

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Reason for Choosing the Topic

Jane Gresham is the main character of *The Grave Tattoo*'s novel. In the novel she is Fellhead native who lives and works in London. She is a post doctoral researcher and Wordsworth scholar. Studying other people's poetry what she was good at. Now she interest in a long-dead body surfaces in a bog near Fellhead in England's Lake District.

She believed that the body is Fletcher Christian who successful led the mutiny on the Bounty survived and returned to their homeland. Jane Gresham as Wordsworth scholar knows that Wordsworth and Fletcher Christian were long-time friends and also read several hints that Wordsworth has written a poem about Fletcher Christian's travel. But there is a manuscript gets lost. In this case, finding the undiscovered manuscript could be a successful career for Jane. So, she returns to Fellhead to begin work on tracing the manuscript, if it exists.

Jane in the novel on tracing the manuscript has some conflict. Conflict which is faced by Jane Gresham in this novel comes continuously where the problem is convoluted. In *The Grave Tattoo*'s novel, we can see that Jane Gresham is struggling to find out the undiscovered manuscript. In the catch up manuscript she got several obstacles. One of the obstacles that Jane meets is conflict with the close people.

Jane while she searching the manuscript against several obstacles. First, there's not only Jane who strive to find manuscript. Many people try to catch

manuscript. Dan Seabourne is Jane's colleague at university in London. Both of them are post doctoral researcher, so that they should be rivals.

Dan Seabourne covertly eager to snatch what Jane has. He also tries to kill Jane after all about manuscript almost done by Jane. The other one, Jake Hartnel is Jane's former lover. He spy on everywhere Jane go. He tries to dig about the manuscript and get information from Jane, but Jane don't want to give it. One more that has conflict with Jane is Tenille. Tenille is thirteen years old girl who does not accept every Jane's suggestion.

The Grave Tattoo is the novel which is written by a woman author. She had born 4 June 1955. Val Mcdermid grew up in a Scottish mining community then read English at Oxford. She was a journalist for sixteen years, spending the last three years as Northern Bureau Chief of a national Sunday tabloid. Now a full-time writer, she divides her time between Cheshire and Northumberland. She lives in South Manchester. In 1995, she won the Gold Dagger Award for Best Crime Novel of the year.

Val Mcdermid as the author of The Grave Tattoo's novel presents a conflict which is faced by the character. The conflict is not simple misunderstanding that can be resolved if the characters have open attitude to clear things up. The attitude of the character in this case may have impact on the appearance of conflict to the characters. The character's attitude is potential for growth of conflict either internal or external conflict. External conflict is a conflict where dilemma faces the characters outside.

Characters have problem with other characters. The external conflict may appear because of character's attitude, ideology or because of internal conflict

force. On the other hand, the external conflict may cause the internal conflict. The novel *The Grave Tattoo* presents a story which contains conflict which is scientifically interesting to be studied.

The brief description of the story above invites the writer's attention to study the novel through the external conflicts in relation to the character's attitudes. The writer finds the character's attitudes are clearly described in the novel. Therefore, the conflicts faced by the characters can be understood well and it can increase the reader's appreciation toward the novel.

1.2.The Objective and Scope of the Study

The object of the research is the novel *The Grave Tattoo* by Val McDermid. There are two objectives of the study; the first, the writer described the character's attitudes in the novel. The second is the writer analyzes how are the external conflicts of the characters in relation to the character's attitude. The scope of the study is limited on four characters; they are Jane Gresham, Jake Hartnel, Tenille, and Dan Seabourne.

1.3.Formulation of the Problem

The writer identifies the problem of this research as follows:

1. How are character's attitudes described in the novel?
2. How are the external conflicts of the characters in relation to the character's attitudes?

1.4. Review of Related Literature

1.4.1. Previous Studies

Val McDermid's novel entitled *The Grave Tattoo* was written in 2006. It has been reviewed on paper and article by people with different topics.

The People that has been reviewed it is Jones. Jones on his article entitled Pitcairn at The Globe (2014). In doing this article, Jones explained how Pitcairn described on the William Wordsworth's poet. Jones analyzes the William Wordsworth's poet from racism point of view. He sees that Race is a major problem in Pitcairn

The other one is Matt Oches. Matt Oches published a Journal at 21 June 2019 entitled "The *Bounty* Mutiny and its adaptations Tattooing, primitivism, class and criminality. Using primary historical research, this journal explores how the documentation of the tattoos of the Bounty mutineers helped to facilitate emergent primitivist and criminological discourses on tattooing.

Based on reviews of Val Mcdermid's *The Grave Tattoo* above, the writer who chooses Val McDermid's *The Grave Tattoo* to be analyzed, does not find the similarity in topic. The writer's topic is different with the writers above. In analyzing this novel, the writer chooses the topic about conflict relation to character's attitude. The writer focuses on the external conflicts which happen to the four selected characters.

On the contrary, none of the writers above have analyzed the conflict in relation to character's attitude. Jones analyzed the novel based on racism view which uses whole text of the poet in the novel. Matt Oches analyzed the novel based on primary historical research which uses whole text of the William Wordsworth's poet in the novel.

1.4.2. Theoretical Framework

1.4.2.1. Structuralism Theory

In achieving a good analysis in appreciating the literary work, the writer applies suitable theory namely Structuralism theory. The writer chooses Structuralism theory, because this theory only focuses on the relationship of the elements of fiction in the work itself. Here the writer wants to study the text novel only. In *Writing about Literature*, Edgar V. Roberts states that:

“Structuralism is an analysis that attempt to find relationship and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete in the text without paying attention to the author and social condition when the novel created”. (166)

The theory according to Roberts studies the elements which build the text. The text is build by the elements that appear to be separate and discrete. The elements have connection to each other. The theory studies the elements without making connection with external elements of the text. The author and social condition of the text are not studied. So the study is focused on work itself.

In the case of the text of *The Grave Tattoo*, the elements which build the text are character, plot, setting, theme and point of view. In this research, studying character and conflict among character are conducted based on the structural principle. Character (in sense of attitude) and conflict among the characters (persons) will be studied by studying the elements. The study (attitude and conflict) is about character and plot. Because of that, the study presents concept of plot and character as the basis analysis of the research.

1.4.2.2. Character

Beside the structuralism theory, the writer discusses about the meaning of the character. Roberts state that:

“Character is a verbal representation of a human being as presented to us by authors through the depiction of action, conversations, description, reactions, inner thoughts and reflections and also through the authors own interpretive commentary”. (66)

It means that the ways in observing character are through their action, speech, description and commentary as a verbal representation of human written in a literary work.

1.4.2.3. Plot

Plot is the arrangement of events that make up a story (Roberts, 1990:26). It usually a chain linking causes and effect. It means that one thing happens because of a result of something else. Plot requires conflict or struggle between opposing force, such as between character, a person and an idea or a person and an event which is usually resolved by the end of the story.

Plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution. In consonance with Harmon and Holman in their book *A Handbook to Literature Tenth Edition*, exposition is “the introductory material that creates the tone, give the setting, introduce the characters, and supplies other facts necessary to understanding. Rising action is the part of a plot that has to do with the complication of the action. It begins with the exciting force, gains in interest and

power as the opposing group come into conflict, and proceeds to the climax. Climax is the point of highest interest, whereat the reader makes greatest emotional response, climax designates the turning point in the action, the crisis at which the rising action reverses and becomes the falling action. Falling action is it follows the climax, beginning often with a tragic force, exhibits the failing fortunes of the hero and the successful efforts of the counter players, and culminates in the catastrophe. Resolution is the events following the climax and falling action.”(171-172). Plot is explanation about the story line how the story is began, how the story get climax, and how the ending of the story.

1.4.2.4. Conflict

Conflict which runs in plot are defined by Perrine in *Literature Structure, Sound and Sense* (42) as a clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills. In the clash, the main character may be pitied against some other persons or group of persons (man against man), he may be in conflict with some external forces-physical nature, society, or fate (man against environment); or he may be in conflict with some elements in his own nature (man against himself).

Based on the definition of conflict, can be divided into two kinds. They are internal and external conflict (Perrine, 1998). Internal conflict is a struggle that takes place in a character’s mind. For example, a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two solutions to a problem. Sometimes, a character must deal with his or her own mixed feelings or emotions. In other word, it can be said man against himself.

External conflict is a struggle between a character and an outside force. Characters may face several types of outside forces. The outside force may be

another character. It may be the character and the community. The outside force may also be forces of nature. In other word, it can be said man against man (<http://www.dowling'sliterature.com>). Robert adds that:

“The conflict is the opposition of two people. Their conflict can take the shape of envy, hatred, anger, argument, avoidance, gossip, lies, fighting, and many other form and actions. Conflict can also exist between groups, although conflict between individual are more identifiable and therefore more suitable for stories and a situation of choice in which the options are difficult, dangerous, and impossible-a dilemma-creates a natural conflict that individual character frequently confronts.” (77)

In studying *The Grave Tattoo*, the writer focuses on the external conflicts which happen to the four selected characters such as anger, argument, lies and fighting.

1.5. Method of the Research

The research on the character and conflict is held by applying method of approaching the text based on structuralism. The structuralism approaches the text by finding relationship and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete in the text without paying attention to the author and social condition when the novel is made

The approach is followed by close reading technique. Base on Frank Madden on his book *Exploring Literature* states that:

“Analysis requires close reading. In a way the term close reading means to opposite of what it sound like. When we read closely, we step back. We

move from being inside the work to looking at the outside, from participating to observing. This process requires a careful reading and a conscious examination of the element of the work and how they contribute to its overall meaning. Close reading is not a first reading, it is rereading”.

With this technique, the writer reads the text of *The Grave Tattoo* repeatedly. After reading the text many times, the writer identifies the conflicts which happen among the characters in *The Grave Tattoo*. The conflicts are identified through the relationship among characters.

The relationship is known by studying the character in sense of verbal representation of human being. The representation is studied through action, speech, description, and commentary. By the technique of structuralism, the research can go to conclusion what are the description of characters and conflicts happen in *The Grave Tattoo*.