

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

“Betrayal begets blood” this sentence is the law in *Ninja* martial arts, especially in the Ozunu Clan. This sentence is familiar to the public who have watched the film *Ninja Assassin* because *Ninja* are very capable of being used in everything, especially his techniques which are very deadly and not everyone knows about them. *Ninja* or also known as *shinobi* were spies, assassins and saboteurs during Japanese feudalism, which emerged in 522.

Ninja are trained in *ninjutsu*, a collection of basic survival techniques that focuses on unconventional warfare, sabotage and espionage. Some of the techniques mastered by *Ninja* are free running, archery, disguise and hiding. The technique was developed to gather information, while remaining undetected and misleading the enemy (Reditya, 2021).

Ninja during Japanese feudalism were previously considered below traditional samurai because *Ninja* were mostly from lower class citizens. And also *Ninja* of that era were very much at odds with *Bushido* or the way of the warrior which was their code of honor. What is unique is that *Ninja* are *Shinobi* who are trained well and are able to hide, especially in places where the terrain is difficult for people to pass through.

Ninja could also act as mercenaries which in the 15th century were used to help ensure their success in taking and defending territory. In 1560, recorded in the history of the Okehazama battle, *Ninja* were able to sneak into the castle, light the tower on fire, and kill the castle leader along with 200 soldiers. *Ninja* come from the Japanese word Nin, which means to infiltrate. Therefore, a *Ninja* special skill is to infiltrate with or without sound. The word *Ninja* are formed from two words, namely Nin and Sha, which respectively mean "hidden" and "person." Therefore, *Ninja* were professional spies in feudal Japan. *Ninja* are usually associated with figures that are skilled at martial arts, experts at infiltration, and are all mysterious, as seen in films. According to historical researchers, *Ninja* are

very difficult to trace because information about their whereabouts is tightly stored in secret Japanese documents.

Ninja are shadow warriors known for their ability to be spies, sabotage and secret battles. *Ninja* appeared in Japanese history in the 15th century. *Ninja* are known for their black costumes and face coverings. *Ninja* have become a popular character in Japanese and international pop culture and often appears in many films (Tumbull, 2018).

There are several characteristics inherent in a *Ninja*, including: good at archery, expert in observing and not using real names (Wahab, 2018). *Ninja* have superior skills in patience and have the ability “one man beats one hundred people” so that *Ninja* are often active in battles or wars. In addition, the *Ninja* is also a hermit hiding deep in an area that is not easy for many people to detect. In films, a *Ninja* have often portrayed as someone who is mysterious, does not give up until he is able to achieve the goal, does not change the original intention and does not know how many people must be fought to achieve the goal that has been set from the beginning, never resisting under any circumstances. When a fails to perform an action, he will commit suicide to protect his reputation. Some of these *Ninja* characteristics reflect traditional Japanese culture, namely the culture of gratitude and shame (Liu, 2018).

One of the cultures in *Ninja* that is often depicted in films is Japanese culture, namely *Ninja Assassin*. *Ninja Assassin* is a film about *Ninja*, full of action and many scenes covered in blood. *Ninja Assassin* was released in 2009 with film duration of 1 hour 39 minutes and directed by James McTeigue. It is one of the United States films and has received an award from MTV, especially for the lead role. The main character in the *Ninja Assassin* film is Raizo, played by Rain. Rain is a singer, songwriter, actor and record producer who was born June 25, 1982 in South Korea. *Ninja Assassin* films feature a lot of martial arts choreography and fast and violent fight scenes. There are many cool weapons used in the film seperti *Katana*, *Shiruken* and *Kyoketsu Shoge*.

Ninja Assassin depicts Raizo as the deadliest *Ninja Assassin* in the world. Since childhood, Raizo was taken off the street then trained and turned into a cold-blooded trained assassin by the *Ozunu Clan*, which is a secret society whose existence is considered a myth. However, for some reason, Raizo disappears leaving the *Ozunu Clan*. Raizo then travels to Berlin, meets a Europol agent named Mika Caretti, and begins to find the light of a network that has murdered several prominent politicians. The investigation effort carried out by Raizo and Mika Caretti put Mika Caretti in danger because the *Ozunu Clan* who then sent a team of Assassins targeted him. However, Raizo manages to save Mika Caretti. As time progresses, the *Ozunu Clan* does not stop and tries to send the best assassination squad to kill Raizo and Mika Caretti. Various attempts were made by Raizo and Mika Caretti to survive, until finally came to the final battle. The battle risks Raizo's life and a fight that will bring down the *Ozunu Clan* who have been difficult to touch. The battle is also a battle that will determine the survival of both sides.

Ninja are synonymous with an assassin and a mysterious person. However, in the *Ninja Assassin* movie, *Ninja* characters are not directly depicted that way. As a *Ninja*, Raizo often relents and lacks the courage to fight his friends while in Martial Arts College. Raizo's courage as a *Ninja* only emerged when he grew up and when something made him hurt, until finally the *Ninja* fought against his own teacher and made an attempt at revenge.

The writer is interested in studying this *Ninja Assassin* film because it is considered different from the portrayal of a *Ninja* character in general, especially in a film. This is because there is character development by the main character, Raizo. When he was a child, Raizo was a closed person and often succumbed to friends at martial arts colleges so that his party often became a victim of bullying. When he was a teenager, there was a drastic change in Raizo, especially when Mika Caretti, who became Raizo's lover, was killed by a team of assassins from the *Ozunu Clan* in front of Raizo's eyes. For the first time, Raizo has the courage to fight the assassination team who are Raizo's friends in martial arts college, even Raizo dared to fight the teacher. Until finally Raizo escapes and plans an attempt at revenge. When he grows up, the main character changes his character into a

man who is calmer and wiser in his attitude, and more careful when going to do something. Over time, Raizo as the main character in *Ninja Assassin* managed to take revenge and kill the teacher.

On the other hand, the interest to *Ninja Assassin* films is because in this film a *Ninja* does not always dress in *Ninja* robes as in general and in some *Ninja* films that have been studied by previous researchers. *Ninja* is synonymous with Japanese culture, but in the movie *Ninja Assassin*, the Japanese *Ninja Clans* speak English and not Japanese. This is considered less reasonable because Japanese people are known to be very attached to tradition. In addition, *Ninja Assassin* films feature Japanese *Clans* accepting non-Japanese children and training as *Ninja*. Based on this presentation, the writer will conduct in-depth research related to the development of the main character in the *Ninja Assassin* film. For this reason, the title of this study is “Analysis of Raizo’s Character Development in McTeigue’s *Ninja Assassin* Film (2009) in a Film”.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problem statement in this research includes :

1. How is Raizo’s portrayed in the *Ninja Assassin* 2009?
2. How did Raizo's character change in the *Ninja Assassin* 2009 develop?
3. What are conflict or factors Raizo’s character in the *Ninja Assassin* 2009?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The aim of this research:

1. Analyze and describe the depiction of the character Raizo in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009)
2. Analyze and describe the development change in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009).
3. Analyze and describe the conflict or factors that influence the development of Raizo’s character in *Ninja Assassin* (2009).

1.4 Significance of the Study

In this research, the author conveys information that is useful for readers, which describes how the character of the main character develops in the (2009) film *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue. The focus of this research is on how the author describes the development of the main character in this film. The author uses a cultural theory approach to study and hopes that this research can add insight to readers regarding the development of the main character through the *Ninja Assassin* by James Mc Teigue (2009), which has been worldwide to date.

1.5 Methodology of the Study

This research simply uses library research with a descriptive qualitative approach, namely the method of observing data sources, analyzing data from films, and discussing research results. The research carried out by the researcher was to find out how the character of the main character in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009) developed. The data source used by the author in this research was the movie *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009). The steps taken by the author in this research were watching films, reading several articles, journals, and data sources from films, as explained above.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The focus of this research is to analyze and examine the character development of the main character in *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009). The main character of James McTeague's *Ninja Assassin* (2009) is Raizo, Naomie Harris as Mika Coretti, Rick Yune as Takeshi, Shô Kosugi as Ozunu, Randall Dulk Kim as Tattoo Master, Sung Kang as Hollywood, Jonathan Chan-Pensley as Yakuza Henchman, III-Young Kim as Yakuza Mohawk, and Yuki Iwamoto as Yakuza Scouch.

1.7 Status of the Study

There are several previous studies relevant to this study, these include first, research by Fitriandono (2011) entitled “Wrong Education Accepted by Raizo in *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009): An Individual Psychological Approach”. The data analysis used is qualitative descriptive analysis. Based on the analysis, the writer concludes that wrong education accepted by Raizo in *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009) is influenced by several aspects. They are fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, style of life, social interest and creative power. The six elements above have closed relationship. Raizo has right education from his friend, Kiriko. He has to control his inferiority feeling to stop *Clan Ozunu* so he had to leave it. He is striving for superiority, has a useful social type, low social interest and he has creative power. All of six elements above are needed by Raizo for achieving his goal. Based on Individual Psychological aspects shown in the Movie, the writer then concludes that literary work reflects the condition of people who have right of education in their life.

Second, Tinahadi's research (2014) entitled “The Representation of *Ninja* in the *Ninja Assassin*”. The data analysis used is a qualitative descriptive analysis. The research results show that *Ninja* representation is shown in five types, namely: Representation of *Ninja* through characters, Representation of *Ninja* through appearance, Representation of *Ninja* through equipment, Representation of *Ninja* through residence, Representation of *Ninja* through training and activities.

Of these things, each of them not only has the same parts as *Ninja* in the real world but also has different parts, even almost the same or almost different. Therefore, because of these differences, new representations of *Ninja* have emerged; moreover, *Ninja* in films and in the real world are not all the same. In this regard, it can be concluded that the analysis carried out is related to representation theory.

Based on the explanation of several previous studies above, this research is new and is not a continuation of previous research. This is because the current research focuses in *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009). In addition, in the Department of English Literature, no one has researched *Ninja Assassin* by James McTeigue (2009).

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study is organized as the following:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a description of the background of the problem, problem formulation, research objectives, research benefits, research methodology, scope and limitations of the research, research status and writing systematics.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL BASIS

This chapter contains theories that are relevant to the research focus.

CHAPTER III DATA ANALYSIS OR DISCUSSION

This chapter contains data analysis or discussion related to the problem formulation that has been proposed, namely the depiction of Raizo's character as the main character in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009); Raizo's character development as the main character in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009); as well as factors that influenced the development of Raizo's character as the main character in the *Ninja Assassin* (2009).

CHAPTER IV CLOSING

This chapter contains two main things, namely conclusions and suggestions.