

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A.1 Background of the Research

Literary works can illustrate various issues in human life, and that includes the illustration of historical events or social conditions at a particular time and place at the time. To make it more realistic, literary works are made into movies. It is also not easy to make such works based on actual condition, but one of the director who proven to be able to release a movie that portray Victorian Era, one of the historical year of United Kingdom, Tim Burton. Like Conterio's statement (2015), "His visual style is unique, bringing together 19th and 20th century European art aesthetics and American kitsch."

Tim Burton is an American director who is known for Gothic style and dark humor movies. His works is fairly appreciated in literary sphere. He was awarded Empire Legend Award in 2012, British Film Institute Awards in 2012, Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in 2007, Future Film Festival Digital Award in 2005 and etc.

One of his great works is *Corpse Bride*, which can be referred to as *CB*. The stop-animation movie that released in 2005. The movie which was produced by Warner Bros was cast by some top actors and actresses like Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Emily Watson, Tracey Ullman, etc. The movie became box office and made income \$53,337,608 (USA).

“Tim Burton’s *CB* is not the macabre horror story the title suggests, but a sweet and visually lovely tale of love lost. The plot that set in a fictional Victorian era village in Europe, make the story more alive.” (Ebert, 2005).

It was an animation musical fantasy film that told about Victor (male main character) that was about to marry Victoria by arrangement of their parents. He was the son of fish merchant who recently became new rich family in town. He was arranged to marry Victoria, the aristocrat woman, to make his family became upper class. However, when Victor practiced his vows in the wood, he accidentally put the wedding ring in a twig, that actually it was a skeletal finger of dead bride, Emily. Emily who never got a chance to marry, she became happy to be found by Victor. Although in the end, Emily let Victor go to Victoria’s arms.

The writer’s interest of this research is because of several reasons. First, this movie is worth analyzing, considering *CB* is an animation movie that won British Animation Award for Best Feature in 2006. This genre has become worldwide and favorite for some people. Benson (2017) states that cartoons were once just for children, but there are many that have frequent themes that even adults will enjoy. Besides, this movie uses stop-motion that is a technique used in animation to bring static objects to life on screen. This is done by moving the object in increments

while filming a frame per increment. When all the frames are played in sequence it shows movement.

Second, Tim Burton depicts clearly how people in the Victorian Era lived their life. It is proven by his successful box office movies that set in Victorian Era such as *Alice in Wonderland* sequel (2010 and 2016) and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2007). It also can be seen in this *CB* movie, the characters in the movie wear typical dress in Victoria, as corset that is worn by Victoria before she meets Victor, women hats also appears in the movie put on by Victor's mother, crinoline that should be worn with gown to make a skirt bigger, gentlemen wear top hat and etc. Those make Victorian fashion particular, because every level of age has different style.

In the era of Queen Victoria, Great Britain society was divided into three different social class. There were upper class, middle class and lower class. Victorian people are also human being, they also want seek for happiness such as being aristocrat, marry to someone they loved and etc. The oppression of the life style for some social classes enable them to find happiness by their own ways. The happiness by their definition was dissimilar with every person as it is described in this movie. This leads further for the writer to conduct the research about this movie and its relation to happiness concept.

In order to gain the insights that the *CB* movie contains, the writer believes that Sociological theory is the most suitable mode to be used. This because the first perspective Sociology theory by Alan Swingewood contains a paradigm that literary work is mirror of the age. By applying Sociological theory, the writer wants to reveal the idea of happiness concept in Victorian people like the depiction of Tim Burton in the movie. Hence, the writer proposes to conduct a research entitled ***Happiness Concept As Reflected in Tim Burton's Corpse Bride.***

#### **A.2 Problem of the Research**

Based on the background of the research, the problem of the research is:

How is happiness concept reflected in Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*?"

#### **A.3 Objective of the Research**

Based on the research problem, the research objective is written to answer the research question that is to analyze the happiness concept as reflected in Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride*.

#### **A.4 Significance of the Research**

There are two significance of the research, the research purposes on theoretical and practical contribution. The theoretical contribution of this research is to expand the concept of Sociological Theory which is

brought by Alan Swingewood. It also give an understanding for people who like to know more about the happiness concept that is depicted in *CB* movie. Hopefully, this research will help for those who are interested in the same topic research. Then the practical contribution is to give an explanation for the readers that happiness is not something that can be measured precisely, because every people desires different happiness.

#### **A.5 Limitation of the Research**

This research is mainly focused on the Victorian people as reflected clearly in the *CB* movie.

#### **A.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

##### ***CB***

*CB* is an abbreviation from *Corpse Bride*.

##### **Happiness**

According to *Oxford English Dictionary* (2010: 681), happiness is a feeling of pleasure or satisfaction.

##### **Victorian Era**

The Victorian period formally begins in 1837 (the year Victoria became Queen) and ends in 1901 (the year of her death). In this period, the society was divided into three classes; upper class, middle class, and lower class.

## **A.7 Organization of the Research Report**

This thesis is organized into five chapters. The first chapter consists of background study of subject, research problem, research objective, research significance, research limitation, and thesis organization. The second chapter discusses all the literary review related to the utilization of sociological theory on movie.

The third chapter contains methodology that are research design method, technique and procedure of data analyzing. The fourth chapter is the analysis of which covers "*Happiness Concept As Reflected in Tim Burton's Corpse Bride*". The last chapter is conclusion and introducing new facts related to the object and the theory itself.

