CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

A story needs characters in order to further the plot of the story. It plays a crucial part and has the greatest impact on what happens in the story. First, there is a main character or hero who is most interesting character in the story, and the person whom the reader or viewer most love. For example, the main character in Kung Fu Panda movie, Po is adorable, cuddly, and charming. In contrast, there is a villain, the character who is against the hero or the main character. His or her existence is merely a plot device for the main character to experience challenges and gain conflict. It often symbolizes a character that represents bad people and intended to be disliked or even hated. His or her journey is lack the viewer's attention and not as interesting as the main protagonist.

People love main character or protagonist is mostly because they want to be like him or his. They represent the icon of what most people want to be. However, when people look at the Villain who do a mistake, lost, confuse, and complex, they see his/him as like they see themselves who mostly do the same. These complexities are a representation of how human nature is portrayed on screen. Hence, people more relate if they see the villain makes a turning point in his decision and develop his character to compensate for his past transgressions. Here, this character gives people an understanding into what

happens when bad person try to be good, which represent a problem they experiences at some point in their lives.

Therefore, some characters are temporarily redeemed, others have permanently left the dark side, become an ally for heroes, and some even make the ultimate sacrifice. As in the Harry Potter movie series, the character of Severus Snape is initially portrayed as a villain, but he later reveals a deep past and motivations that drive his actions. Snape goes on to redeem himself through his sacrifices and ultimately gives his life to defend Harry. His violence is not simply "meant for fun" but battling for what he believes to be right. In short, he has a motivation to against the hero at first place. His motives for his actions are entirely justified and beneficial for him. By understanding what desperation or belief drove the villain to do it, people can see that the villain are actually just like them who sometimes do the same.

Since the villain is no longer evil for the sake of being evil, but as a result of some past tragedy or sorrow in the past, have proven they have deeper psychology. Psychology encompasses the study of conscious and unconscious part of mind, including feelings and thoughts in personality. Sigmund Freud established the idea of psychoanalysis to explain how the mind (or what he called the psyche) operates and develops. He classified human psychology into three parts. These were the Id, the ego, and the superego. This theory can uncover underlying goals or motivations that cause characters in a story to act in such a way that they experience character development.

The character gradually develop as one kind of person to becoming another kind of person. Their perceptions of the world, other characters, and themselves are changed as a result of the process they experience throughout the story. The process of this development is marked by Erikson's belief in psychosocial development. Thus, he internalizes it into 8 stages, and at each one, there is a crisis that needs to be resolved. This crisis is a transition point with greater vulnerability and possibility. The better a person is at handling crises, the healthier the development will be (Santrock, 2011, p. 23).

This phenomenon is what the writer found in Zuko, a character in Avatar the Last Airbender. Zuko is a banish prince from the Fire Nation. He was banished by his father Ozai from his nation for showing weakness and failed. He was only able to return home after he captured the Avatar, the main character whose existence would threaten the Fire Nation's goal of conquering the 3 nations. Throughout the season Zuko did everything he could to capture the Avatar, including committing violence which is typical of an antagonist. Despite his obsessive capture of the Avatar throughout the first two seasons, Zuko experienced various mistakes, pain, and betrayal. However, he eventually heals and learns to embrace and value himself.

For someone who does a lot of mistakes, his development as a good person is not easy. Although it is not easy, he tried to make amends for these mistakes and redeems himself, then his character's role changed to that of a protagonist. Zuko is a good representation of character development which

associated with psychoanalytic theory and psychosocial development theory.

Meanwhile, the animated series Avatar the Last Airbender is an American animated television series is the best show of all time. It has a 9.3 rating out of 10 and has won 9 awards and 6 nominations (https://www.imdb.com/). It is one of the most adored animated series ever produced by Nickelodeon in the 2000s and has released in 2015. The show has garnered numerous honours, including five Annie Awards, a Kids' Choice Award, and a Primetime Emmy Award. Moreover, the animation was back released on Netflix in 2020 and its live-action remake of the corresponding animation series for Netflix has started production and will release in 2024 (https://movieweb.com/).

After more than fifteen years, people are still discussing Avatar: The Last Airbender. There is a reason why the Nickelodeon animation has grown into a franchise, with comic books, live-action Netflix adaptations, and more. This is due to the animated series' successfully capturing the essence of themes of redemption, fellowship, and philosophical value such as free will and destiny. People believed it would be too complex for a children's program, yet it never lowered its themes and resonated with viewers of all ages. This combination is good reason for the writer to analyse the character development. Therefore, this study focuses on discovering Zuko development throughout the story, what his underlying reason and his deep psychology since he can change his personality.

B. Question and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the background of the research above the study discuss the following questions:

a. How is Zuko's character described in the animation "Avatar: The Last Airbender"?

b. How does Zuko's character develop in the animation "Avatar: The Last Airbender"?

2. Scope of the Research

The avatar animation has 3 seasons called book one - water, book two - earth, and book three - fire. All three seasons have 61 episodes. Each episode has a duration range of about 23 minutes. The data in this study is not all scenes in the movie, but only scenes selected based on specific data. The selected scenes are used as evidence of character development and are associated with psychoanalytic theory and psychosocial development theory.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

a. To describe Zuko's character in the animation "Avatar: The Last Airbender"

b. To describe how Zuko's character develops through the animation "Avatar: The Last Airbender"

2. Significant of the Research

The writers hope that this research can bring both theoretical and practical benefits.

a. Theoretically

This research is expected to increase knowledge, especially in the fields of literature and animated works, especially from a psychological point of view.

b. Practically

This research paper is expected to serve as a thought or information source for readers to study the psychology of literature and other studies as a reference for further the writers related to the title of this research paper.

D. Operational Definition

Through the operational definition, the writer explains the meanings of the terms used in this study individually as follows:

a. Character

A character is a person, figure who embodies behaviour and personality and its existence is created by the writer to play a role in a narrative story.

b. Psychoanalysis theory

Psychoanalysis theory refers to a set of theories that examine the conscious and unconscious aspects of the human mind, which are categorized into three components: the Id, the Ego, and the Super Ego. They

cooperate to develop behaviour and have a strong influence on the individual's personality.

c. Psychosocial development

This theory defines how individual personality develops throughout the course of their life by putting more emphasis on the social than the sexual nature.

E. Systematization of the Research

In this research paper, systematization means that the writer made it easier to understand and well-structured. The writer divides the work into five chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 is introduction. It explains the background of the research, which includes the reason why the writer conducted this research. Moreover, the questions and scope of the research, the objective and significance of the research, the operational definition, and the systematization of the research are also explained in this chapter.

Chapter II is theoretical description. This chapter is about the explanation of all of the theories needed in this research process. They include conceptual of fiction with some of its elements, conceptual of character development, the psychoanalytic theory of Sigmund Freud, and psychosocial theory of Erikson, as well as the research relevant.

Chapter III is methodology of the research. In this chapter, the writer explained the methodology needed in this research which included the method,

the procedure, the technique of data collection, the technique of data analysis, and the sources of the data primary and secondary data of this research.

Chapter is IV data analysis. In this chapter, the writer conducted an analysis of this research which began with a data description, then analysed of the data, and lastly interpretation of the research findings.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. In the final chapter, the writer drew some conclusions based on the analysis done in the fourth chapter and suggestions related to data discussion of this research.