

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of The Study

Literature has a dual function, that is entertaining and at the same time giving benefit to readers. Literature entertains by presenting the beauty; give meaning to life and the means to convey the message about the truth, about what is good and bad. So we can get the touch of our life through literature (Wellek, Warren 15).

Wellek and Warren also state that literature is the art of written works(15).Literature uses typical language literature which is different with colloquial language or the language of science.

Wellek and Warren stated that there are three genres of literary work,which are originated from lyrics,epic and drama. As lliterary genre developed,lyric developed into poetry,epic developed into prose and only drama has retained its own name(25).Novel as a genre of fiction can be defined as: “a work of prose fiction, usually an extended narrative that tells a story or uses incidents to dramatize human experience and individual characters” (Grambs 93). Novel represents human activities in daily live through characters and setting. There are six elements of novel, they are: 1. Plot; 2. Character; 3. setting; 4. Theme; 5. point of view; and 6. Style (Taylor 46). In analyzing this thesis, the writer focuses on the character than the other five aspects, because the writer wants to describe tragedy that happen in

the novel focused on main character. It will discuss about the character who undergoes tragedy that the main character becomes tragic hero.

A hero is someone who stands out from others; someone is distinguished by prominence, bravery or kindness. Aristotle said that, “ A man cannot become a hero until he can see the root of his own downfall.” (in Charles 173). It should be noted that the hero’s downfall is his own fault as a result of his own free choice. Usually his death is seen as a waste of human potential and is not a pure loss. In this case, tragic hero is main character or protagonist in a tragedy.

One of literary works that presents tragic hero is Junot Díaz’s *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Junot Díaz was born in the Dominican Republic and raised in New Jersey. He is the author of the critically acclaimed *Drown*; *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, which won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *This Is How You Lose Her*, a New York Times bestseller and National Book Award finalist. He is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship, PEN/Malamud Award, Dayton Literary Peace Prize, Guggenheim Fellowship, and PEN/O. Henry Award. A graduate of Rutgers College, Díaz is currently the fiction editor at Boston Review and the Rudge and Nancy Allen Professor of Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)).

This novel tells the life of Oscar. Oscar is born fat, minus eyed, tousled hair and did not have an interesting face, By all those features, Oscar becomes an anomaly among youth Dominicana. Diaz emphasizes sex as key ingredient in being a

Dominican male. The Dominican male is characterized as having power and charm, and is physically attractive, sexuality active, and violent. Oscar's lack of "G" is central to the novel; his goal throughout the novel is to have woman return his affection. Oscar also lacks the ability and the desire to fight or commit violence of any nature. He was only interested in video games, novels and science fiction films, but that does not mean Oscar does not like women. In fact, instead of the whole hobby that makes him increasingly away from social interaction and his friends, he has one simple yet powerful desire, and he continues to save it to adulthood: he wants to have a love, he wants to get love, and he wants to be loved. Unfortunately, the curse that flows in his family seems to flow well in his blood. Oscar lost his first love when he was 7 years old in a way that is painful, and since then, he never had a girlfriend, although he has tried thousands of ways.

Based on the discussion above, the writer wants to study about tragedy and tragic hero in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. The topic is analyzed through its plot. By using Archetypal Approach it will be easier to understand how the tragedy is built through the plot. Also the tragic hero, Oscar Wao, can be known through the relation of plot sequences.

## 1.2 Problems of The Study

Based on the background of the study aboves the problems in this research are formulated in the following:

- a. How is Oscar's tragedy presented in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz?



Besides the tragic hero, there are still many themes and issues can be explored through this novel. In this occasion, the readers who are interested to use this novel as a data source are invited to explore more deeply in further researches.

## **1.6 Research Method**

This chapter is presented to give a clear a picture of what the researcher is going to do in this study, especially in analyzing tragedy in novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. This part describes the methodology used in this study.

### **1.6.1 Research Design**

This study employs qualitative research method, because the data cannot be show by numbers. Endaswara (4) states that qualitative research is conducted without numbers, but it prefers the concept of appreciation of the interactions being studied empirically. Therefore, the researcher concludes that literary work is most suitable researched using by qualitative approach.

This study uses descriptive library study, applying the way to collect the data and describe tragedy faced by main character in novel of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz.

### **1.6.2 Data and Data Source**

The data from this novel are mostly in the forms of transcripts. The data in this study are taken from the novel under the title “*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*” by Junot Diaz.

In this case, the writer merely uses the novel of *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz as the primary data sources. It means that the writer analyze the character briefly. Here, the writer uses other sources outside the novel that are closed with the subject and it can support the primary data, such as biography book, text book, other thesis, and internet source.

### **1.6.3 Data Collection**

In this study, the writer observed all of data dealing with the tragedy by reading the novel to get understanding about the content then identified and chose the data that have any relation with the statement of problem. There are some steps of collecting data, they are as follows:

- a. Reading and understanding the novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz.
- b. Choosing and electing the data dealing with each question in statement of the problems.
- c. Collecting the data that are in relation with the problem.

### **1.6.4 Data Analysis**

This part explains the steps in analyzing the data through the following procedures:

- a. Analyzing the tragedy that happen in Oscar's life
- b. Analyzing the way the tragedy in Oscar's life leads him to be a tragic hero.
- c. Drawing conclusion

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any different perceptions between the writer and the readers in understanding the study, it is essential to give some definition of key terms used in this study. Here are the key terms explained:

- a. Tragedy : An imitation of an action that is serious, complete, and of a certain magnitude; in language embellished with each kind of artistic ornament, the several kinds being found in separate parts of the play; in the form of action, not of narrative; through pity and fear effecting the proper purgation of these emotions. (Aristotle 16)
- b. Tragic hero: Someone who is endowed with a tragic fatal flaw that dooms him to make serious error in judgment, has normally had an extraordinary, often a nearly divine, destiny, almost within his grasp, and the glory of that original vision never quite fades out of tragedy. (Frye 210)
- c. Archetypal : An original model or type after which similar things are patterned; a prototype; an ideal example. (Gillespie 58)
- d. Archetypal Criticism : The unknowable basic forms personified or concretized in recurring images, symbols, or patterns which may include motifs such as the trickster or the hero, symbols such as the apple or snake, or images such as crucifixion (as in King Kong, or Bridge of Frankenstein)-all laden with meaning already when employed in a particular work. (Michael 12)