

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented the background of the study. Then, it was followed by the research question, research objectives, significance of the study, the scope and limitations of the study, and definitions of the key terms.

A. Background of the study

People with acquired disability often face more social exclusion and prejudice. According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 27 percent of the United States adult population has some type of disability. The data shows that 12.1 percent of US adults with disabilities range from the ages of 15 to 70 and over. In line, the Employer Forum on Disability reports that 78% of disabled people acquire their impairment aged 16 or older. World Health Organization (2001) defines the term "disability" as a general concept that consists of any physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual impairment that significantly impacts an ability to perform daily activities and participate fully in society. Based on the time of onset or when they occur in a person's life, disabilities can be classified into two main namely categories congenital disabilities and acquired disabilities (The International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health, 2001). Congenital Disabilities as known as a disability that presents at birth that may affect function in the future. Wikipedia describes this disability as the result of various causes,

including genetic disorders, exposure to certain medications or chemicals, or infection during pregnancy such as autism or down syndrome. On the other hand, Acquired disability refers to a developed individual disability during the person's lifetime as a result of various causes such as accidents, injury, illness, and health conditions such as head trauma, spinal injury, or post-stroke. (Employee of Change, 2023)

Due to these conditions, many experiences and challenges are faced by people with disabilities depending on the type of disability they have. Disabled people face stereotypes, prejudice, and stigma which contribute to the discrimination and exclusion experienced (Briggite, 2018). Russel (2013) stated that disabled person is considered pitiful, helpless, and dependent. Yogesh (2021) added that society defines disability as a burden. Some people think that disabilities are viewed as conditions that need to be cured. Usually, people who are born with a congenital disability are more stigmatized than people who became disabled. Bogart (2018) shows that people with acquired disability is often blamed for the condition because is more unchangeable than people with congenital disability. Some people think that disabilities are viewed as conditions that need to be cured. Usually, people who are born with a congenital disability are more stigmatized than people who became disabled. Bogart (2018) shows that congenital disability is often blamed for the condition because is more unchangeable than people with acquired

disability. In line, Ashley (2011) found that people with acquired disabilities are often blamed for being the result of choices under the control of the individual or the influence of those personal choices or behaviors. Moreover, the University of Washington (2016) on Disability Stigma and Your Patient Factsheet describes several factors that contribute to disability stigma, including social avoidant which is public avoidance of people with disabilities because they doubt if people with disabilities can socialize like normal people. Stereotypes about the powerlessness of persons with disabilities in life make some people look down on them and even consider persons with disabilities to use their disabilities for personal gain. As a result, persons with disabilities begin to believe that being disabled is a mistake and persons with disabilities become victims of physical and sexual crimes. Reducing the stigma associated with acquired disabilities is crucial for improving the lives of individuals affected by these conditions (Unicef, 2012) by raising awareness and lessons learned about people with disabilities and promoting inclusion, and supporting policies that protect the rights of people with disabilities. Movies or Films can play an important role in reducing the stigma associated with acquired disabilities

A movie or cinema is a product of mass media that presents a culture to meet individual expectations in responding to certain aspects that are missing from that person's life. It reflects the life of society or individuals which refers to developing opinions (Demet, 2021) another research from Tina (2020) shows that Movies can also shape

beliefs and attitudes towards stereotypes as well as generate and change opinions about something. Emotional involvement while watching which represents a social life is considered capable of increasing the effectiveness of influencing public opinion. Through movies, the public can gain an insight into the challenges that people with disabilities face on a daily basis, and develop public beliefs and dispositions about people with disabilities (Diane, 2010). Ryan (2020) also assumes that a good movie has the potential to create new insight into ourselves, others, and human conditions. He also agrees that movies can empower an audience to experience focused attention and concentration and increase empathy.

There are many movies and films that portray people with acquired disabilities and promote inclusion and accessibility. For example in the 2014 biographical film "The Theory of Everything," where Stephen Hawking has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The film depicted Hawking's scientific achievements, personal struggles, and his relationship with his wife, Jane. Another example is the story of John Callahan a cartoonist who became quadriplegic because of a car accident. His life and art were the subject of the 2018 biographical film "Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot," where Joaquin Phoenix portrayed him. The film explored Callahan's irreverent sense of humor, personal struggles, and his journey toward acceptance and artistic success. And in the film "Forrest Gump" (1994), Gary Sinise played the character of Lieutenant Dan Taylor,

who lost both legs in the Vietnam War. The character goes through a journey of self-discovery and ultimately finds purpose and fulfillment in his life, challenging traditional notions of heroism and disability. Last, a film called *Me Before You* (2016) works by Jojo Moyes, this film tells the story of a young entrepreneur in his 30s, Will Traynor who is paralyzed due to a traffic accident. Before his accident, Will was a dashing and adventurous man who enjoyed extreme sports and lived life to the fullest. The film explores the struggle to maintain his life in six months and his journey toward choosing to end his own life with Dignitas, a Swiss-assisted suicide organization.

In other words, all the movies represent people with acquired disability's challenges in different stories and backgrounds. The representation of people with disability in movies has been critical in helping to demystify and humanize individuals with these differences. Such movies can help generate empathy, understanding, and awareness, which in turn can help overcome negative attitudes and stereotypes that may prevent individuals with disabilities from fully participating in society and achieving their goals (Thomas, 2013). With this background knowledge and definitions of all the key terminologies, we can learn about the challenges of people with disabilities. Moreover, at this time the issue of the challenges of persons with disabilities is very interesting to study. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to describe the challenges of persons who are disabled through the film "*Me Before You*".

B. Research Question

According to the explanation in the background of the study, the following research questions will guide this study:

1. What are the challenges of Will Traynor when he became disabled represented in the movie “*Me Before You*” ?

C. Research objectives

Based on the research question, the objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the representation of people with disabilities in movie journals.
2. To describe the challenges of People with acquired disability in their life represented in the movie “*Me Before You*”
3. To understand the challenges of people with acquired disability represented in the movie *Me Before You*.

D. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study was analyzing character Will Traynor who became disable portrayed in *Me Before You*. Furthermore, the limitation of the study was the *Me Before You* Movie by Jojo Moyes. In addition, this study was focused on analyzing the challenge of Will Traynor who became disable person portrayed in the movie “*Me Before You*”

E. Significance of the study

1. The researcher expected that the result of this study will increase student knowledge of people with acquired disability.
2. The researcher expected that the result of this study will up a better understanding of the challenges of people with disability, so there's no more discrimination against disabled persons.
3. The researcher expected that the result of this study will be beneficial to disability people to change public beliefs and dispositions about people with disabilities and also to raise awareness about disability person

F. Definitions of the key terms

1. Disability: a physical, mental, cognitive, or developmental condition that is detrimental and disruptive, and limits a person's ability to perform certain tasks or actions and participate in daily activities and interactions
2. Acquired disability: a type of disability that has developed over a person's lifetime as a result of an accident or disease
3. Quadriplegia, also known as tetraplegia, is a condition that causes partial or complete paralysis of the arms and legs, as well as the trunk. It is almost always caused by an injury or disease that affects the spinal cord, especially the cervical area of the spine
4. Grief: a complex emotional response to the loss of something significant, such as the death of a loved one, or the loss of a home or community, but it is also experienced by individuals with serious long-term illnesses or with recently acquired disabilities.