

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing The Topic

Setting is a representation of the time, place, and atmosphere of a story. In literary setting is element part of the intrinsic element that very important in literary works, setting also can influence conflicts and traits of the characters in the story because it is natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own.

Besides the setting, conflict is another element of the construction of a literary work that related to the characters and setting which are part of the intrinsic element in structuralism of literary works. Conflict is an expression of problem between individuals with other individuals, a group with other groups for several reasons. In this case, the conflict shows the difference between two or more individuals who are expressed, remembered, and experienced.

Conflicts experienced by teenagers in urban society reflected to Rainbow Rowell's novel, titled *Eleanor & Park*. This novel tells the love story between Eleanor Douglas and Park Sheridan that set in Omaha, Nebraska USA in 1986.

Eleanor Douglas was a girl with red hair, fat body, and strange clothing tastes like a man made her impossible to ignore and she was different from the appearance of women in general at 80's. Eleanor's family was broken home, her beautiful mother remarried and Eleanor's relationship with her stepfather was not good, her stepfather also did not give his family enough money and decent life. She also bullied at school, she often found mockery words in her textbooks.

Another main character was Park Sheridan, a half-Korean guy and he felt different from other students. Several times, Park was disturbed by his native friends, so Park trapped in his ordinary school life. Park had a harmonious family, his father was a former American soldier, and his mother was South Korea immigrant who had a beauty salon in his garage. Park also had a younger brother who was taller than him. Park was handsome and always wearing black clothes wherever he goes, but he always considered as a girl because of his cute face, his father wanted Park to be a man, truly a man, but Park has inherited his mother's Korean genes that made him cuter for men in general.

Based on the brief explanation of the story, the researcher finds the uniqueness of this novel is represented by the setting influence main characters.

In addition, this research has different analysis point of view and dissimilar theory with another research about *Eleanor & Park* novel that use psychological approach and feminist criticism theory. The difference between this research and other studies is this research focuses on settings that influence main characters and conflict of the story. This analysis concern on the internal urban society problem between Eleanor and Park with their family, friend and schoolmates.

In a literary study, the setting can affects the main characters traits and create conflicts are interest to be analyzed in structuralism theory. The research study the conflict and the main characters traits because of influence of the setting.

1.2 The Objective and The Scope of The Study

The objective of this research is to describe the effect of the setting to main characters traits and conflicts occur as reflected through *Eleanor & Park*. The

scope of research is to analyze the setting, main characters and conflicts of the main characters in *Eleanor & Park*.

1.3 Formulation of The Problem

Based on the objective and the scope of the study, the researcher found two research questions for analyzing of the data. There are:

- 1) How the setting of *Eleanor & Park* main characters?
- 2) How the conflicts of the main characters in *Eleanor & Park*?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

This research discuss about conflicts, main characters, and settings in the novel *Eleanor & Park*. This novel previously researched by Dwiki Prenandita (2016), Inke Yudhitia Savitri (2016) and, Fabiana Dindavika Ellisa (2018).

In Dwiki's research, he used psychological approach and found that Eleanor had a dynamic character and Park had a static character and also had the intrinsic motivation to help Eleanor to struggle in her life.

Inke's research (2016), she used feminist criticism on children literature theory in analyzing Eleanor's experience as victim of children abuse by her stepfather and this research discussed primarily towards child's responses to against patriarchy. The result showed study showed Eleanor attempted to find her own way to survive and fight for her rights through oppression and violence in her young age,

Fabiana's research (2018) focused on the characteristic of the main characters also setting. And, the result showed the character's characteristics and the setting to reveal the theme of the story.

Therefore, a number of researches about *Eleanor & Park* novel have been done before by using psychological approach, feminist criticism theory, and structuralism to find theme of the story. The obvious difference from this research with previous research is this research focuses to the influence of the setting to the main characters and conflicts of the story. So the researcher can do the research using structuralism theory as a form of research in *Eleanor & Park*.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

This research studies the influence of the setting to the conflicts of the main characters and main characters traits. Peter Barry defined that structuralism is the belief that literature works cannot be understood separately, structuralism must be seen in the context of the larger structures (2002:39).

Barnet et al indirect say structuralism is a critical theory holding that a literary work consist of the attempt to find relationships and connections among intrinsic element that appear to be separate and discrete (2004:269). It means a literary work has to be seen in a large structure that consist of the intrinsic elements like characters, setting, plot, point of view, theme, and style of language. Then, the researcher needs to find relationships and connections among elements that appear to be separate and give the work its meaning. In this research, the researcher only discusses intrinsic elements that give big influence to the main characters conflicts such as the setting and characters.

1.4.2.1 Setting

Setting is important component of the novel. As Roberts states that setting is the natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know and own.

Yet, Abrams also directly said the overall setting in narrative works is related to general locale, the historical time, and also related with the society or the social circumstances in which place, time, and society the action occurs (1999:284). It means setting is anything around character's life which influences the personality of the character by environment like place, social circumstance, and time of human growth and change.

1.4.2.2 Characters

Roberts (2003:66) state that "character is a verbal representation of a human being as presented to us by authors through the depiction of actions, conversation, descriptions, reactions, inner thoughts and reflections, and also through the authors own interpretive commentary". Based on this quotation, the researcher will do analyzing from what it does, says, describe and comments by other character which is written in Rainbow Rowell's *Eleanor & Park*.

1.4.2.3 The Influence of Setting Toward The Conflict of Main Characters

According to Caplan (2016), setting can influence characters in a number of ways. And, conflict can be created due to that.

1.4.2.4 Plot

Plot is another one of the intrinsic elements that exist in every fictional work such novel and hold a very significant role in literary work. According to Madden

plot is the structure of the story, it is the pattern of twists and turns the story takes. (2007:62).

1.4.2.4.1 Exposition

According to Harmon et al, exposition refers to the introductory material which creates the tone, gives the setting, introduces the characters, and supplies other facts necessary to be understood (2006:171). In this section, the main characters of the story introduced. Beside that the setting, atmosphere and time were also introduced. This section included characterization and the connection between characters, and also introduced the beginning of the conflicts in the story.

1.4.2.4.2 Rising Action

Harmon et al also states that rising action is the part of the plot that has to do with the complication of the action. It begins 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 (2006:171-172). Rising action is the stage where conflict occurs in the story. Conflict usually appears from clashes between characters, or the main character experiences an unexpected problems.

1.4.2.4.3 Climax

According to Harmon et. al, climax is the point of highest interest, it *“designates the turning point in the action, the crisis at which the rising action*

reverses and becomes the falling action” (2006:172). This section is the culmination of the problems faced by the characters, and also the characters in the story will be deal with a final determination that they will experience, success or failure becomes a determination of the fate of the characters in the story.

1.4.2.4.4 Falling Action

“Falling Action is it follows the climax, beginning often with a tragic force, exhibits the falling fortunes of hero and the successful efforts of the counter players, and culminates in the catastrophe.” Harmon, William, and Holman (2006:172). In this section, the conflict in the story which reached the climax over time has begun to subside and gradually recovers.

1.4.2.4.5 Resolution

“Resolution is the events following the climax and falling action.” Harmon, William, and Holman (2006:172). This section is the final part of the story that contains solutions of the problems that occur in the middle of the story.

1.4.3 Conflict

Conflict is important in a story. There is no story without conflict. Roberts said “conflicts bring out extremes of human energy, causing characters to engage in decision, actions, responses, and interactions that make up narrative and dramatic literature, the controlling impulse in a connected pattern of causes and effects which refers to people or circumstances that a character must face and try to overcome” (2003:94).

1.4.3.1 External Conflict

Roberts said that the first one is external conflict that happens between two or more people or group of people or group of people in the form of anger, hatred, lies, and contrasting opinions (2003:94).

1.4.3.2 Internal Conflict

Roberts also state about the another conflict 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 that individual character frequently confront (2003:95).

1.5 Method of The Research

The Research studies conflict in the novel *Eleanor & Park* applied a literary approach Structuralism. This study focused on the influence of the setting to main characters and conflicts in the story. In structuralism, setting and conflict were important intrinsic elements in this research discussion. Setting can affected the conflicts of main characters, such as external conflicts that can influence the character's attitude.

Analysis on the novel of *Eleanor & Park* applied the method of close reading based on structuralism theory. In Structuralism, the conflicts related to the setting. Setting was everything around character life which influenced the personality of the character by environment like place, circumstance, and time of human growth. The setting can affected to the characters and make many conflicts between characters in the story. Effect of the setting to the conflict and main characters searched in the novel through words, phrases, and sentences.

This research used close reading method. According to Jacobus (1995) “Close reading is the observation of detail, special use of language, and patterns of

repetition, not only begins the process but the basis of interpretation. Close reading takes the form of writing, discussion, or silent observation, it should be based on a careful questioning of the text.”

Close reading method used to analyzed data and understand novels more deeply. The interpretation began with close reading. In the process, the text of the novel is read and re-read. The details on the conflicts and the setting that affected to the main characters searched in the text. Special words, phrases, and sentences which contains are related to the research problem are examined. The study conducted by applied a method of close reading. After that, the researcher collected and divided data into several categories. Then, the researcher interpreted it and gave an explanation of the data and made the conclusions.