CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Topic

Film can be regarded as a form of modern art that integrates various artistic and technical elements, including narrative structure, visual composition, sound design, and acting performance, all of which work together to convey meaningful messages to the audience. Film functions as a powerful medium of mass communication that goes beyond mere entertainment, as it is capable of reflecting cultural contexts and social values while simultaneously serving as a platform for criticism toward existing social realities.

According Wei et al (2025) film is defined as a work that conveys stories, situations, emotions and ideas for analysis. This confirms that film not only provides entertainment, but also presents representations of human experiences rich in social, cultural and emotional value. As Prasetyo & Liu (2024) explain, films serve as a medium not only for entertainment, but also as a tool for understanding, reflecting on and appreciating the complexity of extraordinary human experiences presented through visuals and narratives. In line with this, films have a powerful ability to evoke emotions, captivate attention and touch audiences through authentic, meaningful storytelling. Often based on real stories or relevant social phenomena, films further strengthen their appeal as a means of education and reflection for society.

Novitasari (2024) stating that film is an effective medium for telling stories, conveying messages, and evoking emotions in audiences by combining various literary, visual, and audio elements. In line with this view, film is also understood as a series of moving images arranged in such a way as to form a complete and meaningful story. Film is defined as moving images, often referred to as cinema (Harbi, 2023).

Every film belongs to a particular genre, which helps to determine the direction of the storytelling and the audience's experience. Film genres are categories of cinematic stories that are grouped together based on themes, narrative styles and key elements, such as emotional conflict or action. This makes it easier for audiences to choose films according to their tastes (Writing Commons, 2023). This diverse genre encompasses action films with thrilling fight scenes, comedies that entertain through humour, dramas that explore everyday life, horror films that offer supernatural thrills, suspenseful thrillers, as well as romantic and imaginative romances and fantasies. These genres are interesting because they can evoke a wide range of emotions, from laughter to adrenaline, and often combine them to create a unique cinematic experience, such as an adventure film.

An interesting film to analyse is *Enola Holmes (2020)*, a mystery, adventure and detective drama containing elements of a coming of age story, depicting the maturation and identity, searching process of a young character. Directed by Harry Bradbeer, the film is based on Nancy Springer's novel *The Case of the Missing Marquess.* It tells the story of Sherlock Holmes's younger

sister, who tries to find her missing mother while fighting against the social expectations of women at that time. Sixteen years old Enola searches for her mother using the few clues she left behind.

Enola embarks on a physical adventure to find her mother and undergoes significant psychological growth. Throughout her quest, she is confronted with situations that challenge her courage, intelligence and determination. During her journey, she decides to undertake her first mission to help a nobleman she meets on the train. During this mission, she displays resilience and courage in the face of challenges. Her courage did not emerge immediately, but was formed gradually through various events in the story. She had to withstand pressure from her family, particularly her brother Sherlock Holmes, and overcome challenges imposed by a society that limited the role of women. This makes her a symbol of a young woman who dares to fight the limitations imposed on her and determine her own path in life.

The reason for choosing the movie *Enola Holmes (2020)* as the subject of this study is because its main character, Enola Holmes, represents strong female courage in the context of a patriarchal society in the Victorian era. Enola is not only physically courageous in facing challenges, but also intellectually and emotionally courageous in making decisions, rejecting social norms, and determining her own path in life.

To understand how Enola's courage develops throughout the story, it is important to consider the structure of the plot. One approach commonly used to analyse story structure is Freytag's Pyramid, which divides the plot into five

stages: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. In this film, the exposition introduces Enola and her family. The rising action begins when Enola runs away from home to search for her mother, encountering various new conflicts along the way. The climax occurs when she successfully makes a significant decision independently. The falling action and resolution depict how Enola applies her newfound wisdom and establishes her identity. This structure illustrates the gradual development of Enola's courage in line with the events she experiences.

This study will take a qualitative approach, as this allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of character formation processes and the meanings contained within film events. Rather than focusing on numbers or quantitative data, this approach involves interpreting how films convey certain messages through events, interactions and decisions made by the main characters. The study will use this approach to examine how Enola's courage is gradually formed, and how each stage of the storyline contributes to this process.

The aim of this research is to demonstrate that courage is not an innate trait, but the result of a long process influenced by experiences, conflicts and the choices individuals make. Enola Holmes is an interesting example because she is a young female character who experiences external conflicts and grows emotionally and mentally as the story progresses. The film reflects a paradigm shift in the representation of women in popular media. By examining how

Enola's courage develops throughout the film, this research can contribute to the study of characters, themes, and social messages in film.

1.2 Research Problem

a) How are the intrinsic elements of the *Enola Holmes (2020)* story shown in the film?

b) How does Enola Holmes' character development demonstrate courage in facing problems in her life, as analyzed using Freytag's pyramid and supported by Simone de Beauvoir's theory of existentialist feminism?

1.3 Purpose of The Study

a) The purpose of this study is to analyze the intrinsic elements that construct the story of Enola Holmes as presented in the film. The intrinsic elements examined include theme, plot, characters and characterization, setting, point of view, style of language, and moral message. Through the analysis of these elements, this study aims to understand how the structure of the film is constructed as a whole and how each intrinsic element is interrelated in shaping the overall meaning of the story.

b) This study aims to analyze the development of Enola Holmes' courage as the main character in the story. The analysis focuses on how Enola's attitudes, actions, and decisions are portrayed when she faces various conflicts and challenges throughout the storyline. This study examines the various forms of courage possessed by Enola, including physical, moral, and emotional courage, and explores how this courage is built and developed gradually along with the development of the storyline. Using

Freytag's pyramid, this study analyzes the dynamics of the plot from the exposition stage to the resolution to reveal the process of Enola's courage development in facing increasingly complex conflicts. Furthermore, this study is supported by Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist feminism theory to understand Enola Holmes as a character who realizes the importance of freedom, choice, and personal responsibility in her life.

1.4 Significance of The Study

From an academic perspective, this research can enhance our understanding of character development, particularly in relation to Enola's courage, which is gradually built up throughout the storyline. It is an important reference in literary studies, particularly with regard to understanding how the protagonist undergoes a realistic and profound psychological transformation.

In practical terms, the research provides insight into how courage grows through facing challenges and making difficult decisions. This process illustrates how humans can learn and develop psychologically in situations that require courage and confidence. Understanding the process by which Enola develops her courage can inspire readers or viewers to face obstacles and develop their own courage in their daily lives.