

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Study

Every work is born from an experience or reality that has occurred in society (Erinsyah Br Ginting et al., 2023). These experiences are depicted through the author's own imagination, so that every imaginative expression expressed by the author constitutes a social reality in the form of literary works such as poetry, prose fiction, and films (Ardiyanti, 2023).

Film is a literary work in the form of audiovisual media (Washadi & Sugiyarto, 2023).

Film is described as a literary work consisting of moving images with scenes that form a story. Film is an audiovisual communication medium that can depict life's problems and personality traits. The author combines film and literature to demonstrate that literature is born from the human drive to study human issues, humanity, and the universe. Literature is believed to depict issues of life, philosophy, and psychology (Mulia Prasasti et al., 2022).

Film is an art form that not only provides entertainment but also reflects various aspect of human phsycology through its characters and plot. In literary film studies analysis is crucial for uncovering the psychological dimension behind character behavior, motivation for actions, and the inner conflicts that shape character development. One film that offers this psychological depth is *Spider-Man*

: *No Way Home* (2021), part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe that places Peter Parker in the most challenging situation of his life. According to Richard Lazarus and Susan Folkman (in Maryam, 2017), renowned figures who developed the transactional model of stress theory, they state that stress is an evaluation of demands or inability to cope with situations that threaten or endanger an individual's relationship with their environment. Triggers can be influenced by environmental factors, personality, cultural and social background, and other factors that can influence how a person copes with stress. One way to overcome stress or pressure experienced by humans is through coping strategies.

Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021) is a film that clearly shows this development. The story focuses on Peter Parker, a young man who must deal with serious problems after his identity as Spider-Man is revealed to the public. Peter faces public pressure, negative opinions from society, and problems that affect his future. These situations create emotional stress and make Peter feel overwhelmed.

Peter's psychological struggle becomes even more intense with the death of Aunt May, a figure who represents emotional stability, moral guidance, and unconditional support in his life. Her loss marks a critical turning point in the narrative, as Peter begins to show signs of deep emotional distress, including guilt, anger, self-blame, and emotional withdrawal. These reactions illustrate how traumatic experiences can disrupt an individual's sense of identity and purpose, especially during a transitional phase such as adolescence.

Throughout the film, Peter attempts to cope with his trauma in various ways. At times, he avoids confronting his emotions, while at other moments he tries to

solve his problems through action, even when those actions lead to further complications. His interactions with other characters—particularly the alternate versions of Spider-Man—highlight the importance of shared experience and emotional support in coping with trauma. These moments suggest that healing is not a linear process, but one that involves reflection, guidance, and difficult choices.

Despite the popularity of *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, academic discussions often focus on its narrative complexity, multiverse concept, or cultural significance within the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Relatively few studies examine the film from a psychological perspective, particularly in terms of trauma and coping mechanisms experienced by the main character. This lack of focused psychological analysis creates a research gap that is worth exploring.

Therefore, this study seeks to analyze how he copes with emotional distress throughout the film. By applying trauma theory and coping mechanism frameworks, this research aims to demonstrate that *Spider-Man: No Way Home* can be understood not only as a superhero film, but also as a meaningful portrayal of psychological struggle, growth, and emotional resilience.

1.1 Problem Statement

1. What coping mechanisms does Peter Parker use to deal with his trauma?
2. What factors influence Peter Parker's use of coping mechanism in Spider-Man: No Way Home

1.2 Objective of Study

1. To identify coping mechanisms used by Peter Parker.
2. To analyze the factors that influence Peter Parker's use of coping mechanism in Spider-Man: No Way Home

1.3 Scope of Limitation

This research only focuses on the main character, Peter Parker, in the movie "*Spider-Man No Way Home*". Peter Parker's experience in facing several conflicts after his true identity was revealed. This research aims to describe How Peter Parker faces the problems that come into his life and analyze what coping mechanisms Peter Parker uses. The theory used is the coping mechanism theory of Richard Lazarus and Susan Folkman (in Maryam, 2017)

1.4 Significance of The Study

This research is hoped to give benefit students in terms of literature. The results are expected to increase readers' knowledge of literature and can be used as a 5 reference. It is hoped that this research will also inspire future studies and contribute to the development of literary analysis.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding in interpreting the concept used in this study, the following key terms are defined as follow :

Coping mechanism refers to the cognitive and behavioral strategies used by individuals to manage psychological stress, emotional pressure, and traumatic experiences (Lazarus & Folkman, 1984). In this study, the term refers to the ways Peter Parker responds to trauma, stress, and emotional challenges as depicted in *Spider-Man: No Way Home*.

Character representation refers to the portrayal of a character's actions, dialogues, emotions, and behaviors that reflect their identity and psychological state within a narrative (Sturken & Cartwright, 2017). In this study, character representation focuses on how Peter Parker's coping mechanisms are expressed through his actions and interactions in the film.