

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

As human beings we certainly have encountered things that happened outside reason, for example, we felt seeing a sighting that just disappeared, or we have heard something but when we look we don't find the source of the sound, that kind of thing is called superstitious. Superstition is a belief in the supernatural which is to say, a belief in the existence of forces or entities that do not conform to the laws of nature or a scientific understanding of the universe. Superstitions thing are included belief in magic, belief in omens (good or bad), belief in good luck charms and rituals (a lucky penny, throwing salt over one's shoulder to avoid the "bad luck" incurred by spilling same), belief in divination (fortune telling and prophecy), and belief in ghosts or a spirit world beyond what can be explained by science.

The example one found in China, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand, the seventh month of the lunar calendar (which falls in August this year) ushers in the Hungry Ghost Festival, when it is believed that ghosts of the deceased are temporarily released from the lower realm to visit the living. In Taiwan, some people believe that the presence of ghosts in Ghost Month can cause accidents to the living. At least one study has shown that people avoid risky behaviors during

this time, including those who live near water areas that try reducing the number of deaths by drowning. Some of us may just underestimate this kind of thing because it does not make sense to believe in something that is uncertain of its truth, especially it is used as a benchmark to prevent something bad that will happen, but not least nor of us who believe it.

For those who believe in superstition, some of them have some underlying causes, such as myths. Myth is a tales believed as true, usually sacred, set in the distant past or other worlds or parts of the world, and with extra-human, inhuman, or heroic characters. Myth can be spread through public spreading or stories from generation to generation from our ancestors. The myths that flourished in society sometime will affect the public's own belief in responding to it.

Mythical myths about the existence of ghosts themselves have been growing in society, and even many of them believe it. There are two factors influencing people believe in superstition. First is a curiosity factor, some of us who have a high curiosity about things that we have never seen or felt at first usually will seek a logical explanation or in this case scientifically, even a lot of official research done just to prove the devil existence, for example in April 1998, the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research published a paper entitled The Ghost in the Machine by Coventry University lecturer Vic Tandy. This paper describes Tandy's experiments and experience with infrasound waves while he was working in a

medical laboratory.

A lot of researches had been done but many also end up without a satisfying result and this is when the second factor affects them, that is despair. Despair can lead them to inevitably believe in the superstitious because what they think and find out logically does not work then some of them start assuming that if they cannot explain something in natural terms, then it must be something paranormal (Christopher French, Anomalistic Psychology Research, 2000).

Those two factors about superstition that became one of the conflicts in the movie, *Devil 2010* by M. Night Shyamalan. This film tells about five characters who are trapped in the elevator of a building. In the midst of despair to try to save the 5 people, Detective Bowden (Chris Messina) faced a surprising fact after hearing the statement of Ramirez (Jacob Vargaz) one of the security guards that said that one of 5 people trapped is a devil. In this movie, Detective Bowden has tried every way to explain the unreasonable case, but when he began to despair Ramirez's statement began to enter into his mind because there are superstition events that he experienced in the past related to this case.

The research concerns on the characters of Detective Bowden and Ramirez, who has a different respond to superstitions thing that appear in various scene in the movie. Researchers chose this title because what will be discussed very closely with the culture in Indonesia regarding the many who still believe in

superstition things, researchers through the title of this thesis want to explain more clearly about it through the eyes of psychoanalysis.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In order to be able to analyze the characters in the film "*Devil 2010*", there are some problems of study here as follows:

1. Why do the characters believe in the superstition?
2. What do the characters do in believing in the superstition?
3. What are the effects of believing in the superstition?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

An objective is an important thing in a study. It can help the writer to do the study easily. The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the causes why the characters believe in superstition.
2. To describe the action of the characters in believing in superstition.
3. To describe the effect of believing in superstition.

### **1.4 Scope of the study**

This study focuses on the analysis of main characters in *Devil* movie by M.

Night Shyamalan related to their beliefs about superstition thing and how those superstition things affect them to solve the conflict in the movie

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Significance of this study is to give more understanding about psychoanalysis and superstition theory found in literary works especially inside Films. So the researcher expects that this movie could increase the knowledge of the readers about superstition things based on the Jung's theory. The researcher will update the knowledge about psychoanalysis especially in Jungian psychoanalytic about collective unconscious and personal unconscious. Then the researcher also hopes that this final project could give valuable contribution in English learning especially on literary study which can help the students or people who want to learn it. This research or final project can also be used as references for the next research in the same field, so they could develop it and do more detailed research about psychoanalysis using Jungian theories.

### **1.6 Approach of the Study**

In analyzing this movie the researcher uses qualitative approach in analyzing the researcher tries to interpret the data to be analyzed as told by Denzin and Lincoln (1994:2) Qualitative research is multi method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. The technique that will be used to analyze the film is by reading the script and watching the movie and then

the researcher will apply Carl Gustav Jung's theory of consciousness namely personal unconscious, collective unconscious, and archetype. The object used in this research is a film by M. Night Shyamalan entitled Devil.

### **1.7 Organization of the Research Report**

These followings are how the research organized:

#### 1. Chapter I – Introduction

This chapter provides the research foundation including background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

#### 2. Chapter II – Synopsis and Biography

This chapter will present about the synopsis of the movie and the biography of the director.

#### 3. Chapter III – Review of Related Literature

This chapter contains a review of related literature that explain about the previous study.

#### 4. Chapter IV – Analysis Study

In this chapter all of the analysis result will be displayed, the question from the statement of the problem will be answered in this chapter.

#### 5. Chapter V – Conclusion and Suggestion

This final chapter will describe the conclusion of the research.