

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Every individuals was born and grew up in a different types of environment, family, friends. Some of them could born lucky and born in a wealthy family that actually care for them and raise them well, but on the other hand there are also individuals who are the complete opposite of that portrayal, they grew up harsh and they have to face a couple of obstacles during their childhood. Every individuals was born with a different kind of personality, some of them have a cheerful extroverted personality and some people also have an introverted quiet personality, which I think both of those things are an inborn things and also could affect the individual through the experiences that they've been through during their lifetime. Not a single person that has only one similar personality throughout their lifetime.

The word 'personality' itself came from a latin word which is 'persona' which means a mask that is used by actors/actresses during a show. In this situation those actors/actresses use a mask to hide their real personality and only show themselves based on the mask that they used, for example if they wear a sad mask, that means they have to express themselves in a sad manner. So everyone has their own personality even the individuals that you thought has no expression or almost really private in their lifes has a personality.

In a daily life personality is used for us to show everyone around us how we really are, so when people see us they can tell if we're an open person, or a private person or even a cheerful person etc. Some people could also fake their personality just to impress other people, but people are so smart that they can tell whether if a person is faking or not. And with this personality we could also connect with other people and let people or ourselves decide if they really like you or not based on your personality, because we really can't impress everyone.

People can tell if we're an honest person, an aggressive person or submissive or any other traits based on our personality.

A lot of people may not know, but there is a rare mental illness where someone not just have a single personality but they can have multiple personality. This mental illness is called Dissociative Identity Disorder or can be shortened as DID, some people also call this particular mental illness as 'split personality'. Based on American Psychiatric Association, DID is a mental illness that affect a person's personality or identity, where a person could have two identity or even more in one human body/individual.

Or as mentioned earlier this particular individual can be regarded/considered as a person who has split personality. After collecting facts about this mental illness, I could say that a person who suffer from this particular mental illness can have multiple personality that each of those different personality could control the individuals' behaviour without them actually knowing what's going on. These personalities control their behavior at different times. Each identity has its own personal history, traits, likes and dislikes. DID can lead to gaps in memory and hallucinations (believing something is real when it isn't).

A lot of people still thought that those who suffer from this mental illness is a person who are just asking for attention, acting, or even considered as a drama queen. Logically, it might seem like it is impossible for someone to have many different personalities at one time. That disbelief will eventually create a negative stigma towards those who suffer from it, which makes them reluctant to seek for help, isolate themselves from the social life, and also make their condition get worse. This situation could've already happened anywhere all around the world, because this mental illness (DID) just like several other illnesses are some illness that we can't directly see to make us believe that they're actually going through it. So it needs to be emphasized that a personality disorder is a real condition that has been recognized by the medical world and health professionals for a long time.

Not all people has their friends/family that suffer from this psychological condition. But it doesn't mean that this personality disorder is a rare condition. In fact, study has found that one to three percent of people has a risk to suffer from this disorder. It has also been reported that in Indonesia itself, DID cases has fewer than 150 thousand cases per year. One of the famous cases about Dissociative Identity Disorder is the Billy Miligan's case, it has been reported that Billy Milligan has several personalities that actually got him in trouble by the authority due to act of crimes. His life has been portrayed in a novel called *The Minds of Billy Milligan* and also in a Netflix TV Series named *Monster Inside: The 24 Faces of Billy Milligan*. In his life Billy has been involved in a several serious crime cases, In 1977, Billy Milligan was arrested for kidnapping, robbing and raping three women around Ohio State University. After being arrested, he saw a psychiatrist who diagnosed him with DID. It was argued in court that Milligan wasn't guilty as, at the time of the crimes, two other personalities were in control of Billy's personality. The jury agreed with the defense and Milligan became the first person ever to be found not guilty due to dissociative identity disorder. It also has been stated that Billy has around 24 personalities. Milligan was confined to a mental hospital until 1988 when psychiatrists felt that all the personalities had melded together. An upcoming film, *The Crowded Room*, will be based on his famous case of dissociative identity disorder. In Indonesia there has also been reported that there is a female individual who has been diagnosed to have/suffer from Dissociative Identity Disorder, her name is Anastasia Wella it has been reported that Wella has around 9 different personalities with different names and characters/personality. According to the doctor that has been taking care of Wella, the cause of her Dissociative Identity Disorder was started when Wella was a kid, at first Wella was suffering from a mental illness called Bipolar disorder which it was stated that her Bipolar Disorder wasn't fully treated and was neglected. So when she feels depressed she tried to overcome it on his own so that it emerges as a personality.

Picture 1.1



A picture of Anastasia Wella

(source: <https://www.merdeka.com/>)

Wella herself that other than her real personality she also has 8 other different personality that can come out of nowhere. She can suddenly become a little kid named Atin, and then she can also become Bilqis which is a muslim girl that is good at reciting Al-Quran, Saraswati which is a model and a dancer, Ayu who likes literature, Ravelin which is a millennial girl, Naura as a person who's always angry, Paula as a accountant, and even Andreas which is a male character who likes violence.

All of those character can come at random times especially during condition where she's mentally unstable and can't control herself. Quoted from one of the experts that answered a question regarding to Dissociative Identity Disorder, she said that Dissociative Identity Disorder is an incredibly complex and unfortunately stigmatized condition. Movies like Split, where the protagonist is portrayed as a villain who can 'transform' into a wall-climbing monster is an exaggeration – a mockery.

She also stated that The change in name was to reflect a better understanding of the condition. Rather than the growth of separate personalities, the illness is

characterized by a fragmentation of an identity. Dissociative Identity Disorder also stated that it isn't rare. Highly successful individuals, whether it is your doctor, psychologist, your friend, the person walking beside you, may have the same condition. The sole point is for you to be unaware and for the Dissociative Identity Disorder sufferer to seem like a 'normal' functioning human in society. After, all it is all about survival.

Picture 1.2



An art of Dissociative Identity Disorder/Multiple Personality

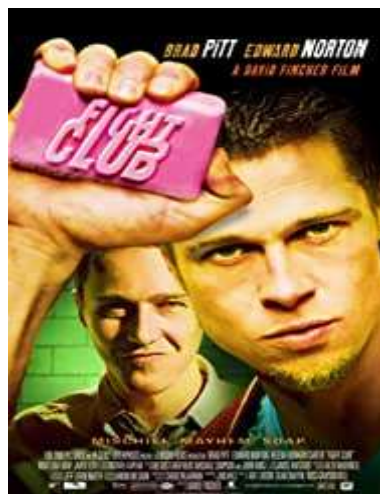
(source: <https://www.quora.com/>)

What's interesting about this split personality is that knowing the inner process of how the individuals who suffer from this mental illness communicate with the differences of personality that they got. Of course with this particular mental illness this individuals would not have a normal interpersonal communication compared to other normal individuals who doesn't have Dissociative Identity Disorder. With different personalities these individuals would have different way of thinking and perspective on things.

There has been a bunch of movies that has been trying to portray Dissociative Identity Disorder, and one of the movies that the writer interested in is a movie called Fight Club which was released back in 1999, and directed by David Fincher. This movie tells a story about an unnamed individual but in the movie he's called The Narrator, so this unnamed individual has a problem with insomnia and then he meets a strange soap salesman named Tyler Durden, which later in

the movie revealed that Tyler Durden is actually himself but with different personality. The movie *Fight Club*, is a movie directed by David Fincher which is based on the 1996 novel of the same name by Chuck Palahniuk. The movie has gotten several awards due to its amazing plot twist of the story. In the beginning of the movie the viewer were supposed to be convinced that The Narrator and Tyler Durden is a whole different person, but amazingly almost at the end of the movie, it was slowly revealed and explained that Tyler Durden is actually himself but with a whole different personality. *Fight Club* is considered a cult classic, once the movie hit the theaters, many people who watched it misunderstands the point of the movie, and a lot of people are quite confused with it, even though the movie in general has an amazing story and plot twist, and many years later people still talk about it, but it was reported that during the year it was released the movie wasn't really a hit, but the movie creates a cult following and a lot of minorities was crazy about the movie *Fight Club* and that's what makes the movie unique and different than many other movies. Even currently after many years, the movie has such a good rating, and a lot of people give good reviews about the movie.

Picture 1.3



Fight Club's Poster

(source: <https://www.imdb.com/>)

The researcher chose this movie because this is one of the movie that the researcher has already seen that portrays how a person who has a multiple personality/Dissociative Identity Disorder really look like. What's interesting is that before watching the movie, no one suppose to know that the movie is actually about a portrayal of someone with multiple personality, but the watcher was suppose to be convinced that the character The Narrator and Tyler Durden is a different person, but later on the film it is revealed that those two character is actually the same person with different personality.

While the first unnamed character which is usually called The Narrator is a depressed insomniac who works at an office that went to a community place regularly where he thought it could fix his mental issue, until he met his other personality which is Tyler Durden who is more of a free spirited alpha male, who likes to fight and create a big business making soap. These two personalities collide and then eventually they create some kind like an underground Fight Club where people come to fight each other. Most people will thought that the movie is about fighting, but little did they know this movie has a hidden meaning which is one of them is this particular character that has mental disorder called Dissociative Identity Disorder/Multiple Personality.

Fight Club is such a unique film that most people still discuss about the movie to this day, on Instagram on most film page that regularly post clips from movies, Fight Club usually always being posted on most film page. It is an interesting movie that it creates like some kind of a cult following. The movie has a rather dark theme, and also a complicated and complex storyline especially to people who are not used to movie like this, they may not get the meaning of what this movie is really about, it is actually about a portrayal of someone with DID, and this movie has a pretty good portrayal on the mental illness. That's why Fight Club is chosen to be the movie for this research, because it has a unique way of telling how a person with DID would act on a daily basis. Just like in real life, those who suffer from DID usually has their own alter-ego that they create in order to face their troubles and trauma, it first happen to those who has a bad past, such as depression during their sensitive development age usually

around the age of 6 and below. Those negative emotions will eventually build up and force them to create another personality which is the opposite of their original personality, and usually they will have difficulty to remember what they just do most of the time, and that happened in the movie Fight Club, where The Narrator created another persona or alter-ego named Tyler Durden, who has a way different personality than The Narrator. And The Narrator most of the time didn't realize what he just did.

Some people with Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) have very little communication or awareness among the parts of their identity, while others experience cooperation among alternate identities. Also not every person with DID can speak with their other personality, it is ranged only a couple percentage of people who are able to do so, some DID alters communicate with each other, others keep to themselves. Some alters communicate with the host and others do not. The alters/other personality usually communicate with each other internally, by sharing thoughts with each other (since they are all part of the same brain).

In the study of communication there is a study that focusing on signs which is called semiotics. A movie can be considered as an art that contains many signs that can be analyzed or observed with the semiotics method, we can analyze the storyline, the settings, characters, dialogue and etc. These theories are important because they could reveal the way in which signs communicate ideas, attitudes and beliefs to us. By using the semiotics analysis then we can find the meaning behind these signs that represent split personality from the movie character in the movie. Based on the description above that has been explained by the researcher, that becomes the reason why the researcher decide to do a research about the Representation of Multiple Personalities/Dissociative Identity Disorder in the character 'The Narrator' in the movie Fight Club.

1.2 RESEARCH'S FOCUS

Based on the explanation from the background, the focus of this research is:

1. This research is focusing on how the Dissociative Identity Disorder being represented on the movie “Fight Club” based on Roland Barthes’ semiotic model.

1.3 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

1. The formulation of the problem in this research is how the multiple personality/dissociative identity disorder on the character The Narrator being represented in the movie fight club by using the semiotic method.

1.4 RESEARCH’S PURPOSE

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose that the researcher want to achieve is as follows:

1. This research has a purpose to explain the meaning of denotation, connotation and myth about the representation of Dissociative Identity Disorder in the movie “Fight Club”.

1.5 RESEARCH’S BENEFITS

There are two methods that can be taken from this research, consisting of:

1.5.1 Theoretical Benefit

The result from this research is expected to inspire and enrich communication type of research, especially about multiple personalities in a movie with using semiotics method.

1.5.2 Practical Benefit

From this research, hopefully people will increase their awareness towards some individuals who suffer from Dissociative Identity Disorder/Multiple Personalities. And people hopefully will understand more about someone who has this type of mental illness and how they interact with other people in a daily basis, so people who suffer from this illness can feel accepted in society.

1.6 RESEARCH STAGES

From this research, the researcher has watched the movie Fight Club directed by David Fincher, and then researcher will collect several theories that is related to this research. By using the semiotics method by Roland Barthes and other supporting theories that can be used for the object of this research. And then the researcher will continue the analysis using semiotics method by Roland Barthes in accordance with the scope of the research. And then there will be an analysis towards the multiple personality/dissociative identity disorder of the character The Narrator in the movie. And after going through the step of data validity then the researcher can conclude the analysis' result from the movie Fight Club directed by David Fincher.