# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

**Background of the Study**

*Star Wars* is one of the famous science-fiction movies. It has won many awards. George Lucas has made it more interesting and fascinating than his other-science fiction movies, like : THX 1138 (1971). *Star Wars* is different in its plot, story, and characters. First, George Lucas, the imaginative director, made this movie for sequels and prequels. Therefore, this movie starts with the fourth, fifth, and sixth episodes, then come the first, second and finally the third.

These movies consist of two trilogies: original trilogy (episodes IV-VI), which was released between 1977 and 1983; and prequel trilogy (episodes I-III), which was released between 1999 and 2005. The difference of the first and the second trilogy is on the focus. The first trilogy (the sequels: episodes 4-6) is focused on how Luke Skywalker conquers the evil Darth Vader, however, the second trilogy (prequels: episodes 1-3) is focused on how the father of Luke Skywalker becomes the evil Darth Vader. The story in this movie is full of imagination. There are a lot of imaginative characters that make *Star Wars*

fascinating. The imaginative characters in this movie are so interesting. Their names and costumes make them peculiar. I find out that one of the character's names, Luke Skywalker, is related with George Lucas. One of the Internet sources says that Luke Skywalker or Luke S. refers to George Lucas himself because of the similar pronunciation with Lucas. Realizing the fact, it is interesting for me to find out every name's meaning through linguistic aspects. The prominent linguistic aspect which I will use most is anagram, which is one of the important parts in language play.

Therefore, the topic of this thesis is <u>Language Play in the Names of the Characters in *Star Wars* Movies</u>. I choose this topic because I am convinced that there is a meaning or intention behind every name. It is interesting to examine the meaning of every name since *Star Wars* movies consist of uncommon names. George Lucas as the director and the writer has invented names which are unusual and odd to hear. Since these movies deal with a galaxy in which uncommon creatures, such as aliens, live, George Lucas has invented names which are peculiar. This peculiarity increases the audience's curiosity whether those names influence the plot and characterization in those movies. I hope that this thesis will help viewers to understand the story better.

This topic deals not only with linguistics aspects, but also two elements in literature, namely characterization and plot. In this thesis, I want to show that the characters' names are extremely important in revealing their characterization. Thus, to show this, I want to relate the linguistic analysis of each character's name with their characteristics. Characterization in these movies can be revealed from hidden narration, dialogue between characters, appearance, etc. Besides relating

**Maranatha Christian University**

the meaning of each name with the characterization, I want to know how the names deal with the plot or foreshadowing of the stories. Foreshadowing talks about what will happen in the future or in the next episodes. Considering that these movies consist of sequels, it will be helpful for the viewers to guess about the future of each character.

In order to understand the meaning of each name, I use Semantics, Morphology, and Phonology as the linguistic areas. Semantics is the study of meaning in language. To be precise, I will focus on the literal meanings of the names. I would also like to use morphological approach. Morphology is a branch of linguistics which studies the word-form. Every affix or compound has its own meaning. Each name is built from two or more words. It becomes one word after those words have been processed through morphological process; such as: clipping, blending, compounding, etc. In phonological area, investigating the similarity of pronouncing the words becomes part of my analysis. Phonology is the study of the sound systems of language, that is, the study of how speech sounds structure and function in languages. Since speech sounds are used to convey meaning, sound systems cannot be fully understood unless they are studied in wider linguistic contexts. Some speech sounds can be used in a language to distinguish words of different meanings.

In doing this research, I would like to use only the qualitative method. I use this method because I have to find out the meaning of each character's name.

**Statement of the Problem**

In this thesis, I would like to discuss the following problems:

1. What are the characters' names which represent their characters in *Star Wars* Movies?

2. What is the connection between each character's name and the literary element, such as plot and characterization in those movies?

**Purpose of the Study**

In this thesis, I would like to show:

1. To know and make a list of the character's names which represent their own characters in the movies.

2. To know the connection between each character's names and the literary elements, such as plot and characterization in those movies.

**Method of Research**

In gathering the data, first, I watch the movies and make a list of characters' names. Second, I will consult two dictionaries, Webster and Oxford dictionary, however Webster Dictionary will be my priority. My intention in using this dictionary, of course is to know the meaning of each name. Third, I select several names which are rather difficult to analyse, which is probably caused by the morphological processes, such as: compound or affixes. Fourth, to investigate each name in a proper way, I divide them into morphs. Fifth, I take the dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Not only morphological processes will I analyze but also phonological processes. Finally, I write the research report.

**Organization of Thesis**

This thesis consists of four chapters and is preceded by the Preface, Table of Contents, List of Symbols, List of Abbreviations, and Abstract. It begins with Chapter I, the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Method of Research, and Organization of Thesis. Next is Chapter II, which provides the linguistic theories, used to analyse the language play. This is followed by Chapter III which contains the analysis of language play in *Star Wars* movies. The last is Chapter IV, which contains my opinion and personal comments of how language play used in the *Star Wars* movies. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices. The Appendices provide of the synopsis of each episode and the table containing the data of this discussion.