

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

“Experience is not what happens to someone, but the experience is what someone does with what happens to him” (Aldous Huxley).

Huxley’s statement shows that experience is the whole response of human when his consciousness faces reality. It called whole response because it is not only consciousness of mind or reason, but also activities of feeling and imagination. It can be anything comes to people that is enjoyed, felt, lived, thought, initiated, and views. It means that all of something that exists, irrespective of whether or not but it can be observed or understood (Yacobi 202). Everything that happens in life can stimulate or touch human consciousness to do what he should do as he faces. They can express his thoughts, feelings, ideas, passion, or belief in a form of picture of life, which can evoke fascination with language as tools and described in writing as an article artistically.

As the result, human can create a form of creative art and the work of the object is a human being and his life using the language as a medium is called literary work (Semi 8). There are some major genres in literary works are poetry, drama, and fiction (Klarer 9). One of genre in literature in fiction is a novel. Novel itself is a creation prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/novel>). Literary work in a form of novels are created by the authors in their time with the theme of the reality of

social life based on direct experience of the authors who described into their literary work. As what Dani and Mohen said that the world presented and represented in literature are adopted from the writer's experience of a social and historical reality (276), for example in 1957 Jack Kerouac from America who has written *On the Road*. Others, in 1952 Heinrich Harrer from German who has written *Seven Years in Tibet*. Meanwhile, in 2012, the author who has written a literary work in the form of novel based on the reality of author's life and she tries to share the public of the reality that happened is Gillian Schieber Flynn. She is an American author, who has born on February 27th, 1971, Kansas City, Missouri, U.S. Flynn's three published novels are the thrillers *Sharp Objects*, *Dark Places*, and *Gone Girl*.

This research is particularly interested to discuss a novel from one of the Flynn's work, *Gone Girl*. In *Gone Girl*, there is a character namely Nick Dunne who has described by Flynn's experience as the same as when she loses her job. Flynn is laid off from her job as a writer and TV critic at Entertainment Weekly after she finishes *Dark Places*, but before the novel came out. Losing her job allowed her the chance to turn into a full-time novelist. It also provided her inspiration for Nick in *Gone Girl* who loses his job as writer, too.

"I certainly wove that experience, that sense of having something that you were going to do for the rest of your life and seeing that possibility taken away . . . I definitely wove that sense of unrest and nervousness into Nick's character."

(www.deseretnews.com/article/765585233/Flynnns-Gone-Girl-poised-to-be-summer-thriller.html)

In addition, this novel becomes a popular literature because it belongs to the one of the New York Times Hardcover Fiction Bestseller list for 8-weeks

(<https://www.psychologytoday.com>). It is also twenty-six weeks on National Public Radio's hardcover fiction bestseller list. Dave Itzkoff also wrote in his article that the novel in the end of its first year in publication, *Gone Girl*, had sold over two million copies in print and digital editions, according to the book's publisher (http://artsbeat.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/15/new-two-book-deal-for-gone-girl-author-gillian-flynn/?_r=0).

Gone Girl tells the story of intrigue in the household of a young couple, Nick and Amy. A background of the New York City, the economic recession around 2007 makes Nick and Amy lay off from their job as the writers. The story begins by describing the background of Nick and Amy before marriage and sweet years as befits a young couple. Amy is described as an intelligent girl comes from an educated family. Her parents were a psychologist couple and the famous writer where one of their famous book is *Amazing Amy*. *Amazing Amy* is an illustration of the only ideal child. Amy, who later becomes the Nick's wife and the problems arise from a fight inside of Amy who feel compelled that her life is falsehood. She wants to make her parents proud who have described her in their best seller as *Amazing Amy* is a perfect girl. Correspondingly, there is another part of Amy. She is beautiful, smart, professional writers but whose personality is weird for normal people perspective. She seems wearing a mask in order to show that her life after married is happy, but in the reality, is not. She does not want to damage the image of *Amazing Amy* which is already known and loved by her fans.

Whereas, Nick is reflected from broken home. His father and mother are divorced after his mother is no longer strong enough getting harassment from his

father. Nick's days of his young, so satiety of his mother's suffering as a result of Nick's father abusive and does not appreciate as a wife. Nick's father as a husband sees his wife only as his supplement of living man. His father's behaviour is adopted by Nick later in his own household but Nick feels that he is an educated man, who will not treat his wife in that way. Nick also works as a writer, but the economic recession has put an end to the profession as a writer and becomes the lecturer and then meet Nick's student, Andie.

Right on the fifth anniversary of their marriage Amy disappears from her home when Nick is not at home. Then, Nick goes to his home and finds the door opened, iron is still hot, and the water heater is still on. Moreover, the police gets trace of blood had been cleaned in the kitchen floor of their home. Whether Nick kills Amy or the loses of Amy related with a game "treasure hunt" which always played by them in every time when they celebrate their wedding anniversary. The whole town is shocked by the news of the loss of Amy and asked where Amy is. The event which is faced by Nick on his wife's disappearance is Nick's experience. It is dealing with the case of the household is a phenomenon that forms the essence of consciousness and the ideal of objects as a correlate of consciousness and how about Nick's perception toward his wife's disappearance.

Based on the description above, Nick's experience is related to the phenomenology. David W. Smith in his book entitled *Husserl* said that phenomenology is the study of phenomena or about anything that comes to human in subjective experience, or how the way human experience things in the world around them (188). Thus phenomenology is an attempt to understand from the

or still let his wife disappears. It is expected that this study will be useful for the public to understand the phenomena they experience in consciousness to grasp a thing or an action in its value-aspect (Dhar 188).

1.5 Scope and Limitation

To avoid such a vast subject, this study will be limited in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. This research focuses on Nick's perception toward his wife's disappearance in the novel. To get answers the event in the novel, it uses Nick's experiences as the important subject and his perception to what happened toward his wife's disappearance.

1.6 Method of the Study

In this part of thesis is discussed *Gone Girl* to conduct this research. In this research there are several steps used, they are research design, sources of research data, the data collection and analysis of data.

1.6.1 Research Design

To answer some of the issues that will be discussed in statement of the problem, this research uses literary research using some books and other references such as articles, journals, and websites related to the subject matter to be analyzed. This research applies qualitative research method. Qualitative research involves purposeful use for describing, explaining, and interpreting collected data (Williams 67). According to Neuman qualitative research methods in which the data are in the form of *soft data* (i.e. words, sentences, photos,

symbols) and quantitative research the data collection from *hard data* in the form of numbers (167). Therefore, method of this writing to analyze the data is describing and explaining the results which are not numeral data but they are taken from words and sentences.

1.6.2 Data Source

In this research, there are two sources of data, primary and secondary data. The primary data source comes from a novel *Gone Girl* written by Gillian Flynn. The secondary data comes from several important works, journals, websites and several books related to novel and an explanation of the theory of phenomenology.

1.6.3 Method of Collecting Data

Because the data becomes the most important aspect in this research, so it must be collected effectively and orderly. Methods of data collection is one of the research methods sections that will explain how data collected to support the research. In gathering the data collection measures are:

- a. Preparing and reading a novel entitled *Gone Girl* as the main data.
- b. Re-reading the novel many times to get a good grasp on the whole story.
- c. Selecting and collecting novel's narration and conversation related to statement of problem and to obtain accurate data.
- d. Selecting references related to the novel that can support research data.

