

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Research

Sexual perversion is an uncommon but increasingly visible issue in today's society that appear in various information media. This problem raises awareness among the public to prevent themselves from falling victim to such deviations. One particularly disturbing form of sexual perversion is 'Pedophilia,' which involves sexual attraction towards the minors. Pedophilia is a highly taboo subject in society due to the severe mental, emotional, and moral harm it inflicts on the victims. The most profound impact is the trauma experienced by the victims. These essential to emphasize that no matter someone's past, a pedophilia case cannot be justified. Pedophiles are universally regarded as engaging in immoral behavior.

Literature is the product of human creativity, raising from thoughts, imagination, and personal experiences. It serves as a powerful tool for educating the public through the conveyance of moral messages and storytelling. One remarkable work of literature that addresses these aspects is 'Lolita' by Vladimir Nabokov.

Literature is intimately linked to psychology because it is a product of human experience, creativity, and imagination. This connection is inseparable from the realm of psychological studies, which is the science that examines human behavior. Literary psychology is a field dedicated to the analysis of

characters and elements within literary works. According to Ahmadi (2015), literature and psychology are intertwined; one cannot exist without the other, and both draw from each other's context.

Lolita is the work of a Russian-American writer and professor named Vladimir Nabokov. The writer, whose full name is Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov, was born in Saint Petersburg on April 22, 1899, in a wealthy family. Vladimir Nabokov is a well-known literary figure through his world-famous novel, "Lolita." Lolita has produced many copies and has many types of covers in different versions. This novel was published in English in 1955 by Olympia Press in Paris. This novel is a controversial work and was rejected by several publishers because the story tells the love journey of a middle-aged man who loves an underage girl. Despite this, it remains one of the most important works of the 20th century. This work was adapted into a film in 1997 directed by British director Adrian Lyne and written by Stephen Schiff. The film adaptation of the novel Lolita is played by Jeremy Irons as Humbert Humbert, the main male character, and Dominique Swain as Dolores Haze (Lolita), the main female character.

The Author presents exciting topics and stories that interest many people by having a different depiction of the story from the novel. On the other hand, the film version also presents interesting visualizations that can make the characters more alive and have a deep impression that makes the audience feel the atmosphere of the story.

Based on the explanation above, in this study, I will analyze the structure of the novel and the movie version to compare the similarities and differences between the two versions. This research uses the comparison method and psychological approach. Finally, the title of this research is "A comparison between novel and movie version of Lolita by Vladimir Nabokov: a comparative psychoanalysis study"

### **1.2. Identification of Problem**

Nabokov's *Lolita* is highly appreciated by readers even though it is controversial and was banned. This novel was awarded one of the best novels and ranked 4th of the Modern Library 100 Best Novels and became one of the 100 novels you must read in your life by BBC Radio Oxford. Vladimir Nabokov has a way of describing the contents of his novel that make it highly recommended for reading. With his uniqueness, Vladimir Nabokov's works have exciting topics, elements, and sentence patterns he used in *Lolita*'s works. The movie version, directed by director Adrian Lyne and written by Stephen Schiff, presents the *Lolita* story become a little different from the novel version, which is also interesting, so I want to find similarities and differences through the elements and presentation in the novel with the representation in the film.

### **1.3. Review of Related Studies**

The controversial and unusual topic of pedophilia in "*Lolita*" has made it a work that researchers have extensively researched. Several references use as research references from journals, books, and other sources.

In order to do the research, I found some researchers and studies related to the title that were used as references. The review comes from journals and any other sources that are related to the topic.

According to comparative literature, the first review comes from the thesis, which compares pedophilia in two novel titles through comparative literature by Bobby L.A Turangan entitled "An Analysis of Pedophilia and its impact as Portrayed in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*: A Comparative Literature Analysis (2018) that aims to find out the types of pedophilia and the impact depicted in the two works. Turangan found pedophilia in *Lolita*'s works as sexual desire and severe injury. The author found that the characteristics of pedophilia in *Lolita* are children as objects, sexual preferences, where the perpetrator has well-developed techniques to approach the victim, and the cause of Humbert Humbert experiencing pedophilia is due to trauma and lack of social abilities. Turangan also describes that the impact caused by the pedophile seen in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* are: emotional distress, rage, post-traumatic stress disorder, and promiscuity.

The second review comes from the article by Sabariyanto entitled Structural Analysis of F. Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (2018). He used a structural approach, such as structural analysis, to find the relationship between the setting and plot in *The Great Gatsby* by F. Fitzgerald. He stated that the structural elements in this work are related to each other in building the whole meaning of the story. After conducting an analysis, the writer finds that the plot

in *The Great Gatsby* is a progressive type of plot, arranged chronologically: exposition, complication, rising, climax, falling action, or denouement. After the analysis, Sabariyanto found a close relationship between the setting and the plot.

In the journal article authored by Afifulloh (2019), entitled "A Psychological Analysis of the Main Character in Marsijari Thahir's 'Kabar Bunga'," a psychological approach is employed to analyze the conflicts, their causes, and the resulting impact on the main character. The author identifies both external and internal conflicts experienced by the main character. These conflicts arise from differences in values prevalent in the character's social environment, subsequently affecting their interactions with that environment. The main character grapples with an inner conflict, compelling her to exercise patience in the face of trials, despite harboring a desire to rebel and escape from her current situation.

Another source that helps the writer comes from a journal article by Hana Utami Dewi and Muhammad Rifqi entitled *Humbert's Obsession towards Dolores Haze in Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita* (2015). The researchers analyze how the main character, Humbert, who has an obsession with Dolores Haze (*Lolita*) as an underage girl, uses a structural approach to study the general structure, such as conflict (internal and external conflict) and setting (setting of time and place). After conducting research, the researchers found that there are twelve general descriptions of Humbert as the main character in *Lolita*: a mature guy who is lonely, charming, loves an underage girl, obsessed, anxious,

insecure, curious, a good father, fragile, overprotective, romantic, and a bad temper person. Finally, they conclude that the obsession of this novel's main character shows how Humbert struggles to pursue his love, Dolores, even when he can't be with Lolita at the end of the story, he still loves her.

Regarding Humbert as the main character, Jein Jeyklin Byl's thesis entitled *Analysis of Main Character in Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita Novel* (2016) analyzes Humbert's character and the factors that influence the development of the main character's character. In the process, Byl focuses on research through dialogue between characters and the narrator's description of the action and uses an intrinsic approach to obtain the sag character of the main character. The results obtained by the author after observing Humbert characterize as the main character are characters who are imaginative, polite, possessive, clever, calm, and economical.

Next, I found a related paper on psychoanalysis written by Helaludin and Syahrul Syawal with entitled *Sigmund Freud's Psychoanalysis and Its Implications in Education* (2018). The authors present an explanation of the psychoanalytic theory developed by Sigmund Freud. They begin with the emergence of his theory, which divided the structure of human psychology into the conscious, preconscious, and unconscious in the 1920s, and then delve into his three well-known theories: id, ego, and superego (das Es, das Ich, and das Ueber Ich). This concept of psychoanalysis can also be applied to the field of education. According to the authors, the implications of this theory can be observed in various aspects of the educational process, including the concept

of anxiety, psychoanalysis in multiple intelligence-based education, the fulfillment of basic human needs and desires, and its connection to student creativity in the realm of education. The authors conclude that psychoanalysis should be considered when educating and fostering students' creativity. This paper provides a comprehensive understanding of all the analytical concepts developed by Sigmund Freud.

Furthermore, A journal by Nurul Aqilah Sumali and Moussa Pourya Asl has made me understand Humbert's character. Entitled *Creating Spaces of Fear and Anxiety: Analysis of Factors Affecting Male Character's Conduct in Vladimir Nabokov's Lolita* (2019). The authors explore the personality changes Humbert experienced through Freud's theory on anxiety. Humbert experiences several moral conflicts, thus experiencing fears that form various concerns. All the fears he experiences are rooted in losing the object of his childhood love. The absence of a mother figure, exacerbated by the betrayal of his first wife and his second wife's death, caused great anxiety. As a result of his fear and anxiety of treason, he finally controls Lolita's life.

Lastly, A scientific journal from Pandu Dian Samara, Amrizal and Bustanudin Lubis entitled *Structural Analysis of Novel O Karya Eka Kurniawan* (2019) conducts qualitative research using a structural approach. The writer uses structural analysis to find links between building elements in novel O. The author describes the elements in novel O, such as theme, plot, characterization, setting, and point of view, and gets the story's message. The writer found a connection where the plot is the elaboration of the theme itself.

Then the relationship between the plot and the setting builds the nuances of the storyline in the novel. Then, the writer finds that the link between the omniscient point of view and the characters allows the author to tell all events freely. After conducting research and obtaining the results, the writer concludes that the elements in novel *O* are interrelated, which makes it a unified whole.

#### **1.4. Research Question**

Based on the issued given, this research will answer some question as guide, as follows:

1. How the author explain the character development in novel and movie version of *Lolita*?
2. What are the differences and the similarities of *Lolita* contained in novel and movie version?

#### **1.5. Scope of the Research**

This research focuses on the different elements of *Lolita* by Vladimir Nabokov and the movie version by director Adrian Lyne through the structural analysis presented in the novel and movie versions, such as plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme. The study also analyzes the similarities and differences between these two versions, which have their prominent storyline.

#### **1.6.The Objective of the Research**

*Lolita* has the main issue about pedophilia. Humbert as main character is obsessed with Dolores, the underage child. The novel and film of *Lolita* itself have some differences and similarities shown by author and director. The objectives of this research are to comparing *Lolita*'s novel and movie version



by find out the intrinsic elements of these two versions. This research also aims to analyze how the author and the director take the main point and the character development of the story of Lolita. By doing this research, the reader and audience may be helped to understand the main point these two versions shows.

