

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Reason for Choosing the Topic

In this era, we can learn about character from anywhere. Where, character is a characteristic of someone or someone's behavior. In general, character refers to a person's personality which is formed from a person's psychological characteristics which are caused by the internalization of various psychologies which are believed to be a person's point of view, attitudes, thoughts, and behavior in everyday life.

Novel is a genre that originates from fiction, where fiction is defined as a planned craft or art made through written words that describe the human life. Therefore, in the novel the reader will be able to find several characters from antagonis to protagonis. According to Wellek and Warren novel is a description of real life and manners and of the time in which it was written" (282). Human's life is interesting to be depicted into many forms, in novel we can find the image of social life, it tells us the reality of the society of and we can see how human behavior in each character responses to the realities that happen at that time

Conflict can be found in literary works such as novels. Like the research conducted by writers on the novel *The Help*, this shows us the conflict. This novel tells us how a conflict can be created surround us. *The help* novel takes place in Jackson, Mississippi and the novel's writer is Kathryn Stockett. She was born in

1969 and *The help* novel was published again by Amy Einhorn Books, in 2009, which became one of the most popular novels of the summer. In the writer opinion, the reason the novel is won is because the novelist has provided information and explanation a description of the life of a housemaid African-American in Jakcson, Mississippi. She shows what happens in her country, and indirectly shows what it feels when it happens to African-American people . Where African-American people work in white homes which happened in the 1960s.

Novel *The Help* takes place in Jakcson, Mississippi. This novel tells the story of a life where white people and African Americans. In this novel, an African-American as a domestic servant of a white family, an African-American must not achieve anything that is used by a white person such as the same bathroom, if at the same time it will cause the disease caused by African-Americans. White people make their own laws whereby African-Americans cannot get their own right. Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan is one of the staunch figures who do not agree with the changes to the law that will be made, which means that African-Americans will never get the freedom to continue their life properly, and here Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan who is also white deeply concerned about the freedom that African-American people aim at, where Eugenia "Skeeter" Phelan, a girl of a cotton farm owner in Mississippi, Skeeter believes that not only do they live as domestic helpers, they can also get meaningful human treatment. These character traits create conflict between one another, therefore this problem will make the writer see the conflict in the novel.

From the explanation above, the writer will analyze the conflict of the main characters novel *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

1.2. The Objective and Scope of the Research

The object of this research is the Novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969. The writer will discuss about:

1. Conflict experienced by characters in the Novel *The Help* byKhatryn Stockett 1969.
2. Thetraitsexperienced by the characters in the Novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969.
3. Setting experienced by characters in the Novel*The Help* by Khatryn Stockett1969 are:
 - a) Setting of Place
 - b) Setting of Time
4. Characters to be discussed in the novel*The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969
 - a) Eugenia “Skeeter” Phelan
 - b) Aibileen Chart

1.3. Formulation of The Problem

The writer identifies the problem of this research as follows:

1. What conflicts are experienced by the characters in the novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969?
2. Howthe traits of the characters in the novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969?

3. What settings are contained in the novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stockett 1969 ?

1.4. Review of Related Literature

1.4.1. Previous Studies

The novel *The Help* by Khatryn Stokett has been discussed by Elisabet Nindia Paramita Aries Putri from Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta (2018) which analyzed the novel that focused on the racial discrimination issues on the story which does by white people. To avoid similarities, the writer decided to analyzed this novel from other perspective. The writer will use structuralism theory to analyzed conflict, character and setting in the novel.

1.4.2. Theoretical Framework

In conducting library research, the writer needs to determine what theory is suitable for analyzing literary works. Research theory serves to assist the writer in understanding the problem topics that are applied as a basis for research.

1. Structuralism theory

According to Emzir and Rohma, structuralism is a theory that explores the intrinsic elements in literary works (2015). Indirectly, Bernet et al stated that structuralism is a critical theory that contains work literature which consists of efforts to find relationships and connections between separate and discrete intrinsic elements (2004: 269). This means that a literary work must be visible in a large structure which consists of elements in the intrinsic structure which include characters, settings, conflicts, themes, points of view and styles of language. And

then, the writer must find the relationship between these existing elements. In this study, the researcher only discusses the intrinsic elements that have a big influence on the conflict of the main characters, such as traits and settings.

1.4.3. Conflict

C. G Smith states conflict is a situation where there are opinions that are not in accordance with other thoughts or differences in thoughts that are contradictory between someone. In a conflict, it must involve two or more people who have different opinions regarding the matter to be discussed, including the discussion about a power or competition According to L. Coser, *Continuities in the Study of Social Conflict*, 1967.

Robert DiYanni (p.2) states that conflicts that grow are caused by internal and external conflicts between the main character and other figures from which the conflict can grow and develop widely. The conflicts themselves include: Conflict divided into two, namely internal and external.

1. Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is called a mental conflict that is only felt by the character itself, where the character fights himself to solve a problem. Jones (in Nurgiantoro, 2015: 124). Internal conflict or known as psychological conflict, which occurs in the soul of a character who interferes with the mindset of a person in conflict where the will is not in accordance with reality.

2. External Conflict

According to Coser (1913:219), external conflict is a group of characters who have differences of opinion which result in disputes between two or more

characters. External Conflict, External conflict deals with the problems of the world. The figures who experience external conflict, even external conflicts caused by internal conflicts. External conflict that occurs because of a conflict between one character and another, which causes disagreement. Whereas internal conflict is a problem faced by the characters themselves, who only decide the results of their own opinions. In which the difficult decision was only concluded personally.

The most important element in a story line is both internal and external conflict, both of which play an important role in a story line to achieve the goal of the story in order to attract readers and entertain the reader at the same time.

1.4.4 Character

According to Roberts (2003:66) state that “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.” Based on the quote, the writer will conduct research based on the characters depicted in the story in human form, from which the writer will describe what interactions the characters do with the other characters that will be described.

According to Abram (2009: 42), character is someone who is interpreted in a dramatic or narrative literary work, which is interpreted by readers as moral, intellectual and emotional qualities that will produce conclusions from what people say.

1.4.5 Setting

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

Setting refers to a view whether natural or artificial in which the characters in the literary work move or move (1987: 29) According to Fiction: An Introduction to Reading and Writing by Robert and Jacobs. What is meant by itself is everything that is related to the physical object and appearance in which a story occurs.

Abram (2002: 216) Nurgiantoro, in a story, the setting has the most important role in a story. The setting is also referred to as the basis of the story in a work which gives the meaning of information on the place, time and environment of a social event. Basically divided into several types including:

1. Setting of Place

The setting of place is where the location of an event or incident in the story. Every place must have its own characteristics where the setting of place can explain a room where a story takes place according to Wellek and Warren (1956: 131)

2. Setting of Time

Setting of time is the setting which relates to the time an event occurs in a story. Which is usually related to factual time which has to do with historical

events. Where the explanation is that the time setting is the date, month, year and also like the conditions of morning or night according to Wellek and Warren (1956:131).

1.5. Method Of Research

The focus of this research is conflicts, characters and settings in the novel *The Help*. In order to conduct the research the writer uses close reading techniques to understand the novel. In order to understand the meaning and purpose of problem formulation about conflict, characters and settings that occur in the novel, the writer uses an interpretation method. According to Jacobus (1996), observations of detail, our particular language, and repetition patterns, not only initiate the process but form the basis of interpretation.

In this research, the writer used several steps to analyze the data. First, the writer reads the novel carefully and repeatedly, then the writer tries to understand the story of the novel, and begins to collect data related to the topic to be analyzed, namely conflicts, characters and settings in the novel *The Help* related to the theory that the writer uses.