

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an institution and a social product that uses language as the medium. Literature interprets life based on social reality. In addition, natural life and individual human life were also part of literary interpretation (Wellek & Warren, 2016: 94). Literature interpreted human life as expressed through language. Humans have always been a fundamental element in most literary works. Literature is closely tied to human interests, expressing thoughts, feelings, emotions, and ways of life. One form of literature is literary works, which reflect the realities in our surroundings. These realities could be both social and individual. The themes explored in literature are diverse, encompassing human life experiences, conflicts, complexities, love, social issues, and matters of humanity.

In line with the explanation above, literature frequently collaborates with various fields to analyze and solve human problems, especially psychology. The literary work entitled *The Revenant* and this thesis will use a psychological approach. As stated by Jung (1990: 217), psychology is a science that discusses the human psyche and all its processes. However, this science could be associated with literature because it had the same object of discussion, namely humans. Psychology was also the source of all science and art.

Furthermore, Jung said (1990: 218) that psychology and art would always be connected and help each other. The second principle was valid regardless of

relativity (Jung, 1990: 218). This proved that regardless of the nature, principles and provisions of the two fields, both psychology and literature benefit each other. This benefit was useful in explaining and interpreting problems related to humans, including interpersonal relationships, desires, failures, achievements, etc.

Wellek and Warren (2016) said that there are two ways to do this literary study. First, by using an understanding of psychological theories, an analysis of literary works is carried out. Second, by presenting literary works as objects of research study before determining psychological theories that are appropriate to the research.

Endaswara (2008) said that a literary work is seen as a psychological affair, and if the text is in the form of drama or prose, it shows the psychological aspects through the characters. Literary works were divided into three types according to their form, namely prose, poetry and drama. Drama is a literary work in the form of dialogue or monologue that uses free and long language. One form of drama is a movie. A movie can become a literary work if it is translated into writing in the form of a script, which is then known as a movie script. A script is a document written in the form of text and realised in a movie. So that it can visualise every event, character, scene, place and dialogue in the script.

One of the script movies is *The Revenant*, which is the object and data source for this research. *The Revenant* is a biographical drama and adventure film. The script for this movie was written by Mark L. Smith in August 2010, based on the non-fiction novel entitled *The Revenant: A Novel of Revenge* by Michael Punke.

The movie *The Revenant* was released on December 25, 2015 and was directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu.

This movie follows the story of a protagonist named Hugh Glass, who served as a guide for a group of fur and skin hunters led by Captain Andrew Henry. During their journey, the camp was attacked by a group of Arikara Indians, resulting in half of the group being able to escape and save themselves. Hugh must endure the bitter cold of the snow after being seriously injured in a bear attack. During this disaster, he also faces betrayal from one of his group members, John Fitzgerald. His son, Hawk, is killed and buried alive by him.

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Humans are social creatures who cannot live alone. They interact and need friends. However, on certain occasions, humans have to live alone and survive without the help of others. According to Braun and Issac (1979), struggle is the enthusiasm people show to get what they want. These are the good deeds people do with their lives. Struggle is very important for humans because it is a matter of life and death.

Humans find themselves in situations that require them to face challenges and difficulties. Struggling and surviving is one thing that must be done. Solitude can serve as an opportunity for personal growth, development, and problem-solving. Therefore, in a positive sense, struggle makes a person stronger. In the story of the movie, the protagonist, Hugh, endured numerous challenges and betrayals yet still survives. He was buried alive by John, but his will to live surpasses his despair. Determined to survive, he took action to heal himself. Hugh used every resource at his disposal to fend off attacks from the Arikara tribe and wild animals, all while seeking revenge against those who have wronged him.

Some of the points above are the reasons why the struggle of the protagonist character in this movie was interesting to study. This thesis would examine the psychological condition of Hugh Glass, the main character who struggled to face all challenges, tragedies, and betrayals. In addition, the motivation behind the main character's actions is interesting to study. Motivation teaches that struggle must have a better ending behind the darkness and pain. This is what we could learn through this study. Based on the explanation of the reasons above, this thesis analyses the life struggle of the main character in the movie *The Revenant*.

1.2 Problems of the Study

According to the explanation that was presented in the background of the study, this research has two identifiable problems, namely:

1. What types of life struggles are undertaken by the protagonist in *The Revenant* movie?

2. What are the protagonist's motivation to fight, as depicted in the movie *The Revenant* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

After stating the problems in this research, the researcher arrived at two objectives, namely:

1. To describe the type of life struggle undertaken by the protagonist in *The Revenant* movie.
2. To analyze the protagonist's motivation to survive as depicted in *The Revenant* movie.

1.4 Limitations of the Study

The limitations of this study are significant because they help maintain a narrow focus on the problem being investigated. This ensures that the initial research objectives remain intact and do not stray from their intended path. This thesis will specifically examine the theme of life's struggles and the protagonist's motivation to survive, as portrayed in Mark L. Smith's movie, *The Revenant*.

This study employed three theories. Two primary theories and one supporting theory. The main theories consisted of the psychological approach and the struggle for life, drawing on concepts from Jung (1990) and Meiliana (2020). The researcher specifically referenced the struggle for life theory as stated by Braun and Ishak (1997). However, due to the limitations in Braun and Ishak's explanation, additional insights were taken from Syahputro (2023). The supporting theory

utilized in this study is the motivation theory, which was based on the work of Bandhu et al. (2024).

1.5 Significance of the Study

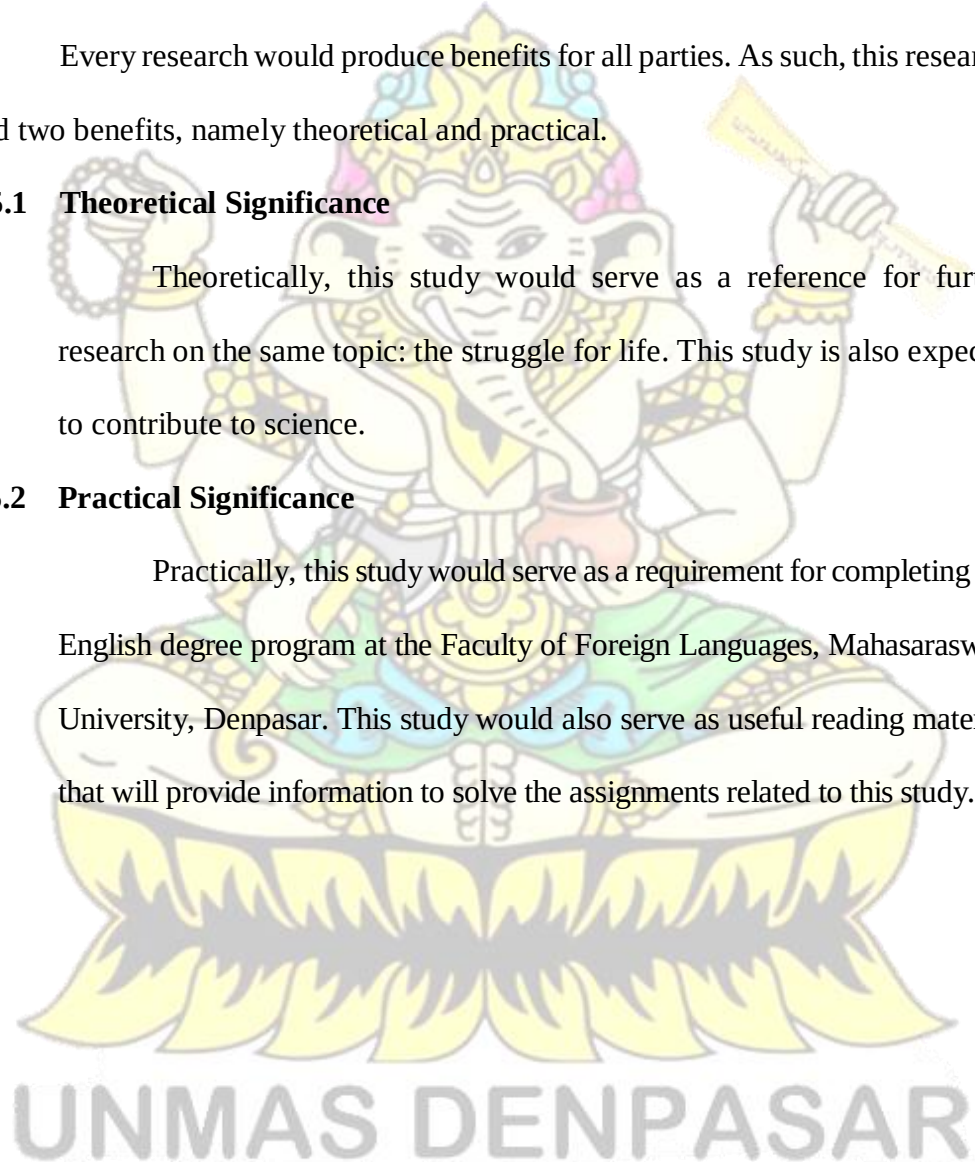
Every research would produce benefits for all parties. As such, this research had two benefits, namely theoretical and practical.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this study would serve as a reference for further research on the same topic: the struggle for life. This study is also expected to contribute to science.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this study would serve as a requirement for completing the English degree program at the Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati University, Denpasar. This study would also serve as useful reading material that will provide information to solve the assignments related to this study.



UNMAS DENPASAR

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The researcher used previous research as a reference in this thesis. These prior works are essential for clearly outlining the differences and similarities between the previous and the current research. This approach helped to avoid plagiarism. The thesis is entitled “The Analysis of the Protagonist's Struggle for Life in *The Revenant* Movie”. The topic of life struggle has been widely discussed in several studies and has several related theories. Therefore, to conduct this study, the researcher conducted a literature review of three journal articles and two theses that have similar titles to this study.

First, an article by Kaur et. al (2021). The article entitled “A Study on the Impact of Struggle in Human Life and How It Gives Impact on Our Journey”. This study discussed the impact of human struggle. It also discussed all forms of struggle, such as work struggle, struggle to deal with illness, struggle for love, struggle for life, and others. They further explained that struggle is the use of the power of thinking and the mind. From this study, the researcher understood the importance of struggle in life, which understanding was useful for analysing the thesis being worked on.

Both studies shared a commonality in their use of qualitative methods for data analysis. However, there are two key distinctions between the previous and

current research. First, the subjects of discussion differ. Previous research concentrated on the impact of struggle, and the current investigation focused on the various types and motivations behind struggle. Second, previous research used theories from Paradiso (2012) and Fakhry Tony (2018), while current research used theories from Jung (1990), Meiliana (2020), Braun and Ishak (1997) and Syahputro (2023).

Second, an article entitled “An Analysis of Struggle of Life In *Between The World and Me* Novel by Ta-Nehisi Coates”. It was written by Larasati (2021). This study is aimed at and focused on finding and understanding the struggle of life in Ta-Nehisi Coates's novel entitled *The World and Me*. There are two sources of data used by the researcher: the main data is the novel *The World and Me*, and the secondary data are books and journals. The researcher employed a qualitative descriptive research method, which aligns with the approach taken in this study. This method is effective for classifying and analysing the struggles depicted in the novel.

The researcher concluded that the novel portrays multiple struggles, including; 1) the struggle against racism, 2) the struggle to equalize blacks with whites, 3) the struggle to change stereotypes of black people, 4) the struggle for justice, 5) the struggle to seize rights, 6) the struggle for the right to feel safe. The similarities between this and previous studies were that they both used journals as secondary data and qualitative descriptive methods to classify and analyze data.

There are three differences between the previous study and the current study, namely data sources and theories. The data source of the previous study was

a novel, while the current study was a movie. Then, the theories used in previous studies were Kennedy (2007) and Diana (2015), while the current study used the theories of Jung (1990), Meiliana (2020), Braun and Ishak (1997) and Syahputro (2023). Also, previous studies did not use a psychological approach.

Third, a thesis entitled “An Analysis of Life Struggle in *Forest Gump* Movie: An Individual Psychological Approach”. This thesis was conducted by Kartika (2022). This study aimed to examine the main character, Forest Gump and discuss his efforts in the struggle for life. The main object was the movie *Forest Gump*, which was directed by Robert Zemeckis.

The results showed that all the theories used in this study can be related to the movie. The character of Forrest Gump illustrates points that can be applied in individual psychology and ERG theory: inferiority complex, superiority complex, lifestyle, social interest, self-creativity, and imaginary goals—the other three points for self-motivation: existence, self-relationship, and growth. There were similarities between this study and the previous research, as both employed qualitative descriptive research methods and utilized an individual psychological approach. Additionally, both studies used movie as a data source. However, a key distinction lies in the fact that the earlier study incorporates the ERG (Existence, Relatedness, Growth) theory.

Fourth, a thesis entitled "Analysis of the Struggle for Survival in Doug Stanton's Novel *12 Strong*". It was conducted by Syahputro (2023). The purpose of this study is to explain the forms of the struggle for life by the US special forces in Doug Stanton's novel *12 Strong* and the factors that led the US special forces to

fight for their lives. This study employed literary criticism alongside a psychological framework, specifically interpreting the findings through the lens of Brown and Maslow's theories.

The results indicated that in Doug Stanton's novel "*12 Strong*", the US special forces faced three types of life struggles: a battle with themselves, a battle with others, and a battle with their environment. Both this study and previous research utilized qualitative descriptive methods for data classification and analysis, incorporating a psychological approach. However, a key distinction lies in their focus; the previous study centred on novels as primary data, whereas the current research will analyze movies. Furthermore, while the previous study applied Maslow's psychological framework (1943), the current study utilises the theories of Jung (1990) and Meiliana (2020).

Finally, an article entitled *Protagonist's Struggle in Tere Liye's Novel About You*. This thesis was done by Oktaviani (2024). This research aimed to illustrate the protagonist's struggles and to explore how the main character struggles in Tere Liye's novel *About You*. The analysis revealed that the protagonist faced four distinct types of struggles: positive struggle, negative struggle, chosen struggle, and inevitable struggle. Influencing factors in these struggles include elements such as sympathy, encouragement, and desire.

In contrast to previous research that focused on movies, this study utilised the novel as its primary data source. While previous studies referenced the theories of struggle proposed by Maizler (2012) and Ahmadi (2023), this current research

would employ the theoretical frameworks of Braun and Ishak (1997) as well as Syahputro (2023).

2.2 Concepts

Before discussing the theory, the researcher would discuss the concepts relevant to this research. The sub-sections below will explore various meanings related to the title.

2.2.1 Protagonist

In a movie, several elements support the progress of a movie. One of these elements is characterization. Sudjiman in Siswasih (2007: 20) states that the protagonist is one of the fictional characters in a story. The storyline develops through the behaviour or events experienced by the protagonist. With characters, the story will be fully developed and present various conflicts.

One of the characters in the movie is the main character or protagonist. A protagonist is a main character in a story who pursues a worthy goal. The existence of this role is to overcome problems that arise when achieving goals. This problem can come from other characters, it can come from nature, and it can also be due to your fault. This role also determines the course of history (Mills, 2013: 29).

According to Stackelberg and Mann (2014: 16), the protagonist is the character responsible for solving the main problem and the character most in need of change emotionally, psychologically, or morally.

In line with the explanation above, it can be concluded that the protagonist is the main character in a fictional story. A protagonist supports the course of a story and can present conflicts. Therefore, the protagonist is considered an important figure in the literary element.

2.2.2 Movie

Currently, the use of audio-visual media in various fields is nothing new. One field that uses audio-visual media is art and literature. In practice, one of the audio-visual media that can be used to understand art and literature is film. In other words, film is a medium used to interpret literature.

Literature and film will always be closely related because literature has always been an inspiration for cinema around the world. For example, the *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling, *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *The Revenant* by Michael Punke, and many more. Stories in literary works are often adapted into a film presented in audio-visual form. therefore, researchers use the film *The Revenant* as an object of research.

According to the *Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*, a film is a recording of moving images that tells a story and is watched by people on a screen or television: film. Bordwell (2019) added that a movie is a work of art that consists of a combination of visual and auditory elements to convey a story or message to the audience. In his view, film is not just entertainment, but also an important medium that can inspire, educate, and even provoke thoughts.

In addition to entertaining, film also provides benefits to its audience. One of them is providing insight and understanding for the audience about various topics and phenomena presented in the film. These topics vary based on the storyline of the film. Siregar (2000: 176) states that film is a complex social, psychological, and aesthetic phenomenon, namely a document consisting of stories and images, published words, and music. Thus, film is a multidimensional and complex product.

Film is an adaptation of various social phenomena and realities of human life. Stanley in Butler (2009) views film as a representation of reality that is reinterpreted through the director's point of view. According to Cavell, film is not just a moving image, but also a reflection of everyday life presented through a camera and careful editing. Sobur (2006: 17) added that film is an interpretation of the reality contained and developed in society, which is then shown on the screen. Through the moral messages contained therein, films can influence and shape society. This means that society can absorb the things shown in the film.

Based on the explanation above, it can be interpreted that films are images that represent human life and provide moral messages to the audience. Therefore, films can be used as research objects that can be explained and their meaning studied.

2.3 Theories

There are three theories used in this study: two main theories and one supporting theory. First, the main theories are the psychological approach and the struggle for life theory. The Psychological Approach theory was put forward by Jung (1990), and Meiliana (2020). A psychological approach is used in this study.

This is useful to analyze the problems of the study and to examine the protagonist's psychology to survive. In other words, this approach is useful for explaining the problem of the study, its types, and related literature.

Meanwhile, the researcher takes a theory of the struggle for life by Braun and Ishak (1997). However, due to the limitations of the explanation from Braun and Ishak, the researcher took additional explanations from Syahputro (2023). Second, the supporting theory is the motivation theory. The theory was put forward by Bandhu, et. all. (2024).

2.3.1 Psychological Approach

Collaboration between literature and psychology is nothing new in the world of research. These two sciences are intertwined because of a similarity, namely that the object discussed is humans and their reactions. In this research, collaboration between literature and psychology is very necessary. As stated by Jung (1990: 217-218), is a science that discusses the human psyche and all its processes but can include the study of literature because psychology is the source of all sciences and arts. Furthermore, psychology and literature provide each other with advantages in interpreting, explaining, and discussing human problems, including human relationships, desires, failures, achievements, etc.

Jung in Sari (2021: 37-138) states that psychology can be used to study literature because all thoughts and expressions come from the human soul. Furthermore, Jung divided works of art into two categories, namely: (1) Psychological art, which "deals with material taken from the realm of human consciousness". It represents the things experienced and understood by the human

soul. Everyday experiences, hopes, failures and passions fall into this category, (2) Visionary art, which includes things that influence or measure the enormous time that separates humans from times before the human era, or "primordial experiences that surpass.

In line with Jung's statement above, the psychological approach will always be related to art because the object of these two fields is humans. According to Kagan & Havemann in Meiliana (2020: 3), psychology is a science that systematically studies and observes human behaviour, but it can include the study of literature because psychology is the source of all sciences and arts. Furthermore, psychology and literature provide each other with advantages in interpreting, explaining, and discussing human problems, including human relationships, desires, failures, achievements, etc.

Kretch and Crutchfield in Meliana (2020: 21) state that in the context of psychology, humans are objects that feel, need, and solve problems. They further stated that there is only one a person who feels, struggles and thinks. Patterns of perception, emotions and behaviour that are not the same as other people are characteristics that mark that individual.

Following the previous explanation, the researcher employs a psychological approach to examine the thoughts, behaviors, and emotions of the protagonist, Hugh Glass, as he battles for survival. In addition to elucidating the psychological aspects of the character, this approach can also be utilized to identify and describe the protagonist's motivations for enduring. This assertion is further supported by the insights of several experts discussed below.

Adler explains in Meiliana (2020: 13) that this theory is useful for revealing the underlying reasons that drive motivation and personality and can explain the reasons and outcomes that lead people to do things. This theory claims that the driving force or motivating force behind our actions is the desire to realise our potential.

The researcher finds that using a psychological approach helps us understand the personality and motivations of the main character in *The Revenant*, Hugh Glass. This analysis looks at how Glass's past experiences and emotional trauma influence his actions in the movie. By examining Glass's character through a psychological lens, we see how his traumatic experiences affect his decisions and behaviour. Key elements such as loss, betrayal, and survival drive him on his difficult journey for vengeance and redemption. Understanding the psychology behind Glass's actions gives us a deeper insight into his relentless pursuit and the emotional depth of his character.

By employing psychological theories, such as Maslow's hierarchy of needs and Freud's theory of motivation, the researcher contextualises Glass's journey in terms of survival and self-discovery. Key traits like resilience, determination, and a profound sense of loss are explored, revealing how they influence Glass's interactions with others. Incorporating theories of emotional response and trauma recovery enhances the understanding of Glass's motivations and coping mechanisms. This comprehensive psychological approach not only clarifies the character's development but also highlights broader themes of survival and the impact of trauma on individual identity.

2.3.2 Struggle for Life

According to Braun and Isaac (1979), a struggle is an action that is difficult to complete; often, many things must be sacrificed to attain what we are fighting for. The struggle is the hard work that everyone goes through to achieve their dreams, and there is no dream can be realised without effort (Syahputro, 2023: 13). Also, Braun and Ishak (1979) add that people occasionally have to part with something extremely significant. Struggle is the spirit with which beings strive to obtain something they desire. Humans take this beneficial deed for their well-being. Since the conflict is for human life, it is extremely significant.

After examining the perspectives of various experts, the researcher concluded that the struggle for life is a complex and challenging process. This journey requires significant effort for individuals to achieve their goals and fulfil their dreams. Struggles can occur both internally, as individuals confront their fears, and externally, as they interact with others and their environment. These experiences provide opportunities for growth and self-discovery. Through overcoming challenges, individuals develop the skills needed to analyze and respond to life's difficulties.

Furthermore, enduring hardship fosters resilience, helping to build a stronger character. This theme of struggle and resilience is powerfully depicted in the story of Hugh Glass in the movie *The Revenant*, where his relentless journey showcases the human spirit's ability to endure against overwhelming odds.

2.3.2.1 The Types of Struggles for Life

The struggle aims to survive. According to Braun and Ishak (1979), the struggle of life has three types, i.e. struggle with oneself, struggle with other people, and struggle with the environment. However, the lack of explanation and data regarding these three types has resulted in the researcher looking for other explanations. So that material that refers to problems is answered. Therefore, to reconcile the ideas of types of struggles for life, the researcher took explanations from Syahputro (2023).

1) **Struggle with yourself**

Struggle with oneself occurs when a person faces difficulties and carries out actions, conversations, and desires towards himself. This occurs when a person is driven by an internal desire within him that increases his self-confidence, passion, and perseverance. Struggle with oneself is a struggle that is difficult for a person to do, where he must endure pain rather than do it (Braun and Ishak, 1979).

Kennedy in Syahputro (2023: 13) adds that people who fight alone are the most caring people and the wisest people. This struggle is also the hardest thing that can be experienced by someone because the opponent that must be conquered is oneself. someone who fights with himself must fight the fear and weakness that is inside him. Also, controlling thoughts, words, and actions that exceed desires is very important in this struggle.

2) **Struggles with others**

Struggling with others means doing everything possible to survive and achieve goals by working together with others. Sometimes, a tough struggle will feel easier and lighter when faced together. In the Indonesian proverb, it is "*berat sama dipikul, ringan sama dijinjing*". It means working together through tough and easy times, and trouble shared is trouble halved. It is the same as the struggle of the Indonesian people to liberate this country. The spirit of family is a basic element in everyday life that the Indonesian people often adopt. This spirit is what makes them struggle and never give up. (Syahputro, 2023: 13).

3) **Struggles with the environment**

Struggling with the environment means a person's struggle to face all the difficult circumstances in the surrounding environment. The environment is the field that is most often faced when we struggle because we will go through various circumstances, conditions and difficult situations. Someone who never gives up will overcome various difficulties and achieve his desires. However, if someone no longer shows enthusiasm or action, then it can be said that he has given up on fighting (Syahputro, 2023: 13).

In life, a person must experience various conditions, both beneficial and detrimental, both pleasant and unpleasant. These conditions are natural but their presence cannot be predicted by a person. Therefore, one way to deal with it is to fight. The struggle is not just an action but has values that are the motivation behind it. These values are such as the value of happiness, human relationships, and spiritual values. If a person can control his actions based on these values,

then he is a progressive and open-minded person, but if he cannot adhere to these values then he cannot get through these difficult situations. (Syahputro, 2023: 13).

After discussing the three types of life struggles above, the researcher concluded that the three struggles have one common bond, namely motivation and aspects that drive a person to get through difficult situations. Also, the researcher found that the main character in the movie, Hugh Glass also has aspects and motivations that drive him to survive. Therefore, the researcher uses these three types as references to discuss the struggles of life experienced by the protagonist in the movie *The Revenant*.

2.3.2.2 The Motivations to Struggle for Life

This sub-chapter explains motivation, which is closely related to the struggle for life. The researcher takes the explanation of motivation theory from Bandhu (2024). According to Bandhu (2024: 1), motivation is a psychological component that influences people's behaviour. Motivation is what drives a person to take proactive action and achieve their goals. In addition, motivation is the desire to complete a task with enthusiasm and determination to complete it. Positive motivation encourages someone to act positively and create positive improvements, whereas negative motivation causes someone to act negatively or make negative changes.

Bandhu (2024: 2), adds that motivation is the fuel needed to keep the human machine running; this shows how important motivation is to keep human life

running. This explanation is in line with the struggle of life because, without motivation as encouragement, a person will not be able to survive.

The researcher addresses the reasons for an individual's motivation to fight for survival. To do this, they outline the common reasons that drive a person to struggle for life: the will to survive, the pursuit of specific goals, and the emotions experienced during the struggle. Each of these three reasons will be elaborated upon under the subtopics below.

1) To Survive or defend

Motivation can be used as a shield to save yourself from life-threatening things. As stated by Woodworth and Marquis in Shaleh, motivation can be to save oneself, the urge to retaliate, and so on. This motivation is referred to as emergency motivation, which arises if the situation demands rapid and strong activity from humans (2005: 138).

2) To achieve certain goals

Motivation is the inner force that inspires individuals to take action and pursue their goals with determination and passion (Kartono, 1985: 3). Usman (1994: 24) states that motivation is the power within a person that urges him to complete something or the condition of a person or organization that causes him to start a series of behaviours or actions.

The drive to defend refers to the need to protect ourselves and our resources from harm. This drive also has roots in our evolutionary past, where protecting ourselves and our resources was essential for survival.

Today, the drive to defend is manifested in our longing for security, safety, and protection. The drive to protect can motivate people to be cautious, prepare for emergencies, and defend their interests and values (Lawrence & Nohria, 2022).

3) **Feeling**

Motivation is defined as energy changes caused by "feelings" and preceded by responses to goals. The feeling is a person's affection, which is related to psychological and emotional difficulties that influence human behaviour. Motivation exists in people, but it emerges as a result of the presence of other variables (Mc. Donald in Sardiman, 1990)

Based on the explanation above, motivation plays a crucial role in helping individuals achieve their desires and goals. In the context of the struggle for survival, the protagonist, Glass, is driven by a strong motivation to fight for his life. This motivation arises from a sequence of events filled with tragedy and betrayal that he experiences. It serves as a protective force, enabling him to safeguard himself in the face of adversity.

UNMAS DENPASAR