

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

John Ray Grisham is a novelist and former US politician and a retired lawyer. *A Time to Kill* was Grisham's first novel. Before got rejected by many publishers, finally *A Time to Kill* published in 1989 by Wynwood Press with 5000 copy and it became a best-seller book. This novel was adapted into movie with the same name in 1996, it was further adapted into a stage play by Rupert Holmes in 2011. This novel was a hit, because in the novel, the writer tells and depict how is the life of black people in a country which has a very extremely racial tension.

*A Time to Kill* takes place in fictional city named Clanton, Ford County. This is a legal thriller novel. It tells a story of Carl Lee Hailey, a Black whose daughter, Tonya Hailey, has been kidnapped and raped by two White man named Billy Ray Cobb and Pete Willard. The authorities can find the culprit and will take care of this case. However, the father, Carl Lee Hailey, knew there would be injustice to what his daughter had experienced.

Carl Lee decided to kill two white men who raped his daughter and of course Carl became a suspect for trial. But, only a lawyer, Jake Brigance who wants and stands to defend Carl, a white man. He struggled to bring justice to Hailey but during the trial, they faced many problems and conflicts such as the unfair treatment of some people, for example one of them was a court official. Even Jake, his family, and those closest to him began to be terrorized. People began to doubt

that they would win this case. There he found doubts whether he would continue the case or surrender. But because Jake was very persistent, he still tried his best to give justice to Carl Lee.

From the explanation above, the writer chooses to analyze this novel because the writer found something interesting in the novel. Moreover, the writer interested in the life of the main character which has been changed after he decided to finish this case. The story's plot shows many conflicts that the main character faced.

Conflict is one of the elements in a story. It is the "fuel" of a story, without conflict, it will not be interesting to read. Therefore, the author is interested in analyzing the conflict using structuralism theory, which only emphasizes the literary work itself in this case, the novel. Thus, this study focuses in intrinsic elements in structure, which will also examine how and from what elements the conflict is formed. This study will reveal that intrinsic elements are interrelated each other.

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

The study will focus on discussing the conflicts in the novel *A Time to Kill*. The objective of this research is to describe how are the traits of the characters and also, the effect of the setting to main characters traits. Besides that, which also affects the conflict in the novel. This study also examines the plot because in examining the plot you will find conflicts of the characters. The scope of research limited to the analysis of character, the setting, plot and also conflicts that found in in *A Time to Kill*.

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

The writer identifies the problems of this research as follow:

1. How are characters' traits and setting in the novel *A Time to Kill*?
2. How are the conflicts of the characters in *A Time to Kill*?

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

In this section, the writer will show the study that has been discussed previously and also the theories used to analyze the data from the novel *A Time to Kill* by John Grisham. The reviews are related to previous study and theoretical framework.

#### **1.4.1 Previous Studies**

There are some previous studies which concern the novel *A time to kill*. To avoid similarities in this research, the writer will show some research regarding the novel. The novel previously has been studied by three researchers; Evirius Nduru (2017), Helena Charlery (2013) and Efra Tania Nainggolan (2005).

Evirius discussed the novel in linguistic approach. His research titled *Translation Techniques Used in Translating John Grisham's "A Time to Kill" Novel into Indonesian* By Evirius Nduru in 2017. He used qualitative research technique. As a result of his research there are that seventeen translation techniques were applied in the translation of the novel. The process of applying each of those seventeen translation techniques in the translation of the novel is carried out through emphasizing both the source and target language meaning and style. The finding yields comprehensive insight that translation of "A Time to Kill" novel in Indonesian is qualified and accurate.

In 2013, Helena Charlery made an article titled *Burning Missisipi: Race Fatherhood and the South in A Time to Kill*. She stated that *A Time to Kill* reactivates the heroic figure of Atticus Finch, the liberal white lawyer of the novel by Harper Lee *To Kill A Mocking Bird* (1962). This article proposes to study this rereading taking into account the different cinematographic genres to which the film belongs: the courtroom film, the cinematographic adaptation and feature films making the South a filmic object or staging interracial themes. The novel contains conservative standpoint on masculinity and fatherhood. This article seeks to examine this cinematic conservative rereading by considering the film's different movie genres: the courtroom drama, the race movie, the southern film and the movie adaptation.

Efra Tania Naninggolan in 2005 also finished a research entitled *The Significance of Jake Brigance's Characteristic in His Struggle Against Threats of Racism Reflected in Grisham's A Time to Kill*. This thesis is made with the library research method, by searching for data and supporting sources. In this study, she used theory of characterization and also sociocultural-historical approach. As the result of this study, she found; first, Jake Brigance's characteristic. Second, the the menace experienced by Jake Brigance was racist threats. The last one, Jake Brigance's characteristic were significant in his struggle against the threats of racism.

Based on the writer's research, a study of structuralism in the novel *A Time to Kill* novel has not been conducted yet. Due to that reason, in this paper the writer will discuss about that related topic.

## **1.4.2 Theoretical Framework**

In doing the literary research, the writer needs the theory to understand and analyzed the literary work. The theory of the research has the function as help the writer to understand the problem of the research and the writer can formulate the research question.

This study makes use of structuralism theory to analyze the conflicts of the character in *A Time to Kill*. According to Roberts in his book titled *Writing About Literature* (1964:269), “The precept of structuralism stems from the attempt to find relationships and connections among factors that appear like separate and discrete.” The factors in literary works are individual, placing, plot, factor of view, style of language, and theme. All these factors have a connection to each other. For this research, the writer will focus on characters, setting, plot and conflict.

### **1.4.2.1 Characters**

Character itself is the part of the intrinsic element in a novel that will lead and explore the story of the novel. According to Edgar V Roberts (1964:41), character as a reference to that personage’s habits and characteristics, the total pattern of someone’s behavior. The depiction of action, conversation, speech, commentary which present by the authors in the novel can be defined as the verbal representation of a human being. Abrams in *Glossary of Literary Terms* (1999: 76) argued that if a person who come up in a narrative prose or novel and considered to have a moral quality also expression in what they say and what they do can be defined as character.

#### **1.4.4.2 Settings**

Setting refers to geographical place of the story, time period, day by day life-style of the characters and climate or atmosphere of the story. Edgar V. Roberts stated in his book, "Setting refers to the natural and artificial scenery or environment in which characters in literature live and move". He also stated, "Setting is the natural, manufactured, political, cultural, and temporal environment, including everything that characters know, own, and otherwise experience."

Furthermore, he explained that there are three basic types of setting. 1) Public and Private places which includes places of human manufacture, construction, and maintenance. 2) Outdoor places such as natural surroundings, living creatures, time, seasons. 3) Cultural and historical circumstances contains historical and cultural conditions and assumptions.

Furthermore, Rohrberger & Woods also argued that setting aids in establishing in credibility, it can help to explain both characters and situations revealed in the novel. It can give a contribution to the atmosphere as well can be active in foreshadowing or may be symbolic

#### **1.4.2.3 Plot**

Character and settings can affect the conflicts in the novel, as well as the plot. Plot is the main idea of the story. Lukens (2003:6) argued that plots is the sequence of events showing character in action. According to Roberts and Jacob (1987) in "*Fiction: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*", Plot is the groundwork of a story, based on conflicting human motivations with action

resulting from believable and realistic human response. Likewise, Jones (1968), he also stated that the sequences of events which involving the characters can be defined as plot. According to Maden in his book titled *Exploring Literature Writing and Arguing about Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Essay*, plot is divided into five parts, there are exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

According to Harmon and Holman in *A Handbook to Literature 10<sup>th</sup> Edition*, Exposition is the introductory material that leads us to the introduction of the characters and establishes the tone, gives the setting and gives other facts necessary to understand. Rising action is the complexity of the action. It begins with the thrilling force, giants in interest, and power because the opposing groups inherit conflicts and proceed to the climax. Climax is that the point of the very best interest, whereat the reader makes an excellent emotional response; climax determines the turning point in the action. Falling action follows the climax, usually begins with a tragic force, shows the failing fortunes of the hero and therefore the successful efforts of the antagonist, and come to a head within the catastrophe. Resolution or denouement, is the event that follows the climax and falling action. According to Freytag, in this phase, whether the protagonist or antagonist will win the conflict. The conflict officially ends. But another kind of story will illustrate what happens to the characters after the conflict comes to an end or show what happens in the future to the characters. So, to sum up, plot is a series of how a story begins until how it ends.

#### **1.4.2.4 Conflict**

In the plot there is also conflict. Stanton (1965) stated that there are two important elements of plot; conflict and climax. According to Edgar V. Robert in

his book, conflict is defined as a clash of actions, ideas, desires or wills of the character in the novel. Conflict is the circumstances that must face by the character. It means character and conflict related each other. Conflict consists of two: External and Internal. Edgar V. Roberts in *Writing of Literature* explained that external conflict is the problem which arises among one person and another or even more people, in the forms of anger, hatred, lies, and contrasting opinions (2003:94). Whereas internal conflict is the situation where the character faces an issue requires a personal decision. It may be in conflict with some elements in his/her own characteristic. It is when a character gets into a situation where they have to decide and the options can be difficult, dangerous, and impossible. This will create a dilemma that individual character often deals with. (2003:95)

### **1.5 Method of the research**

As said before, this research focuses on structuralism point of view of the novel *A Time to Kill* by John Grisham. In order to finish the research and find the answers of the research questions, the writer applies close reading method based on theory. The writer also uses interpretation techniques in order to get the meaning of the text that will be helpful to answer the research questions. This research uses qualitative method.

According to Jacobus (1996) interpretation is exploring the meaning of the text by drawing our own understanding, background, and observations while responding to literary work. This response acquires while reading the text. The interpretation technique begins with a close reading method.

Close reading method takes the form of writing, discussion or silent observation, it should be based on questioning the text. This method will make us



note the specific uses of language such as symbols, patterns, etc. The readers must take a note while notice in the detail which also related to the theory. Close reading method forces you understand the text seriously so it can be studied easily.

As mentioned above, the method applied to analyze this novel is close-reading. To interpret the text, the writer reads it carefully to understand the words in the novel. To complete the research questions and get the meaning of the text, the writer also pay attention to difficult words. Any difficult words are noted and examined carefully. The writer also read the story repeatedly. After that, the writer collected the data and split it into few categories. Then, the data was interpreted with an explanation.

The details are examined based on structuralism theory. To find the answer of the research question in the novel, the writer reads it carefully while noting some details for the data in the novel. Furthermore, the writer reads and several books, article, journal, essay or search on internet to support the research and find the sources.