

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Many people and experts are already familiar with the literature. The term "literature" is derived from the Latin word "littera," which means letter. However, "literature" is now more focused on the purely imaginative work that emerges from the story writer's creative mind. Some experts have different opinions about literature; it depends on the time, situation, and social conditions, so there are many different definitions of literature, but this does not change the meaning of literature itself. It is said that literature is a medium for expressing ideas. "The term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by the imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination"(Rene Wellek & Austin Warren, 1963). Literary means not only what is written but what is voiced, expressed, and invented in whatever form (Greil Marcus & Werner Sollors, 2009).

There are two significant categories of literature: fiction and nonfiction. Fiction is literary work that is not based on a true story. Nonfiction, on the other hand, is literary work based on a true story. Novels, short stories, poetry, drama, movies, and other literary works are examples of fiction. Personal essays, history,

biography, and autobiography are examples of nonfiction literary works. “The literary work is a picture of the world and human life, and the main criteria put on the literary work is truth, or everything that wants to be a picture by the author” (Pradopo & Rachmat Djoko, 1994).

A movie is a type/genre of literature that, in addition to drama, prose, and poetry, presents fictional stories in various dimensions. (A S Hornby, 2006) defines a movie as "a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story and is shown at a cinema/movie." The term "movie" or "film" refers to individual motion pictures, the field of the movie as an art form, and the motion picture industry. Movies are produced by either recording images from the world with cameras or creating images with animation techniques or special effects.

Marvel Studios is a film studio and a subsidiary of Walt Disney Studios. The company was founded as Marvel Films by Marvel Entertainment Group. The division was formerly headed by Avi Arad from May 13, 1993, as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, until October 1998, when he took on other duties within the company, such as executive producer for the studio's film output. Since 2008, Marvel Studios has released 30 films, eight television series, and one television special. These films, television series, and television specials all share a continuity, along with the One-Shots short films produced by the studio. The television series produced by Marvel Television also acknowledge continuity. One of the television series that researchers want to analyze is *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*.

The Falcon and the Winter Soldier is an American television miniseries created by Malcolm Spellman for the streaming service Disney+, based on Marvel Comics featuring the characters Sam Wilson/Falcon and Bucky Barnes/Winter Soldier. It is the second television series in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) produced by Marvel Studios, sharing continuity with the films of the franchise, and is set six months after Sam Wilson was handed the mantle of Captain America in the film *Avengers: Endgame* (2019). Wilson teams up with Bucky Barnes to stop anti-patriots who believe the world was better during the Blip. Spellman served as head writer for the series, which Kari Skogland directed.

Sebastian Stan and Anthony Mackie reprise their respective roles as Barnes and Wilson from the film series, with Wyatt Russell, Erin Kellyman, Danny Ramirez, Georges St-Pierre, Adepero Oduye, Don Cheadle, Daniel Brühl, Emily VanCamp, Florence Kasumba, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus also starring. By September 2018, Marvel Studios was developing some limited series for Disney+ centered on supporting characters from the MCU films, such as Wilson and Barnes. Spellman was hired in October and chose to focus on the racial and political issues raised by Wilson, a Black man, being handed Captain America's shield at the end of *Endgame*.

Although the series has been enjoyable, "The Falcon and The Winter Soldier" has been a mixed bag regarding race. Though the plot contains the usual "good guys vs bad guys" intrigue, the main backdrop is how individuals and society grapple with Captain America's complicated legacy. Race and racism are obvious subtexts, but the

series frequently sends mixed messages about how it feels about these issues. Sam Wilson and John Walker are the two characters who best represent this ambivalence.

According to van Dijk (Darma, 2009), racism is a racist ideology understood as a complex social system based on ethnicity or racial dominance and inequality. Furthermore, van Dijk divides the racist system into two subsystems, namely the cognitive and social subsystems. The cognitive subsystem is discrimination in social practices at the local (micro) level and abuse of power by dominant groups, organizations, and institutions at the global (macro) level. The origin of the term "race" is known around 1600. Francois Bernier first proposed the idea of human distinction based on categories or characteristics of skin color and face shape (Alo Liliweri, 2005).

The researcher chose the topic of racism because this is an exciting topic to discuss and examine more deeply so that we can find out what racism is, how acts of racism occur, and why acts of racism occur. The researcher did this research so that readers could find out what racism is and its impact on the surrounding community, and the researcher hopes that everyone will no longer commit acts of racism. The researcher chose *The Falcon* and *The Winter Soldier* because this film raises the issue of racism in several episodes and scenes. The issue of racism in this film is quite interesting to examine. About 9.9 million accounts have watched this film, but many are not aware that this film has raised the issue of racism. The researcher chose this film because he wanted the readers would know there is an issue of racism, which is

the "root" of the story of *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*. There has been no research trying to analyze racism in *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*, maybe because this film was just released in 2021, and many people do not know about the existence of racism issues that occur in *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*, even though the audience is already about 9.9 million accounts.

1.2 Limitation of the Research

Based on the explanation above, this research aims to analyze racism issue in *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier* by Malcolm Spellman. Therefore, the subject of this research would be limited. The limitation of this research is that it is focused on the analysis of which racism issue is used in the series *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier* by Malcolm Spellman only.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the background, the research question in this study is “How is racism represented in the series *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*?”

1.4 Objective of the Research

The purpose of this study is to answer the question from the research question above, namely "Identify and explain racism as it is represented in the series *The Falcon and The Winter Soldier*".