

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

Literature is a written work with valuable artistic qualities inherent in its composition. Ratna (2022) said that literature portrays creativity that uses language as the medium of its delivery and represents various reflections of social, political, and psychological aspects of life. Literature is not only an instrument for channeling creativity but also a medium for social criticism and reflection of human life in society (Wellek & Warren, 1956). In its process, literature is created and produced by the pure thoughts of the author himself; the resulting representation contains unique values that have beauty, authenticity, and artistry that is full of meaning and rich in morality. Writers who possess creative values that are precious in their composition are considered to have produced literary works because writing requires the author to be able to live the writings he has written, and it encourages a self-reflective mindset. Literature plays an important role in the advancement of human history. Through literature, people can express their thoughts and ideas that have positive impacts on others. There are varieties of literary work, including drama, novels, poetry, and the literary work that is going to be the object of this research is a novel.

A novel is written and assembled into a book with its themes, storylines, settings, points of view, phenomena, and characters based on the author's thoughts and

the environment that the author experienced. Novels have been widely used as references in producing movies. The movie produced is essentially an adaptation taken from a novel to present it in the form of moving images. Therefore, the story written in the novel can be enjoyed and appreciated both through reading and watching. In the elements of a novel, one of them is character. Character plays a crucial role in creating the storyline to be alive and is a representation of the embodiment of the theme that the author wants to convey (Nurgiyantoro, 2018). Many themes have been created before and poured into the form of novels. These themes can be discovered both explicitly and implicitly. One of the most widely read themes is a novel with the love theme within. Reading a love-themed novel might provide a medium of contemplation for a human love story. A novel with the love theme is a very good place to enjoy and study the literary works themselves.

One of the literary works with a love theme within that provides the readers to study literature and to learn more about love itself is the “Redeeming Love” novel. It was first published in 1991 and republished with the second edition in 1997. This is a semi-fictional novel; the story is based on a factual story, but it has some fictitious aspects as well. The story in this novel is adapted from the historical story of Michael Hosea, a prophet in the Bible who married a prostitute named Gomer. On the other hand, this novel had also been adapted into a movie that debuted in 2022 with the same title as the novel, “Redeeming Love,” starring Tom Lewis as Michael Hosea and Abigail Cowen as Sarah, who are the main characters in the movie. When it comes to the novel, Michael Hosea is portrayed as a devoted servant of God and is ordered to

marry a lady who is diametrically opposed to his holy nature. Michael is a God-fearing person; he obeys all of God's commands given to him, even to the point of being ordered to approach, marry, and guide Sarah, who is already full of sin. Michael struggles so hard to marry Sarah; even when they are finally married, there are still many challenges and temptations that they have to go through. Michael's sacrificed loyalty does not immediately yield great outcomes, and he still has to put in a lot of effort to guide Sarah along the divinely blessed path. The love story of Michael Hosea and Sarah is poured and written well into this "Redeeming Love" novel.

The "Redeeming Love" novel was first written by Francine Sandra Rivers in 1991. Rivers was born on May 12, 1947, to a Christian family, to a police officer and a nurse. However, despite being raised in a religious family, Rivers did not truly find Christ in her life until she married and wrote novels. Francine Sandra Rivers is married to Rick Rivers, and they live in Northern California. The couple has three children: Trevor, Shannon, and Travis, and five grandchildren. Rivers has had a great ambition to become a well-known author since she was a young girl. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in English and journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno, Rivers started her writing career. Rivers worked as a newspaper writer for a while after graduating, penning human interest pieces and obituaries. Throughout her career, Rivers has received numerous honorable awards, including the Holt Medallion, the ECPA Gold Medallion, and the Christy Award. Rivers has received four RITA Awards and is a member of the Romance Writers of America, or RWA. It is the highest honor bestowed on romantic fiction works. When it comes to her novel "Redeeming Love," which is

adapted into a movie, she is also heavily involved in the writing of the screenplay, selecting the actors, and collaborating closely with director D.J. Caruso to make sure the story's moral message stays focused. Rivers uses her writing as a means of getting closer to God, worshipping and praising Jesus for all that He has done in her life. Her work, "Redeeming Love," has addressed a wide range of literary facets related to the human psychological realm.

The psychological aspect in a novel, as one of the reflections in literary works, is an important element in literature since it helps to understand the human psyche and the characters in a story. It focuses on the characters' motivations, desires, and conflicts and how they are reflected in the work's structure and themes. What the characters portray is affected by the author's psychological motivation. These motivations, according to Sigmund Freud, are based on the idea that the unconscious and conscious mind drive human behavior. Freud believed that the mind is made up of three parts: the id, ego, and superego. The id is the unconscious part of the mind that represents the basic instincts, like the desire for food, sex, and pleasure. The ego is the conscious part of the mind that acts as a mediator between the id and the outside world. The superego is the part of the mind that represents the moral and ethical sense (Guerin et al., 2011). These three things are closely related to the fundamental basis of human behavior. When it comes to the fundamental basis, love is often used as an underlying reason for humans to do something. Love can be a very powerful driving force in the human mission to achieve what is desired. Love is often associated with the id, closely related to libido, which is the basic human instinct to live.

Love is indeed known as a basic human need that must be fulfilled. Abraham Maslow, in his hierarchy of needs theory, stated that there are five levels of human needs, starting from the lowest level, namely physiological needs, followed by safety needs, and the third level is filled by love and belonging needs, followed by esteem needs, and it ends with the highest level, namely self-actualization (Maslow, 1943). In this case, love is at the third level in the hierarchy of needs, which states that every single person needs love to love and be loved. This need for love is based on the desire to have relationships with other people, such as family, friends, social communities, and romantic relationships. The desire to have a partner shows the human need to channel his emotional feelings by establishing a spiritual bond so that he feels accepted and loved by others. Love, which is a basic aspect of human life, has been widely discussed and studied in the development of literary psychology.

The research of love in literature study, one of which is conducted by Robert Jeffrey Sternberg. He is a professor and psychologist who was born on December 8, 1949. Sternberg said that love fundamentally consists of three components to be formed, and from these three components, various types of representations of love can be produced (Sternberg, 1986). On the other hand, Erich Seligmann Fromm, born on March 23, 1900, who is also a psychologist and psychoanalyst, said that love is art. Fromm said that love is more than just a sensation of mutual attraction; it is an art that must be practiced. Practiced here involves knowledge and efforts for the sake of struggling for that love (Erich, 1956). The aforementioned experts who attempt to penetrate in studying love, such as what love is, who needs love the most, if humans

are the answer, when do they need love, why do they need love, where should they look for love, and how love works, are representations of human endeavor to realize their own needs for love and affection. All love-related topics are a true portrait of human psychological phenomena that are crucial to explore.

Human psychological phenomenon in terms of literature can be seen in a work of biography book entitled “Habibie and Ainun: The Power of Love,” which is also written by Habibie himself. The love of B.J. Habibie and his wife, Hasri Ainun, has a strong foundation of love and can also be used as a reference for many people in the society. Their love story had even been adapted into a film in 2012, which is still available for viewing today. In this biography book, Habibie revealed his love story, which had gone through so many highs and lows of life and how he and his wife dealt with it. As seen in this biography book, Habibie wrote that

“At the time Ainun and I both approached the age of 60, we felt that our accumulated experience of the ebb and flow of life was reflected in the quality of our ability to communicate without words. Our understanding, tolerance, and self-confidence increased, rooted in the confidence in the perfect, genuine, and eternal love which we had as a blessing from God”. (Bacharuddin Jusuf, 2010, p. 174)

The quotation above reflects the obstacles and challenges solved in their relationship as the reflection of their deep love towards each other. Habibie and Ainun had known one another since they were teens. This biography book tells a lot of stories of the main character’s love; getting married, having children, and becoming Indonesia’s president is a milestone experience for both Habibie and Ainun. Their love story was separated by death with the departure of Ainun, who died on May 22, 2010.

Habibie was dejected and saddened by his wife's leaving, but he was strengthened by his genuine devotion and sincere commitment to the love that they had both built together. Until the end of his life, Habibie was committed to maintaining his sincere love until he passed away on September 11, 2019, after undergoing critical intensive treatment in the Gatot Soebroto Army Hospital. The researcher realized through the lens of the triangular theory of love that Habibie's love story in this literary work represents consummate love. Their love story is not smooth and not easy to go through, but with their determination, their love is able to last forever until death separates them (Callista & Simanjuntak, 2022).

The discussion of love, especially in literature, will never end in view of the fact that love is one of the most crucial bases of human life. Several previous research studies of literature have examined the phenomenon of love. A research study used the theory proposed by Sternberg related to the three components that form love, as well as a study that used the theory of love as art proposed by Fromm. Elhamsyah & Rudianto (2024) in the work entitled "Consummate Love Valued by Sternberg's Triangular of Love Reflected in Sunrise in Heaven (2019) Movie: Psychological Approach" used triangular love theory proposed by Sternberg. On the other hand, Sandy et al., (2022), in the work entitled "Erich Fromm's Psychoanalytic Theory: Psychology of Character in Mu'tamar Al-Hub's short story In a Love Banquet by Taufiq Al-Hakim," discovered the psychological aspect of love using the theory put forward by Erich Fromm. This study combines both approaches of the two experts, Sternberg and Fromm, in studying the phenomenon of love portrayed by the main

characters, Michael Hosea and Sarah, in the novel “Redeeming Love,” written by Francine Rivers. It begins with the need for love and to love as human instinct and needs, is followed by Sternberg in an attempt to delve deeper into the representation of what true love is, and ends with Fromm on the efforts that must be practiced to maintain that true love. This research examines the portrayal of eternal love portrayed by the two main characters, Michael Hosea and Angel, in Francine Rivers’ “Redeeming Love” novel, which resulted in research entitled “Consummate Love Portrayed in Redeeming Love Novel by Francine Rivers: A Psychological Approach.”

1.2 Identification of the Problem

It can be seen from the problems and phenomena described above that now the researcher develops the formulation of the problem in the form of statements to be utilized as research problem identification. Among these are the following:

1. The importance of love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.
2. The reasons to love and to be loved portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.
3. The consequences of not experiencing love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.
4. The representation of consummate love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.

5. The efforts to maintain the love representation portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.

1.3 Limitation of The Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher limits the problem into two main problems, which consist of

1. The representation of consummate love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.
2. The efforts to maintain the love representation portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.

1.4 Formulation of The Problem

The researcher develops questions according to the problem’s limitations, which must be solved based on the following questions, such as:

1. What are the representations of consummate love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers?
2. What are the efforts portrayed by the main characters to maintain their love representation in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers?

1.5 Objective of The Problem

This section, the researcher has identified specific goals for conducting this research, such as:

1. To figure out the representation of consummate love portrayed by the main characters in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.

2. To reveal the efforts of the main characters to maintain their love representation in the “Redeeming Love” novel by Francine Rivers.

1.6 Significance of Research

1. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to provide insights and contributions in developing the treasures of knowledge in the study of psychological philosophy in literature by discovering more deeply the triangular theory of love proposed by Robert Jeffrey Sternberg and the art of loving proposed by Erich Seligmann Fromm. This research is expected to increase the knowledge about love, be able to interpret the love itself, and maintain it so that the results of this research can be used as one of the guides related to psychology and love, as well as in other research conducted in love.

2. Practical Significance

Practical value that can be obtained by the researcher from this research is to provide a great experience in conducting academic methodological research that reveals the truth systematically and structurally. Another thing is this thesis is one of the requirements in accomplishing the bachelor’s degree in the English Literature Department at Putera Batam University. The researcher also hopes that this research will be beneficial for exploring psychological approaches in literature at a future time and also provide knowledge for society as guidelines in building a family.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Psychological Approach: The psychological approach in literature is a critical method that uses psychological theories to analyze a work of literature. It helps the readers comprehend the human psychology and the characters within a story. It examines the characters' motives, goals, and conflicts, as well as how these are represented in the structure and themes of the work. According to Sigmund Freud, these motives stem from the belief that human conduct is driven by the unconscious and conscious mind. Freud reveals that the mind is divided into three parts: the id, the ego, and the superego. The id is the aspect of the mind that symbolizes the fundamental instincts, such as the need for sex and pleasure. The ego is a realization of reality that serves as a liaison between the id and the superego. The superego is the component of the mind responsible for the moral and ethical sense in the society.

Triangular Theory of Love: The triangular theory of love proposed by Robert Jeffrey Sternberg holds that love can be understood in terms of three components that together can be viewed as forming the vertices of a triangle. These three components are

intimacy, passion, and decision or commitment. Intimacy is related to emotional connectedness, passion includes physical attraction and sexual desire, while decision or commitment refers to the decision to love someone and being committed to the long-lasting dedication. Numerous varied depictions of love are produced by the interaction of these three elements. A person's level of love is determined by how strongly each of these three components of love is present. This triangular theory of love offers a crucial, comprehensive basis that is essential for comprehending the important things that underlie love.

The Art of Loving

: The Art of Loving proposed by Erich Seligmann Fromm reveals that love is an art, and just like any art, it needs practice in order to master it. Practice here involves discipline, concentration, and patience so the art itself can be fully comprehended and maintained. Therefore, Fromm said that love is basically an activity, not a passive feeling. Love is giving, not receiving. According to Erich Fromm, love should imply fundamental elements that are care, responsibility, respect, and knowledge. This idea, therefore, causes the

individual to learn that they must offer efforts in terms of time, thought, energy, etc., in order to establish a long-term relationship.