

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background to The Study

Hallucination is common psychological problem. Telles-Correia, Moreira, Gonçalves (2015) explains hallucination starts from its etymology. The word -hallucinationl has been experiencing long development for many years. The etymology of the word hallucination is controversial. It is thought to come from the Latin word *allucinator*, *allucinaris*, used by Cicero, which has the meaning to mislead or equivocate. From several ages, hallucination possesses a medical quality in mental and organic illnesses. However, hallucination was only accepted in psychology fully in the eighteenth–nineteenth centuries (Telles-Correia, Moreira, and Gonçalves, 2015).

Chiu (1989) defines it as a perception without the existence of external stimulus. However, this perception possesses the same characteristics belong to real perception. The namely shared characteristics between hallucination and real perceptions are: vividness and substantialness. In addition to being vivid and substantial, both hallucination and real perceptions are also perceived to be exist in external world. Therefore, from Chiu’s statements, it is known that hallucination is just like real perception, but hallucination is not caused by outer stimulus, the way real perception is.

Furthermore, Chiu (1989) makes clear about how hallucination differs from other psychological phenomena. First, hallucination is different from dreaming.

Dreaming, unlike hallucination, does not occur in waking state. Hallucination itself is also different from other available psychological phenomena, such as pseudo hallucination which does not share similarities with real perception, therefore this type of hallucination is easily perceived as unreal. Hallucination also differs from illusion, which is about distorted or misinterpreted real perception. Hallucination is also different from imagination which is voluntarily controlled by the subject and does not share similar traits with real perception. Finally, Chiu (1989) also makes clear that hallucinations also differ from "delusional perceptions". In delusional perception, real perception is accepted in correct sense without trouble but this real perception is given some additional (usually strange) traits.

In an online news article written by Villines (2019) in *Medical News Today*, it is mentioned that hallucinations are able to happen in several sensory modalities, such as visual, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, tactile, and somatic hallucination. A moderate type of hallucination is stated as a disturbance. Disturbance can also happen in most of the aforementioned senses. The most common example is seeing something or someone move in peripheral vision. Hearing small or faint noise and sound can also be classified as disturbance. Therefore, the most common hallucination is auditory one. These auditory hallucinations are easily found in schizophrenic disorder. The content of auditory hallucination can be benefic or malefic toward the subject. Waters (2014) states that 55% of auditory hallucinations have malefic contents addressed to the subject of hallucination, such as cursing the subject. It is not uncommon that auditory hallucinations and visual

hallucinations are experienced by the subject together (Waters et al., 2014)

By noting the importance of hallucination in human's life, then the writer decides to take one movie with hallucination as its main issue. The movie taken is *Silent House* (2011). It tells about a young woman named Sarah who is staying at her family's dilapidated Victorian house in the countryside with her father John and her uncle Peter. She helps them fix it to be put up for sale. After a petty argument between John and Peter, Peter leaves and drives into town for extra tools. There in that house, Sarah meets a young woman named Sophia at the front door. Sophia claims to be one of Sarah's childhood friends, though Sarah does not remember her.

Soon after, Sarah panics when she hears John falling down the stairs. She tries to leave the house but all exits are blocked, and she hides from an unknown perpetrator. She finds John unconscious with a head wound and runs to the basement in search of the cellar door that leads outside. She finds a bed and other evidence that someone else has been living there, possibly squatters. She sees a figure searching for her and escapes out the cellar door.

Outside, she meets Peter, who has returned, and sees a young girl on the road who disappears. Peter and Sarah discover John's body missing in the house. When the power is cut off, the only light source available to them is the flash on a Polaroid camera. Through a series of camera flashes, Sarah sees the young girl and a man in the room. The power returns to reveal Peter missing. Sarah hides while two men take pictures, presumably pedophilic in nature, of an unseen girl. Sarah tries to shoot one of the men with Peter's gun, then hides in her room and begins to show signs of paranoia and psychosis. She experiences hallucinations of traumatic

childhood events, including a bloodstain on the bed and the young girl in the bathtub with beer bottles and bloody water.

Sarah's experience as a main character in this movie can be analyzed by psychoanalysis. It is interesting because Sarah's fragmented self is similar with psychoanalysis concept proposed by Jacques Lacan. Lacan in Bressler (2003) states that there is no person who is fully integrated and whole psychologically. In Lacan's psychoanalytical framework, he also states that by identifying symbolic representation, then the fragmentary nature of the self can be examined. Noticing the similarity between Sarah's experiences as the main character of *The Silent House* (2011) movie with Lacanian psychoanalysis concept, then the writer decides to analyze Sarah's fragmented personality through Lacanian's psychoanalysis framework.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

Noting some important statements written in the background to the study, the writer creates two research questions to analyze Sarah as main character in *The Silent House* (2011) movie. The research questions are listed in the following points.

- a) What are the symbolic visions found in Sarah's hallucination which represent her fragmented self?
- b) How does Lacan psychoanalytical framework portray Sarah's symbolic visions in her hallucination in relation with her fragmented self?

### **1.3. Objectives of The Study**

Referring back to some points in the background and research questions, then the writer creates two objectives of the study in order to analyze Sarah as main character in *The Silent House* (2011) movie. The research questions are listed in the following points.

- a) to describe the symbolic visions found in Sarah's hallucination which represents her fragmented self
- b) to describe how Lacan psychoanalytical framework portray Sarah's symbolic visions in her hallucination in relation to her fragmented self

### **1.4. Scopes of The Study**

By examining some previously listed points, especially research questions and objectives, the writer decides to put clear scope of this research. First, this research is conducted based on Jacques Lacan's psychoanalytic framework which is cited from Charles E. Bressler's book titled *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice* published in 2003. Second, the object of psychoanalysis in this research is only one main character named Sarah, a main character of *The Silent House* (2011) movie. Third, the focus of this research is on Sarah's hallucination and several symbolic visions which appear in her hallucination, which can be analyzed and elaborated by applying Lacan psychoanalytic model.

### **1.5. Significance of The Study**

This study is a literary study which is intended to give both academic and practical contribution in literary studies. Academically, the writer presents this study to give more insights in defending and preserving psychoanalysis theory as both notable and applicable approach in studying and interpreting literary works.

In practical matter, the writer presents this study especially to:

- a) the English literature students as reference for further study,
- b) the English literature experts as both reference and sample of literature analysis,
- c) the general readers as supplemental knowledge about English literature.

### **1.6. Approach to the Study**

Looking back at the background, research questions, objectives, and scope of the study, the writer asserts that the approach of the study is psychoanalysis. The theory applied is Jacques Lacan's psychoanalytic framework which is cited from Charles E. Bressler's book titled *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice* published in 2003. The method of analysing data in this thesis is descriptive qualitative method, which is done, by describing and categorizing the data based on psychoanalysis approach under Lacan tripartite model of human's psyche named The Imaginary, The Symbolic, and The Real.

The data of this study are taken from the selected English subtitle of The Silent House (2011) movie. To conduct the research, it applies methodology as follows; the first step is close-reading of the movie to determine which part of the English subtitle and screenshot chosen for further analysis. The second step is identifying the utterances and images related to the problems, as the data of analysis. The last step is applying Lacan tripartite model of human's psyche for analysing the data based on research questions and objectives of the study.

### **1.7. Research Organization**

This study is presented in five chapters. Chapter I is introduction written in order to present the study background, general issues, objectives, and the significance of the study. Chapter II holds a summary of The Silent House (2011) movie written by the writer along with its director's profile. Chapter III holds three previous studies, psychoanalysis approach development, altogether with Lacan's tripartite psychoanalytic model. Chapter IV is the answer for research questions and further discussion which are conducted based on Lacan's psychoanalytic framework. Chapter V is the summarized conclusion which holds (a) two main points in order to reemphasize the answer of two research questions in the background, and (b) the suggestions for future studies.