

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Conflict is contrast of ideas and opinions about something that happens between persons with other persons. It means a different or opposite way of ideas and opinions is conflict. As human being we have different way of acts or thinks. Our act and think that made up by our own culture.

Conflict can be found in literary work such as novel. As my research on the novel of *The God of Small Things*, it shows us a conflict. The novel tells us how a conflict can be created by surrounding of us. *The God of Small Things* takes place in India and the author of the novel is Arundhati Roy. She was born on November 24, 1961 and is an Indian author best known for her novel *The God of Small Things* (1997), which won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 1997 and became the biggest-selling book by a non-expatriate Indian author. In the writer opinion, the reason the novel won is because the author of the novel has provided information and an overview of her country. She shows what is happening in his country, and indirectly shows the ugliness that is in her own country. Because of the honesty of the author which shows the dark side of her country, this novel deserves won the award.

India has Traditional Indian society which is defined by social hierarchy. Social classes in India defined by many hereditary groups, as we know as caste. Caste has origins in ancient India, and was transformed by various ruling elites in medieval, early-modern, and modern India. It is today the basis of educational and job reservations in India. Caste system in India brings much of

the social stratification and many of the social restrictions that can be found in the Indian subcontinent. India declared untouchable to be illegal. The Untouchable is used in traditional Hindu belief of the lowest caste or castes.

*The God of Small Things* sets in Ayemenem, now part of Kottayam district in Kerala, India. The novel tells about Ipe Family which there are some members of family that brought us to conflict. In this novel Ipe Family is considered as touchable caste. Ammu Ipe, she is part of the Ipe Family and is the character that causing the conflict. She falls in love with a man from untouchable caste. The untouchable caste is a call for them that outside of big four castes called the touchable caste, which known as the dalit or casteless and the touchable caste itself known as Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. Ammu relationship with the untouchable caste is clearly forbidden. Because of India is defined by a caste system and this caste system exists during Ancient India and it will lead us to the conflicts of the novel.

From the explanation above, the writer will analyze the conflict of the novel and the writer will use structuralism theory to analyze the novel.

## **1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study**

The object of this research is a novel of *The God of Small Things* written by Arundhati Roy. The objectives of this research are to discuss about traits of characters, setting, plot and conflicts from the novel.

1.2.1 To describe traits of characters and setting in *The God of Small Things*

1.2.2 To describe plots and conflicts of the main character in *The God of Small Things*

### **1.3 Formulation of the Problem**

The writer specifies his analysis into several matters that he thinks is important in this novel. In detail, the writer would like to focus his attention on two following aspects, and makes them into research questions as follows:

1.3.1 How are traits of characters and setting in *The God of Small Things*?

1.3.2. How are plots and conflicts of the main character in *The God of Small Things*?

### **1.4 Review of Related Literature**

#### **1.4.1 Previous Study**

The discussion about *The God of Small Things* has been held by previous researcher like Brinda Bose (1998) titled *In Desire and in Death: Eroticism as Politics in Arundhati Roy's "The God of Small Things"*, the results is about the eroticism that portrayed from the novel.

Another researcher is Golam Gaus Al-Quaderi and Muhammad Saiful Islam (2011) titled *Complicity and resistance: Women in Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things*, the results to present women as subalterns, some of whom try to bring about change through resistance.

The other research is Tatiana Marchenko (2016) titled *Linguopragmatic and Translatological Potential of Expressive Means in Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things*, The article deals with the study of expressiveness phenomenon in literary translation. The aim of the study is to specify expressive means presented in the novel *The God of Small Things* after A. Roy and their translatological peculiarities as far as it concerns English-Russian translation

Also Muzifar Yousuf and Showkat Ahmad Sheikh (2017) titled *Gender Polarity and Domestic Affairs: A Study of The God of Small Things*, the results is The issues of gender inequity and sexual discrimination are as old as the mankind itself on this planet earth.

The writer analyzes the same novel with structuralism theory. This research is different from the previous researchers because the previous researchers discuss about *complicity and resistance, study of expressiveness phenomenon in literary translation* and *Gender Polarity and Domestic Affairs* but this research is discuss about traits of characters, setting, plot and conflicts in *The God of Small Things*.

#### **1.4.2 Theoretical Framework**

In this research the writer is using structuralism theory. According to Roberts in his book, *Writing About Literature*, “The principle of structuralism stems from the attempt to find relationship and connections among elements that appear to be separate and discrete (269).” From the quotation above it means that intrinsic elements of literary work have relationship to each other, it makes each other cannot be self-support.

Intrinsic elements in literary work consist of character, setting, plot, point of view, style of language and theme. All these elements have connection to each other. In this research the writer only take character, setting and plot on this research.

First is character, according to Roberts, a character is “a verbal representation of a human being presented to us by authors through the depiction of action conversation, description, reaction, inner thought and reflections, through action, speech, description and commentary (66).” It means the characters in a story is a figure who is described as having how human personality to be portrayed from the character interactions with each other and from the actions of characters in the story.

Second is setting, Robert states setting is “The natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own. Character may be helped or hurt by their surroundings, and they may fight about possessions and goals. Further,

as characters speak with each other, they reveal the degree to which they share the customs and ideal of their time (108).” It means setting is all the things that are surrounding of the characters which known and owned and setting have big influence to character.

Third is plot, beside of character and setting. Plot is series of the event in the story. According to Harmon and Holman in their book *A Handbook to Literature Tenth Edition*, first one is Exposition, Exposition is “the introductory material that creates the tone, gives the setting, introduces the characters, and supplies other facts necessary to understanding (208).” What said about exposition above it means that the first thing we found from the first page of the novel, that tells about characters, settings and other things that important from the story is Exposition. The second one is Rising Action, 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 groups come into conflict, and proceeds to the climax (453).” It means that in this stage we will find a complication of the action that called conflict, here the reader will gains more interest to the story because the conflict that shown by the author. The third one is Climax, Climax is “the point of highest interest, whereat the reader makes greatest emotional response. In dramatic structure climax designates the turning point in the action, the crisis at which the rising action reverses and becomes the falling action (102).” It means the stage the reader will feel some point of great emotional responses because of event that shown from the story. The next one is Falling Action, Falling Action is “it follows the climax, beginning often with a tragic force, exhibits the failing fortunes of the hero (in tragedy) and the successful efforts of the counter players, and culminates in the catastrophe (212).” It means that in this stage we will find the tragic or failing of the hero even the successful of the counter player. The last one is Resolution, Resolution is “the events following the climax (443).” In this last stage of plot, the

reader will learn for what happen at the end of the story, which following from the event from the climax.

Plot is explanation about the story line how the story is began, how the story get climax and how the ending story. But in *The God of Small Things* the plot of the novel is not linear or progressive but the plot of *The God of Small Things* is flashback or regressive, which the pattern of the story not start from the beginning of the story, but it can be from the middle or even ending of story.

According to Roberts, “The controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects is conflict, which refers to people or circumstances that a character must face and try to overcome. Conflicts bring out extremes of human energy, causing characters to engage in the decisions, actions, responses, and interactions that make up narrative and dramatic literature (94).” There are two conflicts. The first one is “external conflict that happens between two or more people or group of people in the form of contrasting ideas and opinions.” The other is internal conflict which is “a situation of choice in which the options are difficult, dangerous, and impossible or a dilemma that creates a natural conflict for an individual person (94-95).” In relation to the topic of analysis is the writer analysis about external and internal conflicts of the main character.

### **1.5 Method of the Research**

The research is conducted by applying close-reading method based on Jacobus (2001). According to Jacobus on his book “*Literature An Introduction to Critical Reading*, “Interpretation is the exploration of those meanings”.

The technique which is used in interpretation is close reading. According to Jacobus the method is that the researcher notes specific uses of language, such as imaginary, symbols,

repeated terms, pattern of expression, the tone of speakers, and the main idea of the writer introduces.

Close reading needs to read and reread it, search for detail, examine the text for special words and term, look for symbolic uses of language, ask why certain pattern of behavior or patterns of words repeat themselves, note allusions to other literature and develop and work to answer question about the text. Based on Jacobus, one function of close reading is to pattern of imagery, the response of the reader is not part of the work literature as an object. Close reading by focused on main characters in the novel.

Data of my research are information from the novel of *The God of Small Things* that to analyze traits of characters, setting in *The God of Small Things* and to analyze plot and conflicts in *The God of Small Things*. The data are explored from the novel based on Arundhati Roy (1997) that is by drawing on understanding, background, and observation related to conflict and Intrinsic elements in order to get in the novel of *The God of Small Things*.