

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background of research, the statement of problems, the purposes of research, the significances of research, the conceptual framework, the clarifications of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of the research

The Novel is one of kind literary works, which inside the story is contained a reflection or form of real life that has been passed by humans. But the use of language used in literary works is different from the use of language used in everyday life. The language in literature has an aesthetic element which is a great and livelier story.

Because of the unusual use of language, so far there are many novels that reap the controversy, one of them *The Catcher In The Rye (1951)* by American Novelist J.D Salinger. Before becoming a behavior among teenagers, reported in Wikipedia.com, *The Catcher In The Rye* was originally published for adults, because the language used in the novel contains a lot of sarcasm that was not asked to read among teenagers, although the story tells of the life of a teenager.

According to heiman (1998) sarcasm is the utterance that speakers apply to a target, expressing a disrespectful or harassing behavior. The goal of sarcasm is to make a scathing comment to create a certain effect to the target. The manifestation of sarcasm varies depending on the language spoken by a speaker.

Sarcasm in literature is one of the phrases that have a specific purpose. From the above explanation, the purpose of sarcasm may vary, depending on the language used in sarcasm itself. Sarcasm can be a criticism, a reproach, an insult can also be a benter, aims to be used as a joke that eventually causes laughter.

According to Singh (2012) Humor means 'the quality of being funny'. It refers to 'an ability to perceive and express a sense of the clever or amusing' thing. Humour consists principally in the recognition and expression of incongruities or peculiarities present in a situation or character. It is frequently used to illustrate some fundamental absurdity in human nature or conduct, and is generally thought of as a kindly traits.

Just as humor fits into most areas of art and entertainment, it fits into literature, where it brings pleasure, eases pain, and makes the world a better place. And although many of us speak of humor as if it were a genre, it's really an element—actually—makes that an assortment of elements. Humor is not a genre. It is a substance. Humor is often used in literature. Sometimes it is the witty banter of the characters, other times it is characterization itself or events that are ironic or absurd that lend humor to a book, poem, story, play, or other literary piece.

According to Smith's research (1967:215) shows that the preoccupation of finding misalignment in a character or finding strange characters in literary works is a matter of humor for both children and adults. Humor plays an important role in literary works. Humor becomes allure to enjoy the literary works.

As homo ludens (creatures that play), humans love to play with the language it produces. Humor is produced by humans to entertain oneself and others as one

form of game that uses language. Humor is a form of human creativity in using language. The humor in the drama comes in the form of comedy. Comedy is a scene in a drama that describes excitement and humor. In traditional dramas, such as ludruk for example, comedy is presented through the songungan.

The Researchers see the sarcasm present in this novel for the purpose of entertaining the reader (Humor). To prove this hypothesis, the researcher will dissect the sarcasm structure to then be projected onto the structure of humor by observing the sign and meaning of the selected texts.

According to Allen (2003). Semiotics is a branch of linguistics. It is concerned with finding meaning. Semiotic in the development become a tools which use for examine human life. Barthes uses semiotic of sign as he improve Saussure theory. He use the term as an effort to explain “human life were dominated by context”. His essay *Myth Today* as the beginning of a new phase of work focused on the idea of a science of criticism, more precisely structuralism and semiology.

Structure is something lies within a thing. The “structure” taken from the building which has fundament. Structure in semiotic were developed by Ferdinand De Saussure, known as signification process. This process is an early discussion which improve by other linguist. The barthes theory about semiotic is not far from saussure. Saussure defined linguistic sign as not a thing and name but a concept and a sound image and the two components (signifier and signified) are intimately united. In contrast with Sausure, Barthes identified the semiotic sign with the system of language, and it is related to language in order to create meaning, which

is associated deeply to the verbal language system. To create the meaning Barthes developed it through myth theory.

From the above explanation, the researcher will use the structural theory of Roland barthes to prove that the sarcasm contained in the novel *The Cather In the Rye* by J.D Salinger serve as humor. With the title of research *Sarcasm as humor in J.D Salinger's Novel The Cather In the Rye*.

## 1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background, the researcher determined the statement of the problem in this research, which focused on two research questions, namely:

1. What kind of sarcasm there are in the novel "*The Catcher in the Rye*"?
2. How do the sarcasms in the novel "*The Catcher In The Rye*" serve as humor?

## 1.3 Research Purpose

The purpose of this research to determine the sarcasms in the novel "*The Catcher In The Rye*" serve as humor using Roland barthes's theory of structuralism.

## 1.4 Research Significance

This research has two functions, namely theoretical benefits and practical benefits. The theoretical benefit is to understand the meaning of sarcasm existing in *The Catcher In The Rye* novel by J.D Salinger, besides that, this research is also

expected to form an understanding to the public at every task or utterance that controversy it is necessary to held the research.

Research on humor using structural theory can be said to have many, but from this research tries to prove the text in the literary work to store the hidden meanings in it. Researchers hope the future of this research can increase people's about the meanings contained in the literary work.

The usefulness of this research practice to explain that every task present in the literary works has a hidden purpose in it, this study is aimed so that the reader can not directly conclude that task is wrong or not educate.

### **1.5 Scope of Research**

1. In this research, the reseacher will reveal what kinds of Sarcasms came in the Novel "*The Catcher In The Rye*" Using Sarcasm theory by Jason P. Heiman.
2. And describe How can the sarcasm there in the novel serve as humor, and any parts that will explain using structuralism theory by Roland Barthes.

### **1.6 Clarifications of Key Terms**

There are to classify the key terms used in this research, the Researcher clarify the key points, as follows:

1. Sarcasm: A way of using word that are the opposite of what you mean in order unpleasant to subject or to make fun of them (Oxford:1329)

2. Humor: The quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech. (Oxford:746)
3. Structuralism: (In literature, language and social science) a theory that considers any text as a structure whose various parts only have meaning when they have been considered in relation to each other (Oxford:1502)
4. Novel: Novel is a story long enough to fill a complete book, in which the characters and events are usually imaginary (Oxford:1006)
5. Semiotics: The study of signs and symbols and of their meaning and use (Oxford:1362)

