

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

“Life comes before literature, as the material always comes before the work. The hills are full of marble before the world blooms with statue” (Phillips Brooks). It means that life comes first before literature because literature is one of the human products. A product always comes after the producer comes. Life has close relation with human. So, literature comes after human comes in this world. Literature is an expression of human mind which is expressed in the form of written or oral text. This statement was supported by some literary critics that they see literature as a product of human creativity in the form of oral or written text (Wallek and Warren 3). A literary work is created because there is an idea from the author which is taken from their experiences of life in the world. Sehandi stated that literature is an expressions of human mystics and aesthetic experience through language as the product of their creativity in the form of imaginative work (6). Literature usually relates with something that happens in real life either about human or nature. Not only talking about something in real life, but literature also talking about myth or something that impossible to happen in the real world. According to Eagleton, literature is an ‘imaginative’ writing in the form of fiction, it means that writing which is not literally true (1). It is only as an expression of the writer’s imagination, not the fact.

Literature is a writing that has a high value (Eagleton 15) because literature is an interesting thing that can entertain the human as the reader of the literary works. Commonly, literature has a function as a media of entertainment. One of the purpose of literature is to give an entertainment to the readers. It not only gives entertainment, but also gives knowledge and values to the reader. As Sehandi stated that literature has two functions: *utile* (useful) and *dulce* (enjoyable, pleasant) (15). It is useful because the reader gets knowledge after reading the literary work and it must make the reader enjoy through the language that is used in a writing. Literature has meaning not only based on the writer's perspective but also the reader's perspective. In addition, it also has literal and contextual meaning.

In its development, literature is manifested as literary work or creative literature, including prose, poetry, and drama (Sehandi 6). According to Robert and Jacobs, literature is classified into four genres: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose (2). Prose fiction, poetry, and drama are usually called as imaginative literature. Prose fiction included novel, short story, myth, parable, and romance. But, most of modern theory divided literature into three genres: fiction (novel, short story, and epic), drama (either in the form of prose or poetry), and poetry (lyric) (Wellek and Warren 277). Actually fiction and prose are the same. In modern literature, prose is usually called as fiction. Fiction is imaginative story or fantasy. Fiction is a narrative writing that is not based on the real story (Rokhmansyah 30).

Based on the explanation above, novel is one of kind of fiction or prose. Actually, the word *novel* is from *novella* (Italian) that has same the meaning as *novelle* in English that means a prose fiction which is not too long but not too short (Nugriyanto 9). Novel usually is longer than short story. If short story can be read in once time because it is short, but to read the novel we need much more time because it has more pages. According to Abrams, *Novella* has meaning as a short story in the form of prose (119). But, novel has a wider range than short story because novel has a story with a complex plot, many characters, complex theme, and various setting.

The term of novel is almost the same with romance. But they have differences. Novel has a realistic character and romance has politic and epic characters (Purba 63). Romance is a story that tells about heroism and love. Usually, romance has the story longer than novel. Purba also state that novel reflects the real character from the social reality more than romance (64). Romance and novel have the same characteristics and the same elements. The difference between novel and roman is in the etymological aspect only. In English literature, romance is one of the genre in the literary fiction such as novel.

According to Sumardjo and Saini, novel is divided into three genres: romanticism, adventure, and fantasy (29). Romanticism novel is a novel that tells about the story of love between men and women, and the other elements about love. Adventure novel is a novel that tells about the adventure of some characters. Usually this novel is talking about men. Sometimes, in this novel is also talking about romance but it is only as an addition. Then, fantasy novel is a novel that talk

about something unrealistic and impossible to happens in society (30). This novel contains unrealistic elements such as character, setting, and plot to express the author's idea. Novel fantasy is usually called as imaginative novel, because the story of the novel is impossible to happen in society. It is only the imagination of the author and bring the imagination of the reader to involve in the story. There are some authors who write a fantasy or imaginative story, such as Gayle Forman.

Gayle Forman was born on June 05, 1970. She is married to Nick and she has two children, Presto and Willa, and she also has one adopted child named Denbele. She and her family lived in Brooklyn. She was a journalist who specializes in reporting on young people and social justice issues. She starts working for *Seventeen* magazines by writing the article. The first novel that she wrote is *Sister in Sanity* in 2007. Then, on April 2009 she published the second novel entitled *If I Stay* in United States. (<http://gayleforman.com/bio/>)

If I Stay tells about a seventeen years old talented girl named Mia. She lives with her parents (Dad and Mom) and a little brother (Teddy). They are the harmonious family. Mia is the high school student. She has a best friend named Kim. Kim become Mia's best friend in a long time. Kim is kindly person, but their friendship is not fine well. They get so many problems and conflict. It is also happened with the relationship between Mia and Adam as her boyfriend. Mia's life is not always happy. It begins when Mia and her family decide to go to visit old family friends, Henry and Willow. On the way, an accident happened that kills almost the entire family instantly. After the fatal accident, Mia finds herself having an out-of-body experience. The body that she is currently out of is still

alive, but it is hanging on by a thread. Helpless, ghost Mia watches her body being airlifted to a nearby hospital and put on life support. As some sort of invisible spirit, Mia watches as her grandparents, relatives, and best friend Kim flock to her side. They pray for her recovery. Mia hopes her little brother, Teddy, is still alive, but the person she really wants to see is her boyfriend, Adam. Mia feels like she has a choice. She can choose to wake up, or she can choose to fade away into the darkness. Mia doesn't want to wake up unless she sees Adam. But then, Adam comes and he plays a Yo-Yo Ma track on his iPod. He also holds Mia's hand, and the combo of her two loves—Adam and cello music—bring her back to life. And that's where the book ends, as Mia's life is beginning anew.

Mia faced many conflicts in her life either conflict between Mia and someone or conflict between Mia and herself. Conflict is the social problem that commonly happen, in every time and everywhere (Sehandi 124). Conflict cannot be separated from the human life. It does not always negative, but it can be make close relationship in society. In the literary work, conflict can influence the character's life of the story. Commonly, conflict in the literary work divided into two: internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict is the conflict which happened in a character between the character and herself. Internal conflict is usually called as psychological conflict without influenced by the other person (124). External conflict is the problem that occur because of the factors from the character outside.

In this novel, Mia as the main character faced many conflicts in her life. Either conflict between Mia and the other people around her or between Mia and

herself. Certainly, conflict that faced by Mia has causes and effect. Therefore, the researcher wants to write an analysis entitled “**An Analysis of Conflicts undergone by Mia in Gayle Forman’s Novel *If I Stay***”. The researcher uses this novel because this novel tells about near death experience. It is the first novel that I read about near death experience. So, it makes me interest to analyze it because I never read the other novel like this before. Then, the researcher chooses Mia as the subject of analysis because Mia is the main character who faces the main conflict of the novel. In this research, the researcher wants to analyze about the conflicts undergone by Mia as the main character in the novel *If I Stay* by Gayle Forman. Besides, the researcher also analyzes about the causes of conflicts and how Mia’s self-defense mechanism settles her psychological conflict. The researcher uses New Criticism, Conflict Theory, and Psychological approach to analyze it.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study explained above, the researcher wants to analyze the conflicts undergone by Mia as the main character in Gayle Forman’s novel *If I Stay*. There are three points that will be discussed.

1. How is Mia’s personality in Gayle Forman’s *If I Stay* novel?
2. What are conflicts undergone by the main character, Mia in Gayle Forman’s *If I Stay*?
3. How does Mia’s self-defense mechanism settle her psychological conflict?

1.3 Objective of Study

In accordance about the statement of the problem stated above, this study has two objectives that can be stated as follows:

1. To know Mia's personality in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel.
2. To find out the conflicts undergone by the main character Mia in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*.
3. To know how Mia's self-defense mechanism, settle her psychological conflict.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

In order to answer the problem of the study above, the researcher needs to emphasize its scope and limitation. This research is focused on the conflicts undergone by Mia as the main character in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*. In this research, the researcher analyzes about the kinds of Mia's conflicts, the causes and impacts of the conflicts, and also how Mia's self-defense mechanism settle her psychological conflict. New criticism, conflict theory and psychological approach is used by the researcher to analyze this novel based on the statement of the problem above.

1.5 Significance of Study

This research is significant to give the contribution in literature area. There are two benefits consideration for conducting the research. This study is conducted due to both the theoretical and practical functions. Theoretically, the researcher does hope that it enriches the theoretical development of knowledge in the

literature that is related to the one of the element of fiction namely conflict, and also will be able to explain how the theory applied in literary work.

Then practically, this study can give useful contribution for the readers in understanding the content of Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*. The finding of this research can be used to help the people who have the psychological conflict in the near death experience as the main character of Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*. Also, the writer hopes that this research can be a helpful reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting further research.

1.6 Research Method

This part discusses the aspects dealing with the research method which are used to analyze the novel. The use of appropriate method in conducting a research is very important because the research method is an organized way to achieve the aim of the research. Therefore, the researcher discusses the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

1.6.1 Research Design

The researcher uses library research to answer the research problem. Library research is the way to obtain the data by studying the books and other sources in the library. This method is used to find the references to support analysis. The writer uses some references such as books, journals, articles, thesis, and websites that relate to the subject analysis. This research also uses descriptive qualitative research methods to explain the result of the analysis in the form of words and sentences.

1.6.2 Data Sources

In this research, there are two data sources: primary and secondary data. The primary data is taken from the novel *If I Stay* that is written by Gayle Forman in 2009. Then, the secondary data is taken from some literary critics, books, journals, articles, and websites that related to the novel and explanation about new criticism, conflict theory and psychological approach.

1.6.3 Data Collection

The researcher uses some steps to collecting the data for the research. The first step is reading critically the novel of Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* to get the complete and well understanding on the whole of the story. At least three times or more to get full comprehension and understanding on the whole of the story. The second step is making note to the words, phrase, sentences, dialogue, or paragraph that related to the Mia's personality, conflicts undergone by Mia, and her defense mechanism. The third step is selecting and collecting the data from the novel based on the statement of problem which is divided into three types: Mia's personality, Mia's conflicts, and Mia's defense mechanism.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researcher continues the research to analyze the data collected by used structural approach and conflict theory. There are some steps to analyze the data. The first step, the researcher identifies the conflict undergone by Mia as the main character in the novel *If I Stay*. To analyze the data, the researcher identifies the kinds of conflict, cause and effect of conflict and also

1.8 Organization of Study

Before going to the further discussion, the researcher will describe the organization of the research. This research consists of four chapter:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter consists of background of study, statement of problem, objectives of study, scope and limitation, significance of study, method of study, definition of key terms, and organization of study.

Chapter II: Literature review which consists of the discussion on the theoretical framework and review of related literature. Theoretical framework including New Criticism theory (character, characterization, and conflict), and psychological approach.

Chapter III: Analysis of the internal and external conflicts undergone by Mia as the main character of the novel *If I Stay*, the causes of Mia's conflicts, the impact to her life, and Mia's self-defense mechanism.

Chapter IV: Conclusion. It contains the result of the analysis done in the chapters above.