

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Adaptation is the process of transferring and altering stories from one medium to another. It is famous since the nineteenth century and appears when the story adapts from text to stage. Many adaptation works use a novel, short story, video game, and television as the original media. The product of an adaptation is often winning many prestigious prizes and appreciation from the reader and audience. The presence of film adaptation makes this medium becomes one of the new media that extend the story from the original work. As stated in Dean's *Adapting History and Literature into Movies* article, an adaptation is not just a translation from a textual work into the film, but more than that. Adaptation needs more creativity to express the story even though it will be different from the original work (2009: 6).

The process of adapting the stories from the novel to the film is not easy in practice. It happens due to the technique of displacement of the story from the original work to film. In adapting the form of stories, the structure will undoubtedly change. In literary works, the reader is an essential person to visualize the character and the other structures based on the author's description. The novel points out the character's emotion in more details due to the description that writes by the author. Otherwise, the audience can only see the visual that air on the screen without being able to visualize forms by themselves. It causes the audience hardly to see every character's emotion or personality in the film. It

creates both works have the strength and weakness to satisfy the reader and the audience.

Nevertheless, both works have unique features in portraying the story, which is the novel can sincerely represent all of the complicated emotion and the inner thought of the character through the description. Meanwhile, the director organizes every description by representing the visual image. An article by Steven Maras and David Sutton entitled *Medium Specificity Re-visited* (2000) elaborates that every different medium has essential elements and unique features which create specificity in each work (98).

The research talk about the powerful young adult novel by Angie Thomas, which has been adapted into a film. The book published on February 28, 2017. It is the first novel by Angie Thomas. Angie Thomas is an American author and best known as a writer who concerns black people's lives towards discrimination, which reflects in her work. Many things inspire the author in making the story such as her own experience, the black community's experience, and also by Tupac's song with the title *Thug Life*. The song has a significant impact in influencing *The Hate U Give* novel version. The book tells about a fearful girl who turns into a brave girl and confident to give her voice for justice against her friend's death over a racial discrimination case. Moreover, it also tells about the racism that increases hatred in the environment. This novel has an exciting plot so that the readers can get a positive lesson after reading the book.

*The Hate U Give* is a novel that tells about a sixteen-year-old girl named Starr Carter. She lives in the fictional town 'Garden Heights' and also called a city

for the poor black neighbourhood. Nevertheless, her parents decide to send Starr and her brothers to attend the white people fancy school. The story goes on with Starr action, which becomes a witness over her childhood friend's accident. It happens due to the shooting action that the white officer does to Khalil even though he does not have a handgun. The misunderstanding accident makes black people remonstrate against white people due to the criminal case. Unfortunately, either the police or the white people distort the facts and accuse Khalil as a criminal. They called Khalil as a drug dealer, gangbanger, or thug. In this case, Starr is the only person who can tell the facts about the accident.

Since the issues in the novel are the reflections of black people's real-life and still occur in society. It makes the first novel by Angie Thomas received prestigious awards, such as Goodreads Choice Awards Best Debut Goodreads Author in 2017, Goodreads Choice Awards Best Young Adult Fiction in 2017, National Book Awards 2017 for Young People's Literature, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award 2017, Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2018, Coretta Scott King Honor (Author) 2018, Indies Choice Book Award Winner Young Adult in 2018, Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award Winner in 2018, Blue Spruce Award Winner in 2018, Garden State Teen Book Award Winner Fiction in 2018, and Buckeye's Children's and Teen Book Award Winner in 2019.

*The Hate U Give* has adapted into a film on October 19, 2018, directed by George Tillman Jr with Audrey Wells as the screenwriter. *The Hate U Give* is an American drama crime film that has racism and brutally content in it. The film also got some positive responses and critics from online sites such as Rotten

Tomatoes, Metacritic, and IMDB. The core part of the story in the novel does not change in the film. The film is also telling about a sixteen-year-old girl who faces racial discrimination from her classmates and the white police officer and brave to be a witness for Khalil's death.

The writer chooses and elaborates the object due to the existence of alteration of racial discrimination between the works. The book and movie is a valuable object that has to be analyzed. Moreover, the book is a contemporary work and release in the modern era but still talks about racial discrimination. The writer sees that the central issue of the book is a reflection of black people's lives, and it still exists in society. Not only the book but also the film adaptation has a big responsibility to remind the reader and the audience to aware of race issues by visualizing the story.

## 1.2 Identification of Problem

The writer finds the main problem in *The Hate U Give* novel, and the film adaptation is the alteration of racial discrimination between the works. Generally, it can happen if the medium is changed from text to screen. The novel is seen as a textual work, and the film is a visual work. The alteration which occurs between the novel and the film is the lack of portrayal the racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is the main issue in *The Hate U Give* novel and the film adaptation. The depiction of racial discrimination, which altered after being adapted to film, inflicts the story's moral message to change. The alteration affects the film, causing the book's message does not represent well when adapted to film.

Thus the writer analyzes the racial discrimination which altered after being adapted to the film. Likewise, the writer attempts to examine the medium specificity shown by the movie compared to the novel and how the alteration of racial discrimination affects the message.

### 1.3 Scope of Research

In analyzing *The Hate U Give* novel version and the film adaptation, the writer limits the discussion on the alteration between both works and the medium specificity shown in the film and the novel. The writer also concentrates on analyzing the alteration of racial discrimination between the objects, which affect the moral message.

### 1.4 Research Question

Based on the scope of the research above, the writer will discuss several questions. The questions are listed as follows:

1. What are the alterations of racial discrimination between the novel and film?
2. What medium specificity is shown in the film to which is not offered by the novel?
3. How does the alteration of racial discrimination affect meanings?

### 1.5 Objectives of Research

The purpose of this research is to declare that film cannot underestimate nowadays. The film is a product that has excellent value and also has a unique

feature that literary work does not have. The writer intends to analyze the alteration of racial discrimination between novel and film, the medium specificity which shows in both objects, and how the alteration found in the film affects the meanings. To achieve these goals, the writer compares the novel and the film to be understandable and more precise.

Hopefully, this research will be helpful to increase the reader's understanding of ideas, purpose, and messages that the author and the director already convey through their works as well as the writer itself. Besides, the writer also hopes this research will be beneficial for further study in the same field.

#### **1.6 Review of Related Literature**

To make this research more legitimate, the writer is reviewing the previous related studies and showing the reader that this research does not contain any plagiarism act. The writer finds some previous studies which use the same novel. From these findings, it makes the writer can claim that the object is essential to research. The writer decided to review the other previous studies relevant to the novel, issue, and theory. The previous studies will enrich the analysis with some ideas and opinions of the prior researcher's study.

The first thesis is a thesis by Suryaningrum Ayu Irawati entitled "The Struggle of Black People to Avoid Stereotypes in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give*" (2018). The object of the thesis is a novel by African American writer, Angie Thomas, which shows about black people's life who deals with racial discrimination. Her thesis describes the impact of racial discrimination and the

struggle of black people against racism to avoid stereotypes in the novel. She also examines how the main character in which an African American reacts upon racial discrimination. As a result, Irawati considers the main character's bravery is one of the solutions against discrimination, and the writer can see in the main character's action. In her thesis, she analyzes the research which uses a psychological approach to show the struggle of black people in society and the main character's psychology before and after against the discrimination. However, Irawati's explanations about the struggle of black people in the community still not clear enough. She explains that nobody knows the conflict in a society that black people's get will stop. It shows the weakness of her thesis. She does not reveal more about the harmful impact of those problems if it still happens in the society. From this research, the writer gets some more information about the main character, and this research helps the writer to understand more about racial discrimination in the novel.

Second, an article by Yunitri et al. "Racism in The Novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas" (2019) conducts a study on racism that can be seen in *The Hate U Give*. This journal article aimed to find out the extrinsic elements that are exposed in the novel and analyze the racism in America portrayed in the novel. The study reveals that there are five extrinsic elements were found attached in the novel, and the novel reflected the real phenomenon about African American people in America. The five elements mentioned by Welleck and Warren (1977), which exist in the novel, are a biography, psychology, society, ideas, and other forms of arts. The racism reflected in the story divided into two parts, such as

individual and institution. However, the researchers lacked to explain the results of racism in America. They only focus on the result of racism in the economy. As stated in Laurensen and Swingewood's *The Sociology of Literature* (1972), there are several parts in the sociological study of literature; they are economy, education, religion, and politics (13). The researchers have to explain those several parts when using a sociological approach to make it clearer.

Third, Muhammad Rizal, in his thesis entitled "A Film Adaptation on Characterization of Main Characters from the Lauren Kate's *Fallen*" (2017), discuss the changes of characterization in the novel *Fallen* and the film adaptation. He decides to use adaptation as the theory of his study because he found that many kinds of research that used the same topic like him did not use this theory. He clarifies that applying the theory of adaptation by Linda Hutcheon is one of the solutions to enrich the application of this theory. The study aimed to provide further evidence on the main characters represents and adapted in the novel and also the film adaptation. Rizal finds that the characterization of the main characters changes after the novel adapted to film. In the novel, he finds six personalities of the main character, but after adapted, just three personalities can be seen in the film. It shows the weakness of his study because the film adaptation cannot show the detail personalities of the characters. Otherwise, the novel can describe every detail of the personalities. Despite some deficiencies in analysis, the writer concludes that the study has provided more facts about the process of adaptation.



Fourth, a thesis by Dewi Anjani Tambunan, published in 2013 entitled “The Adaptation Meaning of Adultery in *Easy A*, Film by Will Guck and *The Scarlet Letter Novel* by Nathaniel Hawthorne,” conducted a study on the process of adaptation which contrasts occur in interpretation between the novel and the film. The study reveals the contrast issue between the works is the meaning of adultery, the different interpretations of the author, and the director, and the works follow the phenomenon in that era. The novel interprets adultery in Puritan society as crime and sin, but in the film, the word “A” has meaning as awesome. The social condition also gives different effects to the works. The novel was published in the 16th century, which adultery still taboo and define as sin. Otherwise, the film released in the modern era in which adultery is legal in California law. In the film, the director does not only show the issue of adultery. From Tambunan’s thesis, the writer can conclude that her study on the process of adaptation helps the writer to get more knowledge on adaptation theory and understand the theory more depth.

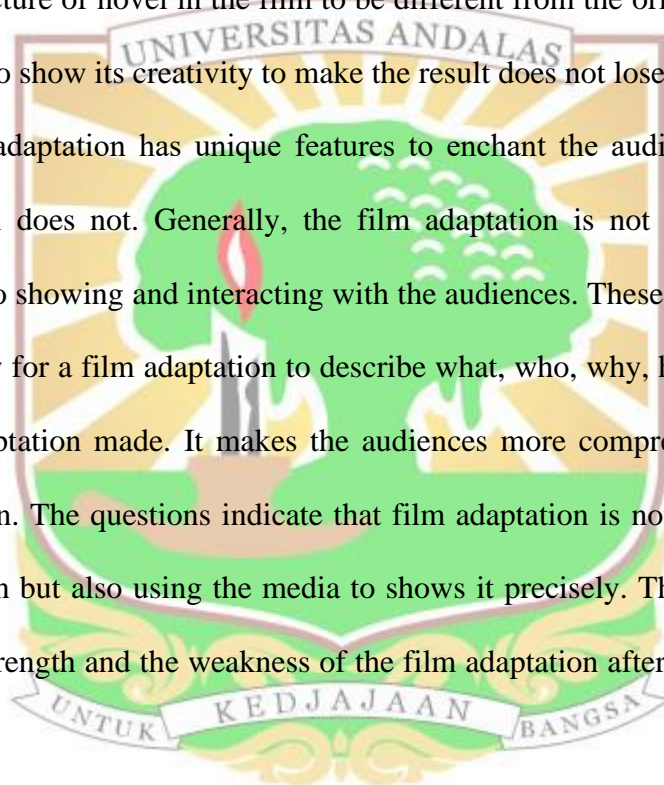
### **1.7 Theoretical Framework**

In this research, the writer tries to analyze the racial discrimination which altered between *The Hate U Give* novel and the film adaptation. The writer wants to examine the alterations by using Linda Hutcheon’s theory. The use of Hutcheon’s theory in this research focuses on elaborating on the problems of the research broadly and in detail. In her book *A Theory of Adaptation* (2006), Hutcheon explains the objects which used to understand adaptation is not only about the relationship between novels and films. The expansion of adaptation is

wide and varied, such as poems, plays, operas, paintings, songs, dances, television, and radio. The adaptation itself is a technique of transferring the story from one medium to another medium, which makes some changes appear. In this research, the writer focuses on a literary work which adapts into a film. In general, the adaptation is a technique that needed some modification to adorn the story with variations without being replicate it (Hutcheon, 2006: 7). The alteration will assist the structure of novel in the film to be different from the original work. The film also has to show its creativity to make the result does not lose the meaning.

A film adaptation has unique features to enchant the audience's attention that the novel does not. Generally, the film adaptation is not only telling the stories but also showing and interacting with the audiences. These methods permit an opportunity for a film adaptation to describe what, who, why, how, where, and when the adaptation made. It makes the audiences more comprehend about the film adaptation. The questions indicate that film adaptation is not only evaluated using narration but also using the media to show it precisely. The audience will find out the strength and the weakness of the film adaptation after comparing it to the novel.

The first important question in adaptation is what. It means what part of the form of literary work adapts to the adaptation. Then, what elements in literary work are transformed after being changed. Hutcheon's first category points out every work that has been extended to another medium will produce a uniqueness and specificity of each medium which commonly called as medium specificity. Due to the different method, either the original work and the adaptation will have



the strength and weakness in showing the story. In this category, Hutcheon explains there are three modes to adaptations, such as telling – showing (e.g., a novel adapted to film), showing – showing (e.g., drama musical adapted to film) and interacting – telling or showing (e.g., video games adapted to film). The second category is who and why. In this category, Hutcheon poses the question of who the adapter is and why the adapter adapts to another work in that way.

Furthermore, she explains the motives of the adapter when adapted another work, for example, the economic lures, the legal constraints, cultural capital, and personal and political purposes. It can conclude that the motives are the critical reason for the adaptation changes. How is the third category in adaptation. It is concerned with the audience's reaction towards the adaptation. There are two types of audiences. The first type is the audience, which expects the adaptation. This type of audience has already familiar with the original work. The second type is the audience, which is not expected or familiar to original work. The last category is where and when. This category is always related to a context such as a time and a place.

Hutcheon also divides the phenomenon of adaptation into three parts. The first one is adaptation as a “formal entity or product” (7), which mean that the adaptation cannot stand alone and need another work to be adapted or transpose. Furthermore, the transposition can also happen from real to fictional. It makes a point of view that will be different but still maintains the story from the original work. Second, adaptation as a “process of creation” (8), the result of the adaptation always re-interpreted and re-created but still preserves the stories. The

filmmakers' duty is not only to transfer the whole stories from the first medium to another medium but also have to make the story livelier and extraordinary. The creativity will be the determinant in which the film adaptation success to re-interpreted the story well or not. The last one is adaptation as a “process of reception” (8), which means the audience's reception will be different if they already experience the work but in a different medium. Moreover, the response of the audience will be different because of the background of value and culture. The audience will receive the meaning of the film adaptation based on their values and culture.

Thus, the explanation above makes the writer genuinely understand the process of adaptation. Adaptation is not a process of copy-paste, but in the process, the adapter needs creativity to make the emotion and meaning from the original work is not disappearing even though the elements are transforming to another medium. Therefore, the result of the film adaptation certainly will have some alterations from the original work. The suitability of the theory is being a solid reason for the writer to analyzing the alteration of racial discrimination between the first data and the second data using adaptation theory.

## **1.8 Method of the research**

In conducting this research, the writer uses the qualitative method based on library research for collecting the data. Therefore, the writer also follows three steps: collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

### 1.8.1 Collecting the data

In collecting the data, the writer applies library research. The data divides into two kinds of data. The writer uses the primary data and secondary data. In the primary data, the writer uses Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give* novel and film adaptation as the objects of the research. From both of the objects, the writer intensively read and watched the movie in collecting the data that refer to problems. The secondary data consists mainly of theses, literary work, article, and journal related to the topic, theory, and novel. The writer can find the secondary data in the library of the English Department from Andalas University and the internet or official websites.

### 1.8.2 Analyzing the data

In analyzing the data, the writer begins reading the novel and watching the film to make the writer can fully understand the storyline decipher the alterations between both of the works. Then, the writer using her interpretation of the data that she gets. After that, the writer applies the theory of adaptation by Linda Hutcheon in analyzing the alterations of racial discrimination between the novel and film adaptation.

### 1.8.3 Presenting the result of an analysis

In presenting the result of the analysis, the writer will use the descriptive method in presenting the data. Descriptive methods that the writer means is the data will be elaborated through words, not in the forms of number. In her book *Qualitative Researching 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (2002), Jennifer Mason claims that the

qualitative research which used to presenting the processed data aims to produce the contextual concepts based on the valuable and detailed data (3). The researcher will try to reveal alterations, and the depiction of racial discrimination between Angie Thomas's novel *The Hate U Give* and film adaptation by using the theory of adaptation by Linda Hutcheon.

