

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is the art of written works which is produced by the researcher or author in a given field as a record of what a human feels, thinks, experiences through the process of imagination. It has a deep relationship with a human's life where it can be seen from all literary works which reflect the situation and condition of human's life. Every literary works has psychological aspects which are reflected by character and story presented in literature. For this reason, literature helps the reader to know more about human life and understand how human behavior is influenced by environment.

Literature can be divided into three categories, covering drama, poetry, and prose. Drama is a work of literature or a composition which is designed for performance, purpose and delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions often either monologues or dialogues of a character or a group of characters. Poetry is written in lines by focusing rhymes scheme. Meanwhile, prose is a branch of literature which mostly designates a consciously shaped writing, not merely a listing of ideas or catalog of subjects. Prose includes myths, parables, romances, novels, and short stories. In this thesis, the researcher focuses to analyze novel.

Novel is one of the literary work which gives pleasure to the reader. Novel can bring the readers to a certain situation, place or period that occurs in the story of the novel. Through the series of events and conflicts experienced by the

characters, the readers seem to enter the character's life in the novel. Novel can be divided into two main elements they are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements discuss internal text and structural points such as theme, character, plot, setting, and point of view. Meanwhile, extrinsic elements discuss external factor that influence the novel such as social, biography, society, religion and psychology.

Novel is one of the literary works which known as the reflection of human life and relationship with their feelings, mind, appearance, attitude, behavior character which may be observed through happiness, struggle, sadness, failures or success. Those things have close relationship with psychology. As psychology known as a study that concerns about human behavior which is applied in analyzing the personality of people. It also could be applied in literary work such as novel.

One of the literary works which represent the psychology of the personality from the main character is little women. It is 19th century novel that was written by American author Louisa May Alcott. This novel is published in two volumes 1868 and 1869. The first volumes entitled "Little Women" consists of 23 chapters and the second volumes entitled "*Good Wife*" consists of 47 chapters. This novel is one of the most-loved children's stories of all the time, because it based on the author's youthful experiences.

Novel "Little women" tells a story about the life of four March girls. They are Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The four march sisters have different character. Meg, the oldest, she is beautiful and has a dream to became a queen who wears a

beautiful dress. Jo is an enthusiastic girl, temperament and she loves writing. Beth, the third, she is a shy girl and she has talent to play piano. Amy, the youngest, and she loves drawing. These four girls live with their mother, while their father went to fight in the civil war. The family lives in simplicity, but they love each other. In this research, the researcher only focuses to analyze main character, where Jo is the main character in this novel.

As the author of little women, Louisa May Alcott was born on 29 November 1832 in Germantown, Pennsylvania. She was the second eldest of four children. Louisa May Alcott wrote several novels, short stories and poems. She wrote Little Women, An Old Fashioned Girl, Little Men, Eight Cousins, Rose in Bloom, and others. The name of her father is Amos Bronson Alcott and the mother is Abigail May Alcott. Louisa enjoyed writing from a young age, which inspired her and her three sisters, Anna, Elizabeth, and Abby May, to form their own secret society. Louisa May Alcott died in Boston in 1888.

There are many approaches that can be used to analyze literary work. One of them is psychological approach. It discusses about human psycho or human behavior. One of the theories about psychology is proposed by Abraham Maslow known as hierarchy of needs. Hierarchy of human needs consists of five stages of needs. These needs are arranged in a specific order from the lowest to highest, for example the lowest order-need must be fulfilled before the next order. These needs consist of physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs, self-actualization needs. In this research, the researcher only focuses to analyze the love and belonging needs in novel little women.

The researcher applied psychological approach by Abraham Maslow to analyze novel “Little women” because the researcher needs to identify aspects of psychology of the main character through the obstacle and struggle in the novel. The researcher uses psychological approach to understand and explain the process of fulfilling the basic needs of the main character. In addition, this research is discussing about psychology, thus, this approach is the most appropriate to be used. The reason is because research about psychology closely related to human psycho.

Based on the explanation about psychology above, the researcher would like to analyze about the struggle and the obstacle of the main character in novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott by using Psychological approach. This research is entitled: “The Struggle of the Main Character in Fulfilling Her of Needs in “Little Women” By Louisa May Alcott: A Psychological Approach”.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher has identified some problems that found in the novel as follow:

1. The obstacles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott.
2. The struggles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott.
3. The achievement of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott.

4. The effect of main character's sacrifice to her society that found in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott
5. The emotion of the main character's that found in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

After the researcher identifies research problems, the researcher limits problem into two:

1. The obstacles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.
2. The struggles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the identification and limitation of the problems above, the researcher formulates the problem into two:

1. What are the obstacles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.?
2. What are the struggles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.

1.5 Objective of the Research

After formulating the problems, the researcher finds the objective of research as follows:

1. To find out the obstacles of the main character in fulfilling Love and belonging needs in novel "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.

2. To find out the struggles of the main character in fulfilling her Love and belonging needs in novel “Little Women” by Louisa May Alcott.

1.6 Significant of the Research

The significance of this research consists of theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically, by conducting this study, the researcher may apply the theory and the knowledge regarding the use of Psychological approach into a novel. Therefore the researcher gets a deeper understanding in regards to the psychological approach and the new knowledge written in the discussed in novel “Little Women”. Practically, this research is expected to be useful for the readers in improving much more knowledge regarding hierarchy of needs. Besides, it hopefully may be one of a good contributions and helpful reference for the next research that will criticize about related discussion.

1.7 Definition of key Terms

Struggle : the task which requires much effort in order to achieve in order to achieve the goal. Besides of that, struggle also can be defined to try very hard to deal with obstacles, and problem. Struggle also can be interpreted as a human strategy to cover them from any problem in life. In this research, struggle refers to human effort in dealing with any difficult condition to gain a better life.

Hierarchy of needs : a theory that talks about five types of needs, and they are activated in a hierarchical manner. These types consists of physiological needs, security needs, love and belonging needs, esteem needs and self-actualization needs. These needs are connected to each other, it because the lowest needs have to be fulfilled first before the higher one.

Psychological approach : one of the approaches which can be used in analyzing the works of literature. Basically, the objective of this approach is to understand behavior of the characters that is by defining factors that combine the development and expression of behavior of the characters. Psychological approach uses psychological side to analyze character's personality in literary work.