

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. The Background of Study

In everyday life, everyone is bound to experience various problems. This condition causes many people to get stress. As a matter of fact, people need to understand that basically, everyone's life is a path. In this path, there is a process that must be passed by each person to discover the real him or her. This process of self-discovery unwittingly becomes one of the most essential goals in human life. However, not many people are aware of it. From this point, self-discovery can be perceived as a crucial phase in human's life.

Understanding of self-discovery becomes something significant to have. Regarding this, Bench *et al.* (2015, p. 170) explained that the term self-discovery reflects that a person has found an appropriate trait, personality or something that he or she uses to show his or her true self. There are many people in society who are stuck in a stressful situation because they have not been able to find out the kind of life they want. As a result many of them often experience stress and anxiety. Therefore, the discussion of self-discovery is necessary because the phenomenon of self-discovery has lately been highlighted, particularly among individuals who live an urban life.

Generally, the theme of self-discovery is often discussed from a psychological perspective This is considered relevant because many researchers argue that self-discovery is influenced by psychological factors. This situation is also often portrayed in movies. It is true to say that films have a fundamental role to make audience know and learn about something (Adi, 2011, p. 71; Rudy *et al.*, 2021, p. 42). This explanation shows that what is depicted in the films can actually be studied to understand the meaning or concept. For that reason, Buckland (2003, p. 1) suggested the need of studying about movies critically By this way people will explore the knowledge in the films. That is also the reason why observing films can be fascinating and useful.

Therefore, discussing self-discovery can also be done by observing movies. There are many films describing about self-discovery and one of them is *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018). This film has its own uniqueness and its popularity made it one of the most successful movies in 2018. It was nominated and has won several categories in Academy Awards in 2019. Thus, it is

interesting and significant to use the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* as an object of research to study and explore more about self-discovery.

## **1.2. The Problems of Study**

There are two problems which are the main discussion in this study. The problems are arranged in the form of research question as follows :

- (a) What is self-discovery?
- (b) How is self-discovery shown in the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018)?

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

In regard to the research questions above, this study intends to explain the concept of self-discovery and to identify the representation of self-discovery found in the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018).

## **1.4. The Use of Study**

This study can contribute in terms of theory enrichment, especially in cultural studies literature, media, education and other studies whose object of study is relevant to this research. Therefore, it is expected that this study can be used by researchers as the main or supporting reference. In addition, from a practical point of view, this study can also help increase people's knowledge about the concept of self-discovery and the usefulness of films in revealing significant values about self-discovery which can be a lesson to learn.

## **1.5. The Review of Literature**

The literature review is conducted on a number of research results in the form of journal articles which also discussed about self-discovery in movies. This is necessary so that this study can fill the research gap that has not been covered by previous studies. A number of themes about self-discovery were discussed through literary works, for example, a study conducted by Subaşı (2017) about self-discovery as a journey in prose; Mangwada (2020) who talked about self-discovery in a short story; Couple (2020) who focused more on self-discovery in Indian literature; as well as a study of self-discovery involving spiritual views in literary works discussed by Sahbana (2018) and Sebastian (2019). Research on the film *Bohemian Rhapsody*

was conducted by Ea-Irene (2020) who observed the aspects of masculinity in it and Andani (2020) who specifically focused on the humanistic aspects in the film. So, this literature review can show that previous studies have not connected self-discovery to the film *Bohemian Rhapsody* with the application of a psychoanalytic approach.

### **1.6. The Scope of Study**

This research is known as a study of an American film inspired by the life story of a legendary singer named Freddie Mercury who was the main vocalist of the British music group Queen. To make the concept of self-discovery clear and specific, this study focuses on an analytical study of the film entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018).