

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word (Klarer, 2004: 1). As explained by Lombardi (2015), literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. It derived from the Latin *litteratura*, which means writing formed with letters. Literature most commonly refers to written works, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some instances, song. Literature represents the culture and tradition of a language or people.

In literature, there are some defined genres. The term genre usually refers to one of the three classical literary forms of epic, drama, or poetry. This categorization is slightly confusing as the epic occurs in verse, too, but is not classified as poetry. It is, in fact, a precursor of the modern novel (i.e., prose fiction) because of its structural features such as plot, character presentation, and narrative perspective. Although this old classification is still in use, the tendency today is to abandon the term “epic” and introduce “prose,” “fiction,” or “prose fiction” for the relatively young literary forms of the novel and the short story. (Klarer, 2004: 3).

Novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length (Eagleton, 2005). A novel usually cannot be read in one sitting. It is long, fictional, and describes

intimate human experiences. It is made up of several characters, supported by settings and told according to its plot. The characterization, especially, is often influenced by the author's ideas and life experience phases which are usually under certain psychological circumstances.

One of the examples of a novel is *Northanger Abbey* written by Jane Austen. It is fundamentally an imaginary story of the pursuit of love. From the story, it can be seen clearly that the pursuit of love and belonging needs of the main character which is very strong. Catherine, the main character, is lonely in a new country. She tries her best to adapt and make new friends. During her pursuit, she also meets her brother and a man whom she admires, who soon becomes her intimacy. There are several scenes where Catherine faces difficult situations as she has to give up being with some people whom she loves. She has to make decision and choose who can make her the most happiest to fulfill her love and belonging needs.

The author, Jane Austen, was born on 16th December 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire, England. She was a Georgian era author, best known for her social commentary in novels including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*. Her novels are considered literary classics, bridging the gap between romance and realism. While Austen received some accolades for her works while still alive, with her first three novels garnering critical attention and increasing financial reward, it was not until after her death that her brother Henry revealed to the public that she was an author. (biography.com, 2016)

With the help from her brother, Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* was the first novel to be published, together with another novel entitled *Persuasion*. Both novels were not published under the title Jane Austen had given. The novel *Northanger Abbey* was firstly entitled *Susan*, same as the name of the main character. Austen further revised the main character's name to be *Catherine*, and so changed the working title to *Catherine*. However, after her death, her brother helped to publish the novel with the title *Northanger Abbey* instead. (pemberley.com)

With this interesting characteristic of the author and the distinctive storyline of the novel, the writer of this research grows interest in analyzing this literary work. The approach that will be used is psychological approach. The theory which will be used is the *Hierarchy of Needs* by Abraham Maslow.

Psychology is the scientific study of behaviour and mental processes. (Maitland, 2010: 43). Human psychology and its nature has always been an interesting discussion. It is the scientific study of behaviour and the mind of human. The human's mind reacts to the happenings around them based on their psychological condition. Either they need to fulfill their basic physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, self-esteem or self-actualization needs. They always have these needs to be realized which derive them to behave in their own way. These needs are summarized by Abraham Maslow in his theory of '*hierarchy of needs*'. In this research, the writer will focus especially on the third need on the hierarchy of needs, which is the *love and belonging needs*.

In his book entitled *Motivation and Personality*, Maslow ever explained that the love that is found in healthy people is much better described in terms of spontaneous admiration and of the kind of receptive and undemanding awe and enjoyment that we experience when struck by a fine painting (1970: 197). However, his subjects used the word love warily and with circumspection. They applied it only to a few rather than many, tending to distinguish sharply between loving someone and liking him or being friendly or brotherly. It described for them an intense feeling, not a mild or disinterested one (1970: 186). Maslow has his point of view about love as one of the human needs. Here, the writer finds it interesting to analyze Jane Austen's typical gothic novel with Maslow's theory of love.

From the explanation above, the researcher would like to do a research on the hierarchy of needs of the main character in *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen, which is a psychological approach, focusing on the main character's pursuit in her love and belonging needs. The thesis is entitled : ***Love and Belonging Needs of The Main Character in "Northanger Abbey" by Jane Austen.***

1.2 Identification of The Problem

After reading the novel, the writer finds some problems to be analyzed, as follow :

1. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her family.
2. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her friendship.

3. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her intimacy.
4. The difficult decision the main character has to make when she must choose between her friends or her intimacy.

1.3 Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identifications of the research above, the writer chooses several points to be limited in this research, as follow :

1. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her family.
2. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her friendship.
3. The main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her intimacy.

1.4 Formulation of The Problem

Based on the limitations of the research above, the formulations of this research can be formulated as follow :

1. How does the main character fulfill her love and belonging needs to her family?
2. How does the main character fulfill her love and belonging needs to her friendship?
3. How does the main character fulfill her love and belonging needs to her intimacy?

1.5 Objective of The Research

Based on the formulations of the research above, the objective of the study can be defined as follow :

1. To reveal how the main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her family.
2. To analyze how the main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her friendship.
3. To find out how the main character fulfills her love and belonging needs to her intimacy.

1.6 Significance of The Research

Theoretically, the writer hopes that by introducing the theory and analyzing the main character in Jane Austen's novel "*Northanger Abbey*", the readers will then be more concerned and understand more about the novel and the psychology of the main character. Thus, the readers will also have more knowledge about the psychology of human beings.

Practically, the writer hopes that this thesis will be useful for future researchers, where the readers can have better understanding of either the story's background or the psychological approach theory and therefore can apply the same approach in analyzing other works of literature in future. The researcher also hopes that this research can be completed as the final thesis for the the purpose of bachelor degree graduation.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Several key terms are defined as below to support the understanding of the readers in reading this thesis :

- Love and belonging needs :** The intimacy between people and encompasses caring, compassion, empathy, a sense of having a place in the world, being a part of a community, feeling accepted and approved of versus rejection and disapproval, attention and affection. (Justice, 2003)
- The main character :** A protagonist, who generates the action of a story and engages the reader's interest and empathy. (Janovsky, n.d.)
- Northanger Abbey :** A novel (1818) by Jane Austen in which a romantic young woman, Catherine Morland, falls in love with a young priest, Henry Tilney. (oxfordlearnersdictionary.com, n.d.)
- Jane Austen :** A Georgian era author, best know for her social commentary in novels including Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, and Emma. (biography.com, 2016)
- Psychological approach :** A perspective or view that involves certain assumptions or beliefs about human

behaviour and the way they function.

(McLeod, 2007)