

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature cannot be separated from the social life, because literature is a reflection of real life made into a text. Wellek & Warren (1954) stated that literature is a social work which is created based on the story of real life person or through the real story the author itself. In addition to a real life of the author, a literary work is also a form of a reflection of aspects of psychiatric writer poured into the form a literary works. Abrams (1999) stated that psychology is related to literary works primarily as expression, in the form of fiction, from the state of mind and the personality structure of the writer (p.247). In other words, psychological conditions and social events from actual life are captured in literary work.

Besides that, the psychological aspects of the writer are implemented in the form of characters in the story. The characters built or created by the author is reflection of real life of human. Every character created by the author gets a different role, where the difference of the role will create different psychological conflict as occur in the real life. The character created by the author is the result of a form of creativity of the author itself. In addition, the experience or story of another person's life, can also be used by the author as a source of inspiration in shaping the character of the story that is desirable of the author. The environment or nature can also a role in building the characters in

the story. Thus it can be concluded that a literary work is the result of a series of thoughts experienced by the author as well as the psychology of the author.

In addition to the elements of the author and the characters in the story, literary works can also be an art and entertainment for the reader. A good work for every reader is the works that can make every reader hypnotized with stories made by the authors. Readers feel like entered into the story with each incident or event that is in the story. The reader does not to stop reading the story because they felt lulled with the stories presented by the author. Thus the work of literature is not considered only as an art and mere entertainment, but works of literature are able to provide the emotional needs for each fun, sadness, and tears and also gives positive values about morals, goodness, ugliness, and religion for every reader and can be implemented into everyday life. Positive values contained in the story is a reflection of everyday life.

One of the literary works that reflects psychological phenomena in a story is the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner. The main character in this novel is Tess William, and her nickname is Tess. This novel tells an interesting story about a woman who got violence act and life threat from her husband named Jim Beckett. Jim Beckett is a police officer. After a few weeks of their marriage, Tess saw her husband change. He is no longer the sweet loving man, who she first met. If things around the house are not done according to his preferences and standards such as cooking and cleaning, he will get hit where she will remain in pain for days afterward. This can be evidenced by quotation below

Once, she'd dreamed of a white knight. Someone who would never hit her. Someone who would hold her close and tell her she was finally safe. (Gardner, 1998, p.34)

The quotation above shows that, Tess often gets beatings from her husband which causes she not got the safety needs. This phenomena can be explained by Abraham Maslow's theory of the safety needs, that every human needs the safety to get a sense of security, a sense of calm, and a sense of peace. Therefore, based on the quotation above, that the main character needs the safety needs of body and life protection.

Tess became even more afraid of her husband and never knew when the next beating would occur. It seemed that the more he tried to please her, the more unsuccessful. After the birth of their daughter, Samantha, Jim returned to his old self, but it did not last long and everything returned to normal. After being married for two years, things got worse, Jim turned into a psychopath and killed ten women for sixteen months. Then Tess reported her husband to the police and put her in jail, but her husband managed to escape by killing two prison guards. When Tess found out that her husband had escaped, she knew that she and her daughter Samantha were in danger and that she had to find a way to keep them safe. With the help of J.T. Dillon, a former marine, Tess decided it was time to fight. She wanted J.T Dillon to train her and teach her everything he knows, so that eventually she would know how to defend herself. When Jim managed to escape he had said he was planning the next step and he had the intention to find Tess and follow up with his threat to kill her. This can be also evidenced by quotation below

"Someday soon he would kill her. He'd promised to cut out her still-beating heart, and he always did what he said." (Gardner, 1998, p.32).

The quotation above shows that Tess's husband plans to kill Tess. This explains that Tess's life is in danger. This phenomena can be explained by Abraham Maslow's theory of the safety needs, that every human needs the safety to get a sense of security. Thus, it can be concluded that the main character needs the safety needs of body, knowing it would happen to her Tess had prepared herself to fight her husband and she finally dared to face him.

In *The Perfect Husband* novel, the researcher found the phenomena. Which can be analyzed by using the psychological point of view. One psychologist is Abraham Maslow, he shows that humans continue to be motivated by one need or another. In his theory from Motivation and personality books, Maslow (1954) stated that someone is always motivated to achieve certain needs. Maslow's needs in this regard are hierarchically regulated needs, which consist of physiology needs, safety needs, love and needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Maslow's concept of needs hierarchy assumes that lower level needs are superior to higher level needs. When one need is fulfilled, someone will try to meet the next need, and so on.

The researcher has pursued a search, however the researcher did not find any researcher that used novel *The Perfect Husband* as the object of the research. The researcher assume it is possible because the novel *The Perfect Husband* is a new published novel. In addition, novel *The Perfect Husband* is very feasible to be used as an object of the research. By considering the fact that had been described above there

are three reasons why researchers choose novel *The Perfect Husband* as the object of the research. First, because the researcher sees the relation between novel *The Perfect Husband* and psychology. Second, the researcher also sees that the characters in the novel reflected or imitate real social life. No one research that used novel *The Perfect Husband* as the object of their research. Thus, with the three points described above the researcher is interested in conducting a research on *The Perfect Husband* novel as the object of this research and that reinforces the reason for researcher to examine the psychological phenomenon of the main character in the novel with the title "*Safety Needs of the Main Character in Lisa Gardner's 'The Perfect Husband' novel: Psychological Approach*".

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher identifies the following problems:

- 1 The self-esteem of the main character Tess in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner
- 2 The Safety Needs of the main character Tess in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner
- 3 Women oppression of the main character Tess in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher limits the research into:

The Safety Needs of the main character Tess in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner

1.4. The Formulation of Problem

In relevant with the limitation of the problem, the researcher formulate the main problem to be answered as the following:

1. What are the aspects of the safety needs of the main character that are found in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner?
2. How does the main character to fulfill the safety needs in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the safety needs of main character in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner
2. To describe the way the main character fulfill her safety needs in the novel *The Perfect Husband* by Lisa Gardner

1.6 Significance of the Research

This research has two significances.

1. Theoretical Significance

The theoretical significance of this research is to enhance the study of literature which focus on safety need from literary work and also used as reference for the readers especially the students at English Department form University of Putera Batam who wants to and interested in analyzing psychology as their object in their thesis writing and enhance their knowledge.

2. Practical Significance

The practical significance of this research is to increase the reader's psychological awareness especially the safety need and for it to be used as an example how to conduct literary analysis from psychological point of view.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. Safety Needs: is the second level of hierarchy of needs which include security, employment, health, freedom from anxiety (Maslow, 1954)
2. Psychological: Psychological approach in Literature is the scientific discipline deals with a work literature primarily as an expression of the state of mind and the structure of personality of the individual author (Abrams, 1999).