

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with five components, consists, background of the research, research question, objective of the research, significances of the research, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Popular literature is a form of popular culture in the field of literature. Nurgiyantoro says that popular literature is a literature categorized as an entertaining and commercial literature (1998:1). It means that the story in popular literature build to be entertain the reader and its commercial aspects will arise from the sale of the literary work. the more the reader loves the story inside and buy popular literary works, the more commercial benefits will be gained by authors and publishers. This makes literature popular not only as a literary work but also as an industrial activity in literature. Those things made popular literature has many audience. So, the existence of popular literature actually gets a place for its readers because popular literature is indeed reader-oriented.

Relate with the existence of popular literature, popular tastes and market needs are the basis things of its work. Popular taste such as serving easy life's problems intensely then mixed with fun fictional stories that the reader might want. So, the characteristic of popular literature is contemporary and commercial base. No wonder if many popular literary works often made with serial versions in order to repeating the succesfull of the previous work only.

Popular literary works, usually seen from its content about easy life story, such as romance, adventure, comedi, etc., that served interestingly with various of events, then the reader can image the story by their own versions. That kind of work often considered as entertainment media, not only because of its story, but

also, there is always moral message that maybe the reader can pick to displayed in their own real life.

Beside poplar taste and market needs, there is other elements to build popular literary work. Adi (2011:20) argues that a work called asa popular literary work because the theme, manner of presentation and writing follow a general pattern. Most common elements builder there is intrinsic and extrinsic element. The first is in intrinsic element consist the elements inside the story. And extrinsic elements is the outside influence of the made of the work. But, besides of those common elements, there is another element builder especially for popular literary work, namely formula.

Formula is one of the popular literary study in the context of structuralism. Formula refers to special characteristics relating to the structure of popular literary works. In other definition, formula interpreted as structure or element that constructs a genre, which then distinguishes between one genre and the others. Those words strengthen by Adi (2011: 203) that argues:

"Dalam menentukan genre, peneliti biasanya melihat kesamaan dari berbagai cerita sejenis dan menentukan formula yang menunjukkan kesamaan dan perbedaan sehingga dapat dilihat jenis atau genrenya".

It means that formula is the study for popular literary work about the elements that determines what kind the story included. In general, formula equated with the element of genre in a story. It is same with intrinsic and extrinsic elements, but in the world of popular literature the word of element called as formula. It is clear that formula is also important thing to make a literary work especially popular literary work.

The definition of genre is a category of atistic or literary composition characterized by a particular style, form, or content (Merriam Webster Dictionary). In other words, genre can considered as “kind” of work that characterized by its own elements or contents. Adi (2011:195) is also in line

with that statement, she says that genre is a term usually use in literary world from the previous period until now. Genre studies did from the previous period to determine type or kind of literature. In popular literary works, a genre aims to complement and guide the atmosphere to help readers get in to certain contexts of story. Genres in literary world are frequently been conceived as arbitrary ways to classify works of literature since the romantic era.

There are many genres in popular literature, detective genre is one of them. That genre is a genre that is quite popular with readers because it the readers's mind and make the readers guessing and questioning about everything that is told in that story. According to Cawelti, detective genre is a story that reveals the mystery through collection and interpretation of signs (1976: 80). It means that detective genre is a story that full of mystery that have to be opened and it reached by cles that presented in the story.

Detective stories especially classic detective story first introduced in the 1840s by Edgar Allan Poe, but it is not very popular genre until the end of the nineteenth century. This genre increasingly became popular when Conan Doyle wrote the Sherlock Holmes story and developed in the 20th century. According to the convention, in this kind story there are points out the intelligence of the villain, police ignorance, detective greatness, and impressive disclosures.

In detective genre, actually does not have to follow above conditions in whole. A story called as a detective genre, even though the conditions of a detective story are followed only partially, like do not use police figures, detectives, and do not display criminal figures. However, the way of expressing the mystery is very impressive through signs that are gradually revealed. There is an element of intelligence of the character in hiding the secret of the story.

In the world of literature has many figures who are struggling in detective genre. One of them is Agatha Christie. Agatha Christie's popularity at the same time is also considered as the popularity of the detective genre in the world of literature. Agatha Christie is the author of the most famous mystery story in the world and the author whose reach the best-selling work of all time. Her books

have sold more than one billion copies in English and one billion in 45 foreign languages (up to 2003). Christie publishes more than 80 novels and theatrical plays which are mostly detective stories and mysteries of confined spaces.

Many of Christie's works are about serial, the most popular serial figure is Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. Most of her works have been filmed, some of those have been repeated several times. One of them is a novel entitled *They Do It With Mirrors*. That novel is one of the novels from Miss Marple series and achieving its success which is evidenced by the film that arise based on that novel.

They Do It With Mirrors is the sixth Miss Marple novel series, published in 1952. Elements of detective in that novel began to become complex when the catastrophe occurred when Christian Gulbrandsen, stepchild of Carrie Louise's first husband who was a Miss Marple's schoolmate suddenly arrived. The stage seems just have been held. On a foggy night, when the family gathered in the dining room, suddenly one of the hospital staff, Edgar Lawson made a commotion. Lewis tried to calm him in his own office room. The commotion continued, until the gunfire was heard. Strangely two missed shots come from close range. The furor continued, Miss Bellever - Carrie's assistant - found Christian dead by shot scars, everyone in the house immediately became a suspect.

Seeing the success gained by Agatha Christie, that proven by her works that well sold, it can be categorized as popular literary works. But, according to researcher, the definition about popular literature in the previous explanations that says as 'commercial literature' is really vague, because there is no specific number of selling of the work. so, based on that problem the researcher wants to examine the classical detective formula in this Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors* considering that formula is popular literary criticism that seen objectively. It is because the researcher wants to know how the inside elements

of that work that construct its story and made it popular not only seen from the commercial field.

Then, considering that the researcher decide that the object of this research is detective genre novel which the main plot is revealing the mystery. So, according to the researcher, the way or stage of revealing that m,ystery is also important. Because, the depiction of a detective and crime is always seen in classical detective genre. This genre provide an investigation that will lead to the solution and catching criminal. In solving a case, the detective character has ideas that will detect the truth, which then doing justice to the criminal and it is called as detection. So, after shows how the classical detective formula construct the story, the researcher also need to examines how the detection construct the classical detective formula.

There are some previous studies done in this field about formula, the first previous study by Arifiani and other 7 researchers (2013) with the title “Formula Dalam Genre Detective”, it focused in analyzing three movies there are Sherlock Holmes (2009), Detective Conan (1996), and Criminal Minds (2005). The results of this research, adds the researcher knowledge about the formula of detective genre. Then, the researcher used this previous study as the secondary and support source for the next research.

The second previous study has been done by Damar (2016), the tittle of his research is “Woman Characters in Detective Formula in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Seven Stories of The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes”. It is focusing in the detective formulas in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s Seven Stories of “The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes” and also detection that used in those seven stories. This previous study also help researcher to develop the content in the field of formula and analyze how the detection in detective formula.

The third previous study by Nurratnasari (2013) that the title is “Romance Formula In John Green’s The Fault In Our Star”. That research is focusing on the characterization and plot of romance novel. The result of that study help the

researcher to increase the research especially in the field of formula and use that research as supporting data.

Based on the explanation above. Formula is one of the most important thing to build a popular literary works. Thus, the researcher interest to know how the detective formula in Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors*. This research is focused with classical detective research then conducted with the aim to find out how and what formulas of its genres contained in the body of that novel, which made that popular literary work says as detective genre. Then, to find out the detection in detective formula. Not only to know, but also to clarify and understand how the formula and detection are really applied in a popular literary work especially in detective genre.

1.2 Statement Of Problem

According to the background described above, this research that entitled *Classical Detective Formula In Agatha Christie's They Do It With Mirrors* will specifically discuss about deduction method and classical detective formula that contain in the object of this research to see the popular literature apart from commercial side. So, the reference question of this study as follows:

1. How is the classical detective formula portrayed in Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors*?
2. How is the detection used in Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors*?

1.3 Research Objective

Dealing with the statement of problems, this research has two objectives gained by the researcher as follows:

1. To know how the classical detective formula contain in Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors*.
2. To know detection method used Agatha Christie's *They Do It With Mirrors*.

1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this study is aimed to enrich the study of formula, especially in classical detective context that contain in novel and to know how its theory applied in analysis of formula.

Practically, the researcher expect the result of this reasearch give many informations and knowledge for the reader about how the formula portrayed in novel that determining what a story included. Then, for the students of English Language Study and Literature Program, the result of this research can be used as the reference to improve their understanding about formula especially classical detective formula in novel. The last, for the other researchers, this research give information about classical deective formula for those who intend to continue this research by adding some evidences related to formula.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In definition of key terms the researcher provides the explanation that related to the key terms used in this research:

1. Structuralism

Structuralism theory views, understands, and analyzes literary works based on the structure of the literature itself. Literary works are seen as autonomous, independent, have no authors, reality and readers (Teeuw, 1984).

2. Formula

Formula is the study of structuralism in popular literature. In the world of literature, formula can be equated with elements that generalizing the characteristic of large groups of individual works from certain combination of cultural materials and story patterns (Cawelti, 1976:7). In simple words, it means that formula is the study about the elements that determines what kind genre that work included.

Formula in popular literature means plots and conventions related to culture. The formula as a plot in popular literature has a same form. A love story will have a same formula form with another love story, as well as stories that have the same type will certainly have a similar formula as well. Cultural conventions as formula is the adoption of the culture of society that influences the writing of popular literature.

3. Classic Detective Story

Detective story is the sub genre of mystery genre that the plot revolves around the investigation and solving a crime that its crime usually about the murder (Cawelti, 1976: 80). It means that detective story serve collection of crime mystery signs that have to be revealed through the investigation. In detective story, contain the cleverness of the villain to cover their case then revealed by the character that the role as a detective.

4. Formula Of Classic Detective

Cawelti explain that classic detective story formula can be described as a conventional way of defining and developing certain types of situations or conditions, patterns of actions or developments in the situation, groups of certain figures and relationships between them, and arrangements or types of arrangements that are in accordance with characters and actions. Based on the example of the analysis of Edgar Alan Poe's work in the Cawelti book, four formulas were found in classic detective stories, namely situations, patterns of action, figures and relations, settings (places).

a. Situation

In Classical detective story, Cawelti explains that the situation begin with unsolved crimes or cases are difficult to be solved, then move slowly into the explanation of its mystery.

b. Pattern of action

The pattern of action formula divides into six main phases, there are introduction of the detective, crime and clues, investigation, announcement of the solutions, solutions, and the last is denouement.

c. Characters and relationship

Poe in Cawelti defines that classic detective stories require four main roles, namely, victims, criminals, detectives, and parties that cannot solve the problem.

d. Setting

In classic detective stories, the existing setting is take in isolated place (closed) in a wider place, for example in an apartment in the middle of the city (Cawelti, 1976: 96-97).

5. Detection

Detection defines as the action or process of identifying the presence of something concealed (Cambridge Dictionary). That explanation is in line with the function of detection in the field of detective story as Christie (in Cawelti, 1976:111-112) explains that the function of detection in detective story is the detective's scheme in order to reach the successful planning.