability to relate in complex ways and further explore the experiences of trying new things.

As Kubrak (2020) concludes in his research, films are considered a medium for social and personal transformation, influencing viewers' perspectives on current social issues and their attitudes, ideas, and behaviors. This is connected to interpersonal communication, which the term interpersonal refers to the relationships and interactions that arise between two or more people in both personal and professional contexts. The idea encompasses various topics, including interpersonal relationships, cooperation, and communication in everyday life.

According to Griffin (1990) Interpersonal relationships describe how one and other people in their surroundings engage socially and emotionally in return.

The existence of a relationship is frequently the root cause of interpersonal conflict. In film analysis, the term interpersonal relationships refers to how characters interact and form relationships with one another, as well as how these dynamics influence the narrative, themes, and emotions presented to the viewer.

Interpersonal relations are a key aspect that involves social and emotional communication between two or more people to share honesty and fulfillment. It is also important to emphasize that a person's outcomes may be significantly influenced by their interactions with significant others (Lewis, 1998). There are many types of interpersonal relationships, including family, friendship, employment, love, and support, among others. In this case, the researcher will examine the interpersonal relationship between a mother and daughter.

Maleficent in the first version (2014) is a retelling of the classic fairy tale Sleeping Beauty from Maleficent's perspective. This researcher chose the prequel rather than the second version because the conflict focuses on aspects such as dominance between Aurora and Maleficent, the origin of the characters themselves, and can also be related to psychological theory. In the movie, which tells the story of Maleficent's background, she was initially an ordinary figure with wings and extraordinary strength. Unfortunately, during her journey, a tragedy befell her. The wings that she has were cut by Stefan, who is her first love. The conflict arises because of the tension when Maleficent cursed Aurora to sleep like

death. It is her way to takes revenge to Stefan because of what he did. However, over time Maleficent begins to love Aurora like her own child, realizing that true love does not always come from romance, but can come in the form of genuine affection.

The story of a very intense interpersonal relationship between mother and daughter that the researcher has rarely encountered before. The two main characters, Maleficent and Aurora, illustrate how the process of their story journey, starting with Maleficent's hatred and dislike towards Aurora, evolves into a mother figure who loves her child without limits. In the first season, the story explores Maleficent's emotional struggles, particularly when she interacts with Aurora. The general storyline in this movie is quite complicated, as it features several new characters. All the characters in this film support each other to shape the holistic story.

In the movie, which explores the interaction, relationships, power dynamics, and personal conflicts between characters in this study, a psychological aspect is examined. Known as one of the essential sciences, Tajfel, (1979) stated that psychological theory itself examines the ideas and precepts that are used to understand, explain, and forecast human thought and behavior. Psychology is the study of how people think, feel, and interact with their surroundings, as well as the factors that drive human behavior and mental processes. Additionally, (Gervase, 2022) argues that psychological theory is a set of statements that summarize and explain mental and behavioral patterns within the context of

society and culture. During the first half of the 20th century, three theories emerged that shaped the foundation of psychology: psychoanalysis, behaviorism, and humanism.

By using the psychological approach, the researcher examines how the character of Maleficent establishes and interacts with other characters in depth. The development of interactions between characters according to the story's plot, especially the mother and daughter, is packaged into a beautiful movie, this study can explore the dynamic process that occurs in *Maleficent Movie*. Using the movie and the associated theory, this research draws upon the psychological theory of Abraham Maslow.

Abraham Maslow was a pioneer in the field of humanistic psychology and an American psychologist. According to (Mustofa, 2022) Maslow's creation of the hierarchy of needs theory, which explains how people are driven to satisfy a range of needs from the most fundamental (like food and safety) to the most important (like self-actualization or self-fulfillment), is what made him most famous. Among the many levels of psychological needs, Abraham Maslow begins with physiological needs, followed by safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, and finally, self-actualization needs. The primary concern of this research is interpersonal relations, which will be connected to love and belonging needs.

The application of aspects of social needs depicted in the movie takes the form of pursuing emotional connection, acceptance, and intimacy. By examining the dynamics of interpersonal relationships, this study seeks to uncover the

psychological underpinnings that drive the characters' actions and decisions, especially in navigating conflict and reconciling differences.

To strengthen the content of this thesis, the researcher provides some previous studies that consist of various kinds, from film, theory, and interpersonal in different ways, as a source of information. Through psychological critique, this study offers a fresh viewpoint by examining a few chosen scenes and dialogues. Also, the author lists a few previous studies to clarify the reader's understanding of this research.

There have been previous scholars who have already conducted the Maleficent, and these are some journal articles to support this research, which focuses on the journey or personality (Suwastini et al., 2022,, Cornelia & Limanta, 2022, Farnush et al., 2018, and Isti, 2022) (Widyahening & Wardhani, 2021) women's empowerment (Hegarsari, 2017 & Lubis, 2025), also serves interpersonal relationships (Marestiana, 2014), and focuses on the theory (Fiedhawite, 2013). The previous study is mainly about the main character, Maleficent's loneliness, Maleficent's personality, theory, and interpersonal relations, but in a different movie. However, the researcher rarely discusses the development of Maleficent's relationship with other characters, especially Aurora, her adopted daughter.

The study of interpersonal relationships focuses on how these connections form the basis of human interactions, which affect achievement in various aspects of life, emotional health, and overall quality of life. Furthermore, developing interpersonal interactions may enhance personal growth and empathy. By doing

so, the researcher was inspired to analyze the interpersonal relationships between the main characters through this research. Not only about relations but about how relationships create attachment and a knowledge of the fundamental requirements that all living things have, which is to always be in some relationship.

A.2 Problems of the Research

Based on the background above, the problems of the research are defined as follows:

1. How are the dynamics of the relationships between Maleficent and Aurora viewed from Abraham Maslow's theory?
2. How does the relationship between Maleficent and Aurora represent interpersonal relations?

A.3 Objectives of the Research

Based on the problems of the research, the objectives of this study is as follows :

1. Give an understanding of the interpersonal relations as depicted in the movie Maleficent.
2. Examine how the dynamics of Maleficent's character development in her connection with Aurora can be understood using Abraham Maslow's theory of hierarchical needs.

A.4 Significances of the Research

This study has significance, namely theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

This study contributes to providing a theoretical overview of how the process of analyzing a film is approached using a psychological lens within a narrative framework. This research provides new insights and perspectives on the development of psychological theory, which can be applied to derive new meanings from a film by considering specific factors. Additionally, the new insights gained from this research may be applied to examine character motives and interpersonal relationships in movies.

2. Practically

This study aims to develop an understanding among readers to explore their relationships with others in a positive manner, including their behaviors, attitudes, and interactions and responses to common issues surrounding them. This research can enhance the quality of relationships and refine communication skills that can be applied to the surrounding environment.

A.5 Limitations of the Research

As explained in the background and problem of the research above, this study mainly focuses on the relationship between mother and daughter in the

film Maleficent. Maleficent and Aurora played those characters as the representation of interpersonal relationships. This research uses the psychological theory by the expert Abraham Maslow, which was applied to human basic needs.

A.6 Definition of Key Terms

a. Interpersonal Relations

An interpersonal relationship refers to communication and interaction between two or more people in the group. Usually happens when people grow and work together when they need each other. They can involve a variety of people, such as family, friends, co-workers, and romantic partners. Also, they are used to interact or meet physical and emotional needs, which can occur over varying durations. These relations are influenced by factors such as trust, supportive attitudes, and open communication. The quality of interpersonal relations is shaped by the interactions and communications that occur between individuals, highlighting their interconnected nature.

b. Psychological Theory

The study of the mind and behavior, especially how the mind functions and influences behavior, is known as psychology. Psychology is defined by the American Psychological Association (APA) as the study of all facets of

the human experience, including how the brain works, how children develop, and how to care for the elderly. It can be applied to any literary genre and helps comprehend the work's themes, structure, characters, and the author's thoughts. Psychological criticism in literature can focus on the motivations, desires, and conflicts of the characters, how these motivations, desires, and conflicts are reflected in the structure and themes of the work, and also the characters' personalities.

c. Abraham Maslow

Abraham Maslow was an American psychologist and philosopher, he is best known for his self-actualization theory of psychology, which held that the integration of the self should be the main objective of psychotherapy. Maslow, whom existentialist thinkers and writers influenced, made a significant contribution to humanistic psychology in the US, which was frequently referred to as the "third force" in contrast to behaviorism and psychoanalysis.

A.7 Organization of the Research

This research consists of five chapters that will make readers easy to read and each chapter's explanation is as follows:

Chapter one consists of the overview that shows the whole of the research. Chapter one contains an initial description of issues and themes that

will be raised in the research. Provides a little understanding of the things or factors behind the research process. Not only that, in chapter one the reader will find an introductory scope or introduction that aims to provide context and basis for the entire contents of the research.

Chapter two contains matters in the form of a more complete explanation of important points that have not previously been clearly explained. Then, several more previous studies support or serve as reinforcing data to find gaps.

Chapter three contains accurate methods, techniques, and types of data collection. Later chapter three will provide an understanding of the process of how the researcher processes data.

In this part of chapter four, the researcher describes, presents, and dissects more deeply the main content of the research conducted after going through a series of processes of compiling, observing, and processing the results obtained.

Chapter five in this research provides a conclusion and suggestion which is conclusion overall will show that everybody who reads will get new perspectives on the theory that they can use in the real world in the future.