

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

C.S Lewis states that literature is the expression of reality; it enriches the necessary competencies that daily life requires and provides, and it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already come (2). Beside that, literature also expresses our idea, motivation, suggestion, review, and comparison in written text as the response of people's feeling, society, and era at that time. The previous statement means that most of important realities and phenomenon in human life expressed in literature are the capture of the situation and condition that comes from the author's feeling and attitude, educational background, belief and so on (Sutarjo 24). The statement corresponds to what Wellek and Warren state that literary works are taken from social and reality life. Most of social realities in literary work are about human life found from society. Therefore, the character and phenomena in literary work are similar to the reality life (20).

Literary works are grouped into categories, such as: poetry, prose, and drama. Those categories are called literary genres. A genre is a vague term with no fixed boundaries in that while literary works within genres hold characteristics in common such as style, structure and use of literary devices. They may also differ considerably or even cross over into multiple genres (Lewis, Pon, and Rebecca 1).

The first genre is drama, drama is literary work designed to be performed by actors (Robert 2). Mary F.Cliffs states that drama is made up of dialogue and set direction, and then Scholes, Phelan, and Kellog say that drama is a story without a story-teller; in it characters act

out directly what Aristotle called an "imitation" of such action as we find in life(4). The second genre is poetry. Mark Flanagan states that poetry is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response. The third genre is prose, Dian Fadhilawati says that prose is the ordinary form of written language and imitates the spoken language. There are two kinds of prose, fiction and non fiction. Fiction includes: myths, fables, novels, short stories, while nonfiction includes news, reports, journals, articles, and essays.

One of real life problems that is captured in literary works is women's oppression. Women's oppression may happen in politics and economy that may affect their psychological aspect. One of Gillian Flynn's work is [Dark Places](#) which published on 2009. *Dark Places* explains about a woman who investigates whether or not her incarcerated brother was truly responsible for the murder of their family in the 1980, which happened when she was a child during the era of panic about [Satanic ritual abuse](#). *Dark Places* was adapted into a 2015 [feature film](#), written and directed by [Gilles Paquet-Brenner](#) and Flynn made a [cameo appearance](#) in the film.

Psychological problem faced by women due to her surrounding oppression is one of the concerns of French feminism. The focus of French feminism has taken two different forms: materialist feminism and psychoanalytic feminism. The first form is interested in the social and economic oppression of women while the second form, as you might expect, concentrates on women's psychological experience (Tyson 96). Although, these two approaches to analyze women's experience in patriarchal culture often contrast significantly, French feminists are

also concerned with the ways in which women's social, economic and psychological experience are connected.

This study aims to analyze the oppression happen in Amy Dunne's life in Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*. The researcher chooses the novel because of interesting character of Amy Elliot Dunne with her psychopath and complex life. The oppression from Amy's parents especially her mother and from her husband gives a big influence to her psychology.

Gone Girl is a thriller mysterious novel which was published on June 2012. *Gone Girl* is an example of mystery, suspense, and crime genres. It soon made the [New York Times Best Seller list](#) (Wikipedia.org). In 2012, *Gone Girl* got the best seller novel because this novel has interesting mystery and thriller story with unique characters and narrators. David Fincher, a famous film director, made a film from this novel in 2014. The researcher interested in this novel because how Gillian Flynn's style explain the story is very interesting such as the story runs between two narrators with the best diction.

Gone Girl novel is the best seller novel, these are comments from some author such as the first, Laura Lippman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Most Dangerous Thing* and *I'd Know You Anywhere* said that *Gone Girl* builds on the extraordinary achievements of Gillian Flynn's first two books and delivers the reader into the claustrophobic world of a failing marriage. Beautiful wife disappears; husband doesn't seem as distraught as he should be under the circumstances. But Flynn takes this sturdy trope of the 24-hour news cycle and turns it inside out, providing a devastating portrait of a marriage and a timely, cautionary tale about an age in which everyone's dreams seem to be imploding.

The second, Tana French, New York Times bestselling author of *Faithful Place* and *Into the Woods* said that *Gone Girl* is one of the best and most frightening portraits of psychopathy I've ever read. Nick and Amy manipulate each other with savage, merciless and often darkly witty dexterity. This is a wonderful and terrifying book about how the happy surface normality and the underlying darkness can become too closely interwoven to separate. The third, Kate Atkinson, New York Times bestselling author of *Started Early, Took My Dog* and *Case Histories*. The plot has it all. I have no doubt that in a year's time I'm going to be saying that this is my favorite novel of 2012. Brilliant.

By giving the literary background, the researcher is really interested in the novel Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* and intends to analyze more deeply through psychoanalytic feminism about the character of Amy Elliot Dunne who becomes such a psychopath after getting oppressed by both her mother since she was a child and her husband Nick Dunne in her marital life. The researcher will employ new criticism theory in the concept of explaining character and characterization of Amy Elliot Dunne.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study previously stated, the researcher formulates two questions about the woman's oppression story that Amy Elliot Dunne in *Gone Girl* novel as follows:

1. How does the oppression in Amy's childhood affect her adult life psychologically?

1.5 Significance of the Study

In the study, the researcher hopes that analyzing what influence woman's psychology from childhood to marital life may give a benefit to the student who want to learn Flynn's works. The important thing from a study or an analysis is the study has to contain a knowledge that is useful to the student who want to write a thesis.

The researcher hopes that this study may give more information about Amy Elliot Dunne's character that is represented throughout her action because of the oppression from her parents and husband since it comes an important aspect in this study. Moreover, the researcher wants the result of this thesis to be useful as reference and alternative information for others especially English literature students who conduct the similar research.

1.6 Method of the Study

The method of this study is qualitative library research. It means that the important part of this research uses the resources and materials from the libraries. Komidar states that the ability to do library research begins with an understanding of the ways in which

libraries organize their collections and with a knowledge of basic bibliographic and reference materials (104). Therefore, the researcher makes good use of some books including the novel itself as the primary source, articles, and online book resources.

In presenting the analysis, the researcher uses descriptive method. Descriptive method is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena to describe "what exists" with respect to variables or conditions in a situation (James P. Key 2). It means that by using descriptive method, I obtain the phenomena or problem I concern to discuss and describe it.

The researcher uses *Gone Girl* novel as the source of primary data. Primary data is information that collect specifically for the purpose of the research project (Grimsley 11). The primary data includes the citate from the novel that correspond to the statement of the problem. Meanwhile, the secondary data comes from the thesis, disertasion, online articles, books references, blogs, and other sources that give information about the novel, author, and theory with this thesis. According to M. M. Blair, secondary data is already in existence and which have been collected for some other purposes. Secondary data may be abstracted from existing records, published sources or unpublished sources.

The researcher collects the data with some steps. The first, the researcher reads and highlights the sentences which relate to the effects from childhood and marital life of Amy Elliot Dunne that turn her into psycopath. The second, the researcher take the data from the first step and write again to make clear. The third, the researcher searches some secondary data to support the analysis of Amy Elliot Dunne's character. The last, collecting the data dealing with the oppression of Amy Elliot Dunne from her parents

