

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Humans need social interaction since they are a social species. Numerous inspiring stories are produced by human interactions and socialization processes. Literary works are then created to express concepts or inspirations that emerge from the socialization process itself. Literature is a creative endeavor that serves as a vehicle for communicating personal messages and emotions to others, the author experiences or emotions conveyed can be the author's personal experiences or experiences that come from other people. Ismawati (2013: 12), stated that “Literature as something that is studied or as an experience can function as material for contemplation and reflection on life because literature is coextensive with life, meaning that literature stands on a par with life.”

Literature and characterization are two things that cannot be separated because characterization is an important part of literature. Characterization refers to how the author describes or portrays the characters he creates and this includes describing the physical appearance, psychological condition, and behavior of the character. Minderop (2013: 2) stated that “Characterization means role or character description.” One kind of work that is related to literature is a film.

A film, usually a film or motion picture, is a type of visual storytelling that uses moving pictures, audio tracks, and frequent dialogue to create a story or show a sequence of events. Typically, it is produced for audiences' amusement, artistic expression, or to convey ideas and messages. Pratista (2017: 39) said that films can be classified into three

categories: documentary, fiction, and experimental films. The title of this research is “An Analysis of Brooks Hatlen’s Characterization of Darabont’s the Shawshank Redemption (1994)” the Shawshank Redemption is classified as a fiction film because this film is purely the result of the author's thoughts and is not based on a true story of either the characters or events. The Shawshank Redemption is included in the drama genre because this film emphasizes character development, the relationship between one character and another character, and the conflict between several characters.

According to Kridalaksana (1984: 32), film is a mass media tool that has audio-visual properties and can reach a large audience. A film always has cinematic and narrative elements in it. This is because the story and theme aspects of a film are contained in the narrative. The story is packaged into a scenario. Therefore, it contains elements such as characters, problems, conflicts, locations, times, and others.

In this paper, the writer wants to do research entitled the Shawshank Redemption. "the Shawshank Redemption" is a highly acclaimed American drama film released in 1994, based on Stephen King's novella titled "Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption. The Shawshank Redemption features a great cast. Tim Robbins plays Andy Dufresne in the Frank Darabont-written and -directed film, which also stars Morgan Freeman as Ellis "Red" Redding. The main character of the film is banker Andy Dufresne, who was falsely found guilty of killing both his wife and her lover. He has been given a life sentence at Maine's Shawshank State Penitentiary, which has the highest level of security. Andy deals with the harsh reality of prison life throughout the film, including brutality, corruption, and the struggle to preserve his own identity.

In the film, there is one character who has a unique behavior. The name of the character is Brooks Hatlen which played by actor James Whitmore. As the prison's librarian, Brooks is introduced. He is in charge of overseeing the library and assisting inmates with their literacy.

He develops a relationship with Andy Dufresne, the main character of the film, and is a compassionate and kind-hearted man. Brooks receives parole after serving many years in prison. He is initially thrilled about being released from prison and the prospect of leading a free life. When Brooks is eventually freed from jail, he finds it challenging to acclimate to the outside world due to society's rapid change and the loss of the orderly routine he had grown accustomed to in prison.

This research uses the direct and indirect characterization theory by Minderop (2013). Characterization is the portrayal of a clear picture of a person featured in a story. According to Aminuddin (2013: 79), "the author's way of describing or presenting the characters can be various. The author may present the character as an actor who only lives in the dream world and who has a spirit of struggle in defending life and so on."

The characters in the story must live naturally and have elements of thought or feeling that can form fictional characters convincingly so that readers feel as if they are dealing with real people. Therefore, the term "characterization" is broader than character. As Nurgiantoro (2010: 166) explains, characterization can simultaneously be labeled as the problem of who the characters are, how they are characterized, and how they are placed and portrayed in a story to provide a clear picture to the reader.

Based on this background, the writer is interested in examining the character of Brooks in the Shawshank Redemption film because the character is very interesting and is different from other characters in the same or different films.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

This film has a meaningful story that can be learned, especially the characterization. Once the writer watched the film, the writer saw the uniqueness of Brook's characterization. He has a character that is not common for ordinary people to have. Starting from that, the writer is interested in analyzing the character deeper with the characterization theory. Therefore, along with this paper, the writer will focus on analyzing the character of Brooks Hatlen.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

This research's focus is analyzing the character and behavior of one of the characters that existed in "the Shawshank Redemption" which is Brooks Hatlen. The main source of the data is the whole film "the Shawshank Redemption".

## **1.4 Research Questions**

Based on this research and the explanation above, the writer decided on two research questions;

1. How is the characterization of Brooks Hatlen portrayed in the Shawshank Redemption film?
2. What is the uniqueness and meaning found in Brook's Hatlen characterization in the Shawshank Redemption film?

## **1.5 Objective of the Study**

This research has the purpose of elaborating the characterization of Brooks Hatlen portrayed in the Shawshank Redemption film. Analyzing the character of Brooks Hatlen helps the reader to understand the analysis of the character itself.

## **1.6 Significances of the Study**

The writer hopes this research will be useful and can be meaningful for the writer himself and the reader in the future.

Theoretically

The writer hopes that this research can be useful for the writer and for the readers who want to analyze the characterization of the film. This research will serve as a foundation for the development of contemporary theory in literature, especially for characterization in film.

Practically

The writer hopes that this research can give an interest to the readers, especially in the characterization of literature. So that they can understand a character in the film more deeply. Also, the writer hopes that this research can be used reference to make a similar research-related characterization in film.