

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A human can be a good or bad person. On the other hand, a good or bad person can be called a hero or villain. Hero and villain story distribute the point of good and bad that related to exploring human condition (Alsford 2006, 4). Villain is related to bad people and it is similar to shadow in Jung's archetype. Jung's archetype mentions that each person has their own shadow which means the negative side of human. The negative side can be the dark side of humanity which is hidden and becomes collective unconscious of the human mind (Jung 1981, 262).

The connection between villain and hero can be seen in literary work such as *Harry Potter* written by J.K Rowling. According to Jamey Heit (2011, 134), there are two perspectives of characters such as Harry Potter is a good guy or as a hero and Voldemort is a bad guy or as a villain. At the beginning of the story, Voldemort was portrayed as a good student. He was a smart student and wanted to seek more knowledge and power. Throughout the story, it was revealed that he was growing up like a loveless boy in a Dickensian orphanage. He did not seem to seek a love that he never had, rather he single-mindedly wanted to achieve dominance over others without the principle of good values. Because of those reasons, he chose to be an evil person because he rejected Harry Potter's reconciliation (Heit 2011, 135). The Hero or Harry Potter invites him to achieve redemption through remorse or at least a desire for reconciliation. The character Voldemort in *Harry Potter* which is

similar to character Joker can be found in the story of *Batman the Killing Joke*. Thus, this character is going to be discussed further in this thesis.

Batman the Killing Joke is written by Alan Moore and Brian Bolland. The graphic novel is released in 1988 and reprinted in 2008. This graphic novel is also one of the phenomenal stories. The text of the story was written by Alan Moore. He had made some graphic novels such as *Watchmen*, *V for Vendetta*, *Promethea* etc. In the story, Joker believes that people could reveal their dark side just because of a bad day. This graphic novel has categorized as genre superhero but it focuses on the villain. All this time, villain character is only complimented to Hero's journey. This graphic novel tells a story about the Joker's life that consists of his background life and motives. His background life has a point that ordinary people living in injustice. Furthermore, this graphic novel has been reprinted in 2008 into a deluxe hardcover edition because it achieved past success and re-coloring so that the quality and atmosphere are more realistic and current. *Batman the Killing Joke* was reprinted in 2008 because the story has more sense of realistic, gloomy, and subdued palette and has a hardcover. It was reprinted by Brian Bolland. In 2009, *The New York Times Best Seller List* launched *Batman the Killing Joke* as the bestselling book (Hahnlibrary n.d.).

In 1989, *Batman the Killing Joke* won Eisner award. This award is given to American comic books that voted by the jury that consists of one comic retailer and one academic researcher among other comics' experts. The reason *Batman the Killing Joke* won Eisner award is because it made a new plot of hero's story that not only fight each other but it contains critique about humanities (Weiner 2010,

267). The categories of Eisner award that had won for *Batman the Killing Joke* are best graphic album, best writer and best artist/penciller/inker or penciller/inker team. In the same year, this graphic novel had won The Harvey award that has four categories such as best graphic album, best single issue or story, best colorist, and best artist or penciller (Weiner 2010, 267). This award is often given by voting decisions. This graphic novel was chosen to win because of the darkest stories that have ever existed, interesting images and colors at that time. In other words, the reader has a new point of view about the villain. Generally, in the hero's story, a protagonist or a hero always beats the villain without knowing each other. The antagonist is only shown as a complementary character on a heroic story. This graphic novel has critiques about a heroic story.

Joker is a comedian that has a wife and an unborn child. He worked in the entertainment industry and chose to be a comedian. He wanted to make people laugh but it failed. He came from a very poor family and he got misfortune. One day, his wife had an accident that made their unborn child died. He felt frustrated and guilty over the accident because he had made a promise to make his family happy, but none of that could happen. Consequently, it drove him to become a bad person. The first time Joker met Batman, he was very afraid. Then, he slipped and fell into chemical water that made his appearance look like a clown. In the present time, Joker wants to show Batman that everyone could be like him just because of one bad day. If people ever had an experience like what happened to Joker, it might drive them crazy, lunatic and mad just like how Joker was. At the end of the story, Batman wants to rehabilitate Joker but he refuses and states that it was his destiny.

Joker believes that people have a dark side and it can be shown just because of one bad day. Also, the laugh of Joker indicates a life of frustration and desperation because of tragic experience.

From the story of *Batman the Killing Joke*, the writer will focus on archetype study. The archetype is a pattern or universal symbol that as proposed by Carl Gustav Jung. One of the archetypes is Shadow that has meant the representation of evil in the human condition (Garry and El-Shamy 2005, 160). In this narrative, the shadow is Joker because he is evil in the human condition. The condition of Joker is unacceptable in the story that made him a villain which must be defeated. It can be hidden or will be shown with past experience (Jung 1981, 267). The experience of Joker is shown on his flashback memory that he repressed. He will prefer to have multiple histories than confess one of his memories about his life.

Previous studies of *Batman the Killing Joke* cover issue about the mental issue. According to Ewald's study (2017, 3), Joker is a character that has madness, crazy, lunatic that have worked. This study compared three graphic novels about Joker which are *Batman the Killing Joke*, *Batman A Death in the Family* and *The Joker Death of the Family*. From Ewald's study, the gap is point of view in Joker. The writer will focus on Joker's character that categorized as shadow. It can be symbolized as shadow of Batman and his own shadow that he repressed it in memory. The graphic novel also has more image than text so the analysis will be narrative text and non-narrative text.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

1. How is shadow archetype constructed by Joker's past experience in *Batman the Killing Joke*?
2. How are aspects of shadow archetype portrayed through Joker's life?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the process of Joker that transform into a bad figure in *Batman the Killing Joke*.
2. To explain the shadow archetype aspects that construct Joker's life

1.4 Significance of the Study

The discovery of this study is an explanation about shadow archetype of the villain's character in *Batman the Killing Joke*. The writer hopefully could contribute academic discussion about shadow archetype in a graphic novel with the theme the darkness from society in English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga. There are some theses used graphic novel but still not used archetype studies. Moreover, the object of this study is still rarely used in this department.

For many people, this study hopefully gives other people more knowledge, information, and also understanding the villain character that appears as the human has a dark side. This study invites people to be aware and learn to understand that a human has a dark side. The writer hopes this study can open people's minds about the dark side of humanity. Some tragedies in our life can give effect and impact on our life and also change our personality.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- Archetype : to be discovered and assimilated are precisely those that have inspired, throughout the annals of human culture, the basic images of ritual, mythology, and vision. (Campbell 2004, 17)
- Collective : the unconscious is not from personal experience but it is from Unconscious inborn. (Jung, *The Archetypes And The Collective Unconsciousness* 1981, 3)
- Shadow : the shadow is a moral problem that challenges the whole ego-Archetype personality. (Jung, *Aion: Researches into the Phenomenology of the Self* 1959, 25)
- Villain : the bad guy or girl that they are the enemy and one who breaks the law. (Jones 2017, 31)
- Clown : universal casting as the antagonist character and the representative of evil. (Campbell 2004, 273)