

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A film is a type of audio-visual work made up of a series of moving pictures that are paired with sound, like spoken words, music, and sounds. These elements are arranged to give the impression of movement and to share stories, ideas, feelings, and messages with people watching. By mixing what you see and what you hear, films can tell powerful stories and communicate effectively (Bordwell & Thompson, 2017).

Besides being a way to have fun, films are also a form of mass communication and a kind of cultural product. They show what society values, believes in, and experiences, while also helping people see the world and society in new ways (Turner, 2019).

As an audio-visual medium, films use both visual parts like images, movement, lighting, background, costumes, and how actors look and act, as well as audio parts like dialogue, music, and sound effects. This mix helps films tell meaning not only through words but also through symbols and emotions, making them understood and impactful in many cultures and among different people (Pratista, 2017).

Monaco (2018) explains that films create meaning through a system of signs where images and sounds work together to help viewers understand what they are seeing. Films are often seen as a team effort because they bring together many different arts like writing (screenplays), acting (from theatre),

music, photography, and visual art. This teamwork leads to a creative product that has both beauty and artistic value (Bordwell & Thompson, 2017). From a cultural point of view, films are also a part of popular culture.

They show what people believe and do in a certain time and place, and they can also change those beliefs and actions (Storey, 2021). In studies, films are not seen as a direct copy of real life, but as a way to show real life.

The world in a film is made through the way stories are told, how characters are shown, and how things are visually presented, showing certain viewpoints and ideas (Hall, 2019). Because of how films create and show the world, they are important to study when looking at social problems like class, gender, identity, power, and cultural differences.

As a type of mass media, films reach a lot of people and have a strong effect on them. They can influence opinions, share values, and offer criticism through stories that move people emotionally (McQuail, 2020). This makes films a useful tool for learning, sharing culture, and talking about important social issues.

Culture is a detailed and wide-ranging system that influences how people live in a society. It includes shared knowledge, beliefs, values, rules, traditions, language, art, symbols, and ways of behaving that are learned and passed down from one generation to another through social interaction. Culture helps people understand the world, guide their actions, and keep society functioning smoothly. Today, in social and cultural studies, culture is seen as something that changes over time instead of staying the same.

Barker (2016) says culture is constantly created and shared through everyday actions, power dynamics, and the way media presents things. This view shows that culture is not fixed but keeps changing based on history, economy, and politics.

In the movie *Titanic* (1997), directed by James Cameron, Jack Dawson is shown as a young man from a lower social class. His life isn't about money or status, but about freedom, honesty, and caring for others. Jack is a third-class passenger who wins his ticket through a game of chance. He represents people who don't fit into the strict social rules of early 1900s society. Even though he's not part of the upper class, he has strong values, feels for others, and respects life deeply.

Jack's story becomes important because of his connection with Rose DeWitt Bukater. Their relationship crosses class lines and challenges the strict social rules on the *Titanic*. Jack loves Rose for who she is, not because of her family or money. He helps her feel free and encourages her to make her own choices. His love is about caring and wanting her to be happy, not about controlling her.

The idea of true love is shown most clearly through Jack's final act. When the ship sinks, he chooses to save Rose instead of saving himself. He stays in the cold water while she stays safe on the floating debris. This shows love that puts others first, not yourself. Fromm (2019) says true love includes caring, being responsible, and being willing to sacrifice. Jack's actions show all of these things.

Jack's sacrifice also has a bigger meaning. It shows how the social system favors some people over others. While the rich have more safety and resources, Jack, from the lower class, shows the highest form of human kindness by giving his life for love. This helps show that true love isn't about class or money, but about being moral and compassionate.

So, Jack Dawson's sacrifice is not just a sad romantic moment. It's a powerful symbol of what true love means in the story. His character shows that real love is about being selfless, being emotionally free, and being brave enough to put another person's life above your own. This makes Jack's sacrifice an important part of how the movie represents true love through the characters and the story.

The movie *Titanic* (1997), directed by James Cameron, is known not just for being a romantic tragedy, but also for showing deep human values like sacrifice and real love. One of the most famous parts of the film is when Jack Dawson gives his life to save Rose DeWitt Bukater at the end. His choice to risk his own life to keep Rose safe shows what true love really means being selfless and completely devoted.

Even though many people have studied *Titanic* before, most of them look at things like social class, gender differences, and power in the story. But there isn't much research that focuses on Jack's sacrifice as a sign of true love. Most of the studies talk about class conflicts or general romance, not the deeper meaning behind Jack's final act. This shows there's more to learn about this part of the story.

In both literature and film, symbols help us understand the deeper messages in characters and the story. Jack's sacrifice isn't just about dying for love it's also a symbol of pure, real love that goes beyond personal desires, social rules, and even life itself. That's why it's important to study how Jack's sacrifice is shown through the characters, the story, and the conflicts in Titanic.

By looking at this, the study wants to help people understand how true love is shown in movies, especially through acts like sacrifice, and how that teaches us important moral and emotional lessons.

1.2 Statement of Problems

1. How is Jack Dawson's sacrifice in Titanic symbolically represented as an expression of true love?
2. What is the symbol meaning of true love in Titanic movie?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To find out how is Jack Dawson's sacrifice in Titanic symbolically represented as an expression of true love.
2. To find out what is the symbolic meaning of true love in Titanic movie.

1.4 Significance of the study

The researcher conducts this study with the expectation that it will provide meaningful benefits. The expected benefits of this research are as follows:

1.4.1 Theoretical Benefits

The results of this study are expected to provide information, knowledge, and insight through the messages contained in the movie. Furthermore, they may serve as a reference for future researches.

1.4.2 Practical Benefits

This research is expected to serve as input for moviemakers so that they may produce high quality movies that contain positive values and can be used as good examples for movie audiences.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1.5.1 Sacrifice

Sacrifice means giving up something you value, like personal comfort, safety, wants, or even your life, to help others or achieve a bigger moral, emotional, or social goal. It usually shows selflessness, love, and a strong sense of duty.

Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (2023) says sacrifice is "the fact of giving up something important or valuable to you in order to get or do something that seems more important." This explanation highlights that sacrifice is done willingly and is driven by greater values.

1.5.2 True Love

True love is a deep and real kind of feeling that is more than just a passing emotion or being attracted to someone's looks. It means feeling close emotionally, caring genuinely, and being ready to stay together and help each other, especially when things get tough. Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love says that true love happens when you have closeness, strong feelings, and a promise to be together. This love is shown by acting without thinking of yourself, being ready to give up something for the other person's happiness, which makes true love strong, meaningful, and long-lasting.