

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

There has been many definition about literature itself. According to Simon and Delyse Ryan in Hussain, most attempted definitions of literature are broad and vague, and they inevitably change over time. In fact, the only thing that is certain about defining literature is that the definition will change. Concepts of what is literature change over time as well (29).

Cuddon also speculates that literature is a vague term which usually denotes works which belong to major genres; prose, drama, novel, short story. If we describe something as “literature”, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work relates to written work (472).

In literary work, there are two types, which is fiction and non-fiction. Fiction is written by author’s imagination usually. While non-fiction is written by true event. In fiction especially, it relates to novel and short story. Fictitious novel can be also written based on the fact events or history such as condition of the people or society (Abrams 94-95). Someone can never be free from society. No one in society is free from social structures. They are part of group that is defined on the basis of race, class, gender, sexuality, nationality, age, ability and so on. Someone

lives with structure of oppression if they get denomination from other one in their life (Hinson and Bradley 01).

Barker in Wormer states oppression as the social act of placing severe restrictions on an individual, group or institution. The oppressed individual or group is devalued, exploited and deprived of privileges by the individual or group which has more power (03). Johnson argues that “concept of oppression points to social forces that tend to press upon people and hold them down, to prevent them and block their pursuits of a good life. Just as privilege tends to open doors of opportunity, oppression tends to slam them shut” (39).

The existence of character in the novel that reveals the oppression is not viewed from one side. Although the character’s role is single role but it has an essential meaning of its existence. Aristotle states that the character is secondary essential in literary work. Yet, the he argues that the existence character has important role. Hence, if the existence is absent the story will be loosen (Bannet and Royle 60).

By reading the novel, the readers not only understand from its language, but also other elements of the novel such as character, characterization, plot, theme and so on. In this study, the writer analyzes *The Great Gatsby* as the subject of the study. *The Great Gatsby* is a novel which takes the character’s name as the same as the title. It was written by F.S Fitzgerald in 1925. *The Great Gatsby* is one of his famous novel at that time. It is a novel of triumph and tragedy. Furthermore,

through the characterization in *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald explores the human condition as it is reflected by social life of American at that time.

The Great Gatsby is the story of millionaire Jay Gatsby who is told by Nick Carraway who lives in Long Island and also Gatsby's neighbor. Nick soon finds the past story from Jordan Baker, Daisy's friend that Gatsby and Daisy used to have special relationship before Daisy married with Tom. Daisy feels unhappy to live with Tom Buchanan actually. Since from the start Daisy is forced to marry with Tom. Tom is an ambitious and arrogant man. Beside that, she actually knows that Tom has love affair with another woman. From Daisy's marriage with Tom, she has a daughter namely Pammy. Yet in fact, not everyone knows that Daisy has a daughter. Someday Gatsby asks Nick to invite Daisy in Nick's house and see her again. Day by day after they see each other Daisy has fallen in love again with Gatsby but she can not avoid that she has married with Tom Buchanan. Gatsby and Daisy begin to see each other secretly with some frequency. When Tom knows love affair between Gatsby and Daisy, he confronts them. The two of them, Tom and Gatsby argue about who Daisy loves. Daisy claims that she loves both Tom and Gatsby and she can not deny that she ever loved Tom once. At the end of the story, regardless of her complicated life, Daisy still chooses to stay with Tom than Gatsby.

The researcher is interested in analyzing *The Great Gatsby* since it presents the character that experiences the oppression. In addition, the researcher focuses on the secondary character, Daisy Fay. Yet, the existence of Daisy is dominated by her husband, Tom Buchanan. This analysis illuminates how Daisy's oppression

is described and how her responses to the oppression. The oppression in this case grows from the household. Tom Buchanan is the agent of the oppression and Daisy Fay is the victim of the oppression.

Some reviews sometimes focus on Gatsby as the major character rather than the secondary characters. But, the other attention should be paid to Daisy Buchanan, a woman who causes Gatsby dies tragically. Some critics write about Daisy's existence and judge her in a bad manner. Marius Bewley calls Daisy is "Vicious emptiness" and "monstrous moral indifference" (Person 250). Then Robert Omstein writes that Daisy is "criminally amoral" (Person 250). In addition, Leslie Fiedler states Daisy as a "Dark Destroyer", a purveyor of "corruption and death" (Person 250). Houck also claims in his review that Daisy is the selfish one and should be the one who takes the responsibility for Gatsby's death (01). None of them writes about Daisy's importance in the novel. Those critics do not write about Daisy's role in the novel.

Therefore, the researcher concludes that actually Daisy is just controlled by Tom. Daisy's personality is not always bad. In fact, Daisy hides Tom's bad treatment towards her. It can be seen by hiding all of Tom's treatment, such as Tom's violence and dishonesty. Those things must be considered in analyzing Daisy's oppression.

1.2 Statements of Problem

This research focuses on Daisy in *The Great Gatsby* novel. Thus the researcher formulates the statement of problem below:

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The main scope of this study is to analyze about Daisy in her household where she experiences oppression. In this part, the researcher also intends to describe Daisy's oppression in her household. Whereas the limitation of this study is about Daisy's responses toward her oppression which is experienced by her. In this part, The writer also intends to reveal Daisy's response to the oppression that she gets.

1.6 Method of Study

a. Type of Study

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative method. A qualitative method is a method which does not use numerical form in gathering and interpreting the data. McKay in Zacharias also states qualitative studies start with the assumption that the research topic must be understood (09). In addition, Kothari argues a qualitative method is concerned with the qualitative phenomenon. For instance, when we are interested in investigating the reasons for human behaviour. It means the aims of qualitative research are to understand some phenomena (03). This research presents the oppression as the phenomenon and the response towards it.

b. Data Source

The researcher uses *The Great Gatsby* novel, then the writer uses some the theory books and internet sources.

